



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—MAY 2019

abilenewritersguild.org jocox1awg@catnapin.com

It's May Already!

If you missed our April meeting, you missed a great one. Jay Zugai, magician and all-around funny guy, entertained the adults as well as the children who were there to receive writing awards. I was sitting near the front and have NO idea how he did most of those tricks. He kept us surprised, curious, amazed and laughing during his entire presentation. Though only a few children were able to be present, we were joined by their teacher, her husband, and some parents and grandparents for the fun evening.

Mark your calendar now for our May 23 meeting. There are five Thursdays this month and our meeting is the fourth Thursday, so don't miss it!

Thinking back to May 2018, I recall I had double mastectomy and was recovering from surgery. It all seems a bit surreal now. I had NO family history of breast CA anywhere in my family, so it was totally unexpected. Ladies, do yourselves a favor and get your yearly mammograms. Mammograms are not perfect and sometimes things are not seen (as in my case); but most of the time, things ARE seen (also as in my case). If breast cancer decides to invade your life, then you certainly want to catch it early--as in my case. Things in the medical field are progressing rapidly, so do not be afraid of what "might be." Go find out what "is." Breast cancer is very treatable and you will find yourself surrounded by a host of women, and even some men, who have walked that road before you. They will encourage you and cheer you on. That's my soapbox for this month, for what it's worth!

May I remind you that May is Abilene

Writers Guild's birthday month, so naturally we will have birthday cake at our meeting. Come hear Sherrinda Ketchersid discuss her new book, then join us for refreshments afterward.

As usual, here's my annual May reminder: if you haven't paid your dues for the coming year, they are \$25. What else do I always say? Yep, "That's the best deal in town!" Members not only hear interesting programs, you receive the wonderful, monthly Newsletter that is chock full of interesting information and have the opportunity to enter our monthly members-only contests from January to August. Those contests help our writers get ready to enter our annual contest each year. Get busy and send in two or three entries! You have three more chances!

In May we also elect new officers. This year we are electing the Executive VP, Treasurer, two general Board members and the alternate. Newly elected positions take effect in June.

In July, your Board will have its annual planning meeting. Do you have ideas or suggestions for the types of programs you would like to hear in the coming year? If so, please write them down and give them to me or any board member. We would really love your input.

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Sincere Condolences from AWG

Keith Thomason died April 17, at the age of 92. He was a life member of AWG, husband to AWG member Betty Thomason, and a good friend to many. He will be missed.

Jo Roper died May 7. She was the beloved sister-in-Law of AWG member Coy Roper and wife of David Roper who gave us a program on children's books.

DUES ARE DUE!

See page 3 for details

BRAGS AND SAGS

Carla Kerr is finally seriously back to writing the third book of a trilogy of historical fiction centered around her Cherokee ancestors. She has been heavily involved in doing research.

Lou Mouglin is moving forward in writing *Frankenstein 3*. Sag: Won't be able to come to meetings for at least 2 months.

David Dodge is having trouble getting page numbers correct on his new book. He even worked with Microsoft for several hours with no results. "Otherwise it's ready to go to press."

Suanna Davis is working on several stories but has not yet sent any out.

Jo Cox is working on *Messiah's Parables*.

WHAT AWG READS

Carla Kerr: *The Cherokee Nation, a History* written by Robert J. Conley. "This is a well written thumbnail sketch of the Cherokee Nation from its beginnings in the Eastern United States up to the election of Chad "Cornassel" Smith as Principal Chief on May 22, 1999 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma."

Carolyn Dycus: *Gospel Stories* by AWG member Chuck Webber. "Well written short stories beginning with Jesus' public ministry. Simple explanations of biblical texts, easy to read and an easy book for non-Bible readers to enjoy and understand."

Lou Mouglin: *Spider Dance* by Carole Nelson Douglas, *Demonic* by Ann Coulter, *Blacklisted by History* by M Stanton Evans.

Suanna Davis assorted fiction for fun.

Jo Cox: interpretations of biblical prophecies, mostly online.

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

NEW MEMBERS

Jay Zugai, from Abilene
Scott Davis, from Sweetwater

MAY PROGRAM

Sherrinda Ketchersid is a lover of stories with happily-ever-after endings. Whether set in the past or present, romance is what she writes and where her dreams reside. Sherrinda lives in north-central Texas with her preacher husband. With four grown children out of the house, she has more time and energy to spin tales of faith, fun, and forever love.

Contact Sherrinda via her website www.sherrinda.com and subscribe to her monthly newsletter.

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	(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

DUES ARE DUE!

\$25.00 single membership
\$35.00 family membership

Give cash or check to Gail McMillan
at the next meeting or mail to:

Abilene Writers Guild
P.O. Box 2562
Abilene, TX 79604

If you joined the AWG since March 2019,
then your dues come due next year.

AWG's 2018-2019 Annual Children's Writing Contest

Judge: Sheryl Nelms
Teacher: Mrs. Gonzales
Jackson Elementary

- 1st - **Baron H.** "Diary of an Ant"
- 2nd - **Sorayah P.** "Shelly the Dolphin"
- 3rd - **Lili O.**
"Fiona the Cat and Tito the Dog"
- HM - **Natalie A.** "Middle School"
- HM - **Averie C.** "Olivia's Big Fight"
- HM - **Seaver G.** "Good Luck"

Our thanks to Sheryl for her time and
encouragement to these young writers.

April Members Contest Winners

Unrhymed:

- 1st - **Renee Leath**
"Anniversary"
- 2nd - **Renee Leath**
"Sweet Nothings"
- HM - **Philip Jorgensen**
"White Sky"
- HM - **Renee Leath**
"So I Wait"
- HM - **Coy Roper**
"High School Romance"
- HM - **Philip Jorgensen**
"Unborn"

Rhymed:

- 1st - **Kay Talley**
"A Summer Night's Storm"
- 2nd - **Chuck Webber**
"First time in St. Paul's"
- HM - **Philip Jorgensen**
"A Dance of Two Hearts"
- HM - **Chuck Webber**
"Resent or Forgive"
- HM - **Mary Berry**
"Spring Arrived this Morning"

2019 BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Library Annual Sale
at the Abilene Convention Center

- June 13: Members only preview
- June 14: General Public, 10am-7pm
- June 15: General Public, 10am-6pm
- June 16: \$6 bag-o-books, 1pm-4pm

**Donations accepted at the back door of
the downtown library.**

Happy Birthday AWG! 50 years

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>

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

May 23 – 7:00 p.m.

Sherrinda Ketchersid

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604