



Chattanooga Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Today I went with a group of teammates to donate blood. I've been a regular donor since 2016, the year after my stepfather died. During his fight with cancer, he needed several transfusions, so by donating I feel I am paying forward the generosity of his donors.

But today my teammates and I came together in honor of our coach who passed away from cancer at the beginning of this summer. She was young and she lived a healthful lifestyle, but that doesn't matter to Cancer. And now that she's gone, there is nothing any of her friends and teammates can do but remember her and try to help others in her situation live a bit longer on this earth. Donating blood really doesn't take much effort, and after you've done it a few times you get used to the needles and tourniquet and all that yucky stuff. You get a soda and a T-shirt, and 15 minutes to just sit and scroll through Facebook uninterrupted. 15 minutes every two months. That's not too much to give, right?

But to someone who needs it, your donation is *everything*.

Can you think of a time when someone's simple gesture made your day? Have you ever had someone thank you for something you didn't even realize you had done? What we give to one another, what we do for each other, *matters*. So when you sit down to write and you start second-guessing yourself, I want you to stop. When you start having thoughts of quitting this whole writing "thing," when you're wondering who in the world could possibly want to read what you've written, when you're trying to convince yourself to give up, thinking, "What does it matter if I write or not?" I want you to believe that what you may so casually give could mean the entire *world* to someone else. So keep writing, even if it's just for 15 minutes every two months. There's someone out there who needs what you have to give.

I'm Kate Landers and I may still be a little light-headed. Tell me how you pay kindness forward at newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

October's Monthly Program will Feature a Panel Discussion

Mark your calendars for the CWG program on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Main Library auditorium (at 10th & Broad) in Chattanooga, TN.

Preparing to Publish: Between Revision and Submission will be a panel discussion with successful poets & writers. This will be a valuable resource to aspiring and accomplished writers:

After the revision is complete and possible venues of interest are identified, what are your next steps? This panel might help you answer the question of whether you are seeking to publish an individual piece, a collection, or a longer work like a novel. Our focus will be on non-agented publishing: self-publishing and publishing with small independent presses. Topics in the interactive discussion may include (but not limited to) submission guidelines, cover letters, sequencing work in a collection, writing a query letter, and writing a synopsis.

You will have the opportunity to ask for more detailed one-day Saturday workshops in the near future. We will solicit your interests in (1) creating works from an idea, which would be more than creating work from writing prompts, it would also involve historical research, (2) the revision process, (3) more specifics on manuscript preparation, (4) how to find potential publishers, (5) marketing strategies, including your writer's platform and social media, etc.

Panelist information coming soon on our [website!](#)

Mark would like help carrying equipment into the meetings. If you would like to help and can arrive 20 minutes early please email Mark at maaark_a@yahoo.com

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!

Night after night, after I put my children to sleep I am left with unanswered questions regarding the nursery rhymes and fairy tales I have read to them.

Maybe one day I'll sit down to address them, but if I never do, maybe you can.

Need some prompts? Look no further:

*Rethink Jack and the Beanstalk from the giants' point of view and you realize that Jack is just a lying thief who gets away with murder. Why is this a story we tell our kids?

*Also, why did that old man trade his magic beans for a cow? What was so special about Jack's cow?

*What did Rumpelstilskin want a baby for, anyway? Maybe this is just a sad case of an adoption gone wrong.

*What happened to Humpty Dumpty after no one could fix him? And why is he always portrayed as an egg? It doesn't say he's an egg anywhere in the rhyme.

*How did the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker all find themselves sharing a tub? Just what in the world were they up to?

*Whatever happened to the strange men Rip Van Winkle encountered on the mountain? Why did they make him sleep for 20 years?

*What about the Witch of the South? What was she up to the whole time Dorothy was in Oz?

If you think of a good answer to any of these questions, let me hear it at

newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.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.

**This Carl hit led her
This tray hinge gay soft hock tore check aisle
hand missed whore height**

Word to Know: **Octothorpe, n.**

The symbol #

The first step to playing Tic-Tac-Toe is to draw an octothorpe.

Member Spotlight with Patricia Ann Ledford

What are your writing goals for the next 12 months? My book *Strings-The Story of Hope* covers four generations from 1776-1804. My goal is to begin writing the sequel, *Strings Undone*, this winter. Readers want to know how the lives of Jeremiah, Amity, Carter – and even Wash – intertwine in the future.

What does your writing area look like? My small cabin near Grandfather Mountain has a view of more than five mountain ranges. This view has been an inspiration for my writing, though I actually write on my laptop while comfortably seated in my living room's recliner.

Tell us about your muse or source of motivation. I constantly find new insights by reading the Bible daily. Each day before I begin writing, I pray "Dear Lord, I commit my work to Thee. Please establish my thoughts." Then I take a moment to listen. As soon my hands hit the keyboard, the words come. There is no doubt that the Lord helped me write my debut novel.

What was the best concert you've ever been to? The Chattanooga Symphony's April 2019 Rose of Sonora violin concerto. Chattanooga native George Clinton and CSO concertmaster Holly Mulcahy composed this original piece that features five scenes – each launched with a few words that create a powerful journey (in one's imagination) accompanied by music and voices that bring tears of passion and joy. Listening to the music of each scene, I could visualize the adventures of my protagonist Anna Hope O'Connor.

Where is your favorite place to go in Chattanooga? I love walking to the Chattanooga Market for cooking competitions, bands like Sweet Georgia Sound, and champagne.

Tell us about the best vacation you've ever taken. Two trips to Antigua within 6 months in 2014 were the best. I enjoy spending time underwater, snorkeling and swimming with the tropical fishes.

What writing project are you working on at the moment? I'm making notes for *Strings Undone*, the sequel to *Strings-The Story of Hope*. And I'm always making notes for my 3rd book, *My Resume Myself*, a collection of stories from my kaleidoscopic life.

Tell us about a book or poem that had an impact on your life. *Magnificent Obsession* by Lloyd C. Douglas strengthened my faith and my mantra: "Thy Will Be Done".

What is your favorite book on writing? Ernest Hemingway on Writing offers inspiring excerpts from Hemingway's letters to other authors. To Fitzgerald, Hemingway writes: "the good parts of a book may be only something a writer is lucky enough to overhear or it may be the wreck of his



whole damn life – and one is as good as the other.” Dear Scott/Dear Max is an enlightening chronicle of Fitzgerald’s correspondence with his publisher that should be required reading for any author.

Who do you nominate for next time? Sarah Elise Cornett

Mad Blab answers: *The Scarlet Letter*; *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mister Hyde*

STAY CONNECTED

