

March 15, 2019

 Chattanooga  
**Writers' Guild**

## News & Updates

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Greetings, fellow writers! I want to begin today by saying *I'm sorry*. I truly am, really, very sorry for what I am about to say. And that is...

...I don't really care for poetry.

Please don't hate me. I have my reasons, and most of them stem from my 10th grade English class. Mrs. D. was the kind of teacher who walked down rows as she read poetry aloud, thumping the beat on our desks as she passed. "We real cool **WE**/ left school **WE**/ strike straight **WE**..." She came to class in costume. She stood on chairs. She had us get up, move around, work together, act it out, and do so much more than simply write essays. She wanted so badly for us to love poetry the way she loved it.

And she just killed it for me.

All I ever wanted was to sink into a poem, read it at my own pace, and slowly, quietly love it in my own way. But in her class, a new poem was a thick slice of chocolate cake presented on a magical plate, and as soon as I had finished devouring it, another slice would appear and I'd be forced to eat that one, too. Then another. And another. By the time Mrs. D. decided her class had fully absorbed the poem, I was sick to death of it and wanted nothing more than to forget I had ever encountered it.

I also learned to be suspicious of poems. Too often, I'd learn that the tree I'd been reading about wasn't actually a tree at all, but a metaphor for democracy. A plum was a libido. A cat was Death. The span of the ocean was the immeasurable distance between two people falling out of love. I felt deceived! After reading through a poem once, Mrs. D. would fill us in on the ruse and then have us read it again. Only now it wasn't a nice, feel-good poem about the feeling of sea spray on your face as you strolled down the boardwalk, licking salt from your fingers between bites of warm pretzel; it was a terribly complicated and bitter poem about the excesses of Western culture to the detriment of all the rest of the world.

I grew both weary and wary of poetry that year. Occasionally, with the help of some friends and the Guild, I do find poetry that I can appreciate and enjoy. I even write poetry, at the expense of good taste, once or twice a year. Yet I know I will never love *poetry*, only the occasional poem. Sorry, Mrs. D. I know you meant well.

How do *you* prefer to read a new poem? Do you have a favorite poem? Share it with me and try to convince my cold, black soul otherwise at [NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NoogaNewsletter@gmail.com).

**Thank you to Michelle Young** for a fantastic Monthly Program Tuesday!

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### **\*\*\*Attention Published Authors\*\*\***

CWG member Kenyon T. Henry is hosting a books and author convention on September 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Colonnade Center in Ringgold, GA. If you are interested in vending at the convention, complete the application found [here](#).

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### **\*\*\*Mark your calendars!\*\*\***

**Our SPRING WRITING CONTEST will be open for submissions on April 1! More details to come,**

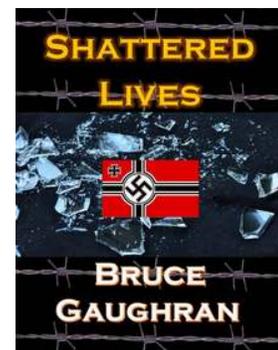
## but in the meantime, *start writing!*

And if you want to write, but are having trouble getting started, here - have some prompts!

- He always wondered what would have happened *if...*
- Long-lost letter
- Unfortunate circumstances
- Secrets
- Best Friend
- The most beautiful thing
- Retrieval

CWG member **Bruce Gaughran** has just published his latest book, *Shattered Lives*. It is historical fiction that is centered in the Nazi Death Camp at Treblinka, Poland.

In August 1942, the Germans enter Wiejca, a small village in Poland, and rip fourteen-year-old Jakub Balinski and his father from their home. Even though the Germans give Jakub a uniform and call him a guard, within days he learns he is nothing more than the commandant's Polish slave boy.



The daily atrocities shred Jakub of his innocence and expose him to a level of hatred he could never imagine. One tragedy after another mold him into someone he does not want to be and Jakub questions if his survival is worth the price. Whatever choices he makes, he knows he must live with their consequences for the rest of his life.

Find the paperback and eBook at [Amazon](#) and [GoodReads](#).  
You can also find the eBook at [Apple iTunes](#) and [Barnes& Noble](#)

## 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.

**Thud if inch he coat  
Heat braille of  
Thug hold ink hump hiss**

## Exciting Opportunity!

CWG members have an opportunity to participate in a radio program on WUTC: Richard Winham's Writers in the Round, Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8pm (88.1 FM radio or <http://www.wutc.org>) To be part of this please submit the following to: [writerstogo@gmail.com](mailto:writerstogo@gmail.com): 1- name and contact info 2- a short bio 3- a link to

your online author page or published writing 4- an attachment with two samples of what you would read, 300 words or less. If you are accepted you will be contacted to schedule your time. On the broadcast you may promote your book or event.

And you will be a representative of CWG's excellent pool of authors.

**Author and CWG board member Mike Kobernus will be on the show March 27. Be sure to tune in!**

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## Word to Know: **Tawdry**, adj.

Gaudy. Showy and cheap.

**Shirley's tawdry dress raised a few eyebrows at the spring dance.**

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## Writing Conference

The Triangle Association of Freelancers, one of the largest organizations in North Carolina devoted to all aspects of fiction and nonfiction writing, is hosting a one-day, multi-track writing conference called Write Now! on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at The McKimmon Conference & Training Center at NC State, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC.

The Fiction Guest of Honor will be New York Times best-selling thriller writer Joe Finder, and the Nonfiction Guest of Honor will be Paula Murphey, managing editor of Boys' Life Magazine. Both will be delivering a keynote talk, a craft session and a sit-down interview.

Fees for Write Now! 2019 are \$89; \$75 for seniors 65+, students with ID and retired/active service members; \$109 at the door. Fees include all conference activities, catered box lunch, beverages throughout the day, and door prizes. Doors will open at 8 a.m., the conference will begin at 9 a.m. with a keynote talk by Joe Finder, and conclude at 5 p.m.

To review the conference schedule, read presenter bios, or register online, please visit <https://tafnc.com/WriteNow>. TAF invites you to join them for a fun day of serious discussion about writing, publishing and freelancing. Send your questions to Don Vaughan at [dvaughan@mindspring.com](mailto:dvaughan@mindspring.com).

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## Member Spotlight featuring Mark Anderson

**What was your first job?** Shoe shine boy at age 10.

**What was the best concert you've ever been to?** Two classic hippy bands in one show; It's a Beautiful Day, and The Youngbloods.

**What is your favorite book from your childhood?** The Hobbit.

**Tell us about your muse or source of motivation.** I write when a life crises or inner turmoil bear down upon me and then there is a moment when the cathartic answer comes to me and I express it artistically.

**What literary project(s) are you working on at the moment?** I recently edited and reissued my collection, *Dribble n Drool*. I have been working on an exposition of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount for over 15 years and could finish it - someday. In the meantime I have two children's stories needing illustration which I am attempting myself.



**Tell us about a book or a poem that had an impact on your life.** Psalm 130 of the Old Testament.

**Tell us about your other involvements and projects in Chattanooga.** I am on the Board of Directors of CWG as events wrangler, known for fighting courageous battles with technology. I manage the Songwriters Stage for The Camp House. I can be found at open mics and loving the free/cheap music of this city, especially Nightfall summer series.

**What is your favorite thing about living in Chattanooga?** I fell in love with this amazing little city the day I arrived in summer 2015. I love it because I fell into a wonderful community of artists, and it is one of the friendliest places I have been.

**Who do you nominate for next time?** Ray Zimmerman.

Mad Blab answers: The DiVinci Code, Eat Pray Love, The Golden Compass

STAY CONNECTED

