

Saturday Writers Newsletter

Saturday
Writers



Writers Encouraging Writers Since 2002
A Chapter of the Missouri Writers Guild
A Nonprofit Organization / Corporation
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February 2022

Our February Speaker: Anthony Clark

Showing vs. Telling



As many writers learn early in their careers, it's all too common for editors and agents to reject a manuscript with a note that reads something to the effect of:

Too much telling... not enough showing.

So, what exactly do those editors and agents mean when they say you need

to *show* more and *tell* less?

How can you tell if you're *telling* instead of *showing* in your writing?

What are some strategies you can use to *show* more and *tell* less?

Are there times when it's actually okay to *tell* instead of *show*?

In this intermediate-level session designed for writers of fiction and narrative nonfiction, writer and story crafter Anthony Clark will address these very important questions with examples and some hands-on practice.

Anthony Clark has led story crafting workshops at multiple venues across the state. As a storyteller, he has performed before thousands of children and adults throughout Missouri and beyond. As a writer, he's sold both nonfiction and fiction work to a number of publishers, including Simon & Schuster, Adams Media, Goldminds Publishing, and more. Since the beginning of COVID, Anthony has ghostwritten 15 novels for three different publishers. Anthony has been trained to facilitate writing workshops using the Amherst Writers & Artists method. Anthony is also the founder of the Missouri Liars Contest, the only statewide competition dedicated to the ancient art of oral storytelling.

Anthony will be presenting in person at the Spencer Road Library on February 26th.

Welcome to Saturday Writers

We're excited to be back meeting in person on the last Saturday of each month at the Spencer Road Library, Room 240.

Doors open at 10:45 a.m.

There will still be a Zoom option for members who continue to social distance, or can't attend.

In this Issue

February Speaker	1
Letter from the President	2
February Contests	3
Recent Gatherings	3
Attendance Policy	4
January Speaker Review	4
Anthology Information	4
Health & Safety	5
Upcoming Events	5
New Releases	5
Officers	5

From the President's Desk

Finding Balance

Last month I talked about setting goals. I hope you took my advice and have some solid short-term and long-term writing goals in place. This month I would like to focus on achieving those goals. I know, easier said than done.

One problem I have with goals is finding the proper balance. How much time should I devote to writing, career, family, entertainment, health, and spiritual matters? There never is enough time to do everything. One week I might meet my goal of writing for twelve hours, but I skip a few of my daily walks. I get all my exercise the following week, but I cancel date night with my wife and miss church.

How does one find that perfect balance, where everything gets done, and there is time left to relax and enjoy life? Unfortunately, I can't give you a definitive answer, but I can tell you what has helped me find a workable level of balance. Maybe it will help you.

I tend to think in blocks of a week, so I start by listing everything I want to accomplish in a week. Then I assign each task to a specific day. For example, we usually grocery shop on Monday, sort email on Wednesday, pay bills on Friday, and Sunday is church and family day. This helps make a long list feel manageable. I don't worry about the whole week's list of tasks. I have a shorter, more manageable list for each day.

Next, I prioritize each day's tasks. The most necessary, must-do activities go on top, and the least important, nice-to-do-if-I-have-time items go to the bottom. I work the list as best I can from top to bottom. At the end of the day, I typically have a few unfinished items, but they are all low priority, so I don't worry about it. Some of the incomplete things get moved to a higher position on another day, and some fall off the list, never to be completed. And that's okay, I realize I can't do everything, so I focus on what is important and do the best I can.

Now for this month's book review. *Lessons from a Lifetime of Writing* by David Morrell. The author has written over seventeen novels and is best known for writing *First Blood*, the story of Rambo. His overarching message is that there is no magic formula for success as a writer. He traces his journey from why become a writer, to finding good ideas, researching the subject, choosing a viewpoint, and finally structuring the story. He even goes into the challenges of getting published and the business of writing. One unique aspect, Morrell includes advice on dealing with Hollywood and getting a story made into a movie. It's not long at 236 pages and is an easy read. I give it three stars out of five.

Until next month, list and prioritize, and of course, write, write, write, and keep writing.

Jeffrey Czuchna – 2022 President



February Contests

Theme: Mountains - volcanoes,
glaciers, cliffs, etc.

Prose: 2022-word limit

Poetry: 50-line limit

Begins: 1/29/22

Prose Deadline: 2/26/22

Poetry Deadline: 4/30/22

We encourage you to think outside the norm and always read [Contest Rules & Guidelines](#) before entering.

How to Enter: Submit your entries online [here](#).

If you are unable to submit electronically, you may mail your hard copy entry (for an additional fee) to Saturday Writers P.O. Box 2093 St. Peters MO 63376.

It **MUST** be post-marked one week prior to the contest deadline. **We will no longer accept entries in person at the monthly meeting**, however, you can still pay for your entry at that time with check or cash.

Recent Gatherings

A small group gathered at the Rendezvous Café for the first in person Open Mic night since 2020. It was a small but mighty group of seven. There was one visitor, and he was invited to our next meeting. Diane's husband also joined the group as part of the audience. There were five readers; Dave Reed, Donna Mork Reed, Diane How, Larry Duerback, and Jeffrey Czuchna. There was good food and drinks, and a round table reading, with each person getting an opportunity to read. It was fun and a variety of stories and poetry were read.

The next open mic will be held via Zoom.

—Donna Mork Reed



Attendance Policy

- Any member with a fully paid 2022 membership may attend the live meeting to be held at 11am on February 26th at the Spencer Road Library, room 240. A new membership is \$35, and a renewal is \$30. We encourage everyone to renew or join on the website before the meeting. However, we will accept payment at the door on the day of the meeting.
- Guests may attend the live meeting with a \$5 fee payable at the door.
- Members only will be emailed the Zoom link for the February meeting and have access to the meeting via Zoom on 26 February at 11am. All future Zoom meetings will be available to members only.
- **Only members will be sent the link to view the recorded meeting after 26 February.**

Anthology Updates

- Past anthologies are still available for sale at \$8 each. The children's anthology is \$5 for each copy. If you are interested in purchasing either, please contact Diane How at diane.h@saturdaywriters.org.
- New anthology pre-order information will be on the website soon.

Book Brush

I came to January's meeting doubtful that I would benefit from the topic. I'm still in the writing phase of my book, nowhere near ready to think about marketing, let alone do anything about it! I was pleasantly surprised to discover that even though I'm not ready for marketing, I found the session interesting, informative, and Kathleen Sweeney was an engaging speaker.

Book Brush is a totally online platform, and there is nothing to download. You are able to create marketing graphics for social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Bookbub, Amazon, and TikTok. You can even create your own book covers and spines. You are able to download previously created graphic designs and use them across all social media platforms, all with the click of a button. There were community templates generated by Book Brush's graphic designers.

There are several tiers of membership that you can choose from. There is a free level so that you can try out the platform before you buy a plan, and it doesn't even require a credit card to sign up. With the free tier, you get 15 projects, and they aren't counted down until you download them. So, you could create several different test projects in order to figure out how the platform works without ever having your projects deleted from your account.

The Plus level comes in at \$99 a year, the Gold level at \$146 a year, and the Platinum level at \$246 a year. The Gold level will give you 50 projects, the cover creator, instant mockups, and animation tools. The Platinum level gives you unlimited projects and the ability to create book trailers. New instant mockups and other templates are added each month to keep things fresh.

If you are having a hard time with figuring out how to use any of the Book Brush tools, they have a handy YouTube playlist that you can access. They also have monthly webinars that you can join for free. If you have questions, you can also email support@bookbrush.com.

Kathleen offered a coupon code just for the Saturday Writers, applicable for new plans or upgrades: SATURDAY15.

—Beatrice Underwood-Sweet

Health and Safety

We will be meeting in person in room 240 at the Spencer Road Branch of the St. Charles City-County Library system. The meeting will run from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with the return of the Works-in-Progress Cafe beginning at 10:00 AM in Room 265. There will also be an opportunity to attend the meeting via Zoom if that works better for you. Zoom details will arrive via email during the week leading up to the meeting. For those attending in person, we will be taking the following precautions for the health and safety of all:

- **Attendees will be required to wear masks.**
- **Hand sanitizer will be available**
- **There will be no shared food. You are allowed to bring in food for yourself if you wish.**
- **Distancing is not mandatory, but is encouraged when possible.**
- **Attendance records will be kept in case contact tracing becomes necessary**

It is the intention of the Board of Saturday Writers to continue to offer in-person meetings as long as the library remains open and allows us to do so. If anything changes, we will pass on updates as quickly as we can. Please do not attend in person if you are ill or have had a known exposure to Covid. We will continue to incorporate Zoom so that all can participate.

On the Calendar

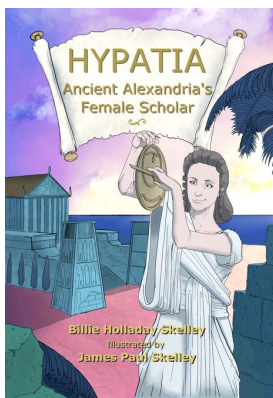
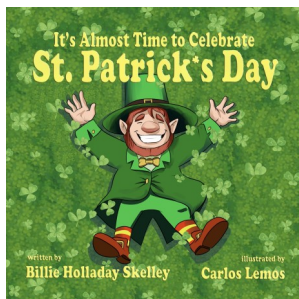
March meeting: March 26th

March Open Mic: Thursday, March 10th, 7-9 p.m. Zoom link to come.

March Speaker: Kelli Allen, "Finding Our Way Back to Myth Through Poetry"

Congratulations!

Billie Holladay Skelley has had two children's books released recently. *It's Almost Time to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day* (paperback and eBook) is a great book for introducing children to the history, legends, and traditions surrounding St. Patrick's Day. In *Hypatia: Ancient Alexandria's Female Scholar* (available in hardcover, paperback, and eBook), young readers can travel back in time and learn about the extraordinary life of one of the most brilliant women who lived in the ancient world.



Saturday Writers Officers

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Directors: Brad Watson, Jennifer

Hasheider

Speaker/Workshop Chair: Jeffrey Czuchna

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Underwood-Sweet

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Youth Outreach Co-Chair: Nikki

Jacobsmeier

Hospitality Chair: Bob Weismiller

Assistants: Diane How

Holiday Party Chair: Donna Mork

Reed

Poet Laureate: Robert Sebacher

Writing/Critique Groups

Members Online Critique: Susan

Moreland

Tuesday Round-Table: Tammy Lough

Wednesday Novel Group: Brad

Watson

Wednesday WIP Cafe: Jim

Ladendecker

Thursday Novel Group: Bob Crandall

Children's/YA Critique: Sue Fritz

Pre-Meeting Saturday WIP Cafe &

Creative Writing Salon: Robert

Sebacher

Write-In Chair: Brad Watson