



Chattanooga Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Several weeks ago, I met a newlywed couple at a Christmas party. They had recently come back from their honeymoon, which included a cruise. One night the crew put together a game night for all the passengers, which included a version of The Newlywed Game. When the host asked the new husband, "If you could change anything about your wife, what would it be?" he replied, "Her teeth."

Ouch, right?

For the rest of the cruise, other passengers would walk up to them, give him dirty looks and tell the wife, "You're beautiful the way you are."

What no one else knew, however, was that the wife had lived in an orphanage in China for a few years before being adopted. During that time, she had received very poor dental care, and as a result, she has had lifelong issues with her teeth, including having to have several painful surgeries. So when the husband said that if it were possible, he would change his wife's teeth, what he meant was, he wished he could take away her years of embarrassment and pain.

The best stories are the ones that make us step beyond our convictions. They teach us about life as viewed through someone else's eyes. So when you're writing, write a character that you disagree with, or better yet, one that you *hate*. Try to figure out why they say what they say or do what they do. Explore an issue from all angles. Tell the *whole* story. Try to make yourself, and eventually your readers, sympathize with someone else's point of view. After all, we're all heroes in our mind, and a villain in someone else's.

I'm Kate Landers and I'm often wrong. Tell me about your misunderstandings at newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

*Thank you to **Susan Spurgeon** and **Judy Herman** for their fantastic program last night! Both women are authors of memoirs, which can be purchased here: [Chattanooga Hugs by Susan Spurgeon](#) and [Beyond Messy Relationships by Judy Herman](#).*

There's still time to sign up for the
Winter Writers Workshop!

The 2020 Winter Writers Workshop on Saturday, January 18, will be an

incredible opportunity for writers who aspire to improve their craft under the tutelage of award-winning, published writers.

This one-day event features craft lectures and writing workshops in poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction, and will end with a panel discussion. Our sessions are typically small enough to have individual questions answered from some of the best writers in the region. We also have lunch together with quality time for rubbing shoulders with fellow creatives. It is always a rewarding experience!

Chattanooga State Community College Humanities Bldg. 4501 Amnicola Hwy

January 18, 2020 CWG Winter Writers Workshop					
Session	Poetry	Fiction	Literary Nonfiction	Starts	Ends
	HUM 208	HUM 209	HUM 210		
	Registration & Refreshments in Hallway			9:30	10:00
1	Cynthia R. Young (workshop)	Denton Loving (craft lecture)	Deborah Levine (craft lecture)	10:00	11:00
2	Cynthia R. Young (craft lecture)	Kelle Z. Riley (workshop)	Karen Babine (craft lecture)	11:10	12:10
3	Jesse Graves (craft lecture)	Kelle Z. Riley (craft lecture)	Deborah Levine (workshop)	12:20	1:20
	Lunch			1:20	2:00
4	Jesse Graves (workshop)	Denton Loving (workshop)	Karen Babine (workshop)	2:00	3:35
5	Panel Discussion in Auditorium			3:45	4:15
6	Book Signings in the Open Spaces			4:15	5:00



Denton Loving (fiction) is the author of the poetry collection, *Crimes Against Birds*. He is also the editor of *Seeking Its Own Level*: an anthology of writings about water. He works at Lincoln Memorial University, where he co-directs the annual Mountain Heritage Literary Festival and serves as executive editor of *draffhorse*: the literary journal of work and no work. His works have appeared in over 120 publications including *River Styx*, *CutBank*, *Iron Horse Literary Review* and *The Chattahoochee Review*. Find his website [HERE](#).



Karen Babine (literary non-fiction) is an assistant professor of creative writing at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. Her first book, *Water and What We Know: Following the Roots of a Northern Life*, won the 2016 Minnesota Book Award for creative nonfiction and was a Finalist for the Midwest Book Award and Finalist for the Northeastern Minnesota Book Award. Her second book, *All the Wild Hungers*, was published by Milkweed Editions in 2019. Visit her website [HERE](#).



Dr. Jesse Graves (poetry) is the author of three poetry collections, *Tennessee Landscape with Blighted Pine*, *Basin Ghosts*, and *Specter Mountain*, co-authored with William Wright. He received the 2014 Philip H. Freund Prize for Creative Writing from Cornell University, and the 2015 James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachian South from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. In 2015, he was inducted into the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame. Find his writings [HERE](#).



Kelle Z. Riley (fiction) has been featured in public forums that range from local Newspapers to National television. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Romance Writers' of America and various local chapters. When not writing, she is a self-defense instructor, a Master Gardener Intern and a full time chemist with numerous professional publications and U. S. patents. For more information, visit [HERE](#).



Deborah Levine (literary non-fiction) is an award-winning author of 14 books. She is an opinion columnist with *The Chattanooga Times Free Press* and is published in *The Huffington Post* and *Harvard Divinity School Bulletin*. Her memoirs, *The Liberator's Daughter* and *The Magic Marble Tree*, document history, inspire the creative spirit, and demonstrate the power of perseverance. Find out more [HERE](#).



Cynthia Robinson Young (poetry) is an adjunct professor at Covenant College. Her work has appeared in *Sojourners*, *Poetry South*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, and *Catapula*: a magazine of Southern Perspectives, among other journals and anthologies. For her chapbook, *Migration*, Cynthia was the Finalist in the Georgia Author of the Year Award, 2019. Read her work [HERE](#).

More prompts to help you keep your New Years Resolution to write more:

~Sylvia's family is cursed with extreme unhappiness. Every generation suffers divorce, estrangement, or suicide. They are also wealthy, successful celebrities. In order to break the curse, every single member of the family would have to agree to give up their riches and fame, and live a normal life. Not everyone is willing to do that.

~David is a young boy with the ability to see, and perhaps change, his future. He knows that the lousier his childhood is, the better his adulthood will be. He decides to start making all the wrong choices, in the hope that it will pay off when he's grown.

~Michael is a famous author who knows he is dying. There's no way he can finish his last book, so he hires a co-writer to carry on after he passes. However, the co-writer soon starts to take over more than just his book; he's taking over all that remains of Michael's life, as well.

~Richard loves to tell stories to his two daughters at bed-time. Their favorite stories are about The Rabbits. When Richard enters his daughters' room one night to find it full of bunnies, he realizes something strange is going on...

~A private investigator hired by the parents of a missing girl named Alice starts finding bits of a diary she's writing all over town. The entries are scrawled on bar napkins, parking tickets, receipts – any scrap of paper she can get ahold of. Can

the PI find Alice before the paper trail stops and she disappears for good?

~A single mother living on food stamps, Joanne has never had it easy. Then one day she makes a decision that sets her on a path to undreamed-of riches and fame. But just as she is settling into her new life, a troll knocks on her door and tells her that he is responsible for her good fortune, and that if she doesn't do what he demands, he'll take it all away.

~Earth has been invaded by a monstrous alien race, whose objective seems to be the complete extermination of children. A girl named Anne must hide in a secret room inside of a grocery store, remaining completely silent at all times, for the aliens hunt their prey by sound.

~Edward is a prolific poet and artist. Upon completion of every piece, however, he feels a compulsion to throw himself out of a window.

~Hunter is a travel writer on assignment, who has just checked into a motel in the middle of the desert. All he wants is to get some rest, but there's something wrong. The floors undulate beneath him, walls shift when he's not looking, and everyone else in the hotel seems to be wearing masks to make them *appear* human.

~When Jack's school bus comes to pick him up one morning, he can tell right away that this is not his usual bus. There's something magical about *this* bus, and it takes him in the complete opposite direction of his school, and his humdrum life.

Word to Know: **beaucoup, adj.**

many, numerous, much

Although the job was dangerous, demeaning, and demoralizing, it paid beaucoup bucks.

Mad Blab

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

**Hen sir chuff laws tie 'em
You'll hiss ease
Juan un dread ears huffs hall it toot**



Notice: The Creative Nonfiction and Poetry group will be meeting an hour earlier going forward. (5:45 until 8:00) on the first Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Broad Street Grille.

Save the Date:

On March 2, **The Southern Lit Alliance** is having a workshop and lecture with author **Susan Zurenda**. She will discuss her new, award-winning novel *The Bells for Eli*. Her lecture will be "**Family Stories: Evoking Emotion in Your Characters.**" The cost for the workshop is \$15.

For more information, visit: <https://www.southernlitalliance.org/copy-of-writing-workshop-susan-beck>. There is limited space so sign up early!

Mad Blab answers: In Search of Lost Time; Ulysses; One Hundred Years of Solitude

STAY CONNECTED

