



The Write Way

February 2020

www.highlandlakeswritersclub.com

Next Meeting of HLWC: This Wednesday, February 19, 2020

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Marble Falls Public Library

101 Main Street

Marble Falls, TX 78654

Please note: The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 p.m.!!



Discussion! / Decisions! / Readings!

The club has a lot on its plate this month . . . that's why we hope you'll arrive on time.

Members' readings will be heard after the business meeting concludes.

Plus, Mary Anne has a challenge for us: please see "President's Message," next page.



HLWC Calendar for February 2020

- Wednesday, February 12 Critique group, BancorpSouth, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.*
- Wednesday, February 19 Monthly meeting, MF Public Library, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.*
- Monday, February 24 Open-mic poetry/fiction night, Unshakable Grounds,
134 South Main Street, Burnet, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.*
- Wednesday, February 26 Critique group, Bancorp South, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.*

Please note: The critique group now meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month

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Officer Update

Because Fran McRedmond resigned last month as Vice President, **Alan Olson** has graciously agreed to serve for the remainder of 2020. Thank you, Alan! We're grateful for your many positive contributions thus far.

Fortunately, Fran resigned only from the office, not from the club, so we look forward to seeing her at meetings, critique group, and Monday night open-mic sessions throughout the year, as always.

At the moment, HLWC could also use: a Chairperson for Presentations and Programs; a Chairperson for Publicity; and a Webmaster. If you're interested in one of these positions, please let Mary Anne know. Our club always appreciates volunteers!

WELCOME!

... to our two newest members, Rena Beyer and Jenny Waldo!
We're so glad you joined HLWC!

... and, speaking of memberships ...

*Remember that dues (\$15 per person) are now payable for calendar year 2020.
Bring your cash or check to Gene Lyng on Wednesday evening, February 19.*



It's February, and love is in the air!
We hope Valentine's Day was wonderful for you and your sweetie(s).
And happy "Leap Day" on February 29! Just be sure to look before you leap.

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An Auspicious Beginning

The club's first open-mic poetry-and-prose night in 2020 — at Unshakable Grounds in Burnet, on Monday evening, January 27 — went very well.

Readers included: **Ray Whelan** (an excerpt from John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*); **Kay Lee** (a poem titled "January Thaw"); **Melissa Tolliver** (a short story titled "Space Pirates"); **Gene Lyng** (an essay on "tastes"); **Wayne Hawley** (poems about unusual weddings from his sequence called "The Can't-We-Marry Tales"); **Jen Waldo** (the first chapter of each of her two published novels); **Trevor Wright** (three poems); **Rena Beyer** (an essay titled "S Is for My Plot of Solace"); and **Mary Anne Wright** (a short story titled "Till Death Do Us"). Also attending, but not reading, was **Terry Wright**.

Highland Lakes Writers' Club thanks Unshakable Grounds Coffee Shop and its owners, Michael and Cindy Brown, for their generous hospitality and the courtesy and friendliness of their staff.

Future open-mic nights are scheduled on February 24, March 30, and April 27 (always the **last** Monday night of the month), from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. Plan now to attend them all!

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Please Be Thinking . . .

To ensure that everyone who wants to read does in fact **get** to read at Wednesday evening meetings, we'll discuss "time limits" on February 19.

For several years now, the club has suggested 5-7 minutes as a good length (850 to 900 words) . . . and has also encouraged members to **practice** their readings aloud at home and **time** them before presenting them to the group.

On the whole, this practice has worked reasonably well for a "typical" monthly meeting — club business, short break, and then readings. On nights when a program or presentation is scheduled, however, there are 40-55 fewer minutes available for readings by members. Would it be helpful, do you think, to establish a **different** limit — say 4 minutes maximum — for the latter?

Time limits, once agreed upon by members, can then be announced at the beginning of each meeting and consistently enforced, assuring efficient and even-handed management of monthly get-togethers. What do **you** consider reasonable limits, and under what circumstances (if any) should exceptions be allowed? Please give this matter some thought between now and Wednesday!

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And for a few last-minute reminders, please see the following page >

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Reminders

Dress warmly Wednesday night! The forecast, at least as of now (February 14–15), calls for cold, rainy weather beginning Tuesday, and Misty of the Marble Falls Public Library tells us the Library’s heating system has lately been having “issues.” Bring a small space heater and/or a blanket if you like. (Thanks, Misty, for this heads-up!) Drive carefully, too.

We’ll want to vote, as a club, on helping support the Burnet County Area Fair — probably best done by placing an ad in the catalog — and on managing the Creative Writing Division during late May and early June of 2020. Kay and Mary Anne will furnish details and suggestions at Wednesday’s meeting.

Do consider taking Mary Anne’s challenge (page 2, “The Most Frightening Thing in the World”). It’s optional, of course, and other readings are welcome, too, but it’s always fun to hear the wide variety of members’ responses to an “assignment.” Having a brief word-length limit (250–300 words) is a strong incentive for being concise, as your secretary has learned the hard way!

On Monday or Tuesday, as soon as it’s finalized, I will e-mail everyone the Wednesday evening agenda so we can all come prepared. Be sure to glance over the minutes, too.

Have a good weekend! Thanks for your interest and support . . . see you soon.

Kay Lee, Secretary

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We hope EACH of you can be with us
this Wednesday, February 19,
6:30 p.m., at the
Marble Falls Public Library!

Send your poems, flash fiction, writing tips, announcements, etc. to: **Kay Lee**, mlee43@moment.net
To subscribe or unsubscribe, please e-mail mlee43@moment.net

