



Why don't you slow down and ...

TAKE5



*Houston Writers House - Second Edition
October 2016*

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Not a Member. Join Today!



Click here to
Visit HWH
Website

Dear (Contact First Name),

Cooler autumn temperatures, Fall Festivals and Halloween are now officially on the radar screen!

October brings us outdoor festivals, Halloween costumes and parties, and the 'here-before-you-know-it' holidays to prepare for. Fall Festivals and Events are a great place to sell your books.

Google Events in your area for a list of the local events and investigate costs for a vendor booth.

Here is a list of a few that we know about: Pop Shop Houston Festival Nov 25-27, The Texas Book Festival in Austin Nov 5 & 6 (I heard they may have a few booths still open), Montgomery County Mistletoe Market Dec 3rd 10x10 booths \$175 - email for faster response at holidayextravanza@yahoo.com with full business info and photos for review. There are plenty more out there if you're interested. And remember, if it's too late to sign up for this year, mark your calendars in advance for next year!

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/>

Our October 25th meeting will be at the Black Labrador. Chris Rogers will be our speaker for October. Her topic will be "If going with a traditional publisher, what should I expect?"

- CHANGE FOR NOVEMBER MEETING -

- PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

Due to the Thanksgiving Holidays we moved our November meeting to November 29th.

November meeting reminder - Be sure and bring 5 of your books to sell at our published members

This site offers great tips on the craft of writing.

Your HWH 2016 Calendar

Remember:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month

Oct 16 - **Belinda Everett** Book Release Party and Scavenger Hunt at Little Matt's @ 6203 Edloe 3pm-5pm

Oct 25 - **HWH Social** - 6:30 at Black Labrador, 4100 Montrose, Houston, TX 77006 - Chris Rogers will be our speaker for October. Her topic will be "If going with a traditional publisher, what should I expect?"

Oct 27 - **Kimberly Morris** will be at **River Oaks Book Store** signing her book titled, "Take me to Your Weeder" from 5 pm to 7 pm - Children please wear your favorite costume and come enjoy the treats

Oct 31 - **Halloween** - BOO!

Nov 12 - **HWH Workshop**

Guest Speaker: **Nikki Loftin**
Topic: The Art and Craft of Writing: Four mini-workshops to help you succeed as a writer
Location: Southwest Presbyterian Church - 6033 S. Rice Ave., Bellaire, TX 77401

Nov 24 - **Thanksgiving** - Gobble Gobble

Nov 29 - **HWH Social** - 6:30 - We have a Surprise Guest Speaker for our November meeting.

Dec 25 - **Christmas**

book table!

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

From Our House to Yours

by Denise and Rebecca

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

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We are almost done with the revisions of the HWH website. If you haven't been there lately, please take a few minutes and check it out. We'd love to hear what you think about the new format.

If you are a member of Our HOUSE and you are a published author, one of your membership perks is to have your book showcased on our website. If we don't have your information, please send it to us so we can add you.

The first HWH social event at the Black Labrador was a great success. Thanks to all of you who came out to celebrate HWH's new beginnings. We got a great list of topics you are interested in learning about and we are working on speakers to present these topics. Thanks for your participation. Please note that some of you were interested in Legal Issue discussion. Houston Mystery Writers has a free workshop coming up Oct 22. Please see the left sidebar for more information.

Our Tales of Texas short story contest is getting great submissions. We announced the last day for submission for this contest to be December 31. We anticipate release of the Anthology in February or early March, 2017. More to come on this official date.

HWH November 12th workshop will be conducted by Nikki Loftin. Information about this event is posted on the website - [click here](#).

Check the calendar to the left for more HWH scheduled events.

Industry News "Writing the Military Experience" by Kathleen Rodgers

I grew up in an air base town in eastern New Mexico. My dad served in the Air Force before I was born, but we six kids understood and respected his service to our country.



Rebecca - Denise

Dec 27 - HWH Holiday Social- 6:30

All of the Social Events for HWH will be located at:

Black Labrador
4100 Montrose
Houston, TX 77006

**Upcoming
Non-HWH Events**

**WriteSpace
Workshops**

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**~ NEW EVENT ~**  
**Houston Mystery Writers**  
**CONDUCTS FREE EVENT**  
**Presented by Manning Wolfe**  
**Speaking on**  
**Legal Issues for Authors**

**When: October 22**  
**Time: 12 pm to 1:30 pm**  
**Where: Carrabba's @**  
**Woodway Collection**  
**Address: 1399 S. Voss Rd.,**  
**Houston, TX 77057**

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SCBWI Conference
October 22, 2016



Society of Children's Book
Writers & Illustrators

From the day I married an Air Force fighter pilot in 1979, my goal as a writer began to focus on ways to bring awareness of military subjects into mainstream America. I learned early on that the publishing world likes to categorize subject matter, and they sometimes refer to military themed stories as belonging to a niche market. But there's nothing "niche" about being human. Whether military or civilian, we all have similar hopes, fears, and dreams for those we love and for ourselves.

In my first published novel, *The Final Salute*, set against the backdrop of a fictitious Air Force base in the south, I wrote about how fighter pilots too often die in peacetime training missions while the brass are busy covering up sex scandals. The story revolves around a military family amidst possible wartime deployment. The southern setting and the characters could easily be switched out for any small town in America involving workplace politics. When my youngest son joined the Army after college in 2010, my passion for writing about the military kicked in overtime. My second novel, *Johnnie Come Lately*, deals with the repercussions of a heat-of-the-moment confession, an absent mother, and a son's enlistment during wartime. A war memorial on Main Street in Portion, Texas, takes on a life of its own and becomes a character and not just part of the setting. How many times do Americans pass by a war memorial and really give it a thought? I decided to do something about it by putting a war memorial smack dab in the center of my story.

I continue that theme in the sequel, *Seven Wings to Glory*, which releases from Camel Press, April 2017. After all these long years of our nation fighting the war on terrorism, with nearly 7000 young men and women dead and thousands more maimed from IEDs, I'm driven to explore the issue of military service when only one percent of our nation is willing to step up and defend our freedom and democracy. My challenge and goal has been to write about how the trauma of war can affect generation after generation. I will continue the fight.

Guest Spotlight
"PROVINCIAL ADVISORY TEAM,
VIETNAM"
by Al Navarro

During a Creative Writing class at Lamar U., since I was the only veteran in the class, I was asked to write a short story based on my Vietnam experience. Later, an English professor advised me that I should expand the story into a novel. I graduated in 1979, and slowly began writing the novel. In the early 80s, I attended a writers' conference in Austin and presented a draft of the novel. It was not received very well. An agent told me, "I am sorry, but I can't do much with this novel. It is absurd, doesn't make sense, there are no moral characters, and it is too long." I told him that was the point of the novel. The Vietnam

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## **TLA 2017 Conference**



Texas Library Association

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



Chanticleer Book Reviews
Reviews, Writing Competitions, & Author
Services



Click here to visit our
website.

~Getting Into the Spirit~ Recipe for Pumpkin Roll

Ingredients

- 3 large eggs, separated
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 2/3 cup canned pumpkin
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour



War was absurd, did not make sense, there was no morality, and it was too long. He then understood and offered to help me with it. But in the mid-80s, there wasn't a market for Vietnam novels.

I kept on writing on the novel, more as of a sort of therapy, as I let out my emotions of the memories of the war. By the time I had finished it, it was over 700 pages of fiction based on some of my experiences and those of others. But I wasn't ready to get it published. I had a demanding civilian job that used up a lot of my free time. Thus, when I retired in 2012, I returned to the novel and began editing and rewriting to make it more presentable. I sent out queries to some publishing houses but most of them either rejected the novel or offered expensive options. With the help of some friends and associates, I decided to self-publish the novel and the first batch of the books was completed in June, 2016.

I have a website: patmacv.com. Check it for information on the novel: PROVINCIAL ADVISORY TEAM, VIETNAM.

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### **About the Author**

Al Navarro was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966 and served three years, including a 1967-1968 Vietnam tour with a MACV Advisory Team in Hoi An, I Corps. Later, he was in the Texas Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve, retiring at the rank of Sergeant Major.

Al graduated from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. Al's civilian career consisted mainly with State and Federal agencies, assisting veterans and their families with employment and training opportunities.

Now retired, Al continues to volunteer with various veterans' organizations and community groups to provide assistance to veterans and their families.

He and his wife, Ernestine, live west of Houston in Pattison, Texas.

## **Submission Guidelines for Nonfiction "Cave Art Press"**

by Denise Ditto Satterfield

Cave Art Press, a publishing company in Washington State, is now open to receiving nonfiction book-proposal submissions in the following categories: first-account military history, memoir, adventure travel, nature and nautical, and general nonfiction.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!](#)**

- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- **FILLING:**
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Additional confectioners' sugar, optional

## Directions

1. Line a 15x10x1-in. baking pan with waxed paper; grease the paper and set aside. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks on high speed until thick and lemon-colored. Gradually add 1/2 cup sugar and pumpkin, beating on high until sugar is almost dissolved.

2. In a small bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add remaining sugar, beating until stiff peaks form. Fold into egg yolk mixture. Combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; gently fold into pumpkin mixture. Spread into prepared pan.

3. Bake at 375° for 12-15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool for 5 minutes. Turn cake onto a kitchen towel dusted with confectioners' sugar. Gently peel off waxed paper. Roll up cake in the towel jelly-roll style, starting with a short side. Cool completely on a wire rack.

4. In a small bowl, beat the cream cheese, butter, confectioners' sugar and vanilla until smooth. Unroll cake; spread filling evenly to within 1/2 in. of edges. Roll up again. Cover and freeze until firm. May be frozen for up to 3 months. Remove from the freezer 15 minutes before cutting. Dust with confectioners' sugar if desired. Yield: 10 servings.

### Nutritional Facts

1 slice: 285 calories, 12g fat (7g saturated fat), 94mg cholesterol, 261mg sodium, 41g carbohydrate (32g sugars, 1g fiber), 5g protein .

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## ~Contests~

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

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

### **Submission Guidelines:**

**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.**

**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**

**Authors of stories selected for the anthology will be notified of final publication after all revisions have been made and accepted.**

**Authors selected will also:**

- 1. Be provided a free copy of the volume.**
- 2. Retain all rights to their story for any future or concurrent use.**
- 3. No exclusivity is required or requested.**

## **~Register Here~**