

Brazos Writers News

September 2007 • <http://brazoswriters.org> • P.O. Box 4025 Bryan, TX 77805

Next Meeting

7 p.m. Wednesday, September 12
P. David Romei Arts Center, College Station

“Writing Across Texas” video and discussion

Mark your calendar: “Bringing History to Life in Your Writing” will be held October 12-13.

From the President

Roland Schweitzer

Whether you write historical fiction or contemporary fiction, popular articles or scholarly research, the Brazos Writers mini-conference, Bringing History to Life in Your Writing, will help you develop confidence in writing about historical subjects.

Former spy and author **Jim Olson** (*Fair Play: Moral Dilemmas in Spying*) brings a unique and entertaining perspective on the Cold War. Novelist **Angie Cruz** will discuss her second novel, *Let It Rain Coffee*, a stunning sweep of history, memory and fantasy. Historian **Arnie Krammer** will talk about the challenges of writing about recent local events. The workshop will close with insights on the market for historical materials by a panel of Texas publishers.

Join us for a reception on Friday evening, October 12, to meet the speakers and other participants. The conference takes place on

Saturday, October 13. Lunch will be provided. All events take place at the P. David Romei Arts Center. ■

Two Brazos Writers Sign Their Latest Works

Did you miss **Linda Warren’s** recent signing of the fifth in her series for Harlequin SuperRomance, *Adopted Son*? Don’t worry. You can order a copy from Linda’s website at <http://www.lindawarren.net/>

Linda also tells us that she is a double finalist in the Aspen Gold contest. *The Cowboy’s Return* is a finalist in Long Contemporary and *Son of Texas* in Romantic Suspense, as well as a finalist in many other contests.

Helen Sheffield will be signing the latest in her series of murder mysteries, *Nelda Sees Green: Murder Takes a Cruise*, from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Carousel Paperbacks (near Luby’s on Texas Ave. in College Station). You can get a sneak peek at <http://www.hsheffieldmystery.com/> ■

Want to be on the Brazos Writers board?

2008 President-elect Mark Troy is seeking nominations (including self-nominations) for positions on next year’s board. If you’d like to serve, let him know at president-elect@brazoswriters.org

The Wired Writer

Mark Troy

21st Century Dictionaries

I love dictionaries. At home, we had a huge one: *Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition*, unabridged. It's so huge, I can't sit with it on my lap. Its coverage of English words is so comprehensive, I could spend hours in it. A simple word like "fire" fills six columns. It was one of the treasures I kept after my father passed away.

I haven't opened it in this century. Why not? Because the dictionary of the 21st century is online.

The Webster's Online Dictionary With Multilingual Thesaurus Translation is for true language lovers who aren't content with a definition or two, but who are willing to follow a word through a maze of meaning, history and usage in all the world's languages. It can be found at <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/>

This ambitious project is unrelated to Merriam-Webster or any other commercial publishing venture. Its mission is to create the largest dictionary of modern usage with over 30 million entries across 400 modern languages and 10 ancestral languages.

A search on "fire" brings up the standard definitions and usage, plus specialized definitions from the Bible, NASA, dream interpretation and more. It will give you encyclopedic information such as a list of famous American wildfires, literary references and names derived from "fire." Finally, it will give the translation of the word into languages from Afrikaans to Yukatec.

The Webster's Online project is true hypertext. Simply clicking on *any* word, not only the underlined words in blue, in any part of the text opens a window with the definition of the word and everything associated with it. This is the site for the twenty-first century bibliophile to get lost in.

Some other online dictionaries are:

Merriam-Webster Online
<http://mw1.merriam-webster.com/>

American Heritage Dictionary
(Fourth Edition)
<http://aol.bartleby.com/61/>

The Newbury House Dictionary
<http://nhd.heinle.com/>

Your Dictionary.com
<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>

Online Medical Dictionary
<http://cancerweb.ncl.ac.uk/omd/>

Thesaurus.com
<http://thesaurus.reference.com/>

Onelook Dictionary Search
<http://www.onelook.com/>

Bill Klemm writes, "For all those who get their materials published via POD or self-publish, I urge you to consider using InDesign book layout software. It is expensive and hard to learn, but far superior to what you can do in MS Word or even Word Perfect. To understand why, I urge you to read the following site (including comments at the end of the article): <http://indesignsecrets.com/why-use-indesign-instead-of-ms-word.php> Bill reminds us that he has no financial interest in this company."

This could be the year you achieve your writing goals.

Brazos Writers Presents:

Bringing
History to Life
in Your Writing
October 12 and 13
2007

Speakers:

Jim Olson, Arnie Krammer, Angie
Cruz, Thom Lemmons and Tom
Knowles

Registration Form

Name _____

E-mail address _____
(For confirmation and late breaking news. We'll keep it to ourselves.)

Street address _____

City, state, zip _____

Day phone _____

Night phone _____

Conference fees

ॐ Members, \$40 ॐ Non-members, \$50

The Friday night reception and Saturday lunch is included in the fee.

Make checks payable to Brazos Writers. Send form and payment to Roland Schweitzer, 2802 Cimarron Ct., College Station, TX 77845

Hotel Reservations

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn and Suites, 2500 Earl Rudder Freeway. Conference pricing is \$89. Call 979-485-8300 for reservations. Be sure to mention you are in town for the Brazos Writers' Conference.

If you need additional information, please contact Roland at president@brazoswriters.org.