

# The Writer's Bloc

## **December Meeting:**

Monday, December 11, 2006

Critique Session: None

Program: 6:30 - 9 pm

The Estates on Lake Granbury

916 East Highway 377

Granbury, TX 76048

Located behind the Valero station at Old Cleburne Road

## **Meeting Program:**

### **December 11th Program 6:30p**

Join the bloc for a fun evening of reading original stories at our December meeting and then guess who wrote them. All stories must be original, no more than 4 pages double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman Font. DO NOT put your name on the work. Make sure the paper is white and the print is black if at all possible. Do not tell anyone what you have written. If you tell anyone they can't guess on your work. Try to stretch your writing style in order to fool those who know you best. You can write in any genre. Remember to warn the reader at the top of your manuscript if it has language or content that is R rated. You won't guess out loud, but list your best guess on a paper along with the title. The writers will be revealed at the end of the evening.

## **December Hospitality:**

The refreshment committee for December is Peggy Purser-Freeman, Janie Hall, and Jan Wright.

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## **November Meeting Notes:**

Don Grissom, one of our newest members and author of *Book of Spells*, talked about having written and published his book. He also offered some insights into working with book stores and distributors. Don, thank you very much for your presentation and we look forward to having you in our group.

The Fifth Annual Chips! were distributed. Jeri, you and the printer have done a great job.

Birthday gal Jan Wright received a gift as a way of saying "Thank You" for all she has been doing for our club.

## **Contests and Market News:**

**Jan Wright sent information on the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Contest. First prize is \$1,000. Second and Third place each get \$500. For more information see their web-site at: <http://www.shortstorycompetition.com>**

Random Thoughts:

From Marilyn vos Savant:

A model needs careful lighting, professional makeup and expensive clothes to look as beautiful as any ordinary woman does to a man who has fallen in love with her.

On Christmas:

Aren't we forgetting the true meaning of Christmas? You know, the birth of Santa.

Bart Simpson, *The Simpsons*

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**Our members offer tips and lessons learned about writing and publishing:**

From Lloyd Christensen:

I'm reading David Morrell's *Lessons From A Lifetime of Writing: A Novelist Looks At His Craft*. He has a Frequently Asked Questions section. One question asks how he keep his objectivity during all the rereading and editing of his manuscripts. He suggests printing it and reading the paper version rather than just the computer screen and occassionally changing fonts. He also does his revisions in different places than where he writes - even if it is just at the dining table.

He also says that most publishers destroy unsold copies of books after just 18 months (IRS rules that do not allow depreciating inventory resulted in this) and sell the remaining copies for a couple of dollars a piece. Contracts usually allow authors to buy these "remaindered" copies. He advocates buying as many of your remainderd copies (it is a business expense for you and thus deductible) and selling them yourselves later as collectors items via a web-site or at speaking engagements.

Movie Rights:

He has a chapter about film rights and production. In reference to *First Blood*, there were several directors with rights to it before the Sylvester Stallone film was made. Earlier casting had Steve McQueen, Nick Nolte, Clint Eastwood, Robert De Niro, and Michael Dogulas all lined up to play Rambo.

They each had different ways they were going to take the story. The first version, to feature Paul Newman, was to end with Rambo and the police chief being killed by a mob and with the police chief saying to Rambo "None of this would have happened if only we'd tried to understand each other." The next proposed version had the main character being the police chief and portrayed by Paul Newman.

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## **Braggs:**

Toni Blake received, get this not one but two!, honorable mentions for her submissions to a Writer's Digest contest.

## **Events:**

### **2007 Writing Down the Brazos Conference News**

.March 2 & 3 is the weekend for the 2007 conference. This date has been changed from its former date due to scheduling at the Langdon Center. Our speakers will be an editor, an agent, a book doctor, and illustrator and Peggy Freeman will be teaching a workshop as well. It is so awesome that we will have an agent and an editor. More information later. Plan to be there.

## **From Our President:**

Well, it's December, hope everyone comes to the meeting in the Christmas Spirit, maybe it'll rub off on me. Just kidding, I'm always in the Christmas Spirit. I'm looking forward to the mystery reading, and I have chosen something that I think will fool everyone.

This holiday season is special for me, as it will be my first Christmas as a great grandpa. I really enjoyed all the stories in "Chips" The publisher did a great job this time, the book looks great.

Thanks, everyone, for your part in making our writer's club a success, and a learning experience.

Robert C. Taylor / President

## **Officers:**

President:	Robert Taylor
Vice President:	Peggy Purser Freeman
Secretary:	Connie Leonard
Treasurer:	Violet Pollard
Newsletter:	Lloyd Christensen
Hospitality:	Jan Wright
Publicity:	Holli Harrison

**Web Page: We have one. Check out:**

Web site: [www.writers-bloc-granbury.com](http://www.writers-bloc-granbury.com)