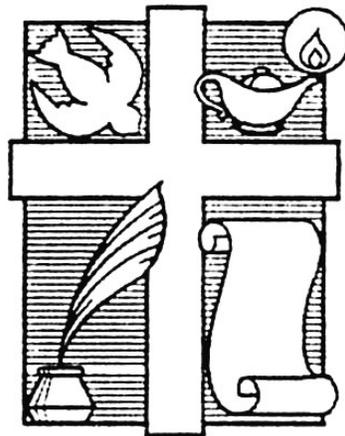


**27th Annual
Texas Christian Writers' Conference**

Sponsored by

Inspirational Writers Alive!



Saturday, August 3, 2019

**8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Houston's First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration Type/Fee (*please check one*):

- _____ Full Day – Member: \$80
- _____ Full Day – Member (age 55+): \$70
- _____ Full Day – Member couple: \$125
- _____ Full Day – Non-member: \$90
- _____ Full Day – Non-member (age 55+): \$80
- _____ Full Day – Non-member couple: \$135
- _____ Half Day – Morning (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.): \$50
- _____ Half Day – Afternoon (12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.): \$50
- _____ Lunch Only* (12 to 1:15 p.m.): \$10

* Individuals wanting to attend only the half day – morning session or only the awards ceremony may purchase lunch.

- Full day registration includes keynote address, four workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- Half day morning registration includes keynote address, two workshops, continental breakfast, and snacks.
- Half day afternoon registration includes two workshops, lunch, and snacks.
- Full day and half day registration also include author chats, faculty books at the conference rate, and a chance to win door prizes including Amazon gift cards, books, and free editing and writing coaching sessions.

Please make your check or money order payable to “TCWC Martha Rogers”. Cash or checks will also be accepted at the door. In addition to the fees listed above for full day and half day registrations, an additional \$10 will be charged for walk-ins on the day of the conference. Registration fees are not refundable after July 25. Please mail your completed registration form and payment to Martha Rogers at 6038 Greenmont, Houston, Texas 77092.

2019 Texas Christian Writers' Conference
Saturday, August 3, 2019
Houston's First Baptist Church—7401 Katy Freeway

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 8:00–8:30 a.m.** **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30–8:45 a.m.** **Welcome and Announcements:** Martha Rogers
Devotion: Melanie Stiles
- 8:45–9:00 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 9:00–10:00 a.m.** **Workshop I (Rooms: A – 252, B – 253, C – 254)**
A. Linda Kozar: *What Nancy Drew Didn't Teach You About Writing Mysteries*
B. Lena Nelson Dooley: *Layering Pizazz*
C. Donna Pyle: *The Art of Writing Engaging Nonfiction*
- 10:00–10:15 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 10:15–11:15 a.m.** **Workshop II (Rooms: A – 252, B – 253, C – 254)**
A. Janice Thompson: *The Positive Attribute of Stress*
B. Crystal L. Barnes: *Formatting 101*
C. Martha Rogers: *Showing/Telling - Show what is happening rather than telling your reader*
- 11:20 –12:00 p.m.** **Keynote Address**
Lena Nelson Dooley: *The Wonderful Plans Our Marvelous God Has For Your Life*
- 12:00–1:00 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:00–1:30 p.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 1:30–2:30 p.m.** **Workshop III (Rooms: A – 252, B – 253, C – 254)**
A. Linda Kozar: *The Power of Podcasting*
B. Crystal L. Barnes: *Cover Design Basics*
C. Melanie Stiles: *Selling Freelance Articles*
- 2:30–2:45 p.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 2:45–3:45 p.m.** **Workshop IV (Rooms: A – 252, B – 253, C – 254)**
A. Janice Thompson: *Polishing Your Proposal*
B. Lena Nelson Dooley: *Self-Editing: Getting the Words Right*
C. Donna Pyle: *The Author as a Speaker: Engaging Your Audience*
- 3:50–4:15 p.m.** **Closing Remarks/Announcements/Door Prizes/Evaluations**

* *The bookstore closes at 2:45 p.m.*

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Writers in all stages of their careers will find workshops to help them achieve their writing goals.

—DiAnn Mills

Workshop I

9:00—10:00 a.m.

A Linda Kozar: *What Nancy Drew Didn't Teach You About Writing Mysteries*

Though everyone's favorite titian-haired young sleuth taught us that women could be flawless, fearless forensic investigators without carrying a gun or breaking a nail, maybe there's something to learn from those has-been whodunits that authors can apply to modern mysteries.

B Lena Nelson Dooley: *Layering Pizazz*

This workshop will cover how to add details and depth that makes the manuscript grab the editor and the reader.

C Donna Pyle: *The Art of Writing Engaging Nonfiction*

This workshop is designed to take you beyond the basics to guide you through the non-fiction writing process from initial idea to the finish line. You will learn how to structure your writing, evoke emotion, include humor, find your unique voice, push past writer's block, and submit your manuscript. Additionally, you gain a lot of editorial insider tips and research tips and tricks.

Workshop II

10:15—11:15 a.m.

A Janice Thompson: *The Positive Attribute of Stress*

Feeling stressed out? Are your knickers in a knot? You could go get a massage. . .or you could channel that stress and use it to your advantage as you're writing that next book. Join Janice Thompson for this fast-paced course on the positive attributes of stress and the role (eu)stress plays in the hectic writer's life.

B Crystal L. Barnes: *Formatting 101*

You've written and edited the book. Now it's ready for the world. Or is it? Learn the do's and don'ts of formatting for both print and ebook. Receive step-by-step instructions on dimensions, fonts, page/section breaks, images, ebook conversions, and much more. Make your book ready to fly off the shelf.

C Martha Rogers: *Showing/Telling – Show What is Happening Rather Than Telling Your Reader*

Too much narration and simply telling what is happening lead to boredom in writing. Learn to show your story taking place rather than telling it. Show your story through emotion, action, dialogue, and character interaction.

Workshop III

1:30—2:30 p.m.

A Linda Kozar: *The Power of Podcasting*

Are you interested in hosting your own podcast to promote your own books, ministry, or passion? This class offers practical instructions on how to set up, launch, and market your own show on Blog Talk Radio and feed to a wide distribution. As a bonus, we will interview a limited number of “The Power of Podcasting” attendees LIVE from the classroom. Be sure to show up to class with a short bio (50 words or less) about yourself and be ready to share a short blurb about your latest book or work-in-progress.

B Crystal L. Barnes: *Cover Design Basics*

Let’s face it—everyone judges a book by its cover. Learn the key ingredients to creating your own professional-looking cover without having to pay the professional price. We’ll tackle my top three design tips, learn the one thing readers subconsciously look for, discuss the easiest/cheapest photo editors, and much more. Plus, you’ll receive beneficial links and useful demonstrations to help make designing your own cover a reality.

C Melanie Stiles: *Selling Freelance Articles*

There are hundreds of publishers who need copy for magazines and blogs in both print and digital formats. In other words, they are waiting for YOU. Join Melanie to discuss the various types of writing needed and where to submit your work. You will learn tips to help you get started in building credibility and earning additional income through selling freelance articles.

Workshop IV

2:45—3:45 p.m.

A Janice Thompson: *Polishing Your Proposal*

You’ve written the book. You’re ready to get it off to that publisher. But you’re feeling stuck. Books are sold on proposals, but you’re not sure what a proper proposal looks like. Join Janice Thompson for this intensive look at all aspects of book proposals, from marketing concept to bio to series ideas.

B Lena Nelson Dooley: *Self-Editing: Getting the Words Right*

This workshop will help writers see what to check in their manuscript before they send it to the publisher or Indie-publish the book.

C Donna Pyle: *The Author as a Speaker: Engaging Your Audience*

Words may read well on the page, but engaging a live audience is a whole different ballgame. Learn how to put your audience at ease, structure your topic, include humor and memorable moments, evoke emotion, share personal examples, and end with a power-packed conclusion. You may be an introvert, but with these tips, your audience will never know it.

FACULTY BIOS



Best-selling author, bona fide country girl, and former competitive gymnast, **Crystal L. Barnes** tells stories of fun, faith, and friction that allow her to share her love of Texas, old-fashioned things, and the Lord—not necessarily in that order. Crystal holds a degree in computing science, has taught at a number of conferences, and enjoys helping other writers fulfill their dreams of becoming published. Many authors and small publishers have employed Crystal’s formatting and design services since her first *Marriage & Mayhem* novel released in November 2015. When she’s not writing, reading, designing, or singing, Crystal enjoys spending time with her family, exploring on road trips, and watching old movies/sitcoms.

www.crystal-barnes.com



Multi-published author **Lena Nelson Dooley** has had more than 950,000 copies of her 50 books sold. She is a member of ACFW and the local chapter, ACFW – DFW. She is also a member of Christian Authors’ Network and Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas.

Lena has been on the ECPA and CBA Bestseller lists, *Publisher’s Weekly* bestseller list, and several Amazon Bestseller lists as well as a reviewer’s Top Ten Books of 2011. She has won over a dozen major awards.

Lena hosts “The Lena Nelson Dooley Show” on the Along Came a Writer Blog Talk Radio network.

www.lenanelsondooley.com



Linda Kozar is an author of both traditional and indie-published fiction and nonfiction books and podcaster on the Along Came A Writer network. She founded The American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) Woodlands, Texas Chapter, and was the recipient of ACFW’s 2007 Mentor of the Year. Linda and Michael, her husband of 30 years, live in The Woodlands, Texas, and enjoy spending time with their two grown daughters, wonderful son-in-law, and their rascally Jack Russell Terrier.

www.lindakozar.com



Donna Pyle is a sought-after speaker, Bible teacher, and multi-published nonfiction author. Her fifth DVD Bible study series released in June 2019: *Perseverance: Praying Through Life's Challenges (from the book of Nehemiah)* through Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org). She has released four prior DVD Bible study series (www.lwml.org) and four other books through Concordia Publishing House. Donna is a life-long Texan, coffee lover, abolitionist, and travel enthusiast.



Martha Rogers is a multi-published author and writes a weekly devotional for ACFW. Since her first novel published in 2010, she has written and published over fifty other novels and novellas and spoken at numerous writing workshops and meetings. Martha is a member of ACFW, ACFW WOTS chapter in Houston, and Inspirational Writers Alive! Martha and her husband, Rex, live in Houston, Texas, where they are active members of Houston's First Baptist Church. They are the parents of three sons and they have twelve grandchildren (including spouses) and five great-grandchildren.

www.marthawrogers.com



Melanie Stiles is an award-winning author and Life Coach who has accumulated hundreds of bylines in various publications. Her freelance material has been recently published in *The Writer Magazine* and *NINK*. She is also the author of several books written specifically for writers. Melanie believes we are better together!

www.MelanieStiles.com



Award-winning author **Janice Thompson** got her start in the industry writing screenplays and musical comedies for the stage. Janice has published over 100 books for the Christian market, crossing genre lines to write cozy mysteries, historicals, romances, nonfiction books, devotionals, children's books and more. She particularly enjoys writing light-hearted, comedic tales because she enjoys making readers laugh. She lives in Spring, Texas, where she leads a rich life with her family, a host of writing friends, and three hounddogs. When she's not busy writing or playing with her eight grandchildren, Janice can be found in the kitchen, baking specialty cakes and cookies for friends and loved ones. No matter what she's cooking up—books, cakes, cookies or mischief—she does her best to keep the Lord at the center of it all.

www.janiceathompson.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

A Christian interdenominational writers' club, Inspirational Writers Alive! (IWA!) helps aspiring and published authors advance their writing skills and find effective markets for their work. Maxine E. Holder founded IWA! in March 1990. IWA! members meet monthly to learn from speakers, participate in critique sessions and read-arounds, and network with other writers. IWA! sponsors the annual Texas Christian Writers' Conference (TCWC).

IWA! CHAPTERS

Currently, there are four IWA! chapters in Texas. If you are interested in joining an existing IWA! chapter, please contact the president listed below. To find out more about starting an IWA! chapter in your area, you may request an information packet at the TCWC or reach out to Martha Rogers at marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net.

- **Amarillo**—Karl Smith (karlwk@suddenlink.net, 806-336-5164)
- **Central Houston**—Diana Battista (loveeternal@comcast.net, 832-315-8430)
- **Northwest Houston**—Martha Roddy (magnolia7787@gmail.com, 281-859-4208)
- **Pasadena**—Bill Bage (713-946-0806)

WHAT TO BRING TO THE TCWC

- Notebook and paper for taking notes
- Light wrap or sweater as classrooms may be chilly
- Money or checkbook if you want to purchase books in the bookstore (payment by cash or check only)
- Questions to ask the faculty during author chats throughout the day

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TCWC

- Registration, special dietary needs, etc.
 - Martha Rogers – marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net
 - Melanie Stiles – melstiles@aol.com
 - Michelle Marie Hernandez – bella@michellemariehernandez.com

DIRECTIONS

- **Eastbound on I-10:** Exit at Post Oak/Silber. Continue on the feeder to the church. Turn right and follow the street around to the south parking lot across from First Baptist Academy. Enter the church through the Fitness and Recreation Center, and follow the signs to the Fellowship Center.
- **Westbound on I-10 East:** Exit at Antoine. Turn left under the freeway and follow the feeder to the church as above.
- **From Loop 610 or 290:** Take I-10 West. Exit at Antoine. Follow the directions listed above.