

July 1, 2019

 Chattanooga
Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Saturday mornings in my house mean one thing: Cleaning Day has begun. I have kids and cats, so every day is Cleaning Day to some extent, but Saturdays are for getting into the corners, behind the furniture, moving appliances, on my hands and knees, Don't-Bother-Me-Can't-You-See-I'm-Busy-If-You-Can't-Find-Something-To-Do-So-Help-Me-You-Can-Get-Down-Here-With-Me, *THAT* kind of cleaning.

My favorite part of cleaning the house yesterday was finally clearing off my desk, which was long overdue. I had spilled coffee on it more than once, so there were papier-mâchéd post-it notes glued down by sticky splashes of dust on one side, and my son's school photos from last year that I forgot to mail out on the other. Piled up against the wall were napkins, receipts, and torn-off corners of take-out menus where I had scribbled down half-formed writing ideas like, "A boy wakes up alone on a space ship with a broken toy," and "The Event Planning Committee wants aliens to RSVP."

I found a coffee warmer I'd forgotten about, postcards, business cards, and birthday cards, written apologies from my son for getting sassy with me, old notes I'd been searching for, and all other sorts of ephemera that you'd expect to find on a writing desk that's also used for laundry folding, gift wrapping, crafting, coloring, etc. Cleaning it all off felt like breaking off a toxic relationship. My desk is now clean and organized, and my laptop is front-and-center, open, and waiting for me. Guess I should go find out what happened to that boy's toy.

I'm Kate Landers and I *still* have some cleaning to do. But I'll happily get distracted by emails sent to newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

Our July Monthly Program will be a writing workshop led by John C. Mannone.

Please join us Tuesday, July 9 at 6 PM at the Main Library downtown, 1001 Broad Street, in the Auditorium.

Be sure to bring writing supplies! It's going to be fun.

Come be a part of a celebration of all things literary!

Chattanooga has a great tradition of celebrating art and music - now it's time to celebrate literature, too! You can take part in the Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair, coming September 7 at the Downtown Library, by being a presenter or a vendor. Sell your books! Network with other readers and writers! Meet your new favorite author, or become someone else's new favorite author!

We are seeking authors who represent the people of Chattanooga in poetry, fiction, non-fiction, children's literature, and non-English writing of all genres. If you would like to be one of our readers, or lead a

workshop or demonstration, email Mark Anderson at crwfair@gmail.com. More information about what we are looking for and what we need in your application can be found [HERE](#). If you would like to be a vendor, email Sherry Poff at readnwritefair@gmail.com.

Want to know more about the Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair? Visit our website at www.crwfair.org.

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.

**That I'm churr raffle hers why if
Donkey oat tee
Fur rank hens tie in**

Word to Know: Antepenultimate, adj.

Third from the end.

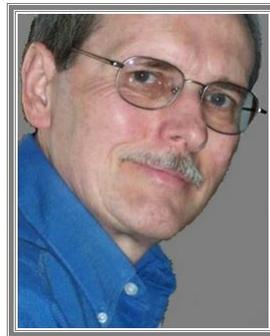
In the word *antepenultimate*, the stress is on the antepenultimate syllable.

I love cutting things out of context. I have bins full of *thousands* of phrases and words like what you see below, divided up by mood - Hot, Cool, and Neutral. It's sort of related to the color of the text, but it's mostly about how I *felt* when I read it. Everything I cut out instantly sparked an idea or emotion in me. When I go back through my clippings, I may remember the advertisement or article it was taken from, or I may only remember feeling indignant, or mirthful, or inspired. If you're searching for inspiration, take a look at this small representation of clippings below, and see if an idea for a poem or story comes to you. If one does, I hope you'll share it with us.



Member Spotlight with
Bruce Gaughran

Tell us about your muse or source of motivation. I consider myself a storyteller, and storytellers need a good muse. Mine is a wonderful friend who constantly inspires me to keep writing. She wakes me each morning and travels with me throughout my day challenging me with questions of what if, why not, and how about. Once I enter my office, she unleashes worlds, plots, scenes, and characters upon my poor fingers that often find it difficult to keep up.



Tell us about a book or poem that influenced your life. *It All Started with Columbus, An Unlikely History of the United States From Christopher Columbus to the Present* by Richard Armour. My seventh grade history teacher used the puns and humor in this book to help us learn the actual history of our country. It was the first book I bought with my hard-earned stock boy money (\$0.65/hour). I can still see myself laughing while reading bits and pieces of the book to my mother. However, it was *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* that made me fall in love with fantasy.

What writing project are you working on now? This spring, I published, *Shattered Lives*, a historical fiction of the Treblinka Death Camp. That book was an intensive research project. I ventured in a different direction with my current work, *Sins of the Father*. How would your life change if after forty years you discover your parents kidnapped you as a baby and raised you as their child? Then, as the search for your birth mother unfolds, it reveals more secrets and lies that challenge your concepts of right and wrong, and the trustworthiness of family and friends.

What other hobbies or activities do you enjoy? Besides reading, leading the North Georgia Writers Group is an honor and a pleasure. We are on this fascinating journey of learning, supporting, and writing. I also am a blogger. 900+ posts and 1.3 million 'pageviews' later, I still am challenged to create content that will help, support, and inspire others.

What does your writing area look like? My office is my retreat – a place I can escape into and one that constantly inspires me. A nine-foot tall by six-foot wide window overlooks several wooded acres. Lithographs of my favorite wild animals line the walls. Photos of family and pets, and keepsakes, are interspersed among my two bookcases and desk.

Who do you nominate for next time? Barbara Tucker

Mad Blab answers: *The Time Traveler's Wife*; *Don Quixote*; *Frankenstein*

STAY CONNECTED

