

East Tennessee **Writer**

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 11, Number 6, June 2003

How An Article Became a Book: Wendy Bessman Reads June 5 at KWG

Travel and feature writer **Wendy**

Bessman, whose work appears frequently in major national magazines, will describe her career, working methods, successes, and advice for emerging writers in a lively and informative monthly meeting of the Knoxville Writers' Guild at 7p.m., Thurs., June 5, at the Laurel Theater.

Bessman began her career as an editor for the travel magazine *Destinations*, working with writers like John Irving, Pat Conroy, and Tim Cahill and then moved to freelance work, winning assignments with national magazines such as *Atlantic Monthly*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Outside*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, and *Esquire*. Her work took her to India, Hong Kong, Mexico, the Caribbean and throughout Europe. After the birth of her children, she switched to stay-home topics such as parenting, business, personal finance and health issues in *Working Woman*, *BH&G*, and *USA TODAY*.

Bessman's *Metro Pulse* article on the Knoxville Jewish Community became a book published by UT Press. She has written two novels and is now working on nonfiction book "on staying sane while raising mentally impaired kids, which grows out of my experience with my own two children."

Laurel Theatre is located at 16th and Laurel, off Cumberland Avenue. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served. Visit the Guild at www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



Upcoming Programs

Knoxville Writers' Guild programs scheduled for the remainder of 2003:

July 3: Annual open mike program, in which readers have 5 minutes to read from their poetry, prose, and fiction.

August 7: Writer and UT Assistant Professor Michael Knight will read from his newest collection of short stories, *Goodnight, Nobody*.

September 4: Poet Willa Schneberg.

October 2: Peter Taylor Winner Sarah Van Arsdale will read from her novel, *Blue*.

November 6: Jeanne McDonald will read from her new novel, *Water Dreams*.

December 4: Annual Christmas covered dish party and annual members' book sale. Program to be announced.

Summer Writers' Workshops Will Be Held July 7 -24 at Magnolia Street Branch of Pellissippi State.

See Inside for Details.



The Writing News



Marion, Johnston Are Finalists for Prestigious Publishing Award

Ebbing and Flowing Springs, a collection of poetry and prose by KWG member Jeff Daniel Marion, is one of three finalists for the 2003 Benjamin Franklin Award in the Poetry/Literary Criticism category. The book was published by Jim Johnston, owner of Celtic Cat Publishing.

Named in honor of America's most cherished publisher/printer, the Benjamin Franklin Award recognizes excellence in independent publishing. Publications, grouped by genre are judged on editorial and design merit by top practitioners in each field. The trophies are awarded to the best books in several categories and are presented to the publishers during a gala awards ceremony on the last evening of the Publishing University (just before the opening of Book Expo America).

All entrants receive critique sheets with advice on how to improve their publications, as well as words of appreciation for the good work produced.

Other finalists this year are *Impressions*, Beaver's Pond Press, and *Sane Grand Dust*, Chatoyant. .

This year's award presentation ceremony will be held at the Wilshire Grand in Los Angeles, CA, Wednesday evening, May 28, 2003.



Summer Workshops and Residencies in Creative Writing and Visual Art

It sounds too good to be true—earth, sea, sky, water, writing, art. But the Summer Workshops at the Provincetown Fine Arts Center offer all of the above from June 22-August 29, offering a great span of time for writers and artists to hone their skills in a great environment. Weekend workshops are \$235, week-long workshops are \$480, and accommodations at the Work Center are \$460 for six nights. Scholarships are available for housing and tuition.

A few of the visiting workshop leaders are former Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, Alan Shapiro, photographer Amy Arbus, painter Robert Henry and sculptor Lauren Ewing, writers Dean Albarelli, Michael Cunningham, Pam Houston, and dozens of others.

For more information, e-mail Workshops@FAWC.org or call 508-487-9960, or consult www.FAWC.org

PC Compares Print-on-Demand Publishers

(From *The Writing World*) PC Magazine has compared six different POD publishers and declared iUniverse as their "editor's choice." 1stBooks Library came in second. In testing, 1stBooks and iUniverse returned the best-looking books.

According to the author, the sample book from iUniverse was skillfully designed and "showed the best understanding of the manuscript's content." The article notes that while 1stBooks Library charges more than many services, the results are "amazing," including individual cover designs.



Johnston



Marion

President's Column

By Julie Auer

The President's Apologia

It may seem strange for a person who willingly occupies the post of president of the Writers' Guild to confess a peculiar, innate, and strong suspicion of authority and the people who seek to be in positions of authority. The truth is that I am sometimes embarrassed to admit that I am a president, because the word itself is so officious sounding, so downright bourgeois. What self-respecting artist ends up occupying a board of directors and becoming a president?

The roots of my personal contempt for authority are deep. My father - who, oddly enough, was a policeman - actually encouraged me to challenge authority (the exception being his authority, which was absolute in the Auer household). He never voted for an incumbent in an election, especially a presidential election. Daddy always said that any man (or woman) who is vain, arrogant, and egotistical enough to think himself suitable for that exalted position didn't ~~deserve re-election. Let some other porous ass have a~~ He taught me that presidents, congressmen, and state and local representatives were venal, petty mercenaries at heart, and that I should never be disappointed if my preferred candidate lost. He or she would screw things up just as badly as the person who won was destined to, just in a different way. I was a very well behaved little girl, and

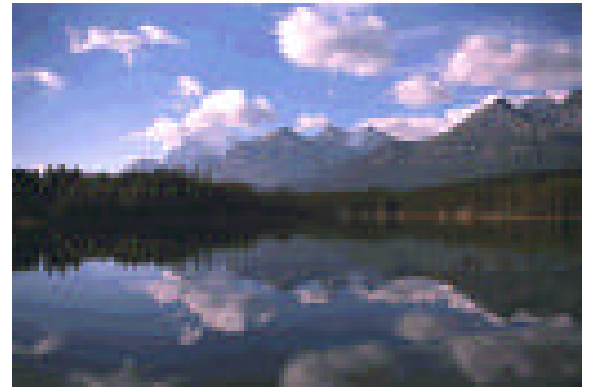
a good student, but I never liked or trusted any of my teachers. I guess I've always been a critic. I remember wondering, as a six-year-old in the first grade, just where these teachers got off telling other people's children what to do and how to do it.

Looking back, I recall that most of the teachers were decent people who did a good job. But the teachers I remember best are those who used their authority to intimidate or even humiliate kids, like my racist second-grade teacher, who tormented the one black kid in our class by ridiculing him for his learning disability every day. Or the third grade teacher who made us read the Gospel aloud, forcing a

Jewish kid to be excused from class. (His parents chose not to fight it.) Or the gym teachers - always the gym teachers - who made life hell for anybody who lacked athletic ability. (Funny, I never saw an art teacher harass a kid for lacking artistic talent.)

Fortunately, some kids grow up with writing ability and a long memory. A lifetime of questioning authority and challenging the lawmakers (I am a public defender by profession) has made me incapable of lording over anybody or anything. When I became president of the Guild, my intention was to promote the interests of member writers, and to represent the Guild to the arts community of Knoxville. I think that, so far, I have successfully avoided issuing any edicts or telling anybody what to do or how to do it. At least I hope that's true.

At the end of my term - which will come in December of this year - I will yield the podium to the next prez and happily sink back into the role of writer trying to make it. When it comes down to it, that's all any of us are.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: BLUE MOUNTAIN ARTS

Suzanne Moore, Editor

SPS Studios, Inc., PO Box 1007, Boulder, CO 0306

EMAIL: editorial@spsstudios.com

URL: <http://www.sps.com>

SPS Studios, Inc., publishers of Blue Mountain Arts products, is interested in reviewing poetry and writings that would be appropriate for greeting cards. We strongly suggest that you familiarize yourself with Blue Mountain Arts products before submitting material. We like to receive original, sensitive poetry and prose on love, friendship, family, philosophies, and any other topic that one person might want to communicate or share with another person.

Writings on special occasions (birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc.) as well as the challenges, difficulties, and aspirations of life are also considered. Important note:

Because of the large volume of poetry we receive written to mothers, sons, and daughters, we are accepting only highly original and creative poetry that expresses new thoughts and sentiments on these themes. Poetry should be about real emotions and feelings.

Scripts should be typewritten, one poem per page. You may submit as many poems at one time as you wish. Email submissions are welcome. No attachments. If you are submitting more than one poem at a time, please include all of them in one message. GUIDELINES: To request a copy of our writer's guidelines, send email to: editorial@spsstudios.com

Summer Writing Workshops

July 7 - 24, 2003

Magnolia St. Branch of Pellissippi State

The Knoxville Writers' Guild and the English Department of Pellissippi State Technical Community College will co-sponsor writing workshops at Pellissippi State's Magnolia Avenue campus July 7 - 24. Classes will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Mon.--Thurs. ~~Workshops will meet for one or more two-hour sessions~~ are \$20 per session for KWG members, registered students and employees of Pellissippi State, \$24 for others. Topics and Presenters, times, and fees are also available on the Writers' Guild website, www.knoxvillewritersguild.org. For more information, call John Reaves at 689-2651 or e-mail jareaves@comcast.net.



Workshop Registration

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Knoxville Writers' Guild member? yes no

If you wish to join the Writers' Guild, add \$25 to your total (\$15 if you are a full-time student) and pay member rates for workshops. Two-session workshops are \$40 for members, \$48 for nonmembers.

Pellissippi employee or student? yes no. If so, pay member rates. Please list the workshops you want to attend, including number, title, and cost:

WS# _____

WS# _____

WS# _____

WS# _____

Add \$25 for KWG Dues (if you wish to join) _____

Total _____

Submit this form with your check to:

KWG Workshops

P.O. Box 10326



Schedule of Events:

July 7: Catherine Landis, "The Joy of Rewriting"
Edward Francisco, "Sculpting Poetry"

8: Jack Neely "Personal Archaeology"

9: Doris Gove, "Children's Picture Books"
R. B. Morris, "Song Writing"

10: David Hunter, "Writing About Crime"
Candance Reaves, "Elements of Poetry"

14: Fred Brown & Jeanne McDonald, "The Art of the Interview"
Ina Hughs, "Memoir Writing"

15: Fred Brown, "Creative Nonfiction"
Jeanne McDonald, "Elements of the Novel"

16: Doris Gove, "Children's Picture Books"
R. B. Morris, "Song Writing"

17: Don Williams, "Writing for Beginners and Others"
R. B. Morris, "Poetry as Performance Art"

21: Doris Ivie, "Symbols in Your Life"
Ina Hughs, "Memoir Writing"

22: Scott Holstad, "Marketing Poetry"
Jack Neely, "Personal Archaeology"

23: Doris Ivie, "Inner Pilgrimage"
Candance Reaves, "Elements of Poetry"

24: Doris Ivie, "Courting Your Muses"

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.) For more information, call John Reaves at 689-2651 or email jareaves@comcast.net.



Workshop Content and Instructors

The Joy of Rewriting. Revision need not be a boring chore. It can actually be fun! In this workshop Catherine Landis will show participants how to make their manuscripts better through careful (and joyful) rewriting. The instructor is the author of the critically acclaimed novel, *Some Days There's Pie*. One session: Monday, July 7, 6 to 8 pm, \$20 for members, \$24 for nonmembers. WS#123

Personal Archaeology: Researching the Famous, the Infamous, and the Unknown through Local Sources. Let the instructor, **Jack Neely**, show you how to dig up the information that has eluded you. Learn how to find historical tidbits that will enliven your fiction and nonfiction. The sessions are two weeks apart so that participants will have time to try out the techniques. Neely writes the "Secret History" column for *Metro Pulse* and is generally acknowledged to be Knoxville's premier historical sleuth. Two sessions: Tuesdays, July 8 & 22, 6 to 8 pm, \$40 for members, \$48 for nonmembers. WS#234

Picture Books for Children. This workshop will present a guided tour of the process from idea to finished product. Come prepared with ideas or questions for class discussion. The instructor, **Doris Gove**, is a biologist living in Knoxville. She has published five children's books on nature topics and three hiking guides. Two sessions: Wednesdays, July 9 and 16, 6 to 8 pm, \$40 for members, \$48 for nonmembers. WS#345

Writing About Crime. Whether you write nonfiction, literary fiction, or genre fiction, you are likely to find yourself writing about crime. This workshop will help you get it right. The instructor, **David Hunter**, a retired Knox County Sheriff's Deputy who writes a weekly column for the *News Sentinel*, is the author of 14 books, the newest of which is *Nickel-plated Angels*. One session: Thursday, July 10, 6 to 8 pm, WS#456

Sculpting a Poem: How to Turn Prose into Poetry. This workshop for the advanced writer of poetry is based on Ezra Pound's advice to "prose a poem out," then sculpt it. Participants will do a series of exercises that apply several techniques for turning a prose piece into a poem. Instructor **Edward Francisco** teaches English at Pellissippi State. He is an editor, scholar, and novelist. His most recent novel is *The Deal Maker*. His chapbook, *L(ie)fe Boat*, won the Bluestone Press National Chapbook Contest, and *Death, Child, and Love: Poems 1980 to 2000*, was nominated for the Pulitzer. Mon. July 7, 6 to 8 pm, WS#567

Poetry Writing for Beginners. The first session will deal with finding topics for poems, matching form to content, and using sound devices and imagery. The second session deals with critiquing and revising. Participants should bring a poem for anonymous critiquing. No name should appear on the manuscript. Instructor **Candance Reaves** teaches composition, literature, and creative writing at Pellissippi State. She has published poems in several anthologies and is co-editor (with Linda Parsons Marion) of *All Around Us: Poems from the Valley*. Two sessions: Weds., July 9 & 23, 6 to 8 pm, WS#678

The Art of the Interview. In this workshop presenters **Jeanne McDonald** and **Fred Brown** will discuss techniques they used to write two books based on interviews: *Growing Up Southerndand Serpent Handling Believers*. They will demonstrate that interview methods must be adapted to fit the individual. McDonald is a prize-winning novelist and short story writer, and a contributing writer for *Metro Pulse* and *Appalachian Life*. Brown is senior writer for the *News Sentinel*, editor of *Appalachian Life*, and co-author, with Harry Moore, of *Discovering October Roads*. In 30 years as a journalist, he has interviewed thousands of people. One session: Monday, July 14, 6 to 8 pm, WS#789

Elements of the Novel. The instructor, **Jeanne McDonald**, will discuss characterization, plot, setting, and first drafts. Participants will write brief exercises to sharpen skills. McDonald has published short fiction and essays in numerous anthologies, newspapers, and magazines. She is the recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission/Alex Haley Fiction Fellowship and many other awards. Her novel, *Water Dreams*, will be published by the University Press of Mississippi in September, 2003. One session: Tuesday, July 15, 6 to 8 pm, WS#890

Creative Nonfiction. One of the most popular forms for newspapers and magazines, creative nonfiction elevates non-fiction from craft to literary art. Using examples from masters of the form, journalist

Fred Brown will present techniques for making nonfiction more creative. Brown is a member of the Scripps-Howard Hall of Fame and has published extensively. July 15, 6 to 8 pm, WS#901

Writing for Beginners and Others. Open to current writers 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," and "Writing opportunities on the Internet." The instructor is **Don Williams**, newspaper columnist, short story writer, and founding editor of *New Millennium Writings*. One session: Thursday, July 17, 6 to 8 pm, WS#109

Memoir Writing. Participants in this workshop will examine five hallmarks of good writing and apply them to stories from their own lives. The two sessions are a week apart so that the class will have a chance to try out techniques presented in the first session and discuss problems and successes in the second. **Ina Hughes**, the instructor, is a *News Sentinel* columnist and author of three nonfiction books. Two sessions: Mondays, July 14 & 21, 6 to 8 pm, \$40 for members, \$48 for nonmembers. WS#208

Marketing Poetry. This workshop will address how and what to research, finding markets, rhyming, contests, ezines, publishers, the submission process, records, and resources. The instructor, **Scott C. Holstad**, has published 14 books of poetry, one of which was nominated for the Pulitzer in 1996. (He is a member of PEN and The Authors Guild, and his work has appeared in hundreds of magazines. One session: Tuesday, July 22, 6 to 8 pm, S#307

Symbols in Your Life. Explore your strengths, self-perceptions, sources of 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: Monday, July 21, 6 to 8 p.m, WS#406

Inner Pilgrimage. Using guided imagery, instructor **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. One session: Wed., July 23, 6 to 8 p.m, WS#406

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 exciting exercises designed to entice your very own Muse(s). One session: Thursday, July 24, 6 to 8 p.m, WS#406

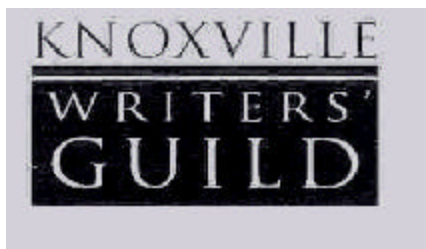
Song Writing. This hands-on workshop will discuss writing methods. Participants are encouraged to bring songs they are working on. The instructor, **R. B. Morris**, is a poet who writes emotionally intense songs full of ideas and unexpected wordplay. His songs reflect a range of musical styles: pop, blues, country, gospel, and improvisation of the spoken word. For more information, visit his website, rbmorris.com. One session: Wednesday, July 16, 6 to 8 p.m, \$20 for members, \$24 for nonmembers. WS#505

Poetry As Performance Art. This workshop will deal with methods of writing and performing poetry. The instructor, **R. B. Morris**, is a poet and performer who has edited a literary magazine, *Hard Knoxville Review*, and written and performed a one-man play, *The Man Who Lives Here Is Loony*, about the turbulent life of writer James Agee. For more information, visit his website, rbmorris.com. One session, Thursday, July 17, 6 to 8 p.m, \$20 for members, \$24 for nonmembers. WS#505

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, Catherine Crawley, Robert Boyd, Tony Day, David Joyner, Jacqueline Kittrell, Robert Lydick, Kay Newton, Caroline Norris, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Laura Still, Marlene Taylor, Inga Treitler, Kim Trevathan, 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, jrd531k@men.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**

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.



"And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days."

James Russell Lowell

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Web Site _____