

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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Our January Speaker: Marketing with Book Brush

What is Book Brush? Join Kathleen Sweeney, the Manager of Marketing and Customer Service at Book Brush, for a fun live walk-through of the Book Brush tools. Get ready to embrace the marketing side of writing & see why authors say Book Brush saves them both time and money!

Come join us to learn how easy it is to use Book Brush to create your own eye-catching marketing images for all things social media, box set images and design book covers, too. Explore cool tools like animation, video effects and our trailer creator! Kathleen will share handy tips & tricks along the way and have time for Q & A, too.

So please plan to ask plenty of questions!

Kathleen has over 19 years of marketing experience. She thoroughly enjoys working with authors and helping them create eye-catching images. She lives in central Illinois with her husband, three busy boys and two handsome cats. Her hobbies include eating tacos and turning socks right side out.

*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 those who continue to social distance, or can't attend.

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From the President's Desk



Goals for a New Year

Here we are at the beginning of another new year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. I sure did—lots of food and family. Not much writing, though. That's okay; that's what New year's resolutions are for, right? I hope you've been working on goals for 2022. Everyone should make goals, write them down, make a plan, and track their progress.

I suggest you make both short-term and long-term goals. Maybe your short-term goal for the year is to write a poem each week, or write a short story each month, or enter a contest every month. Your long-term goal might be to finally finish that novel, or find an agent, or publish a book. Be careful about making vague goals like, I want to write more. Exactly how are you going to accomplish that? A goal is nothing more than a wish until there is a plan in place and a way to measure progress.

My goals are to write an average of twelve hours each week (two hours a day, six days a week). I will write ten new short stories, and I will submit my longer work-in-progress to a magazine for publication. Put some thought into what you want to accomplish this year—be intentional.

Something I have been doing to improve my writing skills is to read books on how to be a better writer. I had no idea there were so many books available. I am currently reading my fourteenth book on the subject. As you would expect, some of these books have been good, and others have not been so good. In the spirit of “writers encouraging writers,” I would like to provide a review of some of these how-to-write books each month in this article. I will briefly discuss what I think of each book and end with a recommendation. So here is the first review, hope it is helpful.

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King is one of the better books on writing. It is both educational and entertaining. I read the book and listened to the audio version (narrated by King himself). It was just as good the second time through. The first part is more of an autobiography of Stephen King. He explains why and how he started writing—tracing his career from childhood to 2000 when the book was published. His journey is quite interesting and told with plenty of humor. The second part is much more of a how-to-write lesson with specific techniques that have worked for the author. I found both parts to be helpful and fun to read. This is one of the best books I know on how to write. I give it five stars out of five.

Until next month, keep focused on your goals and write, write, write.

--Jeffrey Czuchna, 2022 President

Upcoming Contests

Pen & Paint

Once again we are teaming up with the St Peters Cultural Arts Centre for a contest that is both verbally and visually stimulating. The Art Centre is looking for pieces that will inspire artists to create paintings that will be displayed alongside one another at the Art Centre and in our Saturday Writers anthology. The word limit for prose is 1,000, and poetry can include up to 50 lines. Submit by midnight on January 29th. Check out submission details and requirements here: <http://saturdaywriters.org/pen--paint-i-contest.html>

President's Contest

This year our new President Jeffrey Czuchna has put his own twist on the contest. We are splitting this contest into two parts! Prose and poetry will be up first, due by midnight on January 29th. Prose entries may include up to 2022 words, and poems up to 50 lines. The theme is **planets**. Members may submit as many times as they want per category. Find submission details and requirements here: <http://saturdaywriters.org/presidents-contest.html>

For your Information

Attendance Policy

- Any member with a fully paid 2022 membership may attend the live meeting to be held at 11am on January 29th 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 and non-members will be emailed the Zoom link for the January meeting and have access to the meeting via Zoom on 29 January at 11am. **This will only be available for the January meeting.** All future Zoom meetings will be available to members only.
- Only members will be sent the link to view the recorded meeting after 29 January.

Letter from the Editor

When Jeanne asked me to take over editing the newsletter from Susan Zahra, I wasn't sure what to say. I didn't feel like I was adequate to the task (and I still don't!). I haven't been a member of Saturday Writers for long--a scant year and a half. I don't know many of the members, and I doubt they'd be able to pick me out of a crowd. I have only minor publishing credits for my poetry. All I've done is write a couple of workshop summaries for the newsletter. Why pick me as editor out of all the possible members?

However, as I format this first newsletter, I'm thinking of all the things I've gained as a member of Saturday Writers. I've attended so many workshops and Saturday seminars that have improved my writing. I have joined a critique group and worked through my first novel and am now on to my second. I've met new people, and I've truly been encouraged in my writing where I'd been mostly writing alone previously.

I look at that list of volunteers on the back page and it makes me realize how many people it takes to make Saturday Writers a success. As newsletter editor, I get a chance not just to be a part of that success, but to challenge myself as a writer. I would love to see more people get involved in making Saturday Writers the success that it is.

Hopefully you will all be patient with me as the new newsletter editor. I apologize when I spell names wrong or leave names out, because I'm sure it will happen. If you let me know, I will include corrections in the next newsletter.

--Beatrice Underwood-Sweet

Health and Safety

For the first time in a long time 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:

- 1. Attendees will be required to wear masks.**
- 2. Hand sanitizer will be available**
- 3. There will be no shared food. You are allowed to bring in food for yourself if you wish.**
- 4. Distancing is not mandatory, but is encouraged when possible.**
- 5. 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:

**FEBRUARY OPEN MIC: 2/9 @
RENDEZVOUS CAFÉ, 7-9 P.M.**

FEBRUARY MEETING: 2/26

**February Speaker: Anthony Clark
Showing Vs. Telling**

Saturday Writers Officers

President:

Jeffrey Czuchna
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Vice President

Donna Mork Reed
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Secretary:

Sarah Angleton
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Treasurer:

Diane How
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Volunteers/Chair Positions

Directors: Brad Watson, Jennifer Hasheider
Speaker/Workshop Chair: Jeffrey Czuchna
Assistant Treasurer: Denise Scott
Contest Chair: Heather Hartmann
Newsletter Editor: Beatrice Underwood-Sweet
Newsletter Assistant: Sherry Cerrano
Website Chair: Heather Hartmann
Membership Chair: Diane How
Membership Assistant: Denise Wilson
Anthology Chair: Brad Watson
Social Media Chair: Heather Hartmann
Assistant: Pat Wahler
Publicity Chairs: Pat Wahler
Youth Outreach Co-Chair: Sue Fritz
Youth Outreach Co-Chair: Nikki Jacobsmeyer
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