

East Tennessee Writer

Annual Poetry Competition Offers Prizes of \$600

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild

The Knoxville Writers' Guild announces the 2001 Libba Moore Gray Poetry Prize in memory of the poet and children's author. Libba was an actress, poet, dancer, teacher and writer. Before she died of cancer in June of 1995, she gained national recognition as a writer of children's books. Seven of her books were published by Simon & Schuster and Orchard Books.

To honor her influence on friends, students, and other writers, the Guild has sponsored the poetry competition each year since her death. Tennessee writers over 18 may submit up to three unpublished poems for prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100. Guild members may submit one entry (three poems) free, and additional entries are \$10 each. The entry fee is \$10 for non-Guild members. Guild board members are ineligible. Membership is \$20 a year, \$15 for students. The cover page should include name, address, phone number, and titles. No name should appear on the poems. Make check payable to The Knoxville Writers' Guild and send entries to Linda Parsons Marion, 2909 Fountain Park Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37917. Only winners will be notified. The deadline is April 30, 2001.

Last year's winners were Jeanette Giles, first place; Connie Jordan Green, second; and Donna Doyle, third place.

Spring Conference April 7

The Writers Assn. of Blount County and the Tennessee Writers Alliance will present a Spring Writing Conference Sat., April 7, called "Creativity Awakening." Jean Ridley will teach a fiction course; Charles Johnson, nonfiction, and Guild members Connie Green and Candance Reaves, both KWG members, will teach children's literature and poetry, respectively. Call Connie Slingluff at the Writers Association of Blount County. The conference will be held at Monte Vista Baptist Church Road in Maryville.



We have the answers! Members of the Writers' Guild recently answered phones at WSJK, an affiliate of PBS, to help in their annual fund-raising campaign. Left to right, first row, are Brian Griffin, Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos, and Elaine Oswald. In the back row are Marybeth Boyanton, Flossie McNabb, Judy Loest, Penny Tschantz, Jeannette Brown, and Jackie Kittrell.

Tim Joseph to Read at April 5 Knoxville Writers' Guild Meeting

Tim Joseph will be the featured speaker at the Thursday, April 5, meeting of the Knoxville Writers' Guild. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater on Sixteenth and Laurel Streets in the University area. It is free and open to the public.

Tim will be talking about publishing his first novel, *Four-Fifths*. "I want to do more than simply read from my novel," says Tim. "I will be talking about creative writing, what it is, and what it means to me, the rewards, and the process I utilize. I will talk about the importance of style and give examples of voice in writing humor, profound sadness, love, anger, and Eros, by reading short sections of my novel." Tim says he hopes reading his book will take readers deep inside their own psyches as the characters experience a gamut of emotions and learn that losing true love is to lose four-fifths of one's soul. Tim Joseph is a senior scientist, ecologist/biologist and former high school teacher and college professor. He has published in the scientific field, but *Four-Fifths* is his debut literary novel. He also writes essays, stories, and poetry.

Vol.9,#3

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April,2001

Conferences, Conferences, Conferences, Conferences, Conferences, CONFERENCES, Conferences

Issue 9,

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April, 2001

Two important literary conferences

will convene on the third weekend of April, so you'll have to make a choice as to whether you prefer participating in workshops or attending readings and seminars. For workshops and hands-on meetings, the **Tennessee Mountain Writers 2001 Writers Conference and Workshops** will be held April 18-21 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge, Tenn. This year's programs include **Children's Writing**, led by Suzanne Fisher Staples, Newberry Award winner; **Getting Published**: Donald Maass, New York agent whose workshops feature "Writing the Breakout Novel" and "Keys to a Successful Fiction Career;" **Fiction**: Laura Underwood, widely published fantasy writer; **Poetry**: Kate Daniels, acclaimed poet and essayist; **Biography**: Ruth Smalley, biographer, news and magazine writer; **Specialty Writing**: Alex Gabbard, writer, photographer, publisher, and columnist, and Denise May, syndicated radio writer; **Specialty Publication**: Don Williams, writer, columnist, and founding editor of *New Millennium Writings*; **Nonfiction**: Michael Birdwell, book and article history writer. The banquet speaker will be Steven Womack, winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Award for Mystery and the Shamus Award, for private eye writing. Fees are \$195 for full participation; \$150 for day classes only; and \$60 for students for day classes only. The banquet is \$30 a person. Call 865-482-6567 or check the web site at www.TMWI.org.

The second literary conference of note

is the 11th Chattanooga Conference on Southern Literature, April 19-21. Among writers on the program are Lee Smith, Richard Bausch, Fred Chappell, Clyde Edgerton, George Garrett, Mary Lee Settle, Shelby Foote, and many, many more. Events include panel discussions, addresses, and a video presentation called "Tell About the South," directed by Ross Spears. This year's theme will be identifying southern literature.

There's a \$50 conference fee, but it's worth it. You can read all about it on the Chattanooga Arts and Education Council website: <http://www.artsedcouncil.org/>

Here's one you have more time to think about.

The Appalachian Writers Association will be presenting its annual conference on the East Tennessee State University campus this July 13-15. The keynote speaker is Lee Smith, and there will be a celebration of the work of James Still, plus numerous seminars, workshops, and presentations. The conference also presents an opportunity to mix with writers in various stages of their careers. Long-time members of AWA tend to see the annual conference as a family reunion, and newer members find energy and inspiration. For more information or to get an information packet, you can visit the web site at www.etsu.edu/english/judaculla



Lee Smith, photographed by Susan Raines at the sign in her hometown of Grundy, VA.

Laura Still: A Poem

from *New Millennium Writings*:

Laura Still, Knoxville poet, works part-time as a dental practice consultant and USTA certified tennis umpire. She does technical writing for training dental personnel, edits educational brochures for TMJ patients, and screens poetry and novels for competitions. She is an active member of the Knoxville Writers' Guild and the Tennessee Writers Alliance. Her recent publications include *Aethlon: The Journal of Sports Literature* (Winter 2000) and *New Millennium Writings* (Spring and Fall 1999, Summer and Winter 2000), and *Breathing The Same Air*. A new member of the Knoxville Theatre Coalition, she played Emma Borden in the staged reading of *The House On Second Street* during the Knoxville New Play Festival in March.



Cactus Flower

The cactus blooms
not according to season
but on a schedule known only
in its deep green heart.
Inside the solitary column
armored with spines
some secret signal is given,
a bud bursts suddenly
through the skin,
swells and lengthens for days.
All at once the flower opens,
glorious, multilayered.
Rich yellow at the pistils
fades slowly outward
to gold-pearl, then a pearl
creamier and glossier
than magnolia petals,
soft white of the summer moon
in a hazy indigo sky,
when the stars are candle flames,
warm and familiar.
In hours the blossom withers
to a brown husk,
as if it lives
for my eyes to see,
my breath to breathe on it,
as if my turning aside
is reason enough
to fade.

Laura's (tongue-in-cheek) note to the poem: "This was published in the last New Millennium Writings issue, Winter 2000. I wrote it about a cactus I have at home, because Don Williams (the editor) had the gall to question my horticultural knowledge (he said he'd never heard of any flowers that lasted

Board Considers Past Successes, Future Goals

Jackie Kittrell and Julia Auer co-facilitated an all-day meeting of the KWG board of directors on the first Saturday of March. The board focussed on the future of the Guild, both as to the membership's interaction within the Guild and as to the Guild's interaction with the community at large. We are all proud of how far the Guild has come, but we all agreed that we have farther yet to go in making the Knoxville Writers' Guild all that it can be. The meeting—or retreat, as we called it—opened with a brief overview of the history of the Guild, led by John Reaves, Don Williams, and Brian Griffin. We now have national recognition as a writers' organization, and writers within our membership are rapidly getting published. And the Peter Taylor Prize is winning the attention of talented novelists all over the country.

We brainstormed about how to advance the KWG's strengths and remedy the weaknesses. We agreed that we need to make new members feel welcome, showcase writing by our members, and encourage members at large to attend board meetings and become involved on committees. We need to diversify by reaching out to African-American and other minority writers, young people, high school and college kids. But diversity also includes what people write, and to that end we are committed to encouraging more programs for genre writers such as romance novelists, mystery writers and writers of science. We want the arts community to know who we are and the nation to know that Knoxville is home to some of the country's best writers. When our writers get published, we want to know about it.

In discussing our Vision for the Future, we came up with some interesting long-term goals, such as a kind of Knoxville Yaddo—the writers' haven in New York that gave space and inspiration to such literary masters as Truman Capote and Flannery O'Connor. We also envision advocacy for our group, grants for Guild projects, Web Site expansion, and ultimately a literary center to rival anything else in the country.

In the short term, we need an office resource center, and eventually a full-time director and some staff. We've grown that much. When you see our committee tables at meetings, stop by and sign up. This organization is about sharing and developing craft. It's about nurturing writers of all levels of experience. It's about promoting good writing, but it's also about promoting the appreciation of literature within the community at large.

We on the board like to think we represent the interests of all our members, and beyond that, the interests of the whole community of writers. But to make our vision play out, we need a lot of support—from members and the community. Let us know if we can count on you.

Knoxville Writers' Guild

Organized in December 1992 in Knoxville, TN, to facilitate a broad, inclusive and egalitarian community among area writers; to provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers; to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote writing and creativity in the wider community through education, publication, and sponsorship of writing-related public events. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Laurel Theater.

Officers: President: John Reaves; Vice President: Julia Auer; Secretary: Kim Trevathan ; Treasurer, Lonnie Butler; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; Newsletter Editor: Jeanne McDonald; Webmistress: Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos.

Board Members: Julia Auer, Marybeth Boyanton, Jeannette Brown, Alison Conde-Jaenicke, Brian Griffin, Jacqueline Kittrell, Michael Knight, Judy Loest, Flossie McNabb, Elaine Oswald, Kim Trevathan, Penny Tschantz, Allen Wier, and Don Williams.

Dues are \$20, \$15 for students. The KWG does not discriminate against any person because of race, age, gender, handicap or country of national origin.

Tel: 531-8855; e-mail should be addressed to jmd@utk.edu

Web site: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org To change your mailing address, e-mail vgr300z@infi.net

To join the Knoxville Writers' Guild, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 10326, along with annual dues of \$20, \$15 if you are a student.

Membership entitles you to participate in study groups, receive Guild discounts on books and merchandise, and monthly issues of the newsletter.

For questions about dues or change of address, email vgr300z@infin.net

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

For questions about dues, or to change your mailing address, e-mail vgr300z@knoxnews.infi.net

**JACK NEELY WILL BE THE
FEATURED SPEAKER FOR THE MAY
3 PROGRAM**

Knoxville Writers' Guild

P.O. Box 10326
Knoxville, TN 37939

Profile: Angie Vicars



KWG Writing Groups

All paid-up members of the Knoxville Writers' Guild are eligible to join any or several of the Guild's writing groups. For information and meeting times, contact the group leaders listed below:

Women Writing and Writing Women

Doris Ivie divie@pstcc.cc.tn.us

Short Fiction

Julie Auer: jcauer@aol.com

Nonfiction and Memoir

Jayne Raparelli: jayner@ccli.net

Experiments in Voice, Genre, Style

Mary Tebo: tebo@utk.utkx.utcc.utk.edu

Novel

Tim Joseph: timjoseph@bigfoot.com

Poetry

Those interested in forming a poetry group should

Angie Vicars' forthcoming novel, *Treat*, will be published by Haworth Press under their imprint, Alice Street Editions in June of 2001. Not one to rest on her laurels, Angie is presently working on another novel, also set in Knoxville, and is writing articles for *Metro Pulse* as well as working on poetry and a screenplay. The way she puts it, "Angie Vicars has written many things for most of her life." Most recently, her work has appeared in *Metro Pulse* (see the MP web site www.metropulse.com to look up Angie's work) and in the Knoxville Writers' Guild anthology *Breathing the Same Air*. Most writers in Knoxville first met Angie when she was the community relations coordinator at Barnes & Noble, and before that, at Book Star. She also founded the Writers' Roundtable at Barnes & Noble. Now, Angie, who holds an MFA in screenwriting from the University of Miami, will be doing community outreach for Mind Body Kinetics.

Angie's synopsis of her novel: "Gerd has everything—family, breeding, beauty, even an engagement ring from Richard, a suitable young man on his way to a top law firm. Her future is assured, until one night at the theatre when she can't keep her eyes off a green-eyed actress. Gerd knows she could never be a lesbian. Or could she? Maxine, who prefers to be called Max, sees herself as a free-spirited actress and singer. Still, she worries that she's from the wrong side of the tracks, not to mention that her passion for women sometimes causes complications. When her former fling, Richard, introduces his blonde, aristocratic fiancée, Max feels an electricity for her that she can't deny. Soon Gerd and Max are exploring the ecstasy of love, and Gerd is adjusting to her newfound identity. But when Gerd's wealthy parents discover that their daughter is a lesbian, they turn their backs on her. With no money and no family support, abandoned by her former friends, Gerd clings desperately to Max. But Max hates to be tied down. When tragedy threatens, Gerd and Max face a crisis of love, trust, and loyalty."

Angie will read from her novel at the July KWG meeting.

Rocktown accepted for publication

Stephen Marion's novel, *Rocktown*, will be published next year by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. Last year, Stephen read at the Guild with his father, poet Jeff Daniel Marion. A few weeks later, he was notified that he had received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Fiction. Tentative publication for his book is scheduled for the spring of 2002.

Words on the Wall:

An International

Dear Knoxville Writers' Guild Member:

Hanson Gallery welcomes the Knoxville Writers' Guild to our first collaborative work, entitled WORDS ON THE WALL. We invite your members to provide individual, short literary passages that we will place throughout the gallery in and among our fine art and fine crafts. This event is scheduled to coincide with our major spring gallery show, which features the pastel landscapes of Robert Lichter. The show opens with our artist reception Friday, May 4 and continues through June 2. We hope you can join us for the opening. We have several goals. We wish to provide inspiration through the written word to those who visit the gallery and feel that WORDS ON THE WALL would add a unique texture to the gallery experience; we believe that prose and poetry is art and want to place it in a gallery setting as a way to illustrate it. Secondly, a number of your members are our friends, and would like to provide exposure to The Knoxville Writers' Guild to our wide client base. As a gallery, we want to interface with other Knoxville community organizations and think this project would be a creative, unique and simple collaboration.

Our show invitation, which is mailed to several thousand clients, will include notice of WORDS ON THE WALL by the ~~Knoxville Writers' Guild, and that alone will provide a great deal of coverage for you. In addition, copies of~~ *Sharing the Same Air* will be available as well as any informational brochures you may want to provide regarding membership.

Mission Statement: The various passages that will be placed about the gallery are to address any of the following subjects: the realm of art and creativity... places of respite and meditation....color....landscape.... the coming of spring.

How to submit passages: Passages are to be limited to 50 words or less. Selections may be in the form of a quotation, a poem or segment of a poem, a passage of fiction or nonfiction; the words may be your own or from another writer. If another writer is involved, we must have that writer's name, along with your signature saying that you take full responsibility for the publishing of that statement.

You may submit as many passages as you wish; the Gallery reserves the right to present only those that relate to our mission statement for WORDS ON THE WALL. Some items may be excluded due to quantity restrictions. Each selection will be presented on its own formal card in the following format: "Before the blossoming, before the bursting open, respite between was not and is." Excerpt from *Sweet Suspensions* by Jan Bailey (*Selected by Knoxville Writers Guild member, Judy Loest*) *

April 20, 2001 Deadline for receiving your selections: Mail, fax or email selections attention Diane Hanson to: 5607 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919 Fax: 588-3789 E-Mail: dhanson@hansongallery.com

April 21 – 30 Gallery Staff will prepare selections for display

May 1 Gallery Staff will install show and place WORDS ON THE WALL throughout the gallery

May 4 Opening Reception, 5:30 – 8 pm

June 2 Show closes

*Hanson Gallery reserves the right not to show any selections it deems unrelated or inappropriate for this program.

Miscellaneous Writing News

If There Would Be No Justice: An 8-year-old girl, Saharah Sunday Spain, of Oakland, CA, has reportedly recently received a "high" five-figure advance for her new collection of poetry. HarperSanFrancisco is the publisher of the collection, which is titled *If There Would Be No Light: Poems From My Heart*.

Knoxville Branch of the National League of American Pen Women poetry contest is open to the public. All entries should be unpublished and original, rhymed or unrhymed, any length. Type on one side of page only. Only title should appear on the entry. On a separate card, type title of work, name, address, phone no. and mail the entries to Alice Clayton, NLSPW-Knoxville Contest, 3534 Lakeside Drive, Lenoir City, TN 37772. \$50 first place, \$25 second, \$15 third, and three honorable mentions. Entry fee is \$3 for the first poem and \$2 for each additional entry. Deadline is April 20, 2001. For questions, call Mona Raridon, 865-483-4843.

