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Issue 16

November 27, 2009

## The Quill

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### A Stuffed Quill

You'll notice this is a larger-than-usual *Quill*. It's stuffed with member news, contest information and opportunities, a new blog address and lots more. One of the biggest announcements is the annual South Carolina

### From the President

#### Looking Back at 2009

*From Barbara Evers, SCWW president*

This year has been very rewarding and challenging for me as the President of the SCWW Board of Directors. I would like to thank all of you who have contacted me with questions, comments, and assistance over the year.

Our final board meeting for 2009 will be Saturday, December 5 beginning at 10:30 a.m., at the Lexington Main Branch Library at 5440 Augusta Road in Lexington. All current members of SCWW are always welcome to attend board meetings. Please be aware we operate on a tight time frame, so if you plan to attend and have matters you would like discussed, please contact me no later than Tuesday, Dec. 1 to see if your topic can be added to the agenda.

During this meeting, the board will discuss the final results of the conference and welcome the 2010 Board of Directors as their guest. Our new directors in 2010 include:

**Kia Goins**  
**Steve Gordy**  
**Carrie McCullough** (returning for a second term)

Writers Workshop survey. This is your chance to let the SCWW Board know more about what you get out of being an SCWW member and what you'd like to see. Please take a moment and complete the survey. You'll find it at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MLMMXVM>. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Carrie McCullough at [conference@myscww.org](mailto:conference@myscww.org). The survey is open from today until Saturday, December 12, 2009.

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## New Blog Address

***We have a new blog address! For more information on the South Carolina Writers' Workshop and its upcoming conference, please visit the SCWW blog, <http://scwwblog.blogspot.com>.***

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## Book Events

Here's a list of book events, many at SCWW and *Petigru Review* sponsor stores. Are you an SCWW member or SCWW sponsor with an event coming up? Send an e-mail to [thequill@myscww.org](mailto:thequill@myscww.org) by the 15th of the month before the event, and we'll be sure to include it in the next edition.

**Nov. 21** 10 a.m.-noon: Seven regional authors —Jane Jaudon Ferrer, Angela Dove, Dawn Cusick, Kathryn Magendie, Terry L. Rollins, Emily Sue Harvey and Mark Washburn — signed their books at bookstore As The Page Turns in Greenville near Furman University.

**Nov. 21** 2-4 p.m.: Alexia Helsley signs *Hidden History of Greenville County* at Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Nov. 27** 2 p.m.: Moveable Feast featured *Harrisville* by Mark Gordon Smith at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

**Dec. 1** noon- 2 p.m.: Book Your Lunch features Nicole Seitz. Reservations required to Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Dec. 1** 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Nicole Seitz signs *Saving Cicadas* at Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Dec. 3** 7:30- 8:30 p.m.: Jeff VanderMeer reads from his work in the Olin Teaching Theatre at Wofford College in Spartanburg.

**Dec. 4** 2 p.m.: Moveable Feast features *Saving Cicadas* by Nicole Seitz at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

**Dec. 4** 5:30-9:30 p.m.: Bay Street Trading Co. presents "The Christmas Belles," an in-store book signing by Kathryn Wall, Patti Callahan Henry, Cassandra King, Mary Alice Monroe, Julie McLaughlin and Karen Peluso, in celebration of Beaufort's annual "Night on the Town."

**Dec. 5:** Hub City Writers bookfest in Spartanburg.

**Kay Mortimer  
Ginny Padgett  
Tibby Plants  
Brenda Remmes**

Since the number of board of Director nominations did not exceed the number of open slots, it was not necessary to hold an organizational-wide election for board members.

Returning to the 2010 board for the second year of their terms are:

**Valerie Aartun  
Kim Blum-Hyclak  
Lateia Sandifer  
Jim McFarlane**

**Barbara Evers** will be returning as President Ex Officio.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the following directors whose service ends December 31:

**Jim Boyer  
Susan Boyer  
Cynthia Dyer  
Kathryn Lovatt  
Bob Strother  
Marshall Turner**

Serving on the Board of Directors with these people has been a great honor.

## Conference in Review

*From Carrie McCullough, SCWW vice president, conference chair*

Thank you to all the members who made the 2009 SCWW conference success! Despite a challenging economy and busy lives, we had a financially and professionally successful conference. The final numbers will be presented at the December Board meeting, but we had roughly 250 folks attending this year. Most of the faculty members have sent us numerous letters asking that the conference committee let the members know just how much they enjoyed meeting and working with you. Many asked to come back soon!

If you weren't able to attend in 2009, have no fear! We'll start posting information about the 2010 soon. In the meantime, please take a moment to participate in the 2010 survey, so we'll know how to keep improving and better meet the needs of our members.

In the meantime, here's some food for thought from conference co-chair Lateia Sandifer about following up after the conference. Should you have any questions about the 2009 conference, or the 2010 conference, feel free to drop me a line at [conference@myscww.org](mailto:conference@myscww.org).

**They asked for a submission, now what?**

**Dec. 5** 2-4 p.m.: Kenneth Butcher will sign copies of his first mystery, *The Middle of the Air*, at Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Dec. 8** noon-2:00 p.m.: Book Your Lunch features Melinda Long. Reservations required to Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Dec. 8** 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Melinda Long signs *Pirates Don't Change Diapers* and *How I Became a Pirate* at Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Dec. 11:** Moveable Feast features *Simple, Fresh, Southern* by Ted and Matt Lee at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

**Jan. 8** 2 p.m.: Moveable Feast features *Sculpture of Brookgreen Gardens* by Robin R. Salmon at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

**Jan. 13** noon-2 p.m.: Book Your Lunch features Faith Hunter/Gwen Hunter and her urban fantasy novel *Blood Cross*. Reservations required to Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Jan. 15** 2 p.m.: Moveable Feast features *The Boykin Spaniel* by Mike Creel & Lynn Kelly at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

**Jan. 22** 2 p.m.: Moveable Feast features *Reefer Moon* by Roger Pinckney at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

**Jan 23** 2-4 p.m.: Kelly Gay signs her paranormal romance novel *The Better Part of Darkness* & Jenna Black signs her urban fantasy novel *Speak of the Devil* at Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Jan. 27** noon-2 p.m.: Book Your Lunch features Ellyn Bache and her novel *Daughters of the Sea*. Reservations required to Fiction Addiction in Greenville.

**Jan. 29** 2 p.m.: Moveable Feast features *The Paris Vendetta* by Steve Berry at Litchfield Books on Pawley's Island.

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## Industry Changes from RWA

Romance Writers of America was informed of the new venture between Harlequin Enterprises and ASI Solutions to form Harlequin Horizons, a vanity/subsidy press. Many members asked the organization to state its position regarding this new development. As a matter of policy, RWA does not endorse any publisher's business model. Their mission is the advancement of the professional interests of career-focused romance writers.

RWA allocates select conference resources to non-subsidy/non-vanity presses that meet the eligibility requirements to obtain those resources. With the launch of Harlequin Horizons, Harlequin Enterprises no longer meets the requirements to be eligible for RWA-provided conference resources. For more information, please contact RWA or visit its Web site, <http://www.rwanational.org>.

*From Lateia Sandifer, SCWW vice president and conference co-chair*

Hopefully lots of you got requests for partials and fulls at the conference. What should you be doing to prepare your submission?



Here are a few pre-submission tips:

1. Make sure to visit the person's website and check out submission guidelines. You want to make sure you're using the right format and font. Sometimes the person will forget to tell you these things at the conclusion of a critique.
2. Make sure your synopsis, query letter, and manuscript match. You don't want to promise something in the query or synopsis that never comes to pass in the manuscript. All three elements should dovetail together nicely and form a cohesive, consistent package.
3. Keep an eye on the calendar. Faculty members assumed, unless you told them differently, your manuscript was complete. You want to submit requested materials as soon as possible. Try to get it to the person who requested no more than four to six weeks later. Publishing is a fast-paced business. Don't give the person a chance to forget you and your project.
4. Read, edit, and revise. Look over your entire submission packet with the eye of an editor. Be certain there are no typos, misspellings or other amateur mistakes. Try to take the things you learned at the conference and apply them to your submission.
5. Don't mail it in a way that requires a signature unless you were specifically told to do so.

Here are some tips for after you've mailed or e-mailed the requested materials:

1. Take a deep breath. Submissions packets are time-consuming and often brain-numbing. Relax for a bit.
2. Keep writing. Whether you move to a new project or keep honing and polishing the submitted one, don't stop working.
3. Be patient. Your submission is not the only thing on the faculty member's desk. If they requested it, they will respond to it. Don't call, e-mail, or otherwise pester the crap out of them. They'll get to it.
4. Don't stalk the agent, editor, or publisher. Not on Facebook or Twitter. Not by riding by their office. Or calling them repeatedly. Or sending the Christmas/Holiday Cards.
5. Don't assume anything. Just because your material was requested, doesn't mean you'll be signing a contract by month's end. You might, and if so, great. But don't blow all your savings or buy a new car. Be prudent and patient.
6. Remember, if you're submitting between now and January 1, it's the

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## Contest Opportunities

### 2010 Sylvia K. Burack Scholarship

This contest is open to full-time college students:

<http://www.writermag.com/wrt/default.aspx?c=a&id=4414>

### Permanent Vacation Essay Contest

Bona Fide Books seeks literary essays about experiences living and working in any U.S. National Park for a collection about life in our parks. Some go seeking commune with nature; others to escape. Diverse park experiences are desired. What happened there, and how did it influence your life? (Humor also welcome.) Writers will receive \$100 for their essay and one copy of the collection.

Deadline: January 5, 2010. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and 12 point Times New Roman or Courier font with standard formatting applied; word count is limited to 5,000. Send to [submissions@bonafidebooks.com](mailto:submissions@bonafidebooks.com) with "Permanent Vacation" and the title of work in the subject line.

For more information, please go to [www.bonafidebooks.com](http://www.bonafidebooks.com).

### Hub City Contests

The South Carolina First Novel Prize has just been re-funded by the SC Arts Commission, the State Library and the Humanities Council SC and in spring 2010 Hub City will announce another winner! Bret Lott will judge the contest. Deadline is January 5, 2010.

Equally significant, the SC Arts Commission has awarded Hub City a "Participation Grant" that will help underwrite four to six books by South Carolina authors not living in Spartanburg County. They will begin accepting manuscript submissions in September and March.

For more information on Hub City opportunities, visit <http://www.hubcity.org>.

holiday season. Agents and editors take time off to be with their families. Just like you. Refer to Item 3 and drink a glass of egg nog.

## Spotted at the Conference

Incoming 2010 SCWW Board member Tibby Plants' camera was snapping away at the conference. Want to know if you were caught on film (well, not really film anymore, but you get my drift)? Tibby has been kind enough to provide us with a link to her pictures. Visit <http://picasaweb.google.com/tibwriter60/SCWWConf2009?feat=directli>

## Chapter/Member/Sponsor Chatter

### Rock Hill

**Judith Barban's** book, *Poplar River*, is being published by Thomas Max Publishing.

**Charlie Burnette's** work *Manipulation* was accepted by Degree Mint H Books, Main Street Rag.

**Grace Looper** is having her own success with *My Apologies, Mr. Poe: And Other Stories that Chill the Soul* accepted by Thomas Max Publishing.

**Martha Robinson's** work "Hands and Fingers" placed second in Excellence in Poetry, 2009 Carolina ChristianWriters Workshop.

**Betty Beamguard** has several writing items to celebrate. A feature article about Jackie Miles' novel, *Roseflower Creek* in the December *T Writer*. A poem has been accepted in *Main Street Rag*, as well as one *Falling Star Magazine*. In addition, three pieces were accepted for *Magnolia Quarterly*. Finally, a humorous essay, "I Shall Not Wear Purple," appears in the Silver Boomers anthology, *This Path*.

### Greenville

**Phil Arnold's** *ElvisBlog*, [www.ElvisBlog.net](http://www.ElvisBlog.net), reached a new milestone, surpassing 20,000 hits (distinct page views) in one week. The spike in hits was sparked by an article Phil wrote about Elvis' grandson, Benjamin Keough, who had recently signed a \$5 million recording contract. The article included several photos and hit a daily peak of 6,338 on October 7.

**Bob Strother** recently sold his short story, "Call Me" to the award-winning, United Kingdom-based horror/fantasy magazine, *Postscripts: The A to Z of Fantastic Fiction*. The story is scheduled to appear in the Spring, 2011 issue. In addition, his short story "Treetop Province" has been published in *moonShine review's* fifth anniversary edition. The anniversary edition features only the work of authors and photographers previously published in the journal.

### Myrtle Beach

**Debbie Richard** of Green Sea reports two publications have accepted her works. "The Mandolin" appeared in *Joyful* in September. "Christmas Carolers" will appear in the December issue. Lastly, *The Shine Journal* will publish "The Path" (about a walk through Brookgreen Gardens) in January 2010.

### **Member-at-Large**

Vanilla Heart Publishing has just released a new novel by **Robert Hay**. *The Baby River Angel* is his third novel, all published by Vanilla Heart. Robert's second novel, *The Life and Death of Lizzie Morris*, has been nominated by the publisher for the 2009 Pushcart Prize.

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