

# The Writer's Bloc

## **February Meeting:**

Monday, February 26, 2007

Critique Session: 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Program: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

The Estates on Lake Granbury

916 East Highway 377

Granbury, TX 76048

Located behind the Valero station at Old Cleburne Road

## **Meeting Program:**

### **February Program**

Bring your book blurb, magazine hook or query letters to this month's Writers' Bloc meeting. We will critique in a round-robin style. Then we will hear from those who have had this experience and we will practice pitching and learn how and when to talk to an editor/agent about submissions.

## **January Meeting Notes:**

Barbara D'Amario led a discussion on inspiration and used an interesting opening line: "How will I know if you're dead?" as a prompt for each member to start with. As you might expect, everyone went in a different direction with some very interesting results.

## **February Hospitality:**

Jan will be contacting the members with hospitality commitments for this month. I apologize but she sent me the list a few weeks ago and I let it roll out of my email inbasket.

A reminder from Jan: I will provide coffee (if it's cold weather) or ice tea (if it's hot) every month. The person who signs up for drinks can provide soda pop or punch, whatever they choose. Please remind everybody that no one has to bring plates, cups, napkins or eating utensils. The club provides those and our supply is overflowing

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## Writing Tips:

From The 38 Most Common Fiction Writing Mistakes (And How To Avoid Them) by Jack M. Bickham:

"Never write down to your readers."

"Don't assume your reader is dumber than you."

"Never - ever - sneer at published work."

"Think you're too smart to sell? Baloney!"

"Come down to Earth! That's where the readers are."

## Random Thoughts:

February means Valentine's Day and thoughts of love and romance. I've been told by an editor that I know nothing about romance. That wasn't the first time I've been told that. Or the last.

Anyhow, Jay Leno offered this observation once. *"A German company has made chocolate in shapes of couples making love. I don't like them...I don't want my chocolate to have more fun than me."*

Someone else said *"I wanted to make it really special on Valentine's Day so I tied my boyfriend up. For three solid hours I watched whatever I wanted on TV."*

## And President's Day:

*"I don't know whether it's the finest public-housing in America or the crown jewel of the federal prison system."* Bill Clinton on living in the White House.

*"To those of you who received honours, awards, and distinctions, I say 'Well done.' And to the 'C' students, I say 'You too can be President!'"* President George W. Bush while accepting an honorary doctorate from Yale.

On being President: *"The pay is good, and I can walk to work."* John F. Kennedy.

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## **Braggs:**

Jerri Jeske had an article on romantic get-aways to Granbury published in the Sunday, February 11th issue of The Dallas Morning News. A comparable article appears in the Granbury Showcase. Congrats Jerri!

At the January meeting we heard that Toni Blake, after eight years of writing, finally submitted works (plural!) for publication. Congrats!

Robert Taylor and his wife recently became grandparents again.

From Lloyd Christensen: Part-One of a two-part article on tape encryption came out in the February issue of Technical Support, a trade journal for the computer industry. Part-Two is due in March. I've also started a 34 month long MBA program through the University of Texas at Dallas with a concentration in Project Management. I've been told my life is over for the next three years.

## **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)

# Writing Down the Brazos

## A Conference on Writing and Publishing

Presented by

Tarleton's Langdon Center for Cultural Arts and the  
Writers' Bloc of Granbury

March 2nd and 3rd, 2007

308 East Pearl Street in Granbury, Texas.

Writing Down the Brazos is a conference offering writers and illustrators an intimate opportunity to meet editors, an agent, illustrators and authors in a beautiful, relaxing setting at the Langdon Center for Cultural Arts on Pearl Street in Granbury.

Publisher/Editor from Blooming Tree Press, Miriam Hees will be available to review manuscripts. Blooming Tree Press is a Regional Press located in Austin, Texas. Ms. Hees is in charge of acquisitions.

Agent/Author, Terry Burns will be talking to writers of all genres. Terry is a native Texan living in Amarillo. The Hartline Literary Agency offers expert representation for authors writing both fiction and non-fiction for mainstream and inspirational markets. Terry has six novels in print, work in a dozen short story collections, four non-fiction books and numerous articles and short stories. His down-home presentation style is a favorite at programs, conferences and workshops. A graduate of West Texas State he did post grad work at Southern Methodist University. Terry plans to continue writing inspirational fiction as well as working with Hartline.

Robyn Conely, Book Doctor will present several workshops to help you with your troubled manuscripts. Her books include *Be Your Own Book Doctor; What Really Matters to Me: Journaling to a Simpler Life; (Writer's Digest Books, 2000)* and biographies: *John Grisham, Influential Cartoonists, and Alexander Graham Bell (Lucent Books, 1999); Depression (Lucent Books, 1998) and Meerkats (Capstone Press, 1998)*

Illustrator Alan Stacy will share with those interested in selling their artwork. Alan is a picture book illustrator, writer, musician, actor, sculptor, teacher and artist. He has illustrated a number of children's books including: *Discover Texas! L is for Lone Star: A Texas Alphabet Book, Round Up - A Texas Numbers Book, P is for Passport: A World Alphabet, Magazines: Pocket, & Swinging*

Peggy Purser Freeman, Author/Magazine Editor will be helping those wishing to break into, through and out of the magazine market. Peggy is editor of the Granbury Showcase Magazine and the award winning children's book author of *The Coldest Day in Texas*. She writes and directs children's radio programs; instructs writing courses at UTA & Tarleton's Langdon Center; and conducts writing workshops.

Cost for the conference is \$65 Early Bird Special and regular price of \$90 after February 25. Fees are non refundable. This cost covers Friday workshops and reception plus Saturday breakfast and all day conference. Lunch is not included. Writers' Bloc Member have a special rate of \$50.00 You must be a member to receive this discount and you must register before February 25<sup>th</sup>. After that date it will be \$75 Writers' Bloc Members.

For an extra \$25 you may submit a manuscript for critique by one of our editors, agent, book doctor and illustrator. Critique of manuscript will be on a first received, first served bases. Send 2 copies of no more than 10 pages to Peggy Freeman 9106 Bellechase Granbury, Texas by February 12, 2007. Send the \$25 in with your registration to the Langdon Center 308 East Pearl Street Granbury, Texas. You must be registered to submit for critique.