

---

# THE GABRIEL WRITER

For the San Gabriel Writers' League – [www.sgwl.net](http://www.sgwl.net) – June 2015

---

**Jim Money– June Speaker**



Jim Money was born in Boston, Massachusetts and entered the U.S. Army in 1962. He served almost 15 years in the Army and received the Purple Heart in Vietnam and is now classified 100% disabled. Jim collaborated with ten Vietnam veterans and six spouses in writing the book, *The Wounds of the Soul*. Prior to this book, Jim and seventeen other Vietnam veterans got together and wrote the book, *The Conflict That Was A War; In Vietnam And At Home*.\*

\*Jim has just returned from LA where he discussed a movie/TV deal. He'll tell us about it Thursday night.

**JOIN US!**

---

---

## President's Words

Don Guerrant kindly stepped up and agreed to fill the vacant position of the Vice-President term. A confirmation vote by acclamation members will be taken at the meeting to formalize this. Thank you, Don!!

We still need someone to design a new brochure for SGWL. If you have experience at this, or think you could figure it out, please contact Paul Fronczek.

---

## May Minutes

### San Gabriel Writer's League General Meeting Minutes – 5/7/15

#### The Call to Order:

Paul Fronczek called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

#### The Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Kayla Marnach was not present. Paul reported a positive ending balance of \$2,007.48.

#### New Business:

- New member—Carol B. Allen
- Visitor—Natalie M. Nguyen, elementary student who has her own blog. See her stories here: <http://nataliemnguyen.com/>.
- Former member Roger Busfield died.

#### Old Business:

- We are looking for a vice president/program chairman.
- Janet asked for more articles for the newsletter.
- Paul asked for help updating the SGWL brochure.

#### Brags:

- **Nell Newton** wrote the cover article on classic cars for a recent issue of *Sun Rays*, a monthly magazine distributed in Sun City.
- **Thomas Mitchell** has a story called The Great Louisiana Bank Robbery in *Eclectically Criminal—Eclectic Writings Volume 2*.

---

## SGWL Board

#### President

Paul Fronczek  
Plumt00easy@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Program Coordinator  
Sam Holland  
samholland@austinfoam.com

#### Corresp. Secy. & Hist.

Sidney Frost  
sidfrost@suddenlink.net

#### Treasurer

Kayla Marnach  
512-608-2289  
kjwmtells@gmail.com

#### Membership dues \$25.00

Janet Kilgore  
512-331-7204  
janet-kilgore@austin.rr.com

#### Member at Large

Janet Kilgore  
512-331-7204  
janet-kilgore@austin.rr.com

#### Website

Jamie Roton  
pugstory@aol.com

#### Newsletter

Janet Kilgore  
512-331-7204  
janet-kilgore@austin.rr.com

#### Writers' Liaison

Joan Hall  
512-869-1833  
JMUHall@aol.com

SGWL website: [www.sgwl.net](http://www.sgwl.net)

#### Member Websites

#### Marjorie Anderson

[www.challenge4teens.com](http://www.challenge4teens.com)

#### Anna M. Bell

Website: <http://www.annamaebell.com>  
Author Blog: <http://annbell.wordpress.com/>  
Educational Technology Blog:  
<http://annamaebell.wordpress.com/>

#### Martha Carr

[www.WallisJones.com](http://www.WallisJones.com)

#### Ross Carnes

<http://webstarts.com/RHCarnesStoryTeller>

#### David Ciabrone

#### Gary Clark

[www.clarkliterary.com](http://www.clarkliterary.com)

#### Mary Fenoglio

[www.eggsinmypocket.com](http://www.eggsinmypocket.com)

---

---

**Sidney Frost**  
www.sidneywfrost.com

**Joan Hall:**  
www.JoanUptonHall.com

**Linda B. Johnson**  
www.lindabatenjohnson.com

**Linda Lipscomb:**

www.lblipscomb.com

**Janet Kilgore**  
www.janetkilgore.com

**Jason Minor:**  
www.jason-minor.com

**Joy Nord:**  
www.GlyndaJoyNord.com

**Jamie Roton aka Lillian Grey blog**  
http://lilliangrey.wordpress.com/

**Martin "Marty" Shelton**  
http://sheltoncomm.com

**Sylvia Dickey Smith:**  
www.sylviadickeysmith.com

**Jane Thompson**  
www.bipolarhandbook.com

---

## DE-MYSTIFYING PINTEREST

A WORKSHOP HOSTED BY

CENTRAL TEXAS AUTHORS

LED BY

NANCY JILL THAMES

June 6, 2015, 1:30 to 3:30 PM

402 W. 8th St. Georgetown, Texas

Public Invited -- Free

**For More Information Contact**

C. Wayne Dawson (512) 240-5960

Sidney W. Frost, (512) 649-6449  
D. A. Featherling (512) 663-1407

centraltexasauthors@gmail.com

~~~~~  
Learn how to join Pinterest, create a profile, and create effective boards to identify and connect with your ideal audience through shared interests. See some of the many ways Pinterest can be used to help reach more readers.

Note--this is one of the many marketing tools that can be done while writing your book. This is a workshop--bring your favorite electronic device to set up your own Pinterest boards and pins.

**Nancy Jill Thames** is the author of the successful series of Jillian Bradley cozy mysteries. Read more about her here: <http://www.centraltexasauthors.com/p/nancy-jill-thames.html>.

---

**By Paul Fronczek**

I departed Vietnam on January 15, 1968. While forty-seven years have passed, I still remember and relive those days. There are two sides of the Vietnam Conflict, the one the public hears and the other of the untold stories and how the war affected those who served, combat soldiers and behind the scenes support soldiers. Somehow, the majority of combat and flight crews who faced death appeared to cope better with the horrors and follies of war. We who served in non-combat roles continue to fight our own demons.

.....

My first tour of duty was as a crew chief and spotter aboard an Air Force Air Rescue airplane flying missions over North Vietnam. The threat of being shot down over enemy territory was real. After a few missions under my belt, they became like brushing teeth, a routine job. The danger apparent on every mission became an everyday experience. The dangers pushed back into my memory and laid buried. They did not matter. Like others, I became immune to anti-aircraft shells exploding beneath the airplane as we flew deep into North Vietnam territory, searching for down crewmembers, all in a routine day's work. We were supposed to have T-28 fighter escorts for our unarmed rescue plane when we ventured north. They rarely did. However, I was issued a .45 pistol in a leather shoulder holster and seven bullets to be kept in the top pocket of my flight suit until needed.

The second tour of duty was a non-combat role, painting a different picture on the menacing unwritten side of the war. I was assigned to the 315<sup>th</sup> Air Cargo unit stationed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon, and later the squadron moved to an Air Force Base near Phan Rang, up the coast from Saigon. Our mission was to transport cargo, troops, refugees, and anything else you can imagine from one airfield to another. I performed a variety of jobs from office work, to working on C-123 planes, to flying as a volunteer crewmember.

The real story is in Saigon. From my barracks on the far side of the base, away from the runways, I walked to and from the barracks to my reporting location. I had no other choice. There was no way to avoid walking past the morgue except a long, round about path. Passing the morgue daily provided the source of my demons.

How can I forget seeing body bags loaded in trucks, piled haphazardly, waiting to be processed? Of seeing the large dark green tent morgue sides flapping in the wind with glimpses of dead soldiers lying on gurneys. The strong smell of embalming fluid permeating the air made me nauseating. I always walked fast or jogged past the long block of death.

Each day, a C5A transport plane landed and parked wherever there was room on the crowded taxiway. Fighters, helicopters and cargo planes landed and took off, adding to the bustle of the airbase. Aircrews and maintenance personnel walked freely to and fro. An untold number of pallets rested on forklift trucks, scurrying about loading war supplies into waiting cargo planes, sometimes with engines running. The planes swallow up the war materials desperately needed by the troops, supplies of ammunition, food, body bags and virtually anything else imaginable.

Vehicles scurried from one location to another like bees in a flower garden, going about the business of war. At times, the green trucks with painted crosses on their sides sped towards arriving airplanes and helicopters bringing wounded soldiers to the field hospital or to be loaded into med-evac flight, headed to parts unknown hardly noticed. Other soldiers in body bags were man-handled into vehicles, their destination, the morgue. There was no hurry for those soldiers. I watched in silence and reverence, thinking I could be in one of those bags or on a stretcher headed for the field hospital. Shaking my head, I pushed into the background what I saw as just another facet of war.

.....

---

---

Off in the distance, a tug tractor made its way toward the C5A aircraft, towing a long string of coffins. As the procession became closer, the silver coffins shone brilliantly under the cloudless sky. The procession seemed like a long line of mirrors reflecting the sun, too bright to look at. I looked nevertheless, knowing the sun reflections symbolized a dead soldier lying in state inside each casket; each one making its way towards the big bird on their final journey home to loved ones. I cannot recall, if an American flag draped over each casket once inside the C5A, I doubt it.

Days and weeks flew by until it was my turn to board the big bird home. I walked up the aircraft-boarding ramp in a joyous mood. But was it? The long flight over the Pacific Ocean filled me with anticipation. I couldn't wait to walk on American soil. My first sight of the American shoreline is beyond description. Later to be shattered.

Waiting on the tarmac Air Force buses stood by to take us to the San Francisco airport for the last leg of our journey home. I was elated until my bus passed through the gate. There on both sides of the road were anti-war protesters, yelling and chanting anti-war slogans. I looked out the window in amazement, dumbfounded by what I saw. I felt ashamed for the first time that I served my country.

Under my breath, I mumbled, "What did I do"?

I risk my life to be greeted like this?

What about those body bags and caskets filled with dead soldiers I remember seeing?

Did they die for nothing?



JOIN US!

**The  
June 4  
SGWL  
meeting  
Is at the  
Georgetown  
Public  
Library.  
Gather at  
6:30;  
Meeting at  
7:00.  
See you  
there !!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pay Your  
2015 Dues!  
\$25  
Individual  
\$35 Family**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The  
June 4  
SGWL meeting  
Is at the  
Georgetown  
Public Library  
Gather at 6:30  
Meeting at 7:00  
See you there !!**

The Gabriel Writer  
c/o Janet Kilgore  
Austin TX 78750