



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

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A Challenge

My friend recently told me that for the first time in many years she was going to stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve – not to ring in the New Year, but to *slam the door* on 2020. I think we can all agree with that sentiment. This year has been filled with more anxiety, dissension, isolation, cancellation, and loss than any period in recent history. Regular routines have been disrupted, and the unsettled feelings experienced by individuals have been multiplied by the social chaos that invades our television screens every evening. When so much is beyond our control, it is important to take charge of the things we can. Writing is something over which we have complete control.

The Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest is open for submissions from October 1 to November 30 and has categories appropriate for almost any type of writing. The entry fees are minimal, and the cash prizes are generous. The fees for entries are expected to provide sufficient revenue to fund the prizes without it being necessary to draw upon the general treasury. Members can show support for our organization through their participation in the Annual Contest. I strongly believe that the benefits derived from membership in a group are directly proportional to a person's involvement in the group's activities, and *I challenge every*

member to submit at least one entry in this year's contest.

Submissions will not only help to boost the finances of AWG but will also benefit the writer even if the entry does not win a prize. Writing provides enjoyment and promotes self-improvement in a number of ways. The more one writes, the better his/her verbal communication skills become. A judge's critique of a contest entry can offer valuable instruction. In this time of uncertainty and stress, writing requires the brain to focus on something positive. Regardless of the topic the writer must think deeply and work to organize his/her thoughts. An informational article may require research and can lead to the satisfaction of learning new things. Writing a piece for the nostalgia category may lead the writer to recall pleasant memories that had been locked away for years. The act of deciding to write, creating a suitable piece, and submitting an entry gives one a gratifying sense of accomplishment.

Rather than just resigning ourselves to “slamming the door on 2020” and worrying about all the problems over which we have no control, let's do something good for ourselves and AWG. Let's give ourselves the pleasure and benefits of writing with a purpose, and support AWG by entering the Annual Contest. Are you up for the challenge?

Mary Berry – AWG President



BRAGS & SAGS

David Dodge: BRAGS: Trying to get back into reading some Jack London stories and am almost through with another book. SAGS: It's getting harder and harder to get up and do some things you're supposed to do.

Lou Moughn: BRAGS: Got paid for the Big Book and some other stuff, including an edit job or 2. SAGS: Still a lot of editing work on the New Book.

Margurite Gray: BRAGS: I've finished writing a short story for an anthology.

Ann Swann Brags: Getting some good reviews on TELEPHONE ROAD, my latest thriller. Currently working on the sequel to my novel TAKERS (published several years ago, a touch of sci/fit horror). This one is called SEEKERS. I'm still on the rough draft. Sags: Just my Dad's health (he's on hospice), but thankfully I'm able to stay home with him.

Jo Cox: BRAG: Jo Cox has reworked her [website](http://johelencox.com), johelencox.com. Please visit, read a blog post or two, and send her a note.

Chuck Weber: BRAG/SAG: My retirement commenced in March amid high social expectations. Instead, we got a disease and I end up writing, reading, fixing things, and watching TV. I am starting an article comparing the lure of violent crime television programs to pornography. It seems they are similar. Both are addictive and both prey on our insecurities.

BRAG: I have painted my entire house outside and 2/3 of the inside, so far.

Kay Talley: BRAG: I organized and recorded videos for a virtual retreat and made additions to my website kaytalley.net.

WHAT A WG READS



Sharon Ellison read *The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey; is reading *Area 51* by Annie Jacobson; about to begin *I Know a Secret* by Tess Gerritsen (who was an AWG Workshop speaker several years ago) and is reading through *Goliath Must Fall* by Louie Giglio with her church. Obviously, she likes to read.

Margurite Gray is reading *To Love a Prince* by Rachel Hawk and *So This is Love* by Laura Hile.

Carolyn Dycus enjoyed reading *Daughter of Jerusalem* by Thom Lemmons biblically accurate historical fiction of early Christianity through the eyes of Mary Magdalene.

Lou Moughin read *Midnight Mass* by F. Paul Wilson, one of his fave thriller writers.

Anne Swann is currently reading a book called *Gone*, by a friend name Julie Elizabeth Powell. It's quite interesting but not at all what I expected. I finished *When We Believed in Mermaids* and it was pretty enjoyable.

Kay Talley has read *The Crown of Eden*, an intriguing fantasy of love and adventure that takes place in a world of hidden identities, secret motivations, and the unfolding of divine prophecy, and *Out of the Devil's Mouth*, both by Thomas Williams.



Our Life Members

Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge

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



HERE'S A CHALLENGE WITH NICE REWARD

Think you can write a winning story in 1,500 words or less? Enter the 21st Annual Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition for your chance to win \$3,000 in cash, get published in *Writer's Digest* magazine, and a paid trip to our ever-popular Writer's Digest Conference.

<https://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/short-short-story-competition>

Deadline: November 16, 2020

Our Officers

President: Mary Berry	(2022)
Executive VP: David Dodge	(2021)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison	(2022)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon	(2021)
Board Member: Darla McCleod	(2021)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith	(2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley	(2022)
Alt. Board Member: Chuck Weber	(2022)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

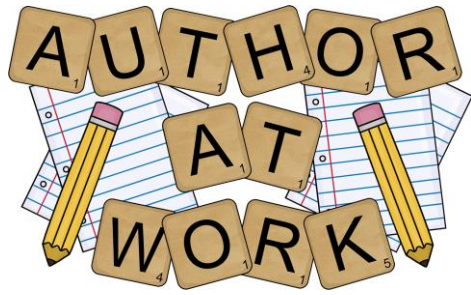


WHY PUT IT OFF

Begin now writing to enter the annual contest and have your entries ready to send in October 1 - November 30.

All information and rules on following pages.





F(r)iction Short Story Contest

Eligibility: All writers

Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: October 30, 2020

<https://frictionlit.org/contests/>

Quill Prose Award

Eligibility: Queer writers

Prize: \$1,000 + publication

Entry fee: \$10

Deadline: October 30, 2020

<https://redhen.org/awards/quill-prose-award/>

***River Teeth* Literary Nonfiction Book Contest**

Eligibility: All writers

Prize: \$1,000 + publication

Entry fee: \$27

Deadline: October 31, 2020

<https://www.riverteethjournal.com/contests>

Blue Lights Book Prize

Eligibility: All writers

Prize: \$2,000 + publication

Entry fee: \$20

Deadline: October 31, 2020

<https://indianareview.org/prizes/blue-light-books/>



CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

Forty children (ages 5 to 17) who are served by New Horizons, an organization ministering to children through counseling, adoption, and foster care, will be the recipients of AWG's 2020 Service Project. New Horizons has indicated that they will be thrilled to receive journals and writing implements, an appropriate gift from a group of writers.

Because of restrictions imposed upon us during this pandemic, it will be more efficient if members would donate cash rather than items to the project this year. This extra effort on your part will make Christmas a little brighter for a child and may even encourage a budding writer. Gail McMillan, who is in charge of the project, will purchase items so that gifts to each child will be similar.

Please send your cash donation to

**Gail McMillan
419 Meadow Lane
Abilene, TX 79602**



ABILENE WRITER'S GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2020-2021

General Information:

AbileneWritersGuild.org

1. Open to any person age 15 or older.
2. Entries **must** be postmarked **between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2020!** Entries posted earlier or later will NOT be accepted and will not be judged, nor will fees be refunded.
3. Categories with fewer than 5 entries are not eligible for prizes but may be critiqued, and, if possible, they may be added to another category for judging.
4. See categories, descriptions, maximum lengths and entry fees on page 3. Do **not count the title** of your entry in your final word count.
5. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2020. 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 annual contests may be re-entered and **any** AWG monthly members-only-contest entry is eligible if it fits the category. Use font size 12. No fancy fonts! Text should only be on one side of each page.

6. **Cover Sheet** (applies to ALL entries): **Each entry** must have a **separate** cover sheet. **Upper left corner:** your name, complete address, telephone number and email address. **Upper right corner:** list category and number of words or lines. *Space down to middle of page and center your title on the cover sheet.* **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY OTHER PAGE.**

First pages of entries of Poetry and Flash Fiction: **Upper right corner:** list category, (Rhy P, Unrhy P, FP or FF), and number of lines or words. **Center the title of your entry,** double space down and begin. Single space only! **NO AUTHOR'S NAME** on this page!

First pages of Prose Categories 5-9: Must be typed and DOUBLE-SPACED, with one-inch margins. **Upper right corner:** list category and number of words. Do not count your title in the number of words. **Center your title, double-space down and begin manuscript.** On any succeeding pages, type entry title and page number in upper right corner. **NO AUTHOR'S NAME on any page.**

To Mail Entries: **Staple your cover sheet to your entry.** **Attach payment with a paper clip to your entry.** **For multiple entries, be sure your check covers all entries.** If you want your entry/entries returned with judges' comments, please provide a large enough SASE with **adequate postage**, otherwise your entry will be discarded on or after **May 31, 2021.** (Rule of thumb: 1 stamp per 5 pages in a #10 letter-size envelope.) Our judges, professionals in their fields, are asked to critique each entry, but we cannot guarantee they will all comply.

Reminder: As in the majority of writing contests, entries not meeting the guidelines will be disqualified and fees will not be refunded. Please follow the rules carefully. **Decisions of the judges are final.** Winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Workshop to be held in March 2021, and will be published on our Website by April 15, 2021. Prizes will be sent to winners who cannot attend. Please check our website and/or newsletter for location, date and time of the March Workshop and other details. Entries will be available for pickup immediately following the Workshop.

Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest 2020-2021 continued

Mail entries to the address below or bring them to AWGs October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!

Prizes:	Cat # 3-7	Cat # 1- 2, 8- 9
First Place	\$100	\$70
Second Place	\$ 65	\$45
Third Place	\$ 35	\$25

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ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2020-2021 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: S. Ellison, 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605, 325-665-5195
Email inquiries to: Trliso3@hotmail.com

Your email address: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

of entries in Categories 1-4, = _____ X \$7.00 each ----- \$ _____

of entries in Categories 5-9 = _____ X \$10.00 each ----- \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest 2020-2021

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Maximum # words/lines</u>	<u>Fee Per Entry</u>
1. Poetry, Rhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
2. Poetry, Unrhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
3. Flash Poetry-- Must use these 5 words: <i>mighty, kind, forbearing, texture, cancel</i>		100 words	\$7
4. Flash Fiction-- Must use these 5 words: lucid, tidy, feature, immune, pander		100 words	\$7
5. Children's Stories	Preschool OR elementary age readers	750 words	\$10
6. Inspiration	Any form: prose/drama/religious	1200 words	\$10
7. Memoir/Nostalgia	Take reader back to a former time	1200 words	\$10
8. Fiction for Adults	Short story for adults/teens & older	1200 words	\$10
9. Articles of General Interest*	History, people, events, places	1200 words	\$10

*non-personal, general information for magazines/websites/newspapers

You may enter as many times as you wish in one or multiple categories!