

**Our Speaker for the June 8th meeting:
Shirley Rickett**



"Critique Groups"

"Sharing our writing process, our work, our struggle, with other writers is the richest source of help, thinking, re-viewing, and learning for most writers."

It breaks up the isolation many of us feel."

Shirley Rickett wrote her first poem at age five but she can't find it.

She is a late bloomer and took her Master's degree in English, Creative Writing from the University of Missouri—Kansas City at age 65. (She also holds a Master's degree in Education from UMKC.)

She was awarded a fellowship with Colgate University in 1999. She is the author of three chapbooks, the latest, *Love: Poems for Vintage Song Titles*, (Finishing Line Press). Her work has appeared in over thirty journals and magazines. A convener of workshops, she has conducted them at the Writers Place in Kansas City, Missouri, in schools with poets-in-the-schools programs and with her own middle school students. She has taught in public schools on the secondary level, in government funded summer programs for urban youth, and as an adjunct at Park University, Parkville, Missouri. A native Kansas Citian, she has lived in the Valley for 6 years. Shirley's group, "**Wild Horse Desert Writers**", meets in McAllen on the first Saturday of each month at 3 pm at **Junction Cafe**, Business 83 and Cage.

More about Shirley on her web site <http://swrickettpoetry.com/>

***The Valley Byliners meets Saturday, June 8th, 1:30 pm
at the Harlingen Public Library
410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX***



Critiquing the Monthly Writing Challenge entries:

Any author who wishes his or her entry to be critiqued must label his work “*Critique invited.*” Anyone wishing to critique an entry can send the critique to Edna and Edna will 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 June, the schedule is that **entries** be sent to writerscontest2012@gmail.com no later than **June 3**. **Critiques** should be sent no later than **June 12** and Edna will forward the critique to the author on **June 13**.



At last month’s meeting, **Dr . Elizabeth Miller** gave an interesting and unusual program.

Myths and Misconceptions of Medicolegal Death Investigation.

Reality vs CSI (as seen on TV)

Those of us lucky enough to have been able to attend the program were given a fact filled briefing on a profession far different from what we see on the TV screen and were given a lot of grist for our creative mills. There could be several short stories and a novella or two written from this material. Dr. Miller enthralled us until long after the library closing time.

Looking Ahead Valley Byliners Presenters

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 May Writing Challenge was:

“The Disbeliever” by **Frank Cortazo**

The other entries were:

- “My Life Renewed” by **Rudy Garcia**
- “Five More” by **Gene Novogrodsky**
- “Disturances” by **Anita Westervelt**
- “Merry Go Round” by **Mary J Bogatto**
- “Guns” by **EdgarClinton**
- “A Life Well-spent” by **Judy Stevens**
- “April Snow ” by **Joan Soggie**
- “Sandhills in Winter” by **Joan Soggie**
- “From One Oyster to Another” by **Sylvia Hughes**

Next Month’s Writing Challenge

For Valley Byliners Members only

Send your work of up to **4000** words to **Edna Ratliff** by **June 3rd** 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.

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 June 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.

It was unfortunate that our May meeting had to be rescheduled with little advance notice to accommodate the Harlingen Public Library's Book Festival.

Our attendance suffered as a result. The Elections of Officers has been rescheduled for the June meeting. Members who were unable to attend the May meeting missed a very interesting and well prepared program presented by Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Forensic Pathologist for Cameron County.

**Our June Meeting will be the last meeting before the summer Hiatus.
The Byliners do not meet in July.
Meetings resume in August**