



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—AUGUST 2018

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August Angst

Angst, you say? Yes, most definitely angst. Let me begin by saying I do NOT recommend that anyone live in a house for 41+ years before they move. Hindsight is such a great teacher, isn't it? If you move, oh, say, every 10 years, you should be able to clear out a lot of things you love but don't use or need any more. Such was not the case for me, even though I did do some culling out of furniture and household décor back in February and March.

However, that was before the cancer diagnosis and before surgery, so things pretty much stopped as far as getting rid of things or boxing them up. But, once my little cottage was ready, I began packing some boxes and moving things a little at a time. Since I have some lifting restrictions for the time being, I packed small boxes (sometimes six, eight or ten of them), loaded them into my car, then drove two blocks down the street and unloaded each of them. I suppose there are advantages to only moving two blocks down the street, but in this wild Texas heat, making six, eight, or ten trips from car to house can cause one to drip perspiration!

On August 4, a team of men from my church along with son, Tate, moved my furniture. Oh. My. Goodness! Downsizing from 1700+ sq feet to 856 sq feet is no easy task. Now I have furniture filling each room and boxes sitting around with things to put away, and I am wondering when and IF I will ever get it all done. Oh yes! I forgot to mention that my sofa would NOT fit through my front door. Anyone in the market for a sofa with two recliners that have massage and heat? Feels especially good in the winter.

Now to get my old house and storage

building completely cleaned out and get it listed for sale. I am glad I carry all my sweet memories with me in this move down the street.

Enough about me. I should probably do my AWG job and remind you our annual contest is coming up soon. As usual, entries will be accepted between October 1 and November 30 and one does not need to be a member to enter. As always, I will remind you to read the rules and please follow them. I always say that, yet a few always seem to have a difficult time doing so. You have many writing options and choices, and I look forward to seeing how many entries we have and from whence they originate. Always fun to have entries from out of state or even outside the USA as we have had in past contests! Tell your friends about the contest and encourage them to enter!

Surely by the time entries begin arriving in my mail box, I will actually have a place to put them! There's always hope, right?

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

PAY Your Dues

\$25.00 single membership

\$35.00 family membership

Mail checks to:
Abilene Writers Guild
P.O. Box 2562
Abilene, TX 79604

**FYI: without payment,
August is the last month to
receive an AWG newsletter!**

Check list on page 3.

BRAGS AND SAGS

Iris Williams sang her original song, "Hem of the Garment," at the senior citizens center's Tuesday gospel hour.

Ann Swann has reissued book 3 *Stevie-girl and the Phantom of Crybaby Bridge* and her 4th book in the series, *Stevie-girl and the Phantom of Forever* will be published in a couple of months. However, no one has picked up her latest YA novel even though a couple of big publishers have requested it.

Ann Swann: *The Other* by Stephen King and *All My Perfects* by Colleen Hoover. "It's very readable but has almost as many bad words as Stephen King's Book."

Anthony Burnett had a story picked up by *Crack the Spine* lit mag and it is free to read here:

<http://pub.lucidpress.com/crackthespine239/#324VBUaaU0W9>

Jo Cox finally has air conditioning in the house she and her husband are building. However, she is too tired to edit or write much of anything. She is thankful for those who help fill up the newsletter!

Mary Berry has one of her dolls on the cover of July/Aug *Doll Castle News* magazine which also contains her article on the artist and her work. She also has a display of dolls from her collection representing comic strip and funny book characters in the lobby of Rose Center.

Sharon Ellison's grandson turned 10 and his younger sister turned 8 three days later. My 5'10" 13-year-old grandson helped me move lots of boxes. "I sure do love these three and their two cute cousins who live here, also!" Her sag is she had to move. "Oh, Lordy! What an undertaking!"

Stewart Caffey recently learned that his great-grandfather began keeping a financial ledger in 1889 and continued to do so until his death in 1905. He has been allowed to look through and glean interesting information. Stewart is working on an article on that new information. The ledger will be placed in the Scurry County Museum.

Lou Mougín is getting a new story in the latest *Creeps*, but he is way behind on *Frankenstein 2* and the comics history.

WHAT AWG READS

Iris Williams: *To Fire Called* by Nathan Lowell.

David Dodge: *Cowboy Culture. A saga of five centuries* by David Dary. *Tails of old Tim Texas* by J Frank Doby.

Carolyn Dycus: *Ecclesiastes* (The Bible). "If you want to experience 'Oh nooo! or 'Well, duh,' and defend your position, read this book with friends. A fun and simulating study."

Gail McMillan: *Faith and a Fast Horse* by Charles Lynn Russell, the series' fourth book.

Judy Ware: *Confessions of Saint Augustine* by St Augustine. *Home Front* by Kristin Hannah.

Penny Klostermann: *The Black Book* by James Patterson and David Ellis. Also lots of picture book biographies to revise her first nonfiction project.

Barbara Loyd: *Blonde* by Joyve Carol Oates. A novel based on Marilyn Monroe's life with psychological insights. "Fascinating!"

Lou Mougín: *Dick Tracy* by Max Allan Collins. It is a novelization of the comic strip.

AUGUST PROGRAM

Steve Ridgell is a funny, enthusiastic, passionate speaker and writer. He serves as the Director of Ministry for Hope for Life, a Herald of Truth Ministry. He spends his time motivating, equipping, and encouraging people to help others become followers of Jesus.

A master story-teller, Steve is a popular speaker for churches, men's retreats, and youth programs. His latest book is *Followers Making Followers*. He is also the author of *Can I Tell You a Story*, and has co-authored three additional books. He also writes regularly for *Power for Today*, *Hope for Life*, *Charis*, and *Heartlight*.

An ACU graduate, he and his wife live in Abilene where they raised their two children.

They love spending time with their five grandchildren and enjoy traveling. Steve wishes he had time to hunt, fish, and enjoy sports.

July Members Contest

Summer Nights, Reunions, Flowers

Prose Fiction:

- 1st - **Barbara Loyd**
"Reunion After a Drought"
- 2nd - **Renee Leath** "Milkweed"

Poetry:

- 1st - **Renee Leath**
"It's So Good to See You"
- 2nd - **David Dodge** "Class of '47"

New Members

**Philip Wheat,
Lucrecia & Jeffery Fields**
all from Abilene

Dues are Due

\$25.00 single membership
\$35.00 family membership

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 (2020)
 Executive VP: David Dodge (2019)
 Program VP: Kay Talley (2020)
 Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2020)
 Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2019)
 Board member: Suanna Davis (2019)
 Board member: Linda Gordon (2019)
 Board member: Coy Roper (2020)
 Board member: Mary Ann Smith (2020)
 Alt. Board member: Marry Berry (2020)
 Newsletter editor: Jo Cox
 Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

AWG Membership

If your name is not on this list you have not paid your dues. For questions or corrections, contact Gail McMillan at gmcml5382@taylortel.net

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Phyllis Allen | Carla Kerr |
| Mary Berry | Penny Klostermann |
| Troy Bonar | Kathryn Lay |
| Faith Boren | Renee Leath |
| Katie Boren | Barbara Loyd |
| Alton Bostick | Nancy Masters |
| Tony Burnett | Ann McCrady |
| Stewart Caffey | Gail McMillan |
| Sally Clark | Cindy Mims |
| Jo Helen Cox | Clyde Morgan Sr. |
| Jayne Cummings | Sheryl Nelms |
| Brandon Davis | Yvonne Nunn |
| Nicole Davis | Ryan Olesh |
| Suanna Davis | Seth Pace |
| Janet DeCuir | Rickey Pitman |
| Carolyn Dycus | Barbara Rollins |
| David Dodge | Coy Roper |
| Sharon Ellison | Mary Ann Smith |
| Tate Ellison | Ann Swann |
| Anna Faktorovich | Kay Talley |
| Jeffery Fields | Laura Thaxton |
| Lucrecia Fields | Betty Thomason |
| Nancy Forbis-Stokes | Keith Thomason |
| Debbie Gordon | Mike Walston |
| Linda Gordon | Philip Wheat |
| Becky Haigler | Iris Williams |
| Carol Hamilton | Casey Wilson |
| Sari Jones | Bill Wright |
| Daina Jurika-Owen | |

Kallisto Gaia Press has 2 Contests

<http://www.kallistogaiaipress.org>

(1) Poetry Contest

Deadline: **August 20, 2018**

A portion revenue will be donated to Cancer Research at M. D. Anderson Hospital.

(2) Short Story Contest

Deadline: **August 20, 2018**

A portion of revenue will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2018 -2019

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2018. 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. Type only on one side of each page.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2018. 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 to center of Cover Sheet and center the title.

YOUR NAME DOES NOT GO ON ANY OTHER PAGE.

CATAGORIES 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, 2019.

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, 2019. 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: Adjust, Pretentious, Flabbergasted, Startled, Confirmation	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	Must include these 5 words: Gain, Magenta, Reef, Overwhelmed, Trust	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 2018-2019 CONTEST ENTRY FORM <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/>

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild

c/o S. Ellison

862 Grand Ave.

Abilene, Texas 79605

Email Inquiries to:

Or phone

(325) 665-5195

TrLiSo3@hotmail.com

Bonus

If you are not an AWG member your entry entitles you to free AWG newsletters from January through May 2019

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

Fourth Thursday Together
August 23 – 7:00 p.m.

Steve Ridgell

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604