

Chattanooga Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! I don't know if I'm in the minority here, but I love word limits. When I'm writing based on contest or submission guidelines, my process is to write everything I want, and then go back in with the Word Limit Sieve and shake out all the excess. Then, when I've hit that mark (always just a word or two under the limit), I'll know that what's left is truly the best I can give. I've gone through and judged the value of each and every adjective, verb, noun, and (gasp!) adverb. Whatever's left has earned the right to be there. Word limits force you to pay attention to phrasing and emphasis, which is something my son's 3rd grade teacher could have done better.

It was the first birthday party of the year, and the kids were lined up in the cafeteria to receive a cupcake before recess began. "Ms. Z" got everyone's attention and said, "After you get your cupcake, you can go outside." I heard this as, "After you get your cupcake, you can, *if you want to but you don't have to*, go outside." Apparently, that's also how my kiddo and a few of his buddies heard it because they all sat down and began eating. But a minute later, after all the cupcakes had been doled out, Ms. Z saw them and became furious. Apparently what she meant was, "After you get your cupcake, you can, *since I see you all have legs and know where the playground is and are therefore able to get yourself there on your own*, go outside." My son was henceforth seen as a disobedient trouble maker and the year was all downhill from there.

It is also important to not *over*-edit. Once, when I was hiking with my husband, who was wearing our then-6-months-old daughter in a baby backpack, we got separated. When I saw another family coming up the trail, I stopped the husband to ask if he'd seen a man and a baby. He said no, then turned around to call to his wife, "Have you seen a baby?" I'll never forget the look of horror on the woman's face as she thought she was about to become involved in a missing child case.

A man AND a baby.

AND.

I'm Kate Landers and this introduction was twice as long when I first wrote it. Tell me about your unfortunate miscommunications at newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

Thank you to our Panelists for our October Program!

Last Tuesday we listened to authors John C. Mannone, Lantz Powell, and Kelle Z. Riley discuss what it takes to get an agent (and why you don't always need one), and the pros and cons of traditional publication vs. self-publication. We also had several people join us for the first time - We hope to see you again!



Have you paid your dues for 2019-2020?? All CWG memberships expired in September! You can pay online on our website

www.chattanoogawritersguild.org. Click the JOIN NOW tab, then pay through our PayPal account. Don't forget to add yourself to our new Sign Up list!

Member Accolades:

***Ray Zimmerman's** poem, "Great Horned Owl" appeared in the Fall, 2019 Issue of The Avocet. He also has three poems in the 2019 Issue of the Literary Journal Number One (Gallatin, TN): "To the Last Carolina Parakeet," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at A Wall," and "Father." In addition to his poetry, Ray has scripted a living history reenactment, which he performed at Audubon Acres on September 28. The video can be found [HERE](#). (Videography by Chris Wood.)

If you are a member of CWG and would like to let us know about your new book, award, literary event, etc., share it with us at newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org

Chattanooga HUGS

CWG member and Treasurer Susan Spurgeon was promoting her movement, Chattanooga HUGS (Hearts United Grow Stronger) at Pride October 6. She gave away lots of Moon Pies, Positive Word Cards, and of course hugs! Learn more about Susan's movement at www.chattanoogahugs.com.



National Novel Writing Month is almost here!

Commonly called "NaNoWriMo," this is a world-wide event where authors strive to write 50,000 words by midnight, November 30. That's an average of 1,667 words a day! If you're interested in the challenge, head over to www.nanowrimo.org to find out more information, like where you can attend a meet-up here in Chattanooga. Good luck!

Word to Know:

hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia, n.

The fear of long words.

After reading her student's disappointing essay, the professor wondered if perhaps the author suffered from hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia.

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.

Teen curd hay lore soul churrs pie
Har youth hair cod hits meme arg Rhett

Spooky Stories Event at Star Line Books

Bring your Halloween themed poems, short stories, or songs to share at a special 5th Tuesday event. October 29 from 6 to 8 PM. More details at www.starlinebooks.com



Need a spooky prompt to get you started?

This cooler was left in a strip of woods, between a bike path and a railroad track. I biked past it several times a week for months and months before I worked up the nerve to open it last week. What do you think I found inside? And why, when I posted the picture online, did Facebook ask if I wanted to tag a face in the background?

Happy Halloween!

Member Spotlight with Sarah Elise Cornett

When did you first consider yourself to be a writer? I had a short story published in the Young Southern Writer's Contest when I was 12, and since I don't remember anything before the age of ten, we'll go with somewhere around that age.

What other activities do you enjoy? I adore reading, sketching, lifting, and tons of other things. I spend a lot of time at Wired Coffee Shop watching anime (or some sort of show) with my boyfriend. I also love yoga, naps, and journaling.

Tell us about a book or a poem that had an impact on your life. There are so many. Honestly, any of the Button Poetry poet books really impacted me, as I didn't realize poetry could be something to love until someone other than my middle school teacher offered it to me. Some books that left me reeling are Ender's Game, Pride and Prejudice, and the Lord of the Rings trilogy - and don't psychoanalyze that y'all. Those are just the ones that come to mind first, and aren't the only ones!

What literary success are you most proud of? I once wrote a book of



love poems to my boyfriend. It's not published, and probably never will be, but it's pretty much a record of the entire beginning of our falling in love. It's full of some of my favorite memories.

What is your favorite way to spend a beautiful fall day? Tea, blanket, soup, cuddles. All day every day. Oh, and pjs.

What is your process for planning out a story or poem? With a story, I like an outline. With a poem, I'm basically word vomiting my heart and mind onto a page. Messy!

Where is your favorite place to go in Chattanooga? I can't pick just one! Cadence Coffee Co, Wildflower Teahouse, Ten Two Jack, and the waterfront by the Hunter museum.

What is your biggest time-waster? Hi, Instagram. I'm looking at you.

What is something you are looking forward to? Publishing my first book! But really, I'm taking my time. I try not to look too far ahead in the future. Right now is pretty rad already.

Who do you nominate for next time? Kelly Hanwright!

Mad Blab answers: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy; Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret

STAY CONNECTED

