



The Next Chapter

East Texas Writer's Guild Newsletter

January 2024
Volume 20 Issue 1

etwritersguild.org

SNAP! CRACKLE! POP! You won't want to miss this!

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by *April Coker*
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Re-boot your **2024** writing journey with writing tips from January's Guest Speaker, **Dr. Karen Petty, PhD**. Dr. Petty will share information gleaned from her recent attendance at the highly touted annual Santa Fe Writer's Conference in September, 2023. Dr. Petty's presentation will include conference notes from renowned authors Julia Cameron (*The Artist's Way*) and Anne Lamott (*Bird by Bird*).

When: Monday, Jan. 8, 6:30pm

What: ETWG General Meeting

Topic: **Just Write!**

Where: 315 N. Broadway

GENECOV ROOM, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FREE LIGHTED PARKING LOT ON LINE STREET

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
by Lorna Penland, Hospitality

Did someone say, "Where are the tacos?"



Join other Guild Members
at **Don Juan's**
(on the Square) for food and fellowship
before monthly General Meetings.

Dinner @ 5pm.

Meetings start @ 6:30pm.

GREETINGS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2024 is already here, and we're already in the mid-2020s, if you can believe that. My, my, how time does fly. Why, only yesterday it was 1982 and I was graduating from college! (Am I *really* that old? Apparently, according to Medicare.)

Anyway, there's no time like the beginning of a new year to set some goals. Some people call them New Year's Resolutions, but I refrain from using that phrase because *goal-setting* seems more palatable than making resolutions that I am bound to break. I've decided this year to set a couple of writing goals for myself. No doubt you've seen these before, or even made them yourself:



1. *Write something every day.* This is easy for me, because I keep a prayer journal that, if nothing else, I write the Scripture of the Day in my journal each morning. (You can have the Verse of the Day emailed to you through the *YouVersion* Bible app or other Bible or devotional apps or websites.) I like to write my prayers. Writing seems to give them more weight and I can also look back to see which ones have been answered.

2. *Finish the first draft of my WIP (work in progress) by the end of January.* This will be a tough one since I'm only about halfway through! I intend to buckle down and make it happen!

3. *Enter one writing contest or submit one work somewhere once a month.* I did this last year and actually had one of my stories published and won a couple of awards for my last two books. You can't win if you don't get it out there!

I would be happy to hear about your goals for the coming year. Please email me personally at april@aprilnuncoker.com or send your email directly to the newsletter: etwgmembers@hotmail.com.

Who knows? *You* might be published in our next issue!

Happy goal-setting!

April Coker

XOXO

Meet Your Newly Elected Officers & Board Members:

Officers (by Election)

President: **April Coker**
Vice President: **Ilenya Marrin**
Secretary: **Lisa Holcomb**
Treasurer: **Karen Petty**

Organizational Positions (by Appointment)

Historian/Webmaster: **Laura Bentz**
Newsletter: **Sharon James**

Committee Chairs

Hospitality: **Lorna Penland**
Membership: **Debbie Ryer**
Publicity: **Lynn Pinkerton**



Best wishes to our retiring
Board Members:

Woody Edmiston, Vice President
Pat La Vigne, Secretary

Thank you Pat and Woody for your dedicated volunteer service to East Texas Writer's Guild. ETWG couldn't have done it without volunteers like you!

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

— **Benjamin Franklin**

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Then and Now... Nutz & Boltz (N&B)

For those who may not be familiar with N&B, here is a brief history lesson: Originally conducted as “in-person” meetings on the TJC Campus, N&B eventually evolved into its current Zoom-only format so popular...and necessary...during 2020. (Please note: This editor refuses to give ongoing power or recognition to the “C” word...it’s time to move on!)

N&B is a monthly forum hosted on Zoom for writers to discuss any, and all topics related to the craft of writing, including problem-solving and discussing each other’s works-in-progress. For the past couple of years, N&B discussions have primarily been hosted by ETWG’s outgoing Vice President, *Woody Edmiston*. ETWG sincerely thanks Woody for faithfully hosting N&B through all kinds of weather and levels of attendance! If you enjoy sharing ideas in a casual setting, N&B might be the perfect place for you! All ages are welcome! N&B meetings start promptly at 6:30pm on the *third* Monday of each month.

Although encouraged and supported by the Guild, N&B meetings are *not* intended to replace the monthly General Meetings where monthly Guest Speakers and Authors share their specific writing expertise with the membership in a more traditional in-person format. General Meetings are held on the *second* Monday of each month, at 6:30pm.

Remember: Sorry, no Nutz & Boltz in January...
See you in February!



res.o.lute:

purposeful

resolved

unwavering

undaunted

steadfast

tenacious

steely

committed

relentless

plucky

Meet January's Guest Speaker Dr. Karen Petty, PhD

Dr. Karen Petty, PhD, is a former early childhood teacher in Texas public school classrooms. She retired as Professor Emerita from *Texas Woman's University* in early child development and education where she began her teaching career as an assistant professor in 1998, serving as department chair and Professor until 2019. During her tenure with the university, Dr. Petty visited numerous US military installations worldwide, teaching those who worked with and cared for military children on base. These experiences led to the writing of her first book, *Deployment: Strategies for Working with Kids in Military Families*.

Dr. Petty's resilience and research led her to write her recently published current book, *Kids and Grief: Talking with Children about Death and Dying*. Dr. Petty has also authored a third book, *Developmental Milestones of Young Children*, and has had numerous articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Petty now lives in Tyler near family and her East Texas roots where she writes, camps, paints, and quilts as often as possible. As of January 1, 2024, Dr. Petty will serve ETWG as its newly elected Treasurer. Congratulations and welcome, Dr. Petty!

Mark Your Calendar for FEBRUARY...

- 2/05 ETWG BOARD MEETING
- 2/12 ETWG GENERAL MEETING
5:00pm...Don Juan's (food & fellowship)
6:30pm...Genecov Room (General Meeting)
- 2/19 NUTZ & BOLTZ ZOOM SESSION...6:30pm
(link to meeting will be provided by President)



From the Editor's Desk:

I want to personally thank *Lydia Holley* for her longtime commitment to creating the informative, monthly ETWG newsletter, *The Next Chapter*. Producing the newsletter each month was a labor of love for an organization that means a lot to Lydia. She recently resigned the position but is in no way quitting ETWG. Next time you see her, please let her know how much *you* appreciated reading her newsletters for the past couple of years.

The Next Chapter is your newsletter. Please feel free to announce or share writing events that will be of interest to other writers. Above all, please submit your STORIES, POEMS, RAMBLINGS, ETC. Since writing is such a lonely “sport”, we need to support and encourage each other as much as possible. And it’s always a thrill to see your own work in PRINT and know that someone else is reading it!

I look forward to reading your articles and stories and hope that I can meet your ex-

pectations for content. I am just the facilitator for *your* ideas (and sometimes, my own).

For many reasons, TNC may be switching to a digital format. Let me know what *you* think: **#1 Question:** Are you already a faithful reader of the monthly newsletter as is, or do you glance at it, but never really “read” it? **#2 Question:** Would you more likely than not prefer a digital format? **#3 Question:** If so, does that mean that you would more likely than not actually “read” digital contents?

Email your thoughts to:
sharonjamesgt@gmail.com

One more thing...

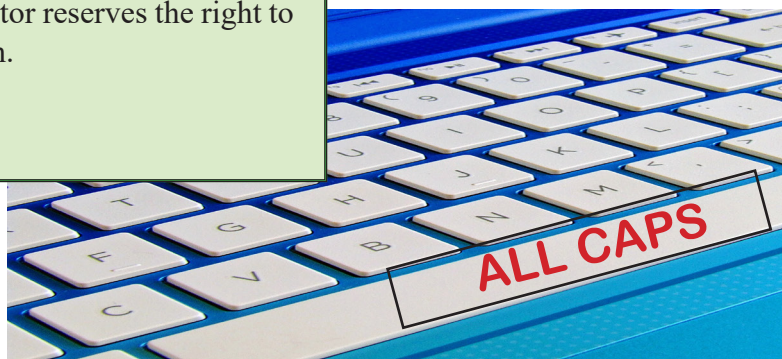
ALL CAP comments from me does not mean I am “shouting” at you. I use all caps to emphasize points I think are especially important. If I were Queen for a Day, I would make it the largest keyboard button!

Sincerely,
Sharon James
2024 TNC Editor

Editor's disclaimer:

News items and articles submitted to *The Last Chapter* should be proofed by the *sender* for accuracy of dates, times, and events. TNC Editor reserves the right to edit submitted items for obvious grammatical errors and misspellings. Please follow submission guidelines on page 10. If nearing the submission deadline, please text editor with a brief message letting Sharon know that you are emailing something for the newsletter. If it's not time-sensitive, editor reserves the right to hold the information until the following month.

Text: **512.389.5710**



Have you put off coming to ETWG's meetings? Here's Why You Should Join Us In Person:

1.**Motivation.** Who doesn't need motivation? Writing is hard, and it is easy to procrastinate putting down that next story—or next sentence. When you come to ETWG meetings, you meet other writers, learn about their accomplishments, and get motivated to keep going with your own goals.

2.**Support.** Stuck? Sometimes all it takes is talking it out with another creative person. Looking for a beta reader? Writers like to read as much as they enjoy writing. Ask a few people in ETWG and you'll probably find at least one person willing to read your story. Have a technical issue or specific question? ETWG is filled with knowledgeable people who are willing to help.

3.**Encouragement.** Not sure you'll ever get your story down? Or right? Seeing others struggle and overcome their obstacles to publication can be encouraging. If they can do it... so can you.

4.**Connection.** Writing is a lonely business. You need people. People who get what you're doing. That's ETWG!

5.**Education.** There is so much to learn about writing! It's not just one kind of poem. Or one genre of book. You might hear exactly what you need right now. Later on, you might hear exactly what you need at that particular time. Keep learning! You'll never know everything about writing.

6.**Respect.** While being a writer might seem like an odd thing to your family and friends, we get it! You'll find mutual respect at ETWG, no matter where you are in your writing journey.

Lydia Holley



Meet other writers



Learn about volunteer positions



Take your writing to the next level



Make new friends



Hear about opportunities

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2024 Vendor Opportunities for Authors

List Compiled by April Coker

- Jan. 13... ***Hidden Gem Trades Day*** (Mt. Pleasant)
Contact Jessica Hanna: 903.563.6941
- Jan. 13... ***Rainbow Market*** (Bergfeld Park, Tyler)
Contact Jay: info@TylerAreaGays.com
- Jan. 13... ***Troup Farmers Market*** (Troup)
Contact Laura White: 903.805.0802 or
Email: TroupFarmersMarket@yahoo.com
- Feb. 3... ***Mardi Gras Craft and Trade Show*** (Bergfeld Park, Tyler)
PM* Gordon Melva via Facebook
- Mar. 2... ***Loving Vendor Event***
Contact Irene at 903.235.5779 or Katrina at 903.918.2608
- Mar. 16... ***Grand Opening Eggstravaganza*** (Hallsville)
Contact Mandy Brasher via Facebook
- Mar. 30... ***Easter in the Park*** (Bergfeld Park, Tyler)
PM* Gordon Melva via Facebook

***PM**...Private Message can only be seen by intended recipient.
Sometimes also referred to as **DM** (Direct Message).

January Calendar Dates of Interest (to Someone)

- 1/02 National Science Fiction Day; World Introvert Day
- 1/08 National Typing Day (How many words can *you* type a minute?)
- 1/11 National Clean Off Your Desk Day (yeah, right)
- 1/18 National Thesaurus Day
- 1/19 National Popcorn Day
- 1/22 National Blonde Brownie Day (yummy)

<https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/calendar-january-2024/>

Quote of The Month:

“A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.”

– *Thomas Mann* (1875 – 1955)
1929 Nobel Prize Winning German Novelist

January writing prompt:

Do you agree with Thomas Mann?
Do you find writing to be easy or difficult?
Or maybe it's a little bit of both!

Perhaps you have some writing tips of your own that might make it easier for those of us who find the “act” of writing to be so difficult we sometimes put it on the *back burner* or save it for the *rainy day* that never seems to come!

If you would like to share your thoughts on the subject, we would love to hear from you! Please follow the submission guidelines on pg. 12 of the newsletter and email your comments no later than January 20, 2024.

(250 - 500 words)

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“First, I do not sit down at my desk to put into verse something that is already clear in my mind. If it were clear in my mind, I should have no incentive or need to write about it. We do not write in order to be understood; we write in order to understand.”

-- C. S. Lewis

“The best time for planning a book is while you’re doing the dishes.”

-- Agatha Christie

“I love being a writer. What I can’t stand is the paperwork.”

-- Peter De Vries

**And then
there are
the jokes
about
writing...**

If Moses were alive today, he would come down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments only to spend the next five years trying to get them published.

*George Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, and
Matthew McConaughey got together to*

make a movie:



George: I'll direct.

Leonardo: I'll produce.

Matthew: I'll write, I'll write, I'll write.

TNC Submission Guidelines and Deadlines

All submitted articles, data, photos, and other information are due on the 20th of the month prior to the month in which the material will appear in the newsletter.

Length: up to 500 words unless otherwise specified

Format: single space, no paragraph indentation; formatted lists okay

Font: Times New Roman (TNR)
12 pt.

Photos: jpeg with caption instructions

Send to TNC Editor:
sharonjamesgt@gmail.com

*Thanks for
reading
this month's
Newsletter!
Now go
write something!*



etwritersguild.org

[etwgmembers@hotmail.com.org](mailto:etwgmembers@hotmail.com)

The Next Chapter

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