



www.rgvbyliners.org

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Our speaker for September is Brenda Nettles Riojas

“Reaching Aha! - Inspiration Zone Ahead”

Harnessing one’s creative spirit can make the difference between the ordinary and the extraordinary. This interactive workshop provides an insight into the creative process and provides tips participants can use to get their creative juices flowing on and off the page.



Brenda Nettles Riojas is a poet, journalist and public relations professional. An accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, she has more than 20 years experience in the profession. She currently works for the Diocese of Brownsville where she also serves as editor of *The Valley Catholic* newspaper and host of Diocese Insight, a half-hour television program.

Her first book focused on the history of the Catholic Church in the Rio Grande Valley, and her first collection of Spanish poems – “La Primera Voz Que Oí,” was published in Guadalupe, Mexico. Her poetry has been published in a number of anthologies and publications.

Brenda holds an MFA from the University of New Orleans. She is also the host of a weekly radio program - Corazón Bilingüe, which airs on KMBH FM 88.9/88.1, the local NPR affiliate and online (www.corazonbilingue.com). The radio program features interviews with writers about the dynamics of language and culture and how it impacts writing.

***The Valley Byliners meets Saturday, September 14th, 1:30 pm
at the Harlingen Public Library
410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX***



A list of current paid-up and Life members for the year 2013

1	Alvarez, Jose A.	2013
2	Barlow, Hugh A.	2013
3	Bogatto, Mary Jo	2013
4	Clifford, Donald M.	life
5	Cortazo, Frank	2013
6	Diehl, Debbie	2013
7	Flados, Marge	2013
8	Garcia, Kevin	2013
9	Gray, Peter C.	2013
10	Groves, Sue	2013
11	Harris, Jeff	life
12	Holmes, Susan	2013
13	hughes, Sylvia	2013
14	Johnson, Marjorie	life
15	King, Jack C.	2013
16	Mattei, Eileen	life
17	Nelson, Bruce	2013
18	Nelson, Mariana	2013
19	Nieland, Carolyn	2013
20	Ostman, Adrienne	life
21	Overstreet, LeRoy	2013
22	Palacios, Jose	2013
23	Ratliff, Edna	2013
24	Riojas, Brenda	2013
25	Rogans, John	2013
26	Ross, Carolyn	2013
27	Scott, Narce	2013
28	Silva, Kaila	2013
29	Sizer, Mona	life
30	Soggie, Joan	2013
31	Steele, Caroline	2013
32	Stevens, Judy	2013
33	Tamayo, Adela	2013
34	Torres, Mary	2013
35	Tuxbury, Georgia	2013
36	Varshney, Rahul	2013
37	West, Wanda	2013
38	Wheelwright, Verne	2013
39	Workman, Janice	2013

Only paid-up or Life members are eligible to participate in the monthly Writing Challenge.

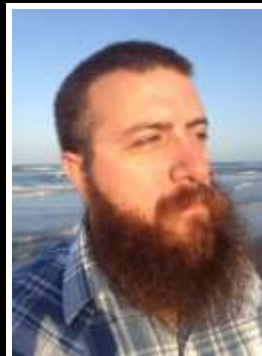
Some of last years members have not yet renewed.

If your name is not on the list please renew your membership by sending your check for \$20 to :

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

or just click on the “Pay Now” button on the membership page of our new web site.

<http://www.rgvbyliners.org/membership/index.html>



Last month , Kevin Garcia told us about “Story Telling and Myth Making.” and how stories and myths evolve and change. He started with the ancient story “Gilgamesh,” one of the earliest surviving works of literature, and

wound up talking about and drawing parallels to Superman and modern stories and how they fit in with John Campbell’s, “monomyth” structure and the “Hero’s Journey.”



The Winner of the July Writing Challenge was: “And Yer Little Dawg Too” by Judy Stevens

The other entries were:

- “A True Story” by **Leroy Overstreet**
- “A Stretch of Hopeless Highway” by **Frank Cortazo**
- “Friday Night Poker Game” by **Edna Ratliff**
- “Flyboy” by Kevin Garcia

The monthly “Writing Challenge” is only open to current paid-up members and Life members!

The September Writing Challenge

For Valley Byliners Members only

Send your work of up to **4000** words to **Edna Ratliff** by **Sept. 9th** 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

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.

Critiquing the Monthly Writing Challenge entries:

Any author who wishes his or her entry to be critiqued must label his work “*Critique invited.*”

Anyone who would like to critique an entry can send the critique to Edna and Edna will forward the critique to the author. Edna asks 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.

Critiquing is not mandatory and is at your discretion.

Looking Ahead
Valley Byliners Presenters

Sept 14—Brenda Riojas, “Creativity”
 Oct 12—Nelda Perez
 Nov 9—Roger Young
 Dec 14—Christmas Party TBA
 Jan 11—TBA
 Feb 8—Writers Workshop
 March 8 —TBA
 April 12—TBA
 May 10—TBA
 June 14—Elizabeth Miller

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