



Northwest Houston
Inspirational Writers Alive!

THE SCRIBE

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Vol.6 July 2018 No.7

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.

NW Houston IWA! Meets

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

Check with front desk for Room Number



JULY MEETING

TUESDAY 10, 2018

CRITIQUE

Bring your latest work-in-progress

AUGUST MEETING

**IN AUGUST NW HOUSTON IWA! MEETS
AT HOUSTON'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

For
26th ANNUAL

Texas Christian Writers' Conference

Sponsored by

Inspirational Writers Alive!

Saturday, August 4, 2018

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Houston's First Baptist Church

7401 Katy Freeway

Houston, Texas 77024

SCROLL DOWN FOR SCHEDULE, SPEAKERS, REGISTRATION FORM

Texas Christian Writers' Conference

REGISTRATION FORM

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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 includes 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. 3
Please make your check or money order payable to IWA! 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 Pat A. Vance at 1108 Valerie, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

2018 Texas Christian Writers' Conference

Saturday, August 4, 2018

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: 252 – A, 253 – B, 254 – C)**
A. Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Crafting the Novella That Sells*
B. Janice Thompson: *Branding: Creating Your Brand*
C. Melanie Stiles: *Ghostwriting*
- 10:00–10:15 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open**
- 10:15–11:15 a.m.** **Workshop II (Rooms: 252 – A, 253 – B, 254 – C)**
A. Patti Greene: *You Can't Copy & Paste Your Way to a Bestseller: How Writers Can Avoid Plagiarism*
B. Carla McDougal: *But...I'm Not a Writer!*

C. Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Understanding the Father's Heart and Applying It to Our Writing*
- 11:20–12:00 p.m.** **Keynote Address**
Janice Thompson: *U.N.I.Q.U.E. – Discovering Your Unique Fit in the Publishing Industry*

12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch	4
1:00–1:30 p.m.	Break/Bookstore Open	
1:30–2:30 p.m.	Workshop III (Rooms: 252 – A, 253 – B, 254 – C) A. Kathleen Y’Barbo Turner: <i>LEGAL BRIEFS: A Paralegal Answers Your Questions</i> B. Carla McDougal: <i>The FAITH Journey: From Author to Film Producer</i> C. Christin Ditchfield Lazo: <i>Bible Study Basics</i>	
2:30–2:45 p.m.	Break/Bookstore Open (Note: The bookstore closes at 2:45 p.m.)	
2:45–3:45 p.m.	Workshop IV (Rooms: 252 – A, 253 – B, 254 – C) A. Patti Greene: <i>Paths to Publishing: An Overview of Self-publishing, Vanity Publishing, Traditional Publishing, and More</i> B. Janice Thompson: <i>Pandora’s Box Characterization</i> C. Melanie Stiles: <i>Before the Book and Beyond</i>	
3:50–4:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks/Announcements/Door Prizes/Evaluations	

WORKSHOP TOPICS

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

—DiAnn Mills



SCROLL DOWN

FOR WORKSHOPS



**FOUR WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED!
I, II, III, IV**

Workshop I

9:00—10:00 a.m.

A Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Crafting the Novella That Sells*

Writing a novella—basically defined as work of fiction with a word count of anywhere between 15,000 words and 40,000 words—is not just a great way to get a complete book out and on the market. It's also a great way to get readers interested in other books you might already have for sale. Many authors use novellas as a prequel to a novel or as a way to test out a character or series before investing time in writing more extensively. Also, many publishers are using novella collections as a way to gain entry into the publishing world. Be warned: crafting the novella that sells is not just about writing shorter novels. Come to this class and see why.

B Janice Thompson: *Branding: Creating Your Brand*

If you're trying to create your own personal brand, listen up! This fast-paced class will teach you the basics of branding and give you ten tips to help you as you set out to make your mark on the reading world. At the end of the class we will divide into groups to help create tag-lines and establish author brands.

C Melanie Stiles: *Ghostwriting*

Do you believe in ghosts? Oh, not in the eerie, see a form pass through the wall and get your socks scared off sense. We're talking about a different sort of ghost—one who actively

seeks to write material for someone else, while remaining completely invisible. Join Melanie Stiles, a “ghost” for more than 15 years, to explore the world of ghostwriting.

Workshop II

10:15—11:15 a.m.

A Patti Greene: *You Can't Copy & Paste Your Way to a Bestseller: How Writers Can Avoid Plagiarism*

It is important to know how plagiarism happens and how to spot it. This workshop will define plagiarism and provide tips for preventing it. We will also look at your rights as a writer, the importance of requesting permissions for use of materials, the consequences of improper source citing, and record-keeping. This workshop is a must for all and especially for non-fiction writers.

Carla McDougal: *But...I'm Not a Writer!*

God's calling you to write, but fear plagues your mind. Thoughts pour in like, “I'm not trained or educated in writing. How can God call me to write when I'm not a writer?” Be encouraged. This session focuses on Psalm 133 and how God equips the called. After this session is over, expect a burst of inspiration to ignite a fire for the writing journey.

C Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Understanding the Father's Heart and Applying It to Our Writing*

When we write for the Kingdom, we must understand the heart of God—His heart for ourselves and His heart for the World. Whether we write fiction or nonfiction, this knowledge can't pour into our writing unless it is first in our heart.

Workshop III

1:30—2:30 p.m.

A Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *LEGAL BRIEFS: A Paralegal Answers Your Questions*

Ever wondered what happens when a character breaks the law? What about a story line where

a person dies and a will must be found? Or perhaps you're just wondering what the life of a lawyer or paralegal is like so you can write these characters in a more realistic way. If you're writing about anything related to the law—be it a character or a plot twist—you don't want to miss this informative class. In addition to being a bestselling author with several million books in print, Kathleen is a degreed paralegal with more than ten years of experience in criminal law, family law, and probate cases in Texas and Oklahoma. She also has experience with Native American law specific to the Cherokee, Creek, and Osage tribes. Bring your questions, but please note I cannot give you legal advice, only plot advice!

B Carla McDougal: *The FAITH Journey: From Author to Film Producer*

Faith requires trusting God in all things. Sometimes, God calls us to places in life that don't make sense. For example, how does someone who lives with dyslexia become a writer? Why would God create circumstances for a stay-at-home mom to serve as an executive producer of a movie? After this session, expect to walk away ready for the faith journey God has for you to accomplish for Him.

C Christin Ditchfield Lazo: *Bible Study Basics*

You don't need a seminary degree to write a Bible study that will strengthen others on their spiritual journey. You DO need to know how to effectively communicate the truths that have inspired you. In this session, we'll explore theme and structure, style and formatting, market and marketing—as well as how to access helpful resources and avoid potential pitfalls.

Workshop IV**2:45—3:45 p.m.****A Patti Greene: *Paths to Publishing: An Overview of Self-publishing, Vanity Publishing, Traditional Publishing, and More***

This workshop introduces the various options available for book publishing. The foundation will be laid for you to decide which type of publishing best suits your respective project. Special attention will be given to comparing the pros and cons of each form of publishing.

B Janice Thompson: *Pandora's Box Characterization*

Creating believable and memorable characters is key to writing awesome novels and short stories. Like an onion, a realistic character has many layers. What readers see on the outside isn't necessarily what they get. In this workshop we'll consider various approaches to characterization, including Pandora's Box, which is actually four boxes, one inside the other. The outer box represents the exterior of your character—things that are obvious at a glance. Box #2 represents things about your character that are simmering just beneath the surface. Box #3 represents the motives of the character—what drives him/her to do the things he/she does. Box #4 contains the key—something that happened to your character (usually in childhood) that has given him/her the motivations he/she has. Discover how to use Pandora's Box to create memorable characters with endearing qualities that readers can relate to.

C Melanie Stiles: *Before the Book and Beyond*

As writers, we have the privilege of writing many things other than THE BOOK! Join Melanie for an informative session on how to create, market, and sell various types of freelance material. Topics will include the basic tools you need to freelance, along with an action plan and various processes for expanding your freelance career. You don't have to write a book to be published. You can sell your freelance work today!

KEEP SCROLLING DOWN FOR FACULTY BIOS**DOWN**

FACULTY BIOS



Christin Ditchfield Lazo is a popular conference speaker and internationally syndicated radio host who is passionate about calling women to a deeper life. She is the author of more than 75 books and Bible studies, including *What Women Should Know About Letting It Go: Breaking Free from the Power of Guilt, Discouragement, and Defeat*. Christin holds a master's degree in Biblical Theology.

www.christinditchfield.com



Patti Greene is a “self-published” author and blogger with 20 years of experience in education and librarianship. Patti is passionate about Bible study and prayer. Her desire as a researcher is to help others develop and use the gifts God has given them for His glory through all kinds of writing—personal and professional. You can read her blog posts at www.GreenePastures.org.

www.PattiGreene.com



Author, speaker, and film producer, **Carla McDougal**, founded Reflective Life Ministries in 2008. Her true passion for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shines brightly, whether she is speaking or writing. Carla is the author of *Reflecting Him*, *Sold Out: Live for Jesus*, and *My Prayer Chair*. Carla serves as the Executive Producer for the awarding faith-based film *We Are Stronger*, which released in 2017. Carla and her husband, Fred, live in the Houston, Texas area.

www.reflectivelifeministries.org



Melanie Stiles is an award-winning author and Life Coach who has accumulated hundreds of bylines in various publications. Along with being the author of several books for writers, Melanie's most recent article on ghostwriting was featured in *The Writer* magazine. She has published personal experience stories, nonfiction articles, devotionals, poetry, business and Christian related material. She loves freelancing!

Additionally, Melanie believes we are better together and works diligently to help others become the best they can be.

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.

Janice is passionate about her faith and does all she can to share the joy of the Lord with others, which is why she especially enjoys writing. Her tagline, "Love, Laughter, and Happily Ever Afters!" sums up her take on life. 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.

www.janiceathompson.com.



Bestselling author **Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner** is a multiple Carol Award and RITA nominee of more than eighty novels, with over two million copies in print in the US and abroad. A tenth-generation Texan and certified paralegal, she has been nominated for a Career Achievement Award as well as a Reader's Choice Award and is the winner of the Inspirational Romance of the Year by *Romantic Times* magazine. In 2018, she is releasing three novels and two novellas, all in the inspirational fiction genre.

www.kathleenbarbo.com



**SCROLL DOWN FOR GENERAL INFORMATION
AND DIRECTIONS**

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 any time.

- **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**—Betty Roesser (truejoy_houston1@comcast.net, 281-426-5110)

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

- Conference registration—Pat A. Vance (patav@aol.com)
- Special dietary needs/other—Martha Rogers (marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net)

DIRECTIONS

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- **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.