

# Southwest Chapter News

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## December Meeting: Meet Houston Authors

The next meeting of the Southwest Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association will be a gala holiday celebration! We will be gathering at Major's Book Store in Houston at 5:30 p.m. on December 5, 2000. The highlight of the event will be the opportunity to meet and talk with six Houston authors about their recently published or about-to-be published books. The following authors will be joining us:

- **Dr. Christina Stemmler:** Dr. Stemmler is the director of the Center for Integrated Medicine, which is an offshoot of the center begun by Andrew Weil in Tucson, Arizona. A diplomate of the American Board of Family Practitioners, Dr. Stemmler combines American medicine with traditional Chinese medicine. She publishes a regular newsletter, and has several books in the pipeline.
  - **Dr. Bryant Boutwell:** Dr. Boutwell is with the Community Affairs office of the UT Medical School here in Houston. His book, "Conversation with a Medical School," relates the history of the UT medical school in the context of the Texas Medical Center.
  - **Dr. William H. Kellar:** A faculty member at the University of Houston, Dr. Kellar has written a book on the history of the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic.
  - **Donald Barclay and Deborah Halsted:** These two authors are in the information technology division of the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library. They are just completing a book on the role that libraries can play in putting healthcare consumers in touch with information. Topics covered include: print and electronic information resources, interpretation of medical language, understanding legal issues, and evaluating consumer health information.
  - **Dr. Mavis Kelsey:** Dr. Kelsey's name is renowned in Houston (e.g., Kelsey-Seybold Clinic) and throughout the South, where his family has lived for generations.
- His autobiographical book, "Twentieth-Century Doctor," was published last year by Texas A&M Press.
- **Dr. Blair Justice:** Dr. Justice, a professor emeritus at the UT School of Public Health, has published numerous books in the area of mind/body integration and its relationship with illness and recovery. His most recent book, "A Different Kind of Health: Finding Well-Being Despite Illness," has been described by one physician as "...the book I want all my patients to read."
- We will be serving champagne (or sparkling cider for those who prefer it) and a selection of delicious hors d'oeuvres.
- Please mark your calendars to attend this very special gathering. This would be an excellent meeting to bring a guest, if you know anyone who is interested in AMWA or who would enjoy meeting one or more of the authors. There will be good conversation, good food, and good friends—what better way to kick off your holiday season?
- Directions: From Holcombe Blvd., go south on Fannin. From the 610 south loop, go north on Fannin. Major's Book Store is between Old Spanish Trail and South Braeswood on the east side of Fannin.
- What:** Holiday celebration with AMWA  
**When:** December 5, 2000; 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Major's Book Store in Houston  
**Cost:** Members—\$15.00/Guests—\$17.00  
**RSVP** to Tom Gegeny (713) 527-8219 or Lorraine Cherry (713) 868-1549.  
**Please respond by December 1, 2000.**

## New Southwest Chapter EGroup Connects Entire Five-State Chapter

The AMWA Southwest Chapter has an exciting new way for members to communicate with one another by posting messages and responses through an eGroups list. This service is similar to a LIST-SERV. Chapter members can send e-mail messages to the list, and the service then sends the message to all list members. Recipients can send replies to the list, which are also received by all list members (unless the message is privately sent to the original sender).

However, eGroups is not only an e-mail medium—it is also a website that indexes messages and the corresponding replies. Other features on the website include member biographical information (if posted by members), the ability to upload files (such as documents or photographs) and to post links for sharing with other members, real-time chat, membership polls, and a calendar for announcing events of interest to AMWA Southwest members. The eGroups website address ([www.egroups.com/group/amwasouthwest](http://www.egroups.com/group/amwasouthwest)) does not replace the chapter website ([www.amwasouthwest.org](http://www.amwasouthwest.org)) that contains official chapter news, information on officers and contacts, etc. Rather, the eGroups site offers interactivity.

The purpose of this eGroups list is to enhance communication among AMWA Southwest Chapter members and to facilitate the sharing of information and resources related to the professional interests of AMWA. The list

provides a means for quick and informal exchanges, including requests for advice, assistance or support. This list is *not* intended for commercial marketing, personal promotion or solicitation, or SPAM e-mail. The posting of *local* employment opportunities (at a member's place of employment), freelance opportunities, or other networking inquiries is permitted.

Posting to the list is limited to list members. Only current AMWA Southwest Chapter members may become list members, and list members who are no longer members of AMWA will be removed from the list. The list will be moderated and maintained by AMWA Southwest Chapter executive officers. Signing up for the AMWA Southwest eGroups list is simple:

1. Visit the AMWA Southwest official website ([www.amwasouthwest.org](http://www.amwasouthwest.org)) and click on "Links."
2. At the lower right-hand side of the page, locate the "join eGroups" icon. Type in your complete e-mail address in the text box, replacing the "enter email address" text. Click on the "join eGroups" icon.
3. You will be redirected to the eGroups registration page. Fill out the requested information (which is minimal), read the terms of service statement, and click on "I Accept Continue" if you agree to the terms of service. \*Be sure to uncheck the newsletter option above the terms of

service since that e-mail newsletter is unrelated to AMWA Southwest.

4. The next page is for receiving special promotions and commercial offers by e-mail pertaining to areas of interest. LEAVE ALL OPTIONS BLANK, unless you have an interest in receiving such information. Click on the "Finish Registration" button.
5. Finally, set your e-mail options on the next page and click on the "Join" button. You will be redirected to the AMWA Southwest eGroups home page. However, your membership must be **verified by you** (from your e-mail account) and then **accepted by a list moderator**. Basically, an e-mail will be sent to the address you specified, instructing you to reply to the message: simply click "reply" in your e-mail program and send. Once you have been confirmed by a moderator, you will be sent instructions about posting to the list, unsubscribing, etc.

Sign up for the AMWA Southwest eGroups list today. Contact Thomas Gegeny ([tom@centerforaids.org](mailto:tom@centerforaids.org); 713-527-8219) if you have further questions.

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## In Memoriam: Karen D'Arezzo

Karen Williams D'Arezzo, ELS, formerly Director of the Office of Grants and Scientific Publications at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away on July 27 after a 5-year battle with cancer. A respected writer and editor, Karen's career spanned four states and three decades.

Karen, who graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Tennessee, began her career working with her husband in campus ministry for Campus Crusade for Christ in 1972. While in Chicago (1978–1981), Karen served as Chief Editor for the Development

Office of Trinity College and as a consulting editor for the Evangelical Divinity School. In Little Rock, she continued to pursue her calling to science and medicine as Senior Medical Science Writer with the Area Health Education Centers of UAMS. She founded the Office of Grants and Scientific Publications at the UAMS Arkansas Cancer Research Center (ACRC) in 1994, which grew from a staff of 2 to a team of 6 writers and 2 professional support staff in just 5 years.

Karen loved clarity of thought and expression, whether spoken or written. She did not see herself, though, as sim-

ply a professional writer. She felt that she was on a mission to contribute in her own way to the treatment and eventual cure of cancers and other diseases. Karen said to her co-workers in an e-mail dated January 1999, shortly after her latest diagnosis of metastatic cancer:

"...I have been sad to be unable to be back with you at work this week. You know how much I truly enjoy... working on these great projects. Someone else has already sweated over and written the cogent research proposals that have formed the treatment options

(Continued on page 3)

## AMWA Southwest Chapter Meeting Schedule 2000-2001

Date	Event	Location
December 5 5:30–7:00 p.m.	Champagne Christmas party, featuring Houston authors to discuss their recently published books	Major's Book Store/ Champagne and hors d'oeuvres
January 18	McGovern Award banquet	Medical Center Hilton/Dinner
March TBA	Bill Silberg, Executive Editor of Medscape “The challenges of biomedical publishing on the Web”	TBA/Dinner catered by Pico's
May 15	Round Table discussion on careers in medical writing	TBA/Dinner

### September Houston Meeting: EndNote Hands-on Tutorial

The September 19 Houston-area meeting offered a hands-on tutorial of EndNote, the most popular bibliographic software worldwide. Participants who had never used bibliographic software had an opportunity to experience how this kind of software can help them in their work, and participants already familiar with bibliographic software had an opportunity to compare EndNote with other software on the market.

Nancy Matus, Director of Product Marketing for ISI ResearchSoft who makes EndNote gave AMWA Southwest Chapter meeting participants a hands-on demonstration of the software. This software enables authors and editors to create reference databases that can be used to generate a bibliography. The

databases can then be stored for future reuse.

An EndNote database stores each reference as a single record. Each record is organized by fields, such as the author names, the article title, the volume and page numbers, and the date of publication. One particularly useful feature of reference management software programs such as EndNote is that multiple references identified through Internet searches can be downloaded directly into the database fields, thus saving time and avoiding the need to type this information into the fields. Conveniently, the EndNote database also allows the user to download and store article abstracts. Ms. Matus guided the participants through Internet searches

in PubMed and Ovid and showed how a large database could be created in a few simple steps.

EndNote allows the user to select reference citations from the database and to insert them directly into the text. As a manuscript is revised, the user can add or delete reference citations, and EndNote will automatically renumber the citations and generate the correct reference list. Using various output styles, these reference lists can be designed to conform to the reference style for any journal.

Kate O'Suilleabhain won the free copy of EndNote.

[www.amwasouthwest.org](http://www.amwasouthwest.org)

Click on [Links](#) for useful websites for medical writers.

Look for *Southwest Chapter News* to be available online soon!

**Bookmark it!**

*(Karen D'Arezzo cont'd from page 2)*

for me with melanoma. That gives me great, great hope that the work each of you are doing in cancer, virology, vision and hearing, and overall research education and design will eventually save many lives. What we do is very important---it is not just a job---it makes and breaks lives. Each extra effort counts...So, please don't give up your devotion to helping basic, clinical, and population scientists develop and write research proposals in their very limited schedules."

Ms. D'Arezzo is survived by her husband, the Reverend A. John D'Arezzo Jr, and three sons, Andrew, James, and Daniel, all of Little Rock, Arkansas. Gifts may be made to the "Karen D'Arezzo Memorial for Educational Support," Arkansas Cancer Research

Center, UAMS, 4301 West Markham, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72207.

For further information, contact:

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By Paula Card-Higginson, ELS

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**AMWA Southwest Chapter News**

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**Southwest Chapter News**



**Writers' Block**

Passed on without Comment...  
A worthy molecular goal: "to...suppress  
Bad-mediated apoptosis."

"The patient refused an autopsy."  
—from a medical report appearing in the  
*Journal of Court Reporting*

**Etymology Break**

We've all heard the expression "to the bitter end," as in, "Though the task was difficult, she persevered till the bitter end." Would you imagine that the origin of the expression has more to do with sailing than with tasting?

According to *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, it comes from "a turn of cable around the bitts" at "the inboard end of a ship's anchoring cable."

Send Writers' Block entries to zazi@io.com

**Meeting Reservation Form**

Holiday Celebration with AMWA  
And Houston Authors

Tuesday, December 5, 2000 at Major's Bookstore  
7205 Fannin, Houston, TX  
Members \$15; Guests \$17

Name:

Daytime Phone:

Guest Name(s):

Please send your reservation form and check, payable to AMWA Southwest, to Tom Gegeny at 1205 Banks St, #1, Houston TX 77006 by Friday, December 1. For further information please contact Tom Gegeny at (713) 527-8219 or Lorraine Cherry at (713) 868-1549.

Please RSVP by Friday, December 1, 2000.