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May Program

The May meeting will be held on **Sun., May 20 at 2:00 p.m.** Our speaker for the April meeting will be Sarah Geringer. She will present on the topic, “How to Use Meditation to Inspire Your Writing.” **Look at page 2 for quotes we’ll use during the program**

Sarah is a full-time freelance writer, blogger, and artist who lives near Jackson, Mo., with her husband and three children. She writes about Finding Peace in God’s Word at sarahgeringer.com. She has self-published three books and is represented by agent Michelle Lazurek of WordWise Media Services. Currently, Sarah’s manuscript is being reviewed by several traditional publishers who may choose to publish her first trade paperback in 2019 or 2020.

Sarah also volunteers as a graphic design intern for the Grit ’N’ Grace Girls podcast at gritnegracegirls.com, and as a proofreader for the Encouragement for Today devotionals by Proverbs 31 Ministries, read by nearly 1 million readers each month. She posts weekly at [Woman 2 Woman Ministries](http://Woman2WomanMinistries.com) and monthly on the [Devotable app](http://Devotable.app). In her freelance work, she ghostwrites for lawyers, dentists, chiropractors, service contractors, and online teachers around the world. She also writes for various *Southeast Missourian* publications.

When she’s not writing, Sarah enjoys reading at least two books per week, walking outdoors, gardening, baking, painting and playing her flute. She also loves spending quality time with her family and friends.

Fall Road Trip Planned

Lincoln Douglas Debate Site Chosen for Annual HWG October Road Trip

Location: Anna, Illinois Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018

Mark this date on your calendars. The trip will be on the day before the usual October third Sunday afternoon meeting. Members are encouraged to invite guests to share the visit to this historic site.

Thanks to Karen Uban for organizing the event.

Next Meeting Date

Sunday, May 20
2:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian
Church Basement
Jackson, Missouri

April Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2018

Mary Rechenberg opened the meeting. Nineteen members were present.

Tim Morgan presented the program on his experiences administering hypnotherapy. He stretched our minds to consider the possibilities of UFO's and unexplained phenomenon.

Mary Ann Featherston shared about her cookbook project and her use of the websites Pixabay, Serif PagePlus, and Create Space for self-publishing her books. She passed around copies of her books, *Between Sisters* and *The Three Little Kittens*. As part of the discussion, **Sharon** and **Bill Hopkins** added information about obtaining copyrights and ISBN numbers.

Open Mic:

Marilou Shaner, Karen Uban, Mary Rechenberg, and Carl Armstrong read short pieces of their work. **Gwen Thoma, Carol Fisher, Mary Ann Featherston, and Mary Ann Heinsman** volunteered to read next month.

Mary Rechenberg closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Heinsman, Secretary

Inspirational Quotes on Writing

Choose your favorite from among these quotes. We will use them in an exercise at the May meeting!

"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." **Benjamin Franklin**

"No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader." **Robert Frost**

"You must stay drunk on writing so reality cannot destroy you." **Ray Bradbury**

"How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live." **Henry David Thoreau**

"I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn." **Anne Frank**

"We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect." **Anaïs Nin**

"Let me live, love, and say it well in good sentences." **Sylvia Plath**

"I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in." **Robert Louis Stevenson**

"You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write." **Saul Bellow**

"You can make anything by writing." **C.S. Lewis**

"Tears are words that need to be written." **Paulo Coelho**

"Always be a poet, even in prose." **Charles Baudelaire**

"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself." **Albert Camus**

"I write to discover what I know." **Flannery O'Connor**

"If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that." **Stephen King**

Snippets

By Sarah Geringer, Editor

I have worked on not one, but TWO, book proposals in the past two months. **This is what I've learned from writing my book proposals:**

A book proposal helps you narrow your focus. It's time-consuming and challenging, but after it's done, you really know what your book is about. It makes your elevator pitch much easier, too.

Different editors and agents like different formats. The one my agent told me to use was Michael Hyatt's nonfiction version. You can find it (and the fiction version) for sale [here](#). Excellent materials I highly recommend, and they are reasonably priced. I followed it to a tee, and now two publishers are considering my book. It works!

Don't take feedback personally. Remember, writing is a business, and you must provide what people want. Your agent and editor know this better than you. Trust their judgment and follow their advice. Remember that if they cut anything, you can still use it on your blog, for guest posts, for promotional materials, etc. Look for the grains of truth even in tough criticism, and use them to polish your writing.

You need at least three chapters to be included in your proposal, plus a chapter-by-chapter outline. Fiction manuscripts need to be 100 percent finished before submitting to publishers. Editors prefer that non-fiction books are not totally finished so they can shape the book's theme, especially for unpublished authors.

Don't forget to celebrate when that 50+ page manuscript is finished! I celebrated BOTH times. :)

The Heartland Writers Guild Journal

Submit newsletter info
by the 15th of the month to:
Sarah Geringer, Editor
sarah@sarahgeringer.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'