



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD
APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER
KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH
ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG
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Celebrate Spring

Spring arrived last month bringing with it promises of hope and life and new beginnings. Trees are opening their leaves, bluebonnets are blooming, and southern breezes are bringing the welcome warmth and fresh scents of the season. We have lived through a year of unimaginable hardships and losses, but signs that we are on our way back to normalcy are everywhere.

One of those signs is the reopening of Rose Park Senior Center on April 6 for daytime activities. It remains closed, however, during the evening hours. *We will be unable to meet in April*, but surely it will not be much longer before we can hold regular meetings.

Those of us who attended the workshop on March 20 experienced the joy of being together in person with others who share our need to write. Our speaker, Jen McGahan, is a successful copywriter from Austin. She presented information about what copywriting as a profession involves and how to get started in the business. She also talked about the techniques, writing styles, and words that are an essential part of writing copy. The morning was both a learning experience and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. Winners of our annual contest were announced and prizes awarded. Results are listed on our website and Facebook.

This April marks the 25th annual celebration of National Poetry Month, thirty days of celebrating the joy, expressiveness, and pure delight of poetry.

From childhood I have been drawn to the compelling similes, vivid imagery, and lyrical rhythms of poetry. Colloquial offerings of James Whitcomb Riley, classical meters of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, profound simplicity of Emily Dickinson, melancholy musings of Edgar Allan Poe have all contributed to my love of language and desire to express myself. Whether pondering the unknown, providing direction for living, or simply entertaining a poem is a delectable nugget to be savored and enjoyed time and again.

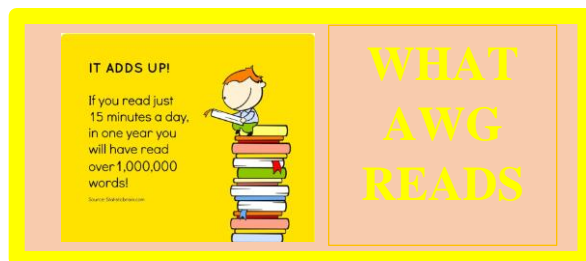
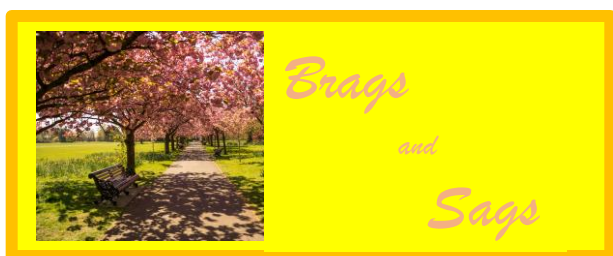
Even if you don't consider yourself a poet or plan to publish a poem, writing poetry can be helpful. The practice of writing poems will improve your use of imagery in other writing. Poetry is concise – it uses a minimal amount of strong language - and your prose will become crisper and more robust when you apply that attribute of poetry to it. Poetry also helps you to connect with your emotions in a tangible way.

This simple quatrain by Charles Ghigna, author and poet known as “Father Goose” expresses to me the essence of poetry:

A poem is a spider web
Spun with the words of wonder,
Woven lace held in place
By whispers made of thunder.

Celebrate spring by enjoying some poetry this month! And as always, write on....

Mary Berry
AWG President



Marguerite Gray: BRAG: I've begun a new series of novellas. The first I am writing during NaNoWriMo.

Iris Williams: BRAG: Enjoyed a very quiet Easter with no eggs involved. SAG: Have been down with my hip off & on this month

Cindy Mims: BRAG: I'm getting my headshot photo made for my author page for my book. Now, I need to figure out what to write under it.

Penny Parker Klosterman: BRAG: After working on a biography for three years, I've finally located a great grandson who just happens to have all of my subject's research from her work. She contributed to the World War II effort. I'm flying to Oregon and he will allow me to copy anything I need. This will make my book fuller and richer, I'm certain! Very exciting!

Kay Talley: BRAG: The completion of this month's newsletter marks the end of my 1st year of being the AWG Newsletter editor. What a year it has been. I thank you all who have been so encouraging with your kind comments and to those who have helped me along and been very patient with me.

David Dodge: Not much to brag about, hopefully I can start healing and get back on the book. I add a paragraph or two occasionally.

Marguerite Gray: I'm reading *Hope Between the Pages* by Pepper Basham.

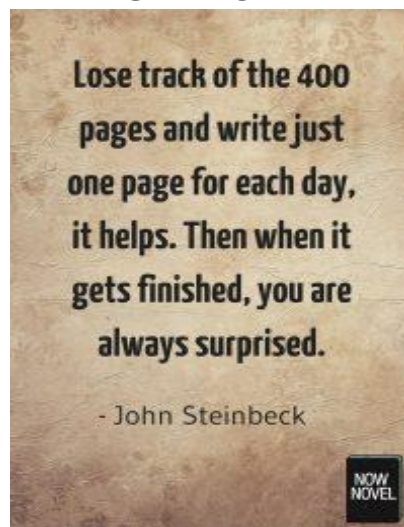
Penny Parker Klosterman: I just began *Stranger* by Harlan Coben. If it's as good as his other books, it will be a great read!

Iris Williams: I am reading Rachelle Dekker: *The Seer Collection*

Mary Berry: I've been reading and savoring poetry of all types this month. It's been a while since I have, and some of my favorite poems seem to have gotten even better in my absence.

Kay Talley: Began reading the first of the *Eagle Harbor* book series, *Love's Unfading Light* by Naomi Rawlings.

WRITING TIP OF THE DAY



Our Officers

President: Mary Berry (2022)
Executive VP: David Dodge (2021)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison (2022)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon (2021)
Board Member: Darla McCleod (2021)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith (2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley (2022)
Alt. Board Member: Chuck Weber (2022)
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon



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



April Winners

*1st Place – Mary Berry
"The Bull Rider"*
*2nd Place – Carolyn Dycus
"April Fool! For Abilene, Texas 2021"*
*FM – Chuck Webber
"Circumstantial Meditation"*
*FM – Mary Berry
"Nature's Show"*

Members Only Contest

Get your creative juices flowing and write a fascinating short story- 1000 words or less and see your name on the winner's list in
May



Officer Elections

Officers and Board Members serve two-year terms. Customarily nominations take place at the April meeting. In the absence of the meeting, the report is in this newsletter. A nominating committee (Linda Gordon, Chair; Jo Cox, and Carolyn Dycus) offers the following slate of candidates for the offices and executive board positions that will expire in June 2021:

Executive Vice President:

Darla McCleod

Secretary:

Linda Gordon

Treasurer:

Gail McMillan

Board Member: Nominations are in order

Alternate Board Member:

Carolyn Dycus

Nominations are open to any member in good standing who is an active participant in AWG activities, and nominations from the floor are accepted. Please send the name of anyone wishing to be nominated (you may nominate yourself) to awg.entry@yahoo.com by May 1st.



Contest Opportunities

Lazuli Literary Group Writing Contest | \$200 Prize - LAZULI

LITERARY GROUP

Top prize

\$200

Additional prizes

Publication in ASURE

Genres:

Crime, Essay, Fantasy, Fiction, Humor, Mystery, Poetry, Science Fiction, Short

Story, Thriller,

Entry fee:  Entry Fee: \$15

Deadline July 22, 2021

L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future Contest

Every three months, winners earn \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, plus an additional annual grand prize worth \$5,000.

Submissions must be short stories or novelettes (up to 17,000 words) in the genre of science fiction or fantasy, and new and amateur writers are welcome to apply.

Deadlines: Quarterly on March 31, June 30 and September 30.

<http://www.writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest/>

Members Only Monthly Contest – 2021

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. Choice of winners is 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 received any time after the 12th of the previous month, but due by 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

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.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Beginnings, Hope, Surprises	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Love, Friendship, Memories	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: <i>play, pattern, peril, point, pride</i>	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: <i>space, soften, sting, sparkle, sphere</i>	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.