

Chattanooga **Writers' Guild**

Your monthly news & updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Today marks the start of National Novel Writing Month, otherwise known as NaNoWriMo. If you're unfamiliar with this event, it's a challenge to writers to write 50,000 words by the end of November 30. This equates to 1,667 words per day, or 2 to 3 hours of actual writing, watered down by poor word choices, weak plots, and clichéd characters, and buffeted on either end by mental reminders that **you have no time to edit**. If you are motivated by camaraderie, you can sign up on nanowrimo.org where you can create a profile, mark your progress, join chats, receive encouraging emails from famous authors, even see where write-ins are happening every week here in Chattanooga! It's a great challenge and commitment to yourself, and it feels good to be part of a community of writers who are all attempting to accomplish something great together.

However, I will not be participating.

50,000 words is A LOT of words. And I just don't have the time for it this year. The first year I participated, in 2016, I wrote 50,000 words and then some. Last year I wrote about half that much. This year I'm not going to even bother. I have the desire, but I don't have the time, and if I can't make the time, do I really have the desire? I don't want to make a promise to myself that I can't keep. Other than this newsletter, I haven't been writing too much at all lately. In fact, my only writing goal is to have something to present at our Christmas party Open-Mic next month. And right now, that is good enough for me.

But if *you* are participating in NaNoWriMo, let us know! Tell us what you're working on, how long you've wanted to write this story, and how you're doing on your progress! Send your comments to NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com.

Monthly Meeting featuring Ray Atkins

At our upcoming meeting, award-winning author Raymond L. Atkins will explore the topic of humor in writing. Known for his humorous novels about serious and difficult subjects, Atkins will share specific techniques with writers that are designed to make their writing friendlier and more accessible to readers.

Situational humor will be explored, including how to distinguish between what is fair game and what is not. Attendees will also learn to differentiate between a character and a caricature, why one is funny and one is not, and to laugh with rather than laugh at. And finally, they will learn that sometimes, trying to be funny is the worst thing that writers can do.

Raymond L. Atkins teaches English at Georgia Northwestern Technical College and Creative Writing at Reinhardt University. *South of the Etowah*, his first creative non-fiction book, was released in 2016. It was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was named the 2016 Lincoln Memorial University Appalachian Book of the Year. In 2017, Atkins was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Georgia Writers Association. He was also the Fiction judge for CWG's 2017 Spring Writing Contest. *Set List* is his latest novel.

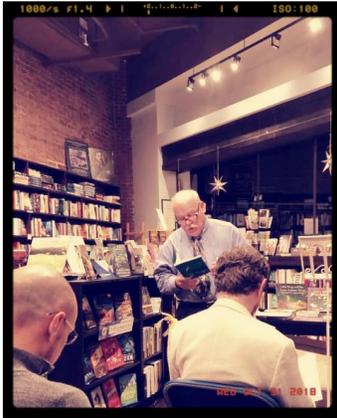
Find more information about Raymond L. Atkins, visit www.RaymondLAtkins.com, or follow him on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

The November meeting will be held from 6-8 PM on Tuesday, November 13 on the 5th Floor of the Edney Innovation Center downtown. Street parking is free after 6 PM, or you may park



5th Tuesday at Star Line Books - Readings from the 2017 Anthology

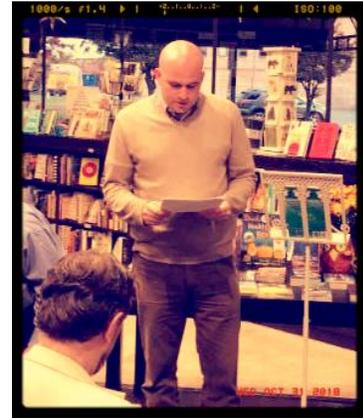
Members and friends of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild met at Star Line Books this past Tuesday to share selections from the 2017 Anthology. Thank you to Ray Zimmerman for organizing this lovely, intimate event!



Ray Zimmerman, reading his fiction piece, "The Boatman."



Ann Thornfield-Long and John C. Mannone, who both have pieces in the anthology.



Gerhard Schneibel, who traveled all the way from Knoxville to be with us!



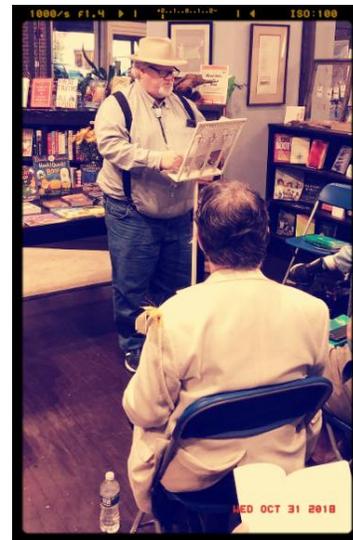
Finn Bille presents his poem, "Mackerel."



The audience follows along as Greg Wilkey reads his fiction piece, "Almost in Time."



Sherry Poff reads her poem, "Speaking Ill of the Dead."



Calvin Beam reads his humorous fiction piece, "Steal Rock City."

Mad Blab

Here's how to play: Speak the following nonsensical sentences aloud and try to guess the name of the famous literary work you're saying. Answers at the bottom.

Wear this I'd wall kins
Lea toll ow son thee prayer he
Thick ow in tough maw teak wrist toe

Member Accolades for Marsha Mathews

Dalton State College Professor Emerita Marsha Mathews and Publisher Main Street Rag announce Marsha Mathews' fifth book of poetry and first full collection. In pursuit of deeper understanding of the self and loved ones, *Beauty Bound* explores through verse the human desire to be more attractive, moving us from continent to continent to witness extremes to which people of various cultures and eras have gone to attain perfection. This book was selected as Finalist in Main Street Rag's 2018 poetry book competition and will be published in November. (Notably, Marsha's fifth book and fifth grandchild are coming out at the same time!)

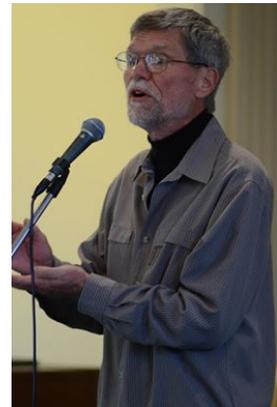
For more information and to obtain your copy, click [here](#).

Save the Date!

Our annual holiday party will be held on Tuesday, December 11. Details to come!

Member Spotlight with Finn Bille

- 1. When did you first consider yourself to be a writer?** I was a teenage scribe.
- 2. What other hobbies do you enjoy?** I ride my bicycle and paddle my kayak.
- 3. What object in your life have you had the longest?** My old worn Swiss Army knife.
- 4. What is your favorite book on writing?** *The Triggering Town*.
- 5. What does your writing area look like?** The desk in the basement.
- 6. What are your writing goals for the next 12 months?** To re-write my stories for telling as literary stories.
- 7. Who is your favorite character from a novel?** Stephen Maturin in O'Brian's novels.
- 8. Tell us about your muse or source of motivation.** I summon my muse; she mostly appears.
- 9. Where is your favorite place to go in Chattanooga?** Coolidge Park and Niedlov's cafe.
- 10. Who do you nominate for next month?** I tag our premier lyrical poet, KB Ballantine.



Writing Prompt

Need help thinking of something to write about?

This month's prompt is:

They should have met that night.

Send your short story or poem in to

NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com!

You may see it in our next newsletter!



Word to Know: *Paucity*, n.
Scarcity. The island country has a paucity of natural resources.

Mad Blab answers: *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*

STAY CONNECTED

