

March 2018

## Heartland Writers Guild



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### *March News*

The March meeting will be held on **Sun., Mar. 18 at 2:00 p.m.** Our speaker for the March meeting is **Rachel Ashworth.**

She will speak on the topic "**Highlights from John Truby's *Anatomy of Story.***" Ashworth, who also writes nonfiction and poetry, indicates that she is going to jump into fiction. During her presentation, she plans to use writing exercises and will share pointers to maintain habits that work.

### *February Meeting Snapshot*



At our February meeting, we enjoyed a full house gathering and a presentation by Amanda Robbins. She is a teacher and writer for literary magazines, and she shared her methods for getting published.

#### Next Meeting Date

Sunday, March 18

2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian  
Church Basement

Jackson, Missouri

## *December Meeting Minutes*

December 17, 2017

**Mary Rechenberg** opened the meeting. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Carl Armstrong** presented a Christmas story.

Old Business

The following slate of officers was approved:

**Mary Rechenberg**-President

**Tim Morgan**-Vice President

**Mary Ann Heinsman**-Secretary

**John Fisher**-Treasurer

Our next meeting will be January 21, 2018. Members are encouraged to pay their \$24 dues at that meeting.

Members signed up for monthly programs for 2018. Each member that signs up is either responsible for presenting a program or finding a speaker. The list will be completed at the January 2018 meeting.

**Mary Rechenberg** adjourned the meeting.

Members enjoyed a Christmas party with treats and a gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Ann Heinsman**, Secretary



## *January Meeting Minutes*

January 21, 2018

**Mary Rechenberg** opened the meeting. Sixteen members and one guest were present.

**Marilou Shaner** presented an interesting program on the various types of reference books, displaying many dictionaries from her own collection.

### **Business Meeting:**

The 2018 Program Schedule was completed. The schedule is as follows:

January 21— Marilou Shaner

February 18— Rachel Ashworth (Amanda Robbing giving presentation)

March 18— Rachel Ashworth –Fiction Writing

April 15— Tim Morgan

May 20— Sarah Geringer

June 24\*— (Third Sunday is Father's Day) Mary Ann Heinsman

July 15— Dorinda Miller

August 19— John Fisher

September 16— Karen Simon

October 21— Field Trip –Karen Uban

November 18— Greg Stout

December 16— Christmas Party

It was also suggested and decided to have 4-5 members read an excerpt from their work in progress during the last 20-30 minutes of each meeting.

**Carol Fisher** suggested the guild sponsor an anthology to give members writing credits.

After discussion, it was decided there was not enough interest in this endeavor.

The group discussed the merits of doing the Heartland Book Festival on the Mississippi again.

It was pointed out that while we did receive a new member due to the festival, we also lost about \$600 and the planning took away from each member's writing. **Sharon Hopkins** motioned to discontinue the book festival. **Carol Fisher** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Rachel Ashworth** suggested changing the name of the 'Heartland Book Festival on the Mississippi' Facebook *page* to 'Heartland Writers Guild'. (It should be noted this is different from the Heartland Writers Guild *group* on Facebook.) She will take care of doing this.

**Mary Rechenberg** closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Ann Heinsman**, Secretary

## *February Meeting Minutes*

February 18, 2018

**Mary Rechenberg** opened the meeting. Twenty-one members and five guest were present.

**Amanda Robbins**, English teacher at Leopold High School, presented the program “How to Get Your Work Published.” Amanda’s inspiring presentation focused mainly on getting published in literary journals and provided valuable information for all.

### **Business Meeting:**

**Treasurer’s Report:** **John Fisher** reported that we have \$1954 in our account with twenty members having paid dues for the year. Several other writers in attendance took membership forms.

**Carol Fisher** reminded members that in order to keep our non-profit status as an organization, we are required to have a board of directors. The board of directors meets four times a year. **John Fisher, Carol Fisher, and Sharon Holder** have served on the board with **Mary Rechenberg** and **Mary Ann Heinsman** also attending board meetings as officers of the organization. **Sharon Hopkins** moved that we keep the board members the same for 2018. **Marilou Shaner** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

All presenters for meetings in 2018 should email **Carol Fisher** with the title of their presentation so it can be added to the website.

### **Open Mic:**

**Bill Hopkins, Sarah Geringer, Ruth Winsted, Greg Stout, and Sharon Hopkins** read short pieces of their work.

**Mary Ann Heinsman, Dean Winsted, Donna Essner, and Rachel Ashworth** volunteered to read at the next meeting.

**Mary Rechenberg** closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Ann Heinsman**, Secretary

## Snippets

By Sarah Geringer, Editor

It's been a while since we published a newsletter. I apologize for the delay. Here's what's been going on in my world since the December issue: **I signed with a literary agent!** Here's how our paths crossed.

**Last summer I attended a national Christian women's conference for writers and speakers.** In one of the sessions, a woman came up to me and introduced herself. She and I had been in an online Bible study group years before. We were both at the conference to pitch our book ideas to publishers. Our chat was pleasant and lasted less than 10 minutes.

**In the autumn I saw on Facebook that she had signed as a literary agent,** and I messaged my congratulations. Then in January, a fellow conference attendee posted in the private Facebook group for the conference, asking if anyone had heard back from their publisher or agent appointments. I commented that I was still waiting. My agent-to-be saw my comment, and private messaged me on Facebook. She asked to see my book proposal, and I sent it over. Within a few weeks, she requested a contract. **You can read more about my publishing journey [here](#).**

**What I've learned from this experience is the importance of networking and attending conferences.** You can never underestimate the potential of a brief, 10-minute conversation. If you want to be traditionally published, **I highly encourage you to attend conferences and talk, talk, talk while you're there!**

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.