



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—NOVEMBER 2019

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November Thanks

We often express our thanks during November, especially with food and friends at Thanksgiving; so, allow me to use Abilene Writers Guild as an anagram. I am thankful for:

- A—All our members
- B—being part of this group
- I—interesting topics
- L—learning opportunities
- E—energetic program deliveries!
- N—new members and prospects
- E—eccentric, fun, creative people

- W—writers cheering writers
- R—readiness
- I—ideas
- T—time to learn
- E—education
- R—rules!
- S—skill improvement

- G—goodness
- U—understanding
- I—inspiration
- L—leadership
- D—determination

All these qualities are found in our varied group of members, and I am thankful for each of you!

Our Annual Contest is open. I have received some entries and expect many more! Please write and submit. It closes November 30, so get busy, and follow those rules!

Also, please remember our Christmas emphasis this year is the Noah Project of Abilene. Writing utensils and journals will be

very welcome. Bring your unwrapped gifts to our November meeting, or you may write a check to AWG and gifts will be purchased for delivery. Linda Gordon will do our shopping this year!

Would you be interested in publishing our monthly Newsletter? Do you have some time each month for such a creative endeavor? Jo is “retiring” as our newsletter editor at the end of December, and we all appreciate so very much what a great job she has done for so many years! Now we hope one of you will be willing to step up and serve in this important position.

Please don't be intimidated at how excellently Jo has done our newsletter. There are no rules that you must follow as far as format. You may use your own creativity to get this important service done. Visit with her at our November meeting. She has already said she will be happy to give pointers and explain what and how she does it. But, ultimately, whoever desires the job will be free to do it his or her way. Mainly you need to be willing to communicate with your board of directors and with others! So who is interested? As your president, I'd like to know, too. I will gladly answer as many of your questions as I can.

I am SO enjoying the submissions for our Flash Spotlight section. I hope you will take advantage by giving it a try. It is amazing to see the differences in the way people put words together!

This month our meeting is the 3rd Thursday, so bring food to share with everyone else and something to read that you have written! See you November 21 at 7 pm. Happy Thanksgiving and remember to count your blessings!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Open Mic Night

Come with a reading from one of your works. Encourage fellow writers and give them insight to various genres.

Bring finger foods to share as we give thanks for friendships and accomplishments.

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.

WHAT AWG READS

Dawson Balencia: *Akira* by Katsuhiro Otomo, *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux, and a book version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Mary Berry: The writings of fellow AWG members **Coy Roper**, **David Dodge**, **Glenn Rogers**.

Debbie Gordon: *Late Migrations* by Margaret Renkl, a collection of short stories from a nature lover; an enjoyable read with great illustrations.

Lou Mougins: *The Coldest Winter* by David Halberstam, "Great book on the Korean War," *Last Call for Blackford Oakes* by William F. Buckley, and *Masterstroke* by John Tiger, "An old tie-in novel for the I SPY show."

Sharon Ellison: *Auschwitz Lullaby*, by Mario Escobar, and *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles,

BRAGS AND SAGS

Suanna Davis is doing NaNoWriMo.org (national novel writing month). She rewrote and presented a Tall Tale at the Toastmasters Area contest.

Dawson Balencia has gotten fully back into writing and is planning to return to his daily quota of 3,000 words. He received rejection number 25.

Mary Berry has a photo of her dolls on the cover of the Nov/Dec issue of Doll Castle News. Inside is her piece about a British doll maker is the lead feature.

David Dodge is spending his extra time writing. "This book is going slow." He has a couple books he wishes he had time to read.

Lou Mougins has two stories coming up in CREEPS #23. His current novel, *Joe The Detective Computer*, is done and being edited. He is writing a new novel, *Crom the Barbarian*. He sags, "Wishing a bunch of artists would finish my comic stories."

Daina Jurika-Owen's children's book is with the editor, but she is having a hard time getting back to writing her memoir.

Jo Cox is still editing *Creation's Parables* with **Suanna Davis**. They are over halfway finished. "The end may be near!"

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.

SAME 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.

NEW MEMBERS

Luke Gajary from Abilene
Wil & Meg Gruben from Rotan
Jerry & Denver Reid from Abilene

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/>

Happy Thanksgiving

LAST MONTH'S PROMPT WORDS:
bellicose; rose; round; determined;
voluminous

WARMONGER

by Linda Gordon

Voluminous bellicose rhetoric rose from
his glib and fiery tongue like the spitting
steam of a scalding tea kettle and dispersed
round the young men's heads, diffusing into
tender and unguarded ears, determined to
scorch and cauterize thoughts of love and
peace and leave only thoughts of war.

HAROLD RECITES

by Chuck Webber

When Harold determined to recite
a round of verse,
His bellicose voice filled the air.
He rose to his feet in the poets' competition
Spouting Keats, and there by his chair
His voluminous memory kissed his
mustachioed mouth
With a flair.
In deed, with a flair.

HAPPY TO OBLIGE

by Mary Berry

With a determined look on his face and
his voluminous robe billowing behind, the
pugilist entered the ring. Cheers from the
raucous crowd reached a thunderous roar
as the bell signaled—Round One.

A bellicose voice rose above the din,
"Knock dah bum out!" With one punch the
champ obliged.

BONE SPUR DOUBLE DACTYL

by Bill Overton

Receiving his draft notice,
Trump rose, determined
To skirt round a duty that seemed bellicose;
So daddy must write a voluminous check
To a crooked physician who'd misdiagnose.

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2019 -2020

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. Entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2019. 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. All AWG monthly members-only-contest entries are eligible. Use **ONLY** Times New Roman or Arial font size 12. No fancy fonts! Type only on one side of each page. No limit to number of entries that can be submitted.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, 2019. Entries posted earlier or later than those dates will NOT be judged nor will fees be refunded. Categories will not be judged if there are fewer than 5 entries.

Cover Sheet: Each entry must have a separate cover sheet. Do not put your name on any other page. Cover sheet instructions:

Upper left corner: your name, complete address, telephone # and email address.

Upper right corner: list the category, then the number of words or lines.

Space down to center of page and center the title.

POETRY Categories 1 and 2: Center the title at the top of the first page. List number of lines in upper right corner. Double space down and begin. May be single or double-spaced. Do **NOT** put your name on your poem.

FLASH POETRY Category 9: Same rules as for Categories 1 and 2, but list number of words in upper right corner.

CATAGORIES 3-8: Center the title at the top of the first page only. Double-space and begin typing. *Double-space all pages*. **On all other pages: upper right corner, type title and page number. Do NOT put your name on any of these pages!**

Other Information: Staple separate coversheet to each manuscript or poem. Attach your check(s) with a paperclip. One check may cover multiple entries, but each entry **MUST** have its own cover sheet. If you want your entry/entries returned with judges' comments, please provide a large **SASE with adequate postage**. Entries without large enough return SASEs will be destroyed after April 30, 2020.

Reminder: Please follow the guidelines. Decisions of the judges are final. Prizes will be presented March 21, 2020, at our Workshop. Please check our website and/or Newsletter for registration, time and place 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

#	Category	Description (Do <u>not</u> include Title in Word Count)	Max # Lines or Words	Fee Per Entry
1	Poetry, Rhymed	Rhymed — in any style	50 lines	\$ 7
2	Poetry, Unrhymed	Unrhymed — 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.	750 words	\$10
4	Articles of General Interest—Non personal general information	Subjects suitable for newspapers, magazines, or journals — any subject	1200 words	\$10
5	Inspiration	Prose or drama. Not necessarily religious	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 for adults or teens	1200 words	\$10
8	Flash Fiction	<u>Must use these 5 words in your story:</u> adjust, magnolia, freedom, experiment, solitude	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	<u>Must use these 5 words in your poem:</u> genius, merchant, justice, conquer, floral	25 words	\$ 7

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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. Or phone
 Abilene, Texas 79605 (325) 665-5195
Email Inquiries to: TrLiSo3@hotmail.com

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

Members Only Monthly Contest - 2020

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 at any time after the 12th of the previous month, but due by the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send document as attachments 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 coversheets 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 or **line count** for poetry (*Do not count 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	"Rock" the New Year (any definition of "rock")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Hearts on "Fire" (any definition of "fire")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Mix, Jam, Twine, Ring, Ticket	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	Make a Splash (anything to do with "water")	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Slip, Match, Trace, Key, Pretend	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.

Third Thursday Together

November 21 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Mic Night
With Snacks

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604