



The Quill

From the Editor

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June SCWW Board Meeting Summary

President Barbara V. Evers offers a brief look at our last Board meeting.

Conference Update!

Registration for the conference opened nearly a month ago and the response has been great, keeping pace with the numbers from last year. For those who haven't registered yet and are eager to get their first choice for pitch sessions or critiques, register soon. There only a limited number available, and those slots are filling fast.

Speaking of critiques and pitches, we've added agent Matthew Mahoney of Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd. to the faculty. He'll be on hand for pitch sessions and critiques.



Matthew Mahoney was raised in Mobile, Ala., and graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from Vanderbilt University. After a brief foray into the world of finance, he joined Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd. in early 2007, where his interests include literary and commercial fiction, Southern novels, humor, narrative non-fiction, current events, and pop culture. He enjoys discovering new writers with unique and authentic voices, and is thrilled to have turned his love of reading into a career.

The Board of Directors met Saturday, June 13 in Columbia. This meeting held special significance for the organization, because we invited representatives from each chapter to join us. The agenda covered many topics our guests suggested and we had a wonderful time getting to know each other. Hopefully, you will learn a lot about SCWW membership benefits as these people return to your chapter meetings. I know we received a lot of great ideas and suggestions from the chapter representatives.

Bob Strother shared information on how to find contests and opportunities for publication. Bob's information included setting a schedule for submissions and tracking this information in a table or spreadsheet. We heard from Kim Blum-Hyclak and Luis Rodriguez about how they plan Rock Hill local workshops. They hold an all-day program and lunch is donated by Jersey Mike's. It appears Jersey Mike's has a budget for this kind of program, so it might be worth checking into.

Phil Arnold discussed the Wal-Mart grant application process. It's not difficult to apply, and we can apply for a grant at each local Wal-Mart, Sam's, or Distribution Center where a chapter exists. If you apply and receive the \$500, your chapter will receive \$100 of the grant. If you would like to do a local workshop, please contact Phil so he can guide you through the grant application process.



A large percentage of our discussions focused on our exciting conference in October. If you haven't registered yet, please do so. You do not want to miss this opportunity to interact with our top quality faculty. All of the wonderful faculty interaction opportunities are still returning,

If you want to register for the conference, but aren't comfortable with going through the online process, feel free to download a registration form and mail it, along with a check for your registration fees. Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit card registrations via mail. The form may be found at <http://myscww.org/conference/documents/registrationform.pdf>.

Pitches vs. Critiques

Conference Co-chair Lateia Sandifer has been hard at work writing away on the SCWW blog. However, we pulled her away for a few minutes so she could give a few words of suggestion concerning two opportunities for one-on-one time with faculty -- pitches and critiques.

As you're planning your conference schedule, it's important to understand the difference between pitches and critiques.

A pitch is a ten-minute session, one-on-one, with an agent or editor in which you verbally present your manuscript. Most people use bits of their query letter or synopsis to create a five-minute pitch in hopes of getting the agent or editor interested enough to request a manuscript. In a pitch session, the agent or editor has no prior introduction to your work. It's your job to bring your work off the page. Refrain from bringing pages of your work to the meeting -- the agent or editor won't have time to read it and it's not a productive use of your time. Try to create a presentation you can easily give without notes. If your manuscript is requested, you will be given submission instructions by the faculty member.

In a critique, you will prepare a specific number of pages (ten for a standard or thirty for an extended) and a one-page synopsis and mail it, by September 1, to SCWW (the exact address and more instructions are provided during the registration process. We will forward your pages to a faculty member, based on your preferences (again, stated during registration) and he or she will read it. When you arrive at your critique session, which is twenty minutes in length, the faculty member will discuss its strengths and weaknesses with you, one-on-one, and possibly make recommendations on how to improve it. If you are meeting with an agent, editor or publisher, and they liked what they saw, they may request more of your work. You might want to bring along a notebook, in case you want to jot down some of the items discussed in the meeting.

For more information on how to make the most of your conference experience, make sure to check the [SCWW blog](#) and [conference Web site](#) often.

SCWW Web Presence Gets New Look

Webmaster Marshall Turner offers more information on the some of the new options on our Web site.

and we've added pitch sessions to the mix.

Carrie McCullough, our conference chairperson, and the conference team had a lot of information to share. We have a [blog](#) that will keep you posted on everything conference, a Facebook group you can join, and we're going to start publishing YouTube videos you can post on your Web page to entice people to come to the conference. There are many ways your chapter can help with the funding of the conference. These sponsorship opportunities help us keep our prices extremely low. Just check our prices against the conference listings in Writers' Digest or Poets & Writers, and you'll find that, for the size of this conference, we are an incredible bargain. Carrie shared many of the ways we try to keep these prices low for our membership.

Other topics covered included contests, The Quill, and our new [Web site design](#). Make sure you go and check out our new look on the Web: www.myscww.org.

There is not way I can cover everything in this column, so I urge you to talk to one of the many people who attended for a thorough report on this exciting day.

Thanks to the following chapter representatives who joined our board members for this special day: Betty Busch, Brenda Remmes, Doug Wyant, Rebecca Antley, Melinda Cotton, John Migacz, Marcia Migacz, Valerie Norris, Carole St Laurent, Charlotte Blackstone, Brenda Gable, Jeff Kovite, Luis Rodriguez, Cindy Witherspoon, Gail McAbee and Ruth Varner.

Our next board meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. September 12, location to be determined. Please remember all members are welcome at any Board meeting.

On June 5, SCWW launched a redesign of our Web site, www.myscww.org. If you have a Web site, blog or published book, we have pages and features to highlight your work.

On the home page, we display four book covers from members' published books. These covers are randomly selected and change every time you view the page. So each visitor sees a different set of book covers.

The covers are selected from books that appear on the Members' Published Books page. On this page we show 10 books at a time, sorted by when it was added to our Web site (Date). There is a drop down box to sort by author name and title. There is also navigation to additional pages. To appear on the home page, the book must have a book cover image.

Finally we have the Members' Web sites and Blogs page. Here we list your Web site address and blog address.

The content you see on the website was repurposed from the old site. To assure your content is correct, I encourage all members to visit these pages. If you wish changes to your content, please send information to scwwwwebmaster@myscww.org.

Quill Writing Contests

Spring Quill Writing Contest

Congratulations to the following SCWW members for their winning entries in the Spring Quill Writing Contest - Spring It On Us!

Poetry

First Place: *Eastertide* by John Partin of Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.
Second Place: *Misnomer* by Margaret B. Hayes of Anderson

Fiction

First Place: *Two Days in Spring* by Betty Burgin Snow of Spartanburg, S.C.

Second Place: *First Day of Spring* by Dell Isham of Columbia, S.C.

The poetry judge for the spring contest was Mary Hutchins Harris. Mary is a poet and essayist. Her chapbook, *A Tongue Full of Yeses*, was selected by Kwame Dawes for publication in the 2007 South Carolina Poetry Initiative/USC Press Chapbook Contest. She has been a featured poet for the Piccolo Spoleto Sundown Series and the Stories for Life Festival. Mary's work has appeared or selected for several print publications such as *Tar River Poetry*, *Kakalak*, and *Antietam Review* as well as on-

2009 Carrie McCray Memorial Literary Awards Judges' Biographies

Poetry

Vera Gomez is a performance poet, writer and workshop facilitator. Her first collection of poems, *Barrios Voices*, was published by Stepping Stone Press in October 2008. She is a 2006 South Carolina Fiction Project winner and her poems have appeared in *Yemassee* (2009), *Kakalak: Anthology of Carolina Poets* (2006), *Millennial Sampler/South Carolina Poetry Anthology* (2005), *Ties that Bind* (2003) and *Quintet* (2003). A graduate of Texas Tech University, she works as a writer in corporate communications and is an Arts Integration SmartArts poet teaching in schools. For additional information visit www.veragomez.com.

Though born in Maine, **Anne Hicks** has spent most of her life in the South - the last 19 years in Charlotte. She strives in life and writing to find a balance close to the Mason Dixon Line. Anne finds her zen in writing, music, scuba diving and her pets. A writer of short fiction and poetry, her works have appeared in various publications, including *Thrift Poetic Arts Journal*, *Pearl* and the 2006 *Kakalak Anthology of Carolina Poets*. She is founder, publisher and editor of the flash prose and short fiction journal *moonShine review*, which will celebrate its five-year anniversary this fall.

Ray McManus is the author of *Left Behind*, Stepping Stone Press 2008, and *Driving Through the Country Before You Were Born*, USC Press 2007. He is an active poet, and his poetry has appeared in *Southern Artistry*. He is an Assistant Professor of English in the Division of Arts and Letters at USC Sumter where he teaches composition, literature, Irish literature and creative writing.

Nonfiction

Alex Albright, a Graham, N.C., native, directs the creative writing program at East Carolina University <http://core.ecu.edu/engl/cw/> where he teaches creative nonfiction. He was founding editor of the *North Carolina Literary Review* (1991-96) and received the R. Hunt Parker Award for Lifetime Literary Achievement from the NC Literary & Historical Association in 1991. He edited *Leaves of Green: the Collard Poems* and *The North Carolina Poems* by A.R. Ammons and is currently seeking a publisher for *The Forgotten*

line publications. In 2007, she won the SCWW Carrie Allen McCray Award for Poetry and tied for First Place in the nonfiction at the South Carolina Writers Workshop Conference. She is a member of the Poetry Society of South Carolina.

The fiction judge was Dr. Bruce Nims. Bruce is chair of the Humanities Division at USC-Lancaster where he teaches fiction.

Due to the low number of entries for the nonfiction category, those entries were not judged and no prizes awarded.

Summer Quill Writing Contest

The Summer Quill Writing Contest is open and submission in poetry, short fiction and nonfiction are being accepted.



The theme is "Passages." The photo of the door represents the various passages we've all encountered and gone through, or avoided, in our lifetime. What passage will you write about? Or does the actual door pictured invite you in? If so, where does it lead? What will you find behind it?

We'd like to receive at least 10 entries per category, so pick up your quills, pencils, pens, computers, chalk, crayons . . . whatever you write with and take a step, enter the passage

and take us with you.

Poetry - 40 lines

Prose (both fiction and nonfiction) 1,500 word limit

Deadline - July 31, 2009

Remember, you can submit in each category, but only once per category.

Send entries via real mail with a cover letter with two copies to:

Kim Blum-Hyclak
1315 Treetop Dr.
Lancaster, SC 29720

OR send via e-mail with a cover sheet in the body and the entry as an attachment to

rhyclak@comporium.net.

On the cover sheet, include name, title of entry, phone number, address, e-mail and category.

Rock Hill Chapter Workshop

The Rock Hill Chapter of the South Carolina Writers Workshop presents its 3rd annual Writers Workshop on Saturday, July 18, 2009, at Grace Lutheran Church.

The keynote speaker is Dannye Romine Powell.

Featured workshop leaders are Kaye McSpadden and Luis Rodriquez. The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. There is no cost to the public and the lunch is gratis compliments of Jersey Mike's of Rock Hill.

Dannye Romine Powell has been a news columnist for the

First: US Navy B-1 and the Integration of the Modern Navy. He lives in Fountain, N.C., with his wife and son, where they operate R.A Fountain, General Store & Internet Café www.rafountain.com.

Susan Millar Williams is the author of *A Devil and a Good Woman, Too: The Lives of Julia Peterkin*, which won the 1998 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize, given by the Association of Southern Women Historians for the best book of the year in Southern women's history. In 2002, she was awarded a fellowship in writing by the South Carolina Arts Commission. She has written for *The Nation*, *The Southern Review*, and *The Women's Review of Books*. With co-author Stephen Hoffius, she has just finished a nonfiction book about the great Charleston earthquake of 1886, a tale of disaster and murder that unfolds amid the deepening crisis of segregation and Jim Crow. Williams teaches American literature, composition, and creative writing at Trident Technical College in Charleston.

Jack Trammel lives and writes in central Virginia, where he lives with his wife and seven children on a small farm. He has more than two dozen book credits, dozens of articles and essays, and writes regularly for the *Washington Times*. He is the recipient of numerous writing awards, and is currently President of the Blue Ridge Virginia Writers Club.

Short Fiction

Since 2003, **Dr. Brenda Flanagan** has served as a Cultural Ambassador for the United States Department of State. In 2005, she was the first American writer to be sent on a cultural mission to Libya in 25 years. Her visit opened doors to other American cultural missions. Published in both prose and poetry, her most recent work includes *In Praise of Island Women & Other Crimes*, Russian translation of a short story collection, and her forthcoming novel, *Allah in the Islands*, due in August 2009 from Peepal Tree Press. She has also served as editor for various publications. Dr. Flanagan is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships and has been lecturer, keynote, or presenter at workshops and seminars in the United States, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Tunisia and Turkmenistan. Currently, she is the Edward Armfield Professor of English at Davidson College where she teaches Creative Writing, African American Literature, Caribbean Literature, World Literatures, Colonial/Postcolonial Literatures, Expository Writing and Literary theory.

Charlotte Observer for more than 17 years. She has published three editions of poetry, her latest *A Necklace of Bees*, University of Arkansas Press, 2008. Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies over the years as well as magazines such as the *Atlanta Review*, *The Paris Review*, and *The New Republic*. A collection of her articles interviewing southern writers, *Parting the Curtains; Interviews With Southern Writers* was published in 1994 by John F. Blair; and then again by Double Day Bantam in 1995.

The featured topics of the workshop are "The Twelve Commandments of Writing," "Writing Effective and Engaging Short Stories" and "Fantasy Writing: Magical Wording."

Registration is required, as seating is limited. Please contact Connie Miller at connie@medgastraining.com or 980-253-7261.

Grace Lutheran Church is located at 426 Oakland Ave.

Chapter/Member/Sponsor Chatter

Aiken

Lisa Dixon has a story in the newly released *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Tough Time, Tough People*. She'll be signing copies July 25 at the Books A Million in the Aiken Mall.

Camden

Dell Isham's short story "Goodbye Vietnam" has been selected as one of twelve stories to be published in the *2009 South Carolina Fiction Project*, which is sponsored by the *Charleston Post and Courier* and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Kathryn Ethers Lovatt was one of ten finalists in the 2008 William Richey Short Story Competition.

Greenville

The Petigru Review sponsor **Fiction Addiction** bookstore has moved to a new location, 1020A Woodruff Road (across the street from Costco in the Jewelry Gallery plaza).

At the new location, Kristy Dempsey, born in the Lowcountry and raised in Greenville, will be signing copies of her first children's book, *Me With You* (Philomel, hardcover, \$16.99), from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 18. This delightful picture book celebrates the special bond between a granddaughter and her grandpa.

Phil Arnold is a contributor to a new book just published, *Elvis — He Touched Me: The Untold Story from Rare Interviews*, by Darwin Lamm and published by *Elvis, the Magazine*. Phil wrote "About the Author," and one short chapter called "Elvis and Elvira, Mistress of the Night." He also edited five other chapters of the book. Visit Phil's blogsite at www.elvisblog.net.

Bob Strother's flash fiction work "Where, Indeed?" has been

Anthony Varallo's short story collection, *Out Loud*, won the 2008 Drue Heinz Literature Prize (University of Pittsburgh Press). His first collection, *This Day in History*, won the 2005 John Simmons Short Fiction Award (University of Iowa Press). Varallo is the recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Literature, and his stories have appeared in *Gettysburg Review*, *New England Review*, *Epoch*, *Shenandoah*, *Harvard Review*, and elsewhere. He received his MFA from the University of Iowa/Iowa Writers' Workshop, and his doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Currently, he is assistant professor of English and the College of Charleston, where he is the fiction editor for *Crazyhorse*.

Novel/First Chapter

Joyce Moore is an award winning author, having won in contests such as Writing the Region, First Coast Writer Festival Contest, and most recently, an historical novel won an award in the Mainstream Fiction category at the Florida Writers Conference. Her first book, a regional book about Florida, has sold more than 10,000 copies. A medieval romance, *Jeanne of Clairmonde*, is a June 2009 release, and a historical novel will be released by Five Star in August of 2010. Her work has appeared in national publications and she frequently speaks before historical groups and at book events such as *Times* Festival of Reading and Book Talk, a TV production. Her Web site is www.joycemoorebooks.com.

Clarence Nero hailed as "one of our most promising young authors," by Maya Angelou, is a native of New Orleans' lower Ninth Ward that was demolished by Hurricane Katrina. He graduated from Howard University with a B.S degree and worked as a chemist in the forensic department of the District government in Washington, D.C., before getting the bug to write. Nero was nicknamed "Cheekie" and grew up in New Orleans' infamous Desire Housing Project, where drugs, violence and poverty defined the way of life. Nero has traveled the country speaking to teens and adults about the problems most threatening to this generation. In a review of his novel, *Three Sides to Every Story*, *Publishers Weekly* says, "Nero deploys three deftly drawn narrators to tell a wrenching story of desire and survival." The sequel to *Three Sides*, *Too Much of a Good Thing Ain't Bad* will be released June 2009. Nero has an M.F.A in creative writing from Louisiana State University. He teaches at Baton Rouge Community College. Visit him at

accepted for inclusion in the summer issue of *Magnolia Quarterly*, a publication of the Gulf Coast Writers' Association. In addition, his short story, "The Blues in Twelve Bars," has been accepted for inclusion in the Spring 2009 issue of *moonShine review*, a literary journal based in Charlotte and published by Thrift Poetic Arts. See www.thriftpoeticarts.com/moonshine.html.

Members-at-large

Kathy Mittelman's debut novel, *One Scream Away*, written under the pseudonym Kate Brady, will be released July 1 by Grand Central Publishing.

Chris Roerden's latest title, *Don't Sabotage Your Submission: Insider Information from a Career Editor to Save Your Manuscript from Turning Up D.O.A.*, won the 2009 Benjamin Franklin Award in the category of Literary Criticism. The national Benjamin Franklin Awards are sponsored by the Independent Book Publishers Association.

Rock Hill

Betty Beamguard's short story, "Tully and the FBI" appears in the latest issue of *moonShine review*. *The Writer* has scheduled another of her how-to features for its October issue. Her humor piece, "I Shall Not Wear Purple," has just been accepted for the next Silver Boomers anthology, *This Path*. "Take Heart," a nonfiction humor piece, is slated for publication in *Writer's Journal*, and her story, "Mercy for a Kitten," will be included in the *2009 South Carolina Fiction Project*.

www.CLARENCECNERO.com.

William A. Veselik is a native Virginian, whose first novel, *Weep Not for the Vampire* (Mundania Press, Cincinnati Ohio), was a finalist for the 2007 Eppie Award for e-book excellence in the horror category. His second novel, *Corpses So Lively*, is the first in a trilogy of books entitled *My Soul to Take*. His fifth novel, *Ghost Image*, will be published by Mundania in 2010. Veselik's short fiction has appeared online and in *Shroud* magazine. One of his short stories leads an anthology entitled *Dark Jesters* coming in the fall from Novello Publishers. He is an Affiliate Member of the Horror Writers Association.

For more information on the South Carolina Writers' Workshop and its upcoming conference, please visit the SCWW blog, <http://southcarolinawritersworkshop.blogspot.com>.

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