



Valley Byliners Newsletter

Harlingen, TX

November 07, 2010

NOTES FROM THE November 13 Meeting

Last month's meeting saw the return of Nellie Venselaar from our frigid neighbor to the north. Nellie returned to us from her summer home in Canada, and we are glad to see her. The last meeting also saw the arrival of a new member to our group, Pat Collins, and the announcement of a new member named Amy Cavazos who had just joined the group but was not present for the meeting. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members. Thank you for joining the group. Our guest speaker for the October meeting was

Don started the October meeting by informing the group that we would have no regular meeting for the month of December. Instead, we would have the annual Byliners' Christmas party. This year's party will be held at Jack King's home on the outskirts of Harlingen. The meeting will be held at our regular meeting time of 1:30 PM on the usual second Saturday of the month of December. This falls on December 11 this year. A map will be included at the end of this newsletter for anyone who is interested in attending the party. Don also announced some upcoming events. On Tuesday, December 7, from 7 PM to 9 PM there will be a writer's forum at the Narciso Martinez building in San Benito at 225 E Stenger, [San Benito](#) Texas. There will also be a book signing and reading at the Quinta Mazatlan birding center at 600 Sunset Drive, McAllen, TX 78503-3146 from 6 PM to 8 PM on Thursday, December 9.

Don challenged the group to find new ways to try to encourage young writers to become more involved with writing, and more specifically with the Byliners as a group. Frank Cortazo and Mariana Nelson stepped up to the challenge, but I am certain they would both like to get some assistance from the rank and file. If you have any ideas that may help them, please let them know.

There were 5 entries in Jack's writing challenge for the October meeting. The entries were titled ***The Escape of Charles McGreggor*** (by Peter Gray), ***Green Room*** (by Judy Stevens), ***Those Fearsome Men with Warring Blades*** (By Frank Cortazo), ***The Readers*** (by Julieta Corpus), and ***Through the Glasses*** (by Bidgie Webber), The challenge was won by the short story titled ***Through the Glasses*** written by Bidgie Webber. Congratulations to Bidgie on winning Jack's contest. Our guest speaker for the month of November was Dr. Kamala Platt. She is an author, and an activist for human rights. Dr. Platt read excerpts from her book of poetry titled ***On The Line*** and shared some of her life experiences and her experiences in bringing her book to print. We were quite glad to have her as our guest speaker, and were grateful to her for sharing her experiences with us.

There will be no guest speaker for December's meeting since it is the annual Christmas party. We will still be voting on a winner for Jack's writing contest. As I wrote earlier, a map to Jack's house will be added to this newsletter for those wishing to attend the party.

