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# The Writers Bloc

MAR 2008  
Vol 2 Issue 9

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## MAR Meeting Schedule

Next Business Meeting  
Mar 24th, 2008  
Critique at 5: PM

Break at 6:45PM  
Bus, Mtg. 7PM

## Officers

### PRESIDENT

Peggy P. Freeman

### VICE PRESIDENT

Tony Blake

### SECRETARY

Janie Hall

### TREASURER

Violet Pollard

### HOSPITALITY

Carol Cook

### PUBLICITY

Holly Harrison

### NEWSLETTER

Joe Bonpensiero

### OUR WEBSITE



## HOSPITALITY

### Refreshments for MARCH:

Sweet - Barb D'Amario

Non-sweet - ??????????

Drinks - ??????????

If you can't attend please  
find a replacement to bring

your particular item

## Happy St. Pat's Day



### Cock'O Doodle Doo!

**Robert Taylor** was invited to a book signing fair.

**Doris Walker** was asked to submit a poem to a poetry society.

**Holly Harrison** has two articles still in limbo.

**Janie Hall** has not heard from the contest she entered.

## MARCH PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

Toni Blake will conduct our March 24 program. The premise of the program is based on Parade Magazine's Marilyn Vos Savant column asking the reader to complete well know proverbs with alternate endings.

For example: Finish the proverb "Don't place all your eggs ..." or "If you lie down with dogs ..." You get the idea. Come prepared to be creative, funny, and profound or whatever strikes your fancy.

My personal favorite is "If you can't say something good about someone, come sit here by me."

<http://writers-bloc-granbury.com/index.html>

[Suggestions to joebo1@charter.net](mailto:joebo1@charter.net)



## POEM OF THE MONTH

Inspired by Poet Laureate  
Alan Birkelbach's workshop  
Barb D'Amario Wrote

### "Desert Day Ramble"

Take a walk on the  
Hard edge of the desert.  
Caress the solitude,  
Trample down the sagebrush.  
Dance in Technicolor  
to the tune in a dust storm.  
Write your epitaph and  
raise your face to the sky.  
Beg the clouds to cry  
for your too short life.



## Writing Down The Brazos

**Barb D'Amario** got her money's worth and entered a new stage of writing. See her Poem printed above in the rag. She said the workshop was just great.

**Minnie Brown** and **Janie Hall** both attended and found the conference very informative. Minnie said she "really enjoyed learning how to write an ekphrasis poem and an anaphoric poem. "Wow, two new words for my dictionary.

**Janie said** “ I don't get very many ideas for poems and always thought they had to rhyme, but after listening to Minnie, She went home and tried writing a poem.

**Finally, Carol-Cook Bryan said** I took part in the Conference last year and again this year. This was a most rewarding and informative event, put on with all the class of a big national conference yet with that down home Texas style that Granbury artisans seem to be proficient at.” The conference was Marvelous, Educational, Exciting, and Delightful. I left the event “Pumped up,” ready to write more, going home with an in person critique on my Children’s book from a capable agent from a credited and respected agency. I plan to submit my work to the agent.

Carol said she gained from the presenters, including advice, instruction, and direction in several areas of writing and publishing. “Because I write and publish poetry I gained a college credit of information from one of the best poets I've

heard all year, Alan Birkelbach, Texas State Poet Laureate of 2005. His workshops were most informative and helpful. His readings on Friday evening were mesmerizing, allowing the audience to hear a poem spoken in the voice of a true poet, a reenactment of what he felt.

If the members of Writers Bloc really plan to write, sell, publish, grow, they must attend next year's conference.



### **BOOK SALE**

I buy my books at the “Half Price Book Stores around the DFW area Why? Price and Condition. I bought these hardbacks last week-They have many, many more!

John Grisham’s  
“The Last Juror” \$1.00  
Scott Turow  
“Personal Injuries”2.00  
John Jakes  
“The Warriors ”\$1.00  
Michael Crichton’s  
“Prey” \$1.00  
James A. Michener’s  
“The World is My Home”\$1.00



### **Feb 25th Writers Bloc Meeting Minutes**

Writer’s Bloc Meeting  
February 25, 2008

Peggy called the meeting to order by telling everyone how much she looked forward to the Bloc meetings because

we share our hearts and feelings, not just thoughts and opinions.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Peggy gave everyone an update on the Writing on the Brazos conference. Enough people had signed up to cover the cost of the conference. We do need favors for the guest welcome packets. We need 40 items such as, magnets, key chains, pens, etc. Peggy also announced there was still openings for the critique sessions if anyone is interested. There was also openings for the Morning pages session on free thinking/emotions.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Peggy handed out a survey, asking everyone to fill in the information to help in planning programs that will be beneficial.

Carol Cook presented a Self Publishing program, based on her experiences with two other publishers versus the last and best one.. She warned us to find a publisher by word of mouth reputation and by seeing their finished product. She explained the difference between e-books, on-demand publishing and just a print shop like Kinko’s. Each publisher will have different package deals. Carol gave each a handout listing some good web sites and publishers she had researched. Self-Publishing costs approximately \$1500 for 50 books up to \$5000 for 1,000 books. Carol added to be sure and think about distributing and selling your books on your own if you self publish.

Peggy closed the meeting with a reminder to be sure and retain all copyrights when publishing.

Respectfully, J. Hall, Secretary