

January 1, 2018

 Chattanooga
Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers and Happy New Year! Well, that's a little presumptive of me. I'm writing this on the 30th of December. For all I know, 2019 will have started off quite horribly for you. The party ran out of champagne. Everyone forgot the words to "Auld Lang Syne." You tripped at the last second and kissed someone's kneecaps instead. And it could all go downhill from here. 2019 might be a very, very bad year indeed. But we're writers. If everything was going well for us, what would we write about?

Hm, self-help and motivational books come to mind.

Fine then. I suppose it's possible to both be happy *and* a writer. Well, best of luck to you in 2019, with Life, the Universe, and Everything.

As for me, I have no goals for the new year. I do have goals for the rest of 2018, however: Fold the laundry. Change the sheets on the bed. Clean the cat box. Finish this newsletter so that tomorrow evening, all I have to worry about is finding a good movie on Netflix for my husband and me to watch as we coast uneventfully into 2019.

Wherever you are and however you rang in the new year, I hope you're starting today happy and hopeful. But if not, that's ok, too. Either way, go write about it.

If you have literary goals for 2019, let me hear about them at NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com.

CWG's Winter Writers Workshop REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Reserve your spot [here](#).



Dana Shavin
(literary non-fiction)

Dana Shavin's essays have appeared in *The Sun*, *Bark*, *Writers Digest.com*, and others. She is the author of a memoir, *The Body Tourist*, about the intersection of her anorexia with her mental health career. She has been a Lifestyle columnist for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* since 2002, and she is the editor of the Chattanooga



Charles Dodd White
(fiction)

Charles Dodd White is the recipient of the Thomas and Lillie D. Chaffin Award for excellence in Appalachian Literature, a Jean Ritchie Fellowship from Lincoln Memorial University, and an individual artist's grant from the North Carolina Arts Council. In 2018 he was inducted into the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame. He's written three novels [IN THE HOUSE OF WILDERNESS (2018), A



Bill Brown
(poetry)

Bill Brown is the author of eleven poetry collections and a writing textbook. He has been a Scholar in Poetry at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, a Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and a two-time recipient of Fellowships in poetry from the Tennessee Arts Commission. Brown has published hundreds of poems

Jewish Federation newspaper, *The Shofar*. Dana has read and taught at the Meacham Writers Conference in Chattanooga. A complete list of publications is at DanaShavin.com.

SHELTER OF OTHERS (2014), LAMBS OF MEN (2010)] and a story collection [SINNERS OF SANCTION COUNTY (2011)]. He's an Associate Professor at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, TN.

and articles in college journals, magazines and anthologies. The Tennessee Writers Alliance named Brown the 2011 Writer of the Year. He lives with his wife, Suzanne, and a tribe of cats in the hills north of Nashville.

Schedule

Lectures and workshops by invited speakers (yellow highlight) are scheduled so that all attendees will have an opportunity to hear them at least once; the schedule is also configured so that the morning session can be tailored to pure craft lecture or pure workshop or a multigenre mix.

Session	Poetry HUM 208	Fiction HUM 209	Literary Nonfiction HUM 210	Starts	Ends
	Registration & Refreshments in Hallway			9:00	10:00
1	workshop KB Ballentine	craft lecture Charles Dodd White	craft lecture John C. Mannone	10:00	11:00
2	craft lecture KB Ballentine	workshop Kate Landers	craft lecture Dana Shavin	11:10	12:10
3	craft lecture Bill Brown	craft lecture Kate Landers	workshop John C. Mannone	12:20	1:20
	Lunch			1:30	2:30
4	workshop Bill Brown	workshop Charles Dodd White	workshop Dana Shavin	2:40	4:15
5	Music & Book Signing			4:20	5:00

Mad Gab

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

Took hill am hock ink purred
 Donkey oat tea
 Thick cull her purr pull

Need a prompt to start off the new year? How about:

She woke up and just *knew*.

Send your inspired writings to me at NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com

Member Spotlight with Wesley Sims

What writing project are you currently working on?

A chapbook of poems about nature and a chapbook of humorous poems.

Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life.

The collection of poems, *Late Winter*, by Bill Brown was impactful, inspiring me to reach higher.

What are your writing goals for 2019?

To get two poetry chapbooks published (one is with the publisher now) and another poetry chapbook ready to send out, and make significant progress on a full collection of poems.

What is your biggest time-waster?

TV and social media probably tie for this unenvied award.

What does your writing area look like?

Can you say messy? A clutter of poems and chapbook portions in progress, books, notes, to-do lists, mail, etc. Shelves of books, stacks of books. But I take



consolation in the message of a card I used to keep on my desk at work: The reward of having a messy desk is that you continually make interesting discoveries.

Tell us about your muse or source of motivation.

My muse is an imaginary, elusive character (female) that I occasionally write a poem about. I have dual sources of motivation – reading poetry by other good authors, and quiet time while driving or especially while walking among nature.

Not including survival necessities, what 3 items would you bring to a Martian colony?

A large notebook of paper, a poetry book by Bill Brown and a poetry book by K.B. Ballentine, the queen of verbs.

What is your favorite thing to eat or drink on a cold, rainy January day?

Hot tea and clam chowder or vegetable soup, with cornbread.

Where is your favorite place to go in Chattanooga?

Helga Kidder's place where the poetry critique meets. My favorite commercial/civic place is the Hamilton Place Mall where there is a wide assortment of restaurants and shops.

Next person featured: Karen Phillips

Critique Group Taboo results from December

The North Georgia Writers Group had several great submissions last month! The Prompt word was *Dream* and the Taboo words were *sleep*, *success*, *work*, and *desire*. My favorite two are included below, but you can read all the submissions [here](#).

From Bruce Gaughran:

My world is nothing more than a dream
Created by my perceptions and beliefs
I write the play, choose the characters,
And decide outcomes before the story ends

But when I follow my breath
Reality unfolds without interpretation and bias
Wrapping its arms around my heart
Comforting and guiding my life

From Barbara Paper:

The entire dream concept is so interesting, I don't know why dreams happen; I just know they do. Last night I had an interesting dream. Again, I was a young mother, even though I am in my elder years and a mother of two adult children. I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl whom I named Elaina. I woke up content.

Word to Know

Bellicose: adj. Hostile. Aggressive.

The *bellicose* pack of dogs prowled around the woods.

Mad Gab answers: To Kill a Mockingbird, Don Quixote, The Color Purple

STAY CONNECTED

