



MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

The March meeting Guest Speakers:



Dr. David Bowles, will speak on the importance of cultural and historical elements in crafting relevant, engaging literature.

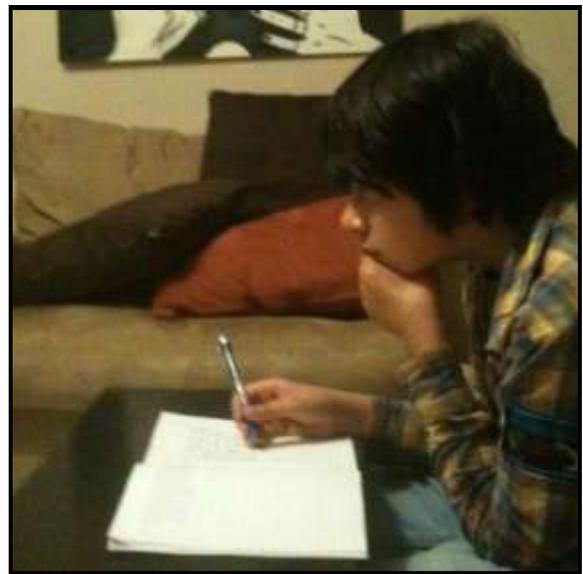
Bowles launched his *D'ANGELO CHRONICLES* in 2009. In April of 2011, Absey & Co. published *THE SEED: STORIES FROM THE RIVER'S EDGE*, a collection of his YA short stories. In 2012, Bowles teamed up with painter Noé Vela to create *MEXICAN BESTIARY*.

In 2013, Lamar University Press will release *FLOWER, SONG, DANCE: AZTEC AND MAYAN POETRY*, a collection of Mesoamerican verse translated by Bowles. He has served as editor for the *ALONG THE RIVER* anthology series, *DONNA HOOKS FLETCHER: LIFE AND WRITINGS*, the magazine *FLASH-QUAKE*, and *LA NORIA* Literary Journal. His book review column *TOP SHELF* appears each Thursday in *THE MONITOR*, a regional newspaper

David resides in the Río Grande Valley of South Texas with his wife and children.

Angelo Bowles began writing when he was 9. Three years later, he has published a trilogy of children's books featuring *Swift the cat-human*. His hobbies include reading, playing science-related games like Spore, and building things out of whatever he finds handy. A big fan of animals, he has two cats and a dog. He is hoping for a hedgehog next.

Angelo will share his insights on what young readers want and how he went about giving them those sorts of stories.



*The Valley Byliners meets Saturday, March 9th, 1:30 pm
at the Harlingen Public Library
410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX*



Our annual **Writer's Workshop** was held last month and was a great experience for all who attended. The principle speaker was Jan Seale, 2012 Texas Poet Laureate. Jan was in her usual great form—entertaining, engaging and informative. I think we all gained something.

Our morning coffee and pastry treats were furnished through the courtesy of Sarah Book Publishing.

A bag lunch from Java Café was included in the admission fee. During the lunch break, Roger Young talked about the history of Sarah Book Publishing and what they have to offer. (Roger writes under the “nom deplume” of Cherokee Parks.)

The Winner of the February Writing Challenge was: “Addicted by Frank Cortazo

The other entries were:

- “Special Treats” by **Ann Greenfield**
- “Moon, Men, Cats” by **Gene Novogrodsky**
- “My Mother and Benny Goodman” by **Gene Novogrodsky**

Please note

Every third month the Writing Challenge accepts works up to 4000 words in length. These months are:

- **March**
- **June**
- **September**
- **December**

Every other month the limit is 1500 words except for **May and November**, which are for poetry up to 60 lines long.

Looking Ahead
Valley Byliners Presenters

April 13—Don Clifford, “The Hook”
 May 11—Elizabeth Miller
 June 8— Shirley Rickett
 July — no meeting
 Aug 10— TBA
 Sept 14—Brenda Riojas, “Creativity”

For a list of other events that Valley writers might be interested in, check out **Edgar Clinton's** website, [Writers of the Rio Grande](#).

Next Month's Writing Challenge

For Valley Byliners Members only

Send your entry of not more than **4000** words to **Edna Ratliff** by **March 4th** to:

writerscontest2012@gmail.com.

- Edna 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 Edna or by voting in person at the Valley Byliners meeting.
- The winning author will receive \$10.00.

**Post scripts:**

Verne Wheelwright is working with a web site developer to redesign our Web Page. It is not finished yet, but soon will be. It looks really good and will have a lot of increased functionality that will make it a tool that all our members and viewers will be able to use.

Nominations for Officers will take place at the March Meeting. We will be taking nominations for all the club officers and for one Board of Directors member. (Marianna Nelson's three year term as a Board member is up this year and she will not be running for re-election.) The Elections themselves take place at the May meeting, *after two months of heavy campaigning, no doubt.*

Wow! Another year has gone by

Valley Byliner dues for 2013 are now due. Send your \$20 check made out to the Valley Byliners to:

Jose Alvarez ,130 Pizarro Ave. Rancho Viejo, Tx 78575

Please submit your dues with the form on the next page so we can keep our records up-to date and learn about the byliners activies you are interested in.

Thank you

Valley Byliners

Membership Application and Renewal form

Membership in Valley Byliners is open to anyone interested in writing, publishing or marketing their written works. Dues run from January 1 to December 31 of each year and are currently \$20.00 per year. Persons joining us between April and November may use the following table to calculate their prorated dues. Membership applications and renewals may be turned in at any Valley Byliners meeting or may be mailed, along with a check or money order, to the address below. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Valley Byliners. Please do not mail cash.

Month <u>Joining</u>	Prorated Dues
December thru March **	\$20.00
April thru June	\$15.00
July thru September	\$10.00
October and November	\$5.00

**Dues paid in December are applied to the following year.

Valley Byliners c/o Jose A. Alvarez, 130 Pizarro Ave. Rancho Viejo, TX 78587

Application for Membership in Valley Byliners

(please print neatly)

Name	
Street Address	
City, Zip	
Telephone	
Email	
Website (if any)	
Writing interests	<i>(please circle)</i> fiction, non-fiction, novel, short story, poetry, other
Please circle the committees or activities in which you would like to participate: publicity, website, membership, marketing, workshop, mentoring and critiquing, and any other committees as determined by the Valley Byliners President.	
<i>(signature)</i>	<i>(date)</i>

Do not write below this line

\$ _____ Dues Paid by Cash Check# _____ Money Order

Membership Paid up through the end of December, 20____