



# East Tennessee Writers

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild, Vol. 12, No.8, Aug. 2004



Brian Long



Kristen Robertson

Brad Tice

## Young Poets to Read at Aug.5 Meeting



poets, Kristin Robertson, J. Brian Long, and Brad Tice, will read selections from theirs., Aug. 5 meeting of the Knoxville at the Laurel Theater, 16th and Laurel. The at 7 p.m.

teaches creative writing as a lecturer in ment at the University of Tennessee. She M.A. in English with a concentration in

writing poetry from UT. Her poems have appeared in *Whiskey Island Magazine* and *Yemassee Literary Journal*. She won the poetry award for the 2001 winter/spring issue of *Yemassee* and a graduate poetry prize from UT.

**J. Brian Long** began writing in earnest in 1992, and has spent a great deal of effort since then honing his craft through independent study, "flagrant imitation" of poets he most admires, such as Carl Sandburg, Naomi Nye, Jill Alexander Essbaum, A. MacLeish, and Peter Ackroyd, and has come to the publication of first book, *The Singing\_of the Wheels: Poems from Somewhere Not Far*. His work has appeared in various magazines and literary journals and has now found a home with *Wind Publications*.

**Kara Borum** (no photograph available) is a senior in creative writing at UT. Kara says, "I've been writing ever since my shotgun house on Gillespie Avenue was torn down, at first because I didn't want to forget anything about my home. Since then, my subject matter has branched out a bit. A lot of my poems are still about the lower-class neighborhood and the people, but I'll probably read some poems from my "to Adam" series, a set of love poems about an unpleasant person who I couldn't help falling for."

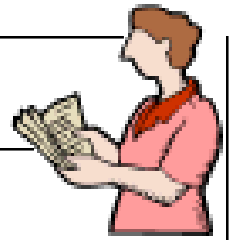
*There is a pleasure in  
poetic pains which only  
poets know.*

(Wm. Cowper)

**Bradford Tice** recently received his M.A. in poetry from the University of Colorado, and is now at work on his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. His poetry and fiction have appeared or are forthcoming in periodicals such as *North American Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Nimrod*, *Poet Lore*, *Mississippi Review*, *Hawai'i-Pacific Review*, and the anthology *Gents, Bad Boys*, and *Barbarians 2* (*Windstorm Creative*).

The public is invited to attend the readings. A one-dollar donation is requested. Free refreshments will be served.

# The Writing News



## "It's A Good Summer" for Judy

Guild member Judy Loest's poem, "Knoxville: Summer, 2003" has just won the Appalachian Writers Association's James Still Award. This is not the only prestigious award Judy has won this summer. In May she went to New York to accept her \$2000 award from the Fine Lines Poetry Contest, cosponsored by the Poetry Society of America. That poem is entitled "The Cambodian Mother Writes to Her Daughter in America." Below is Judy's prize-winning Appalachian poem.

### Knoxville: Summer, 2003

Here through the open gates at twilight  
Among the old oaks and stone angels  
In this pre-Civil War cemetery,  
James Agee's father rises, a ghost  
In a family of ghosts now gathering  
Like moonflowers for the grieving child  
Who bids them come to surround him  
Once again in love, his child's body still  
Held in thrall by their quiet voices,  
By the sounds of the damp blue evening.  
The scene never changes, the four adults  
And the child never age, the same quilt  
Spread upon the damp grass, locusts singing,  
Morning glories closing in the coming dark.  
We see it clearly every time, this passage  
From the most primal place in the heart  
Which outlasts sorrow and the dark graves  
Of time, a scene which springs up unbidden,  
Trailing in its wake our own dead  
Who left without telling us who we are.

## Aug. and Sept. Events at the Rockrock Cafe

(Unless otherwise specified, all events begin at 6 p.m.)

August 5 (6:00) The Amazing Jennifer

August 12 (6:00) Ed Caudill, author of the forthcoming book Nathan Bedford Forrest: Life and Legend will discuss Forrest and the founding of The Ku Klux Klan

August 19 (6:00) Hot Topics: Gay Marriage and Civil Unions

August 26 (6:00) Guy and Candie Carawan performing and talking about their work in Civil Rights and at The Highlander Center (August 28 is the anniversary of The March on Washington)

September 2 (6:00) Living Clean and Green: Organic Gardening and Composting

September 9 (6:00) Hot Topics: Free Trade—lower prices vs exporting jobs

September 16 (6:00) Marble City String Band

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual is currently seeking submissions for its second volume. These submissions can include—but are not limited to—analytical academic essays, oral histories, memoirs, profile essays, photo essays, creative writing, and artwork. The main criteria ensuring consideration are that all submitted materials should (to borrow Faulkner's famous phrase) "tell about the South" and that they should do so memorably.

To have your work considered for the second volume of CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual, you may send materials postmarked before July 31, 2004, to:

Ted Olson, Editor  
CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual  
ETSU, Box 70400  
Johnson City, TN 37614

Please include disposable copies of manuscripts. Submissions will not be returned. Should you have any questions, you may contact the editor: 423-439-4379 (tel), 423-439-4126 (fax) or [olson@etsu.edu](mailto:olson@etsu.edu) or [tedolson\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:tedolson_99@yahoo.com)

*Poetry news thanks to Daniel Roop.*



**Ed Sullivan:**

## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Receiving this newsletter means you made the wise decision to become a member of the

KWG. Organizations like KWG help writers connect and network with one another. I hope that you are taking advantage of the many benefits that come with membership in the Guild. There are also state and national writing organizations that offer many benefits. For example, the Tennessee Writers Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization based in Nashville. TWA offers opportunities for writers to connect with one another and with publishers at workshops and other gatherings. Their quarterly newsletter and web site keep members apprised of contests, grant opportunities, workshops, and other writing-related news and annual competitions. Several KWG members have won prizes in these competitions. Membership also entitles you to discounts on contest entry fees and workshops. Visit their web site at [www.tn-writers.org](http://www.tn-writers.org).

Two of the largest national organizations for writers of all types are the Authors Guild and National Writers Union. The Authors Guild is the oldest and largest professional society of published writers in the United States, representing over 8,000 members. It works as a collective voice to improve contracts and royalty payments, protect authors' rights under the First Amendment, advocate for changes in copyright laws benefiting writers, and lobby for tax laws favorable to professional writers. Members are entitled to free consultations from the organization's legal department. They will review contracts for you and advise you on the legalities of a variety of writing-related matters. The Guild also offers seminars and symposia and can help you find reputable literary agents. As a member, you are eligible to subscribe to health insurance and other benefits offered through the guild. Visit the web site at [www.authorsguild.org](http://www.authorsguild.org). The National Writers Union is a trade union for freelance writers of all genres who work for American publishers or employers. Affiliated with the AFL-CIO, the NWU has a membership of over 6,500 and 17 local chapters throughout the country that work to improve economic and working conditions for freelancers. Web site is [www.nwu.org](http://www.nwu.org).

You also might want to consider joining an organization that is focused on your particular field or genre of interest. I belong to the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators International (SCBWI), which sponsors an annual conference, local and regional workshops, newsletter, and other excellent benefits. Among the many of these specialty organizations are the Education Writers Association, Horror Writers Association, International Horror Guild, Mystery Writers of America, Poets and Writers, Inc., Romance Writers of America, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and the Western Writers of America. All vary in the kinds and range of benefits they offer. Visit their web sites for more information.

Joining these organizations can be expensive. Annual dues for the Authors Guild are now \$90.00. Look closely at what these organizations can offer you and don't join more organizations than necessary. For example, both the Authors Guild and the National Writers Union are essentially doing the same work. See which one appeals to your interests most and which you think you will benefit most from joining. And if you are really serious about making writing your profession and writing for a living, you should get involved with organizations on the local, state, and national levels. They give you many opportunities to grow as a writer, put you in touch with other writers and publishers, and help you with the many practical aspects of the writing profession. Being involved is worthwhile.

## **Writing Opportunities for Community Service**

**The Knoxville Opera is working with their CLO's "Communication Through Art" program for kids**, to be held in the fall. They are calling for imaginative writing/storytelling. The first two weeks of the six-week program will be an introduction to opera with skits and children (ages 11-15) will learn the story of *The Magic Flute*.

The next three weeks will involve children designing costumes, creating miniature props and screens, and writing "the rest of the story" (what they think happens to the characters after the ending of the opera). Members of KWG or individuals who would assist the kids with their writing should get in touch with Linda McLaughlin at [lmclaughlin@pdknox.org](mailto:lmclaughlin@pdknox.org). The program will serve about 30 children. On week six, the children and their families will attend a dress rehearsal of *The Magic Flute* and meet all the characters.

### **The Knoxville Writers' Guild Board of Directors is seeking nominations for new board members for the current year.**

Anyone interested in serving on the board should apply by sending a brief bio to this newsletter care of the editor, Jeanne McDonald (note new email address) at [jmd@ntown.net](mailto:jmd@ntown.net). A photograph would also be appreciated. You may nominate yourself or another person whose approval to do so has been received.

Board members are expected to attend as many meetings of the board as possible, barring illness or vacations. The group convenes at 5:30 on the first Thursday of each month before the 7 p.m. program. Board members are also expected to participate in various programs and projects sponsored by the Guild and to offer time and talents whenever possible. Participation also offers many opportunities for personal growth, visibility of your work, and a congenial and exciting community of writers. You do not have to be published to be a board member but you should have a strong interest in writing and in broadening the scope of literature in the community.



## **MOVING DAY**

The Arts & Culture Alliance announces that they will be moving into the

Emporium, 100 S. Gay Street, Suite 201, Knoxville, TN 37902, on July 26, 2004. The phones will be out of service from July 23 until July 28, 2004, but the number will remain the same. Mail for the Alliance can still be sent to P.O. Box 2506, Knoxville, TN 37901.

The Alliance looks forward to working with arts organizations. Their new space will be available at a discounted rate for their members' functions and events.

# An Invitation

You are invited to join the Arts and Culture Alliance and Tennesseans for the Arts at a reception honoring members of the Tennessee General Assembly on Thurs., Aug. 19, 2004, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Museum of Art, 105 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee.

This celebration provides an informal way for you to thank our state legislators for supporting the arts. It's a great way to express your appreciation for the funding our elected representatives provide to the Tennessee Arts Commission, which awards the grants that enable us to present the arts in our communities.

The reception also offers a great opportunity for you to become better acquainted with your state senators and state representatives. Inform them about the programs and projects made possible by TAC grant funds, help them understand how arts and cultural organizations add value to the quality of life in Tennessee, and tell them the impact arts education has on young people in our schools.

A photographer will be on hand to take your picture with your legislators as they present you with a symbolic grant check. The Tennessee Arts Commission will make copies of those photos available to you for your newsletters and for media outlets.

If you know your state legislators, add your own encouragement by calling them or their Nashville offices to issue your own special, personal invitation for them to attend. As a constituent, your voice is important.

Please call the Arts and Culture Alliance at 865-523-7543 and let us know you will be attending the reception. Hope you all are doing well and look forward to seeing you August 19.

Sincerely,  
Liza Zenni, Executive Director  
The Arts and Culture Alliance



## VERY SHORT FICTION AWARD

Glimmer Train Press is currently hosting a fiction contest open to all themes, all subjects and all writers, published and unpublished. The original, unpublished story must not exceed 2,000 words.

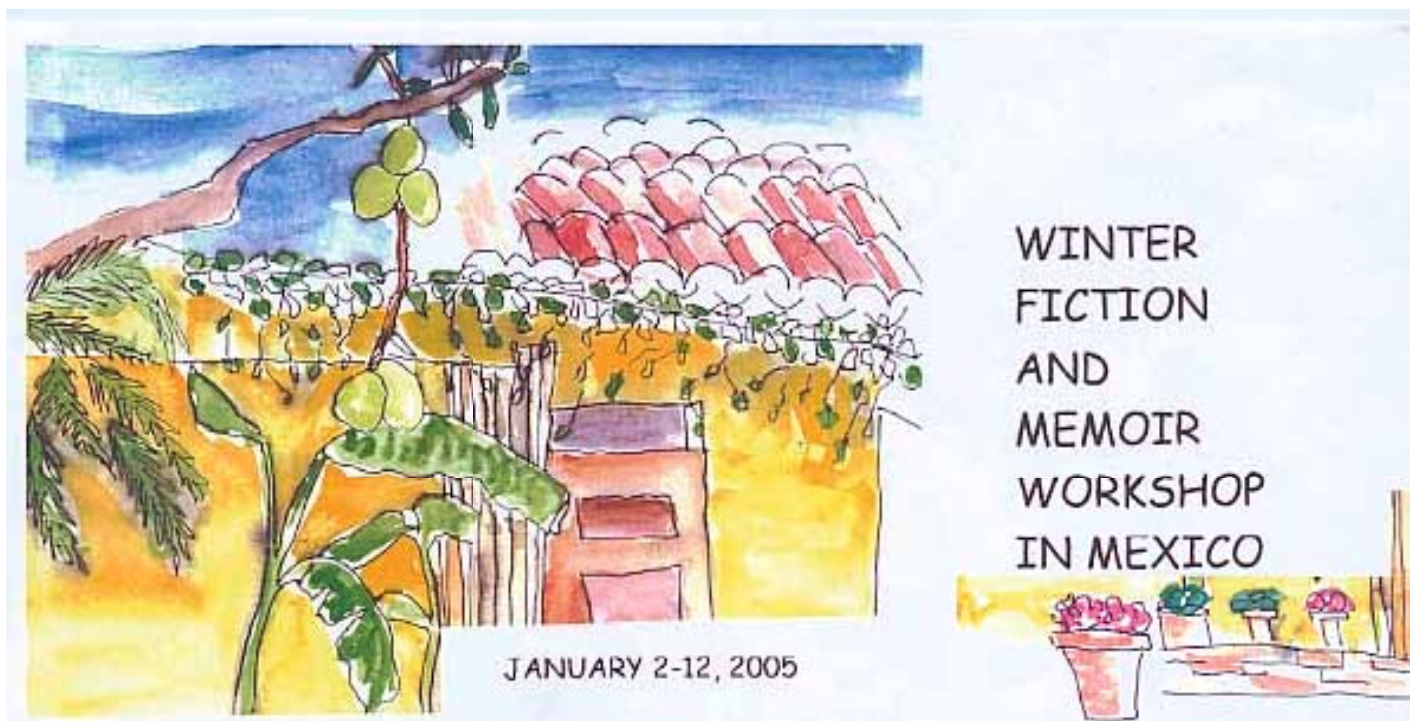
Deadline: July 31st. Winners notified by Nov. 1. To submit your story, go to <http://www.glimmertrainpress.com>, log in, and click on *VERY SHORT STORY AWARD*. Reading fee (payable by Visa or Mastercard) is \$10 per story.

## *The Ensign Literary Review: Prizes and Submissions*

Visit The Ensign Literary Review on the web, and learn about the window of opportunity to submit work without paying any fees. We have suspended our reading fees for the duration of 2004. Be sure to read the Editor's Note and Editors' Corner to learn about this change in our policy. Also tell your friends who are serious writers about us. We are looking for good work for our annual print edition.

Joe DeGross, Editor-in-Chief, The Ensign Literary Review  
[www.theensignliteraryreview.com](http://www.theensignliteraryreview.com)  
[degross@theensignliteraryreview.com](mailto:degross@theensignliteraryreview.com)





## WINTER FICTION AND MEMOIR WORKSHOP IN MEXICO: With Sarah Van Arsdale and Peter Bricklebank

We're planning a writing excursion this winter to Oaxaca (pronounced <sup>3</sup>wa-ha-ka<sup>2</sup>) in the mountains of southern Mexico, for ten days. COST: The cost is \$1300 a person. This includes a pre-trip orientation, a welcome reception, the daily writing workshop, accommodations, and one afternoon trip to an archeological site. Airfare is about \$500-650 roundtrip from New York City. The exchange rate is remarkably good, and prices are low. We're offering a \$200 discount if you register with us before September 1, 2004.

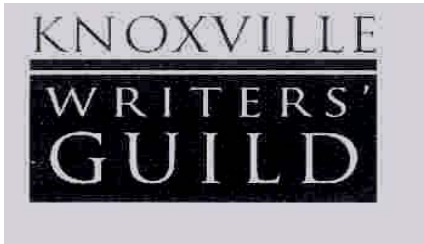
ACCOMMODATIONS: We'll stay at one of the city's small mid-range hotels, with outdoor patio for the writing workshops, called Los Golindrinas. Sarah Van Arsdale has stayed there, and avows it is clean, simply decorated in the traditional Mexican style of tiled floors and white-washed walls, and the staff is remarkably helpful and friendly. The hotel has two patios and an indoor living room, and each has a private bath. Los Golindrinas is a favorite among visitors from the U.S., Canada, and Europe. It is not a luxury hotel, but is very comfortable, comparable to a good bed and breakfast in the U.S. It is centrally located, just a few blocks from several good restaurants, and about a five or ten minute walk to the central zocalo area of Oaxaca. It is about four blocks from the pedestrian mall, where there are several museums and shops. Students will be able to choose to share a room with another student, to bring a spouse or friend, or to have a single room; the price of the trip will be adjusted accordingly.

WORKSHOP: Students will submit a manuscript of a short story or memoir/essay ahead of time, and each day part of the workshop time will be spend critiquing these manuscripts. If we have two groups, we'll all meet together for part of each class time, to discuss points of writing. Each day, we'll meet after breakfast for two and a half hours, during which time we'll do a writing exercise, discuss a point of writing, and critique either one or two student stories (depending on class size). Workshops will include both fiction and memoir (autobiographical non-fiction/essay writing). The setting of Mexico will provide an ideal background for exploring the borderland between truth and fiction, memory and fantasy, personal myth and history. We'll meet together at least once about two weeks before the trip, to exchange manuscripts and go over the details of the trip.

INSTRUCTORS: Sarah Van Arsdale and Peter Bricklebank are both instructors with and on the board of the New York Writers Workshop. Sarah teaches memoir and autobiographical fiction at the Jewish Community College and Mercy College, and novel writing at Sarah Lawrence. Her second novel, *Blue*, is winner of the Peter Taylor Prize for the novel, and was published in 2003 by the University of Tennessee Press. Her first novel, *Toward Amnesia*, was published in 1996 by Riverhead Books. Peter teaches essay writing at the Jewish Community Center, and fiction and nonfiction writing at New York University and privately. He has published in *The American Voice*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Mid-American Review*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Confrontation*, *Fiction*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Crescent Review*, *Global City Review*, and elsewhere. His non-fiction has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The American Book Review*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Minnesota Review*, and *ACM*. Email [sva@together.net](mailto:sva@together.net) or [peter.brickleban@nyu.edu](mailto:peter.brickleban@nyu.edu) to register or for further information.

## 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: Nicole Underwood; Membership database: Rip Lydick; Program Chairman: David Joyner; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Board Members:** Emily Dziuban, David Joyner, J. Brian Long, Robert Lydick, Dennis McCarthy, Kay Newton, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Inga Treitler, Nicole Underwood and Patricia Waters. **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. 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](mailto:jmd531k@msn.com), or to pres. Ed Sullivan, [silly@cornet.org](mailto:silly@cornet.org) web: [www.knoxvillewritersguild.org](http://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.

## Would you like to contribute to a Writers' Guild Project?

The forthcoming KWG anthology, *Migrants and Stowaways: An Anthology of Journeys*, edited by Emily Dziubian and Kristin Robertson is due to be released in Oct., but donations are still needed for publication costs. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the Guild at P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939. Contributions of any amount will be gratefully accepted.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WEB SITE \_\_\_\_\_