

-District KAC News-

PROMOTING the writing craft, **GATHERING** and **COMPILING** helpful learning and networking resources,
and **PROVIDING NEWS** of the achievements of Kansas Authors Club District 1 members.

Volume I: Issue 8

August 2021

Covid Sunrise Interpretation

How many sunrises and sunsets
Rapturously captured and bottled with a click
What compendium of news and TV broadcasts
With charts and graphs showing ebbs and high tides
How many friends' and loved ones' funerals
How much self-isolation and meditation
Will it take to fathom the whys and hows
Now that we've lived the whats and whens.

Inside:

- *Convention news*
- *First lines quiz*
- *The C word*
- *Member Achievements*



The C word or the D word...do semantics really matter?

My husband's stepson is known for his open-mouth-insert-foot opinions. He's a really funny guy, but his political outspokenness has resulted in getting kicked off of Facebook a few times.

When he responded to one of my posts about the increasing rates of Covid-19 Delta variant infections last week (the poem and photo that appear on this month's front cover), he complained about the use of the word Covid. He's sick of that C word and never wants to hear it or read it again.

Poor guy! We're all sick of hearing about Covid. But whether we refer to it with a "C" or call it by its intensifying "D" word for Delta variant, the situation boils down to an "F" word—FUBAR. And from what I've read recently, it will soon become an E word for "endemic," morphing from its current P-for-pandemic word.

Believe me, fellow author friends, that danged C word is making planning this year's KAC author convention a **Big C Challenge**. All along, the pandemic has hovered over our planning sessions like a specter of doom and dissociation. We want so badly to stage an event where we can see each other face-to-face, feel the energy that comes from human interaction in the physical plane and not the electronic, and spread out our creativity in the book room to generate the affirming cha-ching of a sale.

That is what we're still aiming to present at the Downtown Ramada come October. When Duane Johnson and I recently did an initial walk-through at the Ramada with Mike from Cytek and Linda from the hotel, the shape and flow of the in-person workshops began to take on more reality. We talked about how many microphones to place, what rooms would need large screens, which would have a raised speaker platform and even which direction to set up the seating. I was

so deep into visualizing the event taking place that a comment from Linda brought my visions of energetic, engaged authors enjoying themselves to an abrupt halt.

"You do realize that we will be setting the chairs six feet apart due to Covid guidelines."

Yep, even the speakers will be socially distanced on the stages. And we are taking extra precautions by making masks and hand sanitizer available, putting social-distance signs on meeting room doors and having plastic shields in front of the microphones...shields that can be disinfected between speakers.

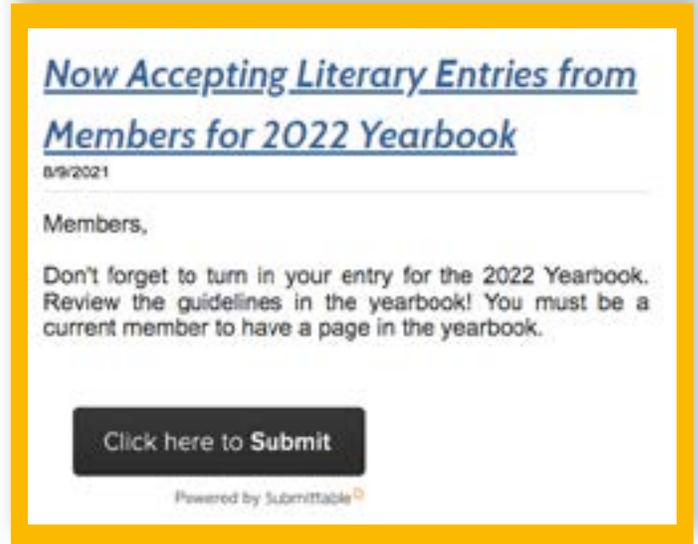
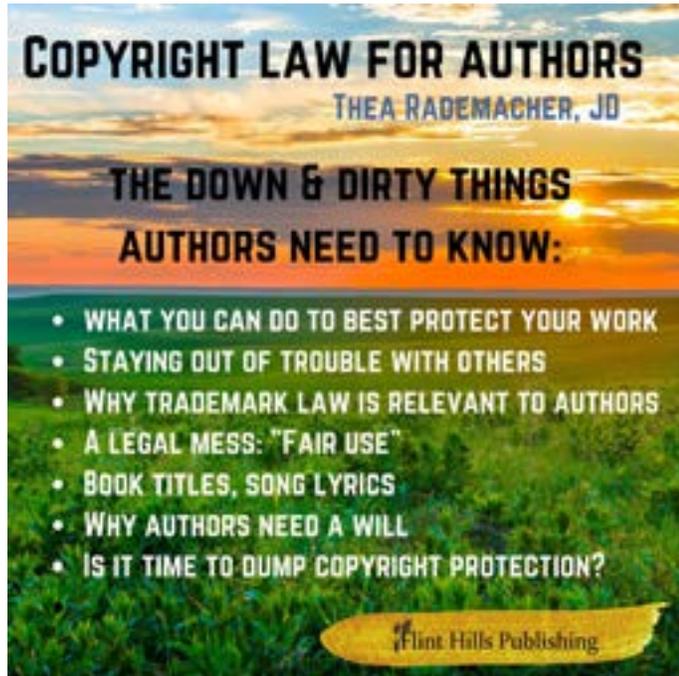
In a planning zoom meeting early Monday morning, as we went over a few details, the need to be flexible and able to pivot back to a totally virtual conference became the **Plan C for Contingency** to the Plan A of the hybrid in-person and virtual meeting.

We want to assure you that we are doing everything in our power to protect our mostly-all -vaccinated author friends from potential viral infections in a public building. At this point, the only thing that might change our minds and lead to Plan C would be a government or hotel guideline that limits the number of persons in a meeting space. That, or mass member cancellations.

As we discussed Early Bird registrations and totaled virtual-only tickets Monday morning, it appeared that we will be following the needs and desires of our fellow members to gather in person once again. The majority of registrants favor that option.

God willing, and the Covid Creeks don't rise on the Delta, we'll git 'r done and see some familiar faces transmogrify from electronic to flesh and bone. (Don't you love the way that T word rolls off the tongue and makes you go look it up?).

Programs, Contests, Special Events



Check out this post on the KAC website. You can begin to submit your writing for the 2022 Yearbook now.

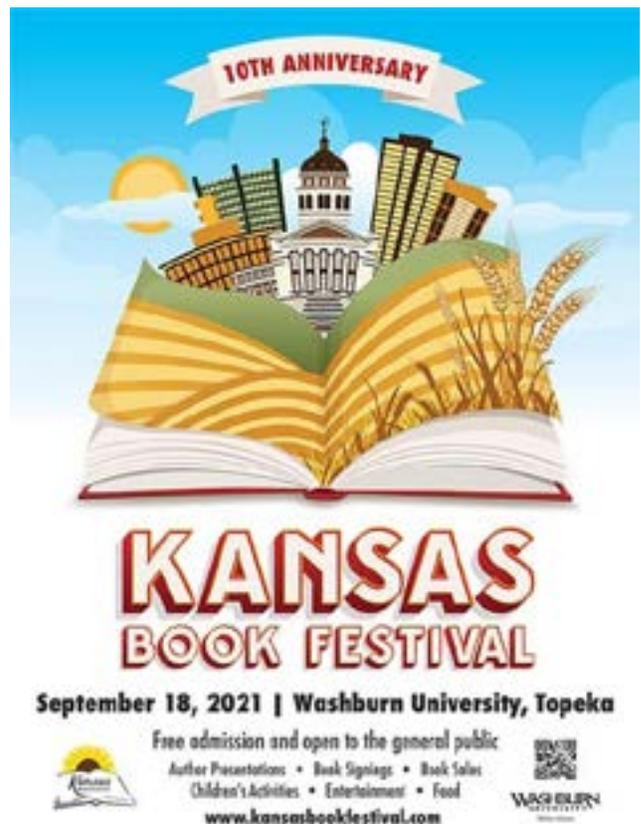
Rescheduled D-1 Program

D-1 member Thea Rademacher, J.D., will provide this Saturday's program. Be there on the zoom grid at 1:00, or be out compliance. (Just kidding) As authors we need to be alert and aware of things we need to do to stay out of legal hot water. And Thea, with her law degree and her experience as a book publisher, is just the person to fill us in.



Ruth Maus program on Literary Agents

Ruth Maus presented the July D-1 program on the benefits of having a literary agent. The replay is available on the KAC [YouTube channel](#).



Member Noteworthy News

Member Thumbs Up

Author Julie Sellers, PhD

Julie Sellers, D-1 member and the 2020 Prose Writer of the Year, will be doing a reading from her recently-released collection, ***Kindred Verse: Poems Inspired by Anne of Green Gables*** (Blue Cedar Press), in Holton. The event will be on Sept. 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at Penny's Coffee Shop (409 New York Ave.) in Holton.



Member Thumbs Up

Junior Member Alice Dunavan

Alice Dunavan, a D-1 junior member and granddaughter of member and secretary Max Dunavan, has won an award for her writing. The third grader who attended Leschi Elementary School before her family moved to Overland Park this year, wrote a poem that was chosen for publication in the 2019-2021 Writers in the Schools (WITS) anthology, ***Gliding Between the Land of This and That***. Her work was chosen from hundreds of poems, stories, memoirs, and comics—WITS writers worked with over 6,000 students in K-12 classrooms in 29 public schools and Seattle Children's Hospital over the past two school years.

Alice will receive two complementary copies of the anthology which will be mailed to her in Overland Park, Kansas in early September when the publication is complete.

Additional copies of the book will be available to purchase on the Seattle Arts & Lectures' website (the organization that runs WITS) in September as well. You can see an example of our previous anthology, and learn more about the WITS program in general here: <https://lectures.org/>

youth-programs/wits/. The school where she initially wrote the piece will receive complimentary copies of the book, so her work will also be read by students in classrooms and libraries across the entire Puget Sound Region.

Her winning poem.....

How to Annoy Your Brother

Make lots of mouth noises
say things that are weird
yell at night
sing at night
step 5. talk at night
6. do the tea potion in front of him
7. stare at him. Stare weirdly at him.
step 8. do step 1.
step 9. You annoyed him. Congrats.

Minutes, Reports

Secretary Max Dunavan's Minutes from the July D-1 zoom meeting are also on the website

Kansas Author's Club District One Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2021

President Spry welcomed the participants at 1:05 P.M.

Those participating were Anne Spry, Max Dunavan, Aimee Gross, Carol Yoho, Ruth Maus, Duane Johnson, Roger Droz, Barbara Waterman Peters, Audrey Bosley, Reaona and Glory Hemmingway, and Duane Herrmann.

Monthly Program

Today's program was regarding query letters to agents, and for those of us without that experience in that step of publishing, the presentation was an eye-opener. With visual aids and a prepared presentation Ruth Maus provided details of why an agent is highly important in getting a fiction book published and advised that there is a different type of agent for the various genres of writing. Much of this information would also be helpful for other types of publishing as it causes the author to focus on the "hook, book and cook" of bringing a book into being, with or without an agent business partner, but helping the author turn

from writing to business skills, and identifying key aspects for marketing. The standards for agents, the rules and ethics under which good agents operate and the organizations that govern their behaviors were detailed. Examples of query letters were presented and discussed. Ruth took audience questions. A video of this presentation is available through the Kansas Authors Club YouTube Channel, as are most of the recent past program presentations at YouTube.

August's presentation will be about copyright issues for authors. Don't miss it.

Business meeting:

Secretary Dunavan's Minutes were approved as posted on the district one website.

Treasurer Hemmingway's **financial report** was presented and approved. The month started with a balance of \$3,966.10. A donation was received, which will be deposited Monday, July 19th, one paper registration check will also be deposited on Monday. Several Submittables registrations are in for the convention and those payments go to the State Treasurer who will send those funds to District One on a monthly basis. There are three bills that need to be paid totaling \$81. At this time the official balance remains at \$3,966.10 until

the deposits and made and bills paid. NOTE: print copies of the registrations ARE available if you prefer to use those. A copy can be found on both the state website and the district one newsletter. Anne requested that we change the treasurer's report format so it will be more legible in the newsletter.

The **Membership and Marketing Committee Report** was approved as posted in the newsletter. Highlights of the committee include the new Facebook name change to District One Kansas Author's Club, perhaps for ease of location by interested searchers. Registration and ease of registering through Submittables, and the opportunities for Kansas authors and others to get recognition for their writings and other services through the \$25 ad in the convention handbook (print and online searchable convention materials). Both vertical and horizontal business card sized spaces are available. Ruth reminded members that there is an opportunity to save considerably on registration costs before August 15th when early bird registration ends. Membership and Marketing are also reacting to inquiries about going to a hybrid in person convention. We are researching the Library regulations in place currently and availability of the appropriate size rooms. It is intended that we will include an in-person option for our district meetings later in the year. The current Delta

Minutes, continued.....

Covid infection rates may have some impact on those decisions. After a group discussion about alternate times, days and activities, Audrey Bosley agreed to join the membership and marketing committee to work on options for additional district one membership activity options. After we have time to discuss options those will come back to the membership for discussion and possible adoption. Members are welcome to send ideas to Anne so we can get their ideas and feedback. Anyone else interested in working on these opportunities should contact Anne or Ruth.

Members recognized for their recent activities are Aimee Gross for her new book: she advised that sales are perking along, Duane Herrmann has been submitting and publishing in a number of periodicals all spring and summer. Finally, youth member Alice M. Dunavan has written a short story which is being published in a children's anthology in Washington State. We ask members to keep us informed of their writing successes and events so we may highlight those on the website and in the monthly newsletter.

Members who want to be part of the statewide convention planning need to let Anne know so she can send them the link for that Monday morning meeting.

Our next district one meeting is scheduled for August 21st at 1:00 P.M.

This month's treasurer's report will be shown during our Zoom meeting Saturday.

Famous First Lines Quiz...*

- **IT'S A TRUTH UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT A SINGLE MAN IN POSSESSION OF A GOOD FORTUNE MUST BE IN NEED OF A WIFE.**
- **IT WAS A BRIGHT COLD DAY IN APRIL, AND THE CLOCKS WERE STRIKING THIRTEEN.**
- **YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME WITHOUT YOU HAVE READ A BOOK BY THE NAME OF --- -----, BUT THAT AIN'T NO MATTER.**
- **IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT, THE FIRST THING YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO KNOW IS WHERE I WAS BORN AND WHAT MY LOUSY CHILDHOOD WAS LIKE...I**
- **ONCE UPON A TIME AND A VERY GOOD TIME IT WAS THERE WAS A MOOCOW COMING DOWN ALONG THE ROAD**
- **THIS IS THE SADDEST STORY I'VE EVER HEARD.**
- **SOMEONE MUST HAVE SLANDERED JOSEPH K., FOR ONE MORNING, WITHOUT HAVING DONE ANYTHING TRULY WRONG, HE WAS ARRESTED.**
- **WHETHER I SHALL TURN OUT TO BE THE HERO OF MY OWN LIFE, OR WHETHER THAT STATION WILL BE HELD BY ANYBODY ELSE, THESE PAGES MUST SHOW.**
- **ALL THIS HAPPENED, MORE OR LESS.**
- **HE WAS AN OLD MAN WHO FISHED ALONE....**
- **IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BURN.**
- **IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.**
- ***THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE WILL BE HIDDEN ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE**

**BOOK ROOM REGISTRATION FORM for
KANSAS AUTHORS CLUB 2021 CONVENTION**

Please print and mail this form by or before Sept. 15 to:
Fred Appelhanz, 21415 T-4 Rd, Holton, KS 66436-8520
Or email to: appelferd@gmail.com

BOOK ROOM REGISTRATION FORM (one form per person):

Name (print) _____

Address (print) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Email: _____

IMPORTANT: Book Room Sales are open to

• **MEMBERS** who are also paid **ATTENDEES** of the 2021 Convention, including those who registered as “nonmembers,” gaining membership with convention registration.

AND

• **Authors** who are giving talks and/or workshops at the convention, regardless of membership.

• **Authors** are responsible for paying the sales tax on all books sold via the convention book room.

Tax should be included in price, rounded to a whole dollar amount, and all books should be marked with convention price. If you have a credit card device and want to run sales through your own device, feel free to do so but do not plan to use the hotel’s Wi-Fi. Instead, plan to use your own device’s hotspot for the transactions. If you are not present in the book room at the time of the sale of one of your books, our own Book Room attendant will handle the sale and a check will be mailed to you after the convention, minus any credit card fees we are charged.

Book Title	Price	.
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

List additional titles on back.

Workshop Speakers...

Duane Herrmann was only two years old when his mother's abuse caused him to consider killing himself. He was 2-1/2 when he began running away from the Eastern Kansas farm where he was born in 1951. He finally managed to escape from a traumatic childhood and from abuse that became even worse as he grew older, when he finished high school at age 17. Then he earned degrees in education and history, served as a teacher, raised four children and built a house while his family was living in it, began work as an "office drone" before ending his professional career as a supervisor for the federal government.

All of his adult life Duane wrote. And wrote some more. He has now filled 158 journals with therapeutic writing that makes sense of his past. As he wrote, Herrmann discovered that just the process of writing about individual traumas peeled off more layers of memory.

"Essentially, writing about the past can change the past. It puts the writer (former victim) in control of the event (trauma.) And when you are in control, you are empowered, and that power is significant."

Duane has been a District 1 KAC member for years and is one of the most prolific writers in the state. His poems and prose have been featured in numerous national and international publications. He has even written and published two family memoirs.

As a convention workshop presenter, Duane will show participants how to peel away their own layers of memory through journal writing...writing that heals. Anyone who is seeking help with past traumas or trouble can find the same transformation and forgiveness through writing that Duane Herrmann has discovered. And that could and should ultimately lead to a memoir that will be a star to help guide others.

The lineup of this year's convention speakers and panelists should inspire and motivate any author!



Duane Herrmann

Duane as a young boy

Convention

Writing through PTSD



Stephen Williams

Vietnam Vet, Author

Six in ten Americans have an immediate family member who has served in the military. Others have friends and neighbors that have served. A common denominator for those who have experienced traumatic events in the service, is a tendency to avoid talking about it or to become isolated.

This breakout session will talk about what led Vietnam veteran Steve Williams and his wife Rosie to write about the difficult experience of going to an unpopular war and coming home to protests and strong stereotyping that made the transition back into civilian life challenging. They will discuss why it took so long to record the



Rosie Williams

Author

story.

As Steve says: "I've had a story to tell from the moment I stepped back onto American soil in 1970 after serving in Vietnam for a year, but it took 50 years for that story to find the right words, and for those words to find their voice." That voice comes alive in the book Steve and Rosie wrote called, ***Nine Pairs of Boots in Vietnam: Steps to Healing Every Veteran Need to Know***

After a brief discussion with the group about post-traumatic stress disorder, the Williamses will present the pros and cons of writing Steve's memoir. For them, the pros of writing through difficulty far outweighed the cons!

The Little Jeep Who Couldn't Beep,

Rosie's most current book, is an effort to continue to reach out to those with difficult circumstances; this time to children between the ages of three and seven.

Steve Williams returned from Nam and got his undergraduate degree from Washburn University in 1982 in Corrections and Criminal Justice, graduating with honors. He went on to get a master's in management from Baker University in 1993 and spent 31 years at Shawnee County Court Services as a juvenile probation officer and supervisor.

Rosie Williams has a degree in Family and Child Development with an emphasis in community services. After years of working for the state of Kansas and in various community grant programs, she started and ran an eldercare case management business for nine years. In 1987, Rosie was actively involved in the leadership of the women's ministry program at her church before becoming the state coordinator for Home Front Kansas in 2007.

tionNews



Duane Herrmann



From a Facebook post by Duane Herrmann:

Just after midnight I received notice that a group of five of my poems, on a variety of subjects, had just been posted on a website based in India. They have published a couple of my poems previously and several short stories. The site is searchable. The link to these newest is literary yard.com

PHOTOGRAPH TRUTH

Young woman looking
utterly uninterested
at the tiny form
suckling
at her breast.
No emotional connection
or response
to her first born.
What is she thinking,
impassive face,
towards this child
of her womb?
There is no joy,
no amazement or delight.
What a hell it became
for them both,
with tortured decades
looming.

###

SLEEPING CRIME

I could not walk
across the room
to her approval,
nor swallow,
or close my lips,
or any other thing
she demanded that I do –
her jobs anyway.
But most frustratingly
I couldn't even sleep
to her satisfaction.
Her chronic anger
gave no peace,
no calm.
As a little boy
I felt no love,
no safety, no home,
I had to create my own.
What comfort was there?
Assurance?
None, alone:
There was only me.
At an age
younger than I knew,

I found my thumb
and sucked it.
That was my sleeping crime
my mother hated!
I needed the security.
She took a photo once
to shame me.
The flash explosion
woke me and
I heard her triumph giggle.
I was smart though
and figured out a way...
Next day, in bright sunshine,
I exposed the film.
She never knew.
Once I left home
and constant screaming,
I never noticed,
but quit my thumb.
My life had peace
at last.

###

ANOTHER GOOD DAY

"Today so-and-so Elementary
was the scene of..."
Little children
trying to learn
shot in surprise
easy targets
and teachers
who tried to protect
but could not.
The "right to bear arms"
now means
others lose
the right to peace
or to live,
"well regulated militia"
is ignored.
Another good day
for the NRA.
###

NINE ELEVEN

Sitting at my cubicle
looking down the alley
airplanes kept coming
directly towards me.
Short as the alley was
I knew it wasn't possible
yet, still,
the planes kept coming.
Supervisor asked if
anyone needed to go home.
I couldn't even answer.
The planes kept coming.
At the same time
I was in a plane
with my son:
"We're going to die."
The week before
we'd flown home from Europe,
now hijackers
were crashing the plane.
I told him I was sorry,
we hugged and cried.
My phone rang
the caller didn't know
words did not come.
I'd seen one tower collapse
on the breakroom TV.
I could not speak,
the planes kept coming
directly toward me.
We are going to die
I hugged my son and we cried.
The planes kept coming.
The day would not end.
"I'm sorry," I told him,
we hugged and cried,
we hugged and cried.

###

SURPRISED BY ONE

Earthrising
caught us all
by surprise,
unprepared
to see,
for the first time
how singular the earth
floats in space.
Expecting the moon
we found the earth:
that blue-white spot
isolated, alone,
in vast, alien space,
gave awe to all
seeing now
our one home,
one homeland,
one human race.

Duane L. Herrmann, a reluctant carbon-based life-form, was surprised to find himself in 1951 on a farm in Kansas. He's still trying to make sense of it but has grown fond of grass waving in the wind, trees and the enchantment of moonlight. He aspires to be a hermit, but would miss his children, grandchildren and a few friends. His work has been published in many real places and online, even some of both in languages he can't read (English is difficult enough!). He is known to carry baby kittens in his mouth, pet snakes, and converse with owls, but is careful not to anger them! All this, despite a traumatic, abusive childhood embellished with dyslexia, ADHD (both unknown at the time), cyclothymia, and now, PTSD. He's still learning to breathe and do human at the same time.

1-Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen; 2-1984 by George Orwell 3-Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain 4-Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger 5-Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce 6-The Good Soldier by Ford Maddox Ford 7-The Trial by Franz Kafka 8-David Copperfield by Charles Dickens 9-Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut 10-The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemmingway 11-Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury 12-Catch 22 by Joseph Heller