

San Gabriel Writers' League

SIGNAL

July 2026

Shout Outs -

- *Thanks go to Kim Kirkland for stepping up to help with refreshments! We need more volunteers in other areas.*

Upcoming Events -

- *Gloria Reyes will be doing a book signing at the Williamson County Animal Shelter (1855 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown) on July 25th from 12:00 to 6:00 PM.*



MS Word Classes:

- *Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss these. We are offering two special classes on M/S Word designed for writers of all genres and skill levels. Classes will be taught by M/S expert Sam Arunachalan, who has been teaching Microsoft Word at all levels since 2016. She has designed these classes specifically for writers! The first class will be intermediate training on **September 19**, followed by advanced training on **October 3rd**. Times will be from 1:00 - 3:00 in the Community Room. There will be a charge for the classes (TBD), and registration will be limited. Look for more information in the coming weeks*

Writing Contest Winners:

At our June Meeting, we celebrated the winners of our 2026 Writing Contest with cake and cookies. (Thank you, Gloria!)



(L to R) Hank Haliasz, 3rd place, VP, Kerry Dashnow, Lance Lemanski, 1st place, Kathy Sutphin, Honorary Mention. Absent- Jack Van Ryan, 2nd place.

First place: [A New World Order](#) by Lance Lemanski

Second place: [Heartlock](#) by Jack Van Ryan

Third place: [The Execution](#) by Hank Halasz

Honorable mention: [The Calling](#) by Kathy Sutphin

Please visit our website to read the winning stories!

Book Briefs: Our authors have been busy. If you have recently published a book, please let us know. We'll try to get recognition in our local paper. To do so, we need a short bio and blurb in a .doc document, and both a headshot and cover photo as a .jpg

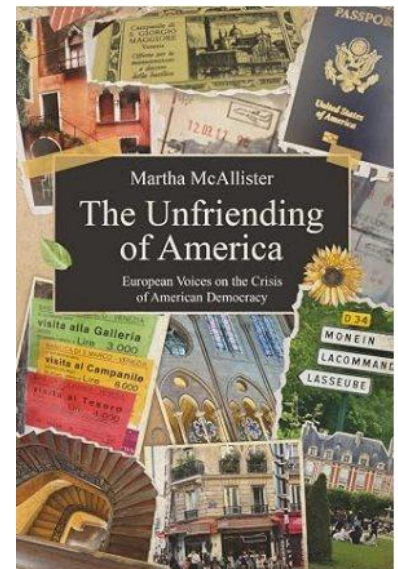
[New Book by Marty McAllister](#)

In 2025, Martha McAllister traveled across Europe to ask, “What does the rest of the world really think about America?”

She gathered candid conversations with friends and strangers about American democracy. Not soundbites or expert takes. Honest talk, shared over meals and in quiet moments along the way.

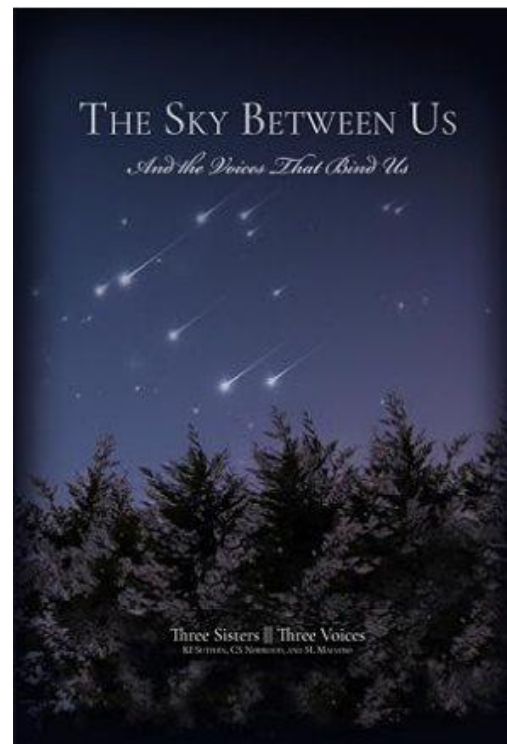
The Unfriending of America is the result: a deeply human portrait of how we're seen from the outside, woven through with the food, culture, and human connection of the journey itself.

This is more than a travel memoir. It's a rare opportunity to step outside your own perspective and see your country through the eyes of others.



Three Sisters with three voices, Carolan, Sylvia, and Kathy, gathered their poetry and short stories into *The Sky Between Us and the Voices That Bind Us*. Written over a span of 30 years, the collection demonstrates their shared love of writing and the distinct styles that separate them.

The Sky Between Us is a collection of poetry and short fiction that brings together reflection, fantasy, and adventure through heartfelt storytelling. Each story introduces memorable characters navigating challenges both large and small-solving puzzles, confronting change, and discovering unexpected strength.



Opportunities

- **Scrapbooker(s) needed.** *Help preserve our history. We need a volunteer to take over the updating of our scrapbooks. Our long-term volunteer, Nell Newton, can no longer do it.*
- **Offices-** *The Board positions of President and Treasurer will be up for election in October. The current officers are NOT eligible for re-election. Take this opportunity to volunteer and learn about the duties and responsibilities before taking office.*
- **Volunteers** *are needed to help coordinate our Zoom meetings. We need a few people to spread out the administration of Zoom at our regular meetings. Some knowledge of Zoom is helpful but not necessary. We can work out the training. Duties would be to start the meeting, mute and unmute speakers, monitor sound level, etc. Help is really needed to spread out the workload and make our meetings smoother, more meaningful, and more enjoyable!*

To join, volunteer, or get more information on any of these opportunities, please email sgwlcontacts@gmail.com

Next meeting is:

Our next regular meeting is **August 6**

“Hybrid” Meeting*

Thursday, August 6 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

Lance Lemanski

will present

Lessons Learned as a First-Time Novelist

What happens after you type "The End"? More than I ever imagined.

In this presentation, Lance will share some of the lessons learned while researching, writing, publishing, and marketing my first books. He'll also discuss a few approaches that worked well, several mistakes to avoid starting over, and the unexpected challenges—and rewards—encountered along the way.

This isn't a "how-to" session from an expert. It's a candid conversation from a fellow writer who is still learning the craft, with practical insights that may help make your own publishing journey a little smoother.

His stories are grounded in thorough research, authentic characters, and emotional truth. Each project has taught him something new about the writing, publishing, and marketing processes. He looks forward to sharing those experiences. Learn more at **LanceAllenLemanski.com**

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

*Contact the Zoom Administrator at sgwlcontacts@gmail.com in advance for an invitation to the meeting or attend the in-person hybrid meeting in the Community Room in the Parks Administration Building located at 1101 North College Street in Georgetown, Texas.

**Social time and refreshments begin at 6:30.

If transportation is needed, please contact sgwlcontacts@gmail.com

If you do not receive an email ZOOM invitation by August 3, please send an email to sgwlcontacts@gmail.com

(Bring a copy of your books, articles, blogs, etc for display to let members know what you write!)

Member Update:

- *Linda Lablanc* has relocated to an independent living community near Houston, where she will be nearer to her son and his family. We wish Linda the best and thank her for her many contributions to the League.
- *Dorothy Featherling* has been battling a number of ailments. Also, her daughter -in-law, Teri, is undergoing home immunotherapy treatments for cancer using a PICC line in her arm. The goal is to shrink the tumor that's preventing her from taking nourishment and liquid by mouth. These extensive home treatments are expensive, time-consuming, and painful, straining both finances and relationships. Besides prayers, a GoFundMe page has been set up for the family. For more information, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-terri-battle-cancer>

New Members -

Please welcome:

Ernestine Kubicek

Carolyn Norwood

Linda Thune

Eddie Vale

Jack Van Ryan

