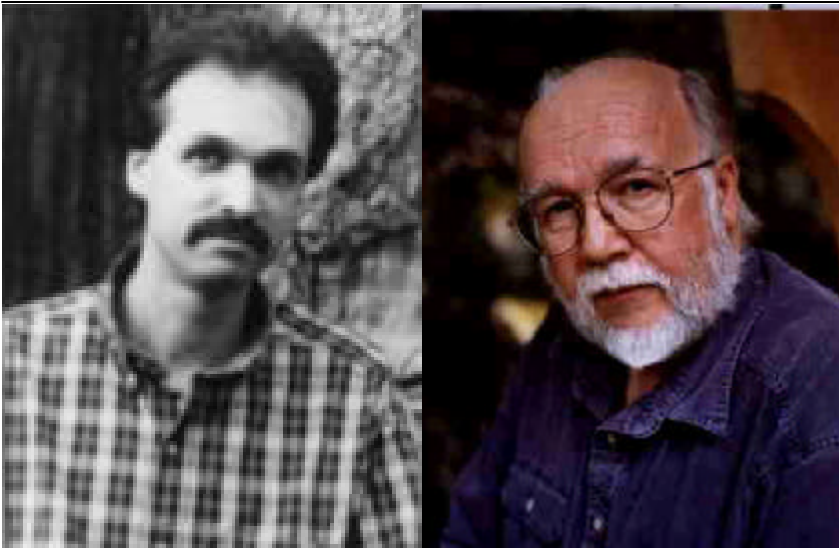

East Tennessee **W**riter

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 10, Number 12, December 2002

Guild Wins Grant from Arts Council



The Knoxville Writer's Guild has been awarded a \$1000 grant from the "Arts Builds Communities" program administered by the Arts and Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville.

Cheryl Jenkins, coordinator for the Tennessee Arts Commissions grant program, has notified Julie Auer, president of the guild, that the funds will be forthcoming when all necessary paper work is completed.

Auer says that the award will be made to help finance management of the Peter Taylor Prize, the annual award presented to a writer of an outstanding novel which will then be published by the University of Tennessee Press in conjunction with the Knoxville Writers' Guild. Brian Griffin is the competition coordinator, overseeing a host of volunteers who read the manuscripts sent in from all over the country and the world. A \$1000 prize and publication by the Press goes with the award.



Have a **Marion, Marion** Christmas!

Also, Potluck, Book Sale, and 10th Anniversary Celebration

It will be a very Marion Christmas at the Dec. 5 Guild meeting when Jeff Daniel Marion and his son, Stephen, read from their recently published work. Danny's book is *Ebbing and Flowing Springs: New and Selected Poems and Prose*, published by Celtic Cat Press. Stephen's novel is *Hollow Ground*, published by Algonquin Press.

The Christmas meeting, to be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, will offer the usual Yuletide Feast, with a potluck supper provided by Guild members and Board, and members' books will be for sale (just in time for Christmas gifts with a local flavor) after the program, along with the Marions' books. And in celebration of the Knoxville Writers' Guild 10-year anniversary, former officers and board members will be recognized at the celebration. The reading and party will begin at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater at 16th and Laurel on the University campus. The program is free, and the public is invited.

Any member may bring books to sell.

Members' Directory Out



The Knoxville Writers' Guild's members' directory is now in print. Coordinators for the project were Marybeth Boyanton, Pamela Schoenwaldt, and Rip Lydick. Members who live out of town and cannot attend a meeting can reach Pamela by e-mail

(schoene@aztec.lib.utk.edu) or leave a message (865 974 3004). Members can pick up copies at meetings. Only out-

of-county members can have copies mailed to them. In-county members must come to meetings or have a friend pick up a copy.

The Writing News



Fiction Competition

Charles Frazier will judge stories submitted to the 2003 **Appalachian Fiction Competition** sponsored by *Now & Then*, the magazine of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services. Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain*, is winner of the



1997 National Book award. The book is scheduled to be made into a movie starring Tom Cruise. First prize is \$500, and second is \$250. The winning entries will be published in the summer 2003 issue of the magazine.

Submit no more than two short stories of no more than 3,000 words in length each. All entries must pertain to the Appalachian region in some way, meaning if the author is originally from the region or currently lives there, or if the content of the story relates to life

in the region, past or present. Work must be original and unpublished. It may not be entered if it has won a prize in any previous competition. Entry fee is \$10, and the deadline is March 1, 2003. Winners will be notified by June 1. Entries must be submitted with a contest entry form. For complete details, go to the web at cass.etsu.net/contest.

How is a novel born?

From Charles Frazier's journal, excerpted from *Salon Magazine*.

BY CHARLES FRAZIER | One day six or seven years ago, shortly before I began writing "Cold Mountain," I drove across a ridge and switchbacked into a valley of the Smoky Mountains. The dirt road followed a 19th century wagon route that had, in turn, taken its course from an Indian path. Before that, a buffalo trail. I parked by Caldwell Fork and walked several miles up the creek. . . . I was looking for a grave. Eventually I found the marker—a flat riverstone—on a shelf of land cut into a steep hillside. Two men occupy the same hole, civilians killed in the last days of the Civil War by Federals, Kirk's men come over the ridge raiding from Tennessee. Buried together, I guess, to save shovel work. Just a few miles away on the other side of Mount Sterling is another such grave.

In it, sharing one coffin, lie a fiddler and a retarded boy killed by Teague's Confederate Home Guard. The tree the men were backed against to be shot still lived not long ago and may yet. I have not, though, found anyone who can say which, out of many candidates, it is. Witnesses reported that the fiddler played "Bonaparte's Retreat" before the triggers were pulled.

I was not then thinking about writing a Civil War novel, and though I am triply qualified for acceptance into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, I remain largely uninterested in the great movements of troops, the famous personality traits of the noble generals and tragic presidents. What I am interested in are those two double graves and what they seem to represent. The people in them were caught in the crossfire of two incompatible economies. For none of those four dead could have had much to do with either of the warring sides, no strong ties to slave agriculture or industrial capitalism. They were most likely old Scots whose ancestors only a few generations back had been exiled from their country in the years after Culloden, the 18th century battle between Britain and Scotland that led to a major migration of Scots to the U.S. Fewer than 5 percent of their kind owned slaves, and most of them never worked for anyone but themselves. They were members of a small, old economy, existing in the seams between the two great incompatible powers. . . . They lived by farming a little bit of their own land, and by open-range herding of cattle and hogs, by hunting and fishing, gathering and gleaning.

It was a very old way of life that had nurtured human beings for millennia, a life dependent on sparse populations and large tracts of common land. And on internal matters as well: the limitation of desire, stability, making do, a healthy suspicion of change for its own sake, extreme independence of thought and action, reluctance to acknowledge authority. Beneath it all, a hint of deep earth spirituality. I knew a few such people as a child, but they were old, and I know no one remotely like them now. And it's not just a Southern thing. There's a strong vein of this worldview in what we think of as Americana. You see bits of it in James Fenimore Cooper, a lot of it in Thoreau and Whitman and Frost. Old-time music is infused with it. Brilliant modern flashes of it in Woody Guthrie and Kerouac, though he clearly felt the end near.

I knew I wanted to write about those old lifeways, but I needed some point of access. I was given such an entry not long after that day on Caldwell Fork when my father told me about an ancestor of ours, a man named Iman who left the war and walked home wounded. The man who killed the fiddler was waiting for him when he reached the mountains. The story seemed like an American odyssey and it also seemed to offer itself as a form of elegy for that lost world I had been thinking about. So I set out on Iman's trail and followed it for five years of writing. Last year, when I was nearly finished with the book, I went looking for yet another grave. I climbed up the hill where my father says the real Iman is buried. There's nothing to tell exactly where he lies. Just a bunch of sunken oblongs with wooden markers rotted down to stubs or flat stones with unreadable scratching on them. All anonymous. If he's there he has a fine view to the forks of the Pigeon River, where once stood a Cherokee town called Kanuga, not a trace of it left but potsherds in the river sand. His long view is up toward Cold Mountain. I am in his debt and I wish him peace.

July 9, 1997•

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By JULIE AUER



If you look at the Profiles page of

the KWG web site, you'll find a pretty diverse mix of people. There are published and unpublished writers, pros and amateurs, writers who have won international recognition, and writers who have not been at it long enough to have even a local following.

KWG activities also reflect that diversity. There are study groups available to our membership, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of them. (You will find

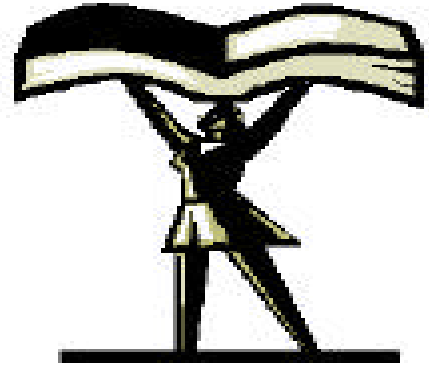
contact information on the web site, on the Study Groups page.) If you don't find a group that suits you, you can start one. All you have to do is be a member to start a group, and gather other interested members. Recently, Jack Bippus and David Booker got the Genre Fiction Group rolling, and they're still looking for prospective members.

Each group has its own style, and its own policies. My understanding of the Genre Fiction group, for example, is that one must write in a recognized publishing "genre" such as sci fi, mystery, romance, horror, etc. To join Writing Women, one clearly should be female. (I invite the men of the Guild to launch a similar group if they wish.) The Novel Writing group invites anybody who wants to write a novel, whether they have produced one yet or not. I'm not going to run through the whole list of our groups, but suffice it to say, they have autonomy to make up their own policies for membership. And KWG members are always encouraged to launch new groups that comport with KWG goals.

There has been some discussion of one particular group's policy of requiring writing samples and a member vote on admission. Well, that is a policy the members of that group chose to enact, and frankly, that's fairly standard procedure most places. Other groups have no such admissions policies, and that's perfectly all right, too. There's a place for any KWG member to hang his or her hat and share insights and ideas with other writers. And there's an open door policy for the launch of new groups that members have in mind (subject to board approval, of course).

However, I think it is only fair that members get a better picture of what these groups are about. I have asked the groups to provide mission statements - including the type of literature on which they focus, as well as their admission guidelines (if any) - to the Board of Directors for publication on the web site and an upcoming newsletter. I think this will have to effect of assisting members in making choices on which groups best suit their goals, and in motivating members to start new groups.

Of course, if you're like me, you prefer to stay home. I find it easier to get along with people that way.



What's Up with Local Writers

The Guild's **Genre Writing Group** is looking for writers who write in a "genre" - i.e., science fiction, mystery, romance, western, etc. Now is the time to form a group dedicated to reviewing and promoting your work. **David Booker** is the new group coordinator. Contact him at talltalestogo@hotmail.com

Patti Ames is the KWG's new Multi-genre Group's coordinator. Her e-mail address: pattiperry74@aol.com. See the web for information on other writing groups.

Writers will talk about lunch at lunch, Dec. 6

To promote the guild's new anthology, *Literary Lunch*, several authors from the book will meet at Long's Drug Store in Bearden at lunchtime on Friday, Dec. 6 from 11-1 to read excerpts from the book. Long's Drug Store was featured in the collection **in an essay by Flossie McNabb**. **Another reading will be at the Morning Sun Coffeeshop and Books in Norris, Sat., Dec. 7 from 11-1.**



The owner, Monica Smith, is on her 3rd dozen copies of the anthology and vows that every person in Norris will eventually buy a copy.

If you're curious about what **Julie Auer** got published in *The Guardian* in the UK, go to guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,3604,844074,00.html to read her defense (sort of) of the South.

KWG Writing Contests Schedule for 2003

The Knoxville Writers' Guild sponsors the following annual literary contests with more than \$2000 in prizes for poetry, fiction, and essays! Enter as many of these contests as you like:

Peter Taylor Prize for the Tennessee Book Award (ongoing)

Robert Burns Poetry Award: Terry Semple Memorial Prize (see right-hand column of this page for guidelines. Deadline Dec. 15)

The following contests will share a deadline of January 31 each year.

Libba Moore Gray Poetry Prize

Leslie Garrett Fiction Contest

Young Writers' Prize in Poetry

Essay Contest (See this year's theme in column at right)

Read winning entries from recent contests.

General Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to **all** KWG contests. However, see specific guidelines under each contest heading for individual exceptions or additions.

1. Contests open to residents of Tennessee above the age of 18 with the following exceptions: Members of the KWG board of directors are excluded from all KWG competitions. Previous 1st prize winners cannot enter the contest they won. Also, see Specific Guidelines under Young Writers Prize for age and locale exceptions .

2. Contestants may enter more than one contest simultaneously, and may make multiple submissions to the same contest unless stated otherwise (see each contest's Specific Guidelines).

3. All deadlines are Jan. 31, except for the Robert Burns Poetry Award, which is December 15, 2002, postmarked.

4. Winners and runners-up will be announced at our March Awards Gala. (Details announced in Jan.). Include SASE for list of winners.

5. Include a cover sheet with each entry, clearly designating the contest you are entering. Include name, address, phone number and email address (optional) on cover sheets only. Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet. Do not put name or other identifying information on the entries themselves. (They will be coded, by number, for judging).

6. Manuscripts will not be returned; keep copies.

7. See below for descriptions of individual contests, deadlines, judges and any specific rules peculiar to individual contests.

8. Some of these contests charge a \$15 entry fee. Most provide one free submission per contest for KWG members. Guild membership is \$25 per year; \$20 for students. To join, make checks payable to 'KWG.' For more information, visit the KWG webpage at www.knoxvillewritersguild.org.

9. Previously published works not accepted.

**10. Send to: Awards, The Knoxville Writers Guild, P.O. Box 10326
Knoxville, TN 37939.**

Third Annual Robert Burns Poetry Award/ Terry Semple Memorial Contest - 2002



Established in

2000 by Marybeth

Boyanton in memory of her late husband, the contest is for poetry on the subject of Heritage, broadly defined. It might be the general impact of one's heritage on the discovery of self, or a celebration of ancestry, ethnicity, community, region or the mix of cultures in our society, but the contest is not limited to these suggestions. Director, Marybeth Boyanton, 865-966-0242; m.boyanton@att.net deadline:

Postmarked by: **December 15, 2002.**

Prizes: First, \$200 plus two tickets to the Scottish Society of Knoxville's Robert Burns Night celebration on Jan. 26, 2003. Two \$50 awards of excellence to runners-up. One \$50 prize for a poem regarding Celtic heritage will be made by the Scottish Society of Knoxville.

Fee: \$15 must accompany each submission, except for KWG members, who may submit one entry (three poems) free, but all additional entries are \$15 each (set of two).

Judges: Marybeth Boyanton and representatives of the KWG.

Specific Guidelines: 1. Entry consists of a maximum of three poems of any length.

2. Multiple entries O.K..

3. No e-mail entries will be accepted.
4. See **General Guidelines under the contests section of the web site: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org**

2003 Essay Theme

"Love and Death (not the Woody Allen movie): which is worse? Humor will be appreciated in essays extolling or exhuming the highs and lows of what Leonard Cohen calls 'the only engine of survival.' Trite comparisons of love to death are optional but



New Board Members Elected at Nov. Meeting

New board members for the Knoxville Writers' Guild, elected at the November 2002 meeting, are Catherine Crawley, Inga Treitler, and Stacy Jones Waller. Alternates are Ed Sullivan, Bob Cumming, and Tony Day.

Stacy Jones Waller is an instructor in the UT Department of English. She studied creative writing at the University of Memphis and then completed a master's degree in English at UT Knoxville. Her work culminated in a book of poems titled "Rivers of Urgent Breath," presented as her master's thesis. Upon completion of the M.A., Stacy



accepted an instructorship at UIK, where she has taught beginning composition and creative writing classes, for the past three years. Currently, composing a weekly column for *The Daily Corinthian* in Corinth, Miss., and working on her first book of fiction, she will soon pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in English. Stacy has a web site at Southern-Drawl.com.

Inga Treitler is a writer, yoga practitioner, violinist, runner, anthropologist, and mother of two young children who are joyfully carrying on a generation's long tradition of music making and storytelling. She loves the diversity of writers and readers who are



drawn to the Writers' Guild.

She would like to contribute her energy to encouraging guildmembers to engage in dialogue with our monthly speakers at the Laurel Theater. There is nothing like a few personal questions, she says, delicately posed, to make a speaker feel respected and valued by the audience.

Catherine Crawley has been a journalist, teacher and workplace consultant in California, D. C., Nebraska, and Southeast Asia. Born in the United Kingdom, she has a master's degree in education from Vanderbilt and a B.A. in communications from UT. Currently a doctoral



student studying environmental communications at UT, she has been serving as marketing and publicity agent for the Guild's new anthology, *Literary Lurch*.

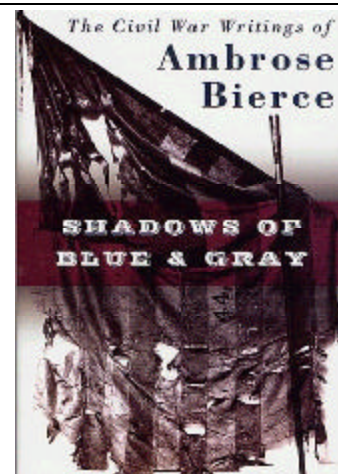
Catherine says she would like the Guild expand its opportunities for writers writing about the natural world.

Book Review by Jack Rentfro

Just when I thought I'd gotten the War Between the States behind me, here comes this fascinating collection of Ambrose Bierce's on-the-scene stories. Bierce, maybe America's original gonzo journalist—right down to the disappearance in Mexico—was a veteran of the Union army and is the only major writer I know of who wrote about the war from the viewpoint of a combat participant. Bierce should be of interest to Tennesseans because his unit, the Hazen Brigade, fought from Shiloh to Chickamauga and Nashville. The stories in *The Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce: Shadows of Blue and Gray* (edited by Brian M. Thompson and published this year by Tom Fogerty and Associates) include the well-known "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" and several gems from a nearly-lost collected works published in 1909.

Bierce's writing has many of the cloying Victorian affectations from which I get perverse enjoyment. But not so much as I do from his toothsome combination of irony, extreme violence and the supernatural (before it was cool).

(Rentfro, freelance editor and writer, is currently at work on an anthology of Knoxville music.)

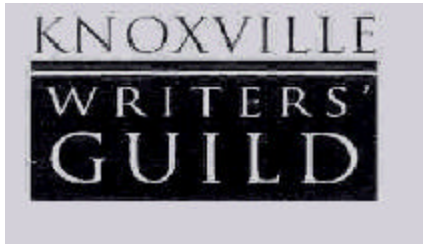


If you would like to write a book review for the newsletter, please send a review of 200 words and a one-line bio and e-mail to jmd531k@msn.com

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: Julie Auer; Vice President: Don Williams; Secretary: Kim Trevathan; Treasurer: Laura Still; Hospitality: Kay Newton; Publicity: Marybeth Boyanton; Membership database: Rip Lydick; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Marybeth Boyanton, Robert Boyd, Catherine Crawley, Robert Lydick, Kay Newton, Caroline Norris, Pamela Schonevaldt, Laura Still, Marlene Taylor, Inga Treitler, Kim Trevathan, Stacy Jones Waller, and Don Williams. 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, jnc531k@msn.com, or to president Julie Auer at hildegard@earthlink.com **web:** www.knoxvillewritersguild.org

Please remember that dues are now \$25; \$20 for students.



**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.

Happy
Holi-
days



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Web Site _____

