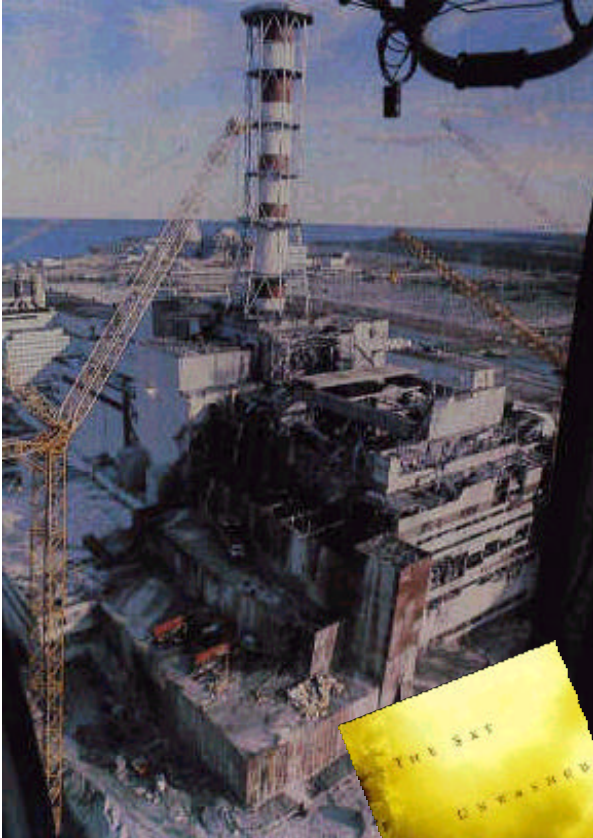


---

# East Tennessee Writer

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild  
Volume 10, Number 11, November 2002

---



Above: Site of the disaster

The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukrainian republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1986 produced a plume of radioactive debris that drifted over parts of the western USSR, Eastern Europe, and Scandinavia. It was the worst nuclear power accident in history, resulting in contamination of large areas of the Ukrainian, Belorussian, and Russian republics of the USSR and in the evacuation and resettlement of roughly 200,000 people. The accident raised concerns about the safety of the Soviet nuclear power industry, slowing its expansion for a number of years, while forcing the Soviet government to become less secretive. The now independent countries of Ukraine and Belarus have been burdened with continuing and substantial costs for decontamination and health care because of the Chernobyl accident.

## Zabytko's Book Explores Human Effects of 1986 Chernobyl Disaster

Irene Zabytko, a visiting novelist at the University of Tennessee, will speak at the Thursday, Nov. 7, meeting of the Knoxville Writers' Guild and read from her book, *The Sky Unwashed*, about the devastating Russian nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Born and raised in Chicago, Zabytko is a bilingual, first-generation Ukrainian-American who has traveled to Ukraine many times to teach English as a second language and to visit friends and family who live

in Chernobyl. She received her BA and MFA degrees from Vermont College and now lives and works as a freelance writer in Florida. *The Sky Unwashed* is her first novel.



She started her book when she was invited to teach English as a second language to Ukrainian students in Kiev, which is about 60 miles from Chernobyl. All of them had their own stories about Chernobyl and about their personal experiences during that event. Although some of them took her into the disaster zone, they were refused entrance into Chernobyl itself.

Marusia, the main character of the novel, is typical of the strong-spirited women Zabytko knew in the Chicago neighborhood where she grew up as well as in Ukraine. "I also wanted to demonstrate how strong-physically and spiritually-older women are," she said in an interview on RebeccaReads.com.

The free program begins at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel, on the UT campus. The public is invited, and refreshments will be served.

---

# The Writing News



## Are Books *Really* Banned? Or Is the Ban a Scam?

Was the 21st annual "Banned Books Week" of the American Library Association really a ban or a scam? An AP story about the week, which ended on September 28, says the organization is running low on actual bans to report.

Last year, the number of books removed from school reading lists or libraries dropped to an estimated 20-25, quite a contrast to the estimated 200 or higher when the ALA started its program during the 1980s. Judith Krug, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, says that people now know that they need to speak up, or others will control what books they have access to.

Works challenged as inappropriate for schools and libraries are named through formal, written complaints filed (usually by a parent) with a library or school. Challenges reported in 2001 numbered 448, compared to more than 900 in 1981. And the same titles keep appearing year after year. Included are such longtime targets as J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, both cited for "offensive language," and Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, for language, racism and sexual content. The Harry Potter series, which some Christians have attacked for its themes of wizardry and magic, tops this year's list.

"Banned Book Week," which features readings nationwide of controversial material, ended Saturday, September 28. Focus on the Family, a "pro-family" group based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, released a statement saying that "Banned Books Week" was a lie. "Nothing is 'banned,' but every year this organization attempts to intimidate and silence any parent, teacher or librarian who expresses concern about the age-appropriateness of sexually explicit or violent material for school children," said Tom Minnery, vice president of public policy for the group. "What the ALA calls 'censorship,' most Americans would call common sense," he said. Julie Neils, who is a spokeswoman for Focus on the Family, said that the concern was that the ALA's "alarmist rhetoric" was intimidating parents. "No one wants to be mischaracterized as a censor," she said. "These are just parents who love their kids and care about what they read."



Here's a reminder that the deadline for the **Red Hen's Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award** is October 31. This year's final judges are Wanda Coleman, David St. John and Philip Levine. If you do not already have the **guidelines for this competition and would like more information, please go to [www.redhen.org/contest.htm](http://www.redhen.org/contest.htm)**

**From Moira Allen's web site:** According to the National Writers Union, *BusinessWeek* is forcing work-for-hire (WFH) contracts on freelance writers and doing so in a very misleading way. Their letter to contributors states: "*BusinessWeek* is updating its payment system for freelancers and stringers" and the new system will be "speeding payment processing considerably." Writers are told this is "a direct response to feedback from freelancers" and its "potential" is exciting. But in fact the contract results in writers receiving less, since *BusinessWeek* and its parent company McGraw Hill will be entitled to any additional revenues resulting from the sale of their work. If writers do not sign the contract, they will no longer be hired. For more information: <http://www.nwu.org>

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By JULIE AUER



I collect weird post cards - especially old pulp fiction covers - and my favorite post card is peering out at me from the corkboard behind my computer monitor as I write. It shows the illustration from a public health poster from the 1950s. Under the heading, "What Will HIS Future BE?" are two columns, one sub-headed "Bad Environment," the other, "Proper Environment." And underneath each of these columns, the projected life of one boy is laid out according to whether he grows up in a bad or proper environment, through illustrations of what he

would be like at ages 15, 21, and finally, 50.

A wild-eyed street urchin casts dice at age 15, and is described as "wayward." Meanwhile, over in the proper environment, the boy's countenance is cherubic as he reverently pours over a textbook, evincing clear "study and ambition."

At 21, a bad environment has relegated the young man to a seedy bar with an open liquor bottle and a shot glass, and a life of "vice and degeneracy." Meanwhile, his "twin" beams in cap and gown, clutching diploma, having "graduated with honors." (I wish to interject my belief that a life of vice and degeneracy does not necessarily preclude graduating with honors. The smart collegian can figure out how to achieve both.)

Finally, at 50, the wayward boy has turned out to be a "physical wreck," wearing a prison uniform, while his dashing double arches an eyebrow and faces the world head-on in a double-breasted suit, a model of "health and success."

I thought about the fact that the Writers' Guild is approaching the tenth anniversary of its founding. In December, we will have a party (yes, another one) at the Laurel on the regular day and time to commemorate the occasion and to honor our founding members. If you look back on the Guild's progress, you'll agree that we've done a lot for our community and for each other. I think the public health geeks of the 1950s would say that we've provided a fit and proper environment for writers these past ten years.

But where will WE be in ten years? While going wayward into a tailspin of vice and degeneracy sounds tempting... hey, do it on your own time.



## What's Up with Local Writers

**Jane Woodside**, editor of *Now & Then Magazine*, has snagged Charles Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain*, as judge for the publication's upcoming fiction competition. Details for the competition will be announced in the December issue of this newsletter.

**Jayne Raparelli** is no longer the KWG's Multi-genre Group's coordinator. Patti Ames is our group's coordinator. Her e-mail address: [pattiperry74@aol](mailto:pattiperry74@aol)

The Guild's **Genre Writing Group** is looking for writers who write in a "genre" - i.e., science fiction, mystery, romance, western, etc. Now is the time to form a group dedicated to reviewing and promoting your work. For details, contact Jack Bippus at [johnnyb@chartertn.net](mailto:johnnyb@chartertn.net) or Julie Auer at [hildegard@earthlink.net](mailto:hildegard@earthlink.net).

It will be a very Marion Christmas at the December Guild meeting when Jeff Daniel Marion and his son, Stephen, read from their recently published work. Danny's most recent **book is** *Ebbing and Flowing Springs: New and Selected Poems and Prose*, published by Celtic Cat Press. Stephen's novel is *Hollow Ground*, published by Algonquin Press.

The Christmas meeting, to be held on Dec. 5, will offer the usual Yuletide Feast, with a potluck supper provided by Guild members and Board, and Guild members' books will be for sale (just in time for Christmas gifts with a local flavor).

# *Literary Lunch* Serves up First Taste at Preservation Pub



**The Editors**



**The Lunch**



**The Book**

## *Nashville, Asheville and UT Will be Nov. Reading Sites*

*Literary Lunch*, the new anthology of the Knoxville Writers' Guild, made its debut Sunday, October 6, at the Preservation Pub on Knoxville's Market Square Mall, with readings, food, and fellowship. Over 200 books were sold.

During the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville on the weekend of Oct. 11-13, a panel composed of KWG members read from their contributions to the book,, and Jeannette Brown, editor of the book, moderated the program.

Another reading was held at Barnes & Noble on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 2 to 5 p.m. The bookstore gave us a fund-raising opportunity, with coupons that, when presented to the cashier, gave the Knoxville Writers' Guild a percentage of the cost of ANY book bought from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, a reading was held at the UT Bookstore in the Conference Center across from the Knoxville Convention Center.

Catherine Crawley has announced the following venues for readings by contributors:

**Sat., Nov. 2**—Malaprop's, Asheville, 7 p.m.

**Friday, Nov. 8** — Joseph-Beth, Lexington, KY, 7 p.m.

**Nov. 25** at 7 p.m.: Pamela Schoenewaldt has given us the November slot of the UT Writers in the Library series.

### **The Excerpt**

*Fran Judy Loest's essay, "Memory's Table"*

As a book lover, food interests me greatly—food as metaphor, as the catalyst of narrative and memory, and as a symbol of spiritual transformation. . . Food in fiction often creates place and character; food is to narrative what dress is to persona: it delineates history, social hierarchies, and economic class; it defines and reveals culture, serves as a driving force behind people's actions; and out of all the significant aspects of community life, is perhaps the most effective, aside from blue jeans, at bridging ethnic boundaries. Throughout history, people have used food to mythologize the past, to enliven the present, and to celebrate faith. . . Bless all the sustainers, . . . for they nourish us, not just with food but also with memories, the sweet impossible blossoms that bloom again and again for us in unexpected moments, that remind us who we are and where we have been.

## Candidates State Qualifications for Board Membership: Voting Will Take Place during the Nov. 7 Business Meeting



**Catherine Crawley** has been a journalist, teacher and workplace consultant in California, Washington, D.C., Nebraska and Southeast Asia. Originally from the United Kingdom, she holds a master's degree in education from Vanderbilt University and a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Tennessee. She is currently a doctoral student studying environmental communications in the College of Communications at the University of Tennessee. After discovering Doris Ivie's Writing Women group in Feb., she joined the Guild. Since then, she has been scheduling reading events, arranging distribution and working on other publicity activities for the launch of the 2002 Guild anthology *Literary Lunch*. She has published in numerous magazines and newspapers as a journalist, and her story, "Love Feast," appears in *Literary Lunch*. She would like to see the Guild expand its opportunities for writers interested in writing about the natural world and reach out to new writers, particularly those who are in other professions but who would like to write.



**Stacy Jones Waller** is an instructor in the UT Department of English. After having discovered a passion for language and narrative early on, she studied creative writing at the University of Memphis and then completed a master's degree in English at UT Knoxville. Her work culminated in a book of poems titled "Rivers of Urgent Breath," presented as her master's thesis. Upon completion of the M.A., Stacy accepted an instructorship at UIK, where she has taught beginning composition and creative writing classes, for the past three years. Currently, composing a weekly column for *The Daily Corinthian* in Corinth, Miss., and working on her first book of fiction, she will soon pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in English. Stacy has a web site at Southern-Drawl.com.



**Inga Treitler** is a writer, yoga practitioner, violinist, runner, anthropologist and mother of two young children who are joyfully carrying on a generations long tradition of music making and story telling. She loves the diversity of writers and readers who are drawn to and embraced by the Writer's Guild. She would like to contribute her energy to encouraging Guild members to engage in dialogue with our monthly presenters at the Laurel Theatre. There is nothing like a few personal questions delicately posed, to make a speaker feel respected and valued by the audience.



**Ed Sullivan** is a librarian and adjunct professor with the UT School of Information Sciences. His specialty is literature for children and young adults. He presently serves on the board of directors of the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature located at UT's Hodges Library and the Young Adult Library Services Association. He also serves on editorial advisory boards of several professional journals.

He has published over 100 articles, author interviews, bibliographies, and reviews in such journals as *The ALAN Review*, *Book Links*, *BookList*, *The Book Report*, *English Journal*, *School Library Journal*, and *Voices of Youth Advocates*. His first book, *The Holocaust in Literature for Youth: A Guide and Resource Book*, was published by Scarecrow Press in 1999. A second book for Scarecrow, *Reaching Reluctant Young Adult Readers: A Handbook for Librarians and Teachers*, was published in 2002. He is now working on a book for Libraries Unlimited called *Exploring the Fifty States through Children's and Young Adult Literature* and a third book for Scarecrow Press about Appalachian literature for children and youth. His book, *Gadgets, Secrets, and Spies: The Story of the Manhattan Project* is forthcoming in 2004, and an autobiographical novel, *The First Day of the Rest of My Life*, is presently being considered for publication.

As a board member, he would like to see the Knoxville Writers' Guild continue to grow as an important networking and support resource for area writers. He would like to see the Guild do even more to help members develop projects and promote their publications. He says he would bring the same passion he has for writing to the work he does on the Guild's behalf.



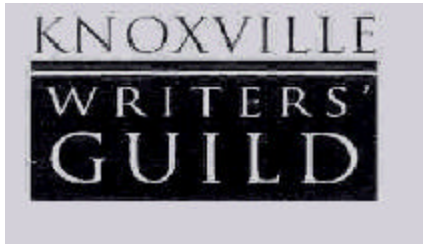
**Tony Day** was born in Lynch, a small coal-mining town located in the deep, dark hills of Eastern Kentucky into a large mining / moonshining family of Welsh, Irish, English and German descent. He left home at 16 and attended the University of Kentucky, majoring in Zoology and Genetics with minors in History and English. He has lived in Tennessee for the past 33 years, first on Cherokee Lake at Bean Station and moving to Corryton (outside Knoxville) in 2000. He has been writing since age 14, mostly poetry and short stories and while he has had some poetry published, otherwise has made little effort to publish at all. He is single, plays guitar, collects fine art and African Cultural Artifacts, reads voraciously and restores old Packard automobiles.

Other candidates are **Bill Larsen** and **Jo Angela Edwins**.

## 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: Marybeth Boyanton; Membership database: Rip Lydick; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Marybeth Boyanton, Robert Boyd, Jacqueline Kittrell, Judy Loest, Robert Lydick, Kay Newton, Caroline Norris, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Laura Still, Marlene Taylor, 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](mailto:jrd531k@msn.com), or to president Julie Auer at [hildegaard@earthlink.com](mailto:hildegaard@earthlink.com) **web:** [www.knoxvillewritersguild.org](http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org)

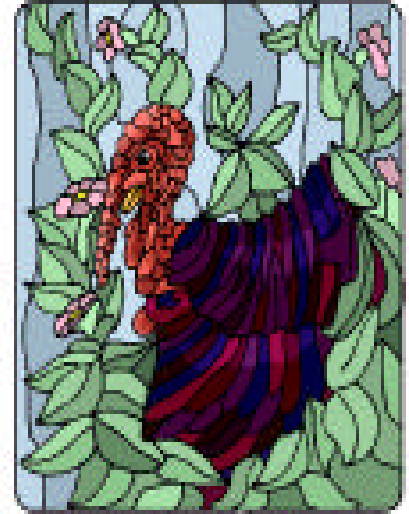
Please remember that dues are now \$25; \$20 for students.



**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.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site \_\_\_\_\_