



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

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A Little Good News

As if suffering through the effects of the pandemic and watching as social upheaval and civil unrest disrupt our increasingly fractionalized country were not enough, AWG members have had to endure additional privation. We have gone four months without a meeting and have one more month of cancellation scheduled. Not only have we missed the camaraderie of our fellow writers, but we have also foregone a number of enjoyable events. The Workshop scheduled for March was postponed. We were unable to participate in the much anticipated “Open Mic” night in May when we have the opportunity to share our creative efforts with fellow members and to enjoy their work. The 51st birthday of the Guild marking the end of the 2019-2020 year went by without a celebration, and the 2020-2021 year opened without a welcome. The usual reminder to pay our dues could not be given in person, and informative and entertaining programs have been put on hold.

There is good news. The newsletter that Kay Talley agreed to edit on a trial basis returned just in time to allow us to stay connected. We appreciate her willingness to take on the task and congratulate her on a job well done. Linda Gordon is still reminding everyone to participate in the monthly Members Only Contest. August is the final month and features “flash” writing, a challenging exercise with a potential bonus – the cash award for first place will almost pay

your annual dues. The Writing Workshop to be presented by Nancy Robinson-Masters has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 12. The morning will offer a “roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-to-work” session that promises good information for all participants. I hope that you have made plans to attend.

With as much certainty as any plans can be made these days we plan to meet on August 27. In the meantime your Board members have been carrying on their responsibilities and making preparations for a great year to come.

With the uncertainty, stress, and interruption of normal day-to-day living that so many of us are experiencing, our levels of anxiety and even depression can increase even without our being aware of the fact. Let me leave you with this thought. Studies show that laughter provides both physical and psychological benefits. It can make you feel happier and can actually lead to better health. If nothing seems funny, even a forced laugh can get results. Try a little “laugh yoga.” Stretch out your arms, turn up the corners of your mouth, and repeat “Ha-ha-ha. Ho-ho-ho. He-he-he” a few times. You will feel the difference. Like the virus, laughter is contagious. Spread a little around. All of us can use a little more happiness in our lives – especially now. With luck we can share a laugh together on August 27.

Mary Berry

AWG President

NO MEETINGS UNTIL AUGUST

Since our meeting place is closed until August 17 we will look forward to seeing you on August 27

DEADLINE AUGUST 1

\$25.00 Single membership

\$35.00 family membership

Please mail your dues to

Gail McMillan

419 Meadow Ln

Abilene, TX 79602

If you joined AWG since March 2020 your dues come due next year

NO MEMBERSHIP NO NEWSLETTER

Don't DELAY

PAY Your's TODAY

Our Officers

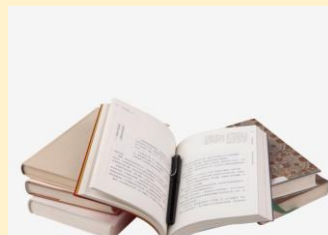
| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| President: Mary Berry | (2022) |
| Executive VP: David Dodge | (2021) |
| Program VP: Sharon Ellison | (2022) |
| Secretary: Carolyn Dycus | (2021) |
| Treasurer: Gail McMillan | (2021) |
| Board Member: Linda Gordon | (2021) |
| Board Member: Darla McCleod | (2021) |
| Board Member: Mary Ann Smith | (2022) |
| Board Member: Kay Talley | (2022) |
| Alt. Board Member: Chuck Weber | (2022) |

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

STRESSED BY THE MESS?

Escape in a good story

Hop into a good book and travel to amazing places and experience interesting adventures



Our Life Members

Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters

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

BENEFITS OF AWG MEMBERSHIP

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- MONTHLY MEETINGS
- WRITING SKILLS INFO
- CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES
- CASH PRIZES
- CRITIQUES

**A BARGAIN TOO
GOOD TO PASS UP**

PAY BY AUGUST 1



WHAT ANUQ READS



Lou Mougín is reading a fan history book on Perry Mason, a comic book history of pro wrestling, the latest Stephen King, and a book about dead rock stars.

Marguerite Gray is reading *A Very Austen Romance* (Anthology, various authors) and *Permelia Cottage* by Carole Lehr Johnson.

Penny Klosterman is reading *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*. It's a non-fiction novel written by Daniel James Brown and I'm really enjoying it.

Stewart Caffey shares that the latest book he has read is *Damaged* by Lisa Scottoline.

Chuck Webber recently read *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Girl who Played with Fire*, and also the instructions to a new pizza stoneware plate for coking pizza.

Judy Ware has been reading novels *Brave Girl*, *Quiet Girl* by Catherine Ryan Hyde and *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

Carla Kerr finished reading *Nickel Boys* by Colson White, read *The Art of Her Deal* by Mary Jordan; currently reading *The Room Where It Happened* by John Bolton. After all of this heavy stuff, I'm about ready for some frivolous reading. The Bolton book is fascinating because you learn a lot about what goes on behind the scenes. Melania's book by Mary Jordan is basically light reading and reveals very little about this very private woman. Also, the hype on this book is extremely misleading because there is nothing in it about her renegotiating the prenup with Trump. With COVID19 so prevalent in New Mexico, I stay home, read and paint to keep from getting depressed.

Sharon Ellison recently finished *Watercolor Dreams* by Sherry Kyle, set in 1910 New England, and is now reading *The Litigators* by John Grisham. She also has a friend's new manuscript to edit.

Kay Talley is reading *Jesus in Me: Experiencing the Holy Spirit as a Constant Companion* by Anne Graham Lotz; and *The Spirit-Led Heart: Living a Life of Love and Faith without Borders* by Suzanne Eller.

Carolyn Dycus picked up three books at Abilene Mall library site: LOTS of new arrivals, not yet shelved, so fun to look through them.

A thriller, *Empire of Lies*, by Raymond Khoury, *Pursuit* by Joyce Carol Oates, and a *Night's Tail* by Sofie Kelly (a Magical Cats mystery).

Mary Berry is reading *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, a fascinating historical non-fiction about the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and a serial killer who was active at the same time near the fair. *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts is a sweeping 900+ page novel relating the improbable adventures in India of an escapee from an Australian prison.

You, too, can be a winner

Just pay your dues

And write to enter.





BRAGS

& SAGS

Lou Mougín: BRAG: Getting a story in this month's CREEPS written for a Frazetta cover. Getting more stories accepted beyond that. Turning in the manuscript for the next comics history book.

SAGS: Not knowing if they've accepted the latest comics history book.

Ann Swann: BRAG: Aug 4 - that's when my new book, TELEPHONE ROAD, will be released. <https://www.authorannswann.com>.

Marguerite Gray: BRAG: I'm participating in NaNoWriMo in July, hoping to write 50,000 words of my WIP, *Whispers of Wisdom*.

Mary Berry: BRAG: My article about the women's suffrage movement and dolls depicting Suffragists was published in the July/August *Doll Castle News* magazine.

David Dodge: BRAG: just finished my fourth book this year and they are all available on Amazon as an e-book or paperback. The fourth book is still being edited but will publish once it is finished. My sag is, can I make it to the 29th of this month to turn ninety before I get hit with the virus?



Members Contest Winners

Prose

1st Place - Kay Talley - "Mary's Storm"

2nd Place – Chuck Webber

"Getting a Drink in Birmingham in 1954"

HM – Coy Roper

"The Honeymoon Cruise and the March of Dimes"

Poetry

1st Place – Chuck Webber – "Water"

2nd Place – Mary Berry – "A Dichotomy"

HM – Judy Sitton Ware – "His Love, the River"

DON'T FORGET
AWG Workshop

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Registration begins at 8:30 with the program following quickly, so please be prompt! Come ready to write during this hands-on workshop presented by well-known local and national writer and speaker, Nancy Robinson-Masters!

Location: Southeast corner of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas, at the intersection of Hickory and North 2nd streets. There is parking near the south entrance to the building and also directly across the street from the meeting room. Cost is \$25 per person. Call 665-5195 and leave a message with your name and number to reserve your space, or leave a message if you have questions. Bring a friend!

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to Coy Roper, in the death of his wife Sharlotte.

LAST CHANCE

This Year

MEMBERS ONLY
CONTEST

Flash Fiction or Poetry

100 words or less

Mandatory Words:

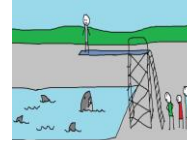
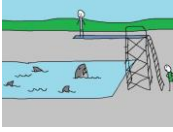
Slip, Match, Trace, Key, Pretend

Deadline: August 12

TAKE THE PLUNGE

DIVE RIGHT IN

Prize Money



"Virus Poems" Poetry Contest

Public Poetry

For "Virus Poems" we're asking for your response to the pandemic and the times we're in now. While we're hunkered down, we can also be productive, allowing ourselves to reflect and clean out some of the cobwebs that cling to us – all good stuff for writing poetry. Maximum 40 lines.

Deadline: August 31, 2020

<https://publicpoetry.submittable.com/submit/163080/virus-poems>

Jack Grapes Poetry Prize

Next Echo Foundation/Cultural

Weekly

Cultural Weekly's Jack Grapes Poetry Prize seeks submissions from poets all over the globe, and is free to enter.

Deadline: August 31, 2020

<https://www.culturalweekly.com/the-poetry-contest-is-open-2020/>

4th Annual

Texas Short Story Contest

Deadline: October 2, 2020

https://www.bethuneandson.com/uploads/9/1/5/1/9151355/2020_contest_entry_rules_directions.pdf

100 Word Flash Fiction

Contest

FanStory

Write a flash fiction story on any topic that uses exactly 100 words. The winner takes away a \$100 cash prize. All writers will receive feedback for their submission.

Deadline: September 16, 2020

<https://www.fanstory.com/contestdetails.jsp?id=105830>

DON'T LET IT SLIP BY

PAY YOUR DUES BY

AUGUST 1

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.