

January 1, 2020



## News & Updates

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Greetings, fellow writers! As I write this, it is after dark on New Years Eve (yep, I procrastinated on the newsletter yet again.) All I did to celebrate this last day of 2019 was go to Camp Jordan and skate around with my kiddo, one of my best friends, and her kiddo. Now I am watching a Jim Carrey movie with my family, eating a simple dinner, and drinking a White Russian. After my daughter goes to sleep, I'll work on a silly little book I'm illustrating (more about that later), and then probably have another White Russian and watch yet another movie with my husband. I got to spend the last day of the year doing things I love with people I love. I want for nothing.

However, this day started off really quite poorly. I snapped awake at about 230 in the morning with a horrible vision of my daughter dying. I lay awake for an hour trying to get back to sleep, but all I succeeded in was replaying the vision over and over. Finally I got out of bed and went to the living room to watch old episodes of The Walking Dead, hoping that one disturbingly graphic image would replace another. Four hours later my husband awoke and brought me coffee on the couch. I never did get back to sleep, but the horrible vision dissipated and December 31, 2019 ended up being a pretty wonderful day.

I truly hope 2020 is a good year for you from start to finish. But if it starts off not so good, I hope that with time, friends, and family, it at least becomes better than you anticipated.

I'm Kate Landers and the movie was Mr. Popper's Penguins, which was slightly better than I thought it would be. Tell me what you are looking forward to in 2020 at [newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org).

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CWG is pleased to feature two of our local writers for the January program, Susan Spurgeon and Judy Herman. Please join us on Tuesday, January 14, as these two published authors discuss their process for mining through and writing about their life experiences in their non-fiction works. Our Monthly Programs are from 6-8 PM in the auditorium of the Downtown Library, 1001 Broad Street. We hope to see you there!

## 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!

**Lead/Supporting Faculty:**  
**Poetry:** [Jesse Graves](#) / [Cynthia Robinson Young](#)  
**Fiction:** [Denton Loving](#) / [Kelle Z. Riley](#)  
**Literary Nonfiction:** [Karen Babine](#) / [Deborah Levine](#)

## 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		
	<b>Registration &amp; Refreshments in Hallway</b>			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
	<b>Lunch</b>			1:20	2:00
4	Jesse Graves (workshop)	Denton Loving (workshop)	Karen Babine (workshop)	2:00	3:35
5	<b>Panel Discussion in Auditorium</b>			3:45	4:15
6	<b>Book Signings in the Open Spaces</b>			4:15	5:00

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!

## Need some writing prompts to get you started in the new year? Try one (or all) of these:

1. Jonathan, a young real-estate agent, is asked to meet with a mysterious, rich client who lives deep in the countryside. Shortly after Jonathan arrives, the client takes him hostage.
2. John befriends a charismatic orphaned boy, who shows him the way to a magical world. John follows along with him, unaware that the boy is being hunted by a serial killer.
3. Mary, a spoiled, bratty young girl, is sent to live in a mysterious world where there are no other children. Then one day she finds another child, who has been hidden away in a room for his entire life.
4. Louis has only one friend in the world, but this friend forces him to commit sinister deeds. When Louis' daughter tries to put a stop to it, the uneasy friendship breaks apart, and a great crime is committed.
5. Ian, a brilliant mathematician with an abrasive personality, is invited to participate in a top-secret experiment on a remote island. Shortly after he arrives, the experiment is compromised. Now, in order to leave the island, he must fight for his life.
6. Andrew is a child prodigy with a talent for war. When Earth is attacked by aliens (for the second time), he must lead the fight to save the world. But after receiving telepathic messages from the aliens' queen, Andrew starts to wonder if he's fighting for the right side.
7. Gus is an aging cowboy and retired police officer. After learning that the husband of his former lover has fallen into a coma, Gus travels halfway across the country to try to rekindle their romance.
8. While on a red-eye flight, a man working an unfulfilling job meets Tyler, who supports himself through illegal means. Tyler invites the man to

share his occupation, which immediately opens a door to chaos and insanity.

9. The most interesting man on Earth is hitting on Tricia at her friend's party. He's a little odd-looking and more than a little cocky, but he's just offered to take Tricia on an adventure unlike anything she's ever done.
10. Mary's husband left on a business trip and should have been back by now. When he finally returns, he tells a ludicrous story to explain his absence, causing Mary to wonder if he's gone insane. But if he hasn't, then what really happened to him?

Each of the above prompts is (sort of, kind of) a summary of a fiction novel. Can you guess the stories? Answers below.

## 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.

**Thick height Ron her  
Calm he buyer neigh ma  
Thin heifer hen ting store he**

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### Word to Know: **Kakorrhaphiophobia, n**

An abnormal, persistent, irrational fear of failure so intense that it can restrict a person from doing anything at all.

**After overcoming a debilitating case of kakorrhaphiophobia, the college drop-out was able to re-enroll and earn his degree.**

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## The CWG needs YOU!

**CWG is putting together an open-mic-style program.**

***Do you have experience in the fields of editing or publishing?***

***Do you have tips for pitches and queries?***

***Do you have advice on time-management, character development, or writing dialogue?***

***What suggestions or guidance could you provide to your fellow writers?***

**You will not be required to create an entire presentation; this will just be an evening of sharing our knowledge with one another. Contact [John C. Mannone](#), our program director, if you would like to be a presenter.**

**Member Spotlight with  
Ted Dickerson**

**What are your writing goals for the next 12 months?** I have really been entertaining the idea of a book for children. I have 6 grandchildren that are a constant source of material and feedback. I see what they bring home from school so I have an idea of the need. I would like the book to be more of a thinking, shoe on the other foot or what if it were me in a given situation. Creative mini plots perhaps that spark the young mind, resulting in thinking outside the box.



One such idea was of a large and very old oak tree. It had grown on the grounds of the town library before there was a town. The tree dated back before the Civil War. One spring day, a young boy decides to set in the shade of this mighty oak and read a books he just checked out from the library. In the middle of his first few pages, he is surprised when the tree begins to tell him the real story.

**What does your writing area look like?** I guess controlled chaos would sum it up pretty well. There is a place for everything but at times the desk top does get a little crowded. My trusty MacBook Pro resides center stage with file cards for notes near by. They are accompanied by vitamins and mailing envelopes should such a need arise. The center drawer has everything to sustain life, except food. Four different bladed instruments for all occasions and multi flavors of glue for all emergencies. Directly in front of me is a four foot map of the United States. On it are highlighted highways and roadways that I have had the pleasure of venturing on. I have been in all of our bordering states, most on a motorcycle. I rode Route 66, starting in Chicago and riding all the way to the Santa Monica Pier back in 2014. I also use the map to relive or recall some of those miles, memories or locations.

**What is your biggest time-waster?** TV in general. My ADD, mixed with any sort of distraction is a recipe for disaster.

Finishing my book and coping with ADD was the biggest challenge I have ever undertaken. I do take a medication but that has only been in the last six years. Up until that point I had notes in every pocket and six projects going at the same time.

**Tell us about the best concert you've ever been to.** This took some deep reflecting. I guess it would have to be the first time I heard the band Alabama play. It was at the height of their popularity. Opening acts included The Bellamy Brothers, The Charlie Daniels Band, Hank Jr., Waylon, Willie Nelson and The Oak Ridge Boys. What really made this day so special was this was my first Fathers Day present. That was 1986. Don't type cast me because I go back to Steppenwolf, The Dave Clark Five, Chuck Berry, The Beach Boys, Wilson Pickett and Sam and Dave.

**Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life.** The poem would be High Flight by John Gillespie. The book, hands down would be The Bible.

**What writing project are you working on at the moment?** The last two and a half years has been the most trying time in my life. I was diagnosed with throat cancer in July of 2017. I had my first radiation treatment on August 28. I started on chemo somewhere around then as well. I took a short break from chemo then started back with a newer version of chemo. It's been a struggle. I document the stages with hopes of putting that in book form later on. The battle goes on.

**Who do you nominate for next time?** Blair Howard would be my pick.

Mad Blab answers: *The Kite Runner*; *Call Me By Your Name*; *The Neverending Story*

Prompt answers: 1. *Dracula* by Bram Stoker; 2. *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie; 3. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett; 4. *Interview with the Vampire* by Anne Rice; 5. *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton; 6. *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card; 7. *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry; 8. *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk; 9. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams; 10. *Gulliver's Travels* by

Jonathan Swift

Correction: In the last issue, I named Kelly Hanwright as our Membership Director. She is our Hospitality Coordinator.

STAY CONNECTED

