



Issue 10

November 6, 2008

The Quill

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Food seems to bring SCWW folks

And the Winners Are...

Camden and Greenville win the Chapter Basket Challenges

First, let me thank all of you who contributed items, time and ideas to the silent auction baskets at the conference. We brought in about double what last year's basket garnered!



In previous *Quill* editions, the board announced a chapter challenge. Since there was a bit of confusion on whether the winner would be a single chapter basket with the highest bid or the chapter grossing the most via chapter baskets, we are awarding a winner for each method. For the single basket sold for the highest amount, the winner is Camden. The basket, which took advantage of the area's history, horses and hospitality, brought in more than \$250. The winner for the chapter that raised the most money with multiple baskets was Greenville. The multiple screenwriting bags (those were the ones with the screenplays and treatments) brought in about \$300!

together!

I was surprised to learn how many folks aren't receiving *The Quill* each month! If you're a chapter leader, please find the folks who aren't receiving it and send a list, including the member names and e-mail addresses, to thequill@myscww.org.

Have no fear, this isn't the only *Quill* for November. I just needed to do a little post-conference housekeeping.

The regular November issue will arrive in your inbox around Nov. 20.

Please send your updates, ideas and all other things *Quill* by Nov. 15 to carriemccullough@bellsouth.net.

Love at First Sight **By Anonymous**

Do you believe in love at first sight? Literary agents do. That's what they told us at the slush fests at the Myrtle Beach conference. They couldn't define exactly what they were looking for, but they would recognize it when they saw it. Love. Passion. Excitement.

Does it remind you of dating in high school, where you agonized over some pimply-faced adolescent's superficial opinion of your innate worth? Look at her misspellings and crooked teeth. And those overwrought adjectives and that ugly dress. Where in the world did she find that phrase and that shade of lipstick? This one's boring and fat.

Thank you to all chapters that participated. Let's plan to do this again next year!

Member/Chapter Chatter

Three SCWW Members Nominated for Pushcart Prize

The Pushcart Prize - Best of the Small Presses series, published every year since 1976, is the most honored literary project in America. Hundreds of presses and thousands of writers of short stories, poetry and essays have been represented in the pages of their annual collections. The Petigru Review has nominated Greenville chapter member **Bob Strother** ("Silent Prayer"), as well as **Richard Lutman** of Myrtle Beach ("The Ten-Million-Dollar Day"), and **Kim Catanzarite** of Charleston ("Note to Self") for this prestigious award.

Congratulations to the nominees!

Greenville Chatter

Here is some news from **Phil Arnold**, the original Elvis blogmeister at ElvisBlog (www.ElvisBlog.net), a weekly column of news, history and commentary about Elvis Presley.

For the first time ever, the number of hits in a month went over 17,000 in October. The year-to-date total is over 125,000 hits, compared to 88,000 for all of last year.

Bob Strother's short story "Madison 2-Forever" will be included in the upcoming issue of *moonShine review*, a literary journal published by Thrift Poetic Arts, in Charlotte.

Columbia II Chatter

Vikki Perry, candidate for the 2009 SCWW Board of Directors, has the full support of the Columbia II writers. On the blog <http://columbiawritersworkshop.blogspot.com>, you can find out more about her. She has written a report on the Romance Writers conference, which she attended in Charlotte October 3-5. She is involved with National Novel Writing Month (November), and as co-Municipal Liaison for the Columbia region has helped plan local writing events. To read about them, go to the Columbia II blog and scroll down to the September 28 entry.

Laura Valtorta, who's written a screenplay, had a productive meeting with screenwriter Clifton Springs, who has started a movie production studio in West Columbia. She encountered Springs from news reports and learned more about him from his Web site. She was impressed with his entrepreneurial efforts and emailed him asking for a meeting, to get ideas, feedback, and suggestions for getting her screenplay produced. He is not a producer as such, rather, individuals

That one's bland and plain, but might look better with lipstick. What a pig that one is! Not even lipstick would help! Did she forget to check her grammar and brush her hair this morning?

These weren't local dudes, babe. They were New York agents. They'll chew you up and spit you out in a New York minute. Yet, you brought the same page back for the next slush fest session, biting your lips and praying for a smile that would buckle your knees and start you on the way to fame and fortune, or at least publication.

and studios contract with him to produce their work. Laura came away from the meeting with good ideas.

The State newspaper chronicled Columbia II writer **DiAna DiAna's** work with HIV/AIDS education in its October 14 edition. The newspaper ran a series on HIV/AIDS education around the state. DiAna wrote and published a book titled "Curlers and Condoms" which describes her efforts.

Columbia II moved the location of its meetings to the Voice of America conference room at the end of the summer. The transition has gone smoothly, and the expanded space provides more freedom of movement. In addition, members and/or spouses have brought much appreciated snacks. The conference room is courtesy of Turning Pages, a non-profit organization that works to improve adult literacy (<http://www.proliteracy.org>). **Debbie Yoho**, the director, has joined SCWW. Another new member is **Tiem Wilson**. The blog site gives details.

Columbia II's October blogs provide timely information about writing events and introduce the latest members of the group. Writers of the month are **Vikki Perry**, **Bryce Smith**, **DiAna DiAna**, and **Bonnie Stanard**.

Rock Hill Chatter

Betty Beamguard's short story, "I stayed the Night with Vestil," appears online in Charlotte Viewpoint and a nonfiction travel piece, "Glowing in Mosquito Bay," in *In the Mist*. Two other stories have been accepted: one for the October issue of the e-zine *Green Silk Journal* and another for an anthology published by Steve Rayburn Publishing. She also has a poem in the *Freckles to Wrinkles* baby boomer anthology, and *Main Street Rag* recently accepted her poem, "Fate Conspires Against Us" for publication in 2009.

Charleston Chatter

Betty Belekis, writing as **Elizabeth Jean Allen**, is proud to announce the September release of her first novel, a humorous amateur sleuth mystery called *My Mother's Shoes*. Find out more about Betty and her book on her site: http://elizabethjeanallen.com/my_mothers_shoes Betty also participated in the Books on Main author signing at the Oktoberfest in Newberry on October 4.

Barbie Perkins-Cooper had a book released in September, *Career Diary of a Photographer*. Coming soon to a bookstore, or find out more at: www.barbieperkinscooper.com

In Charleston, we were offered a unique and fun way to begin the Halloween season. Late in September, one of our members was contacted by international journalist and Irish author, Sean Hillen, who asked if, while he and his wife were in town, he might give a presentation on his book, *Digging*

For Dracula, which is packaged in its own silk-lined coffin. (www.diggingfordracula.com) When we found out he would do it for free, we ran with it! In a short amount of time, and in conjunction with the West Ashley Barnes and Noble writers group, we had ourselves a lunchtime event to remember.

October 4 it all came together at the Sunfire Grill and Bistro. With his Irish humor and charm and his Transylvanian wife (yes, THAT Transylvania!), Sean Hillen entertained twenty-five participants in an interactive presentation on the history of Bram Stoker's book *Dracula*. He told us how, as a journalist in Eastern Europe, he became fascinated with the Dracula myth, the connection between the book and the Irish Catholic church, Vlad the Impaler, Anne Rice, and the many journeys through Hollywood of Dracula and vampires in general.

Lexington Chatter

After **Janey Goude** was downsized from her corporate medical position in 1998, God began to open doors for writing and editing. She had her first published, paid piece in 2001. Since then, Janey says God has continued to open doors of blessing for ongoing feature articles, blogs and columns with Merion Publications, *Columbia Metropolitan* magazine and *Greenville Magazine*. Janey, her husband, Darren, and their four children have called Lexington home since 2003. Janey and her writing have been reaping the benefits of the talented Lexington chapter writing group since 2007. You can visit Janey's blog on "Finding Balance" here: <http://communityadvanceweb.com/bloggroups/1/Home.aspx/>.

Member Signings

Second Annual LowCountry Women Authors Holiday Book Signing

More than 50 women authors will assemble at one location from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, just in time for your holiday gift purchases. Meet your favorite author and have books signed! \$10 at the door at The Citadel Holiday Alumni House. Light refreshments provided. The signing is sponsored by Arcadia Publishing, Barnes & Noble, and Juggling Board Press, as well as media sponsor *Charleston Magazine*.

The Petigru Review Featured Female Authors: **Pat Graney, Sally Arango Renata, Susan Boles, Willis-Whyte, Kim Catanzarite, Ann Adcock, Martha T. Robinson, Kim Mallin, Carolyn C. Rich, Betty Wilson Beamguard, Lucinda M. Shirley, Donna Campbell, Kimberlyn Blum-Hyclak, Carol Isler, Elsie Holcombe, Cheryl E. Garner, Janie Kronk, Cassie Premo Steele, Mary Edelson, Karen M. Peluso, Robin Weaver, Trilby Plants, Magaret B. Hayes, Mary Ogden Fersner, Patricia Webster Stewart, Elizabeth Jean Allen, Betty Rollins Busch, Dawn Fleming, Billie Bierer, Joy Hilsman Thomas, and Linda**

Shaffer.

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens Reading



Magnolia Plantation & Gardens and Karen M. Peluso, 2008 Poet in Residence at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, invite you to a poetry reading and wine and cheese reception in the

Barbados Tropical Room (Conservatory) 3550 Ashley River Road, Charleston, at 2 p.m. Saturday, November 8.

Karen will read from *Magnolia Plantation: A Journey*, her new book of poems and photographs inspired by the gardens' beauty and history.

A New Petrigru Sponsor

Litchfield Books

14427 Ocean Highway, Litchfield Landing Unit G
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
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www.litchfieldbooks.com

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