

**Happy
Thanksgiving**



**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD
NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER
KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH**

**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG
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When Was the First Thanksgiving

Who is not familiar with the story of the “First Thanksgiving” and its celebration? From our earliest school days we were taught how that in September of 1620, 102 courageous passengers boarded a small ship called the Mayflower and left Plymouth, England seeking a new home where they could exercise greater freedom. The treacherous journey lasted more than two months. The Pilgrims eventually began work to establish a village at Plymouth. The first winter for the adventurous souls was brutal with most of the colonists remaining on the ship; only half of them surviving to see the first spring in the New World.

Only after having been taught by the Native American, Squanto, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from the maple trees, catch fish and hunt did the colonists survive. In the fall of 1621, after a successful corn harvest, Governor William Bradford organized a feast to celebrate, which has come to be known as the “First Thanksgiving.” Much of what we know about what happened at the first Thanksgiving celebration comes from Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow, who wrote:

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought

to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty”

There has been some debate as to what was really the first Thanksgiving celebration. In 1565 the Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez de Avile invited the local Native Americans to a dinner to celebrate his crew’s arrival to North America. December 4, 1619 was declared as “a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God” when 38 settlers reached a site known as Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia’s James River. Looking back to ancient times, we find many cultures celebrated by feasting and paying tribute to their gods following fall harvest. I am reminded especially of the Jewish feast of Sukkot.

Days of feasting in celebration with thanksgiving have always been a part of various cultures. Regardless of the origin of the day you celebrate as Thanksgiving, give thanks that we have a time set apart from the normal routine of our days to celebrate with our families the blessings that we enjoy every day.

*Kay Talley-Leach
AWG President*





BRAGS SAGS

David Dodge: BRAG: My latest book, *Rose McKenna* is finished and they made it look pretty. It's the sixteenth in the *Settling the West Series*. I have the seventeenth about half way finished. SAGS: Most of my sags seem to be my health.

Kay Talley-Leach: BRAG: I sold seven more of my books, *Beyond the Rain*, *Living Triumphantly in Grief*.



WHAT AWG READS

Carolyn Dycus - READING: *Word Into Silence* by John Main, a pioneer in introducing Contemplative Prayer, first published in 1980. *Under the Sun* by S. Westley King, our AWG author speaker last June.

Chuck Webber - READING: Vasiliev's *History of the Byzantine Empire*.

Linda Gordon – READING: "*Gilead*" by Marilynne Robinson, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize and other awards. This is a gem of an example of "graceful, incandescent, and intelligent" writing for all writers.

Kay Talley-Leach – READING: *Sacred Rhythms, Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation* by Ruth Haley Barton.

NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM

WHAT AWG

WRITES & READS

It's your time to shine. Come prepared to read one of your writings or to listen to the talent of some of your fellow writers. This is always a fun night to share with others the product of what we glean by attending the monthly meetings.

Thursday
November 17
7:00



Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge
Betty 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: Kay Talley-Leach
(2024)
Executive VP: Darla McCloud
(2023)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison
(2024)
Secretary: Linda Gordon
(2023)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan
(2023)
Board Member: Chuck Weber
(2023)
Board Member: Mary Berry
(2024)
Board Member: Ron Davis
(2024)
Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus
(2023)
Monthly Contest Coordinator:
Linda Gordon

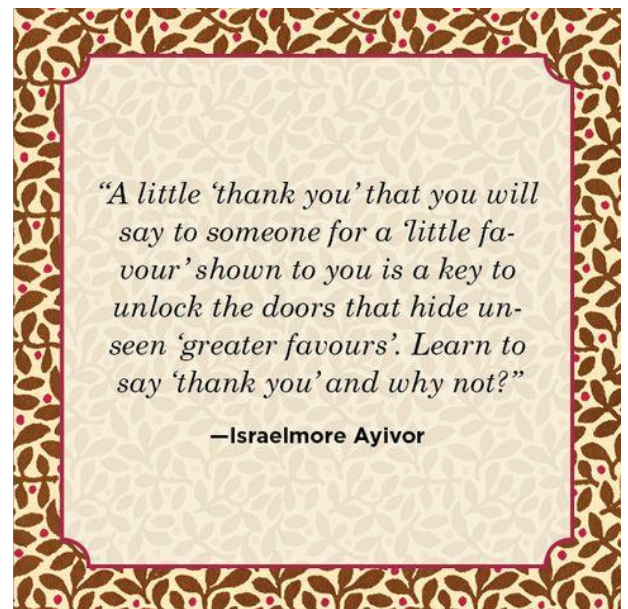


There are just a few more days to put the finishing touches on your winning entry to AWG's ANNUAL CONTEST

Be sure to get your entry sent in by

November 30

Rules are included at the end of this Newsletter



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2022 RULES & CATEGORIES

General information:

website: abilenewritersguild.org

1. Open to any person 15 or older.
2. Entries must be postmarked between Oct. 1, 2022, and Nov. 30, 2022!
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 title in your word count.
5. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2022. 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 type 12: Times New Roman preferred. Type on one side of the page.
6. Separate Cover Sheets for each entry. 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 the middle of page and enter your title on the cover sheet.
7. First page, Poetry/Flash Fiction entries, categories 1-4: Upper right corner: category and number of lines or words. Do not count your title in the word count. Double space down, center your title, double space down again and begin manuscript. Single space. NO author's name on this page.
8. First page, Prose Categories 5-9: Double space all pages with one-inch margins. Upper right corner: type category and number of words. Do not count your title in the word count. 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. NO author's name on this or following pages.

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 out the registration form or facsimile thereof. If you want your entry/entries returned, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with adequate postage; otherwise, your entry will be discarded on or after May 31, 2023. (Needs one 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 2023 and will be published on our Website by April 15, 2023. 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 2023 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 5,6,7,8,9
First Place:	\$70	\$100
Second Place:	45	65
Third Place:	25	35

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2022 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: AWG, c/o 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605 **Email questions:**
AWGWrite@gmail.com

Your email address: _____

Printed Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Street Address: _____ **City:** _____ **St:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

of entries in Categories 1-4 _____ **X \$7 each = \$** _____

of entries in Categories 5-9 _____ **X \$10 each = \$** _____

Your Check Number _____ **TOTAL \$** _____

CATEGORIES		MAXIMUM WORDS/LINES	ENTRY FEE
1. Poetry, Rhymed, any style		50 lines	\$7
2. Poetry, Uhrhymed, any style		50 lines	7
<u>Flash categories, 3 and 4, require use of the five prompt words:</u>			
*3. Flash Poetry: <u>starlight, flood, amusement, flower, power</u>		100 words	7
*4. Flash Fiction: <u>practical, audition, caretaker, thunderstorm, headstrong</u>		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 teens and older	1200 words	10
9. Science Fiction	short story for teens and older	1200 words	10

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