



The Next Chapter

East Texas Writer's Guild Newsletter

March 2024
Volume 20, Issue 3

<https://etwritersguild.org>

**“General Meetings
help cure
writer’s block.”**
--anonymous

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**Much Ado About Writing:
10 Lessons From Shakespeare
Concepts to Technique**
Guest Speaker: *Lydia Holley*

When: Monday, March 11, 6:30pm

Where: 315 N. Broadway
Genecov Room, Chamber of Commerce
315 N. Broadway (entrance on Line Street)
Free Lighted Parking Lot (also on Line Street)

Refreshments provided by *Lorna Penland*
ETWG Hospitality Chairperson

*“I don’t like tacos,” said no **Juan** ever! But every **Juan** loves Don Juan’s on the Square!*

TACOS ON MONDAY!

You are cordially invited to join other Guild Members for food and fellowship at *Don Juan’s* on the Square
113 E. Erwin (across from Court House)
Dinner @ 5pm Meeting Starts @ 6:30 pm

President's Message...

March is here! With Spring just around the corner, it's an exciting time to be an author. There are many opportunities to get out there and peddle your books or other items you create. My sources for the events listed on page six of this newsletter are the Facebook groups *East Texas Vendors* and *East Texas Vendor Events*, but I have also found events by searching small town websites or by word of mouth. These events usually charge a fee to set up a booth, and the outdoor events, such as Lindale's *Piney Woods Wine Festival*, advise setting up a tent canopy. It's also fun to share a booth with a friend/fellow author. That way you have help putting up your tent and tables and have someone to watch the booth while you take a break or get lunch. Food trucks are usually parked at these events as well.

As a book vendor, what do you bring? I bring plenty of copies of all my books, a six-foot or four-foot folding table with tablecloth, my collapsible wagon for toting everything, a small cooler with drinks and snacks, bills for change, my Square POS scanner, stands for my books, posters, rack cards with rack, business cards, price list, and any freebies I might have, such as stickers, pens, etc. I also bring a jacket, battery-operated fan (if it's warm), my tent canopy with stakes (important to keep it from blowing away – believe me, that is a disaster!), and two folding chairs.

Be prepared for windy, sunny, hot, or cold conditions and dress accordingly. Don't forget your smile and winning personality, along with a great sales pitch. Not only might you sell books at these events, you get exposure as an

an author. You meet people in the community and possibly make new friends. You get to talk about your books face-to-face with potential readers and explain your background and why you are a writer. Don't be surprised if you don't sell very many, or if you sell out! I sold all but one of my books at one event, but the next time at the same event I sold very few. You can never tell. I hope you'll get out there, and if you don't have any books to sell, maybe you can attend a few events and encourage the authors who are out there. If you do go to an event and I'm there, say hello and bring me a latte! ;p

April Coker

XOXO



Live! Nutz & Boltz! Live!

New Location! New Location!

East Texas Writer's Guild invites you to its next *live* Nutz & Boltz discussion, to be held at *Braum's Ice Cream*, 7101 S. Broadway in Tyler. Guest Moderator *Ilenya Marrin* will lead an interactive discussion on **Free Verse by Subtraction**. Please come prepared to participate and ask questions. And please be *supportive* of our local merchant for providing free space for this month's N&B meeting. Do not bring food or beverages from other venues. Nutz & Boltz starts at 6:30pm. If you plan to eat or drink, please come a few minutes early to place your order.

Thank you, *April Coker*, for moderating N&B last month and providing valuable information about the lowly *comma* and its two best friends, the *quotation marks* (funny how they always come in pairs). ETWG appreciates McAllister's for providing February's meeting space.

Members...

Mark Your Calendars!

MARCH



- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Monday, 3/04 | ETWG Board Meeting
6:30pm (Zoom) |
| Monday, 3/11 | ETWG General Meeting
6:30pm (Genecov Room) |
| Monday, 3/18 | Nutz & Boltz.....6:30pm
<i>Live! New Location!</i>
Braum's Ice Cream
7101 S. Broadway (Tyler) |

Congratulations!!!

ETWG is set to celebrate its

20th Anniversary

in May!

Date and Location yet
to be determined...

If you would like to volunteer to help with this BIG EVENT, please contact one of the board members listed on the back page of the newsletter.

10 Synonyms

supportive:

reassuring

caring

kind

encouraging

concerned

helpful

sensitive

understanding

sympathetic

benevolent

From the Editor's Desk:

That was some surprise February brought us! Hail! Hail! Roofers are here! I'm very grateful that my neighborhood in Flint sustained little to no hail damage, but other family members in Tyler are now in the roofing queue. Here it is, barely March, and plants are blooming like crazy! Do you think this means we are going to have a *mild summer* or another *really hot summer*?

If you are looking to fill your calendar with fun things to do this Spring, check out the list of *Vendor Opportunities* on pg. 6. Anyone up for a First Monday trip to Canton? If so, please note that the next First Monday is actually at the end of March! If you have never been to Canton, it can be overwhelming the first time. Whatever you do, make sure you wear a good pair of shoes and leave the non-shoppers in the family home! I'm interested in going this month and can take three others in my car. Anyone up for a Canton Caravan?

Want to enjoy activities a little closer to home? Tyler is chock full of *pop-up markets*, *trade shows*, and *festivals*. And don't forget the local farmer's markets. Two of my favorites are the one in Whitehouse and the one behind the mall on Broadway. Be sure to check their websites for times and locations. Go early to avoid the heat and enjoy the best selections of fruits, vegetables, jams/jellies, salsas, fresh eggs, and so much more! And bring a box or bag for your stash! Special Tip: Most vendors still appreciate cash purchases.

Editor's Desk, continued...

Apparently, I am not the only one a little bit confused over having *two holidays* (St. Patrick's and Easter) so close together this month. Some stores have almost no St. Patrick's Day merchandise this year, and while I am not Irish, I *am* still looking for that pot o' gold o'er the rainbow. Perhaps you've heard that California is full of fruits and nuts? Well, this month The Next Chapter is full of *eggs* and *shamrocks*!

Finally, for true curiosity seekers, there is a hidden empty pot o' gold somewhere in this issue. First one to find it and text me the words... *got it...* will receive thunderous applause and an Irish treat from me! My reward will be knowing that at least one person read the editor's column this month! Stay safe, enjoy the month of March, and be *supportive* of one another!

Sharon James

Questions or Comments?

281.389.5710

sharonjamesgt@gmail.com



**Q: Why should you never iron
a four-leaf clover?**

(find answer on pg. 9)

Spotify Alert!

Click on the link below if you want to review AI updates and changes that could soon affect all Spotify account holders. One change that is particularly troubling suggests that Spotify can claim *irrevocable* rights to your material even after you *close your Spotify account*. Due to enormous backlash, Spotify is coming out with yet another set of *new* rules on March 15th. Please see the link below for additional information.

<https://writerbeware.blog/2024/02/19/outrage-over-new-terms-of-use-at-findaway-voices-forces-change/>

This notice was posted online February 19th, 2024, by Victoria-Strauss for *Writer Beware*.

Writer Beware is a leading industry watchdog for literary scams and is a project of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. Victoria Strauss is the author of nine fantasy novels for adults and young adults.

Meet Lydia Holley March Guest Speaker

Lydia Holley writes historical fiction. She travels through time with her characters, braving the Dust Bowl, discovering plants in the 1800s, and dancing the Charleston in secluded speakeasies. Her manuscript, set in WWII (working title: “*Making a Murderer*”), was a 2021 Page Turner Award Finalist.

When Lydia’s not writing, she’s gardening. Since 2013, she has written weekly gardening articles published online and in local newspapers.

She’s proud of her loving husband and independent children, but is often too embarrassed to admit she lives with 14 demanding cats (so don’t ask).



*Page Turner Writing Awards is an international contest open to global submissions from entrants 18 or older.

Deadline: May 30th, 2024

Q: Why is Easter breakfast so much fun?

A: Everyone’s cracking yolks!



V

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D



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S

VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES

List compiled and submitted by *April Coker*

March

- 3/16: **Trades at the Museum Vendor Event**, Gladewater
contact: Scrubby Love at 903.917.4326 or via FB
- 3/16: **Block Party Popup Market**, Tyler...contact: Kristi McDonald via FB
- 3/16: **Buffalo Trade Days**, Buffalo...contact: Steve Idlett via FB
- 3/16: **4th Annual St. Paddy's Block Party**, Kilgore...contact: Felicity Gleason via FB
- 3/18: **Easter Popup Market and Egg Hunt on the Square**, Tyler...website: popuptyler.com
- 3/23: **Angelina County Easter Egg Hunt**, Angelina County Farmers Market
contact: Bonnie Davis via FB
- 3/23: **Teague Farmers Market**, Teague...contact: Steve Idlett via FB
- 3/29-31: **First Monday Trade Days**, Canton...website: firstmondaycanton.com
- 3/30: **Craft and Trade Show, Bergfeld Park**, Tyler...contact: Gordon Melva via FB

April

- 4/6: **DCCC County Fair on the Square**, Cooper...call: 903.395.4314
- 4/6: **Gregg County Historical Museum Dalton Days**, Longview
contact: Misty Winn Amaya via FB
- 4/6: **Farmers Market**, Gladewater...contact: Tracy Bailey via FB
- 4/6: **Bunny Bash & Dash**, Mabank...call: Leslie Morgan at 903.802.6370
- 4/6-8: **Solar Eclipse Festival**, Canton Marketplace, Canton...call: 903.567.7772
- 4/6-7: **Palestine Trade Days**, Palestine...contact: Tammy Christian Johnson via FB
- 4/6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28: **Avalon Medieval Faire**, Kilgore...email: vendor@avalonfaire.com
- 4/13: **Neches Blossom Bash**, Palestine...email: nechesblossombash@gmail.com
- 4/19-20: **Gusher Days Market**, Gladewater...contact: Tracy Bailey via FB
- 4/20: **Buffalo Trade Days**...contact: Steve Idlett via FB
- 4/20: **Grand Saline Main Street Festival**, Grand Saline...email: mainstreetevents@yahoo.com
- 4/27: **Teague Farmers Market**...contact: Steve Idlett via FB

May

- 5/2-5: **First Monday Trade Days**, Canton...website: firstmondaycanton.com
- 5/4: **Cinco de Mayo**, Troup...contact: Gordon Melva via FB
- 5/4-5: **Palestine Trade Days**, Palestine...contact: Tammy Christian Johnson via FB
- 5/4-5: **Last weekend of Avalon Medieval Faire**, Kilgore...email: vendor@avalonfaire.com
- 5/10-11: **Piney Woods Wine Festival**, Lindale...website: visitlindale.com/events
- 5/11: **Mother's Day Market**, Longview...contact: Mandy Brasher via Facebook or the
website: <https://theplatformlongview.com/mother-s-day-mini-market>
- 5/18: **Buffalo Trade Days**...contact: Steve Idlett via FB
- 5/18: **GraceFest**, Canton...contact: Lori Wolfe Mead via FB
- 5/20: **Vendor Event**, Bergfeld Park, Tyler...contact Monique Allen via FB
- 5/25: **Teague Farmers Market**...contact: Steve Idlett via FB
- 5/30-6/02: **First Monday Trade Days**, Canton...website: firstmondaycanton.com

June

- 6/1-2: **Palestine Trade Days**, Palestine...contact: Tammy Christian Johnson via FB
- 6/1-2: **First Monday Trade Days**, Canton (see above)
- 6/10: **Vendor Event**, Bergfeld Park, Tyler...contact Monique Allen via FB
- 6/15: **Buffalo Trade Days**...contact: Steve Idlett via FB
- 6/22: **Teague Farmers Market**...contact: Steve Idlett via FB

WINNSBORO

Fourth Annual Festival of Books

Link submitted by *Carol Thompson*

When: Saturday, May 4, 2024
Time: 9am to 3pm
Where: Winnsboro Center for the Arts...200 Market Street, Winnsboro, TX
Deadline: April 15, 2024

Emcee: *Michael Guinn*, Performance Artist
Fees: \$50/vendor
\$10 additional fee (if 2nd vendor shares table)
6'x2.5' table provided, but bring your own table cover
booksellers retain all proceeds

Phone: 903.342.0686
Email: jhudsonconnors@winnsborocfa.com
Website: https://winnsborocenterforthearts.com/literary_events/

Features: Authors Signing, Selling, and Presenting Their Books
30-min. Lunch & Learn Workshops on Instant Poetry
Open Mic Poetry Slam
Story Times
Interactive Literacy Recitations
Hands-on Children's Literacy Activities
Poet Performances (local poets, all ages, all styles)
TBA Popular Children's Book Character (hugs, photos, and high-fives)

Bit o' Irish Legend:

According to Irish legend (dating back to 1675), St. Patrick used the three-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity (*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*) to new Irish Christian converts. Many Irish also believe the three shamrock leaves represent *faith, hope, and love*.

According to pagan Irish beliefs, the three leaves represent: *fame, wealth, and love*. Finding a shamrock with *four* leaves means you are just plain *lucky*!

When is
St. Patrick's Day?

March
17th!

Conference

2024 Agents & Editors Conference

(20+literary agents and editors, panels, presentations, & more)

June 21 – 23 / Austin, TX

Price thru 4/01/24:

WLT Members: \$479

Non-Members: \$539.00

(includes one-on-one consultation with an agent or editor)

Price after 4/01/24:

WLT MEMBERS: \$509

Non-Members: \$569

(does *not* include one-on-one consultation with an agent or editor)

book early:

THE HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN

208 Barton Springs on Lady Bird Lake / Austin, TX 78704

Conference Rate: \$209/night (single or double; rate cutoff date is June 1st)

Please note: Keynote Luncheon is a Separate Ticketed Event

For complete conference information:

Contact: WLT 512.499.8914 / ewlt@writersleague.org

website: writersleague.org

Please Note: Credit card users will incur 4% handling fee.

To pay by check, mail to:

WLT, P.O. BOX 14355, Austin, TX 78704

***A year from now you
you'll wish you started today.***

--Anonymous



*Check this out...
Column Debut!*
Nurturing the Muse, Etc.
Column by *Ilenya Marrin*

Nurturing the Muse

When the muse does not come knocking,
When the writer's block is blocking,
When your nouns and verbs are frozen,
When you lose the plot you'd chosen,
Never fear, the answer's clear.
Jot a silly rhyme,
Start a once upon a time,
Grab tiles from Scrabble,
Make prompts that sound like babble;
Give the muse a loving nudge,
For fewer calories than fudge.
Let words come flowing,
Regardless where they're going.
Shift your muse into drive,
Let weird ideas blossom, thrive;
When your new direction shows up,
It saves you from a toes-up.

Occasionally we writers receive gifts of illuminated words. More often, we fiddle with our phones and wonder what to write. When I question my direction and next steps, I now have a safe space to land.

Though I have produced poetry off and on for decades, only some two years ago did I begin writing a poem a day. I am finding the truth of the saying, "My discipline is my freedom."

My poetry is improving. I have an impressive collection of words on a variety of topics. Thank God for the wisdom of experience, the ability to observe, love and contemplate most everything around me, from the rolling hills of East Texas to quirky cashiers, friends in need, loss and grieving, and celebration of the marvelous flow of individuals through my life. It all becomes material for my muse.

Doing something I love daily with pen and paper feels good. No, I have not completed the YA fantasy series nor revised and republished *Nurture Yourself First*, nor made significant inroads on a memoir. But I have written about 800 poems. That feels very good indeed.

Is there a way you can create regularly, combining your love of writing with the power of consistency? What freedom would you gain from showing up at your page — for the love of it — day after day? If you already write daily, how do you find it supportive? Would a faithful practice be a gift to your writer self?

Love and Light,
Ilenya
248.880.1191

Two Literary Contests! Check These Out!

Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards:

\$10,000.....Early Bird Deadline: April 1st
writersdigest.com/SPBA

Vanderbilt University Literary Prize (Poetry):

\$10,000.....Deadline: April 15th
vanderbilt.edu/vuliteraryprize

**Q: Why should you
never iron a four-leaf
clover?**
(see bottom of pg. 11
for answer)



Check this out...
Column Debut!
Libby Likes This!
 Column by ***Libby James***

I admit, I'm an emotional reader. Meaning, I read based on my mood. So, one day my nose is buried in a modern-day thriller (most recently, Dan Brown's ***Deception Point***), and the next day I'm delving into a classic novel (currently, ***Dune*** by Frank Herbert). Fiction is usually saved for the evening hours, while my rotation of non-fiction books tends to occupy time and space with my morning cup of coffee.

Most recently, I bought a copy of ***The Art of Woo***, by G. Richard Shell and Mario Mousa. How I found it among all the other stacked spines at Half-Priced Books, I'll never know, but somehow it made it into my wanting hand where it stayed almost glued for one full week. Now I'll admit that non-fiction isn't my favorite genre, but ***The Art of Woo*** is not only well written but also interesting and inspiring. Each chapter starts with one or more quotes to set the tone. One of my favorites appears towards the end of the book to introduce the section on ***Character***, i.e. wooing with Integrity:

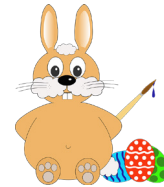
***“Character is like a tree and reputation
 like its shadow.
 The shadow is what we think of it;
 the tree is the real thing.”***
 ~Abraham Lincoln

Now, you might associate “woo” with love or poetry. But it has another meaning, one used as the book's subtitle: *Using strategic persuasion to sell your ideas*. In the book's own words, woo is “relationship-based persuasion, a strategic process for getting people's attention, pitching your ideas, and obtaining approval for your plans and projects. It is, in short, one of the most important skills in the repertoire of any entrepreneur, employee, or professional manager whose work requires them to rely on influence and persuasion rather than coercion and force.”

I don't know about you, but I need all the help I can get when it comes to getting people's attention! And pitching my ideas can cause anxiety, sweaty palms, and heart palpitations. But this book helps demystify those things and provides a structured, logical framework that anyone can understand and implement. Afterall, who doesn't want to be an expert at wooing?

**March
 31st!**





PRESS RELEASE

Former Kilgorite to Launch Her Latest Book

Award-winning author **Linda Greer Pirtle**, a 1962 graduate of Kilgore High School, will launch her latest book entitled ***Girlfriend Retreat... Cheaper Than Therapy*** on March 16, 2024, in her hometown. She and her friend Merita Barbee will host a book signing on that date between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at 118 N. Kilgore Street.

Linda is a member of the Underground Authors who created the Magnolia Bluff Crime Chronicles Series. Magnolia Bluff is a small fictional town in the Texas Hill Country. It is situated near the Burnet Reservoir. Murder and mayhem reign there. *Girlfriend Retreat... Cheaper Than Therapy* is Book 22 in the Magnolia Bluff Crime Chronicles Series.

Beginning in elementary school, Linda has enjoyed a core group of girlfriends. They meet annually for a girls's trip. More than once, they have been dubbed "the rowdy group," and all of them are included in the book when they travel to the Circle R Ranch in Magnolia Bluff for their annual get together. The women

will never be the same after their weekend in the Texas Hill Country. Will the friends survive the challenges they encounter? Murder, arson, deception, and secrets abound in what should be a quiet little town. The bigger question, however, is this: Will the town ever be the same after the invasion of the girls from Kilgore?

Linda Pirtle is a retired educator who taught the art of writing and understanding literature for years as an English teacher. Her cozy mystery series *The Games We Play* features the "lady next door" and includes four novels: Book One, *The Mah Jongg Murders* (earned a five-star Readers Favorite Award); Book Two, *Deadly Dominoes* (Best Cozy Mystery Texas Authors 2018); Book Three, *Tarot Terrors* (Best Cozy Mystery Texas Authors 2019); and Book Four, *Scrabbled Secrets* (2020). The Christian series reveals how people bent on evil can ruin an innocent, fun game.

Additional Books by Linda:

The Magnolia Bluff Crime Chronicles
Book 7: *The Dewey Decimal Dilemma*
Book 10: *The Dog Gone Diamond Dilemma*



A: You don't want to press your luck!



And When in Rome

by *Laura Bentz*

Part 2

They played records; “*disci*” only. No band. As the first couple danced, I watched. A few more songs played. Finally, one of the boys asked me. A tall and skinny one with light hair and fair skin. So, the poor guy had to dance with clumsy me. Twice, in fact.

Many more showed up. These looked more like the typical Romeo with long, black hair, flashy outfits, ebony ties, and shiny shoes.

My poor heart pounded. Soon, the shutters closed, and the lights dimmed. Of course, the only unattractive one in the room: chubby, square-faced with short, cropped hair—danced with me next. *And, the way my luck ran, what did I expect?*

Natalia laughed, and I turned to see her dancing with her boyfriend. I took my glasses off and put them in my purse. I didn’t need them anymore. As soon as I did that, I gained some self-confidence, mainly because I couldn’t see.

The next hit I knew. American rock and roll. I got up and started dancing by myself. Before long, people joined me in their solo performances as well.

Next, someone introduced me to a guy named Luciano. He hovered only a little taller than me and started asking me every time. The lights dimmed, and the room darkened. And he got closer each time we danced as he sang each song in my ear. In Italian, of course.

And When in Rome, continued...

A pleasant vibe traveled down my backbone. However, as each song finished, anxiety hit me. I thought of that old saying: *In Rome, do as the Romans*. But a little voice whispered in my ear: *But what is this Roman doing?*

Meanwhile, Natalie’s guy kissed her. She turned the other way. I watched her in amazement on how she handled the Italian male.

They played more soft American hits. Finally, I didn’t want to dance anymore. I sat down to watch from that point on.

Many people smoked but, according to Natalie later, no drugs. While sitting on the couch, she came up to me and asked me a question: “Do you like Luciano.” I said “*com si, com sa*”, which means “he is okay.”

I danced once more with another boy. Some people departed, and I said “*buono notte*” to each. The spell broke when the hypnotic eyes left mine. Weak in the knees, I limped back to Maria’s place. Nothing wrong had occurred. But the total experience left me exhausted.

They scheduled the next dance for Wednesday. I wanted to attend, but an event interrupted my hopes. And, sadly, none of these people I would ever see again.

For we went on a new and more bizarre adventure. An unexpected one that would change my life forever also and one I would never forget... But that’s a story for another time.

TNC Submissions Guidelines & Deadline:

- Length:** 500 words (maximum)
- Format:**
- a) single space
 - b) no first-line indentations
 - b) dbl-space between paragraphs
 - c) lists okay, but may be subject to *format* editing
- Font:** 14pt. TNR (Times New Roman)
- Paragraph:** Justified
- Photos:** jpeg with caption instructions, if any; emailed photos from Word may be resized

Deadline: Entries are accepted until the 20th of the month prior to publication. Space availability and/or urgency of information will determine acceptance of late submissions (*after* the 20th).

Send newsletter items to:
sharonjamesgt@gmail.com (attn: TNC)

Please note:

Each month, *The Next Chapter* is posted on the ETWG website and is available for public consumption. Upon posting, all digitized articles therein (essays, stories, book chapters, poems, or other written works) will be treated by the industry as **published works**. It is the writer's responsibility to know what limitations, if any, might be placed upon his or her published articles by various contests and/or publishing houses (including Amazon and Kindle).

Thank you
for reading
The Next Chapter!
Now go write some-
thing!



ETWG Board Members

President: *April Coker*

Vice President: *Ilenya Marrin*

Secretary: *Lisa Holcomb*

Treasurer: *Karen Petty*

Hospitality: *Lorna Penland*

Publicity: *Lynn Pinkerton*

Membership: *Open Position*

Historian/Webmaster: *Laura Bentz*

Newsletter: *Sharon James*

<https://etwritersguild.org>

The Next Chapter

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