

GULF COAST WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 1 Issue 1

MARCH 1996

FOR INFORMATION: CALL 472-5901 OR 275-8006

"WHY DO WRITERS WRITE?"

asks Tsani 'Bear' Yonah, our February speaker. In answer to the question, Bear took us on a fascinating journey of his adventures. Thirty five years of journalism has afforded 'Bear', a Cheokee Indian, a life rich in experiences. His witty, sometimes nostalgic prose can be read in the Naples Bonita Banner on a regular basis.

THE WRITERS' CONFERENCE IN BRIEF:



The sixteenth annual conference, held at the Sheraton Harbor Place, on February 23 & 24, was kicked off to a good start by Stephen Humphrey Bogart who elaborated on his need to write his current book "In Search of My Father". Steve gave great insight into his illustrious family along with fine pointers in writing for the attentive audience.

Three workshops were scheduled simultaneously Friday afternoon, and unless I figure out how to do otherwise, I could only sit in on one at a time. Susan Crawford who is a successful literary agent offered these... Words of

wisdom: Keep query letters to one page; it's OK to send more than one query at a time; and, get a hook. She was both encouraging and discouraging but very enlightening.

On Saturday, the keynote speaker, George Plimpton,

delighted us with anecdotes on what led up to and resulted from his concept of being a "participatory journalist." George launched us into our full day of seven workshops.

Jeff Lindsay lead a lively discussion based on "Structuring Popular Fiction." WW: He stressed the KISS rule; "The first rule of writing is about being read." He advised all writers to prepare an outline— anywhere from 15 to 250 pages. Jeff joined Kim Myers, writer and owner of Watermark Books in Ft. Myers, for a workshop entitled "It's Published: Now Will It sell?" WW: Kim advised a \$50,000 ad campaign almost guarantees a best seller, adding, a writer's work doesn't stop with the publisher—a new writer must plan to do all the marketing and "visibility" legwork on his/her.. own, Kim is very sympathetic to writers and freely offers his

ABOUT US



Welcome to our first newsletter!

The Gulf Coast Writers' Association made its first mewling at the home of Ileane Hope and Charley Flores. Six of us with the passion to write and a need to network agreed to meet monthly and tell the world along the way.

That occasion was in April of 1995. As of this writing, we have a guest/member roster of sixty and growing!

1996 OFFICERS:

President, Ileane Hope
Vice President, Jill Goodman
Treasurer, Joanne Lalli
Secretary, Crissie Dice
Publicity Chair, Jerry Magg
Newsletter Editor, Jill Goodman
Parliamentarian, Walter Bittner

We welcome Joanne and Jerry to their respective positions.

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR THE SPEAKER CHAIRPERSON'S SLOT

FOR SALE: TANDY 1000RLX
COLOR MONITOR DOT MATRIX
PRT-1 MEG MEMORY
GOOD WORD PROCESSING
PROGRAM—5 YRS OLD
\$300...472-1393

CONFERENCE..

advice and knowledge.




I joined Chelle Kostner, a successful a successful travel writer for my last workshop. WW: Keep at it until you find the right formula for the right publication and travel a lot.

Ralph Keyes wrapped up the conference with suggestions from his latest book: "The Courage to Write". WW: We are all afraid to write...fear is the place writing begins..it requires courage. "What makes it so daunting? Courage is the ability to function in the face of fear.

Jerry Magg enjoyed Christopher Keane's screen writers'

workshop. His WW are: The definition of plot is character in action. Character is the flesh and blood of every screen play. Without well-defined characters you have no chance of getting your movie made!

I missed Maryann Weidt's (children's books and biographies) and Rochelle Holt's (poetry) workshops.

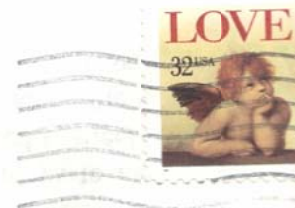
One very important aspect of any writer's conference (beside the lectures) is the networking and socializing with other writers. 

G ☺ ☺ D N E W S

column Share your wins, triumphs and tips here!!! All submissions are welcome.

**ANNUAL
DUES ARE
ONLY \$10.00**
AND LOOK AT ALL
THE NICE PEOPLE
YOU'LL MEET

**GULF COAST WRITERS'
ASSOCIATION**
PO BOX 292
SANIBEL, FL 33957



In this issue:

**HOT TIPS STRAIGHT FROM THE 16TH
ANNUAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE**

JOIN US ON MARCH 16TH at
Mrs. Appletons 9:30am —for
coffee and...

our guest speaker is
DARIA PARRY,
columnist and research
librarian. Learn valuable tips
for better researching including using the
internet. \$3.00 members, \$5.00 visitors.

