



# BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—APRIL 2018

abilenewritersguild.org    jcox1awg@catnapin.com

## April Again

If you were not present for our March meeting and awards program, you missed a fun time. Tate Ellison, AWG member and author, presented an entertaining program that both made us laugh and made us think! Thank you, Tate. We welcomed some new members who joined (or re-joined) at the meeting and cheered the annual contest winners!

Special thanks to our Annual Contest judges: Carol Hamilton, Sally Clark, Rickey Pittman, Tony Burnett, Phyllis Allen, Kathryn Lay, Becky Haigler, Anne McCrady and Alton Bostick. Please express your thanks, also, to our Board who provided door prizes and refreshments for the evening.

Here are some words Tate mentioned that we writers might want to keep in mind as we write:

- nomophobia, meaning a fear of loss of mobile contact – interesting, eh, in this day and age.
- nyctophobia, meaning fear of the dark – okay, that’s sorta understandable
- omphalophobia, meaning fear of the belly button – this just made us all laugh!  
I’d like to add a few more interesting phobias, if you don’t mind:
- trypanophobia, a fear of going to the doctor – otherwise known as “white coat ‘itis”
- nosophobia, a fear of having or getting a dread disease – closely related to hypochondria
- mysophobia, a fear of germs – also known as germaphobic
- scriptophobia (graphophobia), a fear of writing – wait, what?

Surely NONE of you have that last phobia. You love to write; you want to write; some of you even NEED to write. Honestly, I know there are some of you who don’t write, you just enjoy our meetings and our programs.

And that’s just fine, too.

BUT, for those of you who desire to write, you have four more months in which to enter our members-only contests, which run from January through August. So for goodness sakes, go put on those thinking caps and write.

Now we look forward to this month’s meeting where awards will be presented to children who entered our **first** children’s writing contest. As with our Annual Contest, **the children’s writing contest is supported by a grant from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, HeARTS for the ARTS, the Abilene Arts Alliance, and the City of Abilene.**

There were 101 entries in the poetry and short story genres, from children between 9 and 12, and we definitely have some budding writers in Abilene. AWG’s own Sheryl Nelms, who is a prolific poet and has recently had four new books of poetry published, was the poetry judge. AWG’s own Nancy Robinson Masters, who has written and published more books, magazine articles, and other literature than I can even comprehend, judged the short story contest. Thank you, ladies, for taking on this task and for being so encouraging to the young writers.

Now, take time to smell the flowers that are blooming and make plans to attend our April 26 meeting, where you will hear another AWG member and author, Penny Klosterman, present a fun program before awards are presented. Refreshments will be provided!

**Sharon Ellison**

AWG President

**Think Ahead**  
Nominations for new officers will be presented at the April meeting and voting will be done at the May meeting.

## BRAGS AND SAGS

**Suanna Davis** has written three poems in two days and sent one to the April contest. That is after almost a year of no poetry!

**Carla Kerr** will be in a murder mystery production in Cloudcroft the end of April.

**Lou Mouglin** is getting another comic story in *The Creeps* soon. Nerved about starting new job.

**David Dodge's** has copies of his latest book for anyone who would like one. He also has nearly 10 thousand words on a new book!

**Rickey Pittman** has a new book out, *Cajun ABC*.

**Nancy Masters** spent three days surrounded by 10,000 librarians and a million books at the annual Texas Library Association conference in Dallas where she booked future Visiting Author Days with schools!

**Penny Klostermann** attended the Texas Library Association Conference in Dallas. She was lucky enough to be one of the authors that signed for Random House. She signed copies of her latest book, *A Cooked-Up Fairy Tale*. She also served on a panel with other children's authors and illustrators from Texas.

**Loretta Walker** received the Jim Cody Fellowship to attend Poetry at Round Top. She was also nominated by the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center as Volunteer of the Year sponsored by the Odessa Arts Association.

**Coy Roper** is writing a prequel and a sequel to "A Quiet Place," one of the plays in his book of one-act plays. He has finished the sequel, "Rahab."

**Marguerite Gray** is learning patience while waiting for a publication date of her third book.

**Jo Cox** installed the program Grammerly to help edit her writing. She had nearly 2000 critical issues yet used more unique words than 99% of the users and was 85% more accurate! Strange.

## WHAT AWG READS

**Suanna Davis:** *The Duchy of Terra* by Glynn Stewart, the entire series. "The blurb on Amazon turned me off, but my brother highly recommended them. They are excellent." Also *Studying Comics and Graphic Novels* by Karin Kukkonen and *TED Talks: The Official TED Guide to Public Speaking* by Chris Anderson.

**Carla Kerr:** *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. "They are both fascinating books, well written and mind expanding."

**Lou Mouglin:** *The Best and the Brightest* by David Halberstam.

**David Dodge:** *The Federalist Papers* by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay.

**Darla McLeod:** *1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann. Also, *How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else* by Michael Gates Gill.

**Penny Klostermann:** *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.

**Mary Berry:** *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. "It provided lots of food for thought." *Camino Island* by John Grisham's and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll's. She has also been enjoying poetry anthologies.

**Judy Ware:** *Magic Hour* by Kristin Hannah.

**Linda Gordon:** *The Grave Robber: How Jesus Can Make Your Impossible Possible* by Mark Batterson. "It is an engaging read about opening our eyes to see the miraculous."

**Jill Henderson:** *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson. "It's about the Lusitania disaster, and I'm fixing to go on a cruise. Can't figure out if I'm brave or stupid. Lol"

**Marguerite Gray:** *What God Brings Together* by Melissa Wardwell and *For Love and Honor* by Jody Hedlund. Learning patience while waiting for a publication date of my third book.

**Jo Cox:** *Exodus: God, Slavery, and Freedom* by Dennis Prager. "This is a very readable commentary on the biblical text from a Jewish perspective."

### An Aside

Thank you all for sending in your brags, sags, and books. I like a full page!

# APRIL PROGRAM

AWG's own Penny Klostermann, local children's book author, (*There was an old Dragon Who Swallowed a Knight*) will present our April program. Winners of the Writing Contest for Children will also be announced. Join us for a fun program, refreshments and awards!

## 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 8 and Sat 9, 4-5 PM

**Email** Carolyn Dycus [dycus62@msn.com](mailto:dycus62@msn.com) to sign up to work the festival.

**Find out more:** [www.abilenecac.org/calf](http://www.abilenecac.org/calf)

## 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 (2018)  
Executive VP: David Dodge (2019)  
Program VP: Barbara Rollins (2018)  
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2018)  
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2019)  
Board member: Suanna Davis (2019)  
Board member: Linda Gordon (2019)  
Board member: Kay Talley (2018)  
Board member: Coy Roper (2018)  
Alt. Board member: Mary Ann Smith (2018)  
Newsletter editor: Jo Cox  
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

## March Members Contest

Flash Fiction and Poetry

### Prose

- 1st - **Mary Berry**  
"Easy Out"
- 2nd - **Coy Roper**  
"The Revenge of Prime Minister Popovich"
- HM - **Coy Roper**  
"Todd's Fly Problem"

### Poetry

- 1st - **Sarie Jones**  
"Pier 39"
- 2nd - **Mary Berry**  
"Vestige of Love"
- HM - **Iris Williams**  
"Brutal"

## New Members

**Yvonne Nunn**  
from Hermleigh, TX

**Janet M. Decuir and Seth Pace**  
from Abilene, TX

## Contest Judges

**Carol Hamilton**  
from Midwest City, OK  
**Sally Clark**  
from Monroe, LA  
**Becky Haigler**  
from Dallas, TX  
**Tony Burnett**  
from Davilla, TX  
**Rickey Pittman**  
from Monroe, LA  
**Phyllis Allen**  
from Ft. Worth, TX  
**Kathryn Lay**  
from Arlington TX  
**Ann McCrady**  
from Tyler, TX  
**Alton Bostick**  
from Hurst, TX



# 2017-2018 Annual AWG Contest Winners

**Articles of General Interest:**

No entries

**Inspiration:** 2 entries

not enough to be judged

**Unrhymed Poetry:** 26 entries, judge Carol Hamilton

1<sup>st</sup> – Discovery

Alice King Greenwood, Odessa

2<sup>nd</sup> – One More Thing

Dee Dee Chumley, Edmond, Ok

3<sup>rd</sup> – First Kiss

Judy Sitton Ware, Cisco

HM – Garage Band Rehearsal. 1966

Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX

HM – Fireflies

Lauren Schaeffer, AHS (Mr. Pace)

HM – Remembering Summer Sundays

Alice King Greenwood

**Rhymed Poetry:** 14 entries, judge Sally Clark

1<sup>st</sup> – Barbara, Marian and the Elder

Nick Sweet

2<sup>nd</sup> – Departing Daughter

Nick Sweet

3<sup>rd</sup> – Unvanquished Villain

Dee Dee Chumley

HM – Colors of Texas

Yvonne Nunn, Hermleigh, TX

HM – Suddenly

Deborah Clayton, Iowa

**Fiction for Adults:** 11 entries, judge Becky Haigler

1<sup>st</sup> – The Farmers' Market

Linda Gordon, Abilene

2<sup>nd</sup> – Talents

Linda Gordon

3<sup>rd</sup> – The Stolen Star

Coy Roper, Abilene

HM – Proud to Be an American Woman

Debra Alexander, Cisco

HM – Louis' Love Letter

Coy Roper, Abilene

HM – A Broken Toy Soldier

Sleepy Gomez, Cisco

**Flash Poetry:** 9 entries, judge Tony Burnett

1<sup>st</sup> – The New Purple

Linda Gordon

2<sup>nd</sup> – Autumn's Nonconformist

Mary Berry

3<sup>rd</sup> – Branches

Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa

HM – Blooming Bush

Yvonne Nunn

**Flash Fiction:** 11 entries, judge Rickey Pittman

1<sup>st</sup> – Sammy and C. S. Lewis

Coy Roper

2<sup>nd</sup> – Teatime

Seth Pace, Abilene

3<sup>rd</sup> – The Adoring One

Jill Henderson, Meadowlakes

HM – A Diverse Universe

Nick Sweet

HM – Irene

Clark Brannan, Burleson

**Memoir/Nostalgia:** 13 (only 4 last year), judge Phyllis Allen

1<sup>st</sup> – Fish Tale

Dee Dee Chumley

2<sup>nd</sup> – A Guide to Modern Nostalgia

Amanda Cooper, AHS (Mr. Pace)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Broken Tradition Sort Of

Sheree Murphree, Amarillo

HM – The Coming of Summer (Ice Cream Arrives)

Coy Roper

HM – The Great Escape

Diane McCartney, Canon City, CO

HM – Blame It On the Snickerdoodles

Coy Roper

**Children's Stories:** 7 entries (only 4 last year), judge Kathryn Lay

1<sup>st</sup> – Nose Knows

Cindy Mims, Abilene

2<sup>nd</sup> – No More Candy

Deborah Clayton, Iowa

3<sup>rd</sup> – Leaping Lizards

Nick Sweet

## 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: [avg.entry@yahoo.com](mailto:avg.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  
April 26 – 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*

Penny Klostermann  
And  
Children's Contest Awards

**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD**

P.O. Box 2562  
Abilene TX 79604