
East Tennessee Writer

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 11, Number 3, March 2003

April 5 Gala Promises Great Entertainment

Envelope please!



And the winner is...

Find out by attending the second annual Knoxville Writers' Guild Awards Gala for winners of the KWG's annual contests for short fiction, poetry and essays.

This awards program will feature a cash bar, free finger foods, live music by the Rocky Wynder Jazz combo, as well as appearances by celebrated writers, including Marilyn Kallet, who will present acclaimed Oak Ridge poet George Scarborough with a career achievement award.

Others on the program include *News-Sentinel* columnist Don Williams, KWG President Julie Auer, writers and poets Laura Still, Marybeth Boyanton and Judy Loest. The event is scheduled to begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Saturday April 5 at the Holston Hills Country Club. Tickets are \$15 each, except for students, who pay only \$10. An hour of dancing and socializing will follow the awards ceremony. To reserve seats, make checks payable to 'KWG' and mail them to "Tickets" at PO Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939. Be sure to include your phone number and address. For more information, visit www.Knoxvillewritersguild.org, or email eunicehat@aol.com. Type "Tickets" in the subject field.

Mauro Will Read from His Work at March 6 Meeting

Local novelist and short story writer Jack Mauro will read from his work at the monthly meeting of the Knoxville Writers' Guild at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 6, at Laurel Theater.



Mauro moved south to Knoxville in 1994, which inspired an active writing life. *Gay Street: Stories of Knoxville, Tennessee* came out in 2000, followed by *Spite Hall*, a dark comedy novella in 2001. In 2002, Mauro released *Enola's Wedding*, which Mauro calls "an alternately biting and mushy look at three months in the life of a Southern engagement."

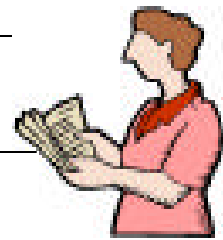
Mauro is also a frequent contributor to *Metro Pulse*. His story of a matron's comeuppance in a small town, "The Fall of Dorothy Speers (or: Not All Reductions

Occur in a Saucepan)," appeared in the Knoxville Writers' Guild anthology *Literary Lunch*. He is currently working on a novel called *Ruby Russo*, the story of a young Knoxville woman who moves to the wilds of North Jersey.

For the Guild program, Mauro will read selections from *Enola's Wedding* and *Spite Hall* and will answer questions from the audience.

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

The Writing News



FictionAddiction.net The Literary Agent Watchdog Report

"Real Agents Don't Charge Upfront Fees."

- Agent Research & Evaluation, New York

FictionAddiction.net, an online literary magazine warns against fraudulent agencies in their watchdog report:

• Harris Literary Agency

Posted on Wednesday January 22nd, 2003

Watchdog says, "This agency will take just about any one on -- the catch? You must pay \$250 for office expenses and photocopying!"

Another Watchdog reports, "On Dec. 2nd, they offered representation after reading the entire manuscript of my YA novel. I'd been burned once before by a fee charging agency, though, and this time I started asking questions. They charge \$250 upfront, their only sales are to obscure, even unheard of, publishers, and they use a 30-submission shotgun approach, without any personal contacts with editors. They are also on the agents to avoid lists of three major writing websites. When I questioned their procedures, they said I had 'needs that they could not satisfy,' and that I 'did not trust them,' and rescinded their offer. Good riddance!

• Sherwood Broome Inc.

Posted on Sunday January 19th, 2003

Watchdog says, "Requires 'advance on commissions' of \$750. Wasted 5 weeks allowing them to review my manuscript before they informed me of this requirement."

Another Watchdog says, "Wanted over \$3,000 to 'edit' the manuscript."

Benedict and Associates: Watchdog says, "Recently I submitted a query to a literary agent, Benedict and Associates. He requested the entire manuscript for my novel. Three days after receiving it he Emailed me and stated that he wanted to represent me. I received the contract in the mail several days later. I asked him about the fees mentioned in the contract - copying fees, postage fees, long distance calls - fees found in many agents' contracts. For him to mail out 10 proposals it would cost me about \$90. Throughout the year of my contract he would do this 4 times which would equal about \$360.

I asked him if he knew any editors at the major publishing houses. I asked him for a list of books and authors he represented and the publishing houses with whom he had dealt. He sent me a list of four books/authors he claimed to have represented in 2002. He only named 3 publishing houses. One of the books, he said, was under contract negotiations. I contacted the other two houses to verify that these books were scheduled to be published in the near future.

The contact at Intrigue Press had never heard of Benedict, the author or the book. He also told me that I am not the first person who has asked about that same book. The contact at Hyperion had never heard of the other book he claimed to have represented to them. When I confronted him with my findings, he said that the publishing industry is a cutthroat business and that these houses would never reveal their newly signed authors because other publishers may try to steal them away. He then told me the trust factor in our relationship had crumbled and he could not represent me. Of course, I never signed or sent in his contract. All of our communications were by Email except for the contract he sent me."

For more information about fraudulent agencies or publishers, to **Fictionaddiction.net**. And remember **Real agents don't charge upfront fees."**

Competition: *Glimmer Train's*

Short Story Award for New Writers



Eligibility: Open only to writers whose fiction has not appeared in any publication (printed or online) with a circulation over 5,000. (Entries must be entirely unpublished.) Open to all themes, all subjects. Stories should not exceed 8,000 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 SHORT STORY AWARD FOR NEW WRITERS. Reading fee (payable by visa or mc) is \$12 per story. Entries will be accepted through March 31st. Winners will be called by July 1st. Top 25 list will be e-mailed to all participants by that date.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By JULIE AUER

So what do you think? You're a writer, and you're a Guild member. You have to have opinions, and you already have the tools for self-expression: **your pen and paper, or your computer!** *The East Tennessee Writer* would like to know what you have to say.



In the first year of my presidency, I got more than a few emails from Guild members who wanted to express their ideas, as well as a few complaints about Guild policies. Some people just wrote to let me know that they had been published or were planning a public reading of their work. Others wrote to give notice of some upcoming publication or event of interest to Guild members: these messages are always transmitted to the membership via

email from our web site and sometimes via the newsletter. Some members even wrote to express what they *like* about the Guild.

The point is that many people in the Guild want to be heard on some issue, and I fairly frequently hear from them. The trouble is, most of the rest of us don't hear what some of you are telling me when you write to me. So I have discussed the matter with newsletter editor Jeanne McDonald, and here is what we propose to do about it: encourage Guild members to write letters to the editor.

Each month -- provided we get letters, of course -- the newsletter will publish at least one letter from a member who is not on the board of directors and who is not a regular contributor to the newsletter. The letters obviously can be about anything, but we will give publishing priority to those letters that relate to the Guild. We want to hear from our members for a lot of reasons, but primarily because we believe that in order for the Guild to grow, it has to be responsive to its membership; and in order to be responsive, it has to know what its membership is thinking.



As incentive to get you writing, Jeanne and I will personally provide prizes to the letters that get published each month. The current prize awaiting our first published letter writer is a ceramic sculpture of a decapitated UT football player. (It is also a vintage "screener's prize" of the original Peter Taylor Prize competition.) Other prizes I have in mind include an unabridged copy of *Memoirs of Fanny Hill*, a KWG book bag, or an Evening with Brian Griffin.



Griffin

Write us and see what other great prizes await you! E-mail your letters to Jeanne McDonald at jmd531k@msn.com, or snail mail them to our post office box, listed on the back of the newsletter.

Why Join a Critique Group?

By Judy DiGregorio

A lonely figure sits in a room. Is it a mother longing for her child? Is it a lover pining for his love? No, it's a writer struggling to perfect his or her craft. Writing is a solitary profession that can insulate and isolate you from the encouragement and feedback all writers require. If you want to improve your writing and your morale, you need to network with other writers. One way to do this is by joining a critique group.

Beginning writers need critique groups even more than experienced writers. With egos fragile as eggshells, they struggle to find their voices, polish their work, and handle rejection. Experienced writers such as those found in critique groups can provide them with much-needed advice as well as encouraging words. They can warn them of possible scams and publications to avoid. They can teach them the tools of the trade and recommend writing conferences to attend.

Experienced writers need other writers, too. They need them to provide objective feedback and constructive criticism that will improve their work. Critique groups serve a valuable purpose, especially if they are composed of a variety of skill levels that offer opportunities for both beginning and skilled writers. Through critiquing the work of others, you can learn new skills and techniques to apply to your own work. You also receive encouragement from those who truly understand the writing process. How can you find a good critique group? Check out the numerous writing websites on the internet such as the Knoxville Writers' Guild at <http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org>. You'll find many tools and resources as well as several writing critique groups available for you to join. Find the group that suits your style, your personality, and your genre. As Alexander Pope said, "True ease in writing comes from art, not chance." Join a critique group to receive encouragement and advice from fellow writers who can help transform your writing into art.



This newsletter welcomes unsolicited pieces about writing and writers. Send to jmd531k@msn.com

Fifty Women Are Worth 50,000 Words

(And one of them is "Peace")

(Or, "You can write with things other than a pencil.")

(Press release and photograph by Katie Knight: (Editor's note: Although the KWG newsletter does not usually express political opinions, this stunning photograph and the accompanying press release is so powerful that we felt it deserved an audience, because both were ignored by the AP.)

Fifty women braved the winter weather and an equally cold political climate to bare their bodies and make a bold statement for peace on Saturday, January 25, 2003. Outside of Helena, Montana, the women assembled on a cold mountain meadow and lay down on snow and prickly pear cactus to spell the word PEACE with their naked bodies. These women used their bodies as a striking reminder to the vulnerability of the innocent Iraqi people who will undoubtedly be killed, maimed or left without food and shelter as a result of a war. This creative action expresses the growing opposition locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to the Bush Administration's determined efforts to initiate a war with Iraq.

The photographer for this "art happening," Katie Knight, has photographed in war zones and witnessed the tragedies war inevitably imposes on civilians. "With this action," Knight explained, "women symbolically place their own vulnerable bodies between the weapons of destruction and those who would be the victims of a war. By removing clothing and exposing ourselves to the Montana winter and the eyes of the world, we identify with the millions of people who would lose everything if our government initiates another war. On the most personal level, we are making peace with our bodies, overcoming our own self-consciousness to join together in a consciousness that embraces life around the planet."

Art happenings can be a powerful medium of expression, a way of showing, instead of telling, how strongly we feel about the importance of our message, said Knight. "What else can we do to let our government, our community, and the world know that we will not stand aside as the Bush administration makes plans for genocide? If it would stop the war, many of us would bare witness this way in the middle of downtown."

The event is similar to actions already enacted at least three other times around the United States. By taking the personal risks to show their commitment opposing the war with Iraq, these women hope others will join them in asking our country's leaders to pursue other means to resolve our problems with Iraq. There are peaceful alternatives to war! (Katie Knight ©2003)



UT Creative Writing Program Will Honor Author George Garrett Oct. 2-4

On Oct. 2-4, 2003, the UT Southern Literature Festival will present "A Celebration of the Life and Work of George Garrett," at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Garrett is the author of over 30 books: poetry, fiction, essays, criticism, plays and screenplays. In 2002 he was named Poet Laureate of Virginia. Presently, he is the Henry Hoyns Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia.

During his career as a teacher of creative writing, George Garrett trained thousands of young writers, many of whom have gone on to make a name for themselves as distinguished authors. **English Dept. member Michael Knight, author of *winning Rod and Dogfight & Other Stories* (1998)** is one of those fortunate alumni of George Garrett. Brian Griffin (*Sparkman in the Sky and Other Stories*) is another local success story and former student. Among the many colleagues, friends, and/or former students who will participate in the conference will be Kelly Cherry, Hal Crowther, Brendan Galvin, Richard Dillard, Richard Bausch, Robert Bausch, Henry Taylor, Percival Everett, Jill McCorkle, Paul Ruffin, Fred Chappell, Lee Smith, Jon Manchip White, Don Williams, Jeanne McDonald, Fred Brown, David Slavitt, Allen Wier, Michael Knight, Brian Griffin, Arthur Smith, and Marilyn Kallet.

The conference will include celebrity readings of George Garrett's poetry, fiction, and plays, panels on publishing and finding an agent, creative writing pedagogy panels, creative and scholarly explorations of George Garrett's writings, screenings of his films. A banquet featuring keynote speaker and honoree George Garrett will take place on Saturday evening, Oct. 4 at the University Club. For registration information, go to <http://web.utk.edu/~english/creative.htm>



What's Up with Local Writers

UT Spring Writing Events

Saturday, March 8: Young Writers Institute

Teachers: Michael Knight, Richard Chess, Paul Harrill, Don Williams, Daniel Roop, Darius Antwan Stewart, and Keith Wallen of the music group, Copper. To register, e-mail stacy@utk.edu

Monday, March 10: Writers in the Library

Featuring Amy Billone, Beau Johnson, Blaine Moates, and Deborah Scaperoth

Friday, April 11: Paul Ruffin

7 p.m., 1210, McClung Tower

Gathering of Mountain Writers, Mar. 21, 22

A gathering of mountain writers will be held on March 21 and 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Heartlander Country Star Resort in Pigeon Forge, TN. The event will be co-produced by Pigeon Forge Special Events and the Pigeon Forge Public Library in conjunction with the Smoky Mountain Traditions Festival, scheduled for March 21-23.

Programs will include: **Foxfire: From Classroom Project to Appalachian Phenomenon** - Ms. Margie Bennett, co-editor of *Foxfire Eight and Nine*; *The Awful Truth's Not So Awful... It's Just SCARY!* - What Aspiring Writers Must Know to Hone Their Craft and Get Published; Bunkie Lynn, author of

A Comedy of Heirs; Sam Venable, humor columnist for the Knoxville *NewsSentinel*, speaker, and author of several books, including *Two or Three Degrees Off Plumb*, tells some of his best **Tennessee mountain humor stories**; *The Serpent Handlers: Three Families and Their Faith* - Fred Brown, author and senior writer for the *News Sentinel*, and wife Jeanne McDonald, novelist and contributing editor for *Metro Pulse*; and Jean Bushyhead, telling **Cherokee stories**.

For more information and a detailed schedule of events, please contact the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events at 865-429-7490 or visit this website: www.mypigeonforge.com

Pamela Schoenewaldt reports that three of her stories which she revised and developed through the critiques, suggestions, and support of the KWG Short Story Group, will soon be published. This summer, *New Letters* will publish "Threads on the Mountain," in which a young woman in 19th Century Abruzzo (Italy) must raise the courage to leave her impoverished mountain home. *Square Lake* has accepted "Her First Bulgarian Occupation," a story in the magic-realism genre in which the adoptive mother of a troubled child finds her home invaded by the abusive birthmother. On March 1, the on-line literary magazine *Carve* will post "Disturbing the Peace," a long (8,000 word) short story of the increasingly violent confrontations between a radical urban cult and its gentrifying neighbors.

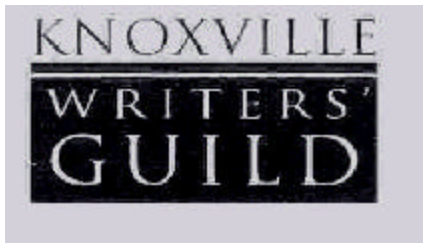
The story can be accessed and down-loaded in booklet form through www.carvezine.com



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: 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, 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@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**

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.



"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

(Old proverb)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Web Site _____