

**21st Annual
Texas Mountain Trail Writers Spring Retreat**

Writing Round-Up

**Mountain Trails Lodge
(Davis Mountains Education Center)
Alpine & Fort Davis, Texas
April 27, 28, 29, 2012
Weekend Overview**

Suzy Spencer: Craft of Writing Narrative Non-Fiction & Memoir
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Marketing

Chantelle Aimée Osman: Writing and Publishing Flash Fiction
Unraveling the Mystery of Mysteries

Mike Blakely: Writing the Western Novel
Researching the West: Telling Fact from Legend

Suzy Spencer, author of four non-fiction books, *Wasted*, a *New York Times* best-seller and Violet Crown Award finalist; *Wages of Sin* recently re-released; *Breaking Point*, a Book of the Month Club, Doubleday Book Club, Literary Guild, and Mystery Guild selection; and *The Fortune Hunter*, called “riveting” and “blockbusting” by the Globe.

Suzy has free-lanced for *ABC News*, *People* magazine, the *New York Post*, the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, *Los Angeles* magazine, the *Texas Observer*, the *Austin American-Statesman*, and the *Austin Chronicle* and has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *ABC World News*, *Primetime*, *Dateline NBC*, and numerous shows on Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, and Court TV, as well as on Oxygen and the E! Channel.

Suzy holds a Master’s of Professional Writing and a Master’s of Business Administration, both from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Baylor University.

Her first memoir, *Secret Sex Lives: A Year on the Fringes of American Sexuality*, will be published by Berkley Books in October 2012.

Chantelle Aimée Osman, prolific mystery writer in numerous journals such as *Suspense Magazine*, *Brave Blue Mice*, *Powder Burn Flash*, *Twisted Dreams Magazine*, *Feathertale Magazine*, *Big Pulp Magazine* and *The Cynic Online Magazine*.

Other magazines and journal that have printed her stories are *Thrillers, Killers 'N' Chillers*, *Jersey Devil Press*, *Daily Flash Anthology*, *Foliate Oak Literary Journal*, *The Fringe Magazine* and *Vacation Anthology*.

Chantelle is president and founder of A Twist of Karma Entertainment, a film development and consultation company, a business she learned from her work with production companies in Hollywood.

She is currently working on two mystery novels, one based on her experiences in Hollywood. She is also an Anthony Award nominee for *Sirens of Suspense*, a mystery blog, and a reviewer for the syndicated *Poisoned Fiction Review*.

Chantelle is an attorney, a graduate of Arizona State University College of Law, and holds degrees in Psychology, French and Art History, and speaks five languages.

Mike Blakely, author of sixteen books, most of which are historical novels set in the American West. Mike lives on a ranch in Llano County, Texas, and grew up living a modern wild west lifestyle.

Three of Mike's western novels have been finalists for the Western Writers of America Spur Award, and one, "*Summer of Pearls*," won the award in 2001. This novel was also a finalist for the Violet Crown Award given by the Writers' League of Texas.

Mike is also noted for his collaboration with Willie Nelson for a western novel, *A Tale Out of Luck*, designed for the big screen, with Willie to play the lead role. A few of his other titles are *Come Sundown*, *Moon Medicine*, *Comanche Dawn*, *Too Long at the Dance* and *Spanish Blood*. In addition, Mike has co-edited an anthology of Texas history, *Forever Texas: The Way Those Who Lived It, Wrote It*.

Music is also in Mike's blood as he is a performing song writer with eleven CDs to his credit. He grew up ranching, playing the guitar which he promises to bring, was a helicopter mechanic in the US Air Force, and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in journalism. Some jammin' and grinnin' are likely to go on Saturday night.

Mike has served as president of Western Writers of America, and sat on the board of the Ozark Creative Writers of Eureka Springs, AK.

This Writing Round-Up has a genre for everyone.

**You won't want to miss the Texas Mountain Trail Writers Spring Retreat
April 27, 28, 29, 2012 at the Mountain Trails Lodge
(formerly Davis Mt. Outdoor Learning Center)
just south of Fort Davis, Texas.**

Enjoy the western atmosphere, pleasant warm days and cool mountain nights, while listening to presentations from professional, published and award-winning authors. You'll love the home cooked meals and attractive cabins.

You may choose to go hiking on a mountain trail, birding, exploring shops in town, photographing, visiting nearby cemeteries, or sitting and thinking up your new work! There is also a star pad if you would like to bring your telescope to set up under the awesome stars near McDonald Observatory. There will be many opportunities for sharing and networking at mealtimes and in the cool breezes after dark while listening to music.

Schedule:

Friday Night Writers Reception: April 27, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Your first opportunity to meet our presenters and fellow writers will be at the Front Street Books Reading Room, 201 E. Holland Avenue, in Alpine. Join us for an evening of informal chatting, relaxation and fun. Enjoy wine or soft drinks and a fabulous hors d'oeuvres spread. Introductions will be made, and schedules, along with maps, will be furnished for the Saturday location. This event only is free and open to the public.

Saturday Conference Sessions: April 28, 8:00 am – 9:00 pm

All sessions will be at Mountain Trails Lodge beginning with a continental breakfast and picking up registration packets. Lunch, dinner and snacks will also be at this location. Dress is country casual, walking shoes encouraged, and audience feedback is welcomed during the friendly presentations.

In the evening after dinner and guest speaker presentation, stories by participants will be read aloud, and guitar music by Mike will float through the air. Bring a jacket and flashlight for chilly mountain evenings.

Sunday Final Session: April 29, 7:00 am to 11:00

An early morning **Haiku poetry hike** to a nearby cemetery, a hearty cowboy breakfast, the last dynamic presentation, and a final chance to glean ideas from the speakers are on the agenda.

Retreat participants exchange cards and fond farewells after a weekend of fun and sharing of ideas in the fresh mountain setting.

Registration Form link:

http://www.texasmountaintrailwriters.org/pdfs/2012_TMTW_Registration_Form.pdf

Lodging: Mountain Trail Lodge (formerly Davis Mt. Outdoor Learning Center)
501 S. Hwy.118, Fort Davis, TX; 432-426-3481 info@dmectexas.org
The Lodge has sixteen nice cabins that will go quickly. Accommodations are also available in Alpine or Fort Davis that you can reach on the Chamber of Commerce websites.

Meals:

The following meals are included in your registration fee:
Friday – Evening wine/punch & hors d'oeuvres Reception
Saturday – Continental Breakfast, Lunch Buffet, Round-Up Supper
Sunday – Cowboy Breakfast

Activities:

Door prizes will be given frequently during the weekend. Free time is allowed for exploring or resting. The Lodge has 8 acres overlooking Fort Davis and Sleeping Lion Mountain. Hiking & photography opportunities surround you. A short shopping trip could be made into nearby Fort Davis.

The famous McDonald Observatory is about twenty miles, a half-hour, away on beautiful mountain roads, but an extra day should be allowed to enjoy a visit to the Observatory and the nearby Davis Mountain State Park.

Writing Opportunity:

Homework for the Retreat

The Texas Mountain Trail Writers are offering you **three choices** for homework this year.

1. In honor of this year's unique location between two cemeteries, the topics from which to choose are:
Love in the Cemetery
Wanderings
Spirit(s) of the West

2. Rules for our after dinner reading and inclusion in the *Chaos West of the Pecos*, 2012 edition of our annual printed book:
 1. Title of work, poem or prose, will be one of the above choices or a variation.
 2. This poem or story prose must be no more than 500 words.
 3. Extremely political opinion essays and explicitly sexual submissions are not appropriate.
 4. Plan to read your work aloud on Saturday night, or if you are a current member and can't attend, send it to a retreat coordinator who will select someone to read it for you if you wish.
 5. Strong flashlights will be furnished for outside reading if needed.

Additional Information:

Authors with books to sell may do so at no cost *if they are members of the Texas Mountain Trail Writers and attend the retreat*. Dues are \$15 per year and payment may be made with the retreat fee. Please request a half or whole sellers' table on your registration form. Additional copies of *Chaos West of the Pecos* will be available for sale at \$8 each.

Pet Policy: The Mt. Trails Lodge enjoys a quiet country setting. Wild animals wander through at will. We think your pet would be happier and safer staying at home. Check with the Lodge about their pet policy.

Registration Form Link:

http://www.texasmountaintrailwriters.org/pdfs/2012_TMTW_Registration_Form.pdf

For More Information contact a member listed below:

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