**Central Houston IWA! Newsletter**



***Helping and encouraging writers and aspiring writers
who want to share the love of Jesus Christ
through publication of their works in both religious and secular markets***

**Volume 26, Issue 02 – February, 2019**

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| Gallery_Secretary_Diana | From the President's PenDiana Battista |
| If laughter is good medicine, our February meeting attendees left the church a whole lot healthier than we went in! Thanks to all for your great humor and for your contributions to the read-around. For next month, don’t forget to send me your March critique entries. Click on the *Critique* link under March on our [website](http://www.centralhoustoniwa.com/) to get the full instructions for manuscript submission.The results are in for our June workshop topic! Using a rating of 0-5 to indicate relative interest on seven potential topics, all of the February meeting attendees submitted their votes; I did not receive any additional feedback from the rest of our members. For each topic, I looked at total point count, the number of people who indicated some interest and the number of people who indicated no interest. All topics were almost even in each area, but the following three had a slight edge: plot outlining, back cover copy and how to show—not tell. So, plot outlining wins out this time, and it will actually be a nice follow-up to our April teaching on character development. Then, if this workshop goes well, we have the option to cover one of these other two topics in another workshop in September. See you in March! -- *Diana* |
| AnnouncementsNEWS:* Be sure to email your critique submission to Diana during the critique window below so that it will be distributed to the chapter for feedback.

deadlines:**02/28 — 03/06**Critique WindowNext Meeting:**03/14/2019**Critique  | The Word*Call to me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.****Jeremiah 33:3 [NKJV])*** |
| Last Month for Dues!Thanks to all who have paid your 2019 dues already! If you still need to take care of this, please bring your dues (cash/check) to the March meeting, or mail them to Martha Rogers at: 6038 Greenmont, Houston, TX 77092.**Full**: $25, **Couples**: $35, **Senior** (55+): $20, **Assoc.**: $15Anyone who has not renewed their membership by 03/31 will be removed from our roster and mailing list. |
| Monthly ActivityREAD-AROUND**Carl Grijalba – St. Valentine’s Day****Joseph Ganci – (Book Chapter) The Witch of Endore****Connie Parks – Nieka Doodle, the Flying Poodle****Rick Thompson – Witness****Mark Antley – Joy of Whole Body Worship****Shirley Hilton – Poems: My Rose Bouquet and Trimming Branches****Martha Rogers – God’s Valentine**Everyone had a great time sharing their work. **Well done IWA! Writers. Keep up the good work.** |
| The Good News* From Michael Gallant: Whether you are 20 or 90, it’s never too late to start writing and publish your first book. Jonathan Safran Foer published *Everything Is Illuminated* at age 25 and Haruki Murakami’s first novel, *Hear the Wind Sing*, was published when he was 29. Then there is the generation of those who published in their senior years such as Frank McCourt, whose first book, *Angela’s Ashes*, won a Pulitzer Prize for biography or autobiography, earned a National Book Critics Circle Award, and was adapted into a major motion picture. He was 66 when it was published. Another example is Laura Ingalls Wilder of the *Little House on the Prairie* series. Her first book, *Little House in the Big Woods*, was published by Harper and Brothers in 1932 when Wilder was 64. She would go on to complete eight autobiographical children’s novels. Millard Kaufman, the creator of Mr. Magoo, had an extensive career as a screen writer, earning several Oscar nominations for his work. However, his first novel, *Bowl of Cherries*, did not come out until 2007 when Kaufman was 90 years old. Some others included Ulysses S. Grant, who published his memoirs at age 63, and Harriet Doerr, who published *Stones for Ibarra* at age 74 and received the National Book Award for First Work of Fiction published in 1984.
* From Publishers Weekly: Iron Stream Media, which produces curriculum, discipleship materials, and other content for ministries and missionaries, is adding three new imprints to its publishing efforts. In addition to its flagship imprint, New Hope Publishers, the Birmingham, Alabama-based company will house Ascender Books, Iron Stream Books, and New Hope Kidz, each geared toward the Christian marketplace.
* From Publishers Weekly: Thomas Nelson, a part of Harper Collins Christian Publishing (HCCP), faces more than $15 million in damages owed to a printing company after a jury in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee found it liable for breach of contract and fraud. EPAC Technologies, Inc., which also provides book manufacturing, fulfillment, and distribution services, filed a class action lawsuit against Thomas Nelson in early 2012. It sought damages for millions spent on upgrades and expansions as a result of its contract with the Christian publisher. According to a court document, EPAC alleges that Thomas Nelson failed to provide the agreed-upon order requisites before seeking new pricing from another vendor and terminating EPAC’s five-year contract without proper cause. A spokesman for Thomas Nelson said that the publisher disagrees with the verdict and is in the process of challenging it in court.
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| ***Featured Resource Site:*** [***http://www.christwriters.info/***](http://www.christwriters.info/) |
| ***Check out our website at*** [**www.centralhoustoniwa.com**](http://www.centralhoustoniwa.com/) ***for the latest news, resources and tips!*** |
| Save the Date!At our meeting on **April 11th**, Diana will be sharing a novel new approach to ***Creating a Compelling Character Who Connects***. The beauty of this exercise is that it applies to all genres for any age group and even gives us a greater appreciation for the role of our Holy Father in our lives. Do you have someone, fictional or real, whom you would like to bring to life on the page? Come prepared to start his/her creation process!We are having our first official **workshop** at our regular meeting time on **June 13th**! The topic is ***Plot Outlining***, and the workshop is open to all IWA! members. This would also be an ideal time to invite visitors who may be interested in joining a writing group. So, get the word out! |
| Member Websites**Patti Greene –**<http://www.greenepastures.org/>**Michelle Hernandez -**<http://www.michellemariehernandez.com/>**Connie Parks –** [www.gardengatewayinternational.org/](https://www.gardengatewayinternational.org/)**Martha Roddy –**[www.martharoddy.com](http://www.martharoddy.com/)**Martha Rogers –**[www.marthawrogers.com](http://www.marthawrogers.com)[www.MarthasBooks.Blogspot.com](http://www.MarthasBooks.Blogspot.com)<http://www.hhhistory.com/><https://www.facebook.com/MarthaRogersAuthor/>**Melanie Stiles –**[www.melaniestiles.com/](http://www.melaniestiles.com/)**Rick Thompson –**<https://freeinchristblog.wordpress.com/> | Member News* Martha Rogers: Update on state IWA! She has the speakers for the August IWA! conference and Martha will be one of the speakers.
* Martha Rogers: Has two new books: [*Rodeo Mix-Up*](https://www.fantasticfiction.com/r/martha-rogers/rodeo-mix-up.htm) and [*Lasso Around Her Heart*](https://www.fantasticfiction.com/r/martha-rogers/lasso-around-her-heart.htm).
* From Kathy Ide (per Martha Rogers): The first conference teaching how to Loop Your Book to Screen will be held from June 20-22, 2019 at Hope International University in Fullerton, CA. Contact: [www.SoCalCWC.com](http://www.SoCalCWC.com).
* Martha Rogers: The next CAN/ICVM Christian Conference featuring topics like Book-to-Screen, Screen-to-Book, Publishing and more…, will be held in Franklin, TN November 13-16, 2019. Organizer: contact@ChristianAuthorsNetwork.com
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| Prayer Requests* Connie Parks: Son, Michael Parks, is in the hospital. Needs a new spleen. Update: Michael had surgery to remove his spleen on Friday, March 1. Recovering well.
* Diana Battista: Prayer for the upcoming bond elections in League City, to not raise taxes on projects that will not help the residents and to block projects that will lower property values.
* Shirley Hylton: For three young people. The eyes of their understanding will be opened to the gospel of Christ.
* Martha Rogers: News – Blessing and favor on her two new books (see above).
* Martha Rogers: After the CT Scan showed that her aorta aneurysm had grown to 5.2, her doctor called and said that something needs to be done. Meeting with cardiologist on March 6 to discuss options. Pray for discernment in knowing what needs to be done and what can be done. She is confident that God has a plan, and whatever it is will be what is best.
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| Central Houston IWA! meets in **room 145** at **7 p.m.** on the 2nd Thursday of every month (except July, August, and December) at Houston’s First Baptist Church (7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024). |
| Get the Word Out!Please help us spread the word about IWA!, so we can spread the Word of God. Invite friends, co-workers, and anyone you know who may be interested in writing. All are welcome to attend the IWA! chapter meetings and the Texas Christian Writers’ Conference. If you know of any local publications or church bulletins where we can advertise our meetings, please contact Diana Battista, Central Houston IWA! president, at 832-315-8430 or loveeternal@comcast.net. |

This newsletter is a publication of Central Houston IWA! Please submit any questions, corrections and inputs to Connie Parks, Central Houston IWA! secretary/newsletter editor, at 281-437-6758 or connie1.4@juno.com. Submissions received by the 20th of each month will appear in the following newsletter. Thank you!