

Georgetown authors collaborate to create writing classes

By CHARLOTTE KOVALCHUK

Georgetown authors D.A. Featherling and Sidney Frost are teaming up to help aspiring and established writers at upcoming writing classes.

They'll host two individual courses and one together in August.

Ms. Featherling's Basic Fiction Writing class will take place at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at A Place to Create, 806 South Myrtle Street near the Square.

"Everybody I've talked to along the way at book signings, almost every time they say, 'You know, I've always wanted to write a book,' I always encourage them to do it," Ms. Featherling said.

"It's a great way of self-expression. I think everybody has one book in them and I really look forward to having this opportunity to encourage people to do that."

The fiction class for new

writers and those who have already written a bit covers the basics of writing fiction from the concept to the finished work, along with hands-on exercises.

"It'll give people a chance to meet other writers who are writing or who want to write," Ms. Featherling said. "Sometimes people can make a connection that will lead to a critique group or a beta reader."

The author, who has published more than 20 books, aims to meet a need in Georgetown by passing along the help she's received from classes and books during her writing journey.

"Georgetown doesn't have anything organized to do that, so unless you belong to a particular writer's group, you don't have the opportunity to get exposed to how-to information," Ms. Featherling said.

She said she's excited to teach classes at A Place to Cre-



D.A. FEATHERLING



SIDNEY FROST

ate, which offers different art workshops.

"It's very encouraging to have a place that exposes people in Georgetown to the creative process, whether it's the art of writing or some other form of artistic expression," Ms. Featherling said.

On writing a mystery

Mr. Frost took six years to write his first mystery book. After he finished, he created an outline to shorten the amount of time. It now only takes him a year to pen a novel.

Currently on his seventh mystery, the author said he looks forward to sharing that outline by teaching a Writing a Mystery class at 3 p.m. Saturday, August 4, at A Place to Create. Attendees will receive a signed copy of Mr. Frost's *Murder in Sun City*.

"I get a lot of questions about writing books," Mr. Frost said. "A lot of people have in mind the idea of writing one someday. It's just hard to get started."

He said he hopes to motivate prospective writers to get started, or to keep going. He will outline the basics of writing a mystery the way Hollywood does it, including steps such as setting up a problem for a protagonist to solve.

"Then somewhere along the line, you're no longer just trying to solve a problem. The problem is coming after you. It might be the killer is seeing you're on his tracks too much and he's coming after you —

steps like that," Mr. Frost said.

He added that he and Ms. Featherling have served as critique partners ever since they met at a writer's meeting. They were featured at book signings together at the Monument Market for two years before it closed. They started looking for another venue, this time to host classes.

A former Austin Community College professor who has taught classes at Senior University and meetings for writers, Mr. Frost decided it was the right opportunity to collaborate with Ms. Featherling. She has taught classes at writing meetings as well.

Road to self-publishing

As self-published novelists, Ms. Featherling and Mr. Frost naturally took on the task of teaching others the path to self-publishing.

"Since Sid and I have been published that way, we're

familiar with it and we can smooth bumps in the road for other people," Ms. Featherling said.

The authors will teach a Self-Publishing Your Book class at 3 p.m. Saturday, August 25, at A Place to Create for established authors who want to know more about self-publishing before they choose that route.

"We will take a look at the pros and cons of self-publishing," Ms. Featherling said. "It might be a consideration if somebody has been trying to get their book published for five years."

"Self-publishing has come a long way in the last seven or eight years," she added. "It used to be the step-child that nobody wanted to do anything with. It has become respectable."

The Basic Fiction Writing and Writing a Mystery classes are \$50 and the Self-Publishing Your Book one is \$60.

History shows Georgetown is well read

In Barbara Yelverton's "Yesteryears" column in this newspaper, she offers interesting facts about local history gleaned from past issues of *The Williamson County Sun*. In her March 7 column she looked back at news stories from 1918 to 2010, and she noted that in March 1975 the *Sun* ran a report from the library: "Library February circulation — 3,533 books." That is the total number of books that our town (which then only comprised about 8,000 people) borrowed from the library in that one short month. We had some big readers!

And we still do. Fast-forward 43 years to 2018, when our population has grown to more than 67,000. In February 2018, the library's circulation total was 45,587. That included 42,095 book, DVD, CD and audiobook checkouts; 2,609 e-book checkouts; 866 e-audiobook checkouts; 11 bicycle checkouts — and six cake pans.

Georgetown's population is eight times larger now than it was in 1975, but our library circulation total is 13 times larger. We check out an average of



BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

more than 1,600 items per day to library card holders. You can confidently quote that statistical snapshot the next time you hear someone make the generalization that books are irrelevant in our digital age, or lament that nobody reads anymore.

Now, just in case you are distracted wondering *which* cake pans were checked out in February 2018, I will tell you. They were cake pans in the shape of a cat, a flower, a car, bears, a pony and Hello Kitty.

At any given time, about 20 percent of our collection may be out of the building, in the hands, cars or on the coffee tables of library card holders. On July 17, I ran some statis-

tics and found that even our babies are big readers — as of July 17 more than 300 board books (66 percent of the total) were checked out to Georgetown's babies!

As of that day 22,250 of our 110,077 items (20.2 percent of the collection) were out of the building, having been checked out over the days and weeks before. Focusing in on our most heavily used materials, 593 (71 percent) of all the new nonfiction books and 1,371 (84 percent) of all the new fiction books were off the shelf on that day. So when you browse our New Books shelves on any given day, you are only seeing a small percentage of the new books we have to offer.

How can you get your hands on those new books when so many other readers are competing for them? We have some options. If you follow fiction writers closely and you want to read everything they publish, you can sign up for Reserve Express. You will automatically be placed on the reserve list for new books from your favorite authors, from Isabel Allende to Stuart Woods, as they are

published. To see the list of Reserve Express authors, log in to your library account online, click on My Account, then go to the Reserves/Requests tab and click on "Arrange to receive new books by selected authors automatically." Then just click an author to add him or her to your Reserve Express list. (Or talk to a staff member at the library's Circulation Desk and we can add your favorite Reserve Express authors to your account for you.)

For the nonfiction writers you love, or to select specific fiction titles rather than getting everything by any author, you can log in to your library account and search for the book in our catalog. Click on the title, and then click the "Reserve this item" button. As soon as we have a copy ready for you to pick up, you'll be notified by phone, text or email depending on your account settings.

Georgetown is a city of big readers, young and old. That is just part of what makes it a great place to live. Let us know if you have any questions, and we'll see you in the library!

A Few Upcoming Library Events for Adults

- Exhibit: Texas Society of Sculptors 11th Annual Summer Show through September 21
- Exhibit: Waterloo Watercolor Group: Gardener's Sketchbook through July 27
- Exhibit: City of Georgetown Staff Art Show July 30-August 24
- Exhibit: Ted Keller: Applauding the Splendor of Creation July 30-August 23
- August 3, 4-6 p.m., Artist Reception for City of Georgetown Staff Artists
- August 8, 6 p.m. Adult Summer Reading Program Music Trivia and Prize Drawing
- August 19, 2 p.m. Ricardo Parra, Chilean Folksinger (Live Music at the Library)
- Exhibit: Williamson County Art Guild August 27-September 21
- September 15, 1-3 p.m., Sculpture Demonstrations by Texas Society of Sculptors
- September 16, 2 p.m., Mariachi Jalisco (Live Music at the Library)
- September 16, 3-5 p.m. Williamson County Art Guild Artists Reception
- Exhibit: Art Hop September 28-October 27
- September 29, 2-3:15 Art Hop Artists Reception begins at the library, then continues at Georgetown Art Center for awards ceremony

Consult the Library Events Calendar at library.georgetown.org for more information about these and other library programs such as kids' storytimes and regular teen and adult programs.

First bale of cotton for 1918 crop comes to town at 545 pounds

July 26, 1918

Tomorrow the women of Texas will have a new experience: they will have, ere night-fall, cast their first vote in the empire State. The *Sun* hopes and believes that their exercise of the rights of suffrage will reflect credit upon themselves

Yesteryears

BARBARA YELVERTON

and honor upon the commonwealth.

The *Sun* has been requested by the government to say

that occasionally relatives fail to receive notification of the safe arrival of a soldier on the other side. This is due to a mistake of one kind or another, frequently a clerical error. It is well to remember that it is the policy of the government to give out the news immediately if a transport should be sunk.

Relatives of soldiers should also remember that the convoy system has reduced dangers to transports to a minimum.

Mr. Geo. T. Davidson, living east of Georgetown on the San Gabriel, brought the first bale of the 1918 cotton crop to town Tuesday. The bale was ginned free by Messrs. Robert Towns & Sons, and from 1,505 pounds of seed cotton, Mr. Davidson got a bale weighing 545 pounds. The cotton was purchased by the Young Men's Business League, and President W.R. Mood and Messrs. M.C. Cameron and E.M. Daughtrey took up a subscription amounting to \$36 as a premium for Mr. Davidson, making a total of

\$140.92 and the seed realized from the bale.

July 24 & 27, 1975

Dave and Rhett Sanders from Fort Worth have bought the Mobil Oil bulk plant from former consignee, W.T. Chambers.

The FUMC has started Thursday School to give mothers a day out. The school is for toddlers to 4-year-olds.

Joan Medrano, a county employee and London native, gained her citizenship July 10. She feels it was her duty to become a citizen.

Question of the Week: "What is the Bicentennial?"

Missy Hill — "Texas is almost 200 years old. We are going to celebrate its 200 birthdays."

July 21 & 24, 2002

Linda Petrosky Simonson, former Miss GHS, champion twirler and classroom teacher in GISD, is the new assistant superintendent for instruction. She has been with the district for 25 years.

Josh Griffin is the Optimists' Young Texan for August.

The new owners of the former Orient Square Restaurant are considering a balcony extension on the second floor of the building.

Former GHS cheerleader Renee Umstadd is a member of the cheerleading dancers for the newest NFL team, the Houston Texans.

July 21 & 25, 2010

The Scenic Texas Certification Program gives a nod to Georgetown as a Scenic City to visit in the state.

Carlos Cantu has been promoted to Assistant Superintendent for administration and support services. He has been in administration with GISD for 20 years.

Will the old library on MLK St. become an arts and culture center?

There are seven capital murder cases awaiting trial in Williamson County. The average number is one or two cases.

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Solutions on 7B

Charles E. Lance
Elder Law Attorney

Medicaid Planning
Wills, Trusts, Probate
Powers of Attorney
Guardianships
Veterans Benefits

868-2224
LanceElderLaw.com

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SUE R. PEARSON, Deceased, were issued on July 20, 2018, in Docket No. 18-0639-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Williamson County, Texas, to: TAMM KAY PEARSON PRUITT

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, but the post office address for notice is as follows:
c/o AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.
306 N. Lampasas Street
P.O. Box 249
Round Rock, Texas 78680-0249

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them

within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 20th day of July, 2018.

AKINS, NOWLIN & PREWITT, L.L.P.
306 N. Lampasas Street
P.O. Box 249
Round Rock, Texas 78680
(512) 244-0001
FAX: (512) 244-9733
By: /s/ Rick Akins
State Bar No. 00962200
ATTORNEYS FOR ESTATE

CAUSE NO. 18-0609-CP4 ESTATE OF REGINA C. BROWN, DECEASED COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 4 WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of REGINA C. BROWN, Deceased, were issued on July 20, 2018, in Cause No. 18-0609-CP4 pending in County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson

County, Texas, to: KARI E. BEETS c/o Sandra M. Lefler Jesse E. Ramon The Lefler Law Firm 1530 Sun City Blvd., Ste 119 Georgetown, Texas 78633 512-869-2579 866-583-7294 Fax slefler@leflerlegal.com jramon@leflerlegal.com

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated above. DATED July 20, 2018. THE LEFLER LAW FIRM By: /s/ Sandra M. Lefler Sandra M. Lefler, SBN 12161040 Jesse E. Ramon, SBN 24039128 1530 Sun City Blvd., Ste 119 Georgetown, Texas 78633 512-869-2579

866-583-7294 Fax slefler@leflerlegal.com jramon@leflerlegal.com Attorneys for Kari E. Beets, Independent Executrix

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mary Ann Schmitt, Deceased, were issued on 20th day of July, 2018, in Cause No. 18-0535-CP4, pending in County Court at Law No. Four of Williamson County, Texas, to: Mary Elizabeth Schmitt. The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb Stewart & Ott PLLC Attorneys at Law Rollingwood Center 2500 Bee Cave Road Building II, Suite 150 Austin, Texas 78746

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them

within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 20th day of July, 2018.

/s/ Ellen P. Stewart
Ellen P. Stewart
Attorney for Independent Executor

CAUSE NO. 18-0554-CP4 IN THE ESTATE OF JACK CHRISTOPHER COOK, DECEASED IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. FOUR WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JACK CHRISTOPHER COOK, Deceased were issued on July 19, 2018, in Cause No. 18-0554-CP4 pending in County Court at Law No. 4, Williamson County, Texas, to: ELIZABETH (BETH) BLOM c/o James H. Robichaux jrobichaux@branscombpc.com BRANSCOMBPC

802 N. Carancahua, Suite 1900 Corpus Christi, TX 78401-0036 Telephone: 361/886-3800 Telecopier: 361/886-3805 All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated above. DATED the 19th day of July, 2018. BRANSCOMB PC 802 N. Carancahua, Suite 1900 Corpus Christi, TX 78401-0036 Telephone: 361-886-3800 Telecopier: 361-886-3805 /s/ James H. Robichaux jrobichaux@branscombpc.com ATTORNEY FOR ELIZABETH (BETH) BLOM, Independent Executrix

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of NELLIE ELIZABETH O'BRIEN aka Nell E. O'Brien, Deceased, were issued on July 17, 2018, in Cause No. 18-0567-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Williamson County, Texas, to: SHAYNE RAINES. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being independently administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: SHAYNE RAINES 2302 Stratford Dr. Round Rock, TX 78664 DATED ON this 23rd day of July /s/ Lee Bain LEE NORTON BAIN Attorney for SHAYNE RAINES State Bar No.: 01548500 120

West 8th Street Georgetown, Texas 78626 Telephone: (512) 863-2813 Facsimile: (512) 869-5090 leebain@leebainlaw.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING WILLIAMSON COUNTY
Section 152.905 of the Texas Local Government code provides that a public hearing be held for setting the amount of annual compensation of the County Auditor, Assistant County Auditors and the District Court Reporters. Pursuant to the Code, the District Judges of Williamson County shall hold a public hearing on the matter August 8, 2018 at 8:00 a.m., in the 425th Judicial Courtroom, Williamson County Justice Center, 405 Martin Luther King, Georgetown, Texas, at which time interested parties and citizens have an opportunity to be heard.