



# ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

SEPTEMBER 2021

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG KTALLEY1963@GMAIL.COM

## Up, Up, and Away!

Up, up, and away! After Nancy Robinson Master's "Ten Hot Tips for Writers" presented at last month's meeting, AWG members are buckling their seatbelts and preparing to soar. By comparing writing to piloting an aircraft Ms. Masters outlined tips that can enable a writer to become an "ace" – one of the five percent who produce ninety-five percent of published works. In her down-to-earth language and often humorous examples drawn from a lifetime of writing and flying, her novel approach provided a fresh look at rules for successful writing.

She counseled members to be "pilots in command" of their stories – to prepare as thoroughly as an aviator carries out the pre-flight routine, to know where the story is going as clearly as a pilot charts his course, and to follow guidelines as religiously as a pilot follows his instruments. She asserted that just as pistons power an aircraft, strong verbs carry a written piece. She reminded us that often writers are too wordy and that usually a story can still be good even if a third is cut in the same way a pilot can continue in flight even if some part of his plane malfunctions.

I urge you to put those tips to work by filing a flight plan to enter the 2021-22 Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest. Open to anyone over the age of fourteen, the contest will begin on October 1 and will run through

the end of November. There are eight different categories including inspirational, memoirs, rhymed and unrhymed poetry, and prose for both children and adults. The flash writing categories challenge you to produce a piece using just forty-five words plus five given word prompts. You may submit as many entries in as many categories as you choose. Full information, guidelines, and deadlines are included in this newsletter and can also be found at [abilenewritersguild.org](http://abilenewritersguild.org) under the "Newsletter" tab.

Experienced writers and willing novices looking to develop and improve upon their craft will not go wrong in becoming active members of the Abilene Writers Guild. Merely joining has advantages, but to enjoy the full benefits of membership one must fully participate by attending meetings and workshops and entering the contests. The monthly programs have been dynamic and informative, and this month's presentation on poetry should be no exception. The opportunity for fellowship with like-minded individuals can provide the encouragement and inspiration for you to plan and execute your solo maneuvers.

Grab your gear, chart your course, consult your instruments, and make 2021 the year you fly to new heights as a writer.

Mary Berry  
AWG President

## ***Our Life Members***

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

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 (2022)  
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith (2022)  
Board Member: Kay Talley (2022)  
Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus (2023)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

## **2021-2022 Annual Contest**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exercise your Creativity**

**Get those Pencils Sharpened**

**or**

**Your Typing Skills Busy**

**And be ready to send Entries for the**

**Annual Contest**

**Open to anyone age 15 and over.**

**Officially opens October 1.**



**So grab a cup of coffee, whatever writing tools you use, and let your creativity flow.**

## **Why Would You Want to Write Poetry Anyway?**

**Born & raised in Texas 72 years ago. As the oldest of 5, Chuck Weber worked his way through the University of Houston for a B. A. and through Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth for a Masters of Divinity. Doing so led him to eventually get hired 55 times for assorted jobs. Liz and Chuck have 2 children and 3 Grandchildren. They moved to Abilene in 1983 so he could take professional internship and certification as a hospital chaplain. He worked as chaplain at the Abilene State School for a total of 15 years. They served as house-parents for semi-delinquent teens. He has been a pastor and a social worker for Intellectually Challenged adults. He is currently a part-time chaplain @ Hendrick Medical Center. Chuck has self-published 2 books. One is a modernist take of the stories of Jesus, the other a collection of devotionals. He has been published in national periodicals 5 times. He likes poetry for the challenge it presents (and for its proclivity toward releasing emotion) but also writes short stories. He says AWG has been a bonus for him for the past 5 years.**



## WHAT AWG READS

**Carolyn Dycus** – Reading: *Echoes of the Walls* by V.C.Andrews. A House of Secrets novel. Written first person as a very precocious teenager.

*What I Mean* by Joan Didion. This collection of her early essays details a fascinating history of her writing career. Every writer can benefit from this little book of treasures.

*The Key Lime Crime*, by Lucy Burnett. This book is a hoot for fun summer reading. If you are a “foodie” like me, you’ll love this Florida Keys mystery the author dishes up!

**Linda Gordon** – Reading: *Devoted to Writing* by Nancy Robinson Masters and Maurice Parsley Mallow, which I purchased at the great mini-workshop for writing that Nancy presented at the August AWG meeting. This book has wonderful thoughts and encouragement for all writers.

**Jo Cox** - I just started *The Light Ages: The Surprising Story of Medieval Science* by Seb Falk. It is very interesting so far.

**Mary Berry** - Reading aloud to my husband so we could both enjoy *All of My Downs Have Been Ups* by Nancy Robinson Masters. For my own pleasure I have been reading *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden, which is neither a memoir nor written by a geisha but is a fascinating look at that Japanese institution.

**Marguerite Gray** - Reading: *A Warrior's Heart* by Misty Beller and *The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeline Martin.

**David Dodge** - Reading: *The Texas Rangers* by Will Henry.



## BRAGS & SAGS

**Coy Roper** – BRAG: I should be receiving the first bound copies of my western novel "The Journey from Hell" within a week or two. The publishing process has taken about eight months or more.

**David Dodge** – BRAG: I’ve just about finished another book, cover and all.

**Mary Berry** – BRAG/SAG: Not complete, but finally in progress - a retrospective of the career of a recently retired doll artist. I was asked to write the article several months ago and have had a difficult time with it.

**Linda Gordon** – BRAG: One of my entries placed 2nd in the Articles category and won the "Lou Prange Award for Inspirational Article" in the 45th Annual Cisco Writers Club Summer Writing Contest -.Also a win: The judges gave considered and helpful critiques on other entries to encourage and improve my writing.

**Marguerite Gray** - BRAG: Turned in a Short Story for ACFWLA Anthology 2022

**Suanna Davis** - Brag: I am editing Jo's book. I have worked on revisions of three children's stories.

## August Members Contest Winners

### Prose:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Chuck Webber for "Around for Balance"

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sharon Ellison for "Jane"

HM: Sharon Ellison for "The Race"

### Poetry:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Sharon Ellison for "Peace, Please"

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Coy Roper for "Transition Time"

HM: Kay Talley for "The March of Time"

HM: Cindy Mims for "Jellyfish Packing Tiny Grenades"

HM: Chuck Webber for "Star Wars"

## Award Winning Western Writer to Speak

Award winning writer and motivational speaker Dr. Michael Johnson of Campbell, Texas, will be in Abilene on September 24. He is the author of a number of books for both adults and children including *Susie the Whispering Horse* (in its second printing), *Cowboys and Angels* (named "Best Non-Fiction Book of 2002" by the Oklahoma Writers' Federation), and *Healing Shine* (winner of the Western Writers of America's prestigious Spur Award in 2007). He is a popular speaker, writes a nationally syndicated magazine column, and hosts a weekly radio broadcast titled "Reflections of a Cowboy."

Michael Johnson will be speaking in Abilene on Friday September 24 at 6:30 P.M at Three Crosses Cowboy Church, 4038 Hwy 351. There is no admission charge. A friend of Gail McMillan invited her and her "AWG friends" to attend – as a friend of Gail, you are invited!



## ABILENE WRITER'S GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2021-2022

### General Information:

[AbileneWritersGuild.org](http://AbileneWritersGuild.org)

1. Open to any person age 15 or older.
2. Entries **must** be postmarked **between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2021!**
3. Categories with fewer than 5 entries are not eligible for prizes but may be critiqued if judges agree.
4. Categories, descriptions, maximum lengths, entry fees: page 2. Do **not count the title** in your word count.
5. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2021. Publication on the Internet **is** publication. The work must not have earned a cash award in any previous **AWG ANNUAL Contest**. However, Honorable Mentions from past annual contests may be re-entered and **any** AWG monthly members-only-contest entry is eligible **if** it fits the category. Use font size 12; Times New Roman preferred. Type on one side of page.
6. **Each entry** must have a **separate cover sheet** . **Upper left corner:** your name, complete address, phone number and email address. **Upper right corner:** category and number of words or lines. *Space down to middle of page and center your title on the cover sheet.*

**First page, Poetry and Flash Fiction entries, categories 1-4:** **Upper right corner:** category and number of lines or words. Double space down and **Center the TITLE of your entry;** double space down again and begin. **Single space only! DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY PAGE OTHER THAN THE COVER SHEET!**

**First page, Prose Categories 5-8:** **DOUBLE-SPACE** these, with one-inch margins. **Upper right corner:** type category and number of words. **Do not count your title** in the number of words. Double space down, **center your title, double-space down again and begin manuscript.** On all following pages: type entry title and page number in upper right corner. **Author's name goes ONLY on the cover sheet.**

**Mail Entries Only:** **Staple your cover sheet to your entry.** Attach payment with a paper clip to your entry. **For multiple entries, be sure your check covers all entries and fill in the registration form or facsimile thereof.** If you want your entry/entries returned, please provide a SASE with **adequate postage**, otherwise your entry will be discarded on or after **May 31, 2022.** (Hint: 1 stamp per 5 pages in a #10 letter-size envelope.) Our judges, professionals in their fields, are asked to critique each entry, but we cannot guarantee same.

**Reminder:** As in the majority of writing contests, entries not meeting the guidelines will be disqualified and fees will not be refunded. Please follow the rules carefully. **Decisions of the judges are final.** Winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Workshop to be held in March 2022, and will be published on our Website by April 15, 2022. Prizes will be mailed to winners who cannot attend the Workshop. Please check our website and/or newsletter for location, date, time and other details of the March 2022 Workshop. Entries will be available for pickup immediately following the Workshop.

**You may also bring entries to AWG's October and November meetings if you are in the area.**

Prizes: Categories 1,2,3,4, Categories 5,6,7,8

First Place	\$ 70	\$100
Second Place	\$ 45	\$65
Third Place	\$ 25	\$35

\_\_\_\_\_ cut here \_\_\_\_\_ or copy this entry form \_\_\_\_\_

**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2020-2021 CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

**MAIL TO:** S. Ellison, 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605 Email questions to:  
AWGWrite@gmail.com

Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

# of entries in Categories 1-4, = \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 each ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of entries in Categories 5-8 = \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 each ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**AWGs Annual Contest 2021-2022 Categories, Fees, Maximum: # Words/Lines Entry Fee**

1. Poetry, Rhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
2. Poetry, Unrhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
<b>The five prompt words must be used in Categories 3 and 4:*</b>			
<b>*3. Flash Poetry:</b> <i>starlight, search, heart, obsequious, texture</i>		100 words	\$7
<b>*4. Flash Fiction:</b> <i>conglomerate, kerfuffle, stable, totality, crapulous</i>		100 words	\$7
5. Children's Stories	Preschool OR elementary age readers	750 words	\$10
6. Inspiration	Any form: prose/drama/religious	1200 words	\$10
7. Memoir/Nostalgia	Take reader back to a former time	1200 words	\$10
8. Fiction for Adults	Short story for adults/teens & older	1200 words	\$10

You may enter as many times as you wish in one or multiple categories!