



Chattanooga Writers' Guild

Your monthly news & updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Today marks the halfway point of National Novel Writing Month, otherwise known as NaNoWriMo. By now, some of you are patting yourselves on the back in between gulps of your fourth cup of room-temperature coffee and going, "By George, I think I've got this!" Others of you are re-calculating just how many thousands of words a day you'll need to write and how many hours of sleep you'll need to forfeit if you're to have any chance of catching up. And the rest of you have quit in one of two ways: Sad and defeated ("Alas, if only I'd had more time/willpower and less distraction/day job!"), or maniacally gleeful ("50,000 words in 30 days? They're all mad! Thank goodness I was able to see through that soul-sucking scam early on!") Well, wherever you are with your coffee intake and your word output, you've made the right choice. Good job and carry on!

Two weeks ago I told you that I had participated in NaNoWriMo the past two years, but that I had decided against it this year. The biggest reason for my lack of participation is that I don't have the time to dedicate to writing every day, and it's close to impossible to meet the 50K goal if you can't write every day.

But the second biggest reason is that, both times after NaNoWriMo ended, I stopped working on my story. In 2016, the story was about a girl who wakes up every night with a different super power. I loved my character, but 30 days of super powers? I felt like I was trying to wring wine from a snake, they were *that* contrived. In 2017, the story was a basic zombie apocalypse, but with a twist. This time, I got so bogged down in the minutia of the four main characters' lives pre-apocalypse that 25,000 words and 18 chapters in, they still hadn't met a single zombie.

I haven't completely given up on those stories, though. They're my "One Day" dresses I've got hanging in my closet and I will *never* give them up to Goodwill. I've got long-term writing goals and those two babies are part of it.

What are *your* long-term writing plans? Do you have a story on hold? If so, what keeps you from writing it? How are you doing with NaNoWriMo? We want to hear from you! Send your comments to NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com.

Reader Kenyon T. Henry is participating in NaNoWriMo and reached out to say:

I'm working on two projects for NaNoWriMo. The first is my fourth book, which I plan to be a novella. It's the first in a series spin-off from my urban fantasy series, Chronicles of Stephen. The second is a comic book that is also a spin-off of the same original series. I can't say that I'll hit the 50,000 word mark. But, it's a good reminder to continue writing something as often as I am able.

Thanks for letting us know how you're doing, Kenyon! Good luck!

Monthly Meeting featuring Ray Atkins

At our last Monthly Meeting, held November 13, award-winning author Raymond L. Atkins gave a great presentation: "How to Add Humor to Your Writing." If you missed it, you can find more about Ray Atkins by visiting his [website](#).



A poem by CWG member Sarah Tullock, who was inspired by November 1st's prompt
They should have met that night:

Inner, Outer, Darkened, Bright
They should have met and blessed that night,
The Outer Darkness and the Light,
To give each other second sight,
To take each other's hand.
They should have met and blessed that night,
The Inner Quiet and the Noise,
To give each other second voice,
To better understand.
The Inner, Outer, Darkened, Bright,
Should always meet, should never fight,
Should speak and listen, give and get,
Should hold and have and never let
Such piercing, lonesome nights as this
Divide them in their separateness.
They should have met and blessed that night,
The Inner, Outer, Darkened, Bright.

Thank you for sharing, Sarah!

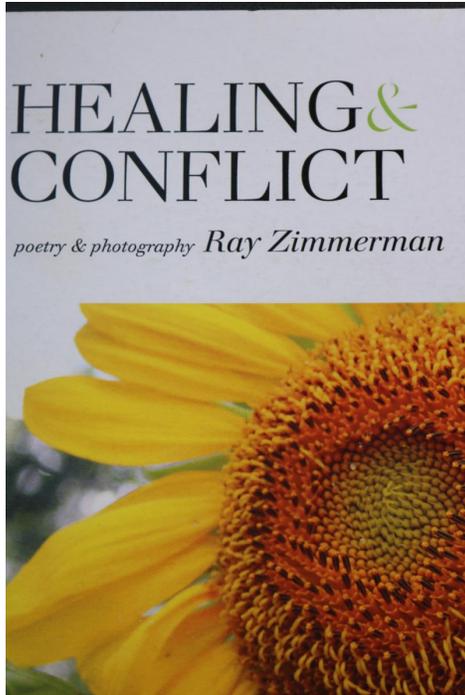
Are your dues past due?

All 2018 CWG memberships expired in September. Have you paid your 2019 dues yet? If the answer to that is, "Oops!" head over to the CWG [website](#) and click "Buy now." Our website is going through a much-needed update and all non-members will be removed from our Member Profiles page at the beginning of next year. Don't be erased! Renew today!

CWG Annual Christmas Party

This year's party will be held on Tuesday, December 11, from 6-9 PM at the 1st Christian Church on McCallie Avenue. We will have a book drive, trivia game, open-mic, and a potluck dinner. If you are musically gifted and would like to provide some entertainment, send an email to

NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com and let us know you'd like to perform. Look for an invitation in your inbox with further details, coming soon!



CWG member Ray Zimmerman's newest book of poetry, *Healing and Conflict*, features beautiful photographs taken from around the local area. To meet the author and purchase your copy, visit Star Line Books on Saturday, November 24 from 1-3!



CWG board member Michael Kobernus lived for several years aboard a sailboat with his family in Annapolis, Maryland. *Sell Up and Sail Away* will lead you through the ups and downs of living your dream, giving it up, and then spending the next two decades trying to recapture it. Purchase your copy [here!](#)

Save the Date!

Our Winter Writers Workshop will be held January 26, 2019. Details to come!

Member Spotlight with KB Ballentine

When did you first consider yourself to be a poet? I think joining Rhyme and Chatt enabled me to consider myself a poet. The writers, speakers, musicians there were so welcoming and encouraging about sharing my work, that realizing the title of "poet" was not really distinct because I grew into it there.

What other hobbies do you enjoy? I enjoy reading, dancing, swimming. Right now, sleeping is a much desired hobby that I'd like to spend more time doing!

How long have you been leading the Open-Mic at Barnes and

Noble and how did you first get involved in it? I began going to Open Mic about 20 years or so ago, when I got serious about teaching poetry to my high school students. Jenny Sadre was the host, and, when she left to teach in Georgia, she asked me to take over; I think that was about fifteen years ago? Wow! I had no idea that we've been doing Open Mic for so long!

What is your favorite book on writing? I don't really have one favorite, just the "favorite of the moment." Right now that is Jane Hirshfield's *Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the*



World. Of course, I always come back to Bill Brown and Malcolm Glass's *Important Words*, Kim Addonizio's *Ordinary Genius*, and Sandford Lyne's *Writing Poetry from the Inside Out*, although I have many other helps.

What does your writing area look like? My writing area is anywhere there is a notebook and pen and a dessert. My office, now, that's a much untidier topic . . .

Do you hand-write or type your rough drafts? I feel more connected to my writing by handwriting first then typing. I find that it's difficult to separate actually being "finished" with a piece when it looks so good as printed copy from the very first draft if I type it to begin with. When I see the "messiness" of my writing, it encourages me to think about specific words and placement.

What is your favorite thing about living in Chattanooga? The feeling of remoteness in the mountains while still having a thriving writing community.

Who do you nominate for next month? Helga Kidder



SeedGoods@Outlook.com
(423) 339-7089
199 River St in Coolidge Park under the walking bridge
close to Bill's Snow Cones and the Carousel
Open Daily 1-6 (Closed Monday and Tuesday)
<http://seedgoods.com/>

Local store SEED creates a Writers' Nook

Local store owner and CWG member, Bird White, is building up a little book nook for local authors and Instagram poets in his Bohemian gift shop. A seating area in the back of the store is suitable for reading or writing, while having a tea.

Local authors may want to put their books in the store on consignment (for 30% of the sale price). Most visitors are tourists from Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville and other places. Bird is especially interested in free-spirited stories or poems (which would be in harmony with the theme of the shop).

Call for Submissions!

Independent Noise, an online literary magazine founded in 2016, is currently calling for submissions for Issue 1.5, "Whispers in the Dark." The magazine is run by writers who have varying expertise in major art genres who would love to see some submissions from CWG members! They are accepting submissions for fiction, poetry and creative-nonfiction, with the author's choice of including an audio recording! Their website can be found at <http://independentnoise.org/> .

STAY CONNECTED

