



## *San Gabriel Writers' League*

# **SIGNAL**

*February 2025*

### *From the Board:*

*Any member that has achieved any combination of age and years of membership equaling 100 shall be awarded a Lifetime Membership.*

- The Board was pleased to award Nell Newton with her Lifetime Membership Award. Nell has been with the League for many, many years and currently serves as our historian. Thanks, Nell for all you service!*



- Please check and update your "Profiles" on the Website! You want to keep that up to date for others to get to know you!*

## Upcoming Events

- **Nonprofit Fair** is being held in Sun City on February 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have a booth there as usual. Stop by and see the impressive display of books and book covers from our authors. Bring a friend too!
- **Georgetown Public Library, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-3 PM** marks the first of our quarterly presentations entitled, "Let's Write a Book." The four classes will take participants through the writing process from conception to final printing.

The first session, entitled, "Let's Get Started" leads you through different writing styles, how to create effective opening statements to grab readers attention, and efficient organization to keep your work flowing smoothly. You will learn how to format your pages, organize reference material, and effective ways to setup the software. Participants will also review first or third person point of view and determine which is best for their work. The reality of the writing process length, time, cost, return on investment and publishing avenues will also be discussed.

At the end of the session, the participant should feel confident and able to begin writing their book.

All sessions are free, open to the public and prior registrations are not required.

- **Georgetown Public Library, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-7:30 p.m.** members and authors Kerry Dashnaw, Clementine Msengi and Caryn Hawk will kick-off Women's History Month with a panel discussion featuring readings, Q & A, and book signing of their 2024 books. [Please see poster at the end of the Newsletter for more details.](#)

## Shout Outs

We want to acknowledge submissions and accomplishments of our members. Tell us what's happening in your writing experiences. Submit info by emailing [sgwlcontact@gmail.com](mailto:sgwlcontact@gmail.com). Use the heading of "Shout Outs."

- **Marcella Shat** was recently profiled in the Williamson Sun. The article talks about her book, "Axed! The 1980 Amana Iowa Ax Murders" and profiles her life story. Look to hear more about her incredible journey in the coming months.

## *New Book by Dorothy Featherling*

### **Looks Like Murder**

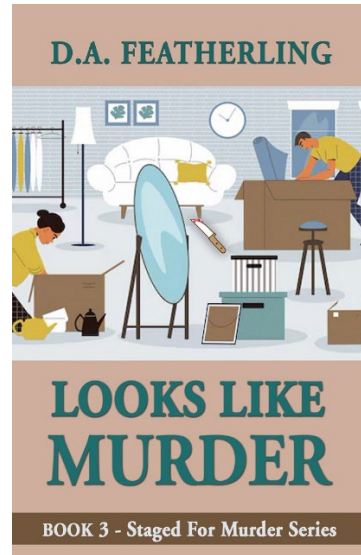
#### **WHODUNNIT?**

When a body is discovered in their booth at a local Home Show, stager/decorators Ari Ames and Jackie Maguire become involved in a murderous situation.

A host of eligible candidates for the crime seem obvious, but how to tell which one actually have done the deed?

Follow Ari and Jackie as they lend a hand to the police to determine who was responsible for stashing a body in their booth and forcing them to do more detecting than decorating.

"Looks Like Murder," the third book in the "Staged for Murder" series, is now available on Amazon in print and on-line as an e-book.



*Writing Contest is winding down!*

*All submissions MUST be received by March 2nd*

*The competition closes at midnight on March 1, 2025.*

### *Prizes*

*First place \$500*

*Second place \$250*

*Third place \$100*

*Please see the attached poster. Visit our Website for complete details.*

*Please welcome the following New Members for 2025:*

*Elaine Hall, Laurie McNulty Myers, Richard Switzky and Austin Vasquez.*

*Next meeting is:*

*Our next regular is on **March 6**.*

*If transportation is needed, please contact Ken Stubert  
[sgwlcontact@gmail.com](mailto:sgwlcontact@gmail.com)*

**San Gabriel Writers League**

**“Hybrid” Meeting\***

**Thursday, March 6, 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

**Amanda Skenedore**

*will present*

**“The Art and Craft of Historical Storytelling”**

Rudyard Kipling once said, "If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten." In this talk, we'll explore the key elements that make historical fiction resonate with modern readers, whether you're writing a meticulously researched war saga or blending history with magic in a fanciful retelling. We'll discuss the common pitfalls authors face, the responsibility they have to both the historical record and the reader, and effective research techniques. You'll gain the tools to recreate the past vividly on the page and craft a compelling, unforgettable story.

Amanda Skenandore is an award-winning author of historical fiction and a registered nurse. Her books have been translated into multiple languages and garnered accolades from the American Library Association, Reader's Digest, Silicon Valley Reads, and Apple Books. In 2024, she was awarded the Nevada Arts Council Literary Fellowship. Her writing explores lesser-known corners of history and often includes themes of medicine, justice, and belonging. Amanda lives in Las Vegas with her husband and their pet turtle, Lenore. For more information, visit her Website, [www.amandaskenandore.com](http://www.amandaskenandore.com),

Everyone is welcome! Meetings are appropriate for all levels of writers, beginning to advanced. Attend two meetings before becoming a member.

\*The link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out to all members in advance of the meeting. The in-person hybrid meeting will be in the Community Room of the Parks Administration Building located at 1101 North College Street

# ***The Power of Women's Voices and their Stories***

Georgetown Public Library  
402 West 8th Street, Georgetown, TX

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Hear the stories and personal journeys of three new female authors on one panel during Women's History Month. While diverse in their backgrounds, they share the common experience of being women in the new millennium and the challenges and triumphs that come along with that status. A former Catholic nun, a genocide survivor and a retired manager and director in the corporate and non-profit sectors – all telling their stories. This is a unique opportunity to hear them read from their new books, respond to your questions and engage in dialog with you and other audience members.



**Kerry Dashnaw**

Kerry Dashnaw was an educator in California for over thirty years. Passionate about reading success for all students, she was chosen by her peers as teacher of the year twice. She taught in an arts-integrated school where she saw children thrive as their creativity and imaginations were nurtured and developed. She believes that reinventing oneself makes our life's journey fun and purposeful. Now retired, Kerry creates art, teaches art classes, and has recently illustrated her first children's book, Noel the Christmas Star. She lives with her husband here in Georgetown and can be found on Instagram and Facebook.



**C. C. Hawk**

C.C. Hawk was born in Chicago and educated there before going to the East Coast to attend St. Paul's School, a college preparatory boarding school in Concord, NH followed by Harvard University for college. She returned to Chicago to complete a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance at the University of Chicago. Ms. Hawk's 30-year career included stints as a small business consultant at two major accounting firms, a 16-year run in a variety of mid-level management positions at United Airlines and her final twelve years of working life in Director roles at the American Bar Association. She and her husband of over 37 years enjoy international and domestic travel and have visited 40 states, 38 countries and all seven continents.



**Clementine Msengi, Ed.D**

Clementine Msengi, Ed.D. is on the faculty of the Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. In 2003, she received a fellowship from the Echoing Green Foundation and founded a nonprofit organization designed to help refugees and immigrants adjust to American culture and contribute to the well-being of the local community. She was recently inducted to the Hall of Excellence within the School of Health, Physical Education, and Leisure Services at the University of Northern Iowa's College of Education for her distinguished contribution to the field. Msengi has garnered a number of awards, including the Outstanding American by Choice Award from the Department of Homeland Security.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

San Gabriel Writers' League

Short Story



*Contest*

SUBMISSIONS END  
MARCH 1, 2025

1st Prize: \$500

2nd Prize: \$250

3rd Prize: \$100

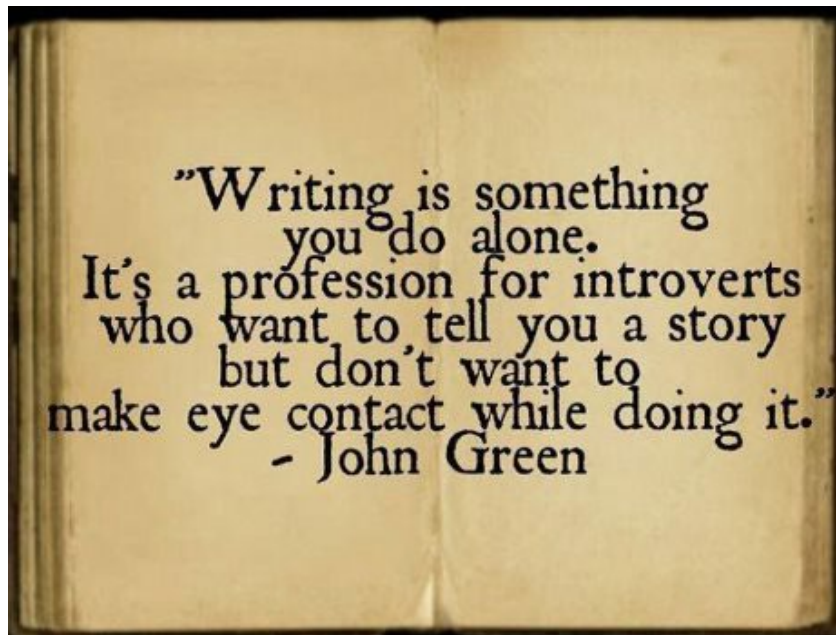
Entry:

Members \$25

General \$45

Submission guidelines  
& other details:  
[sangabrielwriters.com](http://sangabrielwriters.com)





## *Your 2025 Board Members*

*President- Ken Stubert*  
*Vice President- Donnella Looger*  
*Treasurer- Lisa Greinert*  
*Secretary- Joyce Munsch*

*Contact any Board Member @*

*[sgwlcontact@gmail.com](mailto:sgwlcontact@gmail.com)*