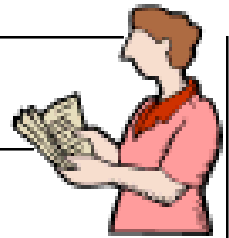




East Tennessee *Writers*

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

The Writing News



Writers' Retreat, Competitions and Hot Tubs

Hot Springs, NC August 20-22: The Writers' Workshop, 387 Beaucatcher Rd., Asheville, NC 28895, is sponsoring a writers' retreat in Hot Springs, NC, from August 20-22. Workshops in fiction, creative non-fiction, memoirs, manuscript revising and journal writing will be led by Workshop staff, including award-winning novelist John P. McAfee, author of *Slow Walk in a Sad Rain* and *On Rims of Empty Moons*. No previous writing experience is necessary. Participants will be staying at the historic Mountain Magnolia Inn, and will have the opportunity to do some light hiking, followed by a visit to the nearby hot tubs. The cost for the entire weekend, not including meals, is \$285 per person/\$395 couple. To reserve a place, a deposit of \$100 should be mailed by June 30 to: The Writers' Workshop, 387 Beaucatcher Road, Asheville, NC 28805. For more information, please email WritrWkshp@aol.com, or call 828-254-8111.

“HARD TIMES” WRITING CONTEST: FIRST PRIZE: \$500; SECOND PRIZE: \$350; THIRD PRIZE: \$250; 10 HONORABLE MENTIONS : Deadline: postmarked by July 15, 2004. Write about a difficult experience in your life, how you overcame this obstacle, and how it changed you. Winning stories will be chosen for originality and creative writing style. Stories should be previously unpublished, and should not exceed 5,000 words (double-spaced, 12 point font). Multiple submissions are accepted. Your name, address, phone and title of work should appear on a cover sheet. Enclose a self-addressed, self-sealing stamped envelope for critique and list of winners, and the reading fee of \$18 per entry. Make check or money order payable to The Writers' Workshop, and send to: Hard Times, 387 Beaucatcher Road, Asheville, N.C. 28805.

The Mountain Mews, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, is a bed and breakfast catering to the literary and artistic-minded. This century-old farmhouse is run by The Writers' Workshop, a non-profit literary center in Asheville, NC. Rates are \$60 a night (single) and \$75 (double), including a continental breakfast. We also feature an extensive book and literary video library; parlor room with piano, and pool table. Conveniently located near downtown Asheville, the Biltmore Estate, the Folk Art Center and the Blue Ridge Parkway. For reservations, email WritrWkshp@aol.com, or call 828-254-8111.

EDITING AND REVISING SERVICES BY MAIL: The Writers' Workshop has trained staff on hand to help revise and polish manuscripts for publication, through the mail. For complete information, contact WritrWkshp@aol.com, or send SASE to: Renbourne Editorial Agency, 387 Beaucatcher Rd., Asheville NC 28805.

Competition: Glimmer Train's Very Short Fiction Award: Eligibility: Open to all themes, all subjects, all writers, published and unpublished. Your original, unpublished story must not exceed 2,000 words. First-place winner receives \$1,200, publication in *Glimmer Train Stories*, and 20 copies of the issue in which it is published. Second- and third-place winners receive \$500/\$300, respectively, and acknowledgement in that issue. To submit your story, go to our site, www.glimmertrainpress.com, log in, and click on **VERY SHORT STORY AWARD**. Reading fee (payable by visa or mc) is \$10 per story.

Ed Sullivan: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Are You a Joiner?

I hope you are taking advantage of the many excellent benefits that come with your KWG membership. There are the monthly programs offered the first Thursday evening of every month at the Laurel Theater. In case you missed them, we have had in the past few months a children's author, novelist, poets, short story writer, and the editorial director of Overmountain

Press. At the July meeting, you will have the opportunity to share your work with fellow members at our annual open mike night. Obviously, our membership has diverse writing interests and not every guest at our monthly meetings speaks to everyone's particular area of interest. That's why I want to remind you of another excellent benefit of your membership that you may have overlooked—study groups.

At the moment, the guild sponsors eight study groups for members. Timothy Joseph leads a group for novel writers. Doris Ivie leads a group for writing women. KWG board member and secretary Pamela Schoenewaldt directs a group of short story writers. Laura Still, who will be teaching a summer workshop on poetry writing, heads a study group for poets. Mary Tebo leads a group on different styles of experimental writing. Patti Armes leads a multi-genre group covering fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Marlene Taylor heads a group on essay and nonfiction writing, and David Booker leads a group on writing genre fiction.

Why join a study group? It's a great opportunity to meet and get to know writers who share your area of interest. You can learn from them and they can learn from you. It's a place to seek guidance and support, to get feedback on your works-in-progress, and practice honing your craft. To find out the details on how each study group works, and when and where they meet, you need to contact the group leader. Their contact information is located on the KWG web site—www.knoxvillewritersguild.org.

If you did not see a study group that addresses your area of interest, you are welcome to start a group of your own. Maybe you would like to see a study group on playwriting, screenwriting, songwriting, or writing for children and young adults. Perhaps an existing study group focuses on your area of interest but its dynamics do not fit your needs or you cannot make the meeting time. Find some people who share your interest and propose to the board the formation of your own study group. Writing can be a very lonely pursuit. Study groups are a great opportunity to commiserate with like-minded colleagues. Consider joining a study group and/or starting a new one.

July Events at the Rothrock Cafe, downtown Lawson-McGee public library on Main Street

July 8 (6:00) Poetry by Katherine Smith, author of *Argument by Design* (www.wvph.org).

July 22 (6:00) Knoxville Poetry Slam featuring RheaSunshine, Black Atticus, Justin Rubeinstein, Julia Nance.

July 29 (6:00) Julie Auer will read from her new mystery *There Came Two Angels*

Guild Seeks Nominations for New Board Members

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, jmd531k@msn.com. 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.



Writers Needed for Opera Program

The Knoxville Opera is working with our CLO's "Communication Through Art" program for kids (KWG has partnered with CTA before), but this project will call for imaginative writing/storytelling. The first two weeks of the six-week program, to be held in the coming fall, will be an introduction to opera with skits and the kids (probably 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. 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.



POP CULTURE AGENTS

WM Clark Associates was established in 1997 and handles a 50/50 split of nonfiction and fiction titles. Recent pop culture sales include *The Girls' Guide to Elvis*, by Kim Alderman (Broadway Books), and *Bob Marley's Album of the Century*, by Vivien Goldman (Crown/Three Rivers Press). This agency prefers e-mail queries only, with a response time of 1-2 months.

The Knight Agency was established in 1996. It represents 65 clients of which 40% are new/unpublished writers. Located in Georgia, this agency prefers a query with a self-addressed stamped envelope, but does also accept e-mail queries. Recent sales include *Children of the Movement*, by John Blake (Chicago Review/Lawrence Hill), and *Serial Killers: The Method and the Madness of Monsters*, by Peter Vronsky (Berkley Publishing).

Ted Weinstein Literary Management was established in 2001. Of the agency's 50 clients, 75% are new/unpublished writers. Recent sales include *ReelViews*, by James Berardinelli (Justin, Charles), and *Nightingale*, by Bob Welch (Atria Books/Simon & Schuster). This agency prefers e-mail queries, though paper queries are okay as well.

CRAFTY BOOK PUBLISHERS



Arts and crafts are all about having fun. And for writers, it's all about getting published while doing so. Here from *Writers' Digest* are three book publishers looking for crafty books:

Barron's Educational Series, Inc., publishes 400 titles a year. This publisher tends to favor publishing a series of books versus single titles, though they do

publish those as well. Craft titles include *Crochet Basics*, by Jan Eaton, and *The Calligrapher's Bible*, by David Harris.

Krause Publications publishes 170 titles a year. The editors say, "We are the world's largest hobby and collectibles publisher." Craft titles include *1,000 Sweaters*, by Amanda Griffiths, and *101 Bears to Make*, by Nancy Tillberg.

Stackpole Books publishes 90 titles a year. Established in 1935, "Stackpole maintains a growing and vital publishing program by featuring authors who are experts in their fields." Craft titles include *Birds of Prey*, by Floyd Scholz, and *How to Sell What You Make*, by Paul Gerhards.

Does It Have to be So Grim?

By Pamela Schoenewald

I've taught short story writing in college for many years now and necessarily used a wide range of text books which cut the enormous fiction pie in various dimensions to serve up to students and lay readers. There is the "great stories" approach, reverential tomes of classic masterpieces which, as my first writing teacher said, "makes you just want to put a gun to your head." There is the "illustrate the basic fiction elements" approach: a story showing good dialogue, one with clearly visible theme or imagery, and so forth. Joyce Carol Oates has devised an arcane (surprise!) anthology of sophisticated intersecting categories in her text, *Telling Stories*.

Some anthologies go for sheer mass. Some divide stories by theme: coming of age, the individual in society, individual and self, relationship, and so forth. The best anthologies are inclusive: they search out regional writers, international and Third World voices, writers of traditional cultures, and those expressing a range of sexualities. Most favor the straight narrative: "Once upon a time, A happened, then B." Others stretch and bend the narrative, exploring metafiction, unreliable narrators and multiple realities. With the idea that "students want what's current," many use variants of *Best Short Stories of Year X*, chosen by a noted editor from "the best" literary magazines. What is the constant in these collections? They're grim. Story after story dishes up death, delusion, divorce, depravity, incurable disease, and death of dreams. Narrator after narrator sits at the bedside of his/her parent dying of cancer or slipping away to dementia. Families are dysfunctional in a kaleidoscope of novel ways. No wonder fiction students are often dazed by mid-semester. No wonder their own stories are often so down or their attempts to buck the flow and try humor are so flailing, slapstick or sophomoric. Why not? It's not like we're offering many models of bright, well-crafted, insightful comic short fiction. True, you'll find some entries in the theme-oriented volumes: Twain, Lardner, Thurber. But aren't these guys a tad old? Do students really care about Walter Mitty's secret egos?

Where do anthologies come from? Generally they glean from literary magazines. If you curl up with the best of today's lit mags, what do you find? Yet more earnest gloom. I know, I've contributed to the darkness myself. It's what gets published. True, you might find the weird, the sick, the unhinged from reality-as-we-know-it and some soul-less bitter wit, but very little good, sharp comedy with something integral to say about life and an authentic voice to say it in. If you're looking for the ha-ha funny, the droll, the unspeakable absurdity or heart-stopping comedy of life, the laughter heard through tears, you're better off at Downtown West. Our very own Guild, I must confess, tends to heaviness in our monthly meeting fare. More and more, I'm concerned about the messages given young adults and future short fiction writers. Is the "point" that life is grim enough, but "good literature" even grimmer? That no "real professional" writer (or "A" fiction student) leaves her or his characters anyplace but the Slough of Despond? That any kind of "up" (let alone happy) ending is just plain simplistic? That agony is "better" than ecstasy? That the comic short story is either too trivial to anthologize or too difficult to try? Where are the anthologies, the published stories which honor fine writers working in the hard fields of comedy, both light and enlightening, both fine and funny?



Pamela Schoenewaldt is on the Board of the Knoxville Writers Guild and has taught fiction writing at the University of Maryland, European Division, UT Knoxville and to various youth and adult groups. Her short stories have been published in the U.S., England, France, and

Knoxville Writers' Guild Summer Workshops: Teachers and Content

Writing for Children and Young Adults. This course, designed for all levels of experience, will address preparing a manuscript for submission, choosing a publisher, and the pros and cons of seeking an agent. Students' works in progress will be critiqued. The presenter, **Ed Sullivan**, is a nationally recognized expert in children's and young adult literature. He is the author of *Gadgets, Secrets, and Spies: The Story of the Manhattan Project*, to be published by Holiday House. He has been a consultant for children's publishers, including Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, Random House Children's Books, and Walker Books for Young Readers. **Four sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 6, 8, 13, and 15; 6 to 8 pm; Room 159; \$80 for members, \$112 for nonmembers. WS#123**

Writing Oneself Into History. This workshop delves into the writing of popular (non-academic) history from a first-person point of view. Hands-on exercises will be aimed at producing a successful approach to material already close at hand. The instructor, **Wendy Lowe Besmann**, is a longtime freelance writer and editor whose articles have appeared in *Esquire*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Outside*, *USA Today*, and numerous other publications. Her book *A Separate Circle* is a personal history of the Knoxville Jewish Community. **Two sessions: Tuesday, July 6 and Thursday, July 8; 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$40 members, \$56 nonmembers. WS#234**

Short Story Writing. The first session, *Discovering Stories*, provides a look at the ways literary artists describe the origins of their short stories. The second session, *Creating Place in Short Stories*, emphasizes how language is used to create place. The final session, *How Conflict Works in Short Stories*, considers the interplay between internal and external conflict. The instructor, **Brian Griffin**, is the award-winning author of *Sparkman in the Sky and other Stories* and is Coordinator of the Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. **Three sessions: Wednesdays, July 7, 14, and 21; 6 to 8 pm; Room 159; \$60 for members, \$84 for nonmembers. WS#345**

Poetry Writing for Beginners. The first session will cover basic terms: rhythm, sound devices, imagery, etc. Sources of ideas and inspiration will be discussed. Participants will write a poem for the second session, which will cover revising, critiquing, and submitting poems for publication. Participants may also submit a poem to the instructor for a written critique. **Laura Still** is assistant editor for *New Millennium Writings* and administrator for the Young Writers Poetry Prize. She has contributed to guild anthologies since 2000. **Two sessions: Wednesdays, July 7 and 14; 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$40 for members, \$56 for nonmembers. WS#456**

Playwriting. This workshop will focus on writing scenes. Participants will be encouraged to develop a one-scene, ten-minute play over two weeks. Previously written scenes may be offered for reading and discussion at the first meeting. The writer should bring as many copies as there are characters in the scene, plus one. Instructor **Ben Harville** has worked in theatre for 40 years as an actor, director and playwright in university, community-ensemble, and professional companies. He holds the M.F.A. in Theatre from UTK. **Three sessions: Mondays, July 12, 19, and 26; 6 to 8 pm; Room 159; \$60 for members, \$84 for nonmembers. WS#567**

Performance Poetry. The initial workshop on July 12 will serve as an introduction to spoken word poetry, focusing on different artists and diverse approaches. Leader **Daniel Roop** has appeared on 60 Minutes and was mentioned in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, after winning the largest cash-prize slam ever. He was the first ever Knoxville Grand Slam Champion in 1998 and 1999. He has been published in *Poetry Nation*, *Burnt*, *Omnivore*, *Acorn*, and *Will Work for Peace*. He has released three CD's: *The Memphis Poetry 40oz*, *The Ghost of Daniel Roop*, and *Sunsphere Shots*. Roop's one-man show, *Sunsphere Shots*, opened at the Black Box Theater in February 2003 and drew rave reviews. Roop is the founder of Knox Word, a local organization which presents spoken word showcases twice yearly. Roop also publishes the biweekly Knoxville Poetry Newsletter. **Three sessions: Monday, July 12; Thursday, July 15; and Tuesday, July 20; 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$60 for members, \$84 for nonmembers. WS#678**

The Ins and Outs of Writing Genre Fiction: Interactive workshop discussing differences between literary fiction and genre fiction, diverse genres and sub-genres within fiction writing, research tools, submission of manuscripts, agents, and publishing and marketing trends. Instructor, **Christy Tillery French**, is an internationally published, award-winning poet and author. A writer recognized for crossing genres, French is author of the novels *Chasing Horses*, *Wayne's Dead*, *Chasing Demons*, and *The Bodyguard*. **One session: Tues., July 13; 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$20 for members, \$28 for nonmembers. WS#789**

Writing for Beginners and Others. Open to experienced and aspiring writers, the course will cover Great Opening Lines, Drawing on Family History and the Subconscious for Material, Writing Effective Dialog, Striking the Right Tone, Communicating with Editors and Agents, Formatting the Manuscript, Building a Writing Community, and Writing Opportunities on the Internet. Instructor **Don Williams**, is a newspaper columnist, short story writer, and founding editor of *New Millennium Writings*. **Two sessions: Monday, July 18, Room 160; and Thursday, July 22, Room 159; 6 to 8 pm; \$40 for members, \$56 for nonmembers. WS#890**

Symbols in Your Life. Explore your strengths, self-perceptions, motivation, and unfinished business based on insights drawn from the Preferential Shapes Test. Revise your image of yourself and your life paths through the writing you do in this workshop. Your guide through these processes will be **Doris Ivie**, psychology professor, poet, and co-editor of *Breathing the Same Air*. **One session: Tues. July 20, 6-8 pm; Room 159; \$20 members, \$28 nonmembers. WS#101**

Inner Pilgrimage. Using guided imagery, **Doris Ivie** will lead you through a series of writing exercises designed to help you unearth your sources of solace and meaning using intensive journaling and spiritual autobiography techniques. Ivie is a psychology professor, poet, and co-editor of *Breathing the Same Air*. **One session: Wednesday, July 2, 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$20 for members, \$28 for nonmembers. WS#202**

Courting Your Muses. What if you could evoke the Muse who is just waiting to guide your artistic development? Join **Doris Ivie** for a fanciful romp into classical mythology, with writing exercises designed to entice your very own Muse(s). Ivie is a psychology professor, poet, and co-editor of *Breathing the Same Air*. **One session: Thursday, July 22, 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$20 for members, \$28 for nonmembers. WS#303**

Personal Journaling. Keeping a writer's journal will boost a writing career, writing memoirs will create a family legacy, and journaling is a proven method for improved physical and mental health. The leader will share how she built her freelance writing business with her journals. Topics include Journaling throughout History, Getting Started, Types of Journals and Writing Exercises. The instructor, **Barbara Carr Phillips**, wrote the script for the audiobook *How to Use a Personal Journal*, published by Drive2Learn, Inc., in 2001. She has taught journaling at the Plainfield/Guilford Library in Avon, Indiana, and had a two-part journaling workshop published on the Spirit-Led Writer e-zine, for Christian writers. She is a member of the faculty of writershelper.org, where she is teaching an online course, "Deeper than Words: A Personal Journaling Workshop." **One session: Monday, July 26, 6 to 8 pm; Room 160; \$20 for members, \$28 for nonmembers. WS#404**

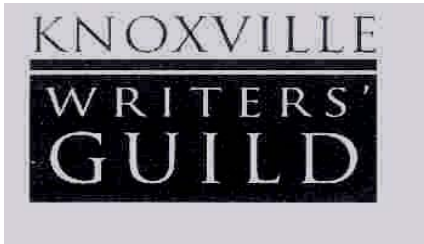
To get to the Magnolia Avenue campus, take the Cherry Street exit off I-40. Go South on Cherry Street to Magnolia Avenue. Turn right. Go through 3 traffic lights. The campus is just beyond the 3rd light, on the left (by CVS Pharmacy, across the street from the public TV station). **For more information, call John Reaves at 689-2651 or e-mail jareaves@comcast.net.**

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, or to pres. Ed Sullivan, sully@kornet.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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____

WEB SITE _____

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

Inside this issue you will find a postcard-sized copy of cover details from the forthcoming KWG anthology, *Migrants and Stowaways: An Anthology of Journeys*, edited by Emily Dziubian and Kristin Robertson. The book 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.

