



Photo by Sarah Geringer, 2016

August Program Speaker

Dorinda Miller is a wife, mother, speech-language pathologist, and aspiring writer. She resides in Southeast Missouri. However, the inspiration for the ideas behind her stories are from her childhood memories in Arkansas.

Once a stay-at-home mother for her two children, they inspired her with the unique way children view their own small world. She writes poetry, picture books, and young adult.

Her hobbies include gardening, exercise, reading, and watching a good movie with her husband of 23 years. Soon to be an empty nester, she wants to complete her list of life ambitions, which her husband fondly calls “not a bucket list, but a 55-gallon drum.” She loves to go on vacations with her family, where the best story ideas are born.

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AWN! Conference Feedback from HWG Members

Mary Ann Heinsman: I learned valuable information from the workshops and speakers. What I learned from one-on-one interactions with other writers, editors, and agents, however, is what will impact my writing the most. I became better acquainted with a member of our guild as we brainstormed over lunch about blogs, Facebook, and networking. Through one-on-one critiques of two of my manuscripts, I received specific feedback as to my strengths and weaknesses as a writer. I left the conference with a better understanding of where I want to take my writing career.

Mary Rechenberg: The conference was great. Being in the presence of other writers is so inspiring. You learn so much from the people around you as well as the presenters. I especially appreciated having my manuscript critiqued by John Rudolph. Where else could I get an opportunity to speak one-on-one with a New York agent about my work?

Donna Shell: As a freelance editor/proofreader, I thought it was very helpful to hear what literary agents and published writers are looking for in quality work. I especially enjoyed Robert Yehling, David Armand, and Jill Marr. Listening to the experts will certainly save writers some time. It was one of the best conferences I've attended. Congratulations to those who organized the event!

Karen Uban: There were several outstanding learning opportunities beside the great workshops. The personal critique was very helpful. My editor, Tiffany Schofield, was very specific and because she didn't have anyone waiting for her, she spent a great deal of time with me. Also, the slush pile was so informative, what keeps editors reading and what turns them off and why.

Next Meeting Date

Sunday, August 21

2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian
Church Steck House

Jackson, Missouri

June 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mary Rechenberg brought the meeting to order with eleven members and two guests in attendance.

Marcie Upchurch gave a report on the All Write Now! Conference. **Rachel Ashworth** said she has gained work as a freelance writer through LinkedIn.

Tim Morgan gave updates about the **Heartland Book Festival on the Mississippi, scheduled for Sept. 2017**. He is looking for a videographer to record affordable YouTube-ready interviews. He obtained a quote from the Show Me Center. The Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau will help with advertising once plans are underway with City Hall. **If anyone has ideas to submit or business contacts to share**, please contact Tim at timmorgan312@yahoo.com.

The group discussed ideas for a **field trip on October 16**. If you have an idea for a field trip, please contact Mary Rechenberg at rechenbergm@yahoo.com.

Karen Uban introduced **Karen Simons**, the June program speaker. She spoke about using cemeteries and historical research as inspiration for articles.

All Write Now! Conference Contest Winners

Flash Fiction – Jeremy Thompson, Judge

Deadly Writes, Sponsor

1st Place: “Mile Marker Zero” - Janet Bettag

2nd Place: “On a Wing and a Prayer” - Jane Hamilton

3rd Place: “Step Daughter” - Laura Stewart Schmidt

Honorable Mention for Flash Fiction

“Jesus of Nazareth” and “Desire in the Night,” both by Larry Hightower

Poetry—Allison Joseph, Judge

Marcie Upchurch, Sponsor

1st Place: “Brown Eggs” - Claudie Mundell

2nd Place: “Jew as Noun” - Elleraine Lockie

3rd Place: “Sunday Dinner, July 1985” - Sarah Geringer

Essay Contest—Donna Volkennant, Judge

Carol and John Fisher, Sponsors

1st Place: “A Pair of Good Boots” – Patricia Wahler

2nd Place – “Dancing with my Father – Jane Hamilton

3rd Place – “A Hot Date in the Next Town Tonight” – Kathryn Cureton

Honorable Mentions for Essay Contest

“The Fearless Old Man on the Flying Trapeze” – Jane Hamilton

“Mission Above and Beyond” – Marcia Gaye

“Like Hardy Cockroaches Baby Boomers Survive – Kathryn Cureton

“How I Went to Prison” – Nancy Nau Sullivan

“Three Seasons of the Raven” – Karen Uban

Children’s Middle Grade—Margo Dill, Judge

Amphorae Publishing, Sponsor

1st place: Pullin' Weeds #32 - Mary Ann Heinsman

2nd place: The Legend of the Almond Tree #30 - Mary Ann Heinsman

3rd place: Deep in the Heart #31 - Ashley Melanson

Adult/YA Fiction Contest—Jason Makansi, Judge

The Kolb Web, Inc., Sponsor

1st Place: “An Ugly Woman – Cynthia Graham

2nd Place: “Memorial” – Larry Hightower

3rd Place: “No Muss, No Fuss” – Marcia Gaye

Honorable Mention Adult/YA Fiction

“The Ice House” – Claudia Mundell

Congratulations to all contest winners

including these HWG members:

Sarah Geringer

Mary Ann Heinsman

Karen Uban

Snippets

By Sarah Geringer, Editor

Attending the All Write Now! Conference was one of the highlights in my 2016 writing journey. Here are my top three takeaways from this amazing event.

- 1) **Pitching my book idea** to an entire room of conference attendees was both exhilarating and terrifying. I did not plan to pitch at all that day, but upon Jill Marr's prompting and watching others pitch, I felt an irresistible stirring to share my book idea. Seizing that moment helped me hone my pitch so I will be ready next time someone asks, "What do you write about?"
- 2) **Listening to David Armand** discuss his journey as a memoir writer and poet inspired me on my similar path. His idea for treating loved ones with compassion in memoir helped me edit my own memoir pieces for greater privacy and peace.
- 3) **After Liz Schulte's excellent program on ebooks**, I began considering how ebooks may help me fulfill my dream to write full-time. In the weeks since the conference, **I have outlined a plan for my first ebook** to be released Oct. 28, 2016, titled "Christmas Peace for Busy Moms." **If you wish to serve as a beta reader for this project**, please email me. Thank you in advance for your help and support!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make the All Write Now! Conference a great resource for writers!

Have you found an interesting snippet of online writing advice? Email me at sarahgeringercreates@gmail.com and I'll include it in the next newsletter!

The Heartland Writers Guild Journal

Submit newsletter info
by the 15th of the month to:
Sarah Geringer, Editor
sarahgeringercreates@gmail.com

heartlandwriters.org



Member submissions to *The Journal* are encouraged.

No fee will be paid, but a byline will be given if info is provided.

All submissions are subject to editing and will be printed on a space-available basis.

A word count of up to 200 words is requested.

Welcome topics include guild news, awards and achievements, and family occurrences. Photos must be in .jpg format and 1 MB or less.

Some forms of advertising, such as new publication information for member books and member book signings, are also accepted.

Articles printed with member by-line are considered "credits" by other publishers for that writers' portfolio.