



The Creative Writer

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

April meeting announces winners, new works

John McPherson won the Serious Verse Contest at the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Spring Celebration in April 2023 for his poem, *Godly Timing*. Alyssa Darby won second place in the March 2023 Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas monthly contest for her poem, *Dust*. Don Money story, *Protocol*, has been published in *Martian Magazine*, Issue #8. This story will also be published in the year-end anthology. Del Garrett's Raven's Inn Press published a new book, *War Stories*, by Jeffrey L. Meek.

Old Business

Rhonda Roberts updated members on WCCW Conference contest sponsorship payments. She again shared the names of scheduled conference speakers, Linda Apple and Clarissa Willis.

Gary Rodgers reminded us that conference contests are ready and available online.

New Business

One new visitor and two returning visitors were introduced and given publishing information such as Scribner's Press and American Christian Fiction Writers.

Kim Vernon Rodgers announced Anthony Wood would not be attending due to a traffic jam in North Little Rock, Ark. Because of this, April's short story critique is moved until the May meeting and future scheduled activities will be moved to accommodate time.

Members conducted a read-around in place of the scheduled critique.

Members folded conference programs at the end of the meeting. Some took programs to give to others, individuals, and others such as the library. – Donna Nelson.

The Creative Writer

is a monthly newsletter for the White County Creative Writers of Searcy, Ark.

If you have news stories or photos

to share, send them to

del.garrett.s0ke@gmail.com.
Deadline for reader submission

is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

President

Kim Vernon Rodgers

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Anthony Wood

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Rhonda Roberts

Contest Monitor

Dot Hatfield

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Never write a Cliché – Except

I know you've heard it said, never write a cliché. What is a cliché? Dictionaries say it is a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought. But...when it was first used it *was* an original thought, and definitely creative writing. The problem came when other writers saw it, jumped on it and used it in their work so many times it became boring.

So, can you? Should you? Will you? **YES!** You can use a cliché if you do it creatively. How? Glad you asked.

We professionals (hack-hack, cough-cough) don't use clichés in narration, but since people talk that way all the time, go ahead and use it in dialogue. For example, don't have your character enter a room that was quiet as a church mouse inside. Have your character say, "Man, it's as quiet as a church mouse in here." Let your character use that phrase, not your narrator.

--Del Garrett

**NEXT
MEETING**

**May 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Simmons Bank, 401 S. Main, Searcy, Ark.**

SPOTLIGHT

Naomi Sechrest



Naomi Sechrest was born and raised in Albany, Ga. She loves reading and has long enjoyed writing poetry and prose. In grade school, she won writing competitions including first place in the county-wide Academic Decathlon essay in 2001.

Her father started a church library in the early '90s and she and her father often worked in the library together. In middle school, she applied to be a media center aide but was rejected. The Lord had other plans and she took over the church children's library at the age of 14. She has shared her love for the written word as a church children's librarian for over 20 years, conducting 19 Summer Reading Programs for kids, and more than a dozen Summer Reading Programs for grown-up 'kids,' and counting!



Naomi received a Bachelor's degree in Media and Business with a minor in Fine Arts from Harding University in 2009. She enjoys drawing and sketching in her travel journal and teaching 3rd grade Bible class. She professionally illustrated a children's book in 2016.

Naomi currently works at Simmons Bank. She mostly writes e-mails and Bible class lesson plans, but is working on expanding her portfolio.