



The Inkwell

MADISONVILLE/TEXAS

The President's Message

By Joan Escamilla

The Madison County Writers Guild has experienced an interesting season. Several of our members participated in new adventures in writing and speaking opportunities. If this did not include you, be encouraged to try different venues. You never know where they may arise, whether in a classroom setting or over the hog pen, around the pond with neighbors attempting to catch a rogue alligator or at a business office discharging your duties. Glean each moment with relish and then share with the rest of the group.

The Writers Guild continues to improve the overall experience of your membership. We have made adjustments utilizing members', guests', and Madison County Arts Council's suggestions.

One of our successful attempts to conserve funds was to combine the Texas Authors Book Sale and the Annual Workshop into a two day event with guest speakers. Some authors and guests returned to attend the workshop. Both events were catered by the



The July 17, informal Summer meeting of the Madison County Writers Guild was held at Los Ranchos Mexican Restaurant. Some of us show up better from one direction than from the other!

Outer picture from one end of the table: (Left to Right) Kim Davis, Jacqui Davis, Lloyd Perry, Joan Escamilla, Jose Escamilla, Burke Landry, Dave Woodruff, Frieda Michael, Laura Collins, Brian Collins, Debra Newkirk, and Levi Hearst.

Inner Picture: (Left to Right) Dave Woodruff, Sandra Woodruff, Frieda Micheal, Laura Collins, Brian Collins, Debra Newkirk, Levi Hearst, Judy Williams, Kyra Elliott, Kim Davis, Jacqui Davis, Lloyd Perry, Joan Escamilla, Jose Escamilla got cut out of the picture, and Burke Landry has his back to us.

membership for free. We eliminated a paid speaker from our May Social and held two summer meetings at large without incurring additional expenses.

The summer "Reading for Fun" meetings were popular and the turnout at peak attendance, including several guests who have expressed an interest in joining the Writers Guild. We ate out at local Madisonville restaurants and became more visible to the community. Reading aloud was a bit challenging.

The August Annual Business Meeting welcomes all potential members and will be held Tuesday, August

21, at 6 p.m. at the Lakeside Restaurant on Hwy. 21 East, across from Texas Burger. Come with a host of innovative ideas and a healthy appetite. This will be a great opportunity to impact the upcoming 2012-2013 season. We will set agenda items for the September membership to vote on. Open readings will become eligible for Guild Choice Awards at the September meeting.

Thanks for your participation in the wonderful world of writing!

Joan A. Escamilla



Writers Guild Meetings

The Writers Guild meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month - September through May at 6:30 PM in the annex building behind the Madison County Library.

Annual dues are:

- individuals \$20,
- families \$30, and
- students \$10.

The guild is generously supported by its members and by the Madison County Arts Council.



What our members are doing:

Pat Cole has been writing a blog about the horses.

Read it by visiting:

www.PatsHorseTales.com

Kim Davis has been formally accepted into the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program at Sam Houston State University. She is currently enrolled and taking various creative writing and literature courses, and will begin work on campus at Sam Houston in the Fall 2012 semester as a graduate assistant.

Lloyd Perry had a table at the 58th Annual Beef Cattle Shortcourse at Texas A & M. The event will take place August 6th through

the 8th at Earl Rudder Auditorium. Stop by and pick up a signed copy of one of his books.

Dave & Sandra Woodruff write a syndicated weekly column, "The Bedias News," that can be found in the Madisonville Meteor, the Navasota Examiner, and the Huntsville Item. It is also presented on KMVL radio and on Navasota News radio. In addition, Dave and Sandra publish a monthly e-mail newsletter, the Bedias Independent News, and maintain facebook pages for the Bedias News and the Bedias United Methodist Church. They publish a monthly newsletter for the Bedias United Methodist Church, and moderate the

Christian Film Festival. Sandra is president of the Bedias Women's Club, and is active in the Madisonville Order of the Eastern Star. If you are interested in subscribing to their online newsletter or have questions, contact Dave at Editor-BUMCNL@msn.com.

Joan Escamilla Word Weavers of Huntsville, July 15, 2012, with guest speaker: Sheila Seifert of Focus on the Family's Thriving Family magazine editor who provided information on setting writing goals specific to magazine articles. Look for Joan to share a chart on this subject in a future meeting.

Writing Exercise

from Writing Fiction by Janet Burrowan, Elizabeth Stuckey-French, and Net Stuckey-French

We sometimes neglect to use tactile descriptions in our writing, but we do touch---all the time. Shopping for clothes, shaking hands, playing with pets, shuffling cards, scrubbing pots, shooting baskets. Think of what it means to touch an odd, rare, or even holy object. Consider temperature (*tepid, frigid*), moisture content (*arid, greasy, sticky, crisp*), texture (*crinkled, gritty, silky*), and weight (*ponderous, buoyant*). All of these sensations provide us with great descriptive words. Use some of them and find others.

Describe the way an action or event feels--putting on a piece of clothing, engaging in exercise, eating a tough or squishy item of food, dancing, moving across a crowded room, carrying groceries in from the car, kissing, waking up, washing the car, whatever. What impression does your description give? Does it prompt a scene? Can you make some characters talk while they're doing these activities?



Why are Mr. and Mrs. Claus, aka Dave and Sandra Woodruff, waving happily from the scene of an accident? ATTEND THE NEXT WRITERS GUILD MEETING TO FIND OUT!

Piney Woods Morning
by Brian Collins

She stood up from the little table on the porch and went down the steps to the yard. In the early East Texas morning a damp mist hung over the grass and trees. The sun was making an effort but it would lose the battle with the clouds. The air had a swampy, fecund aroma that was part of the waking up of the Texas morning. It was an acquired taste that she loved and breathed in deeply. It also spoke to her of coming rain.

She walked among her flower beds and stopped to chat with the new rose blooms to encourage them. The Josephs Coat roses were trying on every color this morning. Every flower was resplendent with drops of dew and the herb beds were heavy with the perfume of basil and oregano.

She was at an age now where mornings were very precious as if she was not sure how

many more would be available. Ignoring the little aches and pains, she suddenly danced two swirling turns with her arms outstretched. The garden was that fine this year. It may be that the roses applauded.

With no warning the rain began to fall. Large cold drops chilled her bare arms and face. She ran to the porch and stood under the roof while the rain blasted past in sheets. The plants all knelt down under the sudden weight of the water.

She sat down at the table and poured another cup of tea from the warm and waiting pot. She held her hands around the cup, breathing in the steam as the rain slowed down to a gentle, steady pace. The swampy smell was gone now, replaced by the clean perfume of the plants responding to the rainfall. The sun began to peek through and soon birds would sing. It was a happy morning.



Can I Play?
by Laura Collins



"Can I play? Can I? I know how to catch the ball. I can throw it, too. Can I play? Can I?"

The big kids said, "No!"

Mom said, "Let her play. She'll never learn if you don't let her play."

Oh, boy, I get to play. I'll show them. I can catch the ball. I can throw the ball. I don't hit the ball very often. That's okay though.

First I have to play in the way out field. Only big kids can hit the ball that far so I won't have to catch it too often.

Here it comes! It's coming too fast. It's going to hit me . . . Duck!

Oh, boy! I missed it. Now the big kids are hollering, "Get the ball, get the ball!"

Where is the ball? Where did it go? Oh, there it is.

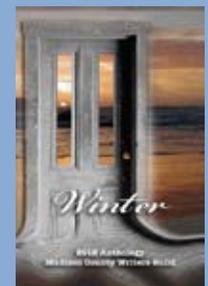
"Throw it to third base. Throw it to third base. Hurry."

Which base is third base? It's that one. I don't think I can throw the ball that far.

Oh, boy! Now they are mad at me. I missed the base and hit the kid running around. He fell down. I hope he isn't hurt.

I think I will go home and wait until I'm a little bigger to play ball.

**Madison County
Writers Guild
Seasons Anthologies.
Do you have them all?**





2012 Guild Choice Award Winners (Judge: Martha Rogers)

Christmas anthology 2011:

Winner: "Was I Dreaming?" Frieda Michael;

Runner-up: "Pedro's First Christmas Posada" Joan Escamilla;

Honorable Mention: "The Glass Girl" Jacqueline Davis

Winter Anthology:

Winner: "The Christmas Card Basket" Joan Escamilla;

Runner-up: "Boomer Rabbit and the Winter Snow" Laura Collins;

Honorable Mention: "Paintball Wonderland" Brig Lentz

Anthology Poetry:

Winner: "My Hometown" Rosa Allphin;

Runner up: "The Deceiver" Louis Popowskyj

Open Readings:

Winner: "The Colossus of Madison County" Brian Collins;

Runner-up: "Emma Kate's Flowers" Laura Collins;

Honorable Mention: "The Flight" Kim Davis

Poetry Open Readings:

Winner: "Hummingbird Minuet" Kim Davis, **Runner-**

up: "Night Warrior" Joan Escamilla; **Honorable**

Mention: "Fight for Jesus" Kyra Elliott



2012-2013 Writers Guild Officers

President.....Joan Escamilla
Vice President.....Louis Popowskyj
Secretary.....Frieda Michael
Treasurer.....Kyra Elliott

Calendar 2012-2013

Annual Business Meeting August 21, 2012

Executive Board Meeting
at Lakeside Restaurant 6:00 PM

Membership Meeting September 18, 2012

Membership Meeting October 16, 2012

High School Writing Contest opens

Members Book Sale October 27, 2012

At Mushroom Festival

Membership Meeting November 20, 2012

Annual Christmas Social Date TBA

Membership Meeting January 15, 2013

Texas Writers Book February 23, 2013

Sale & Signing

Membership Meeting February 19, 2013

Student Contest Awards presentation

Madison Co. Arts Council Dinner Date TBA

Membership Meeting March 19, 2013

Membership Meeting April 16, 2013

Annual Report to Membership
Nomination of Officers

Annual Meeting May 21, 2013

Election of Officers
Guild Choice Awards Presentation
End of Season Social with guest author

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