



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—JUNE 2018

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What Happened to May?

Oh, that's right. I missed most of May by having had cancer surgery. Now I remember. And you dear people re-elected me for another two-year term when I was not present. Thank you (I think.)

Seriously, I am looking forward to working with the Board over the next two years, and I truly appreciate everyone carrying on so well in my absence. That's the way things are supposed to work, so many thanks for doing your jobs so well. And thank you Mary Berry for being willing to serve!

I may have missed AWG's 49th birthday celebration, but I understand there was a great program and y'all had a good time celebrating afterward, plus there were some new members added. Always nice!

This has already been a strange year for me. When I found myself in the middle of this cancer journey back in February, I thought of many who have already fought it and won. I have truly appreciated the encouraging words of so many women who have paved the way along this road I never expected to travel.

I am slowly regaining my strength since surgery. Not going as fast as I would like, but then I had no idea what to expect. My plans for this summer have had to be re-arranged considerably due to these medical issues and follow up visits to my physicians in Dallas. PLUS, when the pathology report was received, we all learned I actually had cancer in both breasts instead of just one, which makes me doubly glad I made the decision I made. It was a surprise to the physicians as well as to me. My summer will be spent going for post op and other visits to the doctors, but let me just tell you that I

have the best group of friends who have volunteered to either take me to these appointments or just go with me. It sure makes the time pass faster when you have fun people along for the ride!

Because of all that is going on, I will not be doing any mission trips this summer, which really bothers me more than the post op visits. Just makes me sad that I won't get to see some old friends in foreign places, but there is always next year! It is always good to look ahead.

Speaking of looking ahead, I would like to remind you that our monthly members-only contests end in August, so if you have been thinking all year about entering one of these contests, your time is fast running out. So get busy. Put on your thinking cap and send in those entries.

Check out the July and August categories in this Newsletter and get those creative juices flowing.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting this month, and I send my thanks to those of you who have been praying for me and encouraging me in this journey.

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Dues are Due

\$25.00 single membership

\$35.00 family membership

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

BRAGS AND SAGS

Lou Mougin had a reset on a word program that wiped out a good portion of FRANK 2. However, he had sent previews of it to a friend and is getting most of it back.

David Dodge has about finished his 5th book. His sag, "I don't have a good ending in mind. Maybe it will hit me , soon I hope!"

Cindy Mims says her grandchildren, Easton Allred (2nd grade) and Payton Allred (4th grade), made Million Word Readers this year and went to the Million Word Party, May 21st at ACU.

Suanna Davis has read and commented on ch. 2 of Jo Cox's book, *Creation's Parables*. Jo is very happy, but sadly, Suanna has not written anything else.

Jo Cox has been fighting computers and programs building a website for her books. "Thank God for **Iris Williams!**"

Loretta Walker will be published in *The Langdon Review Volume 15*, a journal published by Tarleton State University. She will be a panel presenter at the Langdon Review weekend in September and the featured presenter for the Genealogy Society on June 23.

Did I Mention, Dues are Due?

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\$35.00 family membership

May Members Contest

National Short Story Month

- 1st - Coy Roper - "Tiger Farming File"
- 2nd - Carolyn Dycus - "Wickedness"
- HM - Cindy Mims – "The Three Little Tuxedos"
- HM - Sheryl Nelms – "The Cheese Shark"
- HM - Kay Talley – "Hope Rising"

WHAT AWG READS

Lou Mougin: *33 Revolutions per Minute: A History of Protest Songs, from Billie Holiday to Green Day* by Dorian Lynskey. *The Best and the Brightest* by David Halberstam.

Mary Ann Smith: *Almost Friend's* by Phillip Gulley. "Read, if you want a down-to-earth preacher's life. Although I don't always agree with the beliefs of his Quaker minister main character, I enjoy the books. His sense of humor appeals to me."

Carla Kerr: *A Higher Loyalty* by James Comey, well written and interesting. *The Secret Life of Mrs. London* by Rebecca Rosenberg. "Not the genre I usually read, but I'm over half way through it and find it fascinating."

Suanna Davis: *Parasol Protectorate* series by Gail Carriger (steampunk fiction).

JUNE PROGRAM

THE FINE ART OF MARKETING

Anna Faktorovich, Ph.D. is the Director and Founder of the Anaphora Literary Press. Recently she has taught college English at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Previously, she taught for three years at the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and the Middle Georgia State College. She has a Ph.D. in English Literature and Criticism. She published two academic books with McFarland, two poetry collections with Fomite Press and Anaphora, two historical novels, two fantasy novellas and has written and illustrated a children's book.

Anna has been editing and writing for the independent, tri-annual Pennsylvania Literary Journal since 2009, and started the second Anaphora periodical, Cinematic Codes Review in 2016. She has presented her research at the MLA, SAML, EAPSU, SWWC, BWWC and many other conferences. She won the MLA Bibliography, Kentucky Historical Society and Brown University Military Collection fellowships. Come enjoy hearing her discuss the fine art of marketing!

Returning AWG Membership

For questions or corrections,
contact Gail McMillan at
gmcml5382@taylortel.net

Phyllis Allen	Becky Haigler
Mary Berry	Carol Hamilton
Katie Boren	Sarie Jones
Alton Bostick	Carla Kerr
Sally Clark	Gail McMillan
Jo Helen Cox	Yvonne Nunn
Jayne Cummings	Seth Pace
Janet DeCuir	Sheryl Nelms
Brandon Davis	Rickey Pitman
Carolyn Dycus	Coy Roper
David Dodge	Mary Ann Smith
Nancy Forbis-Stokes	Betty Thomason
Linda Gordon	Casey Wilson

New Members

**Troy Bonar, Nicole Davis
Ryan Olesh, Mike Walston**
from Abilene

Faith Boren
from Lubbock

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	

Interesting Writing Programs

Autocrit

Manuscript editing software for fiction
<https://www.autocrit.com/>

Consistency Checker

Free software targeted for non-fiction.
It checks chapters but not an entire book.
<https://intelligentediting.com/apps/consistency-checker/>

Grammarly

Gives line-by-line and summary forms.
Settings for various writing styles.
A free version for spelling and grammar.
Can be used on multiple devices.
<https://www.grammarly.com/>

ProWritingAid

A more thorough critique than Grammarly.
A scaled-down version is free online.
<https://prowritingaid.com/>

Hemingway

Highlights complex sentences, passive voice,
and errors.
<http://hemingwayapp.com/>

MasterWriter

<http://masterwriter.com/>
This is a thesaurus on steroids.

Kallisto Gaia Press has 2 Contests

(1) Poetry Contest

Deadline: August 20, 2018

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

(2) Short Story Contest

Deadline: August 20, 2018

A portion of any revenue generated will be
donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for
Parkinson's Research

<http://www.kallistogaiaipress.org>

Members Only Monthly Contest - 2018

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 by the 12th of the contest month.

Enter by Email Only: Send document 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).

Cover Sheet Format: Each entry must include a **separate** cover sheet. Center entry title on page. **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*).

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. **Other pages:** entry title at top right with page number.

MONTH	THEME	CATEGORY
JANUARY	Ice, Fresh Starts, Power Outages	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
FEBRUARY	Hearts, First Love, Cards	Poetry – 50 lines or less Non-Fiction – 1,000 words or less
MARCH	Mandatory prompt words: Left, Bark, Fly, Seal, Cover	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	Summer Nights, Reunions, Flowers	Poetry – 50 lines or less Fiction – 1,000 words or less
AUGUST	Mandatory prompt words: Light, Refrain, Stoop, Lash, Gold	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
June 28 – 7:00 p.m.

Anna Faktorovich
The Fine Art of Marketing

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