



# VALLEY BYLINERS NEWSLETTER



**Our next meeting will be on August 13.** For the last several years there has been no meeting in the month of July.

The June meeting was well attended. If you couldn't make it, you missed a great talk by **Eileen Mattei** about creative (narrative) non-fiction. I can't boil down Eileen's 35 minute talk to fit in a neat little paragraph, but I can quote from her opening remarks:

"Creative non-fiction is characterized by the use of narrative and personal involvement to tell a story. That is where it differs from journalism, which is supposed to be a compilation of facts with no opinion.

Creative non-fiction...brings in fiction techniques such as scenes, dialogue, and point of view, settings, and characters and a time frame.

Creative non-fiction writers take care to be as truthful and factual as possible. At the same time they aim to be artful and engaging storytellers."



If you missed Eileen's talk, there is still a great line-up of programs coming up. Our Vice-president for Programs, **Frank Cortazo**, has gotten some great speakers for the months ahead:

- Aug 13 **Mathew Schoonover** "The Genesis of a Series" how the "Arbiter" series of novels came to be published
- Sept 10 **Julietta Corpus** and **Arturo Saldana** "Intertwining Poetry"
- Oct 8 **Molly Osborn** "Getting Children Involved in Writing" and its role within the childrens services at the Harlingen Public Library.
- Nov 12 **Pat Hartmann** "songs"
- Dec 10 **Valley Byliners** Christmas party
- Jan 14 **Pat Avery** "Military publishing"

- Feb 11 **Valley Byliners Annual Workshop** "Get that Book and Article published" featuring **Laurel Bill**, author of the "Aunt Phil's Trunk" series.

Frank still has openings for March, April and May. If you have requests or suggestions for programs, drop Frank a line at [frankcortazo@gmail.com](mailto:frankcortazo@gmail.com)



**Don Clifford** writes:

Byliners:

After two rounds of voting to break a tie, **Joan Soggie's** "Winter Adventure" emerged as this month's winner. The tie vote was the first in the Writers Challenge history. The other contender was **Marianna Nelson's** "Your Pleasure Is Our Business". Authors who submitted an entry in the June challenge are: **Travis Whitehead**, "Beach Scene"; **Frank Cortazo**, "Characters From Many Famous Movies"; **Bruce Nelson**, "Fog"; **Edna Ratliff**, "Green Eyes"; **Bidgie Weber**, "I Don't Mind Getting Old...But!"; **Sarah Miles**, "The Migrant School"; **Judy Stevens**. "Why I Like Tetris".

In my opinion, these were some of the best stories yet. Keep them coming!

No meeting is scheduled for July so the next Writers Challenge will be for August when we revert to the 1500 word maximum. The next 4000 words or less category will be in September. Plenty of time to wring out your thinking cap and write a new story, poem, memoir, essay or whatever.

Metaphors be with you!

*Don*

A new book publisher in Brownsville, **Sarah Book Publishing**, is soliciting manuscripts on it's web page. <http://www.sarahbookpublishing.com/>

Judging from the web page, the services are more in line with those of a traditional publishing house rather than a self-publishing or vanity publishing house.



### And along that line...

Verne Wheelwright recommends that, before you get too deep into publishing or self-publishing, you get a copy of "**The Fine Print of Self Publishing**" by Mark Levine. It may answer a lot of questions you haven't thought to ask but should have.



### What's 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, July 5th and August 2nd, 7-9 p.m.

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

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**Paragraphs Book Store** on the island hosts:

- Play Readers— Mon. July 11 at 7:00 pm
- Writers Round Table —Mon. July 25 at 7:00 pm

*I spoke with the owner, **Joni Montover**, and she told me that the format of these get-togethers is still evolving.*

*At the Play Readers, the participants each get a copy of the script of a play and read the part of character in that play.*

*The Writers Round Table could go in the direction of reading and critiquing original work or to discussions of "How and where to get my stuff published"*

*Call Joni at 956-433-5057 for more information.*

*Paragraphs is a pretty neat book store and worth a visit at any time. Check their web page for hours.*

<http://paragraphsonspi.blogspot.com/>

### 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.*



**Eileen Mattei's** latest book, "**Leading the Way-Mcallen's First Hundred years**" came out in June.

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Valley Byliners member **Edgar Clinton** maintains a really well done website, [Writers of the Rio Grande](#), with a lot of things that valley writers might be interested in. And its all in "Edgardo's unique style.

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**Mona Sizer** will be on national television, Monday evening July 4 at 9:00 PM on the **Investigation Discovery Channel** (TWC Channel 271). She will be appearing in a segment of the "**Behind Mansion Walls**" program. (*editor's caveat ..the TWC cable guide does not match the schedule on the Discovery channels web site.*)



### Christmas Party

**-----Attention all Byliners: We are making plans for the Byliners Christmas party which will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2011. The party will take the place of our regularly-scheduled meeting and is usually hosted at the home of one of our members. We are looking for someone to volunteer to be this year's host. No Cooking Required. The party will be a pot luck . Any Byliner interested is asked to please contact Frank Cortazo, Byliners VP for Programs at..**

[frankcortazo@gmail.com](mailto:frankcortazo@gmail.com).

**Thanks.-----**

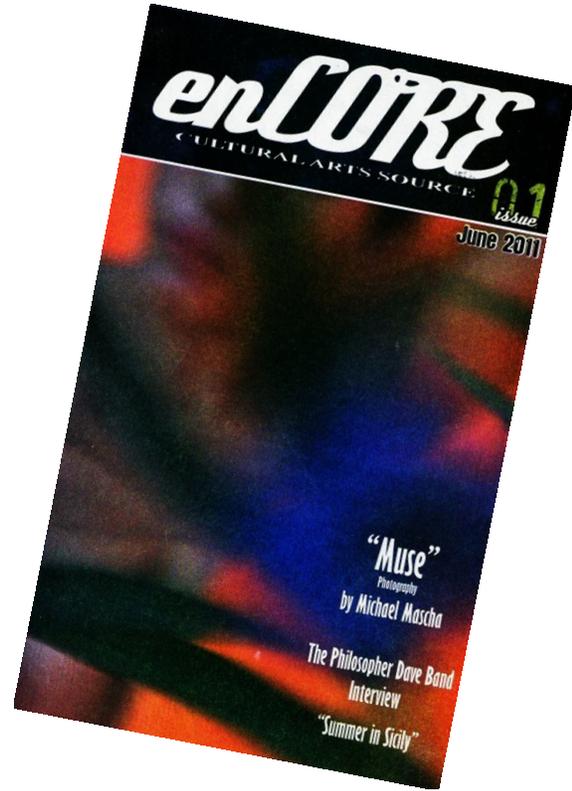
A new free magazine, “*ENCORE CULTURAL ARTS SOURCE*”, has been showing up around town. We found copies at the Gallery on the corner of Jackson and Commerce and in the lobby of the Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum.

The magazine seems to be very well done. The publisher, Daniel Wright, is looking for contributions. Last month, in response to an inquiry by Marianna, Mr. Wright wrote:

Thank you for the positive reinforcement! Yes, we are always seeking out new content contributors. If you have something short (under 500 words) you can submit it here for our July issue by June 13th.

I have been wanting to put in an episodic story of some sort that could continue in chapters each issue, but anything art- or expression-related will be appreciated, thanks for your kind words ... Looking forward to reading your submissions!

Thanks again -  
Daniel Wright 367-1049



We missed the June 13 deadline but you might make the July deadline for the August issue.

You can contact Daniel Wright by email at [Encore.w9@gmail.com](mailto:Encore.w9@gmail.com) or by telephone at (956)367-1049

**Editor's note:**

*You may have known all this stuff anyway, but it was news to me!*

*I still have a lot of space for page 3, Please help me fill it up next month. If you send me stuff by August 3, I can include it in the August newsletter.*

*You can email items to me at [bruce@studio221.net](mailto:bruce@studio221.net)*