
East Tennessee Writer

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild
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Knoxville-born Author to Read Sept. 6

UT Writers in the Library Series Expands for 2001-02

By Pamela Schoenewaldt

UT Library's successful Writers in the Library Series has been expanded to eight sessions. The 2001-2 season features readings by many Guild members, UT faculty and students, and local writers sharing their poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, from the widely published to gifted newcomers. All readings are free and open to the public, and will be followed by a Q&A session. **All readings are Mondays, 7:00 p.m.**

Sept. 10: Brian Griffin and Pamela Schoenewaldt (*fiction*), University Club, 2704 Kingston Pike (corner of Kingston and Neyland). Co-sponsored by Friends of the Library.

The following readings will be held at UT Library, either in the Auditorium (1st floor) or the Faculty Lounge (2nd floor), as indicated.

Sept. 24: *Slam Poets* (John Kilpatrick, Julie Nance, Seed and others) Faculty Lounge

Oct. 22: Jeannette Brown, Linda Tolbert, Don Williams (*fiction*) Auditorium

Nov. 12: Judy Loest, Linda Parsons-Marion, Steve Sparks, Ashley VanDoorn (*poetry*) Faculty Lounge

Dec. 3: Anwar Accawi and Julie Auer (*personal essay*) Auditorium

Jan. 28 Jon Manchip White, Kim Trevathan (*fiction/personal essay*) Auditorium

Feb. 18 Marilyn Kallet and Katherine Smith (*poetry*) Auditorium

Mar. 11 Silas House and Art Smith (*fiction*) Auditorium

Apr. 22 R.B. Morris (*poetry*) Auditorium

Schedules subject to change. For further information, contact Steven Harris, (865) 974-8693 or Pamela Schoenewaldt (865) 974-3004



Inman Majors, local boy turned writer, will read to the Knoxville Writers' Guild Thursday, Sept. 6 and talk about his book, *Swimming in Sky*, published by SMU Press.

The novel tells the story of 25-year-old Jason Sayer, a Vanderbilt graduate who moves in with his mother and her boyfriend one hot summer in Knoxville, TN.

For four months Jason is lost in his memories, paranoia, confusion and estrangement from most of the people he had formerly been close to. He seems unable to take steps to correct his mistakes or to make contact with anyone on a personal level. Getting into his head means taking not only a psychological trip for the reader, but a tour of Knoxville the way it was twenty years ago. You'll recognize neighborhood, UT hangouts and relive some of the past football games through conversations of the characters.

Author Mary Hood says of Majors' book: "In Majors's novel, It is as though the Catcher met Cather in the wry." Liza Willard says, "It's as if Holden Caulfield has grown up, but not been much changed, as if his intensity has become southern, rather than northeastern."

Inman, a member of the sports-involved Majors family, was reared in Knoxville, attended Cedar Bluff Middle School, and Webb High School. He has a BA from Vanderbilt and an MFA from the University of Alabama. Currently a teacher at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, TN, he lives with his wife Christy and new baby Tessa Rane.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Laurel Theater on the University campus, 16th St. and Laurel Avenue. Refreshments will be served, and the public is invited to attend. A one-dollar donation is requested.

The Writing News



1st Lady Plans Nat'l Book Fest

First Lady Laura Bush is making plans for a National Book Festival to be held at the Library of Congress and the Capitol grounds in Washington Sept. 8.

She will be joined by Librarian of Congress James Billington and Milwaukee Bucks basketball star Ray Allen. Allen says the festival will give public figures like him a chance to show children the importance of reading. "If I tell a kid to read," he says, "I think they'll be more likely to read than to sit there on a computer and play video games."

Mrs. Bush, a professional librarian and teacher, organized the Texas Book Festival when her husband was governor. "... It's become institutionalized as an annual event at the Texas capitol." The Washington festival, open to the public, is designed to encourage young people to read. Among writers scheduled to participate are 50 popular authors reading from their work, including Sue Grafton, David McCullough, Nathaniel Philbrick, Mark Graham, and Patricia McLaughlin.

E-Books Prove Unpopular with Readers

by *Jeanne McDonald*

I know it isn't nice to relish the misfortune of others, but when I read a recent story in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, I felt my heart leap a little. Really. It leapt.

The Sunday morning headline was stretched across the top of an entire page in the computers/technology section: "Much-heralded e-books crash after consumer rejection." This is when my heart leapt. Remember the hype a couple of years ago, when electronic gurus gleefully predicted the imminent demise of books printed on paper? They crowed that the era was nigh when a book could no longer be held in the hand, but would be available only on the computer screen or a hand-held electronic board.

It is hard enough to read e-zines, the pioneer online publications that are supposedly the forerunners of the e-book. All right, I will admit that I have been dragged, kicking and screaming, into the computer age, but when I heard the predictions of the future of the book as we know it, I grieved. I grieved over the possible loss of those evenings spent reading in bed under a glowing lamp and cuddly quilts as winter sleet rattles the windows. I grieved over the hours stolen during cool spring mornings when I lie suspended in my backyard hammock, reading a book as birds flit across my peripheral vision and bees buzz around the flowers on the hillside. I grieved over the possible loss of the sensuous smell of ink, the seductive curve of the printed word, and the crisp texture of paper smoothed between thumb and fingers. Then I thought about all those futuristic movies in which books are banned under threat of death and

imprisonment, and I started making plans to join one of the rebel groups that live in caves on mountaintops and sit around the fire whispering about Dostoyevski and John Updike. I started stocking up on turtleneck sweaters and warm outerwear for the inevitable day when I would become an outlaw. And I kept an eye on activity in the e-book world, prepared to bury my most beloved books in a trunk in the woods.

But then comes this article. Although the writer termed as "gloomy" the news that in a survey of 500 households, 40 percent had a "poor" initial impression of e-books and preferred reading from paper rather than a computer screen, I greeted this news with exhilaration and an entirely different reaction.

See? I knew something would happen to save the printed book, I just knew it. My first glimmer of hope came when I read that Stephen King had shelved his e-book project after a lot of people who downloaded his novel, *The Plant*, didn't bother to pay for it. We needn't worry about King's financial state, and anyway, he claims he made \$463,832.27 on the book, but if it didn't work for Stephen King, who *is* it going to work for? When Richard DeGrandpre wrote "Digitopia," a warning about the false promises of the wired world, it was published as an e-book, and, you know what? All his predictions came true. His own e-book was never reviewed, promoted, or downloaded. "My book is just dead," says DeGrandpre, a psychologist. And so are just about everyone else's e-books. I'm sorry for Mr. DeGrandpre, I really am, and for all the other authors whose books sank out of sight online. I can't say I'm sorry for Stephen King, and I'm certainly not sorry for Random House and Simon & Schuster, who shot themselves in the feet by developing e-book lines. Me? I'm happy. Maybe I can return my turtlenecks for some real paper books.

What's Up with Local Writers

Some members of the Knoxville Writers' Guild will be Nashville-bound October 12-14 to read their work at the Southern Festival of Books, to be held on the Executive Plaza. They include **Kim Trevathan, Marilyn Kallet, and Jeff Daniel Marion.** Poet **Arthur Smith** of the UT English Department will also be on the program. Two hundred nationally known writers will read at the Festival, including Bobbie Ann Mason, Lee Smith, Garrison Keillor, Rick Bragg, Homer Hickam, Roy Blount, Jr., John Egerton, Laura Furman, May Robison, Elizabeth Spencer, Jill McCorkle, and Patrick Bone.

Kerry Madden, KWG member, has just ~~sold a book proposal to~~ *American Girl* at Pleasant Publishing on creative writing for kids. The book will be published in September 2001.

Jack Mauro says that his novella, *Spite Hall*, is finished. Now at iUniverse.com, it will be available within a week or two at all the major online publishers. Jack will have a signing at B. Dalton on September 1. In addition, the final installment of the five-part story he wrote for *Metro Pulse* will appear this week. Jack says the hero is like him, but younger and with more hair.

Timothy Joseph's poems will be included in the 2001 Anthology of Poetry by the International Library of Poetry. Tim was one of 33 poets whose work will be recorded professionally as a special part of a new collection called "The Sound of Poetry."

Specialty Writing Groups of the KWG

The following specialty writing groups are sponsored by the Knoxville Writers' Guild for paid members of the organization. To join any or all of these groups, you must keep your dues current. Dues are \$20 a year, \$15 for students. See the mailing label page of this newsletter for a membership application or send a check to the Guild at the return address on the back page.

Novel Writers Group: Timothy Joseph, timjoseph@bigfoot.com

Poetry Interest Group: Marybeth Boyanton, **Poetry-in-Progress:** kwg.pip.workshop@att.net

Non Fiction & Memoir: Jayne Raparelli, jayner@ccdi.net

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

Short Fiction: Julie Auer, Hildegard@earthlink.net

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



Got the Cold Shoulder? Nasty Rejections Contest

(From the MR web site)

A publisher rejected one of Faulkner's novels with the statement "Good God, I can't publish this. We'd both be in jail." Emily Dickinson's poems were dismissed as "queer" by one publisher and "devoid of true poetical qualities" by another one. MR editor Speer Morgan was asked by a publisher to try them again in twenty years. Marta Boswell, MR poetry editor, had her verse sent back with a note telling her "no fat font."

If you send out your stories, poems and essays to magazines, chances are pretty good that, like these writers, you have been rejected too. Take revenge on those unpleasant rejections and enter our "Nasty Rejections Contest." We would love for you to share your publishing tales of woe. All you need to do is send us a few biting sentences from your most wounding rejection letter. The rules are simple:

The entry must be fewer than 100 words
We accept genuine rejections, direct quotes only.
Withhold the name of rejecting editor, magazine, and/or publisher.

Enter now and we will sign you up for our newsletter to notify you of the winners as well as to receive future updates about the website. The top three entries will receive our [Special Summer Offer](#) free! That's a two-year subscription to the magazine plus a free t-shirt. Send your entry to nastyrejections@moreview.org

Sorry to say, but the meaner the better.

A reading at the Southern Festival, below





Guild to Take Active Role in 2002 Dogwood Arts Book Fair

Board member Brian Griffin reports that KWG has been asked to take a more active role in the next Book Fair at the Dogwood Arts Festival in April 2001.

Brian and Judy Loest have attended a couple of meetings about this project, and report that Barnes & Noble is making an all-out effort to expand the next festival and to make it much more visible and fun than the trial balloon last year. To make this work, Brian says, they need our help.

Right now we need two or three volunteers to help contact authors and track down books. If you or someone you know would like to help with this (the work would be done at Barnes & Noble's store on Kingston Pike) please contact Brian Griffin or Judy Loest as soon as possible. In addition, if you know the names of local and regional authors who should be included in the Dogwood Book Festival, please forward those names (and any book titles you know) to Brian at 719-6823 as soon as possible.

The Knoxville Writers' Guild has belatedly learned about the death of one of our long-time members, Esther Killebrew, who died on March 16 of heart failure from complications stemming from her long battle with emphysema. We will always remember Esther's unquenchable spirit, her bright smile, and her energetic writing. She will be sorely missed.

Seven deadly sins: What makes you stop reading a book?

By Robert McCrum, Sunday July 22, 2001

Condensed from *The Observer* <http://www.observer.co.uk>>

Elmore Leonard, one of the great American crime novelists, has just written a piece for the New York Times in which he identifies what he considers to be the 10 Deadly Sins of his trade: 1. Never open a book with weather. 2. Avoid prologues. 3. Never use a verb other than 'said' to carry dialogue. 4. Never use an adverb to modify the verb 'said'. 5. Keep your exclamation marks under control. 6. Never use the words 'suddenly' or 'all hell broke loose'. 7. Use regional dialect, patois, sparingly. 8. Avoid detailed descriptions of characters. 9. Don't go into great detail describing places and things. 10. Try to leave out the part that readers tend to skip.

Reader's Seven Deadly Sins

Here are my Reader's Seven Deadly Sins: 1. Novels with plots that don't work. Convoluted is fine, but if it doesn't parse, making no logical sense, it can be maddening. Such books should be made into operas. 2. History books in which historical characters are made to conduct imaginary conversations of the 'Come now, mein führer, you know Germany cannot afford to fight a war on two fronts' variety. 3. Biographies in which the subject is referred by his (or her) first or pet name throughout. For instance: 'In the autumn of 1910, Buffy was to meet the man with whose for tunes her name would be forever associated... Buffy was at this time still in love with the dashing young guardsman she knew as Fruity.....' 4. Novels with characters who are introduced with a terrific flourish and are left to dangle because the author can't figure out what to do with them. 5. Novels with one sentence paragraphs. Fine in moderation, but infuriating as a stylistic quirk. 6. Novels with an epigraph taken from a popular song of the author's adolescence, viz a contemporary novel prefaced by a snatch of lyric from the 1970s or 1980s. 7. Histories or biographies with more than one unforgivable factual error.

Ultimately, the reader will be moved to throw away the book

The accumulation of mistakes in any book begins to call into question the whole enterprise. Ultimately, the reader will be moved to throw the book away. Contract terminated. Elmore Leonard concludes his New York Times homily with words that ought to be handed out to writing classes the world over: 'My most important rule is one that sums up all 10.

If it sounds like writing, rewrite it

If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it. Or, if proper usage gets in the way, it may have to go. I can't allow what we learned in English composition to disrupt the sound and rhythm of the narrative. It's my attempt to remain invisible, not distract the reader from the story with obvious writing. Remember what Joseph Conrad said: Don't let words get in the way of what you want to say.

KWG Summer Workshops Provide Inspiration and Tips from Local Practitioners

by Candance Reaves

The third year of the Knoxville Writers' Guild Summer Workshops introduced new teachers, new subjects, and several new faces. Knoxville songwriter and musician R.B. Morris entertained as well as enlightened his participants with songs and stories about the romance and rigors of the music business. Screenwriter Paul Harrill spoke about his experiences in the film world and instructed students as to how they, too, could write award-winning screenplays. Bucky Carter gave one-on-one instruction in the growing field of on-line publishing.

Instructors returning from last year were Brian Griffin, who taught the art of the story; Marilyn Kallet, who had her class examine their dreams and take their poetry to the next level; and Don Williams, publisher of *New Millennium Writings*, who provided instructions for getting published.

Journalist Ina Hughs schooled her students in the fine art of using humor, imagery and metaphor in writing. Doris Ivie led workshops that helped her participants look at themselves and their own symbols and personal truths to deepen their experience as writers. Annabel Agee helped her class to trigger memory as a tool for writing and told others how to encourage and guide elders in telling their stories. Candance Reaves helped her class of beginning poets understand that the first step is having the courage to get the poems on paper and show them to others. In total, we had 29 sessions and over 50 participants this year, turning a profit that will go into other Guild projects.

Space for the workshops, held at the Magnolia Avenue Campus, was generously contributed by Pellissippi State Technical Community College, which has contributed space for the workshops at Division Street for the past two years.



Marilyn Kallet helps a class translate dreams into poems.



Laura Still and Fran Scheidt in a KWG workshop.

Taylor Prize Finalist Mss. Go to Judge

by Brian Griffin

The 2001 Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel has been an enormous undertaking and an enormous success. This year our team of KWG readers narrowed the field from 398 entries to a mere six "Finalist" manuscripts, which are now in the hands of our final judge, the esteemed novelist Doris Betts. Ms. Betts reports that all six are excellent prospects, echoing the comments of last year's judge, George Garrett, who said much the same thing about the 2001 manuscript entries.

Obviously our screeners --all KWG volunteers -- have once again done an excellent job. A total of 28 highly qualified people donated their time and expertise this year, proving that the Knoxville Writers' Guild is a strong coalition of people who care about making a difference in the world of literature. [A special note to screeners: watch your mail for news about an upcoming party and "sneak preview" of this year's winning manuscript.]

2001 Winner to Read Oct. 11

Mark your calendars: Dewitt Henry, winner of the first Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel, is scheduled to read and sign his winning book on Thursday, Oct. 11, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the University Club. Oct. 11 is also the official publication date for Mr. ~~Henry's novel~~ *The Marriage of Anna Maye Potts*. As a special community service, copies of the novel can be purchased at the University Club that evening, courtesy of Barnes & Noble Booksellers. KWG members will receive a special invitation from UT Press, which is sponsoring this event in conjunction with the UT Dept. of English and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. KWG would like to thank these organizations for their support.

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, Lornie 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 should be addressed to jmd531k@msn.com

Web: www.knoxvillewritersguild.org



Volunteers Needed for Southern Festival of Books Oct. 12- 14

Volunteers are needed to help man (and woman) the KWG booth at the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville Oct. 12-14.

Please e-mail the president at jareaves@mindspring.com to sign up for the hours you would be willing to work at the festival. Meet famous authors, hear readings, and have fun!

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 vgr300z@infin.net

NAME _____

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