



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—AUGUST 2017

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Amazing August

Why amazing? Well, just look what's behind us and what lies before us.

We finished another successful AWG year, helped with the CALF festival, had a great workshop, elected some new officers, and kicked off our year with two super programs so far. Gee whiz, folks, that's just the beginning!

Hopefully you are now anticipating the end of our members-only contests for this year, are looking forward to our new annual contest which opens October 1, and have already begun researching ideas or getting your entries ready!

As for me, I successfully completed not one (as usual) but two mission trips this summer! The first was to Poland in early June; the second was my fourth trip to Trinidad and Tobago the end of July. I think my L O N G travels are over for a while, but one never knows for sure! It is good to be open to new adventures. The sad part about this is that my writing has suffered... except for my monthly Newsletter articles!

What new adventures have you had this summer? Honestly, I'd really like to know and hear about them. Send me a little blurb about your travels or your adventures—starting, say... oh let's begin with last January. Surely you have had some interesting things happen in your life since then. I would love to include some highlights in my next Newsletter article. Yes, really!

As for me, my trips were quite different in nature. In Poland, our team of ten met a great group of senior citizens who honestly would put most American seniors to shame. These people participate in

exercise classes, dance classes, field trips, arts and crafts and conversation on a daily basis. Did I mention that one day we logged over eight miles --- walking?! Another day we logged over 7 miles, while the other days we walked at least five miles or more. There was one day where we only walked 1.1 miles, and I'm not sure what happened that day to slow us all down so much! It was a very different kind of mission trip for me, but it was wonderful.

The trip to Trinidad/Tobago was similar to the previous three I was on. The people of Trinidad are warm, hospitable people. They may not have much, but they are generally happy, love music and enjoy meeting new people. There were twenty of us on the trip, ten of whom had never been before. I believe all those new folks are already hoping to return next year! You can learn a lot about people by spending an entire week with them, and they learn a lot about you! I highly recommend these types of trips.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our meeting on August 24. Remember, it is NOT the last Thursday in August; it is the fourth Thursday, so don't get confused and miss out on the fun.

Let's keep on keeping on, AWG!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Time for Dues at AWG

Mail checks to : Abilene Writers Guild
P.O. Box 2562, Abilene, TX 79604
\$25.00 single, \$35.00 family

**If you have not paid dues,
this is your last newsletter.**

BRAGS AND SAGS

Carla Kerr's play "The Disgusting Mystery Fantasy" was accepted. She tells us, "I am so excited! It is the most far out thing I have ever written."

Lou Mougín has two new pulp books being published and has a story in this month's *The Creeps*. He got the rights to his comics history books back. However, a publisher who accepted two stories is balking at a third. See also:

<https://www.facebook.com/ProSeProductions/photos/a.140116366190362.1073741829.139815652887100/714415482093778/?type=3&theater>

Carla Kerr's recently written one-act play will be showcased in September in an anthology.

Penny Klostermann will be signing books Tuesday, September 5 from 4 to 6 pm at Texas Star Trading Co. If you want to pre-order call (325-672-9696) and they'll reserve a book for you at a special pre-order price-\$15.00 (regular price \$17.99).

Marguerite Gray completed an outline for *Draw Me to Your Side* book four of the Revolutionary Faith series. Book Three *Bring Me Near* will be released in the Fall.

Loretta Walker's poem "The First Juneteenth" was selected for inclusion in the 2017 *Waco Cultural Arts Fest WordFest Anthology*. Her poem "Word Flirtations" was accepted for inclusion in *White Ash Literary Magazine*. Her poem "Bitter" will be published in the upcoming edition of *San Pedro River Review*. Her poem "Top Shelf" was accepted for inclusion in the *Red River Review*. She also had a poem accepted for publication in *River Poets Journal*. She was accepted as a panelist/presenter for *Langdon Review Weekend*, Tarleton State University. She won 1st place in the *Conceit Literary Journal* poetry contest.

Suanna Davis wrote multiple blog posts and newsletter articles for D25 Toastmasters newsletter this month. However, she hasn't gotten her writing or editing projects finished.

WHAT AWG READS

Lou Mougín: a history of the Freemasons. How about that?

Carla Kerr: *Querencia* by Stephen Bodio, a memoir of a period of his life spent near Magdalena, New Mexico. I found it interesting and well written. *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society* written by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. It has been around for a while, but I highly recommend it. Characters are well developed and is British humor at its best. I read half of *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy and gave up on it. The character names of numerous characters got in the way of enjoying the book.

Penny Klostermann: *Talking as Fast as I Can: From Gilmore Girls to Gilmore Girls (and Everything in Between)* by Lauren Graham. "I loved it!"

Judy Ware: *Facing Our Giants* by Max Lucado and *Kings of Broken Things* by Theodore Wheeler.

Marguerite Gray: *Hope Reborn* by Caryl McAdoo.

Suanna Davis: read four new science fiction/fantasy series.

Carolyn Dycus: *The Trolley Problem--or--Would You Throw the Fat Guy Off the Bridge?* by Thomas Cathcart, and a novel, *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult.

AUGUST PROGRAM

BEYOND THE RAIN

Our own Kay Talley Author of *Beyond the Rain, Living Triumphantly in Grief* will present our August program. *Beyond the Rain* is the product of Kay's personal journal and creative writing skills, written during the illness and death of her husband Hollis Talley. Published in the tenth anniversary year of his death, this book conveys the ways God taught Kay, and delivered Kay through the storm of grief and loss.

Kay works as the Donor Management Coordinator for Hope of Life, a ministry of Herald of Truth. She has written many articles for various Christian publications, but this is her first book.

The Writer—Multiple Contests

Entry Deadline August 31, 2017
<https://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/contests/>

Epoch Times Journalism Competition

Entry Deadline August 21, 2017
<http://www.theepochtimes.com/inspiring-the-world/>

Futurescapes Writing Contest

Entry Deadline October 13, 2017
http://www.futurescapescontest.com/?utm_source=AlmondPress&utm_medium=WritingCompetitionList&utm_campaign=WritingCompetitions

Writers Digest Short Story Competition

Entry Deadline November 15, 2017
<http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/short-short-story-competition>

Writer's Digest Popular Fiction Awards

Entry Deadline October 16, 2017
<http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/popular-fiction-awards>

Chanticleer Writing Contests

Entry Deadline various
<https://www.chantireviews.com/contests/>

ReedsyPrompts

Weekly Short Story Contest
https://reedsy.com/writing?utm_source=blog&utm_medium=contests&utm_campaign=writingcontests

Thrilling Me Softly

Thriller, Suspense & Mystery book proposals
September 1-31, 2017
<https://publishizer.com/contests/thrilling-me-softly/>

Nether Ether Contest

Sci-Fi & Fantasy book proposals
November 1-31, 2017
<https://publishizer.com/contests/nether-ether/>

Permian Basin Writers Workshop

September 13-17, 2017
Midland, TX
www.permianbasinwritersworkshop.com

July Monthly Contest Winners

The sad news is that there were not enough entries for prizes in the July monthly contest.

The happy news is that many people were on trips and vacation.

The even happier news is that those who entered already have a completed entry to submit to the upcoming annual contest.

The happiest news is that August is Flash Fiction and Flash Poetry month. It is a really fun and creative kind of writing that lets you play with the many meanings and directions of the prompt words while challenging you to see how cleverly you can wrap it into a 100 word package.

Three entries equals three times the fun!

Our Life Members:

Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton, Dr. Clyde Morgan, Alice Greenwood, Keith 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: Sharon Ellison (2018)
Executive VP: David Dodge (2019)
Program VP: Barbara Rollins (2018)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2018)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2019)
Board member: Suanna Davis (2019)
Board member: Linda Gordon (2019)
Board member: Kay Talley (2018)
Board member: Coy Roper (2018)
Alt. Board member: Mary Ann Smith (2018)
Newsletter editor: Jo Cox
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2017-2018

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2017. 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 contests may be re-entered. Also, AWG monthly members-only-contest entries are eligible. Use **ONLY** font size 12 in Times New Roman or Arial. No fancy fonts! Text: type only on one side of each page.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2017. Entries posted earlier or later than those dates will **NOT** be accepted and will not be judged, nor will fees be refunded. If fewer than 5 entries are received in a category, that category may not be judged; or, if judged, only first place may be awarded.

Please see the **list of categories, descriptions, maximum lengths and entry fees**. The title of your work does not count toward your final word count.

Cover Sheet for all categories: Each entry must have a separate cover sheet.

Upper left corner: your name, complete address, telephone # and email address.

Upper right corner: category and number of words or lines. Space down 12 lines from top of page and center your title on the cover sheet.

YOUR NAME DOES NOT GO ON ANY OTHER PAGE.

CATEGORIES 3-8: Center the title at the top of the first page only. Double-space and begin manuscript. Double-space all pages. **All other pages:** type title of the manuscript and page number in upper right corner. No author's name on these pages!

POETRY: Center the title at the top of the first page . Double-space down and begin . May be single or double-spaced. **Category 1 and 2:** list total number of lines in upper right corner.

Category 9 only: include the number of words.

Other information: Attach payment and cover sheet to each entry with a paper clip. **Do NOT staple anything!** If you want your entry/entries returned with judges' comments, please provide us a large enough SASE with **adequate postage**. Verify at local post office. Entries without large enough return SASEs will be destroyed after April 30, 2018.

Reminder: Entries which do not meet guidelines will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded. **Decisions of the judges are final.** Prizes will be presented at a time and place to be decided soon, but no later than March 30,2018. Please check our website and/or Newsletter for details.

Mail entries to the address on the next page or bring them to AWG's October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!



	Cat # 3-7	Cat # 1-2, 8-9
First Place	\$100	\$70
Second Place	\$65	\$45
Third Place	\$35	\$25

Cat #	Category	Description (Do <u>not</u> include Title in Word Count)	Max # Lines/Words	Fee Per Entry
1	Poetry, Rhymed	Rhymed – in any style	50 lines	\$ 7
2	Poetry, Unrhymed	Unrhymed – in any style, Stanzas or free verse	50 lines	\$ 7
3	Children’s Stories For readers ages 3-8	Can be for pre-school or elementary age readers, but do not have to include both age groups.	750 words	\$10
4	Articles of General Interest—Non personal general information	Subjects: history, people, events, or places (suitable for newspapers, magazines, or journals)	1200 words	\$10
5	Inspiration	May be prose or drama. Does not have to be religious in nature	1200 words	\$10
6	Memoir/Nostalgia	Writing that takes the writer and reader back to a former time	1200 words	\$10
7	Fiction for Adults	Short Stories written for adults, teens, and older	1200 words	\$10
8	Flash Fiction	Must include these 5 words: Adore Jealous Machine College Foreign	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	Must include these 5 words: Tree Purple Fortitude Exquisite Conform	25 words	\$ 7

Mail entries to the address below or bring them to AWGs October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!

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ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2016-2017 CONTEST ENTRY FORM <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/>

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild
c/o S. Ellison
1025 Grand Ave.
Abilene, Texas 79605
(325) 672-1868

Email Inquiries to: TrLiSo3@hotmail.com

Your Email Address: _____

Your Name _____

Your Postal Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of entries in Categories 3-7 = _____ x \$10 each = \$ _____


Number of entries in Categories 1-2, 8-9 = _____ x \$7 each = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Please Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

Bonus

If you are not an AWG member your entry entitles you to free AWG newsletters from January through May 2018



Fourth Thursday Together
August 24 – 7:00 p.m.

Beyond the Rain
Kay Talley

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604