



NW HOUSTON INSPIRATIONAL WRITERS ALIVE!

## THE SCRIBE

*Vol. 7 September 2019 No. 9 Page 1 of 10*

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.

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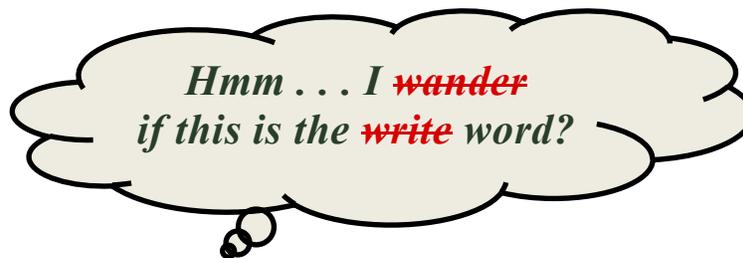
### Where and When NW Houston IWA! Meets

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 Sept 10, 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. Approximately ten, or twelve writers currently attend the meetings, 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.**

### Future 2019 Events and Meetings

**October 8: Dr. Jon M. Suter, a distinguished English Professor at Houston Baptist University will be our guest speaker. He will be accompanied by Dr. Tommy L. Bambrick, Vice President, Houston Baptist University.**

## 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  
 marilyndworshak62@gmail.com

September 2019

### *As Our Pages Are Written*

#### *Hebrew 12:2*

*Looking unto Jesus, the Author, and Finisher of our faith.*

***Each day*** Christian writers rise before dawn to refresh their spirits and delight in the sounds of the early morning. In peaceful courtyards, they find their quills filled with lines of meditation when they hear the Lord say, “Call unto Me . . .” —Jer. 33:3. Even the sparrow, sitting alone upon the housetop, can be heard lifting a song of praise to its Creator in these first hours.

In our arid wilderness, and with a steadied pen in hand, the Word of God begins to write upon our hearts the things that He would have us do. We have no need for pretty pictures on our walls, or painted faces to put on while we meet alone with Him each day.

In quiet moments such as these, grace affects a change we’ve never known—a gift from God, not of ourselves, lest we should boast —Eph. 2:9. Within our chapters and each verse, He makes a way for us, that someday we may sit with Him in Heavenly places —Eph. 2:6. While still a workmanship we are, —Eph. 2:10 He holds our cover in His hand, and with one stroke, and with one word He writes, “Forgiven” —Ps. 85:2. With wisdom only God can give, page by page His Words reach out to teach us in the way that we should go —1 Sam. 12:23.

A scarlet thread between the leaves bookmarks the pages He leaves out—like the pain He felt while suffering in our place, and certain things that only He can know —Deut. 29:29. Line by line, and word for word, He pens the answers that we need, so we may share the reason for our Hope that lives inside —1 Pt. 3:15. “Give your life to Me,” He writes: “Confess your sins and be forgiven; be born again that you may enter in” —Jn. 3:3. Mere words cannot express the joy we feel as we’re forgiven and we let go of all the things we do not need. “I dwell in the high and holy place,” He writes, “with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and revive the heart of the contrite ones” —Is. 57:15.

*Author and Finisher of our faith, You are all the world will need to hear. May our words bring glory to Your name as we seek to be a letter from You —heard and read of all men. Lord, find us not collecting dust, but lead us where we need to go; and we will follow, page-by-page, unto the end. Humbled by Your infinite ways, teach us each-day to have the mind of Christ; and as we worship You, O God, may our prayers be incense unto You, and the lifting of our hands as the evening sacrifice —Ps. 141:2.*



## NW Houston IWA! August: Annual Texas Christian Writers Conference Highlights

### The Wonderful Plans Our Marvelous God Has for Your Life



**Lena Nelson Dooley**, Keynote Speaker - is a Multi-published, award-winning author and has had more than 950,000 copies of her 50 books sold. Her books have appeared on the CBA, *Publisher's Weekly*, and ECPA bestseller lists, as well as Amazon bestseller lists. Lena is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers [www.acfw.com/](http://www.acfw.com/) and the local chapter, ACFW - DFW. She's a member of Christian Authors' Network, and Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas. [www.lenanelsondooley.com](http://www.lenanelsondooley.com).

- “I had a dream to write a Christian novel. If God gave you a story, you need to write it, too. He has a unique journey for each of us. You can't write the same book someone else writes, but you can write a book that God gives to you. Don't miss a dream despite your age or circumstances, because it's all about God's timing; and by following His direction, it will overflow and help others. There is nothing you can do to make Him love you more, or love you less.” —From Lena's Keynote Address.



**Martha Rogers** is a multi-published author and writes a weekly devotional for ACFW. Since receiving her first novel contract at age 73, Martha has written and published over 50 books. Martha and her husband Rex live in Houston, Texas where they are active members of First Baptist Church. Martha is a retired teacher with twenty-eight years teaching Home Economics and English at the secondary level and eight years at the college level supervising student teachers and teaching freshman English. She is the Director of the Texas Christian Writers Conference held in Houston in August each year, a member of ACFW, ACFW WOTS chapter in Houston, and a member of the writers' group, Inspirational Writers Alive!.

Find Martha at: [www.marthawrogers.com](http://www.marthawrogers.com)

- “If it's important, show it; if it's less important, tell it; and if it's not important, delete it. When the time is right, the Lord will turn the key and open the door.”  
—From Martha's workshop: “Show Me, Don't Tell Me.”



**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.

(Source: [TCWC Brochure](#)) [www.MelanieStiles.com](http://www.MelanieStiles.com)

- “Avoid using abstract “Christianese” terms like “believer,” “grace,” “faith” and “sin” that may be interpreted differently by different people—especially those who are not Christian.” —From Melanie’s workshop: “Selling Freelance Articles.”



**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](http://www.cph.org)). She has released four prior DVD Bible study series ([www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)) and four other books through Concordia Publishing House. (Source: [TCWC Brochure](#))

- “What were the sounds at Calvary? Tell it. Use common things and be descriptive —‘God is my shade’.” —From Donna’s workshop: “The Author as a Speaker: Engaging Your Audience.”



**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. (Source: [TCWC Brochure](#)) [www.crystal-barnes.com](http://www.crystal-barnes.com)

- “You want it to look like it belongs on the shelf.” —From Crystal’s workshop: “Cover Design Basics.”



**Janice Thompson**, an award-winning author, 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 reader’s laugh. (Source: [TCWC Brochure](#)) [www.janiceathompson.com](http://www.janiceathompson.com)

- “Stress can have a positive influence on our productivity if we understand how we work best. We can deliberately limit or apply stressors to be compatible with how we process sensory inputs (like noise), how we get motivated, etc.” —From Janice’s workshop: “The Positive Attribute of Stress.”

## Congratulations NW Houston IWA! Writing Contest Winners!



Cherri Taylor!  
Category: Article  
Second Place: *Skimming the Dross*



Marilyn Dworshak!  
Category: Poetry  
Second Place: *All Things Are Possible!*  
Third Place: *Clandestine Charlatan*

## NW Houston IWA! YOUR page

### The Stilts

by Connie Bedgood



In 1945 I lived in Pottsboro, Texas with my grandmother Laura May Lindsay and my Aunt Dixie and Bobby, my brother. My mother had joined WACs and dad was in the Navy assigned to Hawaii.

He sent me my first funny book called Plasticman and I longed to do the things he could do, especially when climbing the big tree with the porch swing under it. It would have been fun to stretch out my arms and swing everywhere when playing Sheena Queen of the Jungle with my cousin, Don Shires.

On Don's side of the railroad was a man and his wife living in a small tin building. It had a little kitchen, living room and bath room. The old man, Mr. Jack and wife Mrs. Donna, seemed to be retired and sat outside most of the time.

Life was cooler on the front porch for sure. He whittled and she mended clothes. We kids stopped and asked about his whittling. He was always making an animal or sling shot for Don. While walking back home that day I was interested in what big thing Mr. Jack was making this time. He told me it was a pair of stilts for me. I was surprised. I had never seen any stilts and had no idea what they were for.

Mr. Jack told me come see come by after school on Monday.

Finally, school was over. I skipped and ran all the way to Mr. Jack's little house. He had used an old belt and cut it to fit over the part of the stilts where my foot would go. He explained, "Lean against the fence over there and put your feet on the small part where the belt is nailed and I will push you up."

Being I was nine years old, I was used to doing what I was told by grownups. He shoved me up and off I went walking unsteadily all over the yard. I did learn how to walk on them and enjoyed it. Most of the kids came to visit him and wanted a pair. He made them all a pair and the parents paid for the wood and straps. We had fun chasing each other all over Mr. Jack's yard.

One day, when I was about 45 years old, I drove in my drive way and there was a neighborhood kid walking on stilts. I yelled at him to come show them to me. They were homemade also. He walked over on them. I said, "Let me try that."

He laughed, "You are old. You can't walk on them!"

"Just watch me," I retorted.

I leaned against my car and off I went walking up and down the street. The boy was yelling at all the kids down the block to come see this old lady walking on his stilts. I performed that day as if I had been doing it daily.

Memories came flooding back of the days in Pottsboro and that kind Mr. Jack who caused so much fun and even reached into the future for more fun.

**Editors Note:**

This story is being published in Country Magazine. The attached picture is of Connie in 1945 at the age of 10. Congratulations, Connie!

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The preceding page is reserved for YOU! Anyone from the NW Houston IWA! who would like to share an excerpt from his/her own work, please email me at [mdworshak62@gmail.com](mailto:mdworshak62@gmail.com) with your one page submission as a Word document. Only one author's submission will be published per newsletter.

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 may be centered.

All entries will be inserted on a first come first serve basis and will be published only once. Be assured that they will not be used for any other purposes without express written permission of the author.

If you do not see your entry in the month submitted, know that it will be saved and published in a future newsletter in the order received and as space allows. All entries are subject to editing.

—The Editor



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.



Here I am, Lord, as a book to its Writer asking that I may know You as You know me; for You alone are the Author and Finisher of my faith —Heb. 12:2. As my pages were written, I ask only that You do as You have said; —2 Sam. 7:25 for me to recommend more, I cannot. Write upon my days, chapter by chapter, “I Am Thy Salvation,” —Psa. 35:3 so that I am a letter from You known and read of all men —2Cor. 3:2-3. May my cover manifest only that I have been with Jesus, —Acts 4:13 so that when my pages are turned, I am ready to give an answer to every man who asks the reason for the Hope that is in me; —1 Pet. 3:15 and with my life, Lord, may You alone be glorified. —mjd.

For more information contact: Martha Roddy, [magnolia7787@gmail.com](mailto:magnolia7787@gmail.com)  
To subscribe or unsubscribe contact: Marilyn J. Dworshak, [mdworshak62@gmail.com](mailto:mdworshak62@gmail.com).

***“Blessed are they who know the joyful sound!”***

***—Psalm 89:15***



**Don't see your face? Come and join us at the next meeting!**