

East Tennessee

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 12, Number 1, January 2004

Writer

Auer Finishes Term as KWG President on Jan. 8 Meeting postponed from New Year's Day

Julie Auer, who has served for two years as Knoxville Writers' Guild president, ends her term at the January 2004 meeting, when a new president will be elected by the board of directors.

Under Auer's leadership, much has been accomplished in the way of Guild projects, including publication of its fifth literary anthology, transfer (in June 2004) of the guild office to the downtown Emporium, which will also be home of the Knoxville Symphony and other organizations dedicated to the arts.

With vice president Don Williams, she has helped create the Guild's Gala, an annual tribute to local poets and writers of accomplishment. Julie has also been active in the operation of the Peter Taylor Prize, a joint KWG project with the University of Tennessee Press, and has actively sought funding for many other literary projects.

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

New board members elected by the membership at the Nov. meeting are J. Brian Long, who edits the poetry section of *The Christian Guide*; Dennis McCarthy, a local attorney, who has been a speech writer, a publications manager, and journal editor; Emily Dziuban, teacher and tutor in the UT English Dept.; and Marti Davis, staff writer for the *Knoxville News Sentinel* since 1983. Alternates, who will join the board when vacancies occur, are Nicole Underwood, senior project manager for a national consulting firm; and Patricia Waters, writer-in-residence at the UT Library and adjunct lecturer in the UT English Dept.

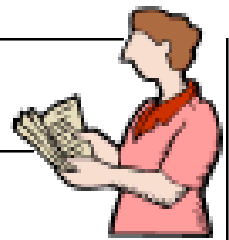


Bobbie Burns Winners to Read Jan. 8

Winners of the Third Annual Robert Burns Poetry Award/ Terry Semple Memorial Contest will read their work on Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Knoxville Writers' Guild monthly meeting in the Laurel Theater. Members of the Knoxville Scottish Society will provide bagpipe music and men in kilts. Established by Knoxville poet and artist Marybeth Boyanton in honor of her late husband, Terry Semple, the competition honors fine original poetry boldly and broadly exploring the themes of Heritage. An additional cash prize given by the Scottish Society honors a poem drawn from the Celtic tradition.

The first prize winner receives a cash award, a night for two at the Maplehurst Inn B&B of Knoxville and two tickets to the Scottish Society's Robert Burns Night on Jan. 24, featuring Scottish dance, verse, food and drink. Tickets to the celebration are available for purchase after the reading. The Knoxville Scottish Society was founded in 1986 to promote a common interest in Scottish heritage; its members comprise 75 clan affiliations and support a variety of charitable, literary, social and educational activities throughout the year. The public is invited to this evening of poetry, music, and celebration of Knoxville's diverse literary and cultural heritage. The Laurel Theatre is located at 16th and Laurel. A \$1 donation is requested and refreshments will be served. For more information about the Knoxville Writers Guild, including other literary competitions sponsored by the Guild, visit www.knoxvillewritersguild.org

The Writing News



Writing Opportunities Offer Prizes and Visibility

Knoxville Literary Anthology Submissions Wanted

A literary anthology about Knoxville will be published late in 2004 by Metro Pulse, with Dennis McCarthy as editor. While part of the impetus for this project is to create an outlet for the wealth of under-appreciated writers who have been inspired by Knoxville and to foster a more substantial literary community for those who live and work here, the primary intention is to showcase and celebrate the work Knoxville has influenced over the past century and a half in a single condensed volume for the first time ever.

Permission has been received from the James Agee estate to select a work from the Agee oeuvre, and this piece, as yet unselected, will guide the overall standard of excellence we envision for this anthology.

At this point, Knoxville Bound is a working title. Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.metropulse.com/anthology/guidelines.html>



Barry Hannah will judge the 2004 Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. One of the most original and important writers to emerge from the South since World War II, Barry Hannah is the author of fifteen works of fiction, including *Geronimo Rex*, *Airships*, *Ray*, *The Tennis*

***Handsome*, *Captain Maximus*, *Boomerang*, *Bats Out of Hell* and most recently, *Yonder Stands Your Orphan*. Recipient of the Faulkner Foundation Award, the Award for Literature from the American Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Robert Penn Warren Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, Hannah is Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi.**

Writers in the Library Series at the Hodges Library on the University campus

Monday, Feb. 2
Silas House
Ron Rash
Julie Watts

... ..

Monday, Feb. 23
Sara Baker
Lewis Moyse
Abe Gaustad

... ..



Silas House and Ron Rash
 (Photo by Jane Hicks)

Monday, March 22
Jeanne McDonald
Katherine Smith
Arthur Stewart

Monday, April 5
 Andy Farkas
 Julie Predny

.....

Monday, April 26
 Patricia Waters

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Writers' Guild Literary Contests Have Jan. 31 Deadline: Enter NOW

For complete guidelines for visit www.knoxvillewritersguild.org or consult the Nov. KWG Newsletter for additional information.

By JULIE AUER



What 's Up with Local Writers

DANIEL ROOP reports that his online poetry newsletter membership has jumped from 25 to 230 in this past year. He sends a poetry calendar containing the following information:

JAN. 9 - 11, 2004 - POETRY JANUARY JUMPSTART: The Tennessee Mountain Writers and Tennessee Writers Alliance are jointly sponsoring a Jan. Jumpstart to be held Jan. 9 - 11, 2004. Bill Brown and Eddie Francisco will lead poetry and fiction sessions, respectively. Please e-mail Sue Orr at theorrs@unist.net for further info.

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP at Barnes and Noble, Third Thursday of each month, 7pm. Free and open to all. Writing technique and critical review. Third Thursday of each month (unless changed). Meet at Barnes&Noble 7PM. contact:

knoxpoetwork@hotmail.com ; info: <http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org/poetry.htm>

OPEN MIC POETRY at 11th St. Cafe, every Wednesday at 9pm, admission free. Contact poetanthol@hotmail.com for more info.

THE CHATTANOOGA POETRY SLAM : Last Sunday of each month, 8 PM, now held at The Local, MLK Blvd, Chattanooga, TN. For more info, contact

CALL FOR MULTI-GENRE PERFORMANCE :Call for artists/writers/poets to develop collaborative multi-genre performance creations. Poetry/Dance/Music/Static Art/. Open to interested persons and ideas. Show scheduled for March 2004. Themes include - 'Confessions', 'Desitations', 'Radicalism'. Others in process. contact: bchemical3girl@aol.com, or ripoet@hotmail.com



EVENTS AT THE ROTHROCK CAFE at the downtown Lawson McGhee Library unless otherwise noted, at 6 p.m.

Jan. 8 (6:00) - Living Clean and Green:Wildscaping Peg Beute from Ijams Nature Center. A workshop for learning how to create a natural-looking habitat using native plants. Participants will learn about native vs. non-native plants, how to assess their yards and determine which plants might be appropriate for them, how to collect seeds and create "mini-habitats" in the city.

Jan.15 (6:00) - Linda Parsons Marion, author of Home Fires and contributor to Listen Here: Women Writing in Appalachia, will be reading her poetry.

Biographical link: <http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org/marion.htm> Poetry samples:<http://www.roanoke.edu/roanokereview/lmarion2.html>

Jan. 22 (6:00) - singer/songwriter Jodie Manross
Website: www.jodiemanross.com

Jan. 29 (6:00) - Everything but the Kitchen Sink (packing creatively for a trip) Emily Dewhirst, world traveler and owner of Nomad Gallery <http://www.leftbankreview.com/echo/1stQtr-02/page2.html> shows you how to pack everything you need in a smaller bag with room to spare for your travel treasures.

Feb. 5 (6:00) - The Future of Knowledge: A Conversation with the Director. Larry Frank, Library Services Director

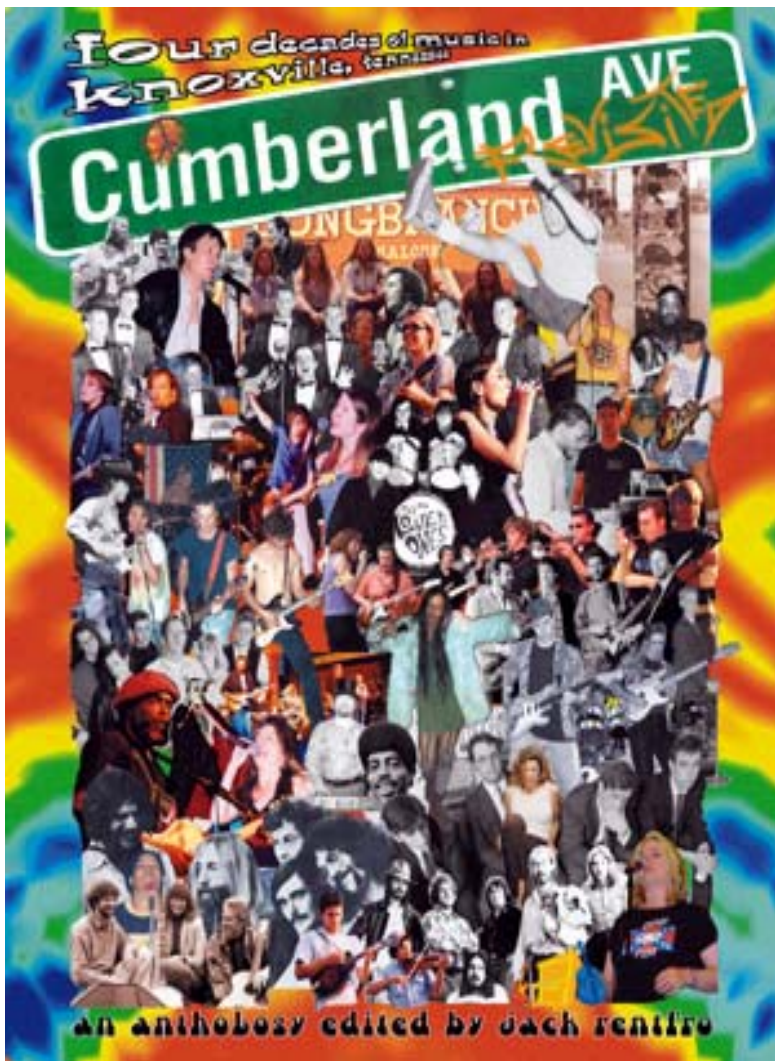
Feb. 12 (6:00) - Living Clean and Green: Can you hear the frogs? Lyn Bales, Ijams Nature Center. You may have frogs in your own backyard. Learn how to listen for them. Learn about how to protect and encourage amphibious life in the Tennessee Valley.

Feb. 19 (6:00) - Donna Jo Doyle will read her poetry. Poetry samples: <http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org/donnadoyle.htm>
http://www.southerner.net/v2n3_2000/poetry.html

Feb. 26 (6:00) - students of Carol Zinavage at The Community School of the Arts will present a piano recital.

BUY A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR A WRITER

Gift memberships for Guild are still available:Even though Christmas is over, you can still give gift memberships to the KWG for any occasion or just for the opportunity to give a would-be or working writer a chance to meet other local writers, receive monthly newsletters and to learn about what 's going on in the literary world.To give a gift membership, go to the KWG web site at knoxvillewritersguild.org and print out a gift certificate. Memberships are \$25 for regular members, \$20 for registered students 18 and over. to: Knoxville Writers' Guild, P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939 .



Rentfro Project Now in Local Bookstores

Jack Rentfro's long-time dream, a 40-year anthology of the Knoxville music scene, is now on sale at Knoxville book stores and Amazon.com.

With backing from *Metro Pulse* and Brian Conley and reminiscences from over 100 musicians, artists, and writers, *Cumberland Avenue Revisited* has become a reality. Contributions of memoirs, essays, and anecdotes about the Knoxville music scene from the early 1960's to the present day and unforgettable photos bring back memories about bands, solo artists, Knoxville clubs, bars, other music venues, college radio, local music promoters, record stores, poster/flyer making, recording studios and many other aspects that have helped to create forty years of Knoxville music scene history! Portions of the proceeds from sales of the book will benefit the creation of James Agee Park, which has been another dream of a group of Knoxvilleians who want to honor the famous author's memory. The book can be found at Disc Exchange, Cat's Music, McKay Used Books & CDs, Market Square Booksellers, Borders, Pick 'N' Grin, Rik's Music & Sound, *Metro Pulse* and [Amazon](http://Amazon.com).

Eliezer Sobel wins 2003 Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel



Eliezer Sobel's novel, *Minyan: Ten Jewish Men in a World That is Heartbroken*, has won the annual Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. The 2003 Prize include a \$1000 cash award, publication of the novel by the UT Press, and a standard royalty contract. John Casey was the judge.

The competition is co-sponsored and managed by the Knoxville Writers' Guild, with Brian Griffin as director of the project.

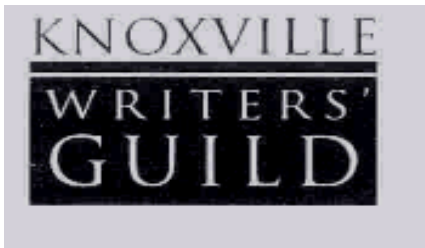
One by one we file into Finkelstein's living room (Finkelstein, the big shot): Goldberg comes with me, Greenblatt and Weissbaum show up together, everyone glum. Reb Miltie and Breshman arrive smelling of bagel, then Bernstein in his Hindu get-up with the orange shawl. Finally Moscovitz, looking pathetic. And that's it: counting the deceased, we have ten men, a minyan. You're not supposed to count the deceased, but what do we care? Nobody's standing on ceremony. What, God's going to care? God's going to turn a deaf ear on a ednicality? . . . we have to say kaddish for Lipschitz.

Freddy Lipschitz, dead at thirty-five, found in a bathroom with a needle dangling from his arm. Who knew he was still shooting? Not me or Goldberg, certainly. Not Greenblatt. No one knew. Okay, Bernstein knew, because Bernstein with his Turkish connections and his hashish friends with their Tibetan Book of the Dead routine, Bernstein supplied him with the stuff.

But none of the rest of us knew. Poor Freddy, miserable his whole life anyway—everyone secretly felt he was better off. Aguy with his talents, his gifts, still living with his parents. Broke, out of work, no direction, hadn't touched a woman since the Beatles broke up. Plus ugly—pock-marked, big nose, a guy you'd be uncomfortable seeing in a public restroom. Death couldn't be all bad for Freddy Lipschitz. Now, to the point: Assembled in Finkelstein's—the big shot's—living room are ten Jewish men. And kibbitzers every one of them. Listen to me, already muthing off: "Jesus said, 'Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there will I be also.' The Jews never had it so easy. They had to gather ten or more before God would show .

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: Catherine Crawley and Pamela Schoenewaldt; Membership database: Rip Lydick; Program Chairman: Ed Sullivan; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Marybeth Boyanton, Robert Boyd, Marti Davis, Tony Day, Emily Dziuban, David Joyner, Jacqueline Kittrell, J. Brian Long, Robert Lydick, Dennis McCarthy, Kay Newton, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Ed Sullivan, 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 president Julie Auer at hildegaard@earthlink.com **web: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org**
Please remember that dues are now \$25; \$20 for students.



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

January 2004 marks the beginning of the 12th year of the Knoxville Writers' Guild. If you are not already a member, please join our great literary community!

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
New Year!**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Web Site _____