



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

OCTOBER 2021

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG KTALLEY1963@GMAIL.COM

CELEBRATING OCTOBER

Is it truly October already? I have noticed that lately it gets dark at an earlier hour and the scorching summer temperatures have moderated, but my mind is having difficulty accepting that we have entered the fourth quarter of 2021. The end of the year ushers in a series of special occasions that are commemorated with distinctive décor and traditional activities. October means the return of pumpkin spice in our lattes, desserts, and breads. It is the time of year to celebrate the bountiful harvest, to carve pumpkins, and for children to agonize over their costume choices for Trick or Treat (or to be more politically correct - Fall Festival) activities. Thinking about Halloween caused me to wonder what other days are celebrated during October.

On the first day of October, I hope you smiled (*World Smile Day*) as you dunked your cookie (*National Homemade Cookie Day*) into your coffee (*International Coffee Day*) and enjoyed some quiet time with your favorite poet (*National Poetry Day*) or penned a few words for a contest entry (*National Day on Writing*). We have become familiar with the pink reminders that October is *Breast Cancer Awareness* month and the 15th is *National Mammography Day*, but did you know that the 19th is a good time to take stock in yourself in observance of *Evaluate Your Life Day* and on the 4th Saturday of the month you can help others on *Make a Difference Day*.

When I was in school, *Columbus Day* was observed on October 12. Now it falls on the 2nd Monday, and the intrepid explorer that we

honored as the discoverer of this continent for the European world now shares his day with those he found living here. The 2nd Monday of October has been named *Indigenous Peoples' Day*. And speaking of school, *World Teachers Day* is observed on October 5. You can give your favorite teacher an apple to show your appreciation, or you might want to delay the gift until the 21st which is *National Apple Day*.

The birth of United States Navy is celebrated on the 13th, *Navy Day*, and *United Nations Day* on the 24th marks the founding of that organization in 1945. One of the strangest observances I ran across was *Virus Appreciation Day* on October 3rd. Why did anyone think that we needed a special occasion for viruses, and why should we appreciate them? Perhaps it would be better called "Virus Awareness Day."

Appropriately October 27th is designated *Black Cat Day*; *National Candy Corn Day* and *Mischief Night* both fall on the 30th; *Carve a Pumpkin Day* is on the 31st; and the last Friday of the month is called *Frankenstein Friday*. Some people may also approve that one week before the witches fly on Halloween is the correct time to observe *Mother-in-Law's Day*.

These observances range from traditional and honorable to amusing and even silly, but let us all remember that October 28th this year is *Abilene Writers Guild Meeting Day*.

Hope to see you there, and until then write on.

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

It's Happening NOW

Annual Contest

**Open to anyone age 15 and over.
Officially opens October 1**

**Accepting Entries through
November 30**

**Don't let time get away from you
and get left out. Get your entry in
today.**



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

Season of Giving

New Horizons of Abilene was thrilled to learn that once again this Christmas season, AWG will donate personalized journals and pens to children served by the organization. A journal and pen together with a poem written by our own Chuck Webber will be wrapped in a holiday gift bag and tagged with the child's name.

Gail McMillan is coordinating the project. In order to insure that the gifts are comparable and that each is appropriate to the age of the recipient, she will purchase all the gifts. Please bring your cash donation toward this project to Gail at either the October or November meeting or you may mail it to Gail McMillan, 419 Meadow Lane, Abilene, TX 79602.

New Horizons serves children who have been abused or neglected through therapeutic residential treatment, foster care, adoption, and youth counseling.





WHAT AWG READS

Carolyn Dycus – Finished up summer reading: *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Morgot*. Author Marianne Cronin spins two life stories together in a delightful, sad, happy and hauntingly moving tale celebrating the friendship of two women: 17 and 83 years of age, in a London hospice.

A historical fiction, *Hour of the Witch*, by Chris Bohliyclian is a chilling and realistic tale that takes the reader to 1662 Boston, Mass. It's a real thriller. If you love history and the drama of early America's New England witch trials, you'll enjoy this thriller.

Gail McMillan – Reading: *The Story of Blue, A Rope Horse*, By Michael Johnson, Michael Johnson writes, “‘Old men say if you ride a good one, they make you better than you really are.’ I know about that.”

Suanna Davis - Just finished Jordan Peterson's *12 Rules for Life*. I expect to start *Beyond Order* this week.

Kay Talley: Reading: *Everybody, Always*, by Bob Goff as he takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint, or worry.

Mary Berry - I've re-read S.E. Hinton's young adult classic, *The Outsiders*. After hearing him speak last month I read Michael Johnson's *Healing Shine*. a story about the relationship between a man and a horse that is filled with life lessons and told with humor and heart.

Marguerite Gray - Reading: *More Than a Heartthrob* by Kari Trumbo and *The Mistletoe Countess* by Pepper Basham.

Carla Kerr – Reading: *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper. It has held my attention; is well written; it is an amazing true story.

Lou Mouglin - Reading: *A Groucho Bio* by Stefan Kanfer and *A Groucho Mystery* by Ron Goulart.



BRAGS & SAGS

David Dodge – BRAG: As soon as editing is finished, I will publish another book and I had several chapters of another written. SAGS: I lost over 34 pages of it.

Lou Mouglin - BRAG: Still getting stuff in Shudder and Vampireess Carmilla. SAGS: Haven't done enough on Frank 3.

Marguerite Gray - BRAG: I am researching for a new contemporary island novel set in the South Pacific,

Suanna Davis - BRAG: I am reading through Jo's book *Creation's Parables* in what might be its final form!

Ranger College Golemon Library

Presents

Texas Writers

From October 4, 2021 through October 31, 2021, Ranger College's Golemon Library will present "**Texas Writers**," an exhibition produced by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibition will be available at no charge to the public from October 4, 2021 through October 31. The display will be available during all regular library hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM to 9:30 PM, Friday 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and Sunday 4:30 PM to 9:30 PM. For more information or to arrange group visits, contact Helen Cozart, Assistant Librarian, at 254-267-7200 or hcozart@rangercollege.edu.

Texas Writers provides an overview of the literary accomplishments of Texas writers in a series of panels featuring portraits of authors, books, workplaces, narrative settings, and evocative quotations. Panel topics include:

- Two Texas triumvirates
- Katherine Anne Porter, Larry McMurtry, and Horton Foote
- Sportswriters
- Americo Paredes, Cormac McCarthy, and Sandra Cisneros
- The Mexican Texan/Mexican American voice
- El Paso writers
- African Texan writers
- Writers for children and youth
- Poets
- Urban writers
- The Magazines
- Screenwriters
- Stories, essays, and memoirs
- Elmer Kelton and John Graves
- Science fiction and fantasy
- Mystery writers

To get to Ranger College, take Interstate 20 Exit 349 (at the Love's). Head North one mile. Ranger College is on the right. Golemon Library is half-way around the loop.

ABILENE WRITER'S GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2021-2022

General Information:

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.

Rules p. 2

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
The five prompt words must be used in Categories 3 and 4:*			
*3. Flash Poetry: <i>starlight, search, heart, obsequious, texture</i>		100 words	\$7
*4. Flash Fiction: <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!