

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: John Reaves; Vice President: Julia Auer; Secretary: Kim Trevathan; Treasurer, Lonnie Butler; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; Newsletter Editor: Jeanne McDonald; Webmistress: Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Julia Auer, Marybeth Boyanton, Jeannette Brown, Alison Conde-Jaenicke, Brian Griffin, Jacqueline Kittrell, Michael Knight, Judy Loest, Flossie McNabb, Elaine Oswald, Kim Trevathan, Penny Tschantz, Allen Wier, and Don Williams. Dues are \$20, \$15 for students. The KWG does not discriminate against any person because of race, age, gender, handicap or country of national origin. Tel: 531-8855; e-mail messages should be addressed to ed., jmd531k@msn.com or to pres., jareaves@mindspring.com

Web: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



Featured in KWG's December 6 program will be musician and singer Nancy Brennan Strange and storyteller Angelyn DeBord.

DeBord (in photo at left) is a storyteller, playwright, visual artist, director and workshop leader. A founding member of Appalshop's Roadside Theater, Angelyn has spent the last 26 years performing and leading workshops all over America and in Europe. Strange is a popular local performer.

To join the Knoxville Writers' Guild, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939, along with annual dues of \$20, \$15 if you are a student. Membership entitles you to participate in study groups, receive Guild discounts on books and merchandise, and monthly issues of the newsletter. For questions about dues or change of address, email jareaves@mindspring.com

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone No.....

Email address.....



**P.O. Box 10326
Knoxville, TN 37922**

(Nobel Prize, Continued from page 3)

1976 Saul Bellow
1975 Eugenio Montale
1974 Eyvind Johnson, Harry Martinson
1973 Patrick White
1972 Heinrich Böll
1971 Pablo Neruda
1970 Aleksandr Isaevich Solzhenitsyn
1969 Samuel Beckett
1968 Yasunari Kawabata
1967 Miguel Angel Asturias
1966 Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Nelly Sachs
1965 Michail Aleksandrovich Sholokhov
1964 Jean-Paul Sartre
1963 Giorgos Seferis
1962 John Steinbeck
1961 Ivo Andric
1960 Saint-John Perse
1959 Salvatore Quasimodo
1958 Boris Leonidovich Pasternak
1957 Albert Camus
1956 Juan Ramón Jiménez
1955 Halldór Kiljan Laxness
1954 Ernest Miller Hemingway
1953 Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill
1952 François Mauriac
1951 Pär Fabian

1950 Earl (Bertrand) Russell
1949 William Faulkner
1948 Thomas Stearns Eliot
1946 Hermann Hesse
1939 Frans Eemil Sillanpää
1938 Pearl Buck
1937 Roger Martin du Gard
1936 Eugene Gladstone O'Neill

1934 Luigi Pirandello
1933 Ivan Alekseyevich Bunin
1932 John Galsworthy
1931 Erik Axel Karlfeldt
1930 Sinclair Lewis
1929 Thomas Mann
1928 Sigrid Undset
1927 Henri Bergson

1925 George Bernard Shaw
1924 Wladyslaw Stanislaw Reymont
1923 William Butler Yeats
1922 Jacinto Benavente
1921 Anatole France
1920 Knut Pedersen Hamsun
1919 Carl Friedrich Georg Spitteler

1913 Rabindranath Tagore
1912 Gerhart Johann Robert Hauptmann
1911 Count Maurice (Mooris) Polidore
1910 Paul Johann Ludwig Heyse
1909 Selma Ottilia Lovisa Lagerlöf
1926 Grazia Deledda

1907 Rudyard Kipling
1906 Giosuè Carducci
1905 Henryk Sienkiewicz
1904 Frédéric Mistral, José Echegaray Y Eizaguirre
1903 Bjørnstjerne Martinus Bjørnson
1902 Christian Matthias Theodor Mommsen
In times of war and international upheaval, the prize money was deposited in special funds.

(Festival, from page 2) It was a successful weekend for many reasons, and most of those reasons bear the names of Guild members. Apart from those who helped manage the booth, there were those writers whose published books made us a proud display. Fred Brown, Bob Cumming of Iris Press, Jim Johnston, Tim Joseph, Marilyn Kallet, Michael Knight, Danny Marion, Jeanne McDonald, Rebecca Mitchell Merriman, Jack Neely, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Joe Neil Steward, Kim Trevathan, Angie Vicars, Julia Watts, Allen Wier, and Don Williams are congratulated for their efforts in contributing to our impressive library. I wish all our writers success in finding a publisher during the next year, for the fulfillment of your careers, as well as for the good of our region. Make the Knoxville Writers' Guild a permanent, successful fixture at the Festival.



Memorial for Victims Planned for Nov. 9

Local artist Barbara Andrews is planning a memorial reading at Borders Bookstore to honor victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, in part to find closure for her own emotions and also to give artists a chance to donate words and healing. "I needed to take my anger and put it out in a format that would serve the community," says Barbara. She invites poets and prose writers to participate in the program, which will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9. Readers will be limited to five minutes. Nancy Brennan strange and other musicians will participate, and an art collage will also be dedicated. To participate, contact Barbara at artplace@mindspring.com

Lee Smith Will Speak to TN Mt. Writers in April



Southern author Lee Smith will be one of the featured speakers at the 2002 Writers Conference sponsored by the Tennessee Mountain Writers, April 10-13 at the Garden Plaza Hotel, Oak Ridge, TN.

In the TMW annual writing contest, categories include unpublished work in fiction (3000 words max), nonfiction (2000 words), poetry (1 poem 40 lines), and children's/young adult literature (1500 words in any genre). Prizes in each category are \$100, \$50, and \$25. Mail to TMWI, P.O. Box 4895, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4895. Deadline is March 15, 2002. Open to all who do NOT make their livelihood in the category of entry. See www.tmwi.org for more info.

Now & Then Poetry Competition

Cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 will be offered to winners of *Now & Then's* Appalachian Poetry Competition, to be judged by NC poet Michael McFee. Entry deadline is March 1, 2002.

Work must be typed, original and previously unpublished. Entries must pertain in some aspect to the Appalachian region. Entry fee is \$5 per poem submitted. Complete guidelines will be printed in the December issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, for guidelines, consult woodsijd@etsu.edu or call (423) 439-5348.

It's Time to Elect Board Members

Five current board members of the Knoxville Writers' Guild will be ending their terms of office in December 2001, and elections will be held in November to fill the vacancies of those retiring. In addition, Lonnie Butler, present treasurer for the Guild, is resigning his post because of family responsibilities. Those leaving are Flossie McNabb, Jeannette Brown, Brian Griffin, Allen Wier, and president John Reaves. Current nominees:

Kay Newton has taught writing for, among other places, UT and Pellissippi State, where she is currently employed. She is affiliated with the Nashville Association of Songwriters International, the Academy of American Poets, and the South Atlantic MLA. She has directed the Knoxville Writers' Workshop for several years and been a member of KWG since its inception. She writes fiction, poetry, plays, song lyrics, and an occasional journalistic or photojournalistic article. As a board member, she would like to advance the KWG in the same directions it has been going and assist with its guidance into unexplored areas.

Marlene Taylor works for a satellite company by day and writes essays by night. She also participates in Nine Counties, One Vision as a task force member on animal welfare. She mostly writes about natural history and has written for the Knoxville Zoo newsletter and the Tennessee Conservationist. She would like to see the guild become a more visible entity in the community and a resource for writing materials. She would like to expand the guild's function as a source of information for beginning writers through workshops, lectures, web links and book listings. She would like to see an essayists work group started also.

Pamela Schoenwaldt's work has been published in literary magazines in the U.S., France, Italy and England. She is a winner of the Missouri prize for Short Fiction. As a board member she would give newcomers to the guild the same welcome, support, and inspiration she experienced, and see more community building during meetings, more interaction with speakers, and support of active writing groups in a variety of genre. She thinks the Guild can have a louder voice in the cultural affairs of the area and grow as a model for a vibrant, high quality, and mutually supportive writing community thriving in a small city.

Robert Boyd, adjunct professor of English at Pellissippi State, taught secondary school English in New York from 1972-1994 and was affiliated with the Studio Theater in Lindenhurst. He contributed to *Breathing the Same Air* and participated in several of the promotional readings. Robert is a staff writer for *Our Voice Magazine* and wrote and adapted a one act play *An American Journey*, which was presented at PSTCC and at Oak Ridge Community Center. As a board member Robert would promote the concept of inclusiveness and reach out to Knox area writers for more diverse styles, themes, and genres. He would like to promote play writing as part of this effort.

Laura Still is a poet who has worked as a technical writer / editor as well as screening poetry and novels for local competitions. Her poems are seen frequently in *New Millennium Writings* and also appeared in *Breathing The Same Air*, the KWG's latest anthology. She serves on several Guild committees and will administer the Young Writer's Prize in 2002. Laura is interested connecting the KWG to other artist's groups such as the Knoxville Theater Coalition for collaborative works and wants to attract younger writers to the Guild and support their involvement.

Robert Lydick (Rip), a chemist training to be a teacher, has been writing poetry for three decades. For the past year he has collated a grassroots anthology from the coffee house readings in Knoxville and elsewhere. These help support a small publishing venture he has underway. He hosts a poetry open mike monthly and reads at several venues in the Knoxville area. As a board member he seeks to develop poetry workshops aimed at the middle school level, perhaps ninth grade.

Caroline Norris is an English instructor at Pellissippi State, a long-time poet and editor and journalist, and author of "A Small Price to Pay: Poems from East Tennessee and Beyond." She has served previously (1995-6) on the KWG Board. "The writing urge," says Caroline, "is universal. I see the Writers' Guild reaching out into ever wider areas of our community — school-children, retirees, harried professionals — helping people tap into and develop their own voices and including them in our activities and publications."

Bernie Bowman is president and CEO of Asbury Centers, a retirement and long-term care organization. He has published a short story, articles and essays. "I have lived in Japan, Washington, D.C., and in Iowa for 22 years. . . I attended the U. of Iowa Writers Workshop several summers. That experience taught me the value of workshops and networking and accounts for my interest in seeing the KWG enhance those kinds of services for its members and others.

Timothy Joseph is a senior scientist and former high school teacher and college professor. His novel, *Four-Fifths*, was published last year and his book of short verses has been submitted for publication. He is facilitator for the Guild's Novel Writers' Review Group. Tim believes that the Guild does not do enough to champion its own community of writers and should do more to promote the work of members and continue its efforts to encourage aspiring writers.

David Joyner is an architectural designer and illustrator. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in several issues of *Millennium Writings* and he has been a runner-up for the Les Garrett Fiction Award. David says, "I cannot imagine a goal more worthy than the continuation of the Knoxville Writers' Guild's original objectives: 'to help members to improve and market their skills and to promote the interests of writers and the writing community.' That those objectives have been met is evidenced by the continued growth and output of the Guild over the past nine years."

What's Up with Local Writers

Non-Fiction Writing Group

Check out the contents page of *The New York Times Book Review*, and you will see that nonfiction books outnumber fiction by almost 50 percent. The nonfiction writing group of the KWG has been active but is now in need of a new coordinator. Volunteers should contact Elaine Oswald at the email address below.

The group leader does not run the group but merely coordinates members, times, places, etc. The groups are autonomous and each decides how it wants to operate. Three members of this group have recently published books:

Rebecca Mitchell Merriman: *Writing Out the Storm: Journal Musings of a Manic-Depressive Wanderer*

Carol Smucker: *Nursing the Spirit*

Jayne Raparelli: *Finding Our Way: Journey Across America* (forthcoming in 2002)

If you are interested in becoming a leader/coordinator of this group, please contact Elaine Oswald at feoswald@pstcc.cc.tn.us (539-7146 (work))

Other Guild-sponsored Groups

Novel Writers Group: Timothy Joseph, joseph@esper.com

Poetry Interest Group: Marybeth Boyanton, kwg.pip.workshop@att.net

Writing Women: Doris Ivie divie@pstcc.cc.tn.us

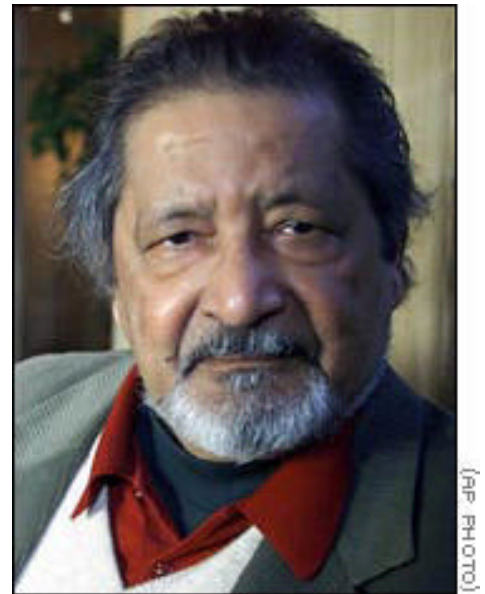
Short Fiction: Julie Auer, Hildegard@earthlink.net Julie reports that the present short fiction group is maxed on membership, but that due to recent inquiries, she is willing to assist in the launching of a new, additional short fiction group. She is in contact with two men who would like to start a new group, and she wants members to know so that interested writers can get involved.

Experiments in Voice, Genre, Style Group: MaryTebo, tebo@utkux.utcc.utk.edu

Publicize your website

If you have a website and would like to list the URL with your name and other information in the KWG Membership Directory, please send the URL to jnetb@aol.com. Please make sure your name is included with your message.

Chuck Bowers reports that he has just delivered the final version of a commissioned biography about one man's experience of surviving a series of life-threatening heart problems, a four-year project. He is also presently completing two other book-length works.



Naipaul wins Nobel award

Trinidad-born British writer V.S. Naipaul, 69, has won the \$1 million Nobel Prize in literature. The Nobel academy cited his genius for combining existing genres into a style of his own in works that compel readers "to see the presence of suppressed histories." Previous winners in literature:

2000 Gao Xingjian
1999 Günter Grass
1998 José Saramago
1997 Dario Fo
1996 Wisława Szymborska
1995 Seamus Heaney
1994 Kenzaburo Oe
1993 Toni Morrison
1992 Derek Walcott
1991 Nadine Gordimer
1990 Octavio Paz
1989 Camilo José Cela
1988 Naguib Mahfouz
1987 Joseph Brodsky
1986 Wole Soyinka
1985 Claude Simon
1984 Jaroslav Seifert
1983 William Golding
1982 Gabriel García Márquez
1981 Elias Canetti
1980 Czesław Miłosz
1979 Odysseus Elytis
1978 Isaac Bashevis Singer
1977 Vicente Aleixandre
Lagerkvist (Cont. on page 5)

The Writing News

2001 Southern Festival Proves It's a Small (and literate) World

by Julia Auer

In the middle of the afternoon of Sunday, the last day of the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville, a husband and wife approached the KWG booth. They purchased a KWG book bag, a copy of Jeanne McDonald and Fred Brown's *Growing Up Southern*, and a copy of DeWitt Henry's *The Marriage of Anna Maye Potts*, winner of the first Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. The husband pointed to Eudora Welty's name--printed among the names of other Southern writers on the cover of *Growing Up Southern*--and mentioned that his wife had grown up in Welty's home town. He then pointed to DeWitt Henry's book and said, "Our son won this year's Peter Taylor Prize." Their son is Agee Harmon, whose book, *A House All Stilled*, will occupy a place of honor at next year's book festival. While I congratulated them, I thought it was a fitting conclusion to a long weekend that had begun the previous Thursday evening, when DeWitt Henry had read from his novel at a reception given in his honor at the University Club.

The 2001 Festival of Books was an exciting time for the Knoxville Writers' Guild and for the members who attended. We sold a good many books, although people weren't as keen to spend money as they might have been before the shock waves of September 11 rocked the country. One of the "best sellers" was the anthology of poems collected by Marilyn Kallet from among those read at the Wall Memorial reading earlier in October. People were heartened to find out that the proceeds of sales of this anthology were to be donated to the New York Red Cross. Marilyn herself, along with Arthur Smith, Bill Brown, and Danny Marion, gave a reading on Sunday. Pamela Schoenewaldt appeared on a panel of short story writers, and Brian Griffin was on hand to show DeWitt Henry around Nashville. Kim Trevathan's reading so impressed his audience that his book sold out over the following two hours. In all, the KWG made an impressive showing this year, and I am grateful to all those who made it possible. These include members like Jeannette Brown, Judy Loest, Kay Newton, Laura Still, Jim and Ann Johnston, Angie Vicars, John and Candance Reaves, Linda Parsons Marion, and others who strolled by the booth and offered to help out however they could. I especially thank Tom Post of the U.T. Press, who made copies of KWG members' books available from the Press, and who was a great help to us at the Festival. Thanks to all of you!

We had a good time. It wasn't all work, and we managed to squeeze in some fun. Apart from the many readings, lectures, and panel discussions cramming the daily schedules--so many of them that many of us wished we could be two places at once--there was a lot to do at night as well. I would like to mention an evening some of us spent in a very good Italian restaurant near downtown, where we became acquainted with a waiter who is from Afghanistan. He talked to us about worry and hope--the constants of life in a desolate, war-torn country. The connection we made to him was like finding the voice of a stranger whose shadows have cast feelings of unease about you, but whose countenance fulfills a deeper need for understanding and compassion. (Continued on page 5)



History for the Holidays

Fred Brown will be one of the featured speakers when the East Tennessee Historical Society (ETHS) celebrates our region's past with its 2nd annual "History for the Holidays: Meet the Authors Day" on Sunday, November 4 at the ETHS (600 Market Street, Downtown Knoxville) from 1-4 p.m. The celebration will feature 25 exceptional regional history writers to meet the public and autograph books. There will also be a reception with holiday music, decorations and a vintage toy display. The event is free and open to the public.

The highlight of the event will be two special lectures featuring authors Fred Brown and Anita Capps. Brown, senior writer for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, will discuss his latest book, co-authored with geologist Harry Moore, *Discovering October Roads: Fall Colors and Geology in Rural East Tennessee*. Capps will discuss Knoxville radio station WNOX's contributions to country music. She is the author of *Not Too Old to Cut the Mustard: 'Jumping Bill' Carlisle and Friends Talk about His Life and the Country Music Business*. Books and gift items will be available for purchase in the museum shop.

ETHS members will receive a special 15 percent discount on this day.

East Tennessee **Writer**

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
Volume 9, Number 11, November 2001

Trevathan to Read at Laurel Nov. 1

Paddling the Tennessee River, Kim Trevathan's new book, published by The University of Tennessee Press, is much more than the story of a man and his dog. When, in August 1998, Trevathan and his canine companion, Jasper, set out by canoe on a paddling trip down the 652 miles of the Tennessee River, the largest tributary of the Ohio, he was determined to experience the river in its entirety, from Knoxville's narrow, winding channel, which flows past rocky bluffs, to the wide-open waters of Kentucky Lake at its lower end.

During the exhausting but exciting five-week voyage, Trevathan rediscovered the people and



places that made history along the Natchez Trace, noted the sites of Ulysses S. Grant's Civil War battles, and passed Hiwassee Island, the spot where a teenaged runaway named Sam Houston had once lived with Cherokee Chief Jolly.

He also met many of the modern river's dwellers, including a towboat pilot, two couples who traded in their landlocked homes for life on the river, a campground owner, and a meteorologist for NASA. He placed his life in the hands of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lock operators while navigating the river's nine dams.

Trevathan, who works as a news media writer and writes a column for the *Maryville Daily Times*, will read from his book on Thursday, November 1, at the regular monthly meeting of the Knoxville Writers' Guild, held at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater, 16th and Laurel. Jasper will be there, too.

The author writes about the river's wild, turbulent, past and confronts what it has become—an overused and

overdeveloped series of lakes. This book is the story of a man and his dog, riding low enough to smell the water and to discover the promise of a slow river running through the southern heartland. Trevathan, who earned his M.F.A. in creative writing at the University of Alabama, is now working on a book about the Clinch River. He lives in Rockford, TN., with his wife and Jasper. See page 2 for the author's comments about his trip.

