



The Creative Writer

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

Awards and plans for WCCW Christmas party at Daisy’s Lunch Box

Old Business:

- Kim Vernon-Rodgers advised judges from the conference to destroy copies of contest entries.
- Rhonda Roberts shared the cost of 2023 Christmas meal at \$18 per person. All members agreed on this price. The party will be at Daisy’s Lunch Box on Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Rhonda reminded members of the anonymous read-around scheduled for after the Christmas meal. The page limit is 2 ½ pages.
- Kim reminded members of the story prompts contained in the conference goody bags which are for the Winter Contest. Deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

New Business:

- Awards and recognitions: 1) On Oct. 14, three WCCW members won in Arkansas Poetry Day contests. Alyssia Darby placed in nine contests which included the \$1,000 first place for the Sybil Nash Abrams award for her poem, “History in the Shadows.” 2) John McPherson placed in seven awards, including 3rd HM in the Sybil Nash Abrams contest. 3) Donna Nelson placed 2nd HM in the Rosa Zagnoni Mariononi contest. 4) Seven members of WCCW attended the Ozark Creative Writers conference on Oct. 12-14. Don Money, Kim Vernon, Gary Rodgers, Anthony Wood, Shirley Howard, Rick Houston, and Jodi Whitehurst took 21 total awards. 5) Anthony Wood’s next book from the *A Tale of Two Colors* series will be out next month. 6) Gary Breezeel will be published in *Saddlebags Magazine*. 7) Naomi Sechrest will have three of her art submissions displayed at the Harding University Art Exhibition from Oct,23 - Nov. 16 from 8-5 p.m.
- 8) Dr. Rebecca Foster and Mrs. Glover from Cabot Middle School North are hosting a writers’ club at the school named “Pen and Paper.” 9) Donna Nelson will have an essay published in Del Garrett’s *Writers Monthly* magazine.

Officers for next year will be elected at the Nov. 20th meeting. Don Money will speak on “Writing to Get Published” at that meeting.

For the October meeting, Dr. Terry Engel and Dr. Charles Bane presented, “Screenwriting vs. Prose” and showed a video of their work. Dr. Engel read an excerpt from his short story and gave members a copy of the resulting screenplay.

-- 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

Vice President

Anthony Wood

Secretary

Donna Nelson

Treasurer/Conference Chair

Rhonda Roberts

Contest Monitor

Dot Hatfield

Press Agent

Del Garrett

Webmaster

Steve May

NEXT MEETING

Nov. 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Simmons Bank

401 S. Main, Searcy, Ark.

WCCW winners take awards

Seven members of the White County Creative Writers attended the 2023 Ozark Creative Writers Conference in Eureka Springs, Ark., Oct. 12-14. Don Money, Kim Vernon, Gary Rodgers, Anthony Wood, Shirley Howard, Rick Houston, and Jodi Whitehurst, those listed here taking a combined total of 21 awards.

Don Money:

1st Place- Native American Short Story
1st Place- A Scream in the Night
1st Place- Tales from the Trip
1st Place- Middle Grade Fiction for Boys
1st Place- Things That Go Bump in the Night
1st HM- Winston's Quotable Quote Blog
2nd HM- Funeral Mystery

Kim Vernon:

1st place- Travel Article
1st place- From Dusk to Dawn
2nd place- The Best of Friends
2nd place- Senior Moments
2nd place- Oxbow Award

in memory of Dusty and Pat Richards

2nd HM- Indie Press Children's Book Award
2nd HM- Tales from the Trip
3rd HM- Published Newspaper Column/Blog

Gary Rodgers:

1st place- Goddesses of Poetic License Award
2nd place- Winston's Quotable Quote Blog
3rd place- Grand Showcase Award
1st HM- Haiku
1st HM- Oxbow Award in memory of Dusty and Pat Richard

Jodi Whitehurst:

1st place- On the Spot Friday the 13th
Humorous Flash Fiction contest.

WCCW members Kim Vernon Rodgers and Gary Rodgers attended the 40th Annual Ozark Writers League Fall Conference in Branson, Mo. Member Alyssa Darby also entered contests but was unable to attend.

Alyssa Darby

1st place - Crawford Poetry Prize
1st place - Humorous Anecdote Prize
1st place - Dear Folks
3rd place - Humorous Short Piece
3rd place - Flash Fiction Story

Kim Vernon

1st place - Western Short Story
1st place - Travel Article
1st place - Short Story set from 1400 to 1900
3rd place - Humorous Anecdote Prize
3rd place - Juvenile Short Story

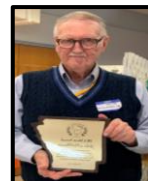
Gary Rodgers

2nd place - "I didn't see that coming!" An O'Henry style story
3rd place - Western Short Story
3rd place - A Christmas Quandry
Honorable Mention - Inspirational Romance Story
Honorable Mention - Memoir & Creative Nonfiction



Gary Rodgers won first place in a short story contest sponsored by the 2023 Alabama Writer's Cooperative for his story, "Raised on Diamonds." Rodgers has had several award-winning short stories at the WCCW annual writer's conference and the Arkansas Writers Conference. He has had a story published in The Vault of Terror, Volume I by Raven's Inn Press, and other stories in the 2018 White County Creative Writers Anthology. "Most of my stories come from real life experience and the tales I heard my dad and uncles tell when I was a child," he said. "So, I have a treasure trove of stories to draw from."

John McPherson, President of Gin Creek Poets and a member of White County Creative Writers, is the 2023 recipient of the Poet's Roundtable of America Merit Award given annually "In Acknowledgment of Our Appreciation for Your Diligence to Support and Promote Poetry with Your Time and Energy in Furthering the Goals of PRA in Arkansas."



SPOTLIGHT

Sandi Furlong



. Sandi Furlong was born and raised in Molalla, Ore. As a reader, it was natural for her to begin writing in elementary school. More and more, writing became her world, as she was extremely shy, even through high school.

As a young adult, life became very difficult, and the pleasure of writing simply got lost in the chaos. Life *did* get better: She married and raised four wonderful daughters. Life seemed to be on the move, having lived in Oregon, Washington, California, back to Washington, Montana, back to Washington, and now Arkansas.

There were episodes with their own story. After her husband's death from cancer, she went to college to study commercial art, after which there were jobs at newspapers, and magazines, till her computer skills became an issue.

Looking back, she thought it strange that she could do everything at a newspaper but write. She received job offers in the state capital but didn't want to move. Her last 10 years before retiring she worked in a nursing home's laundry department. She didn't want patient care anymore, as it was just too sad, and she'd experienced enough loss.

In the end she liked it, started collecting stories from some of the residents. A few were extraordinary, like the man who'd been a Guinness Book of World Records holder as the world's tallest man at 7'4". There was also a former operations engineer for Apollo 11. He loved talking about his experiences.

It wasn't until she finally attended her high school reunion, the 30th, that she was reminded about writing by a classmate that she didn't even remember. Returning home the first thing she did was start writing, as she does to this day.

Finding an affordable editor was impossible, so she did her best, then published on Kindle, so she could begin something new.

She never had much faith in her writing skills, though she dearly loved her characters and each of their stories. She'd always felt embarrassed calling herself a writer. One day a friend gave her a quote:

YOU ARE NOT A WRITER
BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE WHO
HAVE OR HAVE NOT
HEARD ABOUT YOU.
YOU ARE A WRITER
BECAUSE YOU WRITE
END OF STORY.

She put it on her laptop and reads it whenever she even thinks about giving up.

Sandi's Kindle Books include: *Devil's Last Ride—A View to Die For*; *A Shadow in Paradise (Part 1 of 2)*; and *Stepping Into Sunshine (Part 2 of 2)*.