



The Inkwell



Above: The Madison County Writers Guild Officers for 2010-2011: (left to right) Kimberly Davis, Treasurer; Frieda Michael, Secretary; Joan A. Escamilla, President; Lou Popowskyj, Vice President.

Below: Newly elected Writers Guild President Joan A. Escamilla with outgoing president M. Elizabeth Gage (2007-2010).



The President's Message

As a new season approaches, though we won't be feeling it in the weather for a while, my thoughts turn away from fun, summer excursions and my mind prepares for more disciplined days ahead.

I anticipate an exciting year for the Writers Guild as we build upon the foundation so skillfully laid by our predecessors. My gratitude goes out to our former officers and those returning to fill various positions. Without their collective contributions we would not have the outstanding organization that we enjoy today.

Remember the Anthology theme for 2011 is *Autumn*. You may wish to write about back-to-school adventures, experiences of Indian Summer when the weather is most pleasant, or special Thanksgiving holiday feasts with family or friends.

I encourage each of you to renew your commitment to write your best, contribute often, and help us continue to grow in knowledge of the craft together as we throw out a line into the sea of words.

Most sincerely,

Joan A. Escamilla

Writers Guild Shorts

A Christian organization just bought out most of **Gala Nettle's** second printing of *Yikes God's Working on my Character* - 315 books. Another Christian organization bought out the first edition of "Yikes" last year and it has been used in two Bible studies. Volume II, *Gee God, Have I Got a Problem* came out last Christmas. We all hope Gala has as much success with this one as the previous. Congratulations, Gala!

Marielle Gage recently returned to the states after attending a two-week intensive on English Literature at Oxford. Highlights of her studies included attending a performance of Henry IV, Part I at the Globe Theater, visiting John Henry Newman's home at Littlemore, and touring the Kilns, C. S. Lewis' home. Her paper, "Edmund's Own Nature," examined the villain of Shakespeare's King Lear in a religious context.

August Heat written by **M. Elizabeth Gage** received Third Prize in the Brazos Writers Annual Contest in the Short Fiction Category. Kudos, Marianne.

Brazos Valley Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

Schmooze Schedule

Sept. 29 Friending, Tweeting and Blogging Your Writing Life

Oct. 27 Setting Priorities

Meetings are held in the College Station Barnes & Noble in the art corner at 10 a.m. Open critique time follows each meeting. See website for guidelines.

Madison County Arts Council News and Events

Flautist Linda Wiley will give a concert of program pieces by Faure, Poulenc, and others on Sunday, November 21, 2010 at the Truman Kimbro Center on the square.

Saturday, August 20 at the Truman Kimbro Center in downtown Madisonville was the venue for the second annual **Painted Chair Art Affair**. Many local, talented artists displayed their work. An eclectic mix of uniquely painted chairs was auctioned off as a benefit for the Madison County Arts Council.

On Sunday, August 15, the Madison County Arts Council sponsored a **Bluegrass concert** featuring Digger Davis and Tombstone as well as a talented group of local performers including Writers Guild member Burke Landry.

In spite of the triple digit heat, the event brought a great turnout. The music was uplifting and the hot dogs and Blue Bell ice cream hit the spot.

The Madison County Arts Council is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization serving the residents, artists and visitors of Madison County since 2002. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, it is the purpose of the Madison County Arts Council to cultivate an appreciation of the cultural arts and to encourage participation in the performing, graphic, and visual arts in the Madison County area.

*A Madison County
Writers Guild
Christmas
publication date
December 2010*

*If you have a Christmas story or
verse that you would like to
share, please send your
manuscript to Kim Davis by
November 1, 2010. Submission
by email is preferred.*



The Editor Recommends

Love it or hate it, we are living in a time of ever changing and increasing technological advances. The publishing industry is increasingly warming to the ideas of downloadable e-books and print-on-demand in the age of kindles and nooks.

The modern writer, established or struggling, would do well to become acquainted with the world wide web. A writer needs to speak the same language as and communicate with perspective publishers, editors and readers. The BV-SCBWI September schmooze "Friending, Tweeting and Blogging Your Writing Life" might be a good place to start. Below Guild Member Kim Davis offers insight into setting up a personal website.

submitted by Kim Davis

If you are a writer, you need a website. For your work to find an audience, you must take charge of the publicity yourself, even if you are under contract. Publishers' budgets simply do not stretch to promotion for most authors these days, and the internet is the first place editors, agents and publishers will look for information about you. Of course your readers will be looking for you as well!

Dedicated websites are not just for those who write novels. Writers of all sorts, fiction, non-fiction, novels, short stories, poetry and magazine articles all need to publicize their work.

Domains may be purchased from many locations. I

run a reseller service through my website at www.sublime-design-studio.com/domains.php. However, there are many other options. I like working with godaddy.com, the company my reseller account runs through. They offer great customer service, extras, and the best prices. My only warning is to ignore all the other things they offer to sell you as you at check out!

Curently, the content management platform that works best for the DIYer is WordPress. It is a snap to install on the most basic GoDaddy hosting account, which costs approximately \$50/year. From there the user will find lots of templates that install with the click of a button. There is an online admin panel and lots of documentation to help you figure out how to work it. No special skills are required. In addition, there are thousands of free plugins that can be added to a WordPress installation, and again, it is as simple as clicking the button marked "install." All this allows the user to extend the functionality of his website with very little effort.

Here are the essentials:

1. Purchase your domain name (www.yourname.com). It will usually cost about \$10 per year, unless someone else already owns it, and then it could get very expensive, so the sooner you lock it up the better. Use your name or an easy to remember variation, like first initial, last name. Don't use dashes or underscores in your domain name. That gets very clumsy when you are giving radio interviews.
2. What to have on the website: Bio, Credits, Awards, Clips, and

Samples. Optional extras: A blog, links to sales pages for your work, and a calendar of your events.

3. A even cheaper way to get started is to set up a free blog. You can "forward" your domain name to this free mini-website until you are ready to upgrade to a full website. I recommend these blog services: www.blogger.com and www.wordpress.com. They are a little more limited with regard to themes, and extra functions, but great for the financially challenged beginner.

4. Ultimately, you'll also need a web hosting account. Whether you build the website yourself or hire a designer, there are great options available to make it easy for you to manage and update on your own.

About the author: Kim Davis is the current Treasurer and a past Vice President of the MCWG, and is the owner of Sublime Design Studio, www.sublime-design-studio.com, specializing in web design for small businesses, non-profits and individuals.

Writers Workshop Scholarships

The Madison County Writers Guild offers scholarships of up to \$50 to members who attend a writing workshop, conference, or complete a writing course. To be eligible, individuals must be members in good standing, submit an application with receipts attached, and give a presentation of material learned to a meeting of the General Membership.

Applications are available on the Guild Bookshelf.



*Guidelines and Deadlines for
Submissions to the
2011 anthology*

Theme: *Autumn*

Maximum word length: 2500

Restrictions: no obscenity,
vulgarity or erotica

Standard manuscript preparation
with submission to Kim Davis by
January 15, 2011. Submission via
email is preferred.

An Anthology Submission
Author's Agreement must be
completed. Agreements are
available on the bookshelf.

Writers Guild Meetings

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

*Annual dues are individuals \$20,
families \$30, and students \$10.*

*The Writers Guild is supported by its
members and by the Madison County
Arts Council.*

**Writer's Digest
Popular Fiction**

Awards

**A Short Story Competition
from *Writer's Digest*. The
Grand Prize-Winner will
receive a trip to the
Writer's Digest Conference
in New York City, \$2,500
cash, \$100 worth of
Writer's Digest Books and
the 2011 Novel & Short
Story Writer's Market.**

**Deadline: Nov. 1, 2010.
Entry Fee: \$20.00 each.**

To submit your entry online,
visit [www.writersdigest.com/
popularfictionawards](http://www.writersdigest.com/popularfictionawards).

To enter via regular mail, use
[the printable form](#), and send
it with your manuscript(s)
and entry fee to: WD
Popular Fiction Awards,
4700 East Galbraith Road,
Cincinnati, OH 45236.

See website for additional
Writer's Digest contests.

2010-2011 Calendar

Annual Business Meeting
August 17, 2010

Membership Meeting
September 21, 2010
STC Chapter 7: POV (revisited)

Membership Meeting
October 19, 2010
H. S. Writing Contest Opens
STC Chapter 8: Changing POV

Membership Meeting
November 16, 2010
STC Chapter 9: Indirect Narration

Christmas Social
December 21, 2010

Membership Meeting
January 18, 2011
STC Chapter 10: Crowding
Anthology Submissions due

Membership Meeting
February 15, 2011

Special Events
Texas Writers Booksale & Signing
Writing Contest Award Ceremony
Annual Writers Workshop

Membership Meeting
March 15, 2011

Membership Meeting
April 19, 2011
Annual Report to Membership
Nomination of Officers

Annual Meeting
May 17, 2011
Election of Officers

Spring Social with guest author
Presentation of Guild Choice
Awards



2010-2011 Officers

President	Joan A. Stutts Escamilla
Vice President	Lou Popowskyj
Treasurer	Kimberly Davis
Secretary	Frieda Michael
Newsletter Editor	M. Elizabeth Gage
President Emeritus	M. Elizabeth Gage