



Hampton Roads Writers
Where Characters Connect

A Quarterly Newsletter

May 2011

HRW 2011 Writers' Conference

Hampton Roads Writers' Third Annual Writers' Conference will be held September 22-24 in Virginia Beach at the Doubletree Hotel near the Oceanfront. With authors, agents, and editors such as Michael Palmer, Marisa Corvisiero, Linda Konner, and Chuck Sambuchino, this is sure to be a tremendously exciting and enlightening conference.

One of the perks of attending is the opportunity to enter one or more of the four free writing contests. That's right; there is no fee for entering. Your paid registration is all you need, and with prizes of up to \$250 apiece for entries in fiction, juvenile fiction, poetry and nonfiction, you may win enough to pay for your conference cost and then some!

We will have fifteen breakout sessions, free ten-minute agent pitch sessions, and first ten lines critique sessions, always a favorite with our participants. In addition, optional after-hours bonus workshops and optional professional manuscript evaluations will be available for a small additional fee.

So much offered for an unbelievably reasonable price that includes lunch on both Friday and Saturday. Take advantage of our discount for Hampton Roads Writers members by becoming a member when you register. Your membership is tax deductible and gives you discounts to other HRW events throughout the year.

For more information, including a description of the breakout sessions and a complete list of our presenters, go to hamptonroadswriters.org.

Calls for Submission

The Madison Review, published semiannually through the University of Wisconsin-Madison, seeks short fiction and poetry. We are specifically interested in work from new and upcoming writers! For details and submission guidelines, visit our website: www.english.wisc.edu/madisonreview.

Sun's Skeleton, a new journal of new poetry, seeks submissions for the fall 2011 issue. Visit our website <http://www.sunsskeleton.com/> for guidelines.

Avoiding the Generic He

Every writer has his pet peeve. One of mine is reading a sentence like the one I just wrote. Grammatically, it is correct, but the generic *he* feels like it leaves female writers out. I have seen many writers fix that problem by changing the singular pronoun, *his*, to the plural pronoun, *their*, to be inclusive. However, that produces a subject-verb agreement error since *writer* is singular and *their* is not. Every writer has his or her pet peeve would also fix the problem, but it sounds stilted and, if used several times in a paragraph, is awkward and tiring. One can change the singular to a plural: Writers have their pet peeves. Better yet, construct your sentences to avoid the pronoun altogether: Writers have pet peeves.

Upcoming Events

Traveling Pen Series

May 7: Realistic and Effective Dialogue in Fiction
Hampton Main Library, 10 a.m.--noon

Instructor: Beth Groundwater

Oct. 22: Effective Oral Presentation
Virginia Wesleyan College, 10:30--12:30
Instructor: Linda Carol Cobb

Nov. 12: Getting the Word Out About Your Writing:
How to Make Social Media Work for You
Pretlow Library, Norfolk, 10:30--12:30
Instructor: Reesy Floyd-Thompson

The cost is \$13 for HRW members and \$15 for non-members. For more information, including bios of the instructors, visit our website at hamptonroadswriters.org.

Open Mic Nights

May 19: Oberndorf Central Library, Virginia Beach
Emcee: Poet John Starks

June 14: Pretlow Library, Norfolk
Emcee: Jack Callan

July 19: Oberndorf Central Library, Virginia Beach
Emcee: Pete Freas

For each of our Open Mic events, please bring 3-5 minutes of material to share. Sign-ups to read begin at 6 P.M. and the readings run from 6:30 to 8:30. All of our open mic events are free and open to everyone, writers and readers alike. For more information, visit our website.

We Need You

Be a part of the writing community and join Hampton Roads Writers. Better yet, don't just join but get involved by volunteering on one of the committees. Help us make this the best year yet and the best conference ever! Visit our website (hamptonroadswriters.org) for more information.

Calls for Submission

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www.hshighlights.com *The Highlights of Homeschooling* is looking for short (800-1500 words) factual fiction about actual events, people or places in history for kids grade 3-6. Stories need to introduce several words about an event, person, or place. These stories would become part of the history units and have a unit study made to go along with them. (Pay a one-time fee of \$20.) Please ask for a sample history unit study before submitting.
Highlightsfreebird@yahoo.com

www.whateverlovely *Whatever Lovely* is an online magazine looking for short uplifting true and fictional stories about lovely things that teach a great lesson, etc. (no death or dying or cancer stories). Also seeking photos and short write-ups about special items that have been in your family forever. See first issue to get other ideas. Not particularly seeking devotions, although will look at them. Especially interested in more real life things, miracles, and fiction. Pay a small fee for these items.

Did You Know...



Buying Amazon.com books and other products sold on the Amazon.com site (including gift cards) through our HRW website is a quick and painless way to financially support HRW. For each sale, our group earns a 4-6.5% referral fee. The more products sold through a referral from the HRW page, the higher the percentage referral we receive. Referral money paid to HRW in no way impacts you, the buyer. Your purchase price through a referral from the HRW page is identical to what it would be if you were to go directly to Amazon.com and order. Simply visit our HRW home page and click on the Amazon link on the left-hand side to begin shopping and supporting...and thanks!