



Photo by Sarah Geringer

## August Program

No July meeting will be held, due to the All Write Now! Conference on July 15.

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Our speaker in August is Mary Ann Heinsman. Join us as she presents the program “Writing Creative Nonfiction: Packing a Punch without Compromising the Truth.” Mary Ann will share how using strategies of fiction storytelling can engage your non-fiction readers, all the while staying true to the facts.

Mary Ann Heinsman is a freelance writer of historical, creative non-fiction for children. Her publishing credits include include Grandson with a Mission, Boys’ Quest, February/March 2006; The Game Between Kings, Boys’ Quest, April/May 2006; and Make a Folk Flute, Fun for Kidz, May/June 2006. The Game Between Kings was also published in Hopscotch magazine and was included on a CD for school librarians. In 2008, she collaborated with Jeffery Bradley to write Positive African American Plays for Children, Book 3 published by NetNia.com and available on Amazon. She has also contributed to a series of comic books on the history of Kenya.

## Heartland Book Festival Update

**We need you** to help spread the word to other writers and crafters.

**Each booth starts at only \$25.00.**

Find more information on [our website](#) and on the Facebook page for [The Heartland Book Festival on the Mississippi](#). All members are encouraged to participate as vendors or volunteers! Join us

**October 28, 2017 at the Osage Centre in Cape Girardeau.**



Next Meeting Date  
 Sunday, August 20  
 2:00 p.m.  
 First Presbyterian  
 Church Basement  
 Jackson, Missouri

## *June Meeting Minutes*

June 25, 2017

**Mary Rechenberg** opened the meeting. Eighteen members and two guests were present.

**John Fisher** gave the program, "A Nonfiction Writer's Journey: From Idea to Publication." John presented his own journey from formation of an idea to publication of his work. He shared many tips on how to find a publisher, researching, and organizing a piece of non-fiction.

### **Business Meeting**

#### **New Business**

**Bill Hopkins** updated the group on the policy of the Cape Girardeau Public Library for author presentations and book signings. Signings are now handled by Friends of the Library, and authors need to submit a written proposal on how the author plans to advertise and must agree to give 10% of their proceeds to Friends of the Library.

#### **Old Business**

**Marcie Upchurch** gave an update on the All Write Now! Conference. Registrations are down this year, so some cuts have been made. There will be no Sunday Masters Classes. Members were encouraged to register online if they have not already done so. A sponsor is still needed for the Illustrator's contest.

**Dee Kesterson-Booker** suggested Horst Pharmacy might be interested. **Carol Fisher** made a motion that HWG will sponsor the contest for \$100 if Horst Pharmacy is not interested. **Mary Ann Heinsman** seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The AWN Committee suggested that HWG could have a table at the conference free of charge if SEMO Writers Guild could have a table at the Book Festival free of charge. **John Fisher** made a motion to accept the suggestion for a table swap. **Tim Morgan** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Heartland Book Festival on the Mississippi**

**Sarah Geringer** gave an update on author/crafter registrations for the event. She passed out a diagram of booth space with those already registered. Registration is \$25 for a 10 x 10-foot booth. Booth space will hold up to three tables. We are currently at about 45% capacity and need to fill 19-23 more booths if we fill only half of the arena. We can still add more booth space. The deadline for registration is October 1, 2017. **Mary Rechenberg** gave an update on publicity for the event. In addition to sharing on Facebook, she placed an ad in a local newspaper. **Mary Ann Heinsman** volunteered to send an email writer's groups in the state of Missouri, and **Donna Shell** volunteered to contact several Chamber of Commerce and Homeland Weekend. **Mary Rechenberg** stated that Front Porch Players and Sarah Miller have expressed interest in providing musical entertainment for the event. The question arose as to whether the Osage Centre has a license for singers to sing copyrighted music. Mary will check into this.

In the remaining time, several members gave updates on their current writing projects.

**Mary Rechenberg** closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Ann Heinsman**, Secretary

## Snippets

By Sarah Geringer, Editor

Here's an excerpt from my [Five Minute Friday](#) post on the blessings of blogging.

I've blogged for more than seven years, and I can count many blessings specific to this blogging world.

**Community.** I've developed many online friendships through blogging. I even get to meet some of these friends at the She Speaks 2017 conference in July and at the Come With Me retreat this fall. So excited!

**Discipline.** Blogging on a regular basis has developed [good habits](#), both in my writing career and my personal life.

**Knowledge.** Through reading many other blogs, I've been inspired to tweak and correct my own. I'm always learning by viewing examples, and that helps me improve my own blog.

**Motivation.** Knowing that readers expect something new keeps me going.

**Growth.** My writing has improved the more often I've written and the more I've read other blogs.

**Outward focus.** The blog posts that get the most feedback are the ones that minister to others, so I have learned to tailor my writing toward readers' needs.

**Dream fulfillment.** I can honestly say I'm a writer since I blog, and that fulfills a long-held dream of mine!

If you have a blog, what blessings have you experienced from blogging? If not, how does this list inspire you?

Have you found an interesting snippet of online writing advice? Email me at [sarah@sarahgeringer.com](mailto:sarah@sarahgeringer.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  
[sarah@sarahgeringer.com](mailto:sarah@sarahgeringer.com)

[heartlandwriters.org](http://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.