



# ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER  
KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH  
ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG  
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## May We Be Kind

In his somber poem, “The Waste Land” T.S. Elliot called April the “cruellest month.” I’m not sure it deserves that epithet, but I do believe that it is followed by the kindest month of the year.

That month’s very name is positive. “Yes, you MAY,” it seems to say, giving permission to pursue life with renewed gusto. After the drab days of winter followed by muddy early spring, the earth itself bursts forth in fresh green and the joyful colors of wildflowers in bloom (well, maybe not this year.) Birds return with their cheerful songs putting a lilt in a person’s step and joy in the heart. The prevailing mood is optimistic and full of promise.

Numerous special days are set aside to remind us to show our appreciation to people who have given love, kindness, and service. There is Mother’s Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, a day to thank those who serve in the Armed Forces, and one to remember those who have given their lives to protect our freedom. We honor nurses who keep us well and firefighters and policeman who have kept us safe. The UN Peacekeepers are thanked for their efforts to help make our world a kinder, gentler place. In the very act of thanking these individuals we are ourselves exhibiting kindness.

Acts of kindness benefit the giver as much as the recipient by increasing feelings of

happiness, confidence, and self-esteem and by reducing stress. The world is very much in need of more kindness. Bringing about an end to the senseless war, rancorous political divisiveness, and petty social intolerance is beyond our control, but everyone has the capacity to be kind and to show that kindness to others through courtesy, generosity, and positive words and actions. Kindness is contagious. One positive deed can cause a ripple that spreads endlessly. It costs the giver nothing yet can mean everything to the recipient. Let the fresh spirit of optimism embodied in this merry month of May enter your heart, and make it your mission to spread a little kindness every day.

The time has come for me to sign off on these monthly missives. A new president will assume office in June. I sincerely thank my fellow officers and members of the board for their support and hard work. I have a deep appreciation for the members of our group who persevered through my first year with no meetings and have returned to enjoy again full participation as we pursue our common interest. Thank you all for the kindness shown to me as I did my best to meet your expectations. May we strive to be kind and to write on.

*Mary Berry*  
AWG President



**Marguerite Gray:** BRAG: I finished writing a contemporary Island novel--Room for Love (Pub. July 2023.)

**Chuck Anderson:** BRAG: I wrote my first Western short story, *Mobeetie*. Sent it in for the Members only May contest. SAG: not much writing on my next novel, life has been distracting lately, in good ways.

**Arianna Rodriquez:** BRAG: I've written more on the story that I am currently working on and went from Chapter 5 to Chapter Eighteen! I am almost done with this story!  
SAGS: I haven't read many books or been able to read them faster like I used to!

**Cindy Mims:** BRAG: My birthday is May 15<sup>th</sup>. So thank you Lord for another birthday! I'm working on a second children's picture book and this time I will self publish.

**Carolyn Dycus:**SAG: John Grisham's *The Judge's List*, checked out at APL but it was on one-week status. Had to turn it in before reading. Wild week—disappointed!  
Hated missing the read so maybe this summer!!

**Mary Berry:** BRAGS: My article about dolls inspired by the children's book, *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*, appears in the latest issue of *Doll Castle News* magazine.

**Kay Talley:** BRAG: This month marks my 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the AWG Newsletter editor. I was recently honored by receiving the Vince Swinney Service Award at a Herald of Truth Banquet in Tennessee. And on April 22 I became a bride again.

**Linda Gordon:** READING: I am reading Ann Voskamp's latest release titled *Waymaker*

**Gail McMillan:** READING: *Remember Texas* by this year's AWG workshop presenter, Laura Conner Kestner.

**Carolyn Dycus:** READING: *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albon and *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers. Just found *E.R. Nurses* by James Patterson and Matt Eversmann in the Large Print section of the Abilene Public Library.

**Chuck Anderson:** READING a SciFi thriller by Jamie Sawyer, *The Lazarus War*. I'm not sure but I think everyone dies, several times.

**Marguerite Gray:** READING: *A Bound Heart* by Laura Frantz and *Dusk's Darkest Shores* by Carolyn Miller.

**Arianna Rodriquez:** READING: *A Popular History of the Catholic Church* by Carl Koch.

**Lou Mougín:** READING: Raena Rood's Christian trilogy, a great story of a near future where Christianity is outlawed.

**Suanna Davis:** READING: *The Story Grid* by Shawn Coyne

**Gene Robertson:** READING: Just finished *Peach Tree Ranch* by Paul Clifton we went Marietta Okla High School together.

**Kay Talley:** READING: *Hers to Love* by Sherrinda Ketchersid.

## Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters  
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge  
Betty Thomason*

Members gain the status by gift from the membership as a whole, by paying a one-time fee of \$600, by receiving the honor as a gift from another, or by reaching the age of 90 while a member of AWG



## Our Officers

President: Mary Berry	(2022)
Executive VP: Darla McCloud	(2023)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison	(2022)
Secretary: Linda Gordon	(2023)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2023)
Board Member: Chuck Weber	(2023)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith	(2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley	(2022)
Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus	(2023)
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon	

## ROSE PARK THE PLACE TO BE THURSDAY MAY 26

7:00 PM

AWG MONTHLY MEETING  
AS WE CELEBRATE AWG 53<sup>RD</sup>

## BIRTHDAY

AWG  
"MINT TO BE 53"



## MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST JUNE

AWG NON-FICTION MONTH  
NO THEME





MEMBERS ONLY  
CONTEST WINNERS

APRIL

RHYMED POETRY

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE-CHUCK WEBBER  
"GUESTS NONETHELESS"

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE- COY ROPER  
"IT'S TIME TO WRITE"

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UN-RHYMED POETRY

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE-CHUCK ANDERSON  
"TICK, TICK, TICK"

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE-DEBI FAIRCHILD  
"LOVE vs CHOCOLATE"

HM-DEBI FAIRCHILD  
"A ROAD LEADING NOWHERE"



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Thursday May 26  
Starring The All

Famous

AWG MEMBERS

A 3 MINUTE READING OF  
THEIR OWN WRITING

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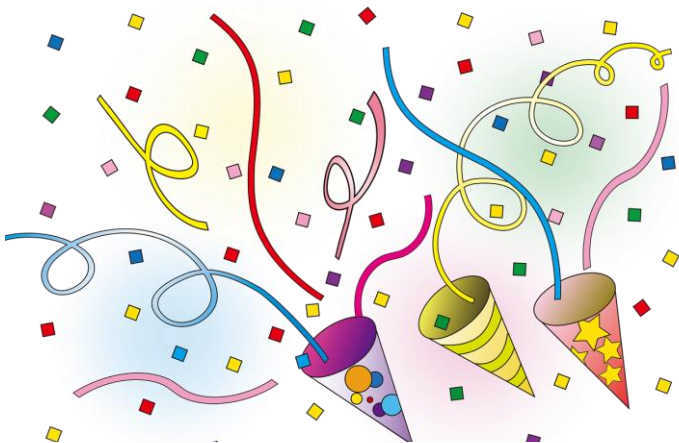
Thursday June 23

Starring

Sean King of Cisco

"Redemption in Writing"

Sean owns Waverly Coffee Shop in Cisco, has one young adult novel published and is working on another.



# 2022

## Members Only Contest

**Exclusive:** For current members of AWG only. All entries eligible for Annual Contest. No fees!

**Judging:** Judges are professionals who may or may not choose to critique entries. Judge's decisions are final. If there are fewer than four entries per category in double category months, categories will be combined. Six entries per month are required for judging.

**Prizes:** \$20 first prize and \$15 second prize. You are encouraged to attend the meetings to pick up your check. Otherwise, they will be mailed to the physical address provided.

Pay careful attention to all guidelines

**Deadline:** Submissions may be sent any time after the 12th of the previous month, but no later than the 12th of the contest month.

**Enter by Email Only:** Send documents as attachments and in Word format only. Subject Line should state: AWG Contest and "Month" (e.g. January). Entries will be returned to the email on coversheet. **Warning:** some devices may not transmit document correctly, thus disqualifying entry. AWG will respond within five days. It is entrant's responsibility to verify and resend.

Send to: [awg.entry@yahoo.com](mailto:awg.entry@yahoo.com)

**Mix & Match:** Submit up to 3 entries per month. Enter poetry, prose, or both. Blended themes are acceptable. Must be original work unpublished at deadline (includes Internet posts).

**\*\* You may send up to 3 entries and accompanying cover sheets in the same email, but all cover sheets and entries must be separate attachments.\*\***

**Cover Sheet Format:** Top left: author's name, physical address (to mail prize check), telephone number, and email. Top right: Chosen month of entry, word count for Prose and Flash entries or line count for poetry. (Do not count the title when determining line or word counts.) Title of entry should be centered midway down the page.

**Entry Format:** Do not include author name on any page. Minimum one-inch margins; prose double spaced; poetry single or double spaced. First page: center title at top, double space then start text. Number subsequent pages at the top center or top right.

# 2022

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	No contest this month	Extra writing time for February
FEBRUARY	Winter, Nature, Milestones	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: tear, color, wind, sort, drift	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words
APRIL	National Poetry Month NO THEME	Rhymed or Unrhymed Poetry 50 lines or less
MAY	National Short Story Month NO THEME	Fiction - 1,000 words or less
JUNE	AWG Non-Fiction Month NO THEME	Non-Fiction - 1,000 words or less
JULY	Home, Travel	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: project, double, shine, top, way	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words

**Flash Fiction/Poetry use 5 mandatory prompt words**, or close form and meaning, like: Oil = oiled, oils, oiling, oiler, oily not spoil or foil; boat = lifeboat; speak = unspeakable, not spoken; place = placement; defect = defection or defective.