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October Field Trip

October is the month our group normally takes a field trip instead of holding a regular meeting. This is a fun time to explore history and enjoy great food and conversation together.

This year, the field trip will be held on Saturday, October 20. We will travel together to the Lincoln Douglas Debate Site in Anna, Illinois. Karen Uban has graciously volunteered to coordinate this event for us. Please invite guests to join us on our visit to this historic site.

If you have questions, please direct them to Karen Uban at kruban@frontier.com or Mary Rechenberg at rechenbergm@yahoo.com. See more information inside in the Meeting Minutes for September's meeting.

Famous Autumn Quotes

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

— L. M. Montgomery, [Anne of Green Gables](#)

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

— Albert Camus

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."

— Henry David Thoreau

"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face."

[*The Autumnal*]"

— John Donne, [The Complete Poetry and Selected Prose](#)

Next Meeting Date
Saturday, October 20
Field Trip
Contact Karen Uban
for more details
at kruban@frontier.com

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2018

Mary Rechenberg opened the meeting. Fourteen members were present.

Members shared about their current projects.

Sarah Geringer presented a thought-provoking program on Meditation for Writers. She led the group in some meditation exercises and shared about her new book on Christian meditation.

Rachel Ashworth, Gwen Thoma, Mary Ann Featherston, and Mary Ann Heinsman read their work.

Katie Moore, Bill Hopkins, Carol Fisher, and Sharon Hopkins volunteered to read at our next meeting.

Mary Rechenberg closed the meeting.

June 24, 2018

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

Mary Ann Heinsman presented an interactive program entitled Exploring Create Space. Members who have previously published work on Create Space also contributed valuable tips on self-publishing.

Katie Moore, Carol Fisher, and John Fisher read their work.

Marcie Upchurch reported that the Southeast Missouri Writers Guild is planning an All Write Now! mini conference for August 4, 2018. The cost is tentatively \$25 with lunch on your own. Donna Essner and Karen Sargent will be the presenters.

Mary Rechenberg closed the meeting.

July 15, 2018

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

The following members shared exciting writing news:

John Fisher's book, *Southeast Missouri from Swampland to Farmland: The Transformation of the Lowlands*, placed first in the 'Show Me Best Book' competition at the Missouri Writers Guild Conference in May and was reviewed by Jillian Hartley in the July 2018 edition of the *Missouri Historical Review*.

Amanda Flinn won several awards at the Write to Publish Christian Writers Conference and signed with agent.

Greg Stout's Young Adult novel was picked up by Beacon Press

Ruth and Dean Winstead now have three self-published novels.

Tim Morgan is running a contest with his book, and his daughter self-published a book of poetry.

Randy McWilson, presented an informative and entertaining program, 'A Case for Book Trailers.' He showed us that book trailers are another avenue of book promotion and can be inexpensive and easy to make.

Ruth and Dean Winstead, Bill and Karen Simons, and Mary Ann Featherston read their work.

Katie Moore, Rachel Ashworth, and Steven Cross volunteered to read next month.

Mary Rechenberg closed the meeting.

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Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2018

Tim Morgan opened the meeting. **Katie Moore** and **Amanda Ellis** presented programs on pitching your work and the use of social media.

John Fisher moved to pay \$200 per year to First Presbyterian Church for use of their facilities for our meetings. **Bill Hopkins** seconded the motion. The motion passed. Also, we need to put the room back in order after the meetings.

Paul Echols, retired Carbondale police officer and author of *In Cold Pursuit*, will present the program next month.

Tim Morgan closed the meeting.

September 16, 2018

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

Members introduced themselves and shared about their current projects.

We welcomed Lieutenant Paul Echols, retired Carbondale police officer and co-author of *In Cold Pursuit: My Hunt for Timothy Krajcir, The Notorious Serial Killer*, as he shared about the Timothy Krajcir case and how he came to write a book about it.

Carol Fisher moved to make a \$100 donation to the Nine Angels Criminal Justice Scholarship. The scholarship has been set up in memory of the victims of this case and benefits a Criminal Justice student at Southern Illinois University. **Rachel Ashworth** seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Karen Uban passed out maps to Anna/Jonesboro for our field trip next month. We will meet at the Lincoln Debate Site at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 20, 2018. We will have a guided tour and then eat at the Brick House Bar and Grill in Anna after. Please let Karen know if you plan to attend so she can give the restaurant a head count.

Mary Rechenberg closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Heinsman, Secretary



Snippets

By Sarah Geringer, Editor

I appreciate your patience with me in getting the newsletter out to you. This summer, I had the privilege of writing my first manuscript to be traditionally published in autumn 2019, and it consumed much of my time and energy. Here are a few lessons I've learned about writing a 60,000 word manuscript.

- Give yourself time to think. I like working on a deadline, but when I procrastinate, I don't turn in my best work. I've learned to build in more down time so my brain can be more creative.
- Check fair use on your quotes. My book is on the topic of Christian meditation, and I quoted hundreds of verses. My editor told me that the limit is 500 verses before fair use law is violated. Wish I would have researched that beforehand! Make sure to check your publication guidelines for works you intend to quote.
- Enjoy the process. When I was writing my chapters, I was in the "zone" where time stops and all feels right in the world. Writing is hard work, but it's also a joy. Remember to celebrate your victories one chapter at a time, and enjoy the hours, weeks and months using your creative gifts!

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' portfolio.