



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—APRIL 2019

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April Poems

Since the members-only contest this month was poetry, here is a little poem I have heard since I was young:

Spring Has Sprung (author unknown)

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz
I wonder where the birdie is
The bird is on the wing? How absurd!
I always thought the wing was on the bird.

It seems that Spring always inspires poets. Here is another poem for your enjoyment:

Sonnet 98 (William Shakespeare)

From you have I been absent in the spring,
When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,
That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped with him.
Yet nor the lays of birds, nor the sweet smell
Of different flowers in odour and in hue,
Could make me any summer's story tell,
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew:
Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,
Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;
They were but sweet, but figures of delight
Drawn after you, -- you pattern of all those.
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,
As with your shadow I with these did play.

Those are exact opposites as far as English is concerned, but each shares a view of Spring, and I, for one, am glad it's here!

Join us this month to learn the winners of our Second Annual Children's Writing Contest. The program will be presented by a magician, which should tickle the fancy of the kid in all of us. There will be refreshments, too. Come on!

Hopefully you enter more contests than just AWGs. Doing so will be very helpful to you in writing to editor's specifications, because (as I always say), one must learn to

follow the rules. Here is an opportunity for those of you who are interested. Pull out something you have written for AWG, tweak it and submit it. Go ahead, give it a try!

Living Springs Publishers LLP:

accepting submissions for two short story contests. Winners to be published in their book, *Baby Boomers Plus*, entry deadline, June 15, 2019

<http://livingspringpublishers.com/index.php/contests/>

Here's one last poem to ponder:

The Argument of His Book (Robert Herrick)

I sing of brooks, of blossoms, birds, and bowers,
Of April, May, of June, and July flowers.
I sing of May-poles, hock-carts, wassails, wakes,
Of bridegrooms, brides, and of their bridal-cakes.
I write of youth, of love, and have access
By these to sing of cleanly wantonness.
I sing of dews, of rains, and piece by piece
Of balm, of oil, of spice, and ambergris.
I sing of Time's trans-shifting; and I write
How roses first came red, and lilies white.
I write of groves, of twilights, and I sing
The court of Mab, and of the fairy king.
I write of Hell; I sing (and ever shall)
Of Heaven, and hope to have it after all.

Happy Spring, everyone!

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

NEW MEMBERS
David Perkins, Brandon Stanley,
and Philip Jorgensen, all from Abilene

BRAGS AND SAGS

Lou Mougín is getting some utterly fantastic art on his teen humor story. However he still needs 3 more pages done on the latest script.

Chuck Webber just bought a new computer and need to get it filled with old stuff and added to with new stuff. "Dreary task. Gotta hire help." He wants to establish a website, which gave him the reason for buying a new computer.

David Dodge received proofs of his latest book. "They look good. Should get my order for more soon."

Carla Kerr was so excited to receive a blue ribbon and a check for \$100 for her entry in the AWG Annual Contest section of Memoir/Nostalgia. "Thanks so much to the Abilene Writer's Guild and their judges for selecting my entry and for the award." She is also dedicated to finishing the third book of a trilogy she started some years ago of which the first two books are published. The book's name is *John Ross Crittenden*. It is a historical novel about her great grandfather, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. "As a result, I write every day and there's not much time left for reading."

Rickey Pittman is writing his next ABC (Alphabet book) on the Five Civilized Tribes, working on his novel set in North Texas during the Comanche and Kiowa Wars, *The Month the Babies Cry*, and working constantly on writing new songs.

Mary Berry's latest article in *Doll Castle News* has a piece she wrote to answer the question, "Why do you collect dolls?" "I was pleasantly surprised that a number of readers have responded with very positive comments." The next issue will contain a research article about Patti Playpal dolls. Her sag: she intended to write three poems for the monthly contest but only completed one.

Jo Cox is writing on her latest book, *Messiah's Parables*. Which means she is reading lots of OT Bible. She wrote a poem and was going to send it to this months Members Only Contest, but forgot to send it. Sag.

WHAT AWG READS

Mary Ann Smith: *Daniel Fleming* by David Dodge. "I recommend this book as a good read, similar to the westerns I read as a kid." Also, *Monday Morning Faith* by Lori Copeland.

Lou Mougín: *The Adventuress* by Carole Nelson Douglas. Also, *Blacklisted by History* by M. Stanton Evans.

Chuck Webber: *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). "Lots of scholastic analysis detail and unfamiliar words." Also, *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* by Tom Wolfe. "I found for a quarter at a thrift store. Really like."

Carla Kerr: *Ruth Bader Ginsburg (A Life)* by Jane Sherron De Hart. "This is a book I can read a few pages at a time as time allows while I'm writing my book."

Kay Talley: *Lord of Her Heart* by Sherrinda Ketchersid, "A Christian romance novel set in Medieval times."

Rickey Pittman: *Shadow Country*, three novels by Peter Mathiessen, (*Killing Mr. Watson, Lost Man's River, and Bone for Bone*.) A masterpiece and epic writing about the Everglades.

Our Life Members:

Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton, 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:	Mary Berry	(2020)

Newsletter editor: Jo Cox

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

March Members Contest Winners

Poetry:

- 1st - **Sheryl Nelms**,
"South Dakota Badlands"
2nd - **Carolyn Dycus**, "Revelation!"
HM - **Cindy Mims**, "Life"
a

Prose:

- 1st - **Coy Roper**,
"The Blue Creatures"
2nd - **Coy Roper**, "Doreen's Dilemma"
HM - **Mary Berry**,
"Some Explaining to Do"
HM - **Sarie Jones**,
"The Jewel of the Moon"
HM - **Kay Talley**, "Amy's Innocence"
HM - **Chuck Webber**,
"Prying off the Lid"

CHALLENGE

Carolyn Dycus's door prize at March's Annual Contest Awards meeting was Glenn Dromgoole's little book, *The Power of a Penny*. It contains hundreds of ways our seemingly small gifts of encouragement, words, smiles, and friendships are listed in real people events that change our world. What can we, as writers, put together using Dromgoole's example to cite actual illustrations? "I will be glad to loan this wee publication to my fellow members. It's a little jewel!"

UNO PUBLISHING LAB PRIZE

Submit: full-length fiction manuscripts
Deadline: August 31, 2019
Prize: \$10,000 advance

For more information and
to submit online visit:
<http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx>

APRIL PROGRAM

PRESENTING THE WINNERS OF AWG'S ANNUAL CHILDREN'S WRITING CONTEST

Special guest: magician, **Jay Zugai**.

Magic is both my passion and my hobby.

I started learning and performing magic at the young age of 11 and it has always been a pleasure to entertain others. My tricky dog assistant, Eli, introduces a new and exciting aspect to my performances. There is a touch of comedy in all of my acts and I always have fun with the audience.

Born in South Carolina to a military family, I've had the opportunity to travel to Europe, Asia, and many parts of the U.S. but I've called Abilene, TX, my home for most of my life. I have been awarded the Texas State Champion trophy and title by the Texas Association of Magicians and attend their annual convention each year with fellow magicians to perform and improve my skills.

I have been in the Abilene Reporter News for driving a car blindfolded, entertaining children at the Hendrick Home for Children, and being cuffed by the Policeman of the Year before escaping under water. My performances are always evolving to provide the best entertainment possible and I love leaving my audience in awe.

AWG Volunteers needed

For the Write and Illustrate Your Own
Storybook session of the
Children's Art and Literary Festival (CALF)

Assist children, 7-12 years old, in writing and
illustrating their own children's book.

Where: Grace Museum, downtown Abilene

When: Fri June 7 and Sat 8, 4-5 PM

Email Carolyn Dycus dycus62@msn.com to
sign up to work the festival.

Find out more: www.abilenecac.org/calf

2018-2019 Annual AWG Contest Winners

Articles of General Interest: 1 entry

not enough to judge

Inspiration: 7 entries, judge Barbara Rollins

- 1st Place – As Natural as Breathing
- 2nd Place – Be Strong and Courageous
- 3rd Place – Shoes of Faith,
- HM - A Tribute to Mothers

Linda Gordon, Abilene
Judy Ware, Cisco
Sherrie Murphree, Amarillo
Coy Roper, Abilene

Unrhymed Poetry: 36 entries, judge Sheryl Nelms

- 1st Place – Cottonwood
- 2nd Place – Mid-Autumn
- 3rd Place – Murky Morning
- HM – Garage Band Rehearsal 1966
- HM – It's So Good to See You!

Judy Ware, Cisco
Emmilee Carr, Abilene
Ethan Scarborough, Abilene
Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX
Renee Leath, Abilene

Rhymed Poetry: 15 entries, judge Ginny Greene

- 1st Place – Human Composite
- 2nd Place – To Write and Never Read
- 3rd Place – Places In 5
- HM – The Cobbler

Judy Ware, Cisco
Judy Ware
Nick Sweet, Shepherd
Nick Sweet

Fiction for Adults: 15 entries, judge Anna Faktorovich

- 1st Place – Neighborhood Watch
- 2nd Place – Milkweek
- 3rd Place – The Heart Place
- HM – Lightening Rod
- HM – The Choice

Dee Dee Chumley, Oklahoma
Renee Leath, Abilene
Marsha Porter, Sacramento, California
Dwight Evans, Abilene
Dee Dee Chumley

Flash Poetry: 13 entries, judge Karen Riley Bishop

- 1st Place – The Voyager
- 2nd Place – Collisions
- 3rd Place – Last Thoughts of a Sailor
- HM – Proposal Accepted
- HM – Water Dreams

Elizabeth Fulgim, Abilene
Caleb Queen, Abilene
Seth Pace, Abilene
Sheree Murphree, Amarillo
Carolyn Dycus, Abilene

Flash Fiction: 7 entries, judge Karen Riley Bishop

- 1st Place – Winners & Losers
- 2nd Place – The Annual Poodle Pageant
- 3rd Place – An Old Renewal
- HM – The Bride

Linda Gordon, Abilene
Janet Decuir, Abilene
Nick Sweet, Shepherd
Nancy Forbis-Stokes, Abilene

Memoir/Nostalgia: 10 entries, judges Alton Bostick, Jean Watters, Bob Waldron

- 1st Place – Older Women, Younger Men
- 2nd Place – A. P. Capstone, Class of 2019
- 3rd Place – Blame It on the Snickerdoodles
- HM – Gold at the End of the Rainbow
- HM – Feelings Matter

CC Crittendon (Carla Kerr), New Mexico
Miriam Dawson, Abilene
Coy Roper, Abilene
Marsha Porter, Sacramento, CA
Cindy Mims, Abilene

Children's Stories: 7 entries, judge Martha Faulkner

- 1st Place – What Is A Family?
- 2nd Place – Weldon, the Wet One
- 3rd Place – Princess Phobia

Annette Griffin, San Antonio
Reed Ambrose, Abilene
Dwight Evans, Abilene

Members Only Monthly Contest - 2019

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: Early submissions received at any time, 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 include title in 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	New Year's Eve, Winter	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Games, Candy, Friendship	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Gift, Revelation, Break, Jewel, Blue	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	Independence, Beaches, Weddings	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Rain, Letter, Skip, Clear, Disguise	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.

Fourth Thursday Together

April 25 – 7:00 p.m.

Presenting the Winners of AWG's
Annual Children's Writing Contest

Special guest: magician, Jay Zugai

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

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