



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—OCTOBER 2019

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Ahhhhh, October!

Thank goodness it has finally begun to cool off! A little rain and cooler temperatures can do wonders for one's attitude, right?

AWG's annual contest opened October 1, and, as you might expect, I have not received any entries YET! However, I certainly expect to, and I most definitely hope some will be from members of AWG! I love the fact that this contest is open to anyone, anywhere---so get those thinking caps on, members! Here it comes--you knew it would. Be sure to read the rules and follow them! Keep in mind that you may enter as many times as you wish in any categories that you choose--as long as you pay for each entry. For example, if you decide to submit 15 rhymed or unrhymed poems, flash poems or flash fiction stories, you may attach one check in the amount of \$105 (or \$7 for each of those entries) or you may attach individual checks to each one. All other genres are \$10 each. But you knew that, right?

This brings me to another short subject, which is our Flash Spotlight writing opportunity for members. There are no prizes for this new writing event; however, some of your submissions may be printed in the Newsletter from time to time! Look carefully. The rules do NOT say to send your submission as an attachment. Quite the contrary--they say "put the five prompt words in the subject line." Then, "in the BODY of your email, type your title, your name under the title of your submission, then type your submission"... in the email....AS email -- not as an attachment.

You may wonder why we do not make ALL our rules the same or similar for the Monthly Members-only Contests, the Annual Contest or for the Flash Spotlight. Well, the fact is, this is a lesson. Part of AWG's mission is to teach

you how to write, and part of our aim is to teach you how important it is to follow rules! IF you have never had anything published, such as a magazine article, short story, poem, book, etc., you may be surprised to learn that every publisher has their own set of rules! They may be similar, but are always unique to each contest. If you do not follow a publisher's rules when submitting, the publisher's administrative assistant is likely to put your submission in file 13--and we ALL know what file 13 is, right? The trash!

Our rules are NOT meant to seem harsh or unfair. They ARE meant to train you to read and think. So, for the Flash Spotlight only, please do NOT send your submission as attachments. As the coordinator for these submissions, I thank you. (If you have already sent a submission as an attachment, you have received a note from me asking you not to do that in the future--and you have been given grace this time.) You're welcome.

Happy writing, everyone!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Gifts for Noah Project

AWG is collecting Christmas gifts and money donations for the men, women, and children housed in the Noah Project.

Recommended items are journals/diaries, notebooks, pen-pencils, books, and games/puzzles. They have enough crayons and young children's supplies.

Let's challenge young minds to start on a lifelong journey of writing.

Donations and/or money can be given at the Oct or Nov meetings or mailed to Linda Gordon, 2173 Old Ironsides Rd., Abilene, TX 79601. For more information call 325-672-9655.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Luke Gajary is a pastor, author, communicator, and professional nerd who has an established track record of passion and excellence in both the church and corporate worlds. He has self-published two books and is passionate about resourcing others well to tell their stories with excellence!

NEW MEMBERS

Dawson Balencia from Old Glory, TX
Lesly Lynch from Abilene, TX
Chad Mitchell from Abilene, TX
Bill Overton from Haskell, TX

BOOK PUBLISHED & WRITING CONTESTS

Living Springs Publishers announced their anthology, *Stories Through The Ages Baby Boomer Plus 2019*, is available on Amazon. It is the third edition of the series. They are thanking all the writers clubs for supporting their contest. They have ongoing contests. www.livingspringspublishers.com

WHAT AWG READS

Ann Swann: *The Institute* by Stephen King. If you like his older work, you might like it.

Chuck Webber: *The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter Clark and Wallace Stegner.

Mary Berry: *The Pioneers* by David McCullough. "It is an interesting account of the early settlers of the Northwest Territories." *Testaments* by Margaret Atwoods, a sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Jo Cox: many scholarly Journal papers on the Genesis creation.

BRAGS AND SAGS

Ann Swann's suspense novel, *Copper Lake*, is on sale for 99 cents in ebook this month. She is still waiting to begin edits on her new YA novel even though she signed the contact months ago.

Lou Mougin has finished his book, *Joe the Computer*, but it will be a year or two before it gets published. He has started working on a second book and has some comics stuff soon to be published.

David Dodge has seven chapters of a new book written and is trying to move on.

Chuck Webber sent two stories and two poems to national contests. He sent six stories and two poems to AWG contest. He will be getting a teacher for his new WORD program and setting up a website.

Mary Berry is sewing a costume for her grandson and dressing dolls for girls in children's homes has infringed on her writing time this month.

Suanna Davis went to three children's book conferences/workshops. She met several interesting writers and editors.

Jo Cox is still rewriting her book, *Creation's Parables* with editing help from **Suanna Davis**.

Our Life Members:

Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton, Alice Greenwood

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	(2021)
Program VP: Kay Talley	(2020)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2021)
Board member: Linda Gordon	(2021)
Board member:	(2020)
Board member: Mary Ann Smith	(2020)
Board member: Mary Berry	(2021)
Alt. Board member: Darla McLeod	(2020)
Newsletter editor: Jo Cox	
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon	

FLASH SPOTLIGHT (MEMBERS ONLY)

Let's see your creativity and diversity!
WRITE TIGHT! Not a contest, so no prizes;
but, possible publication in our Newsletter!
Follow general rules of good writing.
Submission does not guarantee publication
due to limited space.

Challenge: write a flash story or flash
poem, 50 words or less, using all the prompt
words! One submission per person, per
word group.

Watch the newsletter for new prompt
words to be added periodically.

NEW PROMPT WORDS:
bellicose; rose; round; determined;
voluminous

Submit to: Trliso3@hotmail.com

Subject line: list the prompt words.

Body of Email: Type title, your name, and
poem/prose. Do **NOT** add any attachment.

Submit by: 5th of the month.

PAINT THE HOUSE

by Chuck Webber

I want to paint the house blue.
Such change, I suspect, pleases you.

A tip to the wise,
Which you are, I surmise:
Drop your caution --
Let's try something new.

WRITING CONTESTS

SHORT STORY AWARD

Deadline: November 29, 2019

<https://www.servicescape.com/short-story-award>

AMERICAN HISTORICAL FICTION

Deadline: December 1, 2019

<https://langumfoundation.org/about-prizes/american-historical-fiction/>

LAST MONTH'S PROMPT WORDS:
blue, tip, drop, change, suspect

SOME ADVICE

By Mary Berry

Gentle drops of falling rain
May ultimately flood.
A promising new venture
I suspect to be a dud.
The endless blue of summer skies
Can swiftly gray before your eyes.
Life is patently capricious.
Take a tip from me --
To navigate the changes
It's best to have "Plan B."

TREPIDATION

by Carolyn Dycus

Darkling blue thunderheads
Effect a change in me,
Tipping choice expectations
Out of my happy bucket,
One
drop
at
a
time.
I suspect a storm.

BLINDING

By Linda Gordon

Tory should have suspected. It wasn't
out of the blue. The unfamiliar name of a girl
from Sam's after-school job, casually
dropped with changing frequency, should
have tipped her off. Love is blind, but the
light of truth is so painful that one must close
one's eyes against it.

Hearts for the Arts
Luncheon, October 23, 2019
<https://www.abilenecac.org/hearts>