

FLASH FICTION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The second annual WGT Flash Fiction Fall Contest drew a wide range of writers and topics. Submissions were original works not previously published and were restricted to a 1,000 word count or less. Though a short story, they were judged on character development, plot, setting, theme and conflict. WGT Board members are ineligible to enter, and served as judges for the blind read. Winners were announced at the December 19 holiday party with cash prizes awarded.

Congratulations to our winners and to all the contestants who entered!

1 st Place	Deborah Bean	"The Visiting Professor"	\$150.00
2 nd Place	Leah Hinton	"Blue"	\$100.00
3 rd Place	Edgar Collie	"Everything Changed"	\$75.00
Honorable Mention	Seth Eckholm	"Dream Game"	\$50.00

Each month, we will publish one of the winning stories in our newsletter.

First Place Winner

The Visiting Professor

By Deborah Bean

Omigods! Omigods!

I'm writing as fast as I can, trying to follow the professor's words. Guest lecturers can be so boring; especially in a class labelled **Mythology and the Modern World**. I thought it would be about movies, TV series, and such. Instead the regular teacher went on about archetypes and themes. But class today? The guest lecturer, Dr. Vladimir, kept exposing the reality of vampires.

Living in the twenty-first century, with all the sci-fi books, graphic novels, and movies, you can't help but have that tiny soupcon of hope that Mr. Spock, Legolas, or Edward Cullen was really out there. As a modern fangirl, I've had my own share of fantasies.

Bubonic plague/black plg is vamp civil war. Rebels out of cntrl. Need for blood triples the death #s.

Scribbling, I'm trying to follow the gorgeously hot, tall blonde with cheekbones I could use to cut out costumes. His hypnotic blue eyes remind me of Chris Pine or Jared Leto. My mom would say Paul Newman, but he's so old—or is he dead?

"Let us also examine the case of Peter Plogojowitz of Serbia. After his mysterious death, other villagers began dying. When Peter was exhumed, on suspicion of causing the deaths of others, the autopsy revealed the following statement from the physician:

'I did not detect the slightest odor that is otherwise characteristic of the dead, and the body...was completely fresh,' one witness wrote. "The hair and beard... had grown on him; the old skin, which was somewhat whitish, had peeled away, and a new fresh one had emerged under it ... Not without astonishment, I saw some fresh blood in his mouth.'

The pictures this Dr. Vladimir displays show other examples of people exhumed from old graves or imprisoned in asylums—mouths sprouting real fangs—showing proof of vampirism. Why is no one acting on this information? Vampires are real! And I get a front seat to their exposure.

"And now, much as I'm sure that you'll all delight in sharing this information with your friends over social media and chirping through your phones, I must refuse you the opportunity. I am so dreadfully sorry, but word cannot escape into the greater world. I don't desire a return of revolting peasants with pitchforks and torches, so I'll now demonstrate the most valuable tool for keeping our secret: hypnosis."

When I glance up at his words, Dr. Vladimir grows in my sight. His eyes expand, until I'm drowning. I can't tear my glance away and his voice is taking control over my brain. He speaks in a low, beguiling voice.

"You will forget everything you have heard in this class. All you will remember is a very boring discourse with a lackluster teacher who displayed an uninteresting video presentation. Now, pull out all evidence of your notes and

pass them forward. Then destroy any audio or video you recorded. Do so now and then sit quietly."

My hands move methodically; tearing pages out of my spiral and going into my phone's recordings and deleting the file. Vaguely, I hear others doing the same. I put my hands on the desktop, awaiting further instructions.

Soon, Dr. Vladimir looks to the back of the lecture hall. "Is everything accounted for Vittoria?"

"Yes, Darius. All your little scholars are now appropriately under your command." "Excellent."

The gentle voices went away as the powerful one takes over my will again. "At the count of three, you will forget everything that has occurred during this lecture. Once you file through the doors above, you will never remember me, but will feel that you may have fallen asleep because I was so boring. Everything you remember about this time shall fit that image. Now, one—two—three."

I blinked, realizing that this guy had been so dull I had dozed. *I hope I didn't miss anything exciting.* I looked up at Dr. Vladimir, his rumpled demeanor—middle-aged and average—with weak, watery eyes. *Nope, still mind-numbingly uninteresting.*

"I want to thank you for your attention to my presentation. Class dismissed."

I started gathering up my notebook and realized I hadn't taken a single note. The guy next to me looked at his friend. "Well, that was a waste. I could have been at basketball practice."

As they complained, a slim woman walked down the aisle, towards the lecturer. She was ravishing, and for a moment, the guys next to me stood there, drooling. She turned as her waist-length raven curls seemed to swirl around her. She looked at the boys with blazing violet eyes and they quickly left. She turned back to the professor and reached up to kiss him on the cheek. I started towards the doors of the class with their voices following me.

"Darius, my love, I don't know why you continue this charade."

"But you understand, little beauty, don't you? I had such satisfaction tutoring Charles, and look what he became—"

"Charles the Great, or Charlemagne, if I remember..."

"Yes, and then there was Hamilton and Voltaire—"

"And let us not forget that Henry, the eighth one, I think."

"Yes, him too. I miss teaching. Did you see their faces when they realized I was imparting truth to them? They heard veracity and were almost dying for more."

"But they'll never remember—"

I'd reached the exit and turned to push the door open with my butt wondering what the hell these two were talking about. I glanced back at the teacher. Suddenly, he was tall, beautiful, with a firm jaw and longish blonde hair that swept across his brow and down his neck. He looked up at me with eyes so blue I thought they were glacial, but still sent a fire through me. He smiled—his fangs looked dangerous, menacing, and hungry; just like his eyes.

Huh! What the f—

I passed through the doors.

Damn! What a waste of time. Couldn't they find anyone better than that loser to teach?

Meet the Author – Deborah Bean

Deborah has been a voracious reader her entire life. Writing may come naturally, as both her parents were journalists. Deborah began writing fiction 10 years ago. She was one of only 14 accepted into the highly competitive "Your Novel Year®" at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University, completing the program last May. She has also published four technical books on Peachtree Accounting Software and recently completed a novel she is shopping around.

Deborah attended the WGT fall workshop last October, heard about the Flash Fiction contest, and became a member soon after.

Her claim to fame may be the fact she and her husband have more 7,000 science fiction and fantasy paperbacks. In fact, each Valentine's Day they go to Half Price Books and buy a box of paperbacks to add to their collection. She said she has dozens of ideas, and it will be exciting to see what she comes up with next. The WGT is pleased to welcome her as a member, and wishes her continued success.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WRITERS GUILD OF TEXAS

What a creative year lies ahead at the WGT! We've listened to your requests, and believe that no matter what your interest or writing goal, we have a schedule sure to please.

- February 20 **Virginia Boylan**, in keeping with Valentine's, will share secrets to writing Romance.
- March 20 **Shawn Scarber** tackles the 'Dramatic Dilemma and Character-Driven Fiction'
- April 1 **Annual Spring Workshop with authors Melissa DeCarlo and Rosemary Clement-Moore.** 'The Language of Dialogue' will help writers amp up their stories.
- April 17 **Brian Smith** returns with strategy to writing series novels.
- May 15 **Leslie Linton** will walk us through editing your novel.
- June 19 An annual favorite – the **WGT Writers' Read-In**
- July 17 WGT members **Rainer Bantau and Kathryn McClatchy** bring their secrets for writing a successful blog.
- August 21 **Alan Bourgeois** shares 'Marketing, Renegade Style.'
- September 18 **Daniel Wells** takes us into the world of Screenwriting.

Mark your calendars now and don't miss out!

"Weiss-Cracking"

by Jerry Weiss




Jerry Weiss

"JOHN - IS THIS A GOOD TIME TO BRING UP A BOOK PROBLEM?"


CALLING ALL WRITERS!

RETRACTABLE BANNER



Writers Guild of Texas

Join us for speakers, critiques, workshops, and contests.




Monthly Meetings
Guest Speakers
3rd Monday, 7 pm

Critique Group
3rd Wednesday, 6:45 pm

Richardson Public Library
Basement Conference Room

www.wgtonline.org



If you are a member in good standing (have paid your 2017 membership dues) and have a book(s) available for sale, we'd love to add you to the bookshelf on our retractable banner. This banner will be on display at all WGT meetings, workshops and events. *Ask Gary Bowers for more information.

Are you visiting the WGT Facebook page? Each day we scan the Internet for helpful tips and information, encouraging words, and occasionally a bit of humor. We strive to find posts that will enable you to create better dialogue, interesting plots, characters, etc. *Ask Marsha Hubbell for more information.

We also have ...
A members only Facebook group where WGT members can share, ask questions, and be part of the WGT community. *Please see Kathryn McClatchy or David Douglas for more information.

Our goal in 2017 is to better support our members, bring in a variety of speakers and sponsor 'funtastic' events. Have you paid your membership yet?

33 inches X 81 inches

The Board of the Writers Guild of Texas 2016-2017

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E-Critique Coordinator:	Kathryn McClatchy

STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

KnowHow Dallas
Tuesday, January 27 (7-8:30 pm)
Meadows Conference Center
2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas

WGT Member and Author Ann Fields will be the guest speaker at an entertaining workshop on "The Life and Death of a #Blog: How to Keep Your Blog Alive." Cost to attend is \$10.

For more information and to register, visit www.knowhowdallas.com

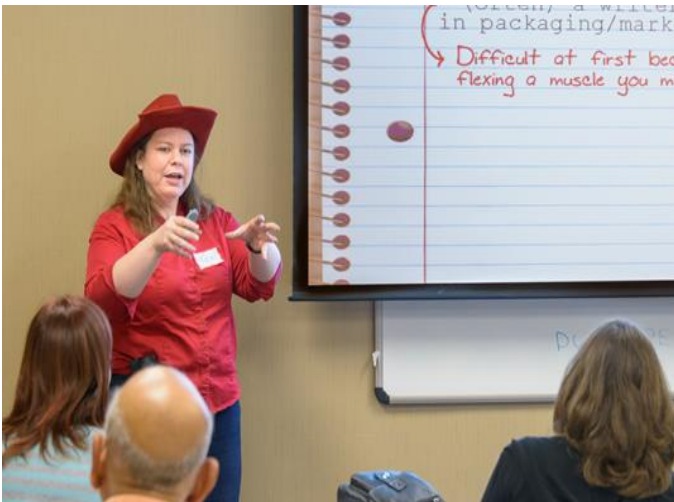
A LOOK BACK AT 2016



There is an art of reading, as well as an art of thinking, and an art of writing.

Clarence Day





If a story is in you, it has got to come out. William Faulkner