

San Gabriel Writers' League

SIGNAL

August 2026



MS Word Classes:

Enrollment Now Open

- *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. Visit our website, www.sangabrielwriters.com, to sign up. (Please see flier on the last page)*

Shout outs:

- *Janice Airhart conducted a Life Writing Class on August 13 at Lioness Books in Leander.*
- *Caryn Hawk has been busy in Chicago! Well done, Caryn!*
 - *She was interviewed on The Creative Life podcast and mentioned SGWL several times.*
 - *She was the discussion partner in a conversation with Award Winning Author Sandra Jackson-Opoku during her Chicago launch of her latest book, Savvy Summers and the Po'Boy Perils.*

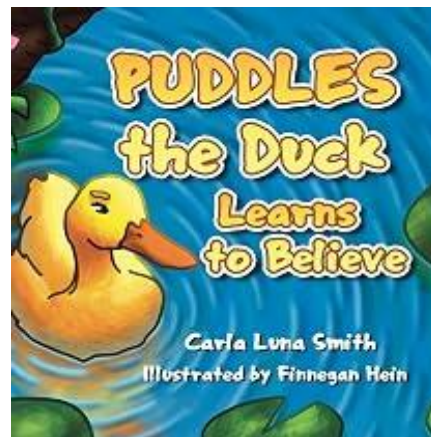
- Caryn was featured in an Author Spotlight in the July Edition of BWA (Black Women Authors) Magazine.
- Her book, *Slices of Life* received a 4 Book- Strongly Recommended True Voice Review'

For more information on these items as well as upcoming events visit her website <https://cchawkwrites.com/>

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

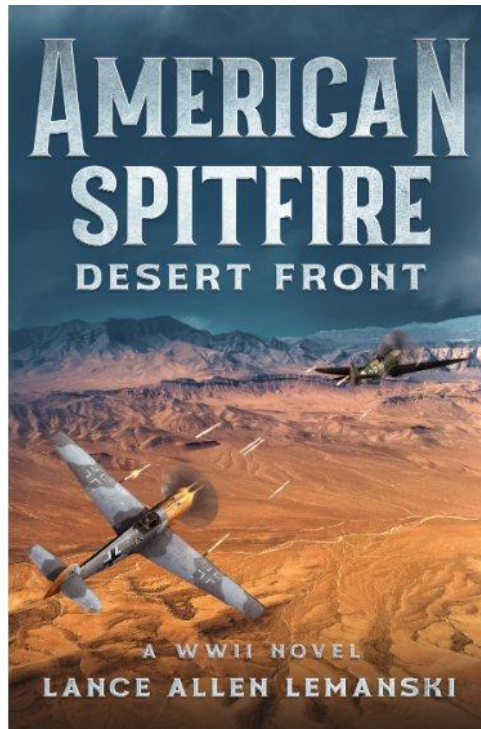
New Book by Carla Luna Smith

Puddles the Duck isn't like other ducks and animals. You see, Puddles was born with a left wing and foot that are weaker than her right ones, making some things hard and even impossible for her to do. But despite disappointment and discouragement, thanks to a smart doctor and some added courage, Puddles learns she is not only strong, but brave and special. The book is based on the author's daughter Kristen's mild disability and her beloved stuffed animal, Puddles. Like Puddles, she visited many doctors, and the merry-go-round part was the message from one of her actual doctors, and it changed her life. Kristen's weakness eventually made her stronger, more adaptable to adversity, and more empathetic to those with any disability or imperfection. This is what Carla hopes her book will convey and teach to all who read it.



New Book by Lance Leman

American Spitfire: Desert Front, is the second novel in his WWII historical fiction series. Set during the 1943 North African campaign, the book continues the story of American pilots and their companions while also following the German airmen they face across the skies of Tunisia. The novel combines historical events with a character-driven story told from both sides of the conflict. *Desert Front* is now available on Amazon.



New Members -

Please welcome:

Carla Luna Smith
Anna Harris

Upcoming Events:

Georgetown Public Library and the San Gabriel Writers' League Jointly Present:

From Blank Page to Finished Book, Part 3 of a four-part series in which successful women authors share their personal writing journeys from draft to publication.

On September 6 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Georgetown Public Library, two successful authors will discuss their writing journeys to educate and motivate attendees.

"Write What You Know"

*Join memoir writer and children's author and illustrator Kerry Dashnaw for a dynamic, interactive experience. Through personal stories, practical writing tips, and a behind-the-scenes look at the writing process, Kerry will help and encourage you to begin writing your own story. Kerry is a frequent speaker and has written her memoir, *Yearning to be Free*, about her life as a Catholic Nun. As a retired teacher, she is passionate about children's literature and will also share the writing and illustrating process for those who are interested in jumping into the world of children's books.*

"My Journey"

*Martha McAllister is a musician, artist, and author with a passion for travel, culture, and conversation. She is the author of a cookbook and an award-winning travel writer currently working on a memoir. Her latest book, *"The Unfriending of America,"* is a travel book that explores human connection across borders, blending storytelling with curiosity about how people live, think, and see the world.*

The final session is December 6.

Sessions are open and free to the public. No advance registration is required.

Next meeting is:

Our next regular meeting is **September 3rd**

“Hybrid” Meeting*

Thursday, September 3 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

Cindy Weigand
will present

From book to screenplay to the Austin Film Festival

Weigand grew up listening to her grandmother’s stories. They were simple tales, but she loved them. Still does, but now she realizes that they were life lessons as well. She has authored four books, including the coming-of-age story, *Ride of Passage*, which was published in 2023. In 2024 and 2025, she published *Big Jack, Cowboy Aviator*, a work of biographical fiction based on the life of a great uncle who was a pilot in the Roaring Twenties, and its sequel, *Mavis Perkins, Flying Journalist*.

After starting and managing a film festival, Weigand turned her attention to visual storytelling and adapted her books into screenplays that have been recognized in film festivals across the world. Currently, she is working to package and produce *Ride of Passage* into a feature film.

For more information, visit her website at <https://cindyweigand.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 30, 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!)

M/S WORD WRITERS TRAINING

Sponsored by the San Gabriel Writers' League

SEPTEMBER
19TH

OCTOBER 3rd

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Community Room
Parks Administration
Building
1101 North College
St
Georgetown, TX



- Taught by M/S Word expert, Sam Arunachalam
 - She has been teaching Microsoft Word at beginner to advanced levels since 2016.
- Course **designed especially for writers** at all levels and interests.
- Designed to increase your proficiency and productivity using M/S Word
- 2 Sessions - register for 1 class or both (recommended)
 - September 19th – medium
 - October 3rd - Advanced
- Class size limited
- Pre-registration required. No walk-ins. Participants **must register** in advance www.sangabrielwriters.com
 - SGWL Members \$50 (both classes) \$30 for 1
 - Non-Members \$75 (both) \$40 for 1
- Bring your laptop!

