



News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! It's an amazingly small world we live in, isn't it? If you didn't know it before, just hop on Facebook and go through all your friends to see which mutual friends you share. It's ok; it's Facebook - if you're not snooping on people, you're doing it wrong.

Thanks to Facebook, I know that a teammate of mine used to babysit for my neighbor, another teammate is friends with my hairstylist, my old nanny used to play frisbee golf with another neighbor of mine, and a woman I met through a mom's group attends a drum circle with a woman I met here in the Guild. It's Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon here in Chattanooga, except everyone is related to *everyone*.

Specific case in point: A few weeks ago I was at the YMCA downtown finishing up a class and just chitchatting with a new friend named Mary, who is about 20 years older than I am (this detail matters), when a woman approached me and said, "Kate?" I turned and recognized her as someone I had met at the Winter Writers Workshop back in January, and who is now a member (*if you're reading this, hi!*). We talked for a moment and then Mary stepped forward and said, "Rachel?" Turns out Rachel and Mary had gone to college together back in the day. If Rachel hadn't recognized me and crossed the room to say Hi, it's quite possible that those two former classmates would have passed right by each other and never known that, all these years later, their lives had crossed paths again.

Sometimes authors throw in coincidences or chance meetings that are so contrived your eyeballs ache from their voyage to the back of your skull. But sometimes these things really do just *happen*. And if you can write about it and make it work for your story, more power to you.

I'm Kate Landers and I am probably related to someone famous, just like you. Send me an email at newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

*****Mark your calendars!*****

The Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair is a free event taking place on Saturday, September 7 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Downtown Library, 1001 Broad Street. There will be:

- *Author readings in the Auditorium - names to be announced soon!
- *Open mic stage for multiple genres on the library plaza
- *Vendor tables, book sales, workshops, a Flash Fiction contest, and children's crafts on the 4th floor
- *Food carts, games, and more!

It's a celebration of all things literary, for and by the entire community! For more information visit www.crwfair.org.

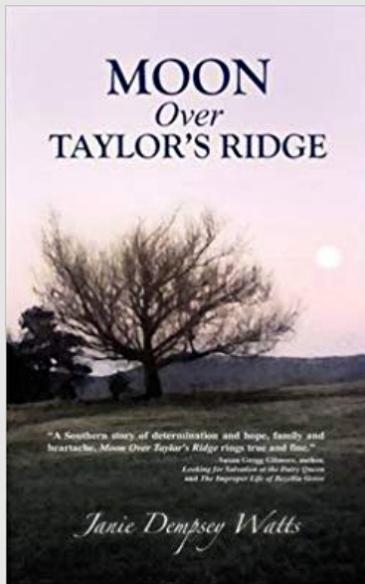
If you are a CWG Member and you would like to sell your books at the Fair, but are unable to mind a table all day, **we invite you to consign** your books through us! Email Sherry Poff for more details.

We need volunteers to help us man tables and direct guests. There

is no time commitment; any help is appreciated. We are also in need of a photographer. If you can volunteer your time for even an hour, please email [Sherry](#).

If you would like to **reserve a vendor's table**...guess what? Email [Sherry](#).

In fact, next time you see Sherry, please give her a round of applause for all the hard work she's doing.



Book Discussion: *Moon Over Taylor's Ridge*

Please join Sherry Poff from 10 to 11 or from 2 to 3 on the day of the Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair (September 7th) for a book discussion on CWG member Janie Dempsey Watts's *Moon Over Taylor's Ridge*.

Avie Williams Cole has a mission: take a quick trip to Georgia to settle her father's estate. Too busy to go, her attorney husband, Michael, sends her off with their asthmatic son, Joseph, to keep her company. In tiny Taylor's Crossing, Avie settles in but is soon thrown off course by overbearing and meddling family members and her son's fascination with a legendary Cherokee Silver mine. Their search for the silver mine leads her up to Taylor's Ridge and to a new friend, Will. As her stay lengthens, her life begins to unravel even as she begins to blossom and make new friends. For the first time in her life, she must learn to stand on her own and find her way. Will she stay with her husband, or choose a new love? And how can she hold on to the red land she cherishes?

Purchase your copy today and be ready for the Fair next month! Available at our local StarLine Books, 1467 Market St #106, or on [Amazon](#).

Also coming up in September is our **Annual Party and Board Elections!**

This event will take place on Tuesday, September 10 at The Edney Innovation Center downtown. We will have a potluck dinner and say good-bye to departing board members, President John C. Mannone, and Vice-President Sherry Poff.

The Chattanooga Writers' Guild is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) run by its members. In order to continue, we need volunteers to step up for board and officer positions, various committees, and annual events throughout the year. If you would like to find out more about what we do and where your help is needed, please read through our [BYLAWS](#) and [JOB DESCRIPTIONS](#).

Member Spotlight with



When did you first consider yourself to be a writer? I learned early in school that I enjoyed writing much more than reading. Creating a story that fascinates and moves people is a gift that I admired in authors and writers. It wasn't until I received my first unbiased review that I truly felt like a writer.

What does your writing area look like? In a word, messy. I work mainly in a nook. I have pictures on the walls, some from celebrities I've met, and some are art. There's a sword on the wall too. My desk is modest, with barely enough room for my monitor, keyboard and mouse. There are a few papers shoved behind my monitor and more on the floor. I have a couple guitars across the room near the double recliner. A bookshelf full of mementos, friends' books, and my favorite books sits next to it against the wall. There's also an elliptical and some fitness equipment on the other side of the recliners. My wife has a craft desk in the corner of the room.

Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life. Shakespeare has had a huge impact, and Robert Frost's *The Road not Taken* sticks out. But the poem that has come to mean the most to me is *Footprints in the Sand*. Let's just say I've been carried a lot.

What literary success are you most proud of? I met a man at a convention who said he didn't read physical books, but pulled out his phone and purchased my first book on his Kindle in front of me. Some months later, he showed up at a book signing for my second book. I remembered him and (jokingly) asking him why he was in a bookstore if he only reads ebooks. His reply was that he only wanted to come see me to say thanks. He had stopped talking to God and after reading book one had started again. The man went on to say he knew it was a long road ahead, but he had started down it. It was better than any award I could have ever won. I cried.

What writing project are you working on at the moment? My twelve year old son asked me this just the other day. When I told him, he gave the strangest look and asked, "This makes, what, five?" It's true. I have five active projects I'm actively working on, some more than others. My favorite of the day is a mystery about a young man who inherits a family estate that he has never seen. When he goes to see his new home, he learns there a tarnish on the family name because of the suspicious death of his great-grandmother. He soon finds himself working to unravel the mystery.

What was the best concert you've ever been to? I saw Aaron Tippin and Tanya Tucker in concert when I was stationed in Jacksonville, NC. They came to Marine Corps Air Station New River and my First Sergeant gave me tickets for painting his office. It was a night of freedom and the music never sounded better. I've enjoyed country music ever since.

What is your biggest time-waster? At present it's Gardenscapes, a game on my phone where my butler works in my garden all day. Honestly, Austin makes nearly as many messes as he cleans up. Maybe he should stay in the house and I should hire a gardner!

Who do you nominate for next time? Keith Robinson.

No Mad Blab this month. Sorry. I procrastinated and now I'm going to bed.

STAY CONNECTED

