



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—JUNE, 2017

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June is Bustin' Out all Over!

Welcome to another new Guild year! AWG celebrated its 49th birthday in May. We enjoyed snacks and hearing several folks give us a taste of their writing. Variety is the spice of life, and we had plenty!

Welcome, also, to two returning Board members, David Dodge, Vice President, and Gail McMillan, Treasurer! Two new Board members were also elected: Linda Gordon and Suanna Davis. Thank you for being willing to serve the Guild, and I am looking forward to working with you! How about some quotes to jump-start your brain; wish I knew all the authors:

Compassion is language the deaf can hear and the blind can see. – Mark Twain

Kindness is in our power even when fondness is not. – Henry James

Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true. – Robert Brault

Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you, not because they are nice but because you are. – Anonymous

Never look down on anyone, unless you are helping them up. – Jesse Jackson

A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you will remember. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble. – Charles Spurgeon

It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice. – John Templeton

Today, give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine he sees all day. – H. Jackson Brown Jr.

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. – Dalai Lama

I always prefer to believe the best of everybody, it saves so much trouble. – Rudyard Kipling

Don't be yourself. Be someone a little nicer. – Mignon McLaughlin

Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it. – Anonymous

Love your enemies – it will confuse them greatly. – Anonymous

There is one word which may serve as a rule for all one's life: reciprocity. – Confucius

Grown-ups know that little things matter and that relationships are based on respect. – Anonymous

Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how. – Henry James

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway. – Henry Boyle

When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people. – Abraham Heschel

If we should deal our justice only in this world, who would escape? No, it is better to be generous for it gains us gratitude. – Mark Twain

Be tender with young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant of the weak, because someday in your life you will be all of these. – George Washington Carver

You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you. – John Wooden

Th-th-th-that's all folks. – Porky Pig

I could NOT resist adding that last one myself. That's all for this Newsletter, but just the beginning for AWG's New Year!

Note that our June meeting is a field trip! Invite someone! See you then.

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

BRAGS AND SAGS

Penny Klostermann breathed a sigh of relief when she received a review from Kirkus of her upcoming book, *A Cooked-Up Fairy Tale*. They liked it! "Klostermann's triple-twisted tale is a cute concoction that children familiar with the traditional stories will enjoy."

Margueite Gray is moving to Louisiana in July. "I've enjoyed my time with all of you. I will remain a member and see you again in the future. Is it possible that I could find a group that I enjoy as much? Hope so." She is also writing the first draft of *Draw Me to Your Side*.

Loretta Walker's book, *Desert Light*, will be published by Lamar University Press July, 2017.

Lou Mougín brags that two books with his writing in them are getting closer to publication, and two comics stories being drawn up. He is getting in gear to write more, particularly *Frankenstein II*.

Barbara Loyd received notice that her poem "Hayride" will be printed in the Lone Stars magazine #86.

Suanna Davis wrote the first version of the District 25 Newsletter for Toastmasters. Will be working on that twice a month for the next year. "Yikes!"

Iris Williams still has not completed her first campaign for her new business. She is getting closer every day (you'd be surprised how many layers there are for content and setup.) She is also writing copy.

Ginny Greene has been writing for the local writers group in Idaho. Also, "Author Timothy Egan came to Twin Falls for a dinner/speech, and his presentation convinced me to read all of his newest books."

Sharon Ellison reports, "Sadly I did not place in the 24-hour story contest, but it was a fun experience and will likely do it again! The winning stories were all really good!"

Jo Cox is still rewriting her book *Creation's Parables*. "It is so close!" Then time for an editor...

WHAT AWG READS

Carla Kerr: *Snow Flower and The Secret Fan* written by Lisa See. Finished reading *Santana War Chief of the Mescalero Apaches* by Almer N. Blazer. "This gripping story is quite sad at times, about the treatment of Mescalero Apaches by the U.S. Army and the Federal Government. It was most interesting to me because I live about 35 miles from the Mescalero Reservation here in New Mexico."

Margueite Gray: *Daughter of Liberty* by JM Hochstetler and *The Scarlet Coat* by Angela Couch. Both are American Revolution historical fiction.

Lou Mougín: *Gathering Steam* by Terry Pratchett.

Suanna Davis: *Expert Secrets* by Russell Bronson and *Speak Like Churchill, Stand Like Lincoln: 21 Powerful Secrets of History's Greatest Speakers* by James C. Humes.

Gail McMillan: *See Me* by Nicholas Sparks, one of my favorite authors.

Iris Williams: *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne.

Ginny Greene: *The Meaning of Everything* by Simon Winchester, - the humongous story of how the Oxford English Dictionary came to be, and almost didn't. *Lion in the Whitehouse* by Aida D. Donald - Teddy Roosevelt, a man who loved the beauty and persuasion of words. *The Immortal Irishman* by Timothy Egan. He also wrote *The Worst Hard Time*, and *The Big Burn. Last Bus to Wisdom*, a fictional coming-of-age story by Ivan Doig about a many-times abandoned boy sent away on the dog bus (Greyhound) by himself toward tumultuous adventure on the way to maturity.

JUNE PROGRAM

Field Trip

Join us for a field trip this month to tour
HV Chapman and Sons
Abilene's old-school Texas bookbinder
and so much more!

June 22, 7:00 PM
802 N. 3rd, Abilene, TX 79603

Permian Basin Writers Workshop

September 13-17, 2017

Midland, TX

www.permianbasinwritersworkshop.com

Arizona Literary Contest

Entry Deadline July 1, 2017

<https://www.azauthors.com/>

Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest

Entry Deadline quarterly & ongoing

<http://www.writersofthefuture.com/contest-rules-writers/>

WTP Literary Competition: Prose

Entry Deadline July 31, 2017

<http://www.thewoventalepress.net/literary-competition-prose/>

Cinequest Screenwriting Competition

Entry Deadline Nov 3, 2017

https://www.cinequest.org/screenplay_submissions

William Faulkner Literary Competition

Entry Deadline July 31, 2017

<http://williamfaulknerliterarycompetition.com>

Paid Members

Jo Cox
Suanna Davis
David Dodge
Carolyn Dycus
Sharon Ellison
Tate Ellison
Sylvia Forbes
Linda Gordon
Mary Gruben
Carla Kerr
Penny Klostermann
Gail McMillan
Sheryl Nelms Pennington
Coy Roper
Mary Ann Smith
Nancy Forbis-Stokes

Children's Art and Literary Festival

The CALF's **Write and Illustrate Your Own Storybook** was a sell-out for both Friday and Saturday sessions. AWG had five volunteers, along with four art teachers (one of whom is also an AWG member). I was especially grateful to have Penny Klostermann address the Saturday group with a short memo of Basic Elements of Story. I wanted to introduce Penny to the class as our resident children's book author. However, a friend's child came crying, and I left to summon her mother. Penny did her own thing beautifully and our creative children did theirs.

Carolyn Dycus

May Monthly Contest Winners

National Sort Story Month
Fiction – 1,000 words or less

1st: **Coy Roper**

"The Other Half of the Apple"

2nd: **Sheryl Nelms** "Elton John"

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

Members Only Monthly Contest - 2017

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: Early submissions received at any time, but by the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send document 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).

Cover Sheet Format: Each entry must include a **separate** cover sheet. Center entry title on page. **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 or line count for poetry (*do not include title in line or word counts*).

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. **Other pages:** entry title at top right with page number.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Snow, Celebrations, Peace	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Pets, Love, Mail	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Star, Clear, Channel, Spare, Harbor	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	Summer, Ice cream, Swimming	Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
JULY	Off and On, In and Out	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Handle, Snap, Column, Green, Turn	Flash entry: Fiction or Poetry 100 max using 5 prompt words

Flash Fiction/Poetry use 5 mandatory prompt words, or close form and meaning.

Examples: Oil = oiled, oils, oiling, oiler, oily not spoil or foil; boat = lifeboat;
speak = unspeakable, not spoken; place = placement; defect = defection or defective.



Fourth Thursday Together

June 22 – 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip
HV Chapman and Sons

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Abilene TX 79604