



NW HOUSTON INSPIRATIONAL WRITERS ALIVE!

THE SCRIBE

Vol. 7 July 2019 No. 7

1 of 9

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

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.



**Join us on July 9, 2019
for our Critique Meeting
and encouragement, inspiration, and advancement of your work-in-progress.**

Guidelines for a Critique

All genre, article, devotionals, fiction, memoirs, non-fiction, poetry, short stories, and screenplays. Please bring six 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.

Future 2019 Events and Meetings

July: Critique Meeting

August: Annual Texas Christian Writers Conference sponsored by IWA! – Page 2-4 and at http://www.centralhoustoniwa.com/2019_TCWC_Brochure_revA.pdf



A Word From the Editor

By Marilyn J. Dworshak
 NW Houston IWA! Newsletter Editor
 marilyndworshak62@gmail.com

July

2019

We read in Genesis: “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” —Gen. 5:24. Does this mean Enoch walked side-by-side with the Creator on the earth? I pray that I am able and privileged to walk with God just as Enoch did.

To “walk with God,” there must be communication and closeness, first by listening to the Word through the Holy Spirit living inside of us, and then with thankfulness and making our requests known unto God through prayer —Phil. 4:6. In our own human experience, the closer we are to a loved one, the more we enjoy a more intimate conversation, i.e., whispers of love, and comforting compassion. In the spiritual realm, we must also be close to God so that these loving words may go back and forth; after all, God is full of loving-kindness. I like that great word found in many of the Psalms.

David writes: “Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift my soul unto Thee” —Ps. 143:8. Joshua expresses this “walk with God” well, too, when He writes: “Take diligent heed to love the Lord your God; to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments. Cleave unto Him, and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul” —Josh. 22:5. “Let him that glories, glory in this:” Jesus said, “that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight” —Jer. 9:24.

We may never fully understand all things about God, but what little we do know is wonderful, bringing peace and satisfaction to our lives. Stop and appreciate how much God gives and keeps giving of His grace, mercy, love, care, protection, salvation, abundant life, peace, hope, and security. One could go on for pages and books full of pages with the language of God's interaction in our lives. Paul said: “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me” —



Phil. 4:13. This is God's hand on our lives, when we seek Him, hold on to Him, and depend upon Him.

NW Houston IWA! June 11, 2019 Meeting Highlights

The Savior of the world made Himself a servant, and we, as followers, must do no less. Janice Thompson, an award-winning author, and screenwriter, recently visited the NW Houston IWA! and did just that. While exuding the fruit of the Spirit with a smile that seemed never to leave her face, she amiably shared her God-given talents with us. “Address the point of conflict, and ponder the what-ifs,” she said. “Look at the world around you, and make a list of needs to be met; keep your readers hanging on,

“Address the point of conflict, and keep your readers hanging on, because without it, who cares?”

because without it, who cares?”

Using a random picture for illustration, Janice taught us to use “wreckless creativity” and to be spontaneous. “Find a creative space to doodle and daydream,” she said; “so you can stretch your thinking



while using freedom of the pen.” While sharing the differences between right and left brain thinking, we learned that right-brained people are factually based, and goal setting, while left-brained people tend to be random, holistic, and spiritual. “Place with your ‘muse,’ then play with the ‘critic,’” she explained.

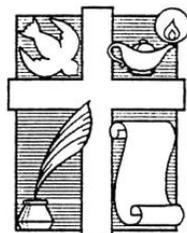
“Look at the world around you and make a list of needs to be met.”

Some of the most esteemed men and women are the humblest of servants. Janice has a servant's heart that reaches out and says: “How can I help?” Thank you, Janice, for your service to others, and for sharing your passion with us. May the Lord continue using you to influence the world for Himself as you teach others to be successful authors God can use. ~MJD

Award-winning author Janice Thompson got her start in the industry writing screenplays and musical comedies for the stage. Janice has published over 110 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. Janice is passionate about her faith and does all she can to share the joy of the Lord with others, which is why she particularly enjoys writing. Her tagline, “Love, Laughter, and Happily Ever Afters!” sums up her take on life. She lives in Spring, Texas, where she leads a rich life with her family, a host of writing friends, and three mischievous dogs. When she's not busy writing or playing with her nine 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. Read more on Janice's website: <http://janiceathompson.com>

**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**

The time is fast approaching, so if you plan to attend, please see the

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM and

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE on page 5 & 6.

CONFERENCE 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 a keynote address, four workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- Half day morning registration includes a 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.*

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.

- **Amarillo**—Karl Smith (karlwk@suddenlink.net, 806-336-5164)
- **Central Houston**—Diana Battista (loveeternal@comcast.net, 832-315-8430)
- **Northwest Houston**—Martha Roddy (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

- 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 above.



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



God the Father appointed His Son, Jesus Christ, heir of all things, —Heb. 1:2 and we are joint-heirs with Him —Rom. 8:17. It stands to reason that Jesus is all we need and why David writes, “My cup runneth over” —Ps. 23:5. “They shall be my people,” Jesus said of the children of Israel, “and I will be their God” —Jer. 32:38.

For more information contact: Martha Roddy, magnolia7787@gmail.com
Subscribe or unsubscribe: Marilyn J. Dworshak, mdworshak62@gmail.com.

“Blesséd are they who know the joyful sound.”

—Psalm 89:15



