



**MAY 2013
NEWSLETTER**

IMPORTANT! THE MAY 11TH MEETING WILL START AT 3:30

***Due to the scheduling of the Harlingen Book Festival
(details on page 3)***

**Our Speaker at the Byliners meeting will be
Dr. Elizabeth Miller
Forensic Pathologist for Cameron County**



CSI: CAMERON COUNTY

**Myths and Misconceptions of Medico-legal
Death Investigation
*Reality vs CSI (as seen on TV)***



***The Valley Byliners meets Saturday, May 11th, 3:30 pm
at the Harlingen Public Library
410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX***



Critiquing the Monthly Writing Challenge entries:

At last month's meeting, several entry authors mentioned that they would like to have their work critiqued by the membership. It was suggested that an author who wanted to have his work critiqued could label his work "*Critique invited*" and that anyone wishing to critique an entry would send the critique to Edna and Edna would forward the critique to the author. Edna requires that the critiques be sent to her no later than Wednesday of the week after our meeting and she will forward the critique to the author on the next day.

For the the month of May, the schedule is that entries be sent to Edna, [writerscontest2012@gmail.com.](mailto:writerscontest2012@gmail.com), no later than May 6, critiques should be sent no later than May 15 and Edna will forward the critique to the author on May 16.



At last month's meeting, Don Clifford, spoke about the importance of the first lines of your work, and what it takes to "hook" your reader and make him/her want to continue reading.

Looking Ahead Valley Byliners Presenters

May 11—Elizabeth Miller, "Forensic pathology"
June 8— Shirley Rickett, "Critique Groups"
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](#).

The Winner of the March Writing Challenge was:

"The Wall of Infamy" by **Frank Cortazo**

The other entries were:

- "Naked Fall" by **Kaila Silva**
- "The Hawks" by **Narce Scott**
- "Prayer Group" by **Marianna Nelson**
- "Recess" by **Ann Greenfield**
- "The Seed" by **Gene Novogrodsky**
- "How I Added Zest to My Live" by **Marge Flados**
- "Archeology Begins at Home" by **Judy Stevens**
- "Not so Routine" by **Vivian Kearney**

May is Poetry Month

Next Month's Writing Challenge

For Valley Byliners Members only

Send your poem of up to 60 lines to **Edna Ratliff** by May 6th 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.

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.



Elections of Officers to take place at the May Meeting.

Our current club officers were nominated to serve for another year.

President—**Sue Groves**

V.P for Programs—**Frank Cortazo**

V.P for Public Relations—**Bruce Nelson**

Treasurer —**Jose Alvarez**

Don Clifford was nominated to the Board of Directors to replace **Marianna Nelson** who has completed her three-year term.

Our meeting starts at 3:30 this week because of the Harlingen Book festival.
Come early and check out the book festival.

HARLINGEN BOOK FESTIVAL

Reading Gives You Superpowers!

Promoting Literacy, Reading, and the Arts
In South Texas

Harlingen Public Library

410 76 Dr. Harlingen, TX 78550 (956) 216-5888

Saturday May 11, 2013 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



- ❖ Door Prizes!
- ❖ Meet Regional Authors & Community Leaders
- ❖ See an American Civil War Camp & Living History Re-enactors Bring History to Life!
- ❖ Food Vendors
- ❖ Special Guest Speakers & Entertainment for Children and Parents
- ❖ Book Characters, Mascots, Captain Crab, Andy Armadillo
- ❖ Give Aways by Local and Corporate Sponsors
- ❖ Come meet Miss South Texas, Miss Rio Grande Valley and Miss Rio Grande Valley Junior Teen.



- ❖ Meet and listen to an award winning bagpiper.

For Children:

- ❖ A Special Reading Laboratory!
- ❖ Reading Gives you Superpowers!
- ❖ Come dressed as your favorite superhero and register for a chance to win a special prize.
- ❖ A Mad Readers Autograph Souvenir Book for every student!

Storytelling! Music! Face Painting!

Join our event on Facebook!

For more information contact Festival Director:

Rickey E.Pittman rickeyp@bayou.com Phone (318) 547-2906

Facebook Fan Page: Rickey E. Pittman