



VALLEY BYLINERS NEWSLETTER



Coming up at our June meeting....

Eileen Mattei will be our speaker. Her topic will be "Get creative with nonfiction."



Eileen is a freelance writer and editor. Her travel and nature articles are published in several magazines, such as Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Highways, Texas Co-op Power and Texas Wildlife Association. She is the author of "At the Crossroads: Harlingen's First 100 Years" and "Valley Places, Valley Faces," and is writing a history of McAllen that is due out in 2011. Eileen is a past president and lifemember of Valley Byliners.

Meet at The Harlingen Public Library, June 11, 1:30 p.m.

At the May meeting...

Life Memberships were awarded.

In appreciation of their outstanding contributions to the Valley Byliners, Life Memberships were awarded to Mona Sizer, Jeff Harris, Don Clifford, and Eileen Mattei.

New officers were elected.

President—Sue Groves
VP for Publicity - Bruce Nelson
VP for Programming and Special events - Frank Cortazo
Treasurer - Jose Alvarez
Member of the Board - Vivian (Bidgie) Weber.

The speaker at the May meeting was Sue Groves, our President-elect.

Sue's topic was writing screenplays, with an emphasis on writing screenplays "on speculation." A screen play is a blueprint of a movie and is used as a tool by scores of people involved in the making of the movie. As a tool it must be formatted in a very specific manner, which might seem restrictive to writers used to other medi-

ums. As an example, even a particular font style and size is specified, 12 pt Courier. This particular font and size, along with specific margins and indent formatting is required because, as a rule of thumb, one page of a screen play works out to be roughly one minute of screen time. This is an important factor in preparing a budget for the movie. Sue offered many tips to increase the chances of getting your screenplay read and making it to the silver screen or, more likely, the small screen.

The May Writing Challenge was won by Judy Stevens's story, "Another Day."

The other entries were: "The Rape" by Bidgie Weber; "I Don't Know Who You Are" by Lupita Ochoa; "Heroes and Their Sacrifices" by Nellie Venselaar; "Eight Words That Make a Difference" by Frank Cortazo; "Old and Unclaimed" by Helene Funtanilla; "Cinco de Mayo Plus Five" by Don Clifford; and "Cheerios" by Edna Ratliffe.

Don Clifford has agreed to continue running the Monthly Writing Challenges.

The Writers Challenge is open to Valley Byliners members. Here is how it works:

- Your entry can be a short story, poem, reminiscence, essay or whatever, as long as it's not more than 1500 words.
- On every third month your entry can be longer, up to 4000 words. This June is one of the months for the longer entries.
- E-mail your entry to donclifford@sbcglobal.net.
- Don will re-send your entry, sans the author's name, to the membership.
- Each member can cast his or her vote by sending an e-mail to Don or by voting in person at the Valley Byliners meeting.
- The winning author will receive \$10.00. But we all are winners because we get a chance to exercise our writing muscles.
- Many of the stories submitted for the challenge will be included in our next book.

Old and new officers held a transitional meeting at the Java Café the Saturday following our May elections. The old hands let the “newbies” know what they had to do and how they needed to go about doing it.

A lot of time was spent on preliminary planning for the **workshop** this coming February 11. **Laurel Downing Bill**, author of the “[Aunt Phil’s Trunk](#)” series will do a workshop entitled “**Get that Book Published.**” Mark it on your calendar.



Whats Going on...

Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center Writers Forum will meet in the Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center, 225 E Stenger St., San Benito on the first Tuesday of the month, June 7th, July 5th and August 2nd, 7-9 p.m. The forum is beginning its 11th year.

Brenda Nettles Riojas hosts “**Corazón Bilingüe**” on public radio station KMBH, FM 88.9 and 88.1, Sundays at 2 p.m.

Brenda has conversations with poets and authors who work in both English and Spanish. Learn more at the Corazón Bilingüe web page, <http://corazonbilingue.com/>



Texas A & M University Press invites submissions to the forthcoming anthology “**New Border Writing: A Still Life in Words**” **An Anthology of Texas/Mexico Border Writing.**

The deadline for submissions is June 15.
For more information follow the link below.

<http://writersoftheriogrande.com/texas-a-m-anthology-submissions/>



The Bragging corner

Been published? Been Given an Honorary Doctorate? Person of the year award? Whatever, here is the place to let us know about it.



Verne Wheelwright conducted “**The Foresight Workshop**” sponsored by **The Valley Business Report** on May 4.



Editors note:

This is my first attempt at the newsletter. I still have a lot of room on this page. Please help me fill it up next month. Send me stuff! Even though there is no meeting in July, I plan to send out a newsletter July 2. If you send me stuff by June 26 or so I can include it in the July newsletter.

I’m looking forward to the June 11 meeting. Maybe Eileen Mattei’s topic will help me be more creative in this newsletter. See y’all there.