

 Chattanooga
Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Be honest - how many of you are keeping to your News Year Resolutions? If you've already quit, don't worry - I'm not judging. I didn't set a single one. Oh, there's definitely room for improvement. I've got some pretty lazy habits. Some hard-to-ignore personality quirks that are only going to get worse and worse as the years go by. Some dreams that I may have to convince myself I never really wanted, anyway.

While I'm quite busy ignoring all the ways I could be improving myself, I'm also working on keeping up with the general maintenance of my already-pretty-darn-good life. Right now, I can't write a novel, but I can write this newsletter. I can't apply for the Great Smoky Mountain [residency](#), but I am super excited to have been invited to be a presenter at our upcoming [Workshop](#).

But the main reason I didn't set a New Year Resolution is because I believe if you want to make a change in your life, any day is a good day to start. If you want to quit smoking, have one fewer cigarette *today*. If you want to get into shape, go to the gym *today*. If you want to write more, say something super controversial on a public Facebook page and get yourself banned *today*. Boom! More free time!

Ok, that last suggestion is terrible, but sometimes logging off is hard. Do what you gotta do *today* to make yourself into the person you plan to be when you die. And in the time between now and then, shoot an email to me at NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com.

CWG member Cynthia Young (who will be reading poetry from her newest collection, *Migration*, at Star Line Books on January 31) has set these goals for herself:

- 1. To complete a poetry book or another chapbook**
- 2. To get a short story published.**
- 3. To continue to send out work every month.**

Thank you for sharing, Cynthia!

Our first Monthly Program of 2019 featured author and chemist **Kelle Z. Riley**

"A Writer's Primer on Poisons"

Kelle Z. Riley gave a great presentation on how to do research on poisons for use in books as well as

writing techniques and tips for suspending disbelief and crafting scenes in works containing mystery and suspense elements.

Purchase her books or find more information at

www.facebook.com/kellezriley,
www.twitter.com/kellezriley, or
www.kellezriley.net.



The Winter Writers Workshop is almost here!

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?

Registration for the Winter Writers Workshop is open! 9 AM to 5 PM, THIS Saturday, January 26 at Chatt State. You don't want to miss this! Hurry and click [here](#) to sign up! Only registrants who sign up by Tuesday are guaranteed their choice of lunch. We encourage you to sign up in advance online, but you are also welcome to pay on-site.

CWG Winter Writers Workshop
Saturday January 26, 2019

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

Speakers & workshop leaders: All six are published poets & writers, and award winners in their genre, as well as having good teaching skills:

Invited Presenters
 Bill Brown (Poetry)
 Charles David White (Fiction)
 Dana Shaarin (Literary Nonfiction)

In-house Presenters
 Bill Ballentine (Poetry)
 Kate Koen Landers (Fiction)
 John C. Mannone (Literary Nonfiction)

General Entertainment: Music & Book Signings

Cost: \$65 members; \$87 non members; \$40 full time students (12 credit hours or more)

All activities are in the Bond Humanities Building on Chattanooga State Community College campus (8501 Amnicola Hwy, Chattanooga, TN 37405)

John C. Mannone
 CWG President (2018-2019)
 Updated January 8, 2019



Map of the Chattanooga State Community College campus.



The Workshop will be held in the Humanities Building on the 2nd floor.

Member Spotlight featuring
Karen Phillips

What was your first job? My first ever job was a summer employee at the Circulation Department of the Chattanooga News-Free Press. I was sixteen. My first writing job was a review of a writing conference in Chattanooga for an online writing newsletter in 2006. I received a check for \$10!

What object in your life have you had the longest and why do you hang on to it? A silver baby rattle with my actual teething dents! I keep it because it's as old as I am.



Who is your favorite character from a novel? Let the record show I dislike superlative questions, lol. One of my favorite characters is the grandmother in Frederik Bachman's *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry*.

What is your favorite book on writing? *Bird by Bird*, by Anne Lamott—such a joy to read!

When did you first consider yourself to be a writer? I've always loved writing. When our kids flew the nest, I found a book (*Whistle While You Work*) that helped me narrow what I wanted to do in my second act, and when everything pointed to writing, I dove in, keyboard first!

What writing project are you working on at the moment? I'm about to begin work on poems for the CWG poetry critique group and the Barnes & Noble Open Mic.

What is your process for planning out a story or a poem? I begin with something to spur me or spark me: a topic, a line, an object, a scene, a mood. Then I start jotting or typing imagery or lines. Usually it unfolds from there.

What is your biggest time waster? Facebook! I recently began using the Screen Time feature on my phone to limit & track my time doing screen things when I NEED to be doing others!

What's something you're looking forward to in 2019? I'm excited about generating more pieces during the CWG January Workshop! And a grandson due February 22.

Who do you nominate for next month? Rachel Crumble

Reminder: A CWG Membership Perk

is having your picture, bio, and links to your website or blog on our page!

Visit our [Member Profiles page](#) to see how you can add yours!

Submission Opportunity

The Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association has appointed our CWG president, John C. Mannone, as the 2019 Dwarf Stars Anthology Chair/Editor. You may submit your 2018-published, short (10 lines of text or up to 100 words for prose poems), speculative poems beginning April 1 as indicated on their website: www.sfpoetry.com/dwarfstars

