

Saturday Writers Newsletter

January • 2020

Saturday
Writers



Writers Encouraging Writers Since 2002

A Chapter of the Missouri Writers Guild

A Nonprofit Organization / Corporation

www.saturdaywriters.org • info@saturdaywriters.org

Post Office Box 2093 • Saint Peters • Missouri • 63376

David Schuman to Discuss Microfiction at Saturday Writers Meeting January 25

Microfiction forces us to focus on questions and concerns that are applicable to much longer works: how much information is enough? How can negative space be used to tell a story “between the lines?” How can a writer quickly and efficiently get to the heart of a conflict, character, theme?

This talk will explore strategies for all of the above. A very short story should be like a pebble tossed into a pond, creating ripples that resonate. A packet of relevant microfictions will be provided.

David Schuman’s fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Fence*, *Conjunctions*, *The Missouri*

Review, *American Short Fiction*, and in the recent anthology, *Walking on Lava: Selected Works for Uncivilized Times*, among many other publications.

His nonfiction has been published or will soon appear in *Colorado Review*, *Catapult*, *The Rumpus*, *The Millions*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and other magazines. He has been awarded a Pushcart Prize and received a “notable” mention in *Best American Short Stories*. He directs the creative writing program and teaches at Washington University. Originally from New Jersey, Schuman currently lives in St. Louis.

—Sarah Angleton

Saturday Writers Meeting and Events for Saturday, January 25, 2020

- 10:00-11:00 a.m.—Members Only: Works-in-Progress Café. Visitors are welcome to sit in and listen. Room 265
- 11:00-1:00 p.m.—Regular Meeting in Room 240:

David Schuman “Microfiction”

Business Items then Guest Speaker
Visitors Welcome: \$5.00 at the door

Doors open at 10:45 a.m.

- 1:30 p.m. Lunch—Everyone is invited to continue networking at a restaurant to be determined each month and announced at the general meeting.

- 2:30-5:45 p.m.—Write-In: Room 210, Spencer Road Library

Saturday Writers Welcomes New and Returning Officers for 2020

Two new officers join two returning officers this year.

Jeanne Felfe continues as President after serving last year. She served as Secretary for the two years prior, along with being the Membership and Speaker Chairs. She has managed the Email Critique Group, the Marketing Co-Op, the Info Table, and been the liaison with MWG and STLWG. Jeanne’s first novel, *Bridge to Us*, recently won the Rocky Mountain Cover Contest. She is busy working on two novels. In addition, Jeanne

has had over thirty short stories and essays published in a variety of anthologies, including one anthology her own publishing company produced. She is active on social media and can be found at <https://JeanneFelfe.com>.

Pat Wahler is our new Vice President. Pat decided to “get serious” about writing in 2007 and searched for a group of like-minded individuals. Saturday Writers fit the bill, and this group changed everything. As a complete newbie to the craft, every meeting helped build a foundation to

strengthen her writing. Even more important, she found a supportive family of fellow writers who generously shared their experiences.

Bonus! Many of them became friends in the process.

Pat is a Missouri native who writes in a variety of genres, including historical fiction,

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Pat Wahler

From the President's Desk...

Progress and Goals— Welcoming a New Year



As one year closes and the next begins, it's natural to look at past progress and future goals. I'll admit it—I completely blew NaNoWriMo. My hand surgery recovery took far longer than I'd expected, there was the SW party to plan, and donations to collect. I could go on, but my point is, life happens.

How about you? If you read my article in the end-of-year newsletter, you'll remember I issued a challenge, which included a January 5, 2020, deadline. What? Life happened and you forgot? Join the club. Wait—you didn't even read it? That, I just can't abide—go read it now and catch up, people! Who knows what else you might have missed. Here's the link— <http://saturdaywriters.org/october-2019-newsletter.html>.

Ah, good, you're back. Let's proceed. Since we decided to publish the January newsletter early, I'm moving that date to January 26, and changing it

up just a bit. That's right...even more homework. That'll teach you to do it on time next time.

In addition to reflecting on your 2019 successes and progress, and how your current writing process is working for you, I also want to hear about your goals. What do you hope to accomplish in the next twelve months? I'll start by sharing my immediate goal. I've been working on a coming-of-age/family/small town drama for over two years. It's time to finish the darned thing. Now that the party is over, I'm focusing on that. I'm also working on a co-author project writing my first screenplay. I was inspired by our fall workshop speaker, Bart Baker, and jumped right into it, having little clue about achieving the "how." But that's never stopped me from fumbling my way forward.

Drop me a line between now and January 26 and share. I will gather up a few to use anonymously in my February 2020 President's article. Email me at Jeanne.F@SaturdayWriters.org with a subject line of "Reflection" by January 26, 2020.

I hope you're ready for a powerful year. I'll be working with the Speaker Committee to fill the calendar with the topics you want to hear about.

—Jeanne Felfe

Volunteers: The Heart of SW

Saturday Writers is a 100% volunteer organization. To all the volunteers who helped in big and small ways in 2019, I say thank you!

Over the six years since I joined Saturday Writers, I've progressed from a timid-hide-in-the-back to various volunteer roles putting me front and center. I've become more confident, something that has carried over into my writing and publishing life. SW is the reason I've published a novel, a multi-author anthology, a stand-alone short, and over thirty other short stories and essays. I doubt I would have had the confidence without this organization.

The majority of our volunteers are continuing in their roles, but a few are changing. Nicki Jacobsmeyer is stepping down as Vice President and Pat Wahler is stepping in. Also, Doug Osgood is turning the Treasurer role over to Diane How, and Denise Scott will be our new Assistant Treasurer. Brad Watson is handing over the Contest Chair reins to Heather Hartmann. Thank you to Nicki, Doug, and Brad for their years of service, and thank you for the new faces in their new roles. Brad will continue as a Director, Write-in Chair, and Anthology Editor.

It's going to be an exciting year. I still have

a couple of roles to fill in 2020. If you have a suggestion for something you might want to help with that isn't listed, or want to fill one of these roles, please email Jeanne.F@saturdaywriters.org.

Speaker Committee is a shared role that anyone can participate in. I will remain as Committee Chair, but need input from others. The committee helps determine the topics for future meetings and searches for speakers for both our monthly meetings and the fall workshops.

Hospitality Assistant is a helper for Bob and Diane, who manage our snack/coffee table.

—Jeanne Felfe

Remember!

New Meeting Place

Spencer Road Library

427 Spencer Road

St. Peters, MO 63376

Meetings will usually be in Room 240.

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romance, and creative nonfiction. Her debut novel, *I am Mrs. Jesse James*, has won multiple awards—proof it's never too late to start writing! Her publishing credits include sixteen stories in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, and a contemporary romance, *On a City Street*. When not writing, Pat spends far too much time on social media under the supervision of one bossy cat and a spoiled Pekingese/poodle-mix pup. Connect with Pat on most social media platforms, and visit her website for tips, tidbits, and more at <https://patwahler.com/>.

Sarah Angleton continues to serve as Secretary. This will be Sarah's seventh year as a Saturday Writer and her second year serving on the board as secretary. She received her MA in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Missouri and has taught both creative writing and composition. Now she spends most of her time driving her two busy sons between activities and trying to get some writing done while waiting for practice to end. If not for the support of Saturday Writers, she doubts she'd manage to do



Sarah Angleton

even that. Sarah is the author of the humor essay collection *Launching Sheep & Other Stories* and the historical novel, *Gentleman of Misfortune*. Her new historical novel, *Smoke Rose to Heaven*, will be released February 4, 2020. You can find her online at www.Sarah-Angleton.com.

Diane How begins her new role as Treasurer. This is her first year on the board, but you all know Diane from years of checking you into each meeting. She has been a member of Saturday Writers for nine years and a volunteer for four. Diane lives in St. Peters, Missouri, with her good-natured husband of forty-eight years. She is a member of the Missouri Writers Guild and St. Louis Publishers Association, and actively participates in three writing critique groups.



Diane How

In addition to award-winning short stories and poetry published in numerous anthologies, she is the author of a memoir, *Peaks and Valleys*, and a women's fiction, *The Dahlonga Sisters: The Gold Miner Ring*. You can find Diane online at <https://www.authordianemhow.com>.

—Jeanne Felfe

October Workshops Provide Broad Perspective on Writing

Saturday Writers end each year by recharging our creative energy with intensive workshops. Our year-end newsletter provided highlights on the first two workshops, Judy Yordon's presentation on "Poetry in Performance" and "The Power of Words," with accomplished children's author, Peggy Archer. Here are the takeaways from the last two. The last workshops took us from writing to the business of screenwriting and achieving best seller status.

Screenwriting and Working in the Film Industry

A couple of times during his three-hour intensive workshop on screenwriting, Bart Baker took on the mannerisms of a late night infomercial host. His voice rose in excitement, his arms waved in the air. "You have a product. They want it!" That's not a bad thing. For those who dream of having our stories interpreted on film or television by savvy directors and actors, it's great news.

More good news—he says it doesn't matter where you live, how old you are, which gender, or what you look like. As long as you have a story that will translate to a screen, you can dive into the entertainment writing pool.

Baker's credits are extensive. Novel writing and screenwriting are very different things, and he is experienced at both. A major difference between them is that in a book the author gets inside heads and knows the intricacies of characters and plot, while writing for the screen leaves a lot out of the author's hands. A script is dialogue and action. The finished product will have been handled by multiple people, resulting in a story that may not resemble the writer's artistic bent. Screenwriting is more of a business collaboration than an art project.

Knowing he wouldn't be able to teach the craft in one day, Baker kept the focus of his presentation on business aspects of screenwriting, the mysteries of who and where. Note that a lawyer specializing in this business is a must for the writer. You sell your treatment and copyright upfront knowing it could languish "in development." With a good contract, you keep book rights but will not be able to produce a screen version elsewhere.

In this age of internet resources, a writer has advantages. Published scripts are available to read online. Learn from them. It is interesting to read the

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February SATURDAY WRITER EVENTS THIS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
2	3	4	O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice. 5	6	7	8 Creative Writing Salon 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
9	10	11	O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice. 12	13	14	15 Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
16	17	18	O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice. 19	20	21	22 Spencer Road Library Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..
23	24	25	O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Membership closed until further notice. 26	Children/YA Critique Group 7:00-9:00 p.m. Mid Rivers Barnes & Noble 27	28	29 Works-in-Progress 10:00-11:00 a.m. General Meeting 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Write-In 2:30-5:45 p.m..

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script for a movie you have seen and note how much was changed.

Learning how to format can be done in a few minutes, as well as how to write a query letter and synopsis. Finding names and contact info for your particular type of project is searchable in the annual Publishers Marketplace, as well as other updated listings.

Still, in-person networking is indispensable. Baker says Missouri offers many opportunities through the Missouri Film Office and the St. Louis Film Festival. The St. Louis Public Library offers script mechanics meetings where you can test your work with local film makers. If you can travel, he recommends attending other film festivals, such as in Austin, and engaging people there. Apply for memberships. Join the Writers Guild of America. Post on YouTube. Participate on social media. Realize that today's receptionist could be tomorrow's acquisitions agent. Be kind.

Don't get discouraged There is no end to how many times you will hear others say they have a story idea, and that they could write better than what's already produced. The fact is most of them don't actually do it. The power is in your material.

Those first ten pages matter. Start big! Don't hold

back the good stuff. The producers may cut but they won't add. Remember you are writing "moving pictures," not a play or novel.

The hot items now are women's stories, inspirational and faith-based stories, and regional Missouri stories. Hallmark alone does 90-110 movies a year.

Screenwriting success comes from learning the mechanics, creating a visually compelling story, connecting with that one person in the business, securing a contract, and then letting others run with the project.

—Marcia Gaye

Marketing and Reaching Best Seller Status

USA Today Bestseller Nicole Evelina presented our October workshop on marketing and had a wealth of information to share. She began with the basics of setting up a marketing plan: consider strategy, include things like analyzing your book's competition, identify your marketing goals, pin down your target audience, hone your key messages, find appropriate book categories on Amazon, and secure blurbs from other authors or even celebrities.

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Children/ YA Author Critique Group

If you write or want to learn more about board books, picture books, easy readers, chapter books, middle grade or YA books, *Saturday Writers Children/ YA Author Critique Group* is for YOU! We will also learn and talk about the industry and publishing world.

Meetings will be at:

Barnes & Noble Café
320 Mid Rivers Center Drive
St. Peters, MO 63376
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dates:

Thursday, February 27
Thursday, March 26
Thursday, April 23
Thursday, May 28

For questions, please contact Sue Fritz at childrensyacrit@saturdaywriters.org

Complete information and guidelines for the group can be found at <http://saturdaywriters.org/childrenya-author-writing-group.html>.

Saturday Write-In

Avoid cabin fever! Join fellow writers at the weekly Saturday Write-in at the Spencer Road Library. Every Saturday we invite writers to get away from their busy lives, come in from the cold, and spend some time concentrating on their craft. Chocolate and other snacks are provided. Doors open at 2:30, and writing continues until 5:45.

NOTE: Starting in 2020, on 1st and 5th Saturdays, the write-ins will be in room 212. On 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weeks, either room 209 or 210 will be booked under SW member names: Susan Moreland, Kevin Desrosiers, or Ryan Cort.

Creative Writing Salon

We still have openings in the Creative Writing Salon held at St. Charles City-County Library, Spencer Road Branch, 427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, Missouri. We meet on the second Saturday of the month, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in room 209 beginning Saturday, February 8.

Remember this is now open to all genres. In addition to readings, critiques, and general discussions, we will focus on a topic of interest each month as determined by the members. As an added benefit, the weekly write-in, hosted by several SW volunteers, will be meeting at the end of our sessions. Sometimes, both groups will meet in the same room. Join fellow writers as we spend a whole afternoon in a quiet atmosphere conducive to creating our next masterpieces.

Critique by Email

Saturday Writers offers Critique by Email to our members. Complete information and rules about this members-only service is on our website at <http://saturdaywriters.org/email-critique.html>

Join this group by emailing Susan Morehead at emailcrit@saturdaywriters.org

Wednesdays in O'Fallon Works-in-Progress Café

Wednesdays at Rendezvous Cafe & Wine Bar on Hwy K in O'Fallon, MO, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This group is now at capacity and cannot take new members. Any change to this status will be included in future newsletter publications.

Those Pesky Guidelines

Every publisher has them. Most writers hate them. Guidelines are constraints. Writers are creative, pushers of boundaries, not slaves to constraints, right?

Here are a few truths about publishers' guidelines: They serve a purpose. If you fail to follow the guidelines, your manuscript is very likely to be rejected.

Guidelines for both Saturday Writers contests and newsletter are very much the same. Both require 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, pages numbered.

Why Times New Roman when so many other fonts are now available? Times New Roman was created around ninety years ago. It soon became the standard font for newspapers and magazines. When computer use was new, the font was included among the standard fonts in all word processing programs. Paging programs were developed to translate the Times font family and a very few others to whatever razzle-dazzle fonts the publisher required. If the paging program does not recognize your special font, it goes berserk. So does the person doing the layout.

Each publisher has its own guidelines, which means that before you submit anything anywhere, you must review those guidelines and follow them. While Times remains common for submissions, computerized production has led to greater variety of accepted fonts. Consider following SW guidelines for contests and newsletters good practice. Be flexible about changing your formatting to keep your submissions elsewhere from landing in the reject pile.

—Susan Gore Zahra, Editor

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The discussion next turned to avenues of advertising. Evelina highlighted booklist newsletters like Fussy Librarian, Bookbub, Choosey Bookworm, and others. In addition, she discussed using blog tours, Amazon Marketing Services, and social networks like Goodreads, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

She also suggested looking for opportunities to write articles related to your subject if your book is nonfiction, and related to any research you may have done or to the genre in which you write if your book is fiction. Places you might look to for such opportunities include professional organizations, newspapers and news websites, subject-specific websites, or genre-related sites.

You can also be on the lookout for well-vetted contest opportunities for your work. Winning such contests may not convert directly into sales, but those titles and shiny medals can serve to increase your credibility to readers as well as to agents and publishers, should you wish to pursue them.

Evelina also encouraged the creation of a traditional press release for sending to local media outlets and alumni associations. And if media outlets pick up information about your book, always link those to your own website.

All of this great information served as a prelude to Evelina's discussion of how she made a run for and hit the *USA Today* Bestseller list with her *Guinevere's Tale Trilogy*. First, she does recommend using a series, as readers may be more attracted to a discount that

includes multiple books. The list is attainable, she insists, for even a self-published author, but it does take some planning and a lot of prep.

Start by setting a budget. A run for this list will require not only a great deal of your time. It also will take some financial investment. The most powerful tool is a US Bookbub Featured Deal, which requires a temporary deep discount of your book, and can be tough to get. However, it is well worth the required persistence. Then, prepare to lower your e-book prices at all of your sellers and stack additional advertising, timed during the week of the Bookbub deal. This will take a lot of coordination.

The *USA Today* list is based on US sales from Monday to Sunday, so mobilize your connections and encourage everyone to get involved. Send out requests for help and build excitement through your email newsletter list and ask other author friends to share about it in their newsletters, too. Since you will be aiming for a specific, fairly limited goal, try not to worry about irritating people. In general, people love to help you reach an exciting goal. And don't forget to let your Saturday Writers pals know what you're up to!

Though marketing can appear overwhelming, especially when attempting to tackle a big goal, Nicole Evelina's presentation was as inspiring as it was informative. We are so grateful she took the time to share with us about her experience. Now, get out there and market those books!

—Sarah Angleton



Saturday Writers 2019 Holiday Party



William A. Spradley Youth Writing Contest Delivers Its First Anthology of Very Special Stories

On November 16, 2019, eighteen grade- and middle-school students and their families gathered at Spencer Road Library to receive prizes for their winning entries in Saturday Writers first William A. Spradley Youth Writing Contest. The contest brought in over 150 entries from students in 3rd—8th grade. Co-chairs Sue Fritz and Nicki Jacobsmeyer had the pleasure of reading each story based on the prompt: *Imagine a giant box is delivered to your front door with your name on it. Write about what's inside.*

Awards for each grade-level contest were: 1st Place—award certificate, \$25 Main Street Books gift card, and free copy of the published anthology; 2nd Place—award certificate and \$15 Main Street Books gift card; 3rd Place—award certificate and \$10 Main Street Books gift card; Honorable Mentions (3)—award certificate.

The stories are included in the youth anthology, *Special Delivery*, which can be ordered through Amazon or purchased at a regular SW meeting.



3rd—4th Grades

1st Place: Ella Grace Eickhorst, “Ginger Surprise!”
2nd Place: Avery Regnier, “The Delivery”
3rd Place: Maisyn DaLanne Parentin, “Unleash the Gone”
Honorable Mention: Grace Scott, “My Mystery Friend”



Honorable Mention: Hazel Reitz, “Lily’s Fairy Awesome Birthday”

Honorable Mention: Carlos Castaneda, “The Parallel Universe”

5th—6th Grades

1st Place: Madison Huff, “New World”

2nd Place: Grace Arrowood, “Beautiful Girl”

3rd Place: Caitleen Doriman, “The Mysterious Box”

Honorable Mention: Simone Gray, “The Pearl”

Honorable Mention: Sydney Moore, “The Locket of Origard”

Honorable Mention: Zoey Igo, “Addy and I”



7th—8th Grades

1st Place: Madison Toth, “In the Dead of Night”

2nd Place: Danielle Dang, “Attack of the Elves”

3rd Place: Jacqueline Fesser, “Surprise!”

Honorable Mention: Anna Hermann, “Soul for 2325 Humphrey Street”

Honorable Mention: Lauren Roberson, “A Knock on Your Door”

Honorable Mention: Avery Fontana, “The Bejeweled Bracelet”



Saturday Writers 2020 Contests Be Published! Win Cash Prizes!

As we embark on a new decade, let's look back through the decades. The world has seen a lot in the past 120 years. For our 2020 anthology, we are starting in the 1900s and writing up to the 2020s. The writing theme for each contest is simple: Two decades a month to choose from, and you can write about anything pertaining to the decade you've chosen for your contest piece.

Consider the following: natural/non-natural disasters, war, politics, science, technology, pop culture, music, fashion, sports, food, family, material objects, nature, etc. You could write fiction, nonfiction, memoir, historical piece, time travel or about our current era with an element from the past. As long as your story touches on a decade of the month, your story is eligible to be a winner!

Need help coming up with an idea? Check our website for ideas. A few will be included in each month's newsletter contest column. We also suggest Googling the decade you are writing about. You will be flooded with information sure to spark an idea!

Everyone is invited to enter our writing contests. Some contests are members only. Entry fees are \$5 per entry for members and \$7 per entry for nonmembers, no entry limit. Please submit your entry online. **Paper entries will have an additional fee.** Winners earn a place in our anthology, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd win cash prizes.

How to Enter: Submit your entry electronically on our website under the tab **Monthly Contest Submissions**. If entering a bonus contest, please submit under its own form page: President's Contest, Poet Laureate Contest Submissions. If you are unable to submit electronically, you may mail your hard copy entry for an additional \$15 fee (\$20 total) to Saturday Writers, P.O. Box 2093, St. Peters MO 63376. It **MUST** be postmarked 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, cash, or credit card.

Critiques may be purchased for an additional \$10 fee. Always read contest rules and guidelines when entering any contest. Ours are available in the Contests menu on our website.

DEADLINE SATURDAY January 25!

2020 President's Contest

Contest Theme: Decades

Prose/Fiction: 2020 word limit

Essay/Nonfiction: 2020 word limit

Poetry: 50 line limit

Flash: 500 word limit

Drabble: EXACTLY 100 words, not counting title

The President's Contest challenge: "Write about something predicted in one decade that came true in another, or that might in a future decade." This lends itself both to fiction and non-fiction/essay as well as poetry. Jeanne likes stories with emotional depth and unexpected endings. So get creative and surprise her!

- Contest deadline—Midnight January 25, 2020 (the date of our first 2020 meeting)

- Members-only contest—you must have joined or renewed on or before January 25, 2020.

- FREE to current members only

- Each member may submit one entry in each of the five categories.

- **Note:** Drabbles may be fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. They can be a fun way to force yourself to select precise words because they are EXACTLY 100 words long, not counting the title, based on how MS Word counts words. If you're not sure, email it to a friend and have them check. Any count other than exactly 100 words will be disqualified.

- All entries must be submitted via the online portal at <http://saturdaywriters.org/> under the Contest menu drop-down. Be sure to select the one for President's Contest and enter your information into the form.

- Up to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category will receive a President's prize. Up to three Honorable Mentions in each category could be selected.

- Please!! Do not let Jeanne know you are entering!!

From Your Poet Laureate



R.R.J. Sebacher

I want to let all who have an interest in poetry know that SCCC (Saint Charles Community College) has a split class, Intro to Poetry or Writing Poetry, starting this spring, taught by Christina Gant. If you are 65 or older, you can take the course tuition free (only a \$40 admin fee). I take the course for audit only, as college credits are worthless at my age. You, however, may choose to take it as a three-credit class. The class will meet every Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. This is a great opportunity for us old codgers since the class normally costs \$500+. You can sign up online or in person at the Admin Building. Christy has spoken at some of our meetings, and having just finished one of her classes, I have no reservations about recommending this class.

The theme of the Poet Laureate contest will be "Time." This will fit in with the other contests in my estimation. Remember that I am very loose as to the definition of correct subject matter where this is concerned. Deadlines for submittal will be decided at a later date. Do not show me any poetry that you might choose to enter in this contest, or let me know you are writing for the contest.

We still have openings in the Creative Writing Salon held at the Spencer Road Library branch. It meets every second Saturday of the month at high noon, usually in room 209. Remember, this is now open to all genres.

Since Brad Watson has been begging me repeatedly for more poetry, here is an experimental piece that I have written. I encourage you all to give me your feedback.

On the Bullet Train Drancy to Auschwitz

Reading Directions: Lines marked with an asterisk are to be read fast and furious. Lines marked with a ¹ are to be read slow and solemn.

If I was a Jewish business man
I couldn't own a train
Clickety Clack—Clickety Clack

If I were a Jewish man or woman
I wouldn't ride a train
Clickety Clack—Clickety Clack

A Jewish child should remember
The sound machine guns made
Ratta tat tat—Ratta tat tat*

If I were a German soldier
Or French gendarme I'd die of shame
Ratta tat tat—Ratta tat tat*

Military drummers still beat out the same
Genocide enough for the whole world to take blame
Ratta tat tat—Ratta tat tat*

I guess it's stupid to blame the trains
When it's man who continues insane
Ratta tat tat—Ratta tat tat*

While I listen to the sound of machine guns
I know it is infantile to blame the guns
Ratta tat tat—Ratta tat tat*

If Mary Shelly and the Amish are right
Machines dehumanize man
Ratta tat tat—Ratta tat tat*

Responsibility lies with us
Genocide is really old hat¹
Ratta tat tat ...¹

—R.R.J. Sebacher



DEADLINE SATURDAY February 29!

2020 Contest Theme: Decades

Prose: 2020 Word Limit

Poetry: 50 Line Limit

Begins: 1/25/20

Prose Deadline: 2/29/20

Poetry Deadline: 4/25/20

February Theme:

1900s and 1910s: New Era, the Wright brothers first manned flight with a motorized airplane, Worlds Fair, Battle of Tsushima, first Ford was invented, sinking of the Titanic, World War I, flu pandemic, etc.

We encourage you to think outside the norm and always read Contest Rules & Guidelines before entering.

How to Enter: Submit your entry electronically via the Monthly Contest Submission page on Saturday Writers website. If you are unable to submit electronically, see website for how to submit hard copy. 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, cash or credit card.



Many thanks to
Tara Pedroley
(left, with Nicki
Jacobsmeier) for
providing photos of
celebrating with

**Writers
Encouraging
Writers**



Time to Renew Your Membership for 2020

Or join Saturday Writers for the First Time. Why?

- Network with our 100+ members honing skills in all genres
- Attend regular *monthly meetings* with guest speakers at no charge
- Participate in our *members-only discussion/critique groups and events*
- Enjoy *discounts* for:
 - * Saturday Writers Fall workshops
 - * Saturday Writers contests
 - * Discounts to members-only writing-related services (coming in 2020)
 - * Missouri Writers' Guild events
- Access to members-only expertise database (coming in 2020)
- Special events
- Write-ins
- Open Mic Nights
- Meet and Greets

To Join for the First Time or to Renew . . .

1. Complete a Membership Form to join or to update your information (available online at: <http://saturdaywriters.org/membership-form.html>)
2. Create a Bio for yourself or update your existing one. Send it along with two optional photographs to Heather at website@saturdaywriters.org.

Paid 2019 members have until February 29, 2020, to renew at the \$30 rate. After March 1, the fee is \$35. You can renew at the door, online, or by mail. Please, if you're going to renew at the door, download a form and have it completed prior to standing in line to avoid a door crunch.

Remember the Same Household Discount of \$5 for any two people living in the same household who join or renew at the same time.

New Memberships paid on or after September 28, 2019 apply to 2020.



Saturday Writers
PO Box 2093
St. Peters, MO 63376

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

- I am a new member
 I am a current member renewing and updating information (only complete if updating information)

Email Address: _____

Keep email address current with our membership staff—our communications are sent this way

Phone Number (s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Types of Membership & Renewal:

- New Membership \$35.00 - Paid before September 28, renewable January 1st at \$30.00.
 New Membership \$35.00 - Paid on or after September 28, will be considered current the following year.
 Renewal Membership \$30.00 - Paid by February 29 (must have been a paid member the previous year).
 Renewal Membership \$35.00 - Paid after March 1.
 Same Household Discount—\$5 discount off total cost of membership for two or more persons in same household who join/renew at same time.

How will you pay for your membership/renewal today?

(*Membership will not be active until it is paid and current)

- I have paid by check or cash today
 I will pay online with PayPal at <http://saturdaywriters.org/pay-membership-dues.html>
 I will mail my payment to: Saturday Writers, PO Box 2093, St. Peters, Missouri 63376

Area(s) of writing interest, genre(s): _____

Do you have any publishing credits you would like to share with us? (None are required.)

What are you hoping Saturday Writers can do for you? _____

Just Do It . . . Again!

January. A clean slate, new habits, setting writing and self-improvement goals, you name it, this is the month of new beginnings. Out with the old and in with the new “you.”

Does this sound familiar? Last January, I started my article with the same paragraph and now it's time to take stock. Ask yourself if you followed through on last year's New Year's resolutions? If so, bravo. If not, let's not get all huffy with our fine self, let's do it better in 2020. Rah!

Accomplish a Writing Goal

1. Visualize Your Process

Make a daily chart, it doesn't have to be fancy, a simple spreadsheet or a piece of paper and a pencil works fine. For starters, write down your biggest writing goal. Then, jot down the steps you need to take toward your goal. Make certain you are being realistic. Consider your work schedule, family obligations and such. You don't want to set yourself up for failure. When you are realistic, you make your goals achievable and will see progress right before your eyes.

Perhaps a daily word count? Not weekly, you need to keep this goal in mind every single day. Reward yourself for each (X) words per day with a check box. Laugh now, but you will find yourself giddy as a grade-schooler when you reach your daily goal and mark a goofy “X” on a piece of paper.

2. Challenge Yourself

Perhaps develop a second checkbox for those days when you exceed your goal and write an additional 250, 500, 1000 words? If you get stuck for ideas while writing, do an exercise to challenge yourself. How about



Tammy Lough

write a 100-word drabble on any topic that comes to mind, or as you catch cliché's in your writing, delete them from your

WIP and take this down time to re-write those cliché's and make them your own. Spin the Writer Ignitor on diyMFA.com and write for 20 minutes on whatever the Ignitor ignites inside of you. Just for kicks, write in a genre completely different from your norm. Get your creativity flowing.

3. Find a Support Person or Group

Seek and you shall find. It's out there. Facebook group “Word Nerds Unite” is priceless for a hodge-podge of writing chitchat and supportive advice from others who love to write as much as you.

4. Just Do It!

By powering up your word processor and writing, you will one day realize your dream of a completed manuscript. Like the goals you have set, nobody said anything about easy or no suffering, but once you start getting words on paper, it is never as hard as you imagined. Well, okay, some days it's harder than hell and you decide to apply for a nice, easy job on an ice-cream truck. Nope. Not happening. You are a writer so plant your derriere in your chair and write. Every single day.

5. Take Small Bites

Reevaluate your goals every couple of weeks and if you aren't on track, rather than lose motivation over the long haul, break these goals into bite-size mini goals and reward yourself along the way with an appropriate reward. A hot fudge sundae for 1000 words? How about a new

notebook instead? I love office supplies and can find a simple reward for myself in any Office Max, Staples, or Amazon. Me? A Word Nerd? You better believe it.

I have a New Year's goal in mind and, no bones about it, I will conquer it this year.

Primarily, I will write. Why? Ahem, because writers write!

—Tammy Lough

Saturday Writers Officers

President:

Jeanne Felfe

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Vice President:

Pat Wahler

pat.w@saturdaywriters.org

Secretary:

Sarah Angleton

sarah.a@saturdaywriters.org

Treasurer:

Diane How

diane.h@saturdaywriters.org

Volunteers/Chair Positions

Assistant Treasurer: Denise Scott
Children's/YA Author Critique:

Sue Fritz

Christmas Party Chair:

TBD

Contest Chair: Heather Hartmann

Hospitality Chair: Bob Weismiller

Assistants: Diane How &

TBD

Information Table: Tammy Lough

Membership Chair: Denise Wilson

Members Online Critique:

Susan Moreland

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Gore Zahra

Newsletter Assistant:

Sherry Cerrano

Pre-Meeting Saturday

Works-in-Progress Café &

Creative Writing Salon:

R.R.J. Sebacher

Publicity Chairs:

Rose Callahan

Speaker/Workshop Chair:

Jeanne Felfe

Assistant: Tom Klein

Social Media Chair:

Heather Hartmann

Assistant: Rose Callahan

Website Maintenance:

Heather Hartmann

Assistant: Rose Callahan

Wednesday Works-in-Progress Café: Jim

Ladendecker

Write-In Chair: Brad Watson

Youth Outreach Chairs:

Nicki Jacobsmeyer & Sue Fritz

Our meetings are held at the Spencer Road Library located at
427 Spencer Road, St. Peters, MO 63376.
Meetings will usually be in Room 240.