



# NW HOUSTON INSPIRATIONAL WRITERS ALIVE!

## THE SCRIBE

Vol. 8 January 2020 No. 1

Inspirational Writers Alive! (IWA!) is a Christian interdenominational writers' club promoting creative writing that glorifies Jesus Christ by helping individuals advance their writing skills and find effective markets for their work. We welcome writers at all levels.

*Thank you, Lord, for a new year; a new beginning, and a new opportunity to proclaim Your grace as we publish to a lost world Your everlasting gospel.*



### **Where and When NW Houston IWA! Meets**

Second Tuesdays at Copperfield Church,  
8350 Hwy. 6 North, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Check with the reception desk for the IWA! meeting room number.

### **Guidelines for a Critique:**

All genres, articles, devotionals, fiction, memoirs, non-fiction, poetry, short stories, and screenplays welcome. Approximately six or seven writers currently attend the meetings regularly, so please bring several copies, double-spaced, five-page limit. Number each copy. We read manuscripts out loud. Readers enter comments, sign, and return the manuscript to the author. **We welcome visitors with manuscripts at the critique table.**

# General Information

A Christian interdenominational writers' club, Inspirational Writers Alive! (IWA!) helps aspiring and published authors advance their writing skills and find efficient 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](mailto:marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net).

- **Amarillo**—Karl Smith ([karlwk@suddenlink.net](mailto:karlwk@suddenlink.net), 806-336-5164)
- **Central Houston**—Diana Battista ([loveeternal@comcast.net](mailto:loveeternal@comcast.net), 832-315-8430)
- **Northwest Houston**—Martha Roddy ([magnolia77@webtv.com](mailto:magnolia77@webtv.com), 281-859-4208)
- **Pasadena**—Bill Page (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 (The next TCWC meeting will be August 2020. The exact date will be posted closer to the event.)**

- Registration, special dietary needs, etc.
  - Martha Rogers – [marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net)
  - Melanie Stiles – [melstiles@aol.com](mailto:melstiles@aol.com)
  - Michelle Marie Hernandez – [bella@michellemariehernandez.com](mailto: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 above.



## *A Word From the Editor*

by Marilyn J. Dworshak  
NW Houston IWA! Newsletter Editor  
mdworshak62@gmail.com

January 2020

### *There is no love like His* ***Isaiah 61:3***

*“...that they might be called trees of righteousness.”*

*You've been given a sapling, a new beginning*, and you are instructed to plant it in a place where it may grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Where will you plant such a gift so that it gives God the glory both now and forever? One thing is certain: it must be planted in a place where the Almighty may rain blessings from Heaven upon it, and where blessings lie beneath the soil to establish it's root —*Gen. 49:25*.

Those desiring to grow in Christ clothe themselves in the garments of His salvation and become like trees of righteousness—the trees of the Lord's planting —*Is. 61:3*. Longing only for spiritual blessings, they set their roots downward and stretch their branches upward to learn of the things of God—true things, lovely things, and things that are of good report —*Phil. 4:8*. When adverse winds rock them back and forth to try their roots, they are able to stand firm.

Daily our lives are trampled underfoot by the wicked, and our hope is sought out like a tree to be cut down, but when, at the foot of Jesus' cross, we see the feet of the One who trod the winepress in our place, —*Is. 63:3* and in whose hand is the key to our prisons, we who trust in Him, lift our countenance to proclaim as Paul: “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain!” — *Phil. 1:21*. While looking upon His face, we should never cease to praise Him, for no matter what the day brings, the victory is won in Christ Jesus.

This year, and each day, come to the well and drink of the One who can renew your strength so that you are able to walk and not faint —*Is. 40:31*. Embrace the Father and live as one who counts not his life dear unto himself, but as one who finishes the course with joy, and the ministry which he has received of the Lord Jesus Christ —*Acts 20:24*. A tree planted by the waters spreads out its roots by the river; its leaf shall be green, and it shall not know when the heat comes —*Jer. 17:8*.

When, like a new bud springing forth from the myrtle, we seek only for the sun (Son), — *2 Cor. 10:5* beautiful are our countenances and sweet the reward of our blooms. Those who cease from their weary wanderings find their blossoms spread beyond all counting as they exchange beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning —*Is. 61:3*.

#### ***Lord,***

*We purpose to begin each new day rising before dawn to seek Your face and to meditate on Your promises. Make known to us the path of life, and fill us with joy in Your presence as we rely on Your guiding hand to lead us.*



*O myrtle tree,  
what sweeter bloom is earned  
as adverse winds  
rock you back and forth  
to try your root?*

*As drops of rain  
begin to fall in ordered step,  
know that God commissions every one.*

***There is no love like His***

*as little bits of heaven fall your way  
and He remembers you.*

*As His bread of life is given,  
spread your sweet perfume  
with blooms beyond all counting!*

*When the storm is over,  
feel your branches reaching high  
unto the best rooms in the house  
when like a hart panting for the brook,  
you thirst for more.*

*One more thing, O bloom,  
though Heaven's distance lies between,  
trust that God is able, still,  
to look down from the Heavens  
upon you!*

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# Upcoming Events and Meetings

## Save The Dates!

**January 14, 2020 - Monthly critique meeting** at the church.

**January 18, 2020 - Christian Collins book launch** Saturday, January 18, 2:30 p.m. at [The Butler House](#) (23951 Gosling Rd, Spring, TX 77389).

Christian Collins is not a member of IWA!; however, he is a Christian brother who is excited to announce that his new book, *Second Wind: A 365-Day Devotional to Pursuing God's Greater Calling* will be out as of January 1st! He's been writing daily devotionals for about ten years—first starting as a text message, then a blog, and now he's publishing it into a book. One dollar from each of the first 1,000 books sold will be donated to [New Danville](#), so that those affected by Down Syndrome can have more opportunities to spend time at this incredible camp for young adults with special needs. **Can he count on you to help support this worthy cause?** Anyone interested is encouraged to register by clicking [HERE](#) so that the restaurant knows how much food to prepare.

**February 11, 2020 - Speaker: Melanie Stiles** Christian Life Coach, Author, and Speaker, will be joining us at the church.

Melanie has been successfully coaching individuals for many years and enjoys helping others to achieve their God-given passions. She is branded as the Life Coach in Blue Jeans due to her down-to-earth, practical, and spiritual approaches to fulfilling the desires of the heart.

Melanie has accumulated hundreds of freelance bylines, authored three books specifically for writers, and frequently speaks at conferences, churches, and with other teams/groups on topics relating to the journeys of Christian women, discipleship, leadership, biblical themes, and writing.

Her award-winning book, *The Heart of a Ready Scribe: 52 Reflections for Writers*, continues to be well received by the writing community. She has completed two books of her six-part series for writers. Book One is titled: *Let's Write! A Non-Nonsense Manual*. Book Two is titled: *Let's Write Devotionals!* All of Melanie's books can be found on Kindle and Amazon.

Melanie offers writing-related services to individuals and organizations, including copy creation, editing, ghostwriting, coaching, and more. Melanie is a practicing Life Coach with certifications received through the American Association of Christian Counseling. She frequently pairs with both individuals and groups to assist in goal achievement. Her coaching programs can be customized to fit specific needs.

For more information, please see: [www.MelanieStiles.com](http://www.MelanieStiles.com) Or email: [Melanie@Melaniestiles.com](mailto:Melanie@Melaniestiles.com)

# Announcements

## Annual IWA! Membership Renewal

Annual dues are due. You may pay at the January meeting. Please make checks payable to **NW Houston IWA!** Also, write on your check: **For NW Houston IWA! 2020 dues.**

Full (regular) Membership: \$25 / year  
Full (couples) Membership: \$35 / year  
Full (age 55+) Membership: \$20 / year  
Associate Membership: \$15 / year

**Melanie Stiles** will critique NW Houston IWA! members' manuscripts and return the manuscript to each author when she speaks at our **February** meeting.

### **Guidelines for a manuscript sent to Melanie for critique:**

- \* Double spaced
- \* 5-page limit
- \* New-Times Roman font or font requirement of your publisher.
- \* In the Subject line, type: NW Houston IWA! - for critique.
- \* e-mail manuscript in attachment to: [melstiles@aol.com](mailto:melstiles@aol.com)
- \* **Send the manuscript to Melanie by January 10th.**

## Other Announcements

Recently I enrolled in the Cypress Bible Institute (CBI) in association with my church receiving free seminary level materials so that I might have the tools and skills to serve the Lord in their ministry context. Because of the time constraints involved with this new opportunity, I cannot renew my membership in the NW Houston IWA! at this time. Being a part of your organization has been both inspirational and encouraging, and I am thankful to have met many Godly friends and to have served as your Editor.

I hope that you have enjoyed the devotions inserted in the NW Houston IWA! monthly newsletters gleaned from my new book: *A Look From the Top of Shenir Mountain*. Currently, I am negotiating with a publisher, and with the Lord's blessing, I hope soon to publish this new book of daily encouragement.

I look forward to another journey as well as I ambitiously aspire to pen my third book, *The Strings of Mary's Heart*, based on Luke 1:46. I intend to include ten harp-strings (chapters) expounding on vv. 46-55 in an attempt to discern the thoughts of Mary's heart.

With each new year, keep your minds stayed on the Lord—never looking back as you sow seeds of hope. May they fall beyond intent in the quaintest shops and café stops, and to all who need to know of His good pleasure.

Stay in touch, my friends, and **if you would like a devotion for future Newsletters, please let me know**; as the Lord allows, I am glad to write one for you.



**Marilyn J. Dworshak, MBA**  
Owner - Psalm 89:15 Ministries  
Published Author & Freelance Writer  
[mdworshak62@gmail.com](mailto:mdworshak62@gmail.com)

**Don't forget to take advantage of YOUR! Page for a free publication!** Anyone from the NW Houston IWA! wanting to share an excerpt from his/her own work, please email your entry with your one-page submission as a Word document. A new email address will be announced.

The following is subject to change:

Include: Title and Author's name

Font: Times New Roman 12

Line Spacing: 1.5

Alignment: Justified

One page only

Poetry: Centered

All entries are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis and published only once. They will not be used for any other purpose without express written permission from the author.

If you do not see your work in the month submitted, you will see it in a future newsletter (contingent upon the discretion of the new Editor) in the order received and as space allows. All entries are subject to editing.

Thank you!

—Marilyn Dworshak

*Submitted by Martha Roddy*

My husband's birthday, a week before Christmas, always presented a problem. What to buy? Steve's mother handmade beautiful shirts and ties for her husband and two sons. Unfortunately, Steve married me, and hand-tailored shirts and ties were never to be. The fledgling writer I am, I chose to write a birthday sonnet.

**My Dearest**

Love you, dearest, my Life, ever my Song  
God brought you to me; then, our Time began  
Joyful, happy, keen eyes, an eagle strong  
Soaring high, sharp-minded, a thoughtful man.  
Much to see, much to do, Oh, wonder why?  
Charts to course, night 'til dawn, love took you in,  
Sun, Stars and rain all-new, bright clouds, light sky  
We heard a melody—God's mandolin.  
Swiftly the years passed, beloved, with you  
Fiercely facing life, friend, gentle, sweet beau  
Gallant, courtly, Old world, so patient, too.  
Urbane, fair, chivalric, my Romeo.  
Did I ever tell you, your smile, your touch,  
Eagle high in the sky, thank you so much?

Stephen R. Roddy, MD (December 18, 1923-November 2006)  
Cadet US Army Air Force – WWII  
Lt. Colonel Reserves US Air Force



May our NW Houston IWA! 2020 meetings be a source of guidance and inspiration, and may His power and glory abound in all you write in 2019.

For more information contact: Martha Roddy, [magnolia7787@gmail.com](mailto:magnolia7787@gmail.com)  
To subscribe or unsubscribe contact: (awaiting new Editor email address).

To learn more about the NW Houston IWA! please click on the following link to visit our website brought to you by our [Webmaster: Cherri Taylor!](#)



*Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?*

*—Isaiah 43:18,19a.*