

Village Writers' Club Minutes

January 25, 2016

Mary Lou Moran, president, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. in Room 6, Coronado Community Center. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Holiday Humor Contest: Winners were announced and read their winning entries:

John Swinburn, 3rd place: "The Stuff of Family Folklore"

Marlene Kloack, 2nd place: "Santa Loves Cookies"

Sandy Lundin, 1st place: "Jimmy Ray's Holiday House"

The winners will receive award certificates and cash prizes at the February meeting.

New Contest: Millie Lancaster, Contest Chairman, provided a handout with information about the next club contest, "Celebrate Music Short Story Contest." Submission dates: Feb. 4 through Feb. 14. See website for full details.

Minutes, November 23, 2015: The minutes were approved as posted on the club website. (There was no meeting in December.)

Financial Report: Melissa Sonnen, treasurer, reported an Operating Fund balance of \$1,701.13 and a Workshop/Anthology Fund balance of \$1,612.38 for a total balance of \$3,313.51 as of January 25. An end-of-month report will be posted on the website.

Village Arts Council: Marlene Kloack, liaison to the council, spoke about the benefits of our club participating on the council. The club will continue to be a member in 2016 and will submit our annual dues.

L'Audible Art, May 9, 2016: Mary Lou urged members to begin getting their stories, poems, and essays ready to bring to the Read-Arounds in March and April. We will need to practice reading our pieces before an audience. Each reader is limited to five minutes (about 650 words).

Facebook and Blog: Mary Lou invited members to post writers' info on the club's Facebook page. If a member would like to write a blog post for the club's blog, please contact John Swinburn.

Newsletter: Mary Lou asked if members were reading the club's newsletter. She asked for suggestions about items to include.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Nancy Foris, membership chairman, introduced seven visitors: Steve and Sharon Bush, Joyce Peebles, Alvin Kairin, Mike Kloack, Mira Keyes, and Judy Lacy. Judy joined the club after the meeting. Welcome, Judy!

Nominating Committee: Jerry Davis, chairman of the Nominating Committee, asked any member who is interested in serving as an officer in 2016-2018 to please contact him. New officers will be nominated at the April meeting and will be elected in June.

Programs: John Swinburn, programs chairman, provided a handout giving information about the Published Authors' Panel to be presented at the February 22 meeting. Eight members who have published books will discuss their writing and publishing experiences and participate in a question and answer session with the audience. Suzanne Sweeten, columnist and reporter with the *Hot Springs Village Voice*, will serve as moderator of the panel.

New Members Group—Judy Lacy has organized a group for new writers, to encourage them and give them a safe place to share their writing. Please contact Judy for more information: LacyJWrites@gmail.com or 226-5328.

Upcoming Events:

FOCCL Presents, 4:00 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, Coronado Center, Room 6: Featured speaker will be Judith Waller Carroll, prize-winning poet, author of *The Consolation of Roses*.

Author Neija Parssinen will speak in Hot Springs Village on Friday, April 15. Neija is a nationally recognized author who will also be featured at the Little Rock Literary Festival. More details to come.

Mary Lou Moran introduced today's speaker, Kai Coggin, renowned Hot Springs poet and teaching artist with the Arkansas Arts Council. Kai shared several of her poems and led the group in interactive exercises to stimulate creativity. Using the prompt "How to Be _____," Kai encouraged members to write a free verse poem to express a state of being, such as "How to Be Confident," or "How to Be Hopeful." Afterwards, several members shared their poetry with the group.

Kai is the author of *Periscope Heart*, a collection of poetry published in 2014 by Swimming with Elephants Publications. Following her presentation, she offered her book for sale.

Mary Lou adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Madelyn Young, Secretary

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