



**FEBRUARY 2013
NEWSLETTER**

WRITERS WORKSHOP

Take a Trip Into the Writing Life with Jan Seale



Jan Seale

Creative writing teacher.
2012 Texas Poet Laureate.

**Transport yourself from creation to revelation.
Learn . . .**

- how to get started on a subject
- what it takes to keep going
- how to edit your work before other eyes see it
- “keeping-on-keeping-on” for the long haul
- how to identify your particular subjects and your writing strengths
- how to shape your work

Receive . . .

- specific guidelines for writing poetry, fiction, and nonfiction
- handouts, examples, exercises, and time for questions and answers
- networking and inspiration time with other writers
- *Java Café brown-bag lunch free of charge for each registrant*

Registration fees:

Byliners members - \$25
non-members - \$30 if paid before Feb 1st,
\$35 if paid at the door the day of the event
students with a high school or college I.D.
card - \$10.

Make checks payable to Valley Byliners
and mail before **February 1st** to:

Valley Byliners, c/o Jose Alvarez,
130 Pizarro Ave., Rancho Viejo,
TX 78575

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Harlingen Public Library Auditorium, 410 '76 Drive, Harlingen, TX

(Doors open at 8:30 for registration.)

The Winner of the January Writing Challenge was: "Goliath"...by Ann Greenfield

The other entries were:

- "If I Don't Finish It..." by **Janice Workman**
- "Platitudes vs Thought" by **Pete Gray**
- "Swingers" by **Shirley Rickett**
- "The First Day" by **Frank Cortazo**
- "The Long Walk" by **Joan Soggie**
- "The Shoals of Lesbos" by **Hugh Barlowe**

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.

Next Month's Writing Challenge

For Valley Byliners Members only

Send your entry of not more than **1500** words to **Edna Ratliff** by **February 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.



Susan Lemiles was the Speaker at our January meeting. Her topic was how recent technological advances are affecting the creative process. Susan engaged the audience in discussions touching upon how personal computers, smart phones, tablets, the internet, on-line publishers etc. can best be used.

Edna Ratliff, the facilitator for our monthly Writing Challenge, has suggested that we have an additional month dedicated to poetry. The contests for the months of both May and November will be reserved for Poetry only, although Poems may be submitted on the other months as well.

Looking Ahead
Valley Byliners Presenters

March 9—David and Angelo Bowles
April 13—to be announced
May 11—Elizabeth Miller
June 8—Shirley Rickett

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

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. 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____