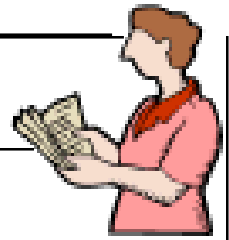


The Writing News



Tennessee Mountain Writers Annual Conference

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, March 10, 2004—The Tennessee Mountain Writers 16th Annual Conference will be held Thursday through Saturday, April 1-3, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Ridge. The theme of this year's conference is "Yeah, Write!"

Banquet speaker and special presenter will be Robert Morgan, author of the award-winning and best-selling novel *Gap Creek*, an Oprah Book Club selection in 2000 and winner of the Southern Book Award for fiction, presented by the Southern Book Critics Circle. His latest release is the historical novel *Brave Enemies*. Morgan has published five previous books of fiction and nine volumes of poetry. He has received the North Carolina Award for Literature, the James G. Hanes Poetry Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and the Jacaranda Review Fiction Prize.

Other presenters at the conference will include:

- Tracy Barrett, Children's Literature: Barrett is the author of numerous books and magazine articles for young readers. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study medieval women writers led to the writing of her award-winning young adult novel, *Anna of Byzantium*. Her most recent publication is a middle-grade novel, *Cold in Summer*.
- Beverly Conner, Fiction: Conner is an archeologist who has worked in Georgia and South Carolina doing fieldwork and analyzing artifacts, specializing in Southeastern Indians of the Mississippian period (A.D. 900-1700). She combines her love of both archeology and mysteries into the *Lindsay Chamberlain Archeology Mystery* series and the *Diane Fallon Forensic Investigation* series.
- Jeff Daniel Marion, Poetry: Marion has published seven collections of poetry, the two most recent being *Letters Home* and *Ebbing & Flowing Springs: New and Selected Poems and Prose*. He taught for 35 years at Carson-Newman College, and in 1978 was the first recipient of the Literary Fellowship awarded by the Tennessee Arts Commission.
- Cara Modisett, Nonfiction: Modisett has since 1998 been on the staff of Leisure Publishing and serves as associate editor and project writer for many of Leisure's publications, including *Blue Ridge Country*, *The Roanoker* and *Pinnacle Living* magazines. She also co-produces a weekly arts show on WVTF, Virginia Public Radio, and has reported for West Virginia Public Radio.

In addition to the workshop sessions, specialty sessions will be conducted by Jason Weems, editor at The Overmountain Press; Cara Modisett; and by TMW Board members Alex Gabbard and Joy Margrave. Also, discussion roundtables will be held on Genealogy and Critique Groups.

The conference will kick off with a 6 p.m. reception on Thursday. Conference sessions will be held from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. through 2 p.m. Saturday, followed by the banquet Saturday evening. The Writer's Block, a bookstore featuring works published by workshop leaders and participants, will be open throughout the conference.

Additional information and a conference registration form can be found on the TMI web site, www.tmwi.org. This project is funded in part under an agreement with the Tennessee Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.





On-Line Critiquing

By Anthea Toutges

I wrote my first two novels without critique partners. My heart and soul went into those books, but the only result was a stream of rejection letters. Well into my third novel, I finally found two critique partners who made all the difference in my writing progress. While creating a novel, it can sometimes be hard to see the forest for the trees. A critique group or partner provides a second and third pair of eyes.

It is vitally important to find critique partners who are at or near your own level of skill as a writer. Most of the individuals I met with for critiquing either looked at writing as a hobby or were extremely sensitive about accepting criticism. This type of partnership inevitably ends in frustration and can even break up friendships. My style is ruthlessly straightforward, while emphasizing strengths and providing positive suggestions for improvement. It took a while to find like-minded critique partners, but I finally did. Probably the biggest enemy any writer has is time. Whether your deadline comes from an editor or is self-imposed, online support is invaluable. I belong to two online writers groups and co-direct a writers mentoring program for one of them. After searching extensively for critique partners, I finally found two at a similar place in their writing (one published and the other close to it) online. One lives in Arizona and the other in Texas, but with email, distance is no problem. Instead of sacrificing an afternoon a week to meet, we exchange chapters via email attachment. This not only saves time but money—the second most important priority in a writer's life. You don't have to print out chapters or buy Lattés.

We do all our critiquing on the computer, highlighting grammatical corrections and unnecessary adjectives and adverbs in red, and crossing out using Format, Font, Strikethrough. We use blue or green to highlight redundancies or to insert proposed rewording for an awkward sentence.

We send only what we consider our best work, complete with dialogue and clearly outlined chapters. On average, we exchange two chapters a week. Less, when not writing as much, more when under a crunch to finish a manuscript. We include notes in bold to call attention to an exceptional passage or where the pacing has slowed to a crawl and needs some action or conflict to move the story forward.

Everyone has his or her own critiquing style but remember to be positive. You can always find something praiseworthy, even in the roughest material. When pointing out a problem area, suggest how it might be improved and remind each other that writing is subjective; you are only giving your opinion—not the gospel truth. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help."

Anthea Toutges writes as A. K. Hendrix. Her third novel, Shadow Land, is currently under consideration with Red Dress Ink Publishers and a New York literary agency.

Gala Set April 24: Get Ready to Party!

Sixteen winners in the annual Knoxville Writers' Guild statewide writing contests for fiction, poetry and essays will be honored, along with Wilma Dykeman, at the third annual KWG Awards Gala, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sat. April 24 at Holston Hills Country Club. Ms. Dykeman, nationally known prize-winning novelist, newspaper columnist and historian from Newport and Asheville, TN., will be presented with a Career Achievement Award by TV news personality, Edye Ellis. Contest winners will take home prizes totaling more than \$1,500, and will read brief selections from their winning works.

Others on the program include News Sentinel columnist Don Williams, poets Laura Still, Marybeth Boyanton and Judy Loest, and former Guild president Julie Auer. There will be food, live music by the Rocky Wynder Jazz combo, a cash bar, and appearances by prize-winning writers. An hour of dancing and socializing will follow the ceremony. Tickets are \$15 each, \$10 for students. The last two galas sold out, so reserve tickets early. To reserve seats, make checks payable to 'KWG' and mail them to "Tickets" at P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939, or email EuniceHat@aol.com. Type "Tickets" in the subject field. For more information, including directions to Holston Hills Country Club, visit www.Knoxvillewritersguild.org.

Competition winners and runners up:

Libba Moore Gray Poetry Prize: Linda Parsons, of Knoxville, won first; Kelly Falzone, of Nashville, second, Connie Jordan Green, Lenoir City, third.

Robert Burns/Terry Semple Memorial Poetry Prize: Frank Jamison, of Kingston won first place. Connie Jordan Green of Lenoir City and Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos of Knoxville won awards of excellence. Chuck Bowers of Powell won the **Celtic Heritage Award**.

Young Writers Poetry Prize: Emily Mitchell from Oak Ridge High School took first place. Cayla Stephenson of Clinton High School won second. Third went to Natalie Ricker of Morristown-Hamblen West High.

2004 Essay Prize: Jeremy Lloyd of Townsend, won first. Second place went to Doris Gove of Knoxville, and third went to Ann Furr of Loudon.

Leslie Garrett Fiction Award: L.A. Hoffer, S.E. Wright and Lones Seiber, all of Knoxville, won first, second and third, respectively.

Write These Events on Your Calendars!

News from Daniel Roop:

MARCH 28 - KNOXVILLE VS. CHATTANOOGA at Buffalo Wild Wings: Chattanooga is bringing a team of slam poets to face off against a Knoxville team composed of Rhea Scruggs (the talented Knoxville slammaster), Starr (the dynamic DJ wordsmith), Black Atticus (if you haven't seen his piece "Pseudo-Samaritan" you're missing one of the all-time great Knox spoken word pieces), and Justin Rubenstein (you'll hear more about this guy later). For more info, contact Rhea at knoxvillepoetryslam@hotmail.com

APRIL 2 - 3 - THE SPRING KNOX WORD SPOKEN WORD SHOWCASE!!!! 8pm, Black Box Theatre, 5213 Homberg Drive, admission \$7. The spring showcase takes place at the Black Box Theatre on Friday April 2nd and Saturday April 3rd, at 8pm each night. Participating will be:

M. AYODELE HEATH- In the Yoruba tongue of Nigeria, the name Ayodele means "a joy arrives in the house." Ayo also happens to be one of the most literary-minded spoken word artists in the country, having been published in Crab Orchard Review, Chattahoochee Review, and Open City, among other journals. -He's competed at the Southeast Regional Poetry Slam twice and both times he's won the individual championship. NO ONE else can say that. The Atlanta Bureau for Cultural Affairs selected him as Emerging Artist of the Year in 2001.

MARILYN KALLET - The other day I was making a mental list of the top five most influential people in Knoxville poetry over the past 10 years. One name, and one name only, was an obvious choice for the top of the list. Marilyn Kallet. As UT's Director of Creative Writing she has helped forge a uniquely strong bond between Knoxville's academic and spoken word literary communities.

JUSTIN RUBENSTEIN - He's the best young spoken word poet in the city, hands down. -He's the reigning Knoxville Grand Slam Champion. -He wrote a poem called "Faceless" that creates the ultimate spoken word reaction - that total hush and quiet intake of breath from the entire room (because of the fragility and beauty you've just seen) before they erupt in applause and cheers.

JON GOODE - Jon is a Richmond native and an Atlanta resident. He's one of the hottest poets and DJ's in the Atlanta area, and in my opinion, has recorded the best single spoken word CD I've ever heard - Family Values (which I'm sure he'll have available at the show). He has things to say, and he says them. And you love him for it. He recently aped for the upcoming season of HBO's Def Poetry Jam.

Scholarships for Writers

Deadline to apply is July 19, 2004.

Greeneville, TN. — The Lost State Writers Conference is now offering full scholarships to those interested in attending the September 24-26 event at the General Morgan Inn. An exciting cast of writers and industry professionals is assembling for the sixth annual conference.

A panel of judges, including published authors, industry professionals, and educators, will evaluate scholarship entries and award scholarships covering the conference fee of \$300. There is no reading fee to participate in the contest. Scholarships are being underwritten by local businesses, colleges, universities, and schools. Interested writers may submit manuscripts (which may be part of a longer work) up to five pages and poems up to 45 lines each to Scholarship Chair, P.O. Box 1442, Greeneville, TN 37744. Manuscripts must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on or before July 19, 2004. For further submission requirements, go to <http://www.loststatewriters.com/scholarship>.

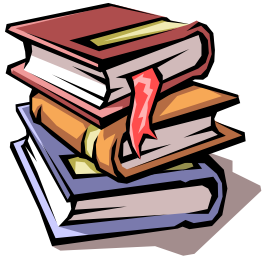
The sixth annual Lost State Writer's Conference line-up of speakers includes author and humorist **Roy Blount, Jr.** A regular panelist on NPR's Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, he has appeared on A Prairie Home Companion and on CBS Morning Show, Tonight Show, David Letterman Show, Good Morning America, Today Show, Larry King, Politically Incorrect, and in a series of TV spots for the NBA starring Bill Murray, which he helped Murray create. His essays, articles, stories, verses and even drawings have appeared in 160 different periodicals. He is the author of a biography of Robert E. Lee, which was published by Penguin in May, 2003.

At 26, **Kaye Gibbons** wrote her first novel, Ellen Foster. Praised as an extraordinary debut, Eudora Welty said that "the honesty of thought and eyeand feeling and word" mark the work of this talented writer, and Walker Percy said, "Ellen Foster is a Southern Holden Caulfield, tougher perhaps, as funny...A breathtaking first novel." Ellen Foster was recently honored in London as one of the Twenty Greatest Novels of the Twentieth Century. Currently, Gibbons is working on journalistic pieces for publication and collection, a biography, and the sequel to Ellen Foster, proposed for a 2005 release. Her newest novel Divining Women, set during the 1918 influenza epidemic is due out from Putnam in April of 2004.

In addition to the keynote speakers, the conference will also showcase many of the industry's top writers, literary agents, editors, and publishers.

For additional information on the Lost State Writers conference, call 423-639-4031 or visit the web site at www.loststatewriters.com. To learn more about the scholarship program, email loststatescholar@hotmail.com

What's Up With Local Writers



WANT TO SELL YOUR BOOKS?

If you are a member of the Knoxville Writers' Guild and have books you would like to sell through at the Rossini Festival the weekend of April 16-18, get in touch with Pamela Schoenewaldt, who has generously offered to be the book saleswoman for the event. Contact her at e-mail p.schoene@comcast.net.

There will be a handling charge of \$5 for each member submitting books, no matter how many books are delivered, which is a BARGAIN, considering that the Guild (Pamela) will take them downtown and bring them back to her house. This is a terrific service Pamela is doing for those of us who can't make the festival, and we owe a debt of thanks to her and all the other people in the Guild who make things lovely and easy for our members.

BRIAN LONG MAKES "STRIKING DEBUT"

Wind Publications has announced the release of J Brian Long's first volume of poetry: *The Singing of the Wheels: Poems from Somewhere Not Far*.

Ron Rash describes this collection as "...a striking debut." Claudia Emerson offers that "...Long's eye and ear on the natural world infuse this remarkable first volume with an instinctive power through which we join him in brilliant explorations of 'the makeshift, far-flung myth of us.'" Jill Alexander Essbaum writes: "...these poems travel their own great distances— to God and back, to Love and beyond it, through Loss and past the Letting Go." Charles Semones says that "...the poems in *The Singing of the Wheels* are flame-tongued in language that's uncanny in its originality."

J Brian Long has been a member of the KWG for over a year and has been serving on its board of Directors since January. He edits the poetry section of a regional print magazine and calls his book one "...of journeys: physical, emotional, spiritual."

Mile 232

From the receiver, my son's voice
is an ache; it pops, sizzles: storms
somewhere between us. He tells me
I am missed. I tell him that

he is mist, that times I can see nothing
else, that I have caught sight of him
low in the ragweed hollows, glimpsed
him drifting among the umbral

ravels of rhododendron, brooding low
in the darkling laurel hells, that he has
made me brake, sudden, through the high,
hemmed passes. Just before we disconnect,

he asks if I have been writing (Yes.
Righting.) and how much further
I hope to go. I simply don't know.
I haven't yet made it. I can't turn around.



Kallet Plans Germany Trip for Holocaust Poetry Research

Marilyn Kallet, the newly appointed Hodges Chair in Poetry at UT, will make a long-anticipated trip to Germany March 19-26 with her daughter Heather to trace the roots of her ancestry and continue her series of Holocaust poems.

"After four years of using other people's research on the Holocaust in Germany," says Marilyn, "I am finally going to visit the town of my ancestry, Horb, Southwest of Stuttgart in the Black Forest. With a Professional Development Grant from the Graduate School at UT, I will be traveling with my daughter Heather, who is 18 years old, to the small town where my family lived before deportation. And, I should add, the family lived in the area for over 100 years before deportation.

"We have a wonderful translator and fabulous colleague named Ulrich Struve, who runs foreign student programs in Freiburg. He has made arrangements for us, and will actually accompany us to the region as our translator. He is one of our angels. We will visit the cemeteries, and meet with elderly German officials who are willing to talk with us about their memories. The Jewish archivist, Herr Sayer, used to be the chauffeur for many of the Jewish families in the area. He's in his eighties, and is willing to spend a few days showing us around and answering questions.

Heather is taking a course in "Jews and Germans" at Northwestern, and so has been preparing herself intellectually for the journey. My sister Elaine Zimmerman, Connecticut Commissioner for Children and the Family, will meet us there, with her 15 year old daughter Hannah. We all have the sense that it's now or never for this particular journey—considering the age of our interviewees.

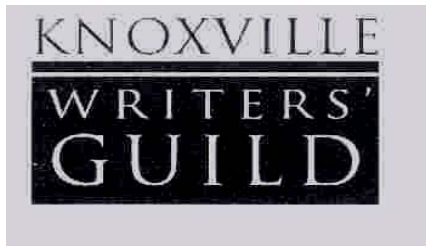
"We will also go to Prague, and to Theresienstadt, a former camp located 40 minutes from Prague—where many of the elderly Jews from the Reich and many artists were temporarily housed before being deported to Riga or to Auschwitz. Riga was the fate of most of my relatives. One woman survived deportation, Hedwig Schwarz. She was cared for in Stuttgart by nuns throughout the war. Hedwig was "impaired," meaning she was crippled. She "fell off the transport train." Many questions arise, no? And some of them will be answered—since we will also visit the nuns at Marienhospital, some in their 80's, some speak English. We will thank them and give a donation to the hospital.

"Upon return, I go to the Mary Anderson Center for the Arts at Mt. Saint Francis, and will spend 6 weeks there writing up the results of our trip—in poems."

Marilyn already has a publisher for the next book of poems, *Lure*, which will be put out in 2005 by BkMk Press, U of Missouri/ Kansas City. The book will contain a few of the Holocaust poems. One of the poems, about Hedwig, the survivor, will be included in *Migrants and Stowaways*.

Knoxville Writers' Guild:

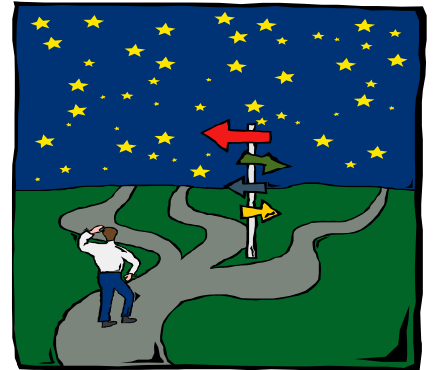
Organized in December 1992 in Knoxville, TN, to facilitate a broad, inclusive and egalitarian community among area writers; to provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers; to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote writing and creativity in the wider 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: Ed Sullivan; Vice President: Kay Newton; Secretary: Pamela Schoenewaldt; Treasurer: Laura Still; Hospitality: Kay Newton; Publicity: Marti Davis; Membership database: Rip Lydick; Program Chairman: David Joyner; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Robert Boyd, Marti Davis, Tony Day, Emily Dziuban, David Joyner, Jacqueline Kittrell, J. Brian Long, Robert Lydick, Dennis McCarthy, Kay Newton, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Marlene Taylor, and Inga Treitler. Alternates are Nicole Underwood and Patricia Waters. Dues are \$25, \$20 for students. The KWG does not discriminate against any person because of race, age, gender, handicap or country of national origin. Send e-mail messages to editor, jmd531k@msn.com, or to pres., Ed Sullivan, sully@korrnet.org web: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



**P.O. Box 10326
Knoxville, TN 37939**

HOW TO JOIN

To join the Writers' Guild, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939, along with annual dues of \$25, or give the form and your check to any board member of the Guild. Dues are \$20 for students. Membership allows you to participate in study groups, receive discounts on books and Guild merchandise, and monthly issues of the newsletter.



Remember the AwardsGala: 4/24!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____

WEB SITE _____