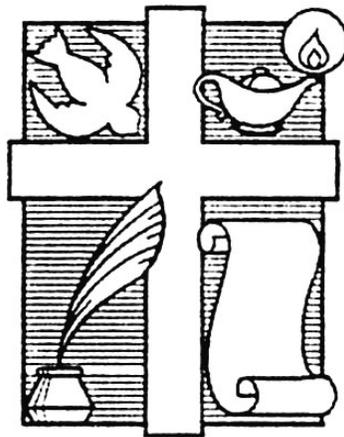


2017 Texas Christian Writers' Conference

Sponsored by

Inspirational Writers Alive!



Saturday, August 5, 2017

**8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Houston's First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration Type/Fee (*please check one*):

- _____ Full Day – Member: \$80
- _____ Full Day – Member (age 55+): \$70
- _____ Full Day – Member couple: \$125
- _____ Full Day – Non-member: \$90
- _____ Full Day – Non-member (age 55+): \$80
- _____ Full Day – Non-member couple: \$135
- _____ Half Day – Morning (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.): \$50
- _____ Half Day – Afternoon (12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.): \$50
- _____ Lunch Only* (12 to 1:15 p.m.): \$10

* Individuals wanting to attend only the half day – morning session or only the awards ceremony may purchase lunch.

- Full day registration includes keynote address, four workshops, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- Half day morning registration includes keynote address, two workshops, continental breakfast, and snacks.
- Half day afternoon registration includes two workshops, lunch, and snacks.
- Full day and half day registration also includes author chats, faculty books at the conference rate, and a chance to win door prizes including Amazon gift cards and books.

Please make your check or money order payable to IWA! Cash or checks will also be accepted at the door. In addition to the fees listed above for full day and half day registrations, an additional \$10 will be charged for walk-ins on the day of the conference. Registration fees are not refundable after July 25. Please mail your completed registration form and payment to Pat A. Vance at 1108 Valerie, Pasadena, Texas 77502.

2017 Texas Christian Writers' Conference
Saturday, August 5, 2017
Houston's First Baptist Church—7401 Katy Freeway

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 8:00–8:30 a.m.** **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30–8:45 a.m.** **Welcome and Announcements:** Martha Rogers
Devotion: Melanie Stiles
- 8:45–9:00 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 9:00–10:00 a.m.** **Workshop I**
A. Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *From Memoir to Novel: Using Your Memories as Building Blocks for Fiction*
B. Janice Thompson: *Branding and Taglines*
C. Donna Pyle: *The Art of Writing Engaging Nonfiction*
- 10:00–10:15 a.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 10:15–11:15 a.m.** **Workshop II**
A. Linda W. Yezak: *Do You Know Your Audience?*
B. Anita Higman: *Marketing Mania*
C. Linda Kozar: *Hey, I'm Literally Writing a Book!: Figurative Language Do's and Don'ts*
- 11:20–12:00 p.m.** **Keynote Address**
Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Where Will You Be a Year From Now?*
- 12:00–1:15 p.m.** **Lunch and Awards**
- 1:15–1:30 p.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 1:30–2:30 p.m.** **Workshop III**
A. Linda W. Yezak: *Pacing Emotion Using Correct Grammar and Punctuation*
B. Janice Thompson: *Indie Publishing on Amazon*
C. Donna Pyle: *The Author as a Speaker: Engaging Your Audience*
- 2:30–2:45 p.m.** **Break/Bookstore Open***
- 2:45–3:45 p.m.** **Workshop IV**
A. Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Finish the Book*
B. Anita Higman: *The Crazy New World of Publishing*
C. Linda Kozar: *Beautifying Your Book from Cover to Cover*
- 3:50–4:30 p.m.** **Closing Remarks/Announcements/Door Prizes/Evaluations**

**Please note that the bookstore closes at 2:45 p.m.*

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Workshop I

9:00—10:00 a.m.

A Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *From Memoir to Novel: Using Your Memories as Building Blocks for Fiction*

Do you have real life experiences you'd like to put on paper? Perhaps you have places and people you want memorialized but haven't decided just how to do that. Consider using those experiences to write a novel instead of a memoir. Or perhaps you've already written your memoir and don't know what comes next. In this class, you will learn tips for turning real life into really good fiction.

B Janice Thompson: *Branding and Taglines*

Branding? What's that? What is an Author Brand? Why do people balk at the idea of branding? In this exciting class, the author will learn seven important reasons they should consider branding and will be given ten tips for creating their brand. We'll close out the class with small group discussions to help one another come up with the ideal brand/tagline.

C Donna Pyle: *The Art of Writing Engaging Nonfiction*

This workshop is designed to take you beyond the basics to guide you through the nonfiction writing process from initial idea to the finish line. You will learn how to structure your writing, evoke emotion, include humor, find your unique voice, research tips and tricks, how to push past writer's block, editorial insider tips, and final submission.

Workshop II

10:15—11:15 a.m.

A Linda W. Yezak: *Do You Know Your Audience?*

This workshop addresses the different audiences, what they're seeking, and how we can best write to reach them. As Christians, our audience is more than what our genres dictate. Our audience is our mission field: seekers, nonbelievers, backsliders, even other Christians. How do we address these people? How do we write our stories to best reach them and meet their needs?

B Anita Higman: *Marketing Mania*

There are a lot of ways to promote your book. I have tried many of them over my thirty years in the book business. Learn from my marketing failures and successes. Find out what works and what is a total waste of your money!

C Linda Kozar: *Hey, I'm Literally Writing a Book!: Figurative Language Do's and Don'ts*

You can't leapfrog from Hell to Valhalla! Or can you? When you describe something by comparing it to something else, you're using figurative language. How about that? Find out what you're doing right and wrong, when enough is enough, and how a little can go a long way in your manuscript.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Workshop III

1:30—2:30 p.m.

A Linda W. Yezak: *Pacing Emotion Using Correct Grammar and Punctuation*

Grammar, punctuation, and paragraphing are more than just mechanics of writing. They're amazing tools that help elicit emotional response from readers, without the author ever naming the emotion the character is portraying. From authors in both the mainstream and Christian industries, we can learn more effective tips to make our readers feel.

B Janice Thompson: *Indie Publishing on Amazon*

In this fast-paced class, Janice Thompson will teach authors the ins and outs of publishing on Amazon/Kindle, whether or not to put books in KDP, and how to compete with best-selling titles. Class members will learn about the upload process and will be given tools to know how to create the best keywords and marketing strategies.

C Donna Pyle: *The Author as a Speaker: Engaging Your Audience*

Words may read well on the page, but engaging a live audience is a whole different ballgame. Learn how to put your audience at ease, structure your topic, include humor and memorable moments, evoke emotion, add in personal examples, and end with a power-packed conclusion. You may be an introvert, but with these tips, your audience will never know it.

Workshop IV

2:45—3:45 p.m.

A Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner: *Finish the Book*

A practical plan to motivate yourself to complete what you've started and just maybe get that book published as well. If you've ever started a book and then found yourself stuck, procrastinating, or just wondering whether it's worth the work at all, this is the class for you!

B Anita Higman: *The Crazy New World of Publishing*

It's the worst of times, and it's the best of times in the book biz. Find out how to maneuver through this crazy traditional, hybrid, and indie world of publishing.

C Linda Kozar: *Beautifying Your Book from Cover to Cover*

Tips and tweaks for the look of your book. From cover creation to front and back matter, fleurons, drop caps, table of contents, links, and series continuity.

Writers in all stages of their careers will find workshops to help them achieve their writing goals.

—DiAnn Mills

FACULTY BIOS



Best-selling and award-winning author, **Anita Higman**, has over forty books published. She's been a Barnes & Noble "Author of the Month" for Houston and has a BA in the combined fields of speech communication, psychology, and art. A few of Anita's favorite things are good movies, fairytales, traveling, gardening, exotic teas, and brunch with her friends.



Linda Kozar is the author of *Babes With A Beatitude—Devotions For Smart, Savvy Women of Faith* (Howard/Simon & Schuster, Hardcover/eBook, 2009); *Misfortune Cookies* (Barbour Publishing, Print, 2008); *Misfortune Cookies, A Tisket, A Casket, Dead As A Doornail* (2012); *That Wasn't Chicken, Felony Fruitcake* (Spyglass Lane Mysteries, eBooks, 2014); *Strands of Fate* (Annie's Attic Mysteries, Hardcover, 2012); *Moving Tales* (2013); *Alligator Pear* (2013); *Doomsday Devotions* (2014); and *Out of the Storm* (2015). She is represented by Amanda Luedeke of MacGregor Literary. Learn more about Linda at her websites, www.lindakozar.com and <http://bookishdesires.blogspot.com>.



Award-winning author **Janice Thompson** also writes under the pseudonym Janice Hanna. She got her start in the industry writing screenplays and musical comedies for the stage. Janice has published more than 100 books for the Christian market, crossing genre lines to write cozy mysteries, historicals, romances, nonfiction books, devotionals, children's books, and more. She particularly enjoys writing light-hearted, comedic tales, because she enjoys making readers laugh. She lives in Spring, Texas, where she leads a rich life with her family, a host of writing friends, and two mischievous dachshunds. When she's not busy writing or playing with her eight grandchildren, Janice can be found in the kitchen, baking specialty cakes and cookies for friends and loved ones. No matter what she's cooking up—books, cakes, cookies, or mischief—she does her best to keep the Lord at the center of it all. You can find out more about Janice at www.janiceathompson.com.

FACULTY BIOS



Donna Pyle is a sought-after speaker, Bible teacher, and multi-published nonfiction author. Her latest small group Bible study, *Forgiveness: Received From God, Extended to Others*, releases in May 2017 through Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org). She has released two DVD Bible study series (available at www.lwml.org), and her latest 8-week series releases in June 2017: *Peter: From Fisherman to Fisher of Men*. Donna is a life-long Texan, coffee lover, travel enthusiast, abolitionist, and a mess saved by God's beautiful grace.



Bestselling author **Kathleen Y'Barbo Turner** is a multiple Carol Award and RITA nominee of more than eighty novels with almost two million copies in print in the US and abroad. A tenth-generation Texan, she has been nominated for a Career Achievement Award as well a Reader's Choice Award and is the winner of the Inspirational Romance of the Year by *Romantic Times* magazine. To connect with her through social media, check out the links on her website at www.kathleenybarbo.com.



Linda W. Yezak lives with her husband and cat in a forest in East Texas, where tall tales abound and exaggeration is an art form. She holds a BA in English and a graduate certificate in Paralegal Studies. Thirty years later, she's finally putting her degree in English to good use, combining it with her natural inclination toward story-telling to create fun, unique novels, which include *Give the Lady a Ride*, *The Cat Lady's Secret*, and *The Simulacrum*. Her non-fiction works include *Writing in Obedience*, co-written with former

Hartline literary agent, Terry Burns.

Linda is also a member of The Christian PEN: Proofreaders and Editors Network, and has successfully completed a number of their educational courses. She has several years behind her belt as an editor, serving as a content editor with two small publishing houses, a copy editor with an ezine, and an editorial assistant with a beloved agent. She recently accepted a position as a general editor with Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas' newest imprint, Smitten, featuring historical romance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A Christian interdenominational writers' club, Inspirational Writers Alive! (IWA!) helps aspiring and published authors advance their writing skills and find effective markets for their work. Maxine E. Holder founded IWA! in March 1990. IWA! members meet monthly to learn from speakers, participate in critique sessions and read-arounds, and network with other writers. IWA! sponsors the annual Texas Christian Writers' Conference (TCWC) and Open Writing Competition. To request the competition guidelines and an entry form, e-mail Martha Rogers at marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net or send her a legal size self-addressed stamped envelope at 6038 Greenmont, Houston, Texas 77092.

IWA! CHAPTERS

Currently, there are four IWA! Chapters in Texas. If you are interested in joining an existing IWA! chapter, please contact the president listed below. To find out more about starting an IWA! chapter in your area, you may request an information packet at the TCWC or reach out to Martha Rogers at any time.

- **Amarillo**—Karl Smith (karlwk@suddenlink.net, 806-336-5164)
- **Central Houston**—Diana Battista (loveeternal@comcast.net, 832-315-8430)
- **Northwest Houston**—Martha Roddy (magnolia77@webtv.com, 281-859-4208)
- **Pasadena**—Betty Roesser (truejoy_houston1@comcast.net, 281-426-5110)

WHAT TO BRING TO THE TCWC

- Notebook and paper for taking notes
- Light wrap or sweater as classrooms may be chilly
- Money or checkbook if you want to purchase books in the bookstore (payment by cash or check only)
- Questions to ask the faculty during author chats throughout the day

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TCWC

- Conference registration—Pat A. Vance (patav@aol.com)
- Special dietary needs/other—Martha Rogers (marthalrogers@sbcglobal.net)

DIRECTIONS

- **Eastbound on I-10:** Exit at Post Oak/Silber. Continue on the feeder to the church. Turn right and follow the street around to the south parking lot across from First Baptist Academy. Enter the church through the Fitness and Recreation Center, and follow the signs to the Fellowship Center.
- **Westbound on I-10 East:** Exit at Antoine. Turn left under the freeway and follow the feeder to the church as above.
- **From Loop 610 or 290:** Take I-10 West. Exit at Antoine. Follow the directions listed above.