

East Tennessee

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 12, Number 5, May 2004

Writers



Writing Workshops Set for July 6-27

Get ready to learn the nuts and bolts of writing when the Knoxville Writers' Guild holds its annual Writers Workshop this summer from July 6 - 27 at the Magnolia Avenue branch of Pellissippi State Community College.

More detailed information will be announced in the June issue of this newsletter, which will be released the latter part of May. Workshops will be held in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, memoirs, screen writing and song writing. Other topics are to be announced. Classes will be taught by experienced writers from both the Guild and by practicing writers from Pellissippi, UT, *Metro Pulse*, *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, and by well known local performers.

This year's program will feature both new presenters and new topics of interest. Classes will range from two hours to sessions over several days. Anyone qualified to teach any genre should send credentials and a brief bio or resume to John Reaves, workshop coordinator. Reaves' e-mail address is jareaves@comcast.net.

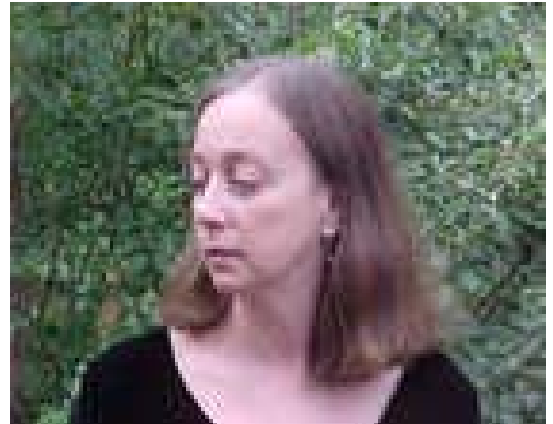
Children's Author Speaks May 6

Tracy Barrett, author of children's books and young people's books, learned to read when she was three years old.

Since then, she has become a most unconventional children's writer, exploring different civilizations and intriguing historical periods. She has written books with titles like *The Ancient Greek World* (published by Oxford University Press) and *Growing up in Colonial America*.

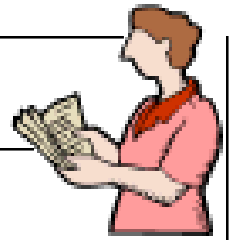
A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study medieval women writers led to the writing of her award-winning young-adult novel, *Anna of Byzantium*. Her most recent publication is a middle-grade novel, *Cold in Summer* (Henry Holt Books for Young Readers).

Since 1999 Tracy Barrett has been Regional Advisor for the Midsouth (Tennessee and Kentucky) with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She has taught courses on writing for children and on children's literature at various institutions and frequently makes presentations to groups of students, librarians, teachers, and others. She currently teaches Italian, Women's Studies, and Humanities at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Her book, *Cold in Summer*, has been awarded the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age; VOYA Best Fantasy Books of the Year; and Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books of the Year.



The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater at 16th and Laurel on the University Campus. The meeting is free and the public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. A one-dollar donation is requested. The Knoxville Writers' Guild meets the first Thursday of every month. A membership form can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

The Writing News

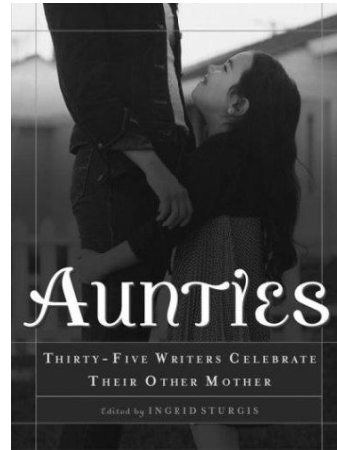


Loest Wins Prestigious Poetry Prize

After receiving entries from thousands of talented women across the country, Olay Total Effects is celebrating the finale of its Fine Lines Poetry Contest, cosponsored by the Poetry Society of America. A team of renowned poets—Sonia Sanchez, Sapphire, Lee Ann Brown, Marilyn Chin, Sandra Cisneros, Julia Alvarez, and Jill Bialosky—has chosen seven winning poets who have given voice to universal female experiences. Among the winners--out of hundreds of competitors--is our own Knoxville (and Writers' Guild) poet, Judy Loest. She had this to say about her winning poem, "The Cambodian Mother Writes to Her Daughter in America":

"If my poem is special at all, it is because it attempts to address the paradox that, despite life's difficulties, one of life's greatest fulfillments is using language to give praise, that in this small act, we are able to transform both the world and ourselves."

Winners each received \$2,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to NYC for the awards dinner at the Soho Grand Hotel and readings at the Tischman Auditorium of The New School on April 20. Their poems will be published in the PSA's Poetry in Motion Program begun in 1992 in NYC and now in 12 major US cities. The program, which places poems in buses and subways, currently reaches over 10 million Americans on a daily basis. Winners and their poems will also be featured on the Olay and PSA websites sometime in April: <http://www.total-effects.com/contest/index.shtml>, and <http://www.poetrysociety.org/motion/index.html>



Higa's Essay in Ballantine Anthology

KWG member Jeffrey Higa (Knoxville) has a short essay included in the recently released anthology from Ballantine Books, *Aunties: Thirty-Five*

Writers Celebrate Their Other Mother, edited by Ingrid Sturgis. Available now in paperback from online and retail booksellers, it is a collection of essays on "real" aunties — the good, the bad, and the ugly — not just the loving and doting aunties.

Higa writes: "My essay, "A Troublemaker Tells Secrets" focuses on an aunt that my family hated more or less over the years. I had originally written the essay four years ago for a contest on NPR, which I didn't win. I saw a call for submissions for the anthology in *Poets & Writers* magazine, thought the essay was a good fit, dusted it off, and sent it in with only minor editing.

In the end, the editor and publisher weeded through almost 200 submissions to come up with 38. Three essays were cut just prior to production, at the demand of the publisher who thought 35 would make a better number on the cover than 38.

Even the release of this book was timed so that it would be ready for Mother's Day. It has been quite an education being able to glimpse the back-end wrangling of releasing a book."



Auer Novel Makes its Debut

By the time you read this, Julie Auer's first novel, a murder mystery, will be on the shelves in local stores. You'll also be able to find it on Amazon.

Julie, former president of the Knoxville Writers' Guild, writes as Julia Lieber (her crime fiction *nom de plume*), and the title of the book is *There Came Two Angels* (Alyson). The novel is available at Borders and Books A Million.

Ed Sullivan: PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

If you did not attend April's program with Daniel Lewis, managing editor of Overmountain Press in Johnson City, you missed a wonderful opportunity to hear an insider's



perspective on the publishing process and the industry in general. It occurred to me as I listened to Daniel's presentation that he was one of an increasingly rare breed in publishing—an independent.

The authors, editors, and marketing people I know working for high profile New York City-based publishers are very unhappy with their houses becoming small subsidiaries

of multimedia conglomerates like Bertelsmann, Time Warner, and Viacom. It is cause for lament because, like all international conglomerates, they have one priority that overrides all others—making a profit. Unfortunately, publishing is not a business that yields high profits unless a publisher is fortunate enough to discover a rare blockbuster star like a Stephen King or J.K. Rowling. Editors working for corporate-owned publishers are now rarely, if ever, able to take on a raw, new talent and help him or her develop into a truly great artist. In the current climate, agents and editors alike only want to see manuscripts that are polished to the point that they are ready for publication. Acquisitions committees are dominated by bottom-line obsessed corporate accountants who override editorial decisions considered unprofitable.

I write books for children and teens. There is exactly one independent publisher of those books left in New York City. Holiday House, founded in 1935, is owned by John and Kate Briggs, a gracious, lovely couple who are wealthy enough not to bother toiling daily in the business of children's book publishing. Fortunately, they do what they do out of love. They publish books they believe will engage and interest young people. Naturally, they want their books to be profitable, but that is not their bottom line. Every book Holiday House has published since 1935 is still in print. There is no other publisher in the United States that can make that claim. Why? It is not profitable.

Needless to say, I was thrilled when Holiday House offered me a contract for my book, *Gadgets, Secrets, and Spies: The Story of the Manhattan Project*. They bought it because the editor and publisher believe in it. Of course, they hope that the book will sell well, but they did not ask a committee of accountants to analyze the sales potential before offering me a contract. They went with their instincts that it will be a story that will interest and engage young people. I hope their instincts are correct. It seems the best hope we writers who are aspiring have our books published are in independent publishers like Overmountain Press and Holiday House who still put quality before profit. The future is bleak but not hopeless as long as we have dedicated independents resisting enslavement to the bottom line.

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.

Kristin Robertson, a nominee for the KWG Board of Directors, is the assistant editor, with Emily Dziuban, of *Migrants and Stowaways*, the Knoxville Writers' Guild's Anthology on Journeys, due to be published in the fall of 2004. She teaches creative writing at the University of



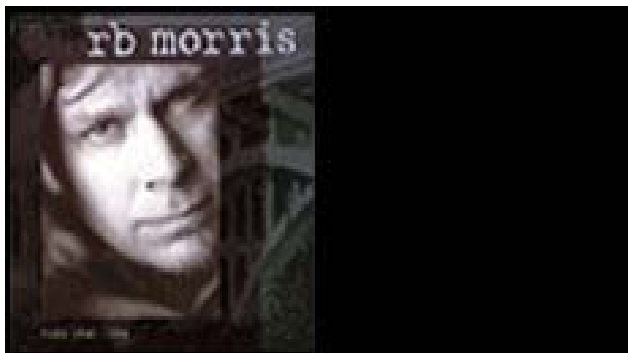
Tennessee and was recently appointed Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies for the English Department beginning Fall 2004. Kristin holds a B.A. and an M.A. in English with a concentration in poetry from UT. Her poems have recently appeared in *Whiskey Island Magazine* and *Yemassee Literary Journal*. She has won

poetry awards for the 2001 winter/spring issue of *Yemassee* and a graduate poetry prize from UT.

New Publishing Markets:

Arte Publico Press, University of Houston, 452 Cullen Performance Hall, Houston TX. www.arte.uh.edu. Publishes hardcover originals and reprints. Needs: Ethnic, literary, mainstream/contemporary.

Lark, Sterling Publishing, 67 Broadway, Asheville NC 28801. www.larkbooks.com. Hardcover and trade paperback originals and reprints. Needs: Children's/ juvenile, coffee table book, how-to, illustrated book. Find other sources in the [Writer's Ultimate Resource Guide](#).



RB MORRIS RELEASES NEW BOOK OF PROSE & POETRY

by Jack Rentfro

RB Morris' new book of prose and poetry, "The Littoral Zone," will be presented by the Knoxville singer-songwriter at several upcoming events.

The musician-poet will host an official release reading at Market Square Booksellers on the Market Square Mall on Wednesday, April 28, 5-8 p.m. Morris also will be at the Rothrock Cafe (in Lawson-McGhee library downtown) Thursday, May 6, 6-7 p.m., as part of the Rothrock's ongoing series promoting local artists.

"The Littoral Zone" is a mixture of new and old works, all powerfully steeped in Knoxville lore as synthesized through Morris' unique vision. "The Littoral Zone" is Morris' second major publication of prose and poetry. The first was "The Man Upstairs," published by Rich Mountain Bound Publishing (richmountainbound.com). Along with "The Lost Pavilion," the works form a trilogy of Knoxville-themed poems spanning 25 years.

Of the pieces in "The Littoral Zone," Morris said, "some are very new, some first appeared in the 'Hard Knoxville Reviews' of the early '80s. But they all overlap and are one piece in place and spirit."

"The Hard Knoxville Review" was a landmark, underground literary publication produced by Morris and frequent collaborator Eric Sublett. Morris, an icon of the Americana movement in pop music, has recorded a number of albums of music over the years, including "Zeke and the Wheel" (Koch, 1999), "Take That Ride" (Oh Boy, 1997), and "The Knoxville Sessions" (Rich Mountain Bound, 1998). A new CD of Morris' original music is anticipated later this year.

Voices from Home: Your Opportunity to be On Air

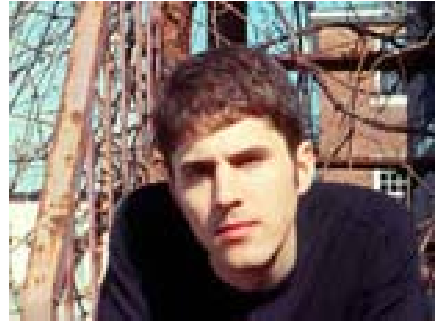
The Voices From Home Writers Radio Show can be heard the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 pm on the internet at www.wutc.org (click Listen Live button) or in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area on 88.1FM (WUTC). The show features local and regional writers to promote and encourage writers and writing through interviews, poetry, prose, and radio drama. Several times a year we request submissions for specific shows. We are also open to interviewing authors who have a book to sell. To be included on the notice of upcoming shows and requests for submissions or to consider doing an interview, send an email to joan_hetzer@yahoo.com. The March show features winners of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild annual writing contest reading their entries and an interview with President, Rebecca Cook, and President Elect, Jennifer Hoff, discussing the current contest and the writers guild. It will air on Sunday, March 21, at 10:00 p.m.

Our current request for submissions is for radio drama. Preferably an ongoing 15 minute serial per show or someone with radio drama experience who could work with a local Chattanooga, Tennessee theatre to develop the concept and scripts. We will also consider 30-minute or 45-minute scripts. All material is considered but we do not do shows with occult, excessively violent, or sexually explicit material. There is no financial reimbursement but the copyright stays with the author. Advantage to authors is free publicity for their work, including other drama projects, books, articles, etc.; establishing credentials; the experience of doing something on radio; and hopefully for the fun of it and to share their work with a wider audience. For more information or to send a script as a MSWord or Wordperfect attachment, email joan_hetzler@yahoo.com.

Join the Knoxville Writers Guild

Add your name to over 200 fellow members and interested people on the Guild's email list and receive notices of contests, workshops, readings, calls for submissions, and monthly Guild program reminders. Go to our website at www.knoxvillewritersguild.org, **enter your email address and click JOIN! If you have recently changed your email address, you must re-subscribe with your current email address in order to remain on this list. By the way, this list is not sold to or shared with any other organizations.**

News from Daniel Roof:



BARNES and NOBLE OPEN MIC

"Barnes & Noble is hoping to begin a regular monthly open mic. Anyone interested in participating should send email to me by the 10th of the month prior to the event. We hope to begin in May, so the deadline would be April 10th for the first open mic. Material must be suitable for all ages." Contact John Tullock, Community Relations Manager, Barnes & Noble 2838, 8029 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919
(865) 670-1727 Voicemail ; (865) 670-1358 FAX : (865) 670-0773 Main Store crm2838@bn.com

CALL-FOR-SUBMISSIONS: CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual

CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual is a new publication dedicated to the interdisciplinary study and artistic appreciation of the South (broadly defined) and Southern culture. To appear in Spring 2004 and to be published thereafter as an annual book by Mercer University Press, *CrossRoads* will continue the editorial approach of *CrossRoads: A Journal of Southern Culture*, a semi-legendary periodical originally published in the early 1990s by a dedicated group of graduate students affiliated with the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

The original periodical version featured previously unpublished material by many of the leading scholars and artists committed to interpreting and celebrating the South, including Rob Amberg, A. R. Ammons, Mary Ulmer Chiltosky, Jim Clark, James Dickey, Robert Drake, William Ferris, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Wayne Flynt, Ernest Gaines, David Galef, Eugene Genovese, Kathryn Gurkin, Alex Haley, Fred Hobson, David Huddle, Patricia Spears Jones, Jack Temple Kirby, Jeff Daniel Marion, Ed McClanahan, Walter McDonald, Ethelbert Miller, Robert Morgan, Marilyn Nance, Tom Rankin, John Shelton Reed, Sheryl St. Germain, Jon Michael Spencer, Joel Williamson, and Steve Young.

The first volume of *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual*, slated for publication in April 2004, will feature new work by such scholars and artists as Kimberly Greene Angle, Brooks Blevins, Henry A. Buchanan, James E. Cherry, Mariea Caudill Dennison, G. Wayne Dowdy, Jo Angela Edwins, Bart Galloway, Allean Hale, M. Thomas Inge, Dorothy Hampton Marcus, Robert Morgan, Mendi Lewis Obadike, James A. Perkins, Ron Rash, Randy Rudder, Jean-Mark Sens, Charles D. Thompson Jr., Jaclyn Weldon White, and Brenda Witchger.

The scholarly work in the volume explores southern language, literature, visual art, music, and food, and elucidates southern perspectives on religion, politics, race, ethnicity, gender, and regional identity. That volume will also contain compelling creative work from a number of leading writers and visual artists from the South. To order copies, contact Mercer University Press at 800-637-2378, ext. 2880 or 800-342-0841, ext. 2880 (in GA), or via email at mupressorders@mercer.edu The official website can be found at: http://www.mupress.org/webpages/books/crossroads_order.html

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual is currently seeking submissions for its second volume. These submissions can include-but are not limited to-analytical academic essays, oral histories, memoirs, profile essays, photo essays, creative writing, and artwork. The main criteria ensuring consideration are that all submitted materials should (to borrow Faulkner's famous phrase) "tell about the South" and that they should do so memorably.

To have your work considered for the second volume of *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual*, send materials postmarked before July 31, 2004, to: Ted Olson, Editor, CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual, ETSU, Box 70400, Johnson City, TN 37614. Please include disposable copies of manuscripts. Submissions will not be returned. Should you have any questions, you may contact the editor: 423-439-4379 (tel) or 423-439-4126 (fax) or olson@etsu.edu or tedolson_99@yahoo.com

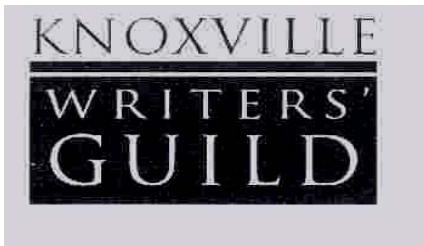
PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY

Walking to Martha's Vineyard by Franz Wright just won the 2004 Pulitzer for Poetry.

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: Tony Day, 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.

Showcase Your Talents

Solutions to Issues of Concern to Knoxvilleians is hosting an Open-Mic Cultural Extravaganza on June 8 beginning at 6 p.m. at 3204 East Magnolia Ave. I

If you are interested in showcasing your talent--musical, poetic, dramatic, or dance--call Solutions at 523-8009 to schedule a time slot in the program. Rain Date June 15th.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____

WEB SITE _____

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