



Why don't you slow down and ...

TAKE5



***Houston Writers House - Third
Edition
December 2016***

In This Issue

[HWH Short Story Contest - Submission Guidelines](#)

[From Our House to Yours](#)

[Industry News - Legal Issues for Authors Workshop"](#)

[Membership Spotlight - Marianne Dyson](#)

[Not a Member. Join Today!](#)



Click here to
Visit HWH
Website

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM OUR HOUSE TO**

Dear (Contact First Name),

It's finally here ... "the most wonderful time of the year!" With the arrival of colder weather, we find our fireplaces are kindled and our hearts are warmed. Our thoughts turn to family and friends.

And just like that, before you know it, we will be ringing in the New Year. What a perfect time to start pondering your writing career and opportunities for next year.

Below we have listed a few of the events we've cooked up for you ... and ... don't worry ... there's more to come! Stay tuned!

Our December 27th meeting will be at the Black Labrador. Houston Poet Laureate Dr. Robin Davidson will be our guest speaker.

Parking is free in the Garage! Go through the gate and get a ticket. There is no charge if you leave after 8:00 pm

YOURS



From Denise, Rebecca, Roger and all the rest of the HWH team!

Quick Link

<http://www.scribophile.com/>
This is a great website for our out-of-town members who want to have feedback.

<http://thewritepractice.com/>
This site offers free writing tutorials.

<http://writershelpingwriters.net/>
This site offers great tips on the craft of writing.

Your HWH

December 2016

Dec 25 - **Christmas**

Dec 27 - **HWH Holiday Social- 6:30 - 8:30** Guest Speaker - Houston Poet Laureate Robin Davidson

January 2017

Jan 24 - **HWH Social 6:30 - 8:30** - Guest Speaker - Debbie Fronteria

P.S. This newsletter is a work-in-progress and all suggestions and comments are greatly appreciated.

From Our House to Yours

by Denise Ditto Satterfield and Rebecca Nolen

~ **Our members have spoken and we listened!** ~



Rebecca - Denise

At the last two social events we asked you what you wanted to learn about as a member of Houston Writers HOUSE. Here is what we have set up for you so far.

Our January 24th social event - Many of you expressed an interest in learning more about selling opportunities. In response we've asked Debbie Frontiera, who is in charge of the Kroger Program, to come in and explain how you can sell your books at Kroger.

Our February 28th social event - we will address your interest in learning more about social media. Kim Newsome will share tips and tricks about Twitter and Facebook. She will be available to answer questions and spend a few minutes one-on-one with you, if necessary, afterwards.

March 4th Workshop - Attorney, Manning Wolfe will conduct a workshop to discuss "Legal Issues and Authors" and "Copyright". Registration for this workshop is available on the [HWH website](#) under Events.

Our March 28th social event - we will have an Open Table Panel - Q & A. The participants on this panel will be equipped to answer a variety of questions so come ready with your list.

All of the Social Events for HWH are FREE. Food is available for order.

**Black Labrador
4100 Montrose
Houston, TX 77006**

[A full calendar for 2017 is posted on the HWH website.](#)

HWH Photographer Pat and Ray Studios

One of the most important things you can do for yourself as a writer is project a professional appearance on the web - put your best foot forward, so to speak, whenever possible. One way we can help you with that is to secure professionals in areas you seek help. If you are in need of a professional head shot, we found a photographer in Kingwood who has agreed to offer HWH members a \$49 special. Pat & Ray Photography - (Pat Guard) She said she can take your photo with a green screen and put whatever background you want ... your book cover or ... scenery ... or whatever you want. Your choice.



Pat Guard

[Click here to visit her website.](#)

Upcoming Non-HWH Events

WriteSpace Workshops

~~~~~

### **TLA 2017 Conference**



In addition to the above, we are planning a Crime/Forensic mini-conference in the Fall 2017. More information on this exciting event is coming soon.

September is Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. To heighten awareness HWH has scheduled a visit to Ronald McDonald House on Sept 6th. We will be donating books to the 50 families staying there while their children are undergoing different types of treatments. This is a great cause and we invite you to join us to show support. More information will be forthcoming.

And last but not least, if you are not a member of Our House we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us - [click here.](#)

Please Note: Effective January 2 new member fee prices will increase to \$50 annually so, if your not already a member, now is the time to join. Renewal fees will remain \$40.

**~ The deadline for the HWH short story contest is December 31 ~  
[Visit HWH website to Submit](#)**

**We are accepting excerpts from memoirs!**

## **Industry News " Workshop: Legal Issues for Authors " by Manning Wolfe**

Manning Wolfe will speak to the group about Legal Issues For Authors.



Manning Wolfe,  
Attorney at Law

Have you ever wondered if

~~~~~  
**Chanticleer Writers
Conference**
March 31 - April 2, 2017



Chanticleer Book Reviews
Reviews, Writing Competitions, & Author
Services



Click here to visit our
website.

~Contests~

HWH Short Story Contest
**is now open for
Submissions.**

**Deadline for Submissions:
Dec 31, 2016**

Submission Guidelines:

**WE ARE ACCEPTING MEMOIR
EXCERPTS.**

**Story should be no more than
5,000 words long and must
include something unique to
Texas.**

**Author's may submit up to 3
stories for publication
consideration.**

someone could steal your manuscript? Have you ever badmouthed someone in your book and wondered if they could sue you? Have you ever wondered if it's safe to say your character drank a Coke or a Lone Star Beer? These are the questions that Manning will cuss and discuss. She'll also provide information on copyright, use of photos, ISBN's, tax obligations, and more. Lots of handouts will be given to allow a more in depth study, and as a reminder of the tips she gives in her talk.

Don't get caught with your proverbial pants down! Come out and learn the nuts and bolts of Legal Issues for Authors! Hope to see you there!

March 4, 2017
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Southwestern Presbyterian
Church -
6033 S. Rice Ave. Bellaire, TX

[Click Here to Register](#)

Guest Spotlight
"An Introduction"
by Marianne Dyson

Marianne Dyson is an award-winning children's author. Space has always been her passion, providing the motivating force for her to earn her degree in physics and take up writing. She was fortunate to become one of NASA's first female flight controllers, serving as a Flight Activities Officer specializing in contingency crew procedures during the first Space

Submission fee is \$15.00 per story for members and \$25.00 per story for non-members.

~Prize Money~

**First Place Winner - \$100
Second Place Winner - \$75
Third Place Winner - \$50**

~Register Here~

**~Getting Into the Spirit~
Christms Pinwheels**

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter softened plus
1 tablespoon butter
1 cup sugar
1 large egg
3/4 teaspoon valinna extract
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking power
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoon red food coloring
6 peppermint candies, crushed (the red, green, and white ones)

Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, beat butter at medium speed until creamy.
2. Gradually add sugar, beating until fluffy and light.
3. In smaller bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt;
4. Slowly add flour mixture to the butter mixture and beat at low speed until well incorporated.
5. Divide the dough into 2 equal portions making 2 rolls.
6. Take 1 roll and place in a small bowl. Add the red food coloring and mix well with a large spoon. If the color isn't red enough, add more red food coloring.
7. Add the crushed peppermint candy to this red dough. Mix well with the large spoon and form into a log.
8. Now, wrap each log with Saran wrap and chill for 45 minutes or until firm.

Shuttle flights, the subject of her memoir, *A Passion for Space: Adventures of a Pioneering Female NASA Flight Controller* (Springer, 2015). She left NASA to care for her children and continued sharing her love of space through writing and speaking. She won the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Golden Kite Award for her first book, *Space Station Science* (Scholastic, 1999; 2nd edition *Windward*, 2004); and the American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award (a \$3,000 cash prize and a Windsor chair) for her third book, *Home on the Moon* (NatGeo 2003). She wrote a textbook, *Space and Astronomy* (Facts On File, 2007), served as editor of a space magazine, and worked on a space series with Scholastic as both an author and editor, and as a National Geographic Explorer on a physics series. Her most recent children's book, *Welcome to Mars* (NatGeo 2015), was coauthored with Buzz Aldrin and was named a 2016 Outstanding Science Trade Book by the National Science Teachers Association.

A member of SFWA (Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America), Dyson has published dozens of short stories, speculative science articles, and poetry. Her most recent novelette "Europa's Survivors" will appear in the March/April 2017 issue of *Analog Science Fiction*. Her previous stories from *Analog* are available in a collection, *Fly Me to the Moon*. Two recent anthologies that include her work are *Trajectories*, edited by Dave Creek (2016), and *Touching the Face of the Cosmos*, edited by Paul Levinson (2016). Her free monthly blog is called *Science Snacks*.

Dyson has spoken about space and science topics to hundreds of thousands of adults and children

9. At this point instead of chilling dough, if you plan on baking these later, you may freeze the dough for up to 6 weeks.
10. Creating the pinwheels:.
11. Lightly flour your rolling surface.
12. Take the plain dough and roll into a 12 x 8-inch rectangle.
13. Place a large piece of wax paper and and roll the red dough into a 12 x 8-inch rectangle by placing another piece of wax paper or Seran Wrap on top of the red dough so the rolling pin doesn't touch and stick to the dough.
14. Now, lift the wax paper or Seran Wrap off the red dough. Invert the plain dough on top of the red dough.
15. Cut dough in half so you have 2 (12 x 4-inch) rectangles.
16. Roll up each rectangle in jelly-roll fashion and as you do so, remove the wax paper or Seran Wrap that is on the bottom of the red dough. Start at the long side. Wrap each log in Seran Wrap.
17. Chill about an hour.
18. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. If using dark pan, preheat oven to 325 degrees.
19. Remove dough from refrigerator and unwrap.
20. Cut dough into 1/4 inch slices.
21. Bake for 6-7 minutes or until set; cool slightly on pans, then remove to racks to cool completely. Note: 6 minutes will give you a chewier cookie.

through TV (BookTV, Reading is Fundamental, CSPAN2, Russian TV, Good Morning Houston), radio (NPR, The Space Show, numerous local stations and podcasts), and dozens of school/museum/library appearances in the U.S. and in Taiwan. She enjoys flying with her husband in their Cessna 182 and living in Houston with her cats (and the alien evolving in the refrigerator), though she hopes you'll buy lots of her books to help her fund her trip to the Moon, so please visit www.mDyson.com.

To the stars,
Marianne