

HWG NEWS AND VIEWS

Heritage Writers Guild

November 2011

Editor-Lin Floyd

NEW BEGINNINGS-OFFICERS 2011-2



(L-R) *First row: Marie Tollstrup-Secretary, Virginia Grenier-President, Lin Floyd-Newsletter Editor, Second row: Marilyn Richardson-Membership, Dorothy Varney-Public Relations, Pat Jacobson-Monthly Meeting coordinator and Barbara Anderson-Workshops. Not shown: Ann Kearns-Treasurer. Thanks to the committee members working with these individuals, and to our outgoing President Carroll Shreeve for her innovative contributions to HWG. Thanks also to Mary Barnes and Betty Vickers for many years of service to HWG.*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Virginia Grenier

I am excited about this new beginning with Heritage Writers Guild (HWG) and working with an amazing group of writers. I have known many of its members for some time and have been a proud member for the last few years. With the recent changes and challenges of HWG, I call on everyone to stand together as we move forward. There will be times some will not agree with the majority as in any organization. There will always be bumps in the road and roadblocks, but if we stand united for the common goal to improve not only ourselves but also others as writers, we will overcome and see success as you each individually define it.

We are a proud chapter of the League of Utah Writers <http://luwriters.org> and it is our duty also to support LUW in their overall mission to offer friendship, education and encouragement to all writers in the State of Utah, especially Southern Utah. I am happy to say I have made many friends through HWG, but sadly, some moved on for various reasons. The one reason I do not want to see any member of HWG leave is because of our lack of fellowshiping and encouragement. (Continued on p. 4.)

COMING UP

- ❖ **Tues, Nov 1st and 15th Utah State Poetry Society-** 3-5 pm, new members welcome to join, meets at Washington County Library basement. Lesson then critiques-bring 12 copies of poems to share. **Wed, Nov 2nd** Deadline for Red Rock Writer's poetry contest-details <http://redrockwriters.org/archive/contest.htm>
- ❖ **Every Wednesday, HWG's WIG-Writer's Improvement Group-**1-3 pm at Washington County Library in St. George, bring 5-6 copies of 4-5 pages. Get some helpful suggestions and feedback on your writings.
- ❖ **Wed, Nov 2nd HWG Chapter Meeting** 6:30-8 pm featuring popular writer **Blaine Yorgason** discussing "The act of writing and sources of inspiration." Meet at the Community building behind the Sr. Citizen center at 245 N 200 W in St. George. Refreshments afterwards, bring a friend to enjoy this lovely evening.
- ❖ **Th, Nov 3rd and 17th-Children to Young Adult Bks. Critique Group** 2-3:30 pm-Santa Clara Branch Lib.
- ❖ **Th, Nov 10th Open Mike-Redrock Writer's** 7-8 pm at Barnes and Noble, come and bring poetry to read
- ❖ **Fri, Nov 25th Deadline for December HWG Newsletter**, send articles on writing tips or any personal achievements-book published, awards won, etc. to lin@sunrivertoday.com
- ❖ **Wed, Dec 7th HWG annual Christmas Party** 6:30 pm you won't want to miss this fun evening with contests, prizes, great food and camaraderie. Contest entries due **Fri, Nov 11th**. (More info on p. 3.)



SPOTLIGHT...Meet Virginia Grenier

Compiled by Lin Floyd

Welcome to our new President **Virginia Grenier**. I first met her when I attended a workshop at her home on Children's Literature taught by Rick Walton. I was immediately impressed by her ability to be a new mom with older children and a husband plus running her own online business-Stories for Children publishing and an online magazine. She brings a wealth of writing, editing and technical experience to our group and new ideas to move us along into the twenty first century as writers.

VS Grenier is an award-winning children's author, founder & owner of *Stories for Children Publishing, LLC*, award-winning editor-in-chief of *Stories for Children Magazine* and chief editor for *Halo Publishing, Int.*, and also, the host of the blog talk radio shows *Stories for Children, Families Matter and What is Success*. When she isn't busy talking with authors and illustrators on her radio shows or spending time with her children, Virginia is busy writing new adventures in the World of Ink. A California girl at heart and former merchandise marketing/fashion buyer, she lives in Ivins Utah with her supportive husband, their three children, and the family's Taz. Check out her blog <http://thewritingmama.blogspot.com/>

Virginia's published work ***Babysitting SugarPaw*** won the Silver Quill Award from the League of Utah Writers in 2011 for Children's books. Welcome to our new President. Let's get behind her and support the future growth of Heritage Writer's Guild. We have a heritage to build on. To contact Virginia with positive suggestions for improving HWG or to volunteer to help, use her new email address VSGrenier@gmail.com

Chapter Meeting Notes by Pat Jacobson (for Marie Tollstrup-Secretary)

Because of a problem with the code on the door at the Community Center, the Heritage Writers were unable to meet there, and had to move the meeting to the Washington County Library. Even with the change of venue and pouring rain, we had sixteen members in attendance. President Carroll Shreeve greeted the group and began by telling how HWG can be involved in the Scholastic Book Fairs. Carroll then talked about the awards received by HWG at Roundup, and announced the winners from our group. (See last month's newsletter for details.)

The Utah Arts Council has an archive for books published by Utah writers. If anyone would like to have their book in the archive, they need to sign it and give it to Linda Lowe who is in our HWG. Linda is a chairman in the Utah Arts Council and will take any donated books to the archive chairman. Dorothy Crofts is our HWG contact for the council.

Carroll announced that Irene Hastings will be the LUW President for the coming year. Next year's Roundup will be held in Park City, and the theme for the coming year will be "Brave New World." Christine Perkins announced a personal essay contest sponsored by Ladies Home Journal. Writers can get more information by going to the Ladies Home Journal link online and choosing "submit essay." The contest closes December 31.

Barbara Anderson talked about future HWG workshops, and said that finding a location is the biggest challenge. Christine Perkins will call Sun River Management and find out what it would cost to have one at their community center. Sunbrook was another consideration. HWG Treasurer, Ann Kearns gave a report of our HWG funds. Currently there is \$807.05 in our bank account.

Pat Jacobson encouraged all members to attend next month on November 2, and bring a friend! Author Brent Yorgason will be our speaker. He will tell us how he started writing and how he gets his inspiration for the stories. Finally, Virginia Grenier spoke to us about the forthcoming HWG website. She has wonderful ideas for the home page as well as links for each writer. More information will be given at a later date when Virginia has been able to take care of some of the technical aspects of having our own website.



NEXT



MONTH

FIRST ANNUAL "Jack Frost Award" HOLIDAY WRITING CONTEST

Entries for the contest will utilize the theme "Writing Resolutions" to write a one page essay. Deadline for entries is November 11, 2011. Judging will be done by a panel of independent judges that are not members of the Heritage Writer's Group. Detailed rules below:

1. Any member of HWG may participate
2. Original entries only
3. Limited to one page - single space – 12 pt – Times New Roman
4. Entries must be received prior to the November 11, 2011 deadline.
5. You may deliver entries to Virginia Grenier or Barbara Anderson; or mail to Virginia at: 54 East 490 South Ivins, UT 84738; or email to: storiesforchildren@vsgrenier.com
6. Winners to be announced at the Annual Christmas Party on December 7, 2011.
7. One entry per person please.

Let's have some fun with this. Happy Writing Everyone!



**HWG ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Wed., Dec. 7th, 2011
7 PM at the
Community Center

It's that time of year again for festivities, fun and mingling with each other. We will be celebrating the holiday spirit with a potluck dinner, game and writing contest. This is one party you don't want to miss!

(Continued from previous column) Please bring the following: a favorite dish to share with everyone, and a gift wrapped book for a holiday game

Make sure to place a clue about your book (genre, theme, character, etc) either on a gift tag or use the wrapping paper as the clue.

Dress for pictures and the award ceremony for our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in our first holiday "Jack Frost Award" writing contest. Entries will be a one page essay with an overall theme of: "Writing Resolutions" (details to follow).

Mark your calendars Ladies and Gentlemen for this end of the year celebration. We hope to see you all there!

The HWG Board & Events Committee

CURRENT TRENDS

Submitted by Marilyn Richardson (taken from <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens>)



Move Books to Debut in Fall 2012

"Moving Boys to Read" is the slogan publisher Eileen Robinson has chosen for her new company, Move Books, which is slated to launch in fall 2012. Based in Beacon Falls, Connecticut, the house will focus on middle-grade fiction for boys, and the program may eventually expand to include picture books, chapter books, and nonfiction.

"Everything I've done has led up to Move Books," says Robinson, who has been in publishing for 15 years, most recently as executive editor at Scholastic Library, until she left the company in 2005.

FUN IN KANAB



Three HWG members: Marilyn Ball and Lin Floyd (see their photo above) plus Leah Zollinger attended the second annual “Writers of the Purple Sage” workshop focused this year on “Contemporary and Cowboy Poetry” in Kanab, the weekend of Oct. 21-22. It was a fun time for all participants to get away, attend stimulating sessions led by Utah’s poet laureate Katherine Coles and cowboy poet Rod Miller, listen to Guy Lebeda-Literary Chairman from Utah Arts and Museums on suggestions on how to get youth in local schools involved in poetry, and have the opportunity to read their own poems to the group on Friday night as well as have teachers and graduate students from DSC’s English department critique their poetry.

The weather was great, and the opportunity for networking and selling books to the group made it a very productive time for all attending. Here’s a comment from Marilyn Ball: “It brought forward to me, that perseverance was a big factor in presenter’s lives. Also increasing our education in writing poetry as we go along. Learning to really work with the English language even if one is writing Cowboy Poetry, and staying with the focus, depth and polishing of one’s work.”

Leah Zollinger commented on the conference: “I enjoyed the workshop and came away with a bolstered desire to work harder and completely in awe of the talent of the Poet Laureates that spoke to us. The profound learning experience came when three of the faculty from Dixie’s English department critiqued some of my poems - critiquing can be amazing and humane!”

President’s Message (continued from p. 1)

I bring this up, as this has been a problem in the past and one I hope we can correct and move forward from. I ask you all to respect others and if you do have a problem/issue with another member to bring it to their attention *only* and *privately*.

Being a part of LUW means our organization is dedicated to the “encouragement and improvement of all writers in their writing skills.” Our members are writers with various interests at all levels of skill and professionalism.

The LUW has set up local chapters around the state so we can meet with others to learn, write, read and discuss our work. We also want to be able to share ideas and our expertise on the art of writing along with inviting special guests to address our members in chapter meetings in a warm and welcoming format.

There will be times a subject or information shared will not be applicable to all members. This is okay as we can still take away a lesson to use in our own personal growth.

What makes writing unique is how each of us as an artist sees the same thing differently. Charles Peguy once said, “A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket.” Let’s not let those perceptions cloud our view of professionalism, encouragement and fellowship. Let’s work together as LUW intends for each chapter to do and set personal bias and disagreements aside.

I have seen the accomplishments of HWG and its members. I know each of you can reach your goals, but it takes all of us supporting each other for those dreams to become a reality. Here’s to a bright new beginning focused on growth and encouragement!

VS Grenier

QUOTE *Sandwich every bit of criticism between two thick layers of praise. Mary Kay Ash*