



# BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—SEPTEMBER 2019

[abilenewritersguild.org](http://abilenewritersguild.org) [jocox1awg@catnapin.com](mailto:jocox1awg@catnapin.com)

## September!

Personally I feel as if we are still in the summer heat. Bring on some cooler weather and some rain. September? The year is flying by, and it has nothing to do with my age or yours!

This month there is something new only for AWG members. It's our "Flash Spotlight". So, if you haven't already joined our Guild, you might want to go ahead and pay those dues, because you will have many opportunities to hone your skill over the next 12 months!

There is more information on page 3, but your Board wants to encourage everyone to put your creative caps on and join the fun. You will receive five (5) prompt words, all of which must be used in your story OR poem, but NOT in the title. It's entirely up to you whether you do a story or a poem, BUT you are limited to one submission for each group of prompt words. Check the first set and start thinking about an interesting, surprising, thought-provoking story or poem. Send your "Flash Spotlight" story or poem via email to: [Trliso3@hotmail.com](mailto:Trliso3@hotmail.com).

PLEASE list the five prompt words in the email subject line.

Center the title on your email page, PUT YOUR NAME under the title of your story or poem, skip a line and type your story or poem.

Once submissions are in, they will be read and reviewed. Two will be published in an upcoming Newsletter. It should be fun to see how different people handle and use the same words. If Jo has more room in the Newsletter, we may publish more than two. We may publish more stories or poems using the same words in the following Newsletter or move on to new prompts. It all depends on your participation.

Don't confuse this with our Annual Writing Contest which opens October 1 and runs through November 30, 2019. Anyone age 15 and over may enter. Rules for the Annual Writing Contest are in this Newsletter and are published on our website. All these entries must be mailed with payment attached for each genre or poem. See the entry form below. Entries postmarked before October 1 or after November 30 will not be judged nor will they or the payments be returned. No email submissions are accepted in the Annual Writing Contest.

Be sure to follow the rules. (You knew I would toss in that advice!) Some are slightly different this year, so read carefully. Remember, for the Annual Writing Contest, the writer's name goes ONLY on the cover sheet and NEVER on the entry itself, but you must put the title of your submission on your entry. Enter as many times as you wish! You may staple checks to the entries.

Looking forward to receiving submissions in this new Flash Spotlight and entries in our annual contest! Ready, set, GO!

**Sharon Ellison**

AWG President

**Hearts for the Arts**
  
*Abilene Writers Guild's*
  
*volunteer of the year*
  
*is our newsletter editor.*
  
  
**Congratulations**
  
**!!! Jo Cox !!!**
  
  
*Thank you for the years of service!*

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

### From Dream to the Big Screen

Chad Mitchell is a gifted communicator. His unique, straight forward speaking style has given him the privilege to speak all over Texas and much of the U.S. Chad has a B.B.S. from Hardin Simmons University and a M.Ed. in Counseling and Human Development.

Chad, has co-authored the internationally published books *The Superman Syndrome* and *Brother's Keeper*. *Brother's Keeper* is currently being turned into a movie, in which Mel Gibson's son, Milo Gibson, portrays Chad Mitchell.

## WEST TX BOOK FESTIVAL

October 4-6, 2019

Main Abilene Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Oct 4 Craft of Rewriting

Oct 5 Authors Panels, Book sales & signings, Poetry, Luncheon, and speakers

Oct 6 Local Author Showcase

## WHAT AWG READS

**David Dodge:** *Old Oregon Trail* by Walter Meacham.

**Daina Jurika-Owen:** *Tales of a Female Nomad: Living at Large in the World* by Rita Golden Gelman. "Enjoying it a lot!"

**Chuck Webber:** *I asked for Wonder* by Abraham Joshua Heschel. Also the two volumes of poems collected by Garrison Keillor.

**Mary Berry:** *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. It is a novel based on historical facts about an adoption agency that sold poor children to wealthy families. Next is Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments*, the sequel to *A Handmaid's Tale*.

**Carolyn Dycus:** listening to *The Watchmakers Daughter* by CJ Archer on Abilene Public Library's app Hoopla.

**Jo Cox:** *What the Bible Really Says* by Manfred Barthel.

## BRAGS AND SAGS

**Suanna Davis** sent in a first-page and four books for critiques at SCBWI in Houston. She is working on a new story and still rewriting her novel for the correct audience.

**Coy Roper** attended the Oklahoma City Writers Conference. He won "First Runner Up" in the short fiction category with "The Avenging Accountant."

**David Dodge** has copies of his latest book, *Ainsley Becket*. He now has eight books on Amazon available as paperback or e-books.

**Carla Kerr** took a break from writing and attended a mini-convention with her Red Hat Sisters in Wichita, KS. She is still doing a lot of research to finish her latest manuscript. "It's going well and I'm still hoping to publish by the end of September." About that same time, she will be flying to Las Vegas, NV for her 63 Las Vegas High School Reunion.

**Daina Jurika-Owen** finished writing a little children's book and is looking for an illustrator. Fifty-five pieces of her refugee story book were bought by USA for UN HCR. "This is the organization that is one of the leaders of refugee issues in the world. It was a great honor that they wanted my book." While working on the children's book, she had to stop working on her memoir book. She is still going through cancer treatments until December.

**Linda Gordon** had two pieces published in *Christian Woman* magazine: a short story, "The Taste of Words" in the July/August issue and an article titled "Count Me In" in the Sept/Oct. issue.

**Chuck Webber** sent a copy of his book of devotionals to a retired writer and former editor of the Wichita Falls newspaper. He lives in Wimberley now.

**Mary Berry** has an article about a contemporary doll artist and her work in the current issue of *Doll Castle News*. At the West Texas Fair, her collection of WWII Era WAAC dolls won Best of Show in the Antiques Division and a musical doll from 1943 won Best of Show in the Doll Division.

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

## FLASH SPOTLIGHT (MEMBERS ONLY)

**Why?** To showcase AWG members' writing creativity and diversity using the same prompt words. Removing unnecessary words can make your writing more powerful, so WRITE TIGHT!

**Not a contest:** Just be creative!

**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.

**No prizes; no guarantees.** Just publication in our Newsletter for some really clever writing and the fun of trying it! Follow general rules of good writing and proper content. Please understand, submission does not guarantee publication due to limited space, but we will try.

**PROMPT WORDS ARE:**  
blue, tip, drop, change, suspect

**Submit to:** [Trliso3@hotmail.com](mailto:Trliso3@hotmail.com)  
**Subject line:** list the prompt words.  
**Submit by:** 5th of the month.

## 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.livingspringpublishers.com](http://www.livingspringpublishers.com)

## 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/>

## August Members Contest Winners

### Prose:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Sharon Ellison - "What"
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mary Berry - "Anger Management"
- HM: Chuck Webber - "Midnight Movie"
- HM: Sharon Ellison - "Disguise"
- HM: Sharon Ellison - "Home"

### Poetry:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Chuck Webber - "Roofing Job"
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coy Roper - "On Getting Old"
- HM: Mary Berry - "Reality Check"

### 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	

# 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	<b>Must use these 5 words in your story:</b> adjust, magnolia, freedom, experiment, solitude	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	<b>Must use these 5 words in your poem:</b> 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](mailto: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**

# Fourth Thursday Together

September 26 – 7:00 p.m.

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From Dream to the Big Screen

Chad Mitchell

**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD**

P.O. Box 2562  
Abilene TX 79604