



# BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—AUGUST 2019

abilenewritersguild.org    jocox1awg@catnapin.com

## August Again?

Definitely! August is here and our Texas heat proves it. As I sat down to write this article, I began thinking over my summer, and it's almost Annual Contest time!

I made a trip in June to West Virginia to visit a cousin who transplanted there from California a year ago. She turned 80 in July, so I am very glad I made the trip. One of the things they treated me to was an evening of Karaoke. No, I did not sing, but a number of locals did. Some sang their songs very well; some were just slightly off key, but they were having fun so no one seemed to mind. However, and I may need to repent, one sweet lady probably in her early 50s began singing a song which stopped me in mid-conversation with my cousins.

You see, I wasn't quite sure what I was hearing, so I had to be still and listen. Surely you have heard top entertainers put a gravelly or growly sound in a song at just the right time, correct? Well, this lady couldn't and didn't know how, and though that was what she was attempting to do, she sounded more like a pirate—arghhhhh. For the life of me, I could not do anything but laugh. I clapped my hand over my mouth to keep everyone in the place from hearing me! Oh, I know what you're thinking, "Shame on you," which is why I already said I may need to repent. But folks, you really kinda, sorta had to be there. My cousin, her daughter and their friend were laughing hard at ME because I laughed until I cried. It wasn't just once in the song where she tried to "growl." It was practically every phrase! Mercy sakes! Go ahead, imagine any country song with "arghhhhh" at the beginning of each phrase.

Moving on, I went on my fifth mission trip to Trinidad/Tobago in July where it was VERY humid and quite warm, but we were really busy and the week sped by. One passport

was left on a plane, but it was retrieved, thank the Lord!

While standing in Passport Control in Miami on the way home, I met a nice young man who had spent the last year in Guatemala. Low and behold, he is a copywriter (they can work from anywhere). I mentioned AWG, and he asked some good questions about our group. He was returning to England to write a novel. He asked for my card. Alas, I have none, but he said he'd look us up online. Nice young man.

Which brings me to this: our annual contest opens October 1. The rules are in this newsletter, so check them out and start getting your entries ready! I love it when we get lots of entries from our members along with all the others. Go ahead and fill up my mailbox, between October 1 and November 30, of course. And naturally, follow all the rules!

**Sharon Ellison**

AWG President

## Ideas and Drawing

Come to our August meeting with ideas for programs you would enjoy over the coming year. There will be a drawing for a cookbook provided by Darla McLeod.

## 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.

## AUGUST PROGRAM

Dr. Glenn Rogers is retired professor of philosophy and cultural studies. He holds three master's degrees and two doctorates. His first book was published in 1986. Since then he has authored fifty-eight books—thirty-three non-fiction titles in such diverse fields as biblical studies, cultural studies, philosophy, sociopolitical concerns, and writing, as well as twenty-five mysteries and thrillers. Several of his non-fiction titles are college-level textbooks that continue to be used in colleges and seminaries. While many of Dr. Rogers' books have been traditionally published, he is also an experienced indie publisher. Dr. Rogers offers seminars on novel writing as well as self-publishing.



## WHAT AWG READS

**Lou Mougin:** *Manson Exposed: A Reporter's 50-Year Journey into Madness and Murder* by Ivor Davis.

**Chuck Webber:** *Log of the Sea of Cortez* by John Steinbeck.

**David Dodge:** *So You Want to be a Novelist* by Glenn Rogers.

**Mary Berry:** *Origins: A Novel* by Dan Brown. It is a work of fiction based on creation vs. evolution that, in addition to being an entertaining read, provides food for thought. Also, *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri. "This was a favorite childhood read. I watched an old movie version with Shirley Temple that took too many liberties with the plot. I needed to rinse out my brain with the true story!"

**Jo Cox:** *The Workbench Design Book: The Art & Philosophy of Building Better Benches* by Christopher Schwarz. "Very fun read!"

## BRAGS AND SAGS

**Lou Mougin** has another story in CREEPS and one on the way. His newest book will be available in January. Check out his Amazon page for *Secondary Superheroes of Golden Age Comics*.

[https://www.amazon.com/Secondary-Superheroes-Golden-Age-Comics/dp/1476675139/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?keyword=s+lou+mougin&qid=1565461495&s=gateway&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.com/Secondary-Superheroes-Golden-Age-Comics/dp/1476675139/ref=sr_1_4?keyword=s+lou+mougin&qid=1565461495&s=gateway&sr=8-4).

**Carolyn Dycus** is enjoying reading on her phone with the free ebook app from the Abilene Public Library. "Be sure to read Lanny if you enjoy surreal 'out of body' story lines and rural English cottage communities."

**David Dodge** has finished writing another book. He wants a certain picture arrangement for the cover and is finding it difficult.

**Mary Berry's** article, "Indestructible Playthings: Metal Head Dolls," was published in the recent Doll Castle News magazine, and she has completed an article requested by the editor for a future issue about a modern doll artist and her work.

**Suanna Davis** sent four books off for critiques. She edited two chapters of Jo Cox's manuscript, *Creation's Parables*.

**Daina Jurika-Owens** is finishing chemo with hopes to rejoin AWG soon. In the meantime, she is working on a new book.

**Jo Cox** is still rewriting *Creation's Parables* with lots of help from Suanna Davis as an editor. She also helped Suanna Davis with editing four chapters of her novel.

## SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

When: September 9th from 5:45-7:45 pm  
Where: Abilene Public Library, downtown

The group is for children's authors and illustrators of any kind, including young adult. September's meeting will be led by Kylie Peters, a published YA Romance author.

# WRITING CONTESTS

## POPULAR FICTION AWARDS

**Deadline:** September 6:2019  
<https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/popular-fiction-awards>

## JUNIPER LITERARY PRIZES

**Deadline:** September 30, 2019  
<http://www.umass.edu/umpress/content/juniper-literary-prize-series>

## SHORT FICTION AWARD

**Deadline:** September 30, 2019  
<https://www.uiowa.edu/authors/iowa-short-fiction.htm>

## 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/>

## CABELL FIRST NOVELIST AWARD

**Deadline:** December 31, 2019  
<https://firstnovelist.vcu.edu/>

## July

### Members Contest Winners

Independence, Beaches, Weddings

- 1<sup>st</sup>: **Chuck Webber** - "The Legendary Drilling Rigs"
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Coy Roper** - "What Tom and Cicely Did On Independence Day"
- HM: **Coy Roper** - "Free at Last"
- HM: **Chuck Webber** - "Weddings and Wisdom"

## 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!*

## DUES PAID THIS MONTH

For questions or corrections, contact Gail McMillan at [gmcml5382@taylortel.net](mailto:gmcml5382@taylortel.net)  
**Suanna Davis, Iris Williams,  
Nancy Forbis-Stokes, Sharon Ellison,  
Tate Ellison, Daina Jurika-Owens**

## NEW MEMBERS

**Glenn Rogers, Justin Brickey**

### 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:	Coy Roper	(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><u>Must use these 5 words in your story:</u></b> adjust, magnolia, freedom, experiment, solitude	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	<b><u>Must use these 5 words in your poem:</u></b> genius, merchant, justice, conquer, floral	25 words	\$ 7

-----cut here-----cut here-----cut here-----

**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

August 22 – 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*

Glenn Rogers

**ABILENE WRITERS GUILD**

P.O. Box 2562  
Abilene TX 79604