

# Chattanooga **Writers' Guild**

## Your monthly news & updates

Greetings, fellow writers! When I sat down to plan out this newsletter, I had to flip through page after page of my daughter's doodles to search for a clean sheet. (I'm organized enough to pre-plan the newsletter, but not organized enough to keep clean paper on my desk.) I was nearing the end and had almost given up hope, when I flipped a sheet and stopped. **"My dearest Elizabeth, Though I have not received a reply from you..."** Ooh, I thought. *Was this a prompt I did at a writing group? Perhaps I was writing from the viewpoint of a civil war soldier? "...I shall write you again anyways, because I'm bored and I have nothing else to do. I'm sitting at a Taco Bell..."* Well, *that doesn't sound right.* Then I realized: I was reading a letter I had written a friend more than 10 years ago, but never mailed! It was a present from Past Kate to Present Kate! Discovering this old letter put a smile on my face for the rest of the day.

I know that most of us discard our unusable ideas and drafts, thinking, "What junk. Into the garbage with you!" But perhaps we should keep some of those. Think of them as gifts from Present You to Future You. It's hard to predict how much joy you may get from uncovering one of those "silly" ideas in the future. But it may just be the greatest gift you'll give yourself that day. Please let me know what you think by sending your questions and comments to [NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com).

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### Monthly Meeting



Our next Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9, at the **Edney Innovation Center**, on the **5th Floor**. The address is 1100 Market Street (at the corner of Market & 11th.) The meeting will take place at our usual time from 6 - 8 PM. Street Parking is free after 6 PM. There is also free parking at the city parking lot behind the Bessie Smith Cultural Center after 4:30 PM.

The topic for October is **"Self-Publishing for Serious Writers"** and will be presented by **Michael Kobernus**. In this presentation, MJ Kobernus asks some important questions:

- Is self-publishing only for amateurs?
- Can you create publications to equal the quality of a major publishing house?
- And what is that little dot over the 'i' called?

In "Self Publishing for Serious Writers," MJ Kobernus examines just what it takes to publish a book that can stand up to comparison with anything from the Big Four. From St. Pauls in the 16th century, to the basic tools and techniques you need to know and creating your own publishing house, discover just how easy and hard it is to make a 'proper' book.

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### Meet the Presenter: Michael Kobernus

MJ Kobernus is an Anglo/American novelist. For the last two decades he has lived in Norway, but in 2018 he resumed residency in the US, specifically Chattanooga.

MJ has always been an adventurer. He has traveled extensively in Europe by motorcycle, by train and felucca through much of Egypt and the Near East, and by car in the United States. He has lived on a Kibbutz and a Moshav in the Golan Heights, and for several years aboard a sailboat with his family in



Annapolis, Maryland.

It was at the University of Birmingham, UK, where MJ studied History, English Literature and Language, as well as Old English and Old Norsk. Elements of these interests can be found in his writing.

He has authored several novels, the first of which, 'Blood in the Sand,' a unique blend of Metaphysical Fantasy and Historical Fiction, was published in August, 2015. The second in the series, 'Blood in the Snow,' came out in 2016 and the third installment is expected in 2019.

He has also written the sci-fi novel, 'Blue Water,' and the semi-autobiographical, 'Sell up, and Sail Away,' both of which will be published in late 2018.

Some Random Facts

MJ is the self-proclaimed inventor of the micro genre of "Flash Philosophy." He is also the founder of Nordland Publishing where he is the Editor in Chief

and head tea-boy. He has published numerous scientific articles, as well as short stories in various collections and magazines. You can see more at his blog, [www.driven2write.com](http://www.driven2write.com) or at [www.nordlandpublishing.com](http://www.nordlandpublishing.com).

## Picture Prompt

Write a poem (up to 10 lines), caption, or the first sentence of a story based on the picture to the right. Send it to [NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com) before October 12, and you may see it in our next newsletter!



## Mad Blab

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

Lore dove thief lice  
Fill hours furl adjourn on  
Tray sure I'll hand

## Member Spotlight with Sherry Poff

**1. What is your biggest time-waster?** My biggest time waster is youtube. I decide to relax and watch a little vintage Dana Carvey. I laugh and laugh. One thing leads to another, and I'm late getting to bed yet again!

**2. What object in your life have you had the longest and why do you hang on to it?** I'm not certain that I've had it the longest, but I have a little red New Testament that I got from the Gideons when I was a tiny child in elementary school. It's still in good shape and just the right size to stash in my car to pull out and read when I find myself with a few spare minutes in my car.

**3. What is your favorite book on writing?** My favorite book on writing is *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott. Not only is it full of practical wisdom, but it's a delight to read.



**4.What are your writing goals for the next 12 months?** My perpetual goal is to submit something for publication at least once a month. I know it's not the ambitious goal I perhaps ought to have, but it keeps me going.

**5.Who is your favorite character from a novel?** I love Jane Eyre. I just love her as a person. The first time I finished that book, I was sad because Jane would speak to me no longer. I've since read the book a couple more times. She's just delightful. I'd tell you my favorite line, but that would give away too much of the plot for people who want to get to know her for themselves.

**6.Who do you nominate for next month?** I nominate Finn Bille, a long-time guild member who more people should get to know.



## Share Your Poetry!

What poem do you want to share with our readers? Send in a poem, up to 12 lines, and tell us why you wrote it and why you love it. Email your submission to [NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com) by October 12 and you may see it in our next newsletter!

**Word to Know: Abrogate, v.**

To cancel. Revoke. Repeal.

*The city council abrogated the controversial helmet law.*

# Writing Competitions & Local News

**Helix Literary and Arts Magazine** is accepting submissions for exceptional poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, and art. Preference is given to new, emerging, and student writers. Visit [helixmagazine.org](http://helixmagazine.org) for details. Deadline is November 20.

**The Coachella Review** is looking for short theatrical works within the ten to thirty page range. This is a great opportunity for first-time writers looking to get their works published. Visit [thecoachellareview.com](http://thecoachellareview.com) for details. Deadline is October 25.

Mad Blab answers: Lord of the Flies, Flowers for Algernon, Treasure Island

STAY CONNECTED

