



# Missouri Writers' Guild News

Bringing Writers Together

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Whew! We've been busy this summer!

First, updates from the planning conference in April. In addition to the immediate ideas that were addressed prior to the June newsletter:

- The Board has been meeting monthly and chatting and dealing with immediate business in between, via Facebook.
- We've appointed a Board Liaison Officer to communicate between the Chapters and the Board.
- Most MWG information and news is posted on our Facebook page, and there's a sign-up there for our newsletter, even for non-members.
- The website is now a black-and-white theme, to go along with our new logo.
- Members' book covers are on the home page.
- Member bios are private and listed, including social media connections.
- And the MWG follow buttons are on the website for Facebook and Twitter.
- We have a new fall fundraising contest and submissions can be sent electronically.
- All of these things were requested and discussed at our last conference, and I'm happy to say they're all up and running. Okay, well, the occasional glitch, but it's usually fixed within a day or so and for the most part, things are going well with the website.

And I'm going to add this, a replay from the June

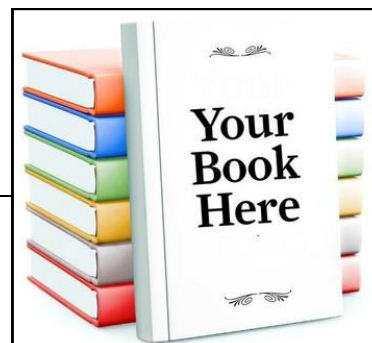
newsletter, because we can only improve the website with the addition of things that our members can upload:

*The Missouri Writers Guild is an organization of the members—and we want YOU to have a voice, we want YOU to participate. Committees interest you? Contact the chairmen. Have an idea? Email me. And please, go to the website, fill out your profile forms, take a look around; if you're a Chapter member, add that information too.*

Also, we have new membership requirements and have added a corporate membership for book industry businesses. These will be listed on our Resource page, along with other Missouri businesses of interest to our members.

I hope everyone is polishing off their Fall Semi-Flash Fiction entries and getting ready to send them in—you can enter on our website, plus keep checking there for 2016 Conference information. The committee is doing a fantastic job and have been hard at work for months now!

**Robin Tidwell, President**  
**Missouri Writers Guild**



Volume 91, Issue 2

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### Submit

News, articles, and conferences/events to the newsletter!

### Deadlines:

August 15  
(Sept. newsletter)  
November 15  
(Dec. newsletter)  
February 15  
(Mar. newsletter)

### To:

mwg.press@gmail.com

## CONTESTS

### Foreword Reviews

The 2015 [INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards](#) is calling all indie book publishers and authors, including university presses, e-book publishers, and self-published authors, for its annual competition recognizing the best in indie book publishing.

Entries are now being accepted for books with a 2015 publishing date in 66 categories with more than 100 booksellers and librarians determining the winners.

### 2015 Semi-Flash Fiction Contest - Online

#### \$100 First Prize

Deadline - September 1, 2015

Entry fee: \$10

Word Limit 1,000 words.

- First Place: \$100
- Second Place: \$50
- Third Place: \$25

Honorable mentions are awarded at the discretion of the judges.

What is flash fiction? It's fun. It's challenging. It's an exercise in rewriting and editing. It this case it's semi-flash, or a short, short story.

All flash fiction includes the classic story elements: protagonist, conflict, obstacles or complications, and resolution. The brevity of this genre often forces some of the story elements to be implied or unwritten in the storyline.

This 6-word flash by Ernest Hemingway is an example of extreme flash fiction:

"For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

Good Luck!

Questions? Contact Contest Chairman Judy Stock at [contest@missouriwritersguild.org](mailto:contest@missouriwritersguild.org)

## WEBSITE

At the planning conference in April, many things were discussed and many changes and additions to the website were requested.

If you're not on social media, you may not be aware that now you can:

- Read the FAQ
- Read the annual meeting minutes
- Apply for a Chapter grant
- Write a blog post
- Upload your book info
- Read the By-Laws
- Read the blog
- View member profiles

Springfield Writers' Guild  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prose and Poetry Contest  
June 15 - September 15, 2015  
[www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests)

### Divisions and Awards

#### Prose and Poetry Division

Fee \$5 per entry. No limit to number of entries, but the same entry may not be entered in more than one category.

Prose: Maximum 1,000 words, double-spaced

Category 1 – Fiction, any genre

Category 2 – Nonfiction, any subject

Category 3 – Humorous

Poetry: Maximum one page, single-spaced

Category 4 – Humorous, any form

Category 5 – Any subject, any form

Awards each category 1-5: First Place \$50, Second Place \$25, Third Place \$15, Two Honorable Mentions

#### Jim Stone Memorial Poetry Division

Fee \$5, one entry per person. Entry must not have been entered in Categories 4 or 5.

Poetry any subject, any form. One page, single spaced.

Awards this division: First Place \$150, Second Place \$75, Third Place \$50, Two Honorable Mentions

#### Best of Springfield Writers' Guild Award

SWG members who enter any category automatically will be considered for a \$100 award at no additional entry fee and in addition to other awards they may receive. This category judged separately.

Bonus for SWG Members: Submit two entries and receive a special link to submit a third entry free of charge. One free entry per member.

### Submission Guidelines

1. Read these guidelines carefully. Failure to follow the guidelines may disqualify your entry.
2. Contest period is 12:01 a.m. Central Time, June 15, 2015, to midnight Central Time, September 15, 2015. **Entries and fees will be accepted only during the contest period and only at [www.Submittable.com](http://www.Submittable.com)**; see link at [www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html). Payment by debit card, credit card, or PayPal. Each entry must be unpublished, original work of contestant, and entered in only one category. You keep all rights to your entries; entries will not be published.
3. Double space prose, single space poetry. Title each entry except haiku. A list of your entries will be accessible at [www.Submittable.com](http://www.Submittable.com). Enter the prose word count or poetry form in the box provided. Number prose pages. Do not put your name on entries.
4. Once an entry is submitted to Submittable, it will not be extracted or exchanged for another entry for any reason. Writers may resubmit an entry when accompanied by the \$5 entry fee.
5. Awards will be presented at the Springfield Writer's Guild meeting, October 24, 2015, or by mail for those unable to attend. For a list of winning entries and judges, visit [www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html) after October 24, 2015.

Questions? Contact Contest Chair, Yvonne Erwin: [writer716@gmail.com](mailto:writer716@gmail.com)

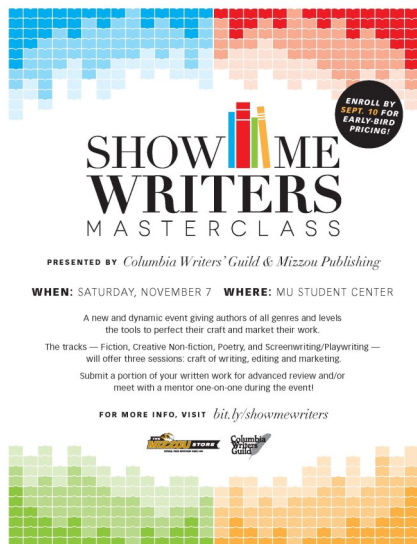


- Enter your own profile
- Read the monthly Board notes
- See planning conference results
- Add yourself to the Speakers Bureau
- Update/add Chapter information
- See writer resources

In addition, on the public side, there is contest info, conference info, new and improved bookstore, and a help desk.

Now, it's YOUR turn. Add your information, add your books, let's make a great website!

## CONFERENCES AND CLASSES



**SHOW ME WRITERS MASTERCLASS**

PRESENTED BY Columbia Writers' Guild & Mizzon Publishing

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 **WHERE:** MU STUDENT CENTER

A new and dynamic event giving authors of all genres and levels the tools to perfect their craft and market their work.

The tracks — Fiction, Creative Non-fiction, Poetry, and Screenwriting/Playwriting — will offer three sessions: craft of writing, editing and marketing. Submit a portion of your written work for advanced review and/or meet with a mentor one-on-one during the event!

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [bit.ly/showmewriters](http://bit.ly/showmewriters)

ENROLL BY SEP 18 FOR EARLY-BIRD PRICING!

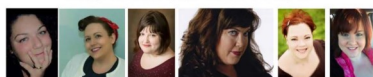
### Ozark Fiction Writers Conference

We'd love to invite your group members to our annual Ozark Fiction Writers Conference on Saturday, September 19 in Springfield, MO, featuring author and editor Candace Haven's wildly popular workshops: Fast Draft -- A Novel in Two Weeks and Revision Hell -- How to Get Through It!

### Ozarks Romance Authors Presents

ORACON Fiction Writer's Conference  
Saturday, September 19, 2015

Workshops ~ Pitch Sessions ~ Speakers ~ Headshots ~ Networking ~ Fun



Louise Fury Literary Agent with The Best Agency  
Candice Gilmer NYT and USA Today Bestselling Author  
Holly Atkinson Publisher and Editor at Samhain  
Candace Haven Bestselling Author and Editorial Director at Entangled Publishing  
Heather Snow Award-winning Author with L. Pirelli Agency  
Tish Beatty Literary Agent

**Featuring Candace Haven's Wildly Popular Workshops:**  
**Fast Draft: A Book in Two Weeks**  
**AND**  
**Revision Hell and How to Get Through It**

You are invited to the 2015 ORACON Fiction Writer's Workshop! This event has much to offer all fiction authors and will focus on the fundamentals of good writing that will apply to any genre of fiction, including: drafting, laying groundwork for your story, scene and structure, revision and more! You will also learn vital information about publishing from industry professionals.

We will also announce the winners for the 2015 Weta Nichols Fiction Writing Contest, named in honor of the woman who founded our group in 1987, the late novelist Weta Nichols.

#### NEW THIS YEAR!!!

- 20-Author Book Signing on Friday afternoon, open to the public!!!
- Meet and Greet Cocktail Hour on Friday night at the hotel. Come mingle with agents, editors, authors and attendees!
- Book-in-A-Year Challenge



## BOOK EVENTS



**The POWER and the PARANORMAL**

JOIN FOUR LOCAL AUTHORS WHO WRITE ABOUT YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WITH THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR GOOD.

**MEANWHILE...**

CANDACE CARRABUS: *THE ROAR OF SMOKE*  
CAMILLE FAYE: *WOODOO BUTTERFLY*  
T.W. FENDLEY: *ZERO TIME*  
GEORGE SIROIS: *EXCELSION*

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?!**

**Four Authors, One Incredible Event!**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 • 1:00 - 3:00 PM • MAIN STREET BOOKS, ST. CHARLES, MO

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

**BENEFIT to YOU: My QUICK & SASSY Marriage Rut Survey-CONFIDENTIAL!**

Hello, Writing Colleagues!

I am conducting valuable survey research for my upcoming book on "marriage ruts" and I believe that you can help me AND benefit yourself since the survey questions will raise your marriage awareness.

Are you in a **Marriage Rut** now? Ever been before? Never been? Or just maybe you know how to get out of or stay out of a rut?

I NEED: All kinds of opinions for this **QUICK** and **SASSY Marriage Rut Survey** for my exciting, upcoming book. The survey takes 5-7 minutes.

ALL survey responses are **confidential** because I checked the "DO NOT SAVE IP ADDRESSES" option that makes it so. Please answer ALL questions. I need complete surveys for analysis.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QUICK-MARRIAGE-RUT>

(BROWSER TIP: Link works on Google Chrome or Internet Explorer—not Fire Fox.)

I am giving away several **FREE GIFTS**. SHARE the FUN and pass the LINK to others. I need hundreds of responses. Thanks bunches for your help!

Questions?

**Dr. Patt Hollinger Pickett, SEICC, LPC, LMFT, MEd, PhD,**

**Licensed Marriage/Family Therapist:**  
877-HireCoach (447-3262)

## EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Do you know someone who does cover design, publishing, editing, or marketing? Would you recommend them to another writer?

If so, please send their website and/or contact info to [mwg.press@gmail.com](mailto:mwg.press@gmail.com) for inclusion on our Writers' Resources page on the website.

Corporate memberships are also available for businesses in the writing industry—please see our website for more information!

## MWG 2016 CONFERENCE!

**Sneak Peek of the Missouri Writers  
Guild 2016 Conference**  
**April 29-May 1, 2016**  
**Hilton—Kansas City Airport**  
**8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City,**  
**Missouri, 64153, 816-891-8900**

Here's a sneak peek at the faculty for the most exciting MWG conference ever! Some session topics are still being decided, but here's what we have lined up so far, with more to come. You won't want to miss it! We have adult and children's tracks.

### **The Children's Track includes:**

**Crystal Allen**, author of *The Laura Line* and *How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba sized Trophy*, "From Zero to Series"

**Gwedolyn Hooks**, author of 17 books for children. "Nonfiction for Kids and Work for Hire"

**Rachel Renée Russell** is the New York Times bestselling author of Scholastic's *Dork Diaries*, novels for middle school age readers. It's sold more than 35 million copies in more than 32 languages and has been recently optioned as a movie by Lionsgate Summit Films. Banquet Keynote

### **The Adult Track includes:**

**Terry J. Allen** has a Ph.D. in playwriting from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and is an Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he taught acting, directing, and playwriting. "Dramatic Dialogue" and "Character Development Through Dramatic Action"

**Barbara Bartocci**, a motivational speaker, author, and spiritual life coach, is the author of nine inspirational books and is frequently published in popular national magazines. "Writing Memorable Memoirs" and "Writing About the Spiritual Journey"

**Pam Grout** writes books (17 at last count including the international best-seller, *E-Squared: 9 Do-it-Yourself Energy Experiments to Prove your Thoughts Create Your Reality*, and articles for CNN Travel, Huffington Post, and People Magazine. (Keynote) "Creating Magic and Miracles in the Writing Game" and "Travel Writing"

**Eric McHenry**, Kansas poet laureate and associate professor of English at Washburn University, will lead two poetry breakout sessions.

**Tom Poland's** columns, essays, and features find their way into books, magazines, and online journals throughout the United States. He's published more than 1,000 magazine features and columns, as well as ten books. "Essay/Column Writing," as well as another breakout session and Master Class

**Harvey Stanbrough** is an award-winning writer and poet who has been nominated for the Frankfurt Book Fair Award, the Foreword Magazine Engraver's Award, the Pushcart Prize, the BEA Book of the Year Award, and the National Book Award. "Punctuation for Writers" and "Heinlein's Rules for Fiction" (Master Class) and "Writing Off Into the Dark"

### **Agents/Editors:**

**Janelle Walden Agyreman** is a literary agent with Marie Brown Associates literary services. She has represented fiction and non-fiction books for children and adults. Her client list includes New York Times bestselling children's author Sharon M. Draper, as well as authors who write for adults. "How To Get an Agent" and "First Pages"

**Eileen Robinson** is editor and publisher of Move Books, which focuses on middle-grade novels for boys. She began her editorial career at Scholastic Publishing and also worked at Harcourt. "Writing Middle Grade" and (Master Class) "Kids Book Revisions"



## NOTES

Members—be sure to upload your books to the website!

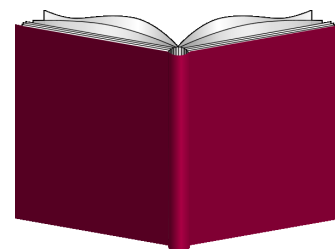
Chapters—add or update your information!

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter—we'll like/follow back!

Please send any info for our writers resource page to president@missouriwritersguild.org

## HELP WANTED

Anyone who is interested in applying for the **BLO** Board position, please email president@missouriwritersguild.org.





## CHAPTERS

**Coffee & Critique** Chapter located in O'Fallon, MO, has welcomed two new members and the return of a long-time member who recently retired and is again able to come to meetings.

We have a long list of member accomplishments for fall of 2015:

**Lou Turner** and **Donna Volkenannt** are returning as consultants during the MSTA retreat in Bunker Hill, MO, for the third year.

**Donna Volkenannt** will speak on the Personal Essay at the October Ozark Creative Writers Conference.

**Louella Turner** is the current President of OCW, which meets in Eureka Springs, Arkansas each October. She has recruited **Donna**, **Marcia Gaye** and **Jane Hamilton** as registration workers.

See [www.ozarkcreativewriters.com](http://www.ozarkcreativewriters.com) for info or contact Ambassador Marcia at [marciagaye@msn.com](mailto:marciagaye@msn.com)

**W.E. (Bill) Mueller's** new non-fiction book, *End of the Trail*, which is about the famous statue by James Fraser, was released in August. Bill presented a talk at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum where the statue stands.

**J.J. (Jack) Zerr** has released his fourth book *The Happy Life of Preston Katt* to very positive reviews. He held signings at Main Street Books and Parkview Gardens in St. Charles.

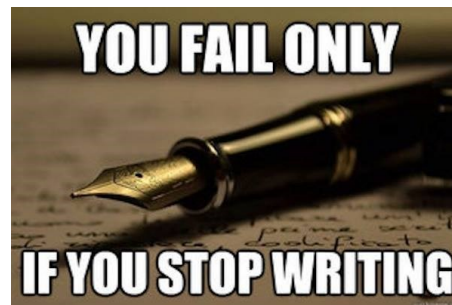
**Doyle Suit** continues speaking engagements and signings for his novel *Baker Mountain*. He was joined by **Charles Rogers**, author of *Rosebush*

**Marcia Gaye** wrote an essay for the just-released *Chicken Soup for the Soul, Inspiration for the Nurse's Soul*.

**Donna Volkenannt** is a finalist for the Tuscany Prize for short fiction.

**Sarah Angleton** has signed a contract with High Hill Press her upcoming novel *Burned Over*.

**Donna Volkenannt** and **Marcia Gaye** have works included in *Well Versed 2015*.



**Saturday Writers** welcomes Special Guest Speaker James Brubaker from Southeast Missouri State University to talk about Writing, Compiling, and Submitting the Perfect Short Story Collection on September 26<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome; please see our website for visitor information.

Sherry Cerrano, Jennifer McCullough, Heather N. Hartmann, Sherry Long, Lori Younker, and Kathryn Cureton have won first place in one of our writing contests this year. All of our winners will be published in our 2015 anthology and some, like these lucky ladies, win cash, too. The list of winners continues to grow so it's not too late to enter. Check out our contest page for details. Upcoming deadlines: August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 26<sup>th</sup>.

October brings our 2015 Fall Writing Workshops. This year we host opportunities to learn character development, dialogue, and story structure from award winning fiction writer Anene Tressler-Hauschultz, writing, publishing, and marketing a memoir with lifewriter Linda Austin, we'll run the gamut on Social Media

with social media guru Laurie Bergman and our poetry super-instructor is currently being hand selected for us by Mary Ruth Donnelly over at the St. Louis Poetry Center. Our workshops take place during the week, in the evening, making them accessible to more writers. Members receive a discount on each workshop and all attendees get a discount when attending more than one. Information is listed on our website.

At the end of October and through November we are working with the Spencer Road Library Branch in St. Peters hosting several free National Novel Writing Month workshops and events for [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org). Word from Linda Austin is that November is also National Lifewriting Month, so join us to pen your memoir in a month as well.

We'll end 2015 with our annual Holiday Party in December. During the shenanigans we'll raffle donated themed baskets. We're looking for a great connection for a large prize "mystery basket" please contact [jennifer.h@saturdaywriters.org](mailto:jennifer.h@saturdaywriters.org).

Saturday Writers isn't slowing down as the long shadows of autumn take over. Everyone is welcome at Saturday Writers and we hope to see you. [www.saturdaywriters.org](http://www.saturdaywriters.org)

