



# Chattanooga Writers' Guild

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## News & Updates

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Greetings, fellow writers! By the time you read this, Halloween will be over, but I'm going to share a horror story with you anyway. Well, it was horrific to me, but it may be funny to some of you.

When I was 16, I got a job as a lifeguard. One day while I was up in the stands, my boss brought some pizzas and left them in the break room. Of course, I couldn't climb down to eat until Adult Swim, which wasn't for another 30 minutes or so. As the other lifeguards ate their fill, my stomach began to grumble and cramp with longing for the crusty, cheesy deliciousness. Finally, at ten till the hour, I blew my whistle and jumped down, breaking pool rules and running to the break room.

My eyes were still adjusting to the darkness of the room as I spotted the pizza box, threw open the lid, and grabbed a slice. It had grown cold, but I didn't care. I took two huge bites in quick succession, chewed three or four times, and felt the lump of barely-chewed pizza slide down my gullet and plop into my empty stomach. As I took another bite, I gazed out the window to the pool and watched grownups float lazily on their backs. Something tickled my cheek and I scratched at it while taking another bite. A toddler fell and scraped her knee. I took another bite. Something tickled my ear, and this time after I scratched my ear, my hand tickled. I looked down and saw an ant. I flicked it off, and at the same time I felt 20 more places on my face and neck that tickled. A switch flipped in my brain.

My heart thumped as my eyesight shrank to tunnel vision, with the pizza box at the other end. I flipped open the lid and my fears were confirmed. The pizza was *undulating* with ants. It was so black, it seemed the whole entire colony must have turned out for the feast. In my haste, and with my eyes unadjusted to the darkness of the indoors, I completely missed the horde of insects as I shoveled food into my mouth. I imagined what I looked like with ants crawling all over my face, into my eyes and nose and ears, not to mention the ants now sizzling in my stomach acid. For a moment I was unable to breathe or move. Then adrenaline came surging through my bloodstream. I dropped the slice of pizza and began to repeatedly slap myself in the face, each time pulling away a palmful of smashed ants. After five minutes I felt sure that I had killed every last one, but I continued to feel their tiny legs all over my body for the rest of the day.

How does this little anecdote relate to writing, you may ask? Well, folks, it does, but I've run out of room so I can't explain right at this moment.

I'm Kate Landers and I still eat too fast. Tell me if you are pro or anti-pineapple pizza at [newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org).

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## November's Monthly Program will Feature Summer Awad

Summer Awad, playwright and poet, will be our featured guest.

Summer will present some of her influences as a writer, including the spoken word tradition and the long history of Palestinian Resistance Literature (Al-Adab Al-Muqawimah). Summer will read excerpts from *WALLS*, some slam-style pieces, and some newer work reflecting on Southern and Appalachian identity.

More information about the award-winning play can be found here: <http://wallsplay.com/>

Summer Awad is a Knoxville native of Palestinian descent. She got her start in performance poetry and performs spoken word under the stage name "Uncensored." Much of her work focuses on biculturalism, politics, and feminism, drawing from both her Palestinian and Southern identities. Her poetry has appeared online in the Exposition Review and Little Rose Magazine and on the radio on WDVX's Wordstream. Poetry awards include 2018 Big Ears Poetry Slam Champion and 2011 Poetry Out Loud Tennessee State Champion. Summer's play, *WALLS: A Play for Palestine*, earned her the 2018 Peacemaker Award from the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, the 2016 Artist of Change Award from Community Shares Tennessee, and a performance run at the 2016 New York International Fringe Festival.



The Program will be held Tuesday, November 12, from 6-8 PM in the Auditorium of the Downtown Library.

## Member Accolades

Cynthia Robinson Young won Honorable Mention in the Peter K. Hixson Memorial Award from Writer's Relief.

*Congratulations, Cynthia, and thank you for sharing your good news!*

## Save the Date!

Our End of Year Party will be held on **Tuesday, December 10.**

More details to come!

## Literary Competition: Deadline February 11, 2020



Organized by the Morris Museum of Art

**2020**  
\$7,000 in Cash Awards  
Submission Deadline: Feb. 11, 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Porter Fleming Literary Competition, now in its twenty-sixth year of recognizing outstanding writing and writers. The competition honors the memory of Porter Fleming, one of Augusta, Georgia's leading citizens and foremost philanthropists. The competition is cosponsored, with the support of the Porter Fleming Foundation, by the Morris Museum of Art, the first museum in the country to focus on the art and artists of the American South.

Winners are invited to participate in a special literary program and awards ceremony spring 2020, in the auditorium of the Morris Museum of Art. Awards will be mailed the following week to any winners not in attendance.

**Literary competition categories:**

- **Book Reviews**—2,000-2,500 words maximum
- **Nonfiction**—Article, op-ed, essay (2,500 words maximum)
- **Poetry**—Up to three poems per entry, not to exceed five pages total per entry
- **One-Act Play**—London format required, limited to three pages

**Awards** (Cash awards in each category):

- First Place—\$1,000
- Second Place—\$500
- Third Place—\$250

**Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by February 11, 2020. Entrants will be notified by email when entries are received.

**Permission:** By entering, winners grant permission to the Morris Museum of Art for publication or public readings at the competition and awards ceremony.

**Who can enter:** Writers, ages 18 and older who reside in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

**Entry fees:**

- \$15 per entry for fiction, nonfiction, one-act play, and poetry. **Nonpoetry, one entry can include up to three poems. Make checks (no money orders or cash) payable to the Morris Museum of Art.**

**Literary competition guidelines:**

- Entrant's name must not appear on the manuscript. Each entry will be assigned a number prior to judging.
- Submit three copies of each entry, and an entry form for each copy. Failure to submit copies will result in disqualification.
- Entries for fiction, nonfiction, and one-act plays must be typed, double spaced, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, with 1" margins, in Times New Roman, 12pt. font. Entries may be single spaced.
- All entries must be original, previously unpublished in print or online media, and not accepted by any publisher at the time they are entered. Manuscripts previously submitted to the Porter Fleming Literary Competition may not be resubmitted.
- Submit as many entries in as many categories as you wish by Tuesday, February 11, 2020. (Remember: each poetry entry may include up to three poems but may not exceed five pages total per entry.)
- For each entry, submit three copies, three entry forms, and the fee, attached to the top copy.
- Include your e-mail address if you wish to be notified when your entries have been received.
- Download entry form at: [www.themorris.org/porterfleming.html](http://www.themorris.org/porterfleming.html).
- Winners will be announced spring 2020 on the Porter Fleming Literary Competition website.

**Submissions that do not meet these guidelines will be disqualified.**

**Mail entry forms and fees to:**  
Morris Museum of Art • 2020 PFLC • 1 1/2th Street, Augusta, GA 30901 • Attn: Brenda Hall

**Deadline to enter:**  
Entries must be postmarked no later than February 11, 2020.

**Notes:** (Send New, Review, 10% change in three hours or less) or (Send New, 10% change in three hours or less) or (Send New, 10% change in three hours or less) or (Send New, 10% change in three hours or less)

1 1/2th St • 1 Augusta, GA 30901  
706-498-3800 • [www.themorris.org](http://www.themorris.org) MORRIS MUSEUM OF ART

**2020 Entry Form**  
Submit three copies of each entry, and an entry form for each copy.

Author's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number (980) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Web Site \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Entry  
 Fiction  Nonfiction  Poetry  Play

Title of Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Line of Entry \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # pages in your entry (including cover).

Yes, I have met all of the requirements listed in this Entry Form.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Submit entries or questions to:  
 Morris Museum of Art  
 2020 Porter Fleming Literary Competition  
 1 1/2th Street • Augusta, GA 30901  
 Attn: Brenda Hall  
 Phone: 706-828-3800  
 Fax: 706-724-7612  
[brenda.hall@themorris.org](mailto:brenda.hall@themorris.org)

MORRIS MUSEUM OF ART



Organized by the Morris Museum of Art

**2020 Entry Form**

Made possible in part by the Porter Fleming Foundation.

## The 10th annual Red Clay Writers Conference

is on November 9th at the Kennesaw State University Center.

Award-winning novelist and essayist Soniah Kamal will give the keynote and there will be a wide variety of genres represented for this year's workshops (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, screenwriting, young adult novel,

and children's books). There will also be an editor panel with the managing editor of *The Georgia Review*, poetry editor of *New South*, and nonfiction editor of *The Chattahoochee Review*.

Enter the code EARLYBIRD when you register online and save \$10. You may learn more about the conference and register [here](#).

## Interested in a new critique group?

Visit our [Facebook](#) page and answer our poll. Let us know if you are interested in joining or heading a new critique group!

## 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.

Hay sops fay bulls  
Peal huff fed  
Thick hall her burp pull

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

Sickening, disgusting, loathsome

Many people confuse *nauseated* with *nauseous*; the former means to feel ill, while the latter means to be the cause of that illness.

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### Member Spotlight with Kelly Hanwright

**What does your writing area look like?** My writing area looks a lot better than it did last year! We revamped it this summer. A friend gave me a small black wooden desk with two drawers that ended up being just right for the space I had. I bought an inexpensive black bookshelf to match and set a couple of those plastic drawers on my counter next to the desk.

Then we cleared out the cabinet so I was able to put all my old journals in it. Before that, it was chaos! Like many creatives, I am the type of person who has to have what I'm working on visible, but ironically I need order in my work area or it's distracting for me. I've learned a couple of tricks that help. I'll share them with you:

#1 - Use file folders! Since I got a couple of those little stackable shelves teachers use for turned-in papers and started putting my piles in labeled folders, it has worked wonders on my work area. I also label binders for larger collections of items, but (personally) this doesn't seem to work as well for my writing since it's harder to categorize that.

#2 - Take 5 minutes! When I leave my work area now, I make sure that even if things are not perfectly categorized, they are at least in folders and put on shelves or in drawers so my area is clear for next time. I don't care how many folders I need for different projects. I just remind myself that file folders



are cheap and everything doesn't have to be perfect. I've learned that the most important thing for productivity is a clear space to work so that I can think!

**What object in your life have you had the longest and why do you hang on to it?** The oldest object I have is a tiny little wind-up toy Thumper rabbit. I've had him since I was 2 or 3 years old. I didn't even realize I still had him until I was going through some things this summer and found him. He still hops! The reasons I keep him are complex, but he reminds me of some happy times with my mom (I remember she and I playing with him and laughing). Also, when I found him it just really struck me how much he and I are alike. We have been through so much we should both be broken by now, but somehow remain mostly unscathed. I wrote a poem about it. So, I will keep him to help me remember how God can bring us through and protect us when we have hard times in our lives.

**How did you get involved in the Chattanooga Writers' Guild?** John Mannone invited me to Marcia Swearingen's Christian writers critique group, which was then called Writers for the Christian Market, based on my poem "Song of Christ" that I workshopped at a Meacham Writers Conference we were in together. I was in college, and so excited to find other Christian writers! After attending a few meetings and events, I noticed that the Guild was full of a lot of good people, and that there was a powerful knowledge base for taking my writing to the next level. I joined.

**What is your favorite book on writing?** I was introduced to Bill Brown's *Important Words* by one of my professors in the English major (my undergraduate degree). I later ordered my own copy. Bill just really has this amazing way of explaining things so that I understand and am inspired at the same time.

**Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life.** The answer is probably Shel Silverstein's *A Light in the Attic*. When I was in middle school, I had just moved to a new town. I made one friend at school. She and I would go to the library every day at lunch and read that book. It was funny but made you think at the same time. I think that's when I began to really notice the power of poetry, and maybe also more generally, the power of words. I credit the unlocking of this power with my life and sanity (no joke).

**What's something you're looking forward to?** I look forward to completing and publishing my memoir, *The Locust Years*.

**What literary success are you most proud of?** This year, I've published 3-4 poems, participated in a contest, and written for a poem-a-day challenge. Those things are exciting for me because I'm finally losing my fear. It's hard to explain...I guess writing has been so personal and essential to me that I am often afraid to risk any part of it. Somewhere in the interim, I was nominated for a Pushcart, and one of my published poems was recently requested for a "best of" anthology. I had no idea anyone would think that much of it!

**Who do you nominate for next time?** Heather Davis.

Mad Blab answers: Aesop's Fables; Beloved; The Color Purple

STAY CONNECTED

