

The Gabriel Writer

April 2017

a publication of the San Gabriel Writer's League

www.sgw.net

APRIL PROGRAM

A Strong Character- Sylvia Dickey Smith on Writing with Purpose



Sylvia Dickey Smith has been writing novels since 2002. Her books all feature strong women, although that wasn't her intent when she first started writing. It seems she rather fell into it when her characters came to life and demanded she do so.

She authors the *Sidra Smart* mystery series: *Dance On His Grave*, *Deadly Sins*, *Deadly Secrets*, *Dead Wreckoning*, *The Swamp Whisperer* and her WIP, *Painted Ladies*. In between these books she had written and had published the historical fiction, *A War Of Her Own*, which one first place in Texas Press Women, and went on to win nationals in the National Federation of Press Women. Her latest

book is the contemporary fiction, *Original Cyn*, a finalist in the Story Circle Network's Sarton Women's Book Awards.

Several years ago she co-founded the Georgetown Library Writers College. While living in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the last three years, the Garland County Library invited her to develop and present monthly writing classes for the public. These classes became one of the most popular and best attended, setting new records.

Back in Georgetown since May 2016, she continues putting words on paper, one after the other.

Join Sylvia and the rest of the SGWL at the Georgetown Library, Room 222 on Thursday, April 6th. An informal meet and greet begins at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting and presentation from 7:00- 8:00.

MEETING RECAP- MARCH 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Don Guarrant. He told us that the High schoolers in Georgetown are enthusiastic about the writing contest.

Marjorie Anderson is going to be giving classes to support her book on teenage finances. Kayla is giving a speech at the Christian Family Writing Center on February 11. Paul is giving a speech on March 2 at the Baaca Round Rock Recreation Center.

Ann Bell announced that Addie Busfield's funeral will be held on March 11. Place and time to be determined later.

Program: The program was given by Elaine Norman, a member, who wrote "For Better or Worse." She gave out a handout and described how she wrote her book. She described and named her characters at the beginning, using a thesaurus so as not to be redundant. She set up conflicts between characters and described their inner life. She then went on to describe settings through the eyes of the characters. She says that she had to work with a firm schedule and finish date. It was an interesting description of how a book was written.

Don adjourned the meeting at 8:00

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Don Guarrant

At our March meeting, we asked for suggestions as to the topics that you would like our speakers and newsletter articles to address. Many good ideas were gleaned, and I want to report them to you.

Far and away, the topic that got the most votes centered around how to publish one's work. People want information on Self-publishing; how to do an E-Book; "Publish On Demand"; as well as how to get in touch with traditional paper and ink publishers. A lot of interest is this area, and we will address it soon!

Other Topics:

--How to develop the Plot and built a story that flows?

--How to hide Exposition?

--How to Show and not Tell?

--How to create strong Dialogue?

--What is a process for Revising?

--How to promote your work: Blogging; book signings; advertisements; etc.?

You are welcome to communicate more ideas as you think of them, or information about individuals who can help us. These are good topics and we will seek speakers who can address them from professional experience and provide a wealth of information for us.

I look forward to seeing you “BLOOM” as a writer in 2017!



Musing

by Sam Holland

The muse is an elusive companion. She arrives rarely when you're stuck between a pronoun and a participle but will envelope you when you're in the shower with neither waterproof pen nor waterproof paper nearby. We, as writers, have concocted elaborate mechanisms in which to coax She Who Will Inspire from her Lair of Great Ideas.

Some try to tempt the Muse with coffee or chocolate, but I find that this bribery only causes a loss of respect. The opposite approach of putting her in a head lock or sleeper hold merely serves as a reminder that she has uncommon strength.

“Write in the morning,” many authors say. The Muse is well rested and has not yet remember how bitterly you cursed her for abandoning you prior to your last deadline. After lunch she is tired and listless and would rather direct you toward Amazon.com to purchase books on writing or set you on a chore of reorganizing the order of your music playlist, this time by artist instead of genre. Once set on that path, she knows she will be left alone to nap until these tasks have reached their conclusion. Try and give up on the assignment and pull her from her slumber, she will greet you with indifference and you'll find yourself churning out pages and pages of feckless writing and will be so distraught that you'll have to look up the meaning of 'feckless' just to understand what it is you wrote.

If when a writer writes is important, where she writes is equally so. Rarely can you pick up a writing magazine where the subject isn't covered, with varying advice- the Muse loves coffee, so write at Starbucks; the Muse adores peace and quiet, write in the library; the Muse rewards consistency, write at your desk. Trying to guess a pleasing destination for the Muse is a fool's errand as she is both easily bored and loves to travel. It has been said that if you sit in one place long enough, the whole world will pass by. If that's true, the best strategy may be just to stop right where you are and wait. At least that way you'll save on gas.

Even if the Muse does decide to grace you with her presence, she will question why you are banging your fingers on the keys in the first place. “It's all been said before,” she'll say. “Why bother?” The Muse is beautiful, inspiring and difficult, but she doesn't understand the fundamental drive that is at the core of why all writers write. Or that once this central truth is taken to heart, the writer will be fully empowered and the Muse will no longer be needed.

That truth is this: of course it's all been said before, and said well. But no one was paying attention, so we must passionately and diligently begin once more.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Check the website for the cost of each class. The SGWL does not endorse or recommend any of these classes, they are provided for your information only.

Writer's League of Texas (www.writersleague.org)

April 1

Structure in Narrative Nonfiction: Putting the Pieces Together with Michael Hall
9 am to noon
St. Edward's University, Austin, TX
(Moody Hall 204)

April 8

Three Act Structure for the Novel with Carolyn Cohagan
9 am to 12 pm
St. Edward's University, Austin, TX
(Moody Hall 204)

April 15

Novel and Memoir Revision: Conventions and Experiments with Adam Soto
10 am to 4 pm
ACC Highland Campus
(Room 2202)
(Moody Hall 204)

April 27

Marketing your Book Online with Shennandoah Goodson

6:30pm - 9:30 pm

ONLINE CLASS

www.writersleague.org/calendar/MarketingYourBookOnline

April 29

Re-Composition for Poetic Voice: How to Revise by Borrowing from Your Favorite Poets with Tomás Q. Morín
9 am to 12 pm
St. Edward's University, Austin, TX
(Moody Hall 204)

May 24

Marketing Beyond the Basics with Shennandoah Goodson
6:30pm - 9:30 pm
ONLINE CLASS
www.writersleague.org/calendar/MarketingBeyondtheBasics
St. Edward's University, Austin, TX
(Moody Hall 204)





AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL

APRIL 6-9, 2017

Registration is now open the 25th Annual AIPF!

Austin Poets International (API) promotes literary excellence by uniting poets from around the world to celebrate the diversity of humanity through the power of written and spoken word.

Austin Poets International's three program activities are the Austin International Poetry Festival, di-vêrsé-city Anthology, and Youth Education.

The Austin International Poetry Festival is also known as AIPF. The festival includes unique Austin venues, diverse themed poetry readings, open mics, workshops, music & poetry, anthology reading, dusk to dawn, and poetry symposium. AIPF has hosted poets from over 45 countries across the globe.

di-vêrsé-city is the annual adult anthology published by API and released during the festival. Youth di-vêrsé-city is the annual youth anthology published by API and released during the festival.

Youth Education teaches valuable skills for K-12 students to learn and improve their poetry. Registration is always free for K-12 students. Activities include a youth anthology competition with cash prizes and awards, printed youth anthology, anthology reading, themed readings, workshops, and a slam.

Contact Information: Please send emails to aipfest@outlook.com or mark@aipf.org. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 26455, Austin, TX 78755. Mark Wendel may be contacted at 830-644-8097.

This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

Register at www.aipf.org.



WRITERS'
LEAGUE
OF TEXAS

2017 Agents & Editors Conference

June 30-July 2, 2017, Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Road , Austin, TX
78704

Until April 30:

WLT Members: \$399

Nonmembers: \$459

After April 30:

WLT Members \$439

Nonmembers \$499

Conference Overview

Friday

Genre Sessions: Tips, strategies, resources, and trends.

Practice Your Pitch: Meet your fellow attendees by trying out your pitch on them and giving and receiving positive, helpful feedback.

Welcome Reception: Drinks, snacks, and casual conversation with writers, agents, and editors.

Saturday

Opening discussion with an from a major publishing imprint

25 panels featuring nearly 100 published writers, agents, editors, publicists, booksellers, and other publishing professionals

Luncheon with a keynote speaker, with complimentary copy of book (ticket sold separately)

Evening Reception with a keynote speaker, with complimentary copy of book

Sunday

Opening session with keynote speaker

10 presentations on publishing and writing topics such as revision, fine-tuning opening pages, query letters, novel synopses, nonfiction proposals, author platform and book marketing, and legal issues common to writers.

One-on-one consultations with agents and editors

Closing Luncheon

For full details and to Register go to www.writersleague.org.

MEMBER WEBSITES

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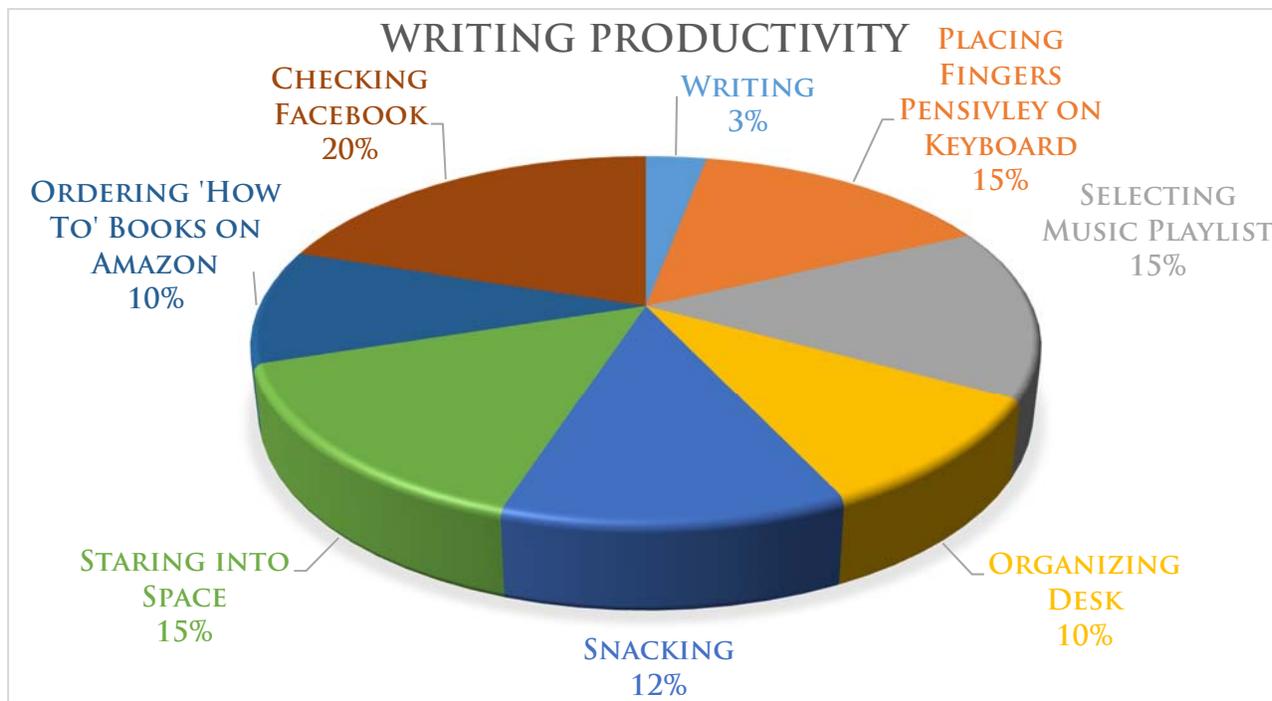
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EPILOGUE

"Never surrender dreams."

— J. Michael Straczynski, creator, Babylon 5



JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Whether you are a book lover or a writer yourself, there are many ways in which you can get involved with the Writer's League. By becoming a member, you'll benefit from being part of a supportive community of writers, with access to all the SGWL has to offer!

Name _____

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Individual \$25.00

Family \$35.00

Additional Family Members Names _____
