



## In This Issue

[2013 Winner Updates](#)

[2012 Wrapper Names](#)

[Donor Thanks & Request for Donations](#)

## Quick Links

[More About Us](#)

[Donate Here](#)

[Sign Up Now for December 2013 Gift-wrapping Shifts](#)

[Scholarships Application Deadline Feb. 7, 2014](#)

[GUIDELINES and APPLICATIONS for the 2014 BWS Scholarships are available HERE](#)

## Writers' League Thank You!

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# BWS Scholarship Fund News

Welcome to the second digital edition of the Bess Whitehead Scott Scholarship Fund annual newsletter. This is a summary of events in 2013.

## 2013 BWS Scholarships Used for Summer Classes

What have the 2013 scholarship winners been up to? All three applied their scholarship awards to summer classes.

### Lindsay Medina, Texas State University

Medina, 21, received the \$1,500 **Bess W. Scott Journalism Scholarship**. She says she has known since age 16 she wanted to become a journalist. She has been a news reporter for the *University Star* campus paper and plans a second degree in communications design.

She plans to graduate in 2014, and used the scholarship funds to take five summer school classes, including feature writing and editing for clear communication. "This scholarship was honestly heaven sent because I was panicking about how I would be able to pay for summer school and considered not enrolling at all," she says. "It definitely alleviated the pressure of having a packed schedule for my senior year. Thank you."



### Kathy Floyd, University of North Texas

Floyd, 59, received the Scott Scribes Scholarship for Ages 40 and Older (\$1,500). She works at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls and is a freelance writer. She has written for several Texas newspapers and the U.S. Postal Service headquarters.



Floyd used her scholarship to take the Literary Journalism class at the University of North Texas (UNT), which will lead to a Certificate of Narrative Journalism. For the class, she attended the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference in July, then a week-long intensive writing workshop in Archer City, Texas, the hometown of novelist and screenwriter Larry McMurtry.

"Before I took the class, I worried that I should have used the scholarship for a more traditional class," she says. "I don't worry about that anymore. George Getschow is the conference director and writer-in-residence for the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism at UNT. He is well-respected among nonfiction writers and was one of the judges for this year's Pulitzer Prizes.

"George and other writers such as Bill Powers, Eric Calonus and Bill Marvel had us use the town and landscape of Archer City, with the presence of Larry McMurtry and his remaining bookstore, to look past the ordinary to find inspiration in images, dialogue and characters. Our assignments taught us to make 'place' a character, like McMurtry did. We would read our exercises to some of the townspeople, which helped us develop a relationship with readers.

"Having a week to look for inspiration and write, to study the best nonfiction writers, and to receive feedback from George and the other writers, changes your whole state of mind and you start to think of yourself as a writer. While I can't say yet what difference the class might make in my career, I can tell you that for all of us in the class, it was life-changing. We developed bonds with each other and made commitments to our writing that will make us all stronger and better."

### Nicole Cortichiato, Austin Community College

Cortichiato, 41, was singled out for the Scott Scribes Merit Award (\$500). The author of two children's books, she also has served as an art educator and a spokesperson for people with disabilities. Cortichiato used her award to study Introduction to Screenwriting and Young Adult Fiction at Austin Community College.

"Never did I think I would like screenwriting, but it was so much fun," she says. "I plan to take another class as soon as I can. Getting this scholarship allowed me to explore different genres of writing and has shaped me already in terms of where I plan to focus my energy next. It allowed me to get to know myself better and my passions. Thank you for taking a part in making my dreams come true. I am truly grateful."



## 2012 Wrapping Fundraiser Nets \$3,240



**BWS Wrapping Partners Sally Baker (left) and Mary Gordon Spence**

### Helping Hands Needed

[Sign Up Now for This Year's Gift-wrapping Shifts](#)

We proudly report another success for our 2012 Gift-wrapping Gala. Coordinated by **Donna Snider**, 61 of us wrapped gifts for a total of 350 hours at four bookstores and earned \$3,240 for the BWS Fund.

For the first time, six of the top wrappers were rewarded with a book by well-known local authors. (Special thanks to the six authors who donated autographed books and to **Jo Virgil** for organizing this addition to our annual fundraiser.) The busiest wrapper was **Camille Nerada** (14 hours), followed by **Anne Stoll**, **Kate Lauder**, **Sue Bilich**, **Ann Cabot** and **Suzanne Batchelor**. They received one of these books:

- **Adrenaline** by Jeff Abbott
- **Cat's Claw: A China Bayles Mystery** by Susan Wittig Albert
- **The Age of Gold** by H.W. Brands
- **Ben Clayton** by Stephen Harrigan
- **The Twelfth Enchantment** by David Liss
- **Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann Richards** by Jan Reid

This wrapping gig has become a festive habit for many volunteers. Counting the six volunteers above, 40 percent worked two shifts or more, and all have wrapped multiple years: **Joanna Athey**, **Bill Brink**, **Annie Brudno**, **Vicky Campbell**, **Elaine Davenport**, **Gail Folkins**, **Helen Ginger**, **Diane Hernandez**, **Beverly Horne**, **Barbara Owens**, **Jorjanna Price**, **Mindy Reed**, **Kellie Salome**, **Beth Sample**, **Taylor Skaar**, **Donna Snider**, **Jo Virgil** and **Blaine Williams**.

Rounding out the list were **Diane and Fred Afflerbach**, **Sally Baker**, **Stephanie Barko**, **Diana Bolling**, **David Boyd**, **Ana Paula Brandao**, **Nita Lou Bryant**, **Emily Carter**, **Lana Castle**, **Kathy Rose Center**, **Shelli Cornelison**, **Claudia Corum**, **Kent Cummins**, **Janet Elliott**, **Ann Gallaway**, **Jim and Sally Garamon**, **Angero Holt**, **Jacqueline Kelly**, **Janet Kilgore**, **Laura Kooris**, **Kim Kronzer**, **Fred and Nancy Meredith**, **Jeff Morris**, **Peggy Murphy**, **Joann Odenwelder**, **Jeffee Palmer**, **Kathy Sargent**, **Terri Schexnayder**, **Brenda Schoolfield**, **Mary Gordon Spence**, **DeeAnn Toro**, **Karen Trikilis**, **Susan Violante** and **Brad Whittington**.

Wrapping at area bookstores began in 1994 to help fund our two annual writing/journalism scholarships at Texas colleges and universities, one for an undergraduate communications major and the other for a student who is at least 40 years old. The awards' namesake, Bess Whitehead Scott, was one of the state's pioneering women journalists and lived to age 107.

### [FULL BWS SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION](#)

Once again, your helping hands have made our scholarships successful. Thank you!

## Donor Thanks & Request for Donations

In addition to holiday giftwrapping, our only other source of income is private donations.

### TO CHARGE A DONATION

[www.austincf.org/bwsfund](http://www.austincf.org/bwsfund)

OR

Write a check to **BWS Scholarship Fund** and mail to:

**BWS Scholarship Fund  
 Austin Community Foundation  
 4315 Guadalupe, Suite 300  
 Austin TX 78751**

Thanks to our private donors who gave a total of \$1,155:

- **Diane Hernandez**
- **Jeffee Palmer**
- **Jorjanna Price**
- **Dudley & Mari Houghton**
- **Roy Bohrer**
- **Darrell & Diana Hancock**
- **Bruce Whitehead & K. Myers (memory of Elbert Whitehead)**
- **Writers' League of Texas**
- **Elaine Davenport & Blaine T. Williams**

We've been awarding scholarships to journalists and writers for 20+ years. We thank our BWS extended family for another year of making writers' dreams come true, and send kind wishes during this holiday season to one and all.

Sincerely,

Bess W. Scott Scholarship Fund Committee