



Chattanooga Writers' Guild

News & Updates

Greetings, fellow writers! Today, I am proud to say that I am a quitter. Four months ago I made the decision to not buy another pack of cigarettes, two months ago I began to see an improvement in my breathing, and just recently I began to actually like that I made this decision.

I had my first cigarette when I was 13 and for the first several years I would only smoke intermittently, whenever a friend's older brother would toss us a couple. But by the time I was 20, I was up to a pack a day, a habit I continued until I got pregnant. I quit cold-turkey for 18 months, and then the week after I quit nursing I bought a pack. Five years later I got pregnant with my daughter. Again I quit, and again I picked it back up. With two young children, smoking became my Me Time, my I-deserve-six-minutes-to-myself time. When so much of my day was spent participating in toddler-appropriate activities, smoking reminded me that I was still a grown-up, that I was still *me*.

I still love grungy clouds of second-hand smoke and the way 100's look as they slowly burn down. I miss having an excuse to step away from awkward social situations. In all my happiest memories from college there's a cigarette between my fingertips. Saying good-bye to smoking was saying good-bye to the halcyon days of my youth. But for the sake of Future Kate, it had to be done.

You, too, can and should be a quitter! We've all got something we're struggling with, whether it's a bad habit, a DIY house remodel, a toxic relationship, or maybe a story you've been working on for years that just isn't going anywhere. It can be incredibly hard to say good-bye to a story or a character you've lived with for a long time, but sometimes you have to ask yourself, *How beneficial is it for me to continue on with this, really?* If you set aside your love for your story, and you stop thinking about what it *could* be, can you see it for what it *actually is*? Is hanging on to it helping you reach your literary goals? Or is it holding you back?

I don't smoke cigarettes anymore, but I'll still set a bad plot on fire. I'll also answer the emails sent to newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

The Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair is almost here!

The Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair is a free event taking place this coming Saturday, September 7th, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Downtown Library, 1001 Broad Street. There will be:

***Author readings in the Auditorium featuring many of your favorite Chattanooga writers: Sherry Poff, Deborah Levine, David Franklin, Connie Gatlin, Wayne Brown, Laura Brown, Audrey Gale, Cash Daniels, Robin Hansen, Susie Crain, Erica Tuggle, Greg Wilkey, April Royer, Michael Kobernus, Jan Dearman, Kent Anderson, Paul Luikart, Tim Champlin, John C. Mannone, Cynthia Robinson Young, Finn Bille, K.B. Ballentine, Lee Ann Gillen, Mary Monroe, Sharyl Griggs, Sarah Elise, Rachel Landrum Crumble, Mary Romero Ferguson, and several of our Spring Writing Contest winners!**

***Open mic stage** for multiple genres on the library plaza - bring your stuff! Let us hear you!

*Vendor tables, book sales, workshops, a Flash Fiction contest, and children's crafts on the 4th floor

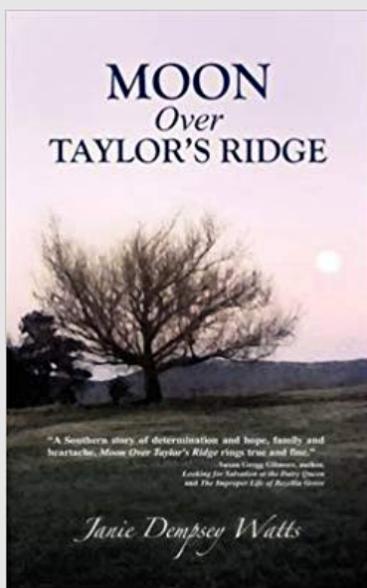
***Go Gyro Go!** will be there with both their delicious gyros and their new hotdog cart! Come have a picnic on the library plaza while enjoying our open-mic!

It's a celebration of all things literary, for and by the entire community! For more information visit www.crwfair.org.

If you are a CWG Member and you would like to sell your books at the Fair, but are unable to mind a table all day, **we invite you to consign** your books through us! Email [Sherry Poff](mailto:Sherry.Poff@crwfair.org) for more details.

We need volunteers to help us man tables and direct guests. There is no time commitment; any help is appreciated. We are also in need of photographers. If you can volunteer your time for even an hour, please email [Sherry](mailto:Sherry.Poff@crwfair.org).

A special *Thank You!* to the amazing CRWFair committee who has worked for nearly a YEAR to make this happen: **Mark Anderson, Leah Bailey, and Sherry Poff**. This event would not be happening without these three hardworking volunteers who have dedicated hours upon hours to bring this event to the community for no reason other than their love of literature.*



Book Discussion: *Moon Over Taylor's Ridge*

Please join Sherry Poff at the Chattanooga Readers and Writers Fair (September 7th) for a book discussion on CWG member Janie Dempsey Watts's *Moon Over Taylor's Ridge*.

Avie Williams Cole has a mission: take a quick trip to Georgia to settle her father's estate. Too busy to go, her attorney husband, Michael, sends her off with their asthmatic son, Joseph, to keep her company. In tiny Taylor's Crossing, Avie settles in but is soon thrown off course by overbearing and meddling family members and her son's fascination with a legendary Cherokee Silver mine. Their search for the silver mine leads her up to Taylor's Ridge and to a new friend, Will. As her stay lengthens, her life begins to unravel even as she begins to blossom and make new friends. For the first time in her life, she must learn to stand on her own and find her way. Will she stay with her husband, or choose a new love? And how can she hold on to the red land she cherishes?

Purchase your copy today and be ready for the Fair! Available at our local [StarLine Books](http://www.starlinebooks.com), 1467 Market St #106, or on [Amazon](http://www.amazon.com).

Also coming up soon is our

Annual Party and Board Elections!

On September 10, the annual election will launch us into a new year. CWG needs two officers (Treasurer and Secretary) and a few Directors.

Ideally, the Treasurer would be a competent bookkeeper, but this is not a requirement. The Treasurer will have check signing authority and oversee our financial accounts, and if a bookkeeper is hired, the Treasurer will oversee him/her.

Please view the pdf entitled "Member roles" located on the website: <http://www.chattanoogawritersguild.org/board-members.html>

Interested members should contact President John C. Mannone in advance of the elections to ensure that they are considered at jcmannone@gmail.com

And if you're just here for the camaraderie, that's fine too. **Sign up for the potluck here: [CWG 2019 Potluck](#).** (This is not a requirement, but it will help ensure that we don't end up with 20 kinds of cookies and no side dishes. Also, the Edney allows alcohol, so feel free to BYOB.)

On a related note, I will be continuing my post as Newsletter Editor, unless someone wants to run against me. If there's any changes you'd like to see, speak now or forever unsubscribe. (Although you should know I take it very personally when people unsubscribe.) Send your questions, comments, complaints, and pictures of your dog to newsletter@chattanoogawritersguild.org.

Helpful website: rhymezone.com. I've been using this website for years. It's a one-stop shop for rhymes, near-rhymes, synonyms, antonyms, definitions, and so much more. It's helpful for prose writers and poets alike. It'll search for your word in lyrics, poems, and Shakespearean works. It'll even help you find rhymes based on syllabic count. Check it out!

The Results of the Spring Writing Contest are in!

Poetry (final judge, William Woolfitt)

1st place: "Summer on the Farm" by Ann Thornfield-Long

2nd place: "To My Neighbor, Scolding the Universe" by Sherry Poff

3rd place: "Dayclean" by Cynthia Young

Other Poetry finalists:

"Baby Teeth" by Kate Landers

"A Beautiful Day for a Lynching" Mark Anderson

"Blood of Home" by Larry Thacker

"A Father" by Daniel Leonard

"I Can No Longer Hear the Rain" by Leah Bailey

"Morning Music" by John C. Mannone

"People" by Sarah Cornett

"A Poem in the Sky" Karen Phillips

"You" Natalie Kimbell

Fiction (final judge, Darnell Arnoult)

1st place: "How to Apply to Graduate School at 53" by Cassandra Garbus

2nd place: "The Guests" by Joan Gurfield

3rd place: "Vacation" by Stephen Pell

Honorable Mention: "Belonging" by Barbara Tucker

Other Fiction finalists:

"Azzie's Yellow Ribbon" by Lisa McGlaun

"Beans for Breakfast" by L.B. Blackwell

"The Betrayal of Melissa Jane" by Phylis Warady

"Earth X" by Kate Landers

"For Better or Worse" by Tucker Pennington

"In The Chips" by Ann Thornfield-Long

"Scattered in the Spires" by Anna Smith

"Who Am I?" by Bruce Gaughran

Literary Nonfiction (final judge, Thomas Alan Holmes)

1st place: "All the Cherry Pies" by Jamie Wagman

2nd place: "Crabtree" by L.B. Blackwell

3rd place: "Love the One You're With" by Vickie McEntire

Other NonFiction finalists:

"Dale McKinney's Daughter" by Sherry Poff

"Equine Élan" by Lee Ann Gillen

"Gordon" by Jenny McKeel

"Momma and the Birthday Cake" by Daniel Leonard

"A Thanksgiving Memory" by Connie Gatlin

Congratulations to all of our winners and finalists! You can read all of the above submissions in our 2019 Anthology, which is already in the works!



Member Spotlight with Keith Robinson



What was your first job? I worked in the property services department of a financial company (Aon) organizing contractors and furniture for office moves and refurbishments. I also designed/arranged all the floor layouts and personally led the renovations from floor to floor or from building to building. I traveled a lot, to 27 buildings in the major cities of the UK (where I lived at the time), and stayed in hotels, which was usually awesome! This was from 1986-1999.

What does your writing area look like? A mess. A desk in my basement home office. I work from home designing websites, so my desk is much-used and covered in papers. I do, however, clean it up every few months.

What object in your life have you had the longest and why do you hang on to it? Probably my original collection of paperback Enid Blyton books (an English author who died in 1968). She was an inspiration to millions of kids including me with her adventure and mystery novels. I'm a writer, so naturally I hold onto them!

Who is your favorite character from a novel? Maybe Jennings, from the Jennings books by Anthony Buckeridge (another English author I grew up with). Or possibly Arthur Dent from the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy.

What is your biggest time-waster? Facebook.

Tell us about your muse or source of motivation. Any novelist who makes me stop everything to finish a book. And any novelist who is earning five figures a month. I don't get jealous, but I strive to put more books out and earn more each month so I don't have to worry about where the next website job is coming from.

What was the best concert you've ever been to? Probably the Game of Thrones orchestra in Atlanta, with the original composer Ramin Djawadi.

Where is your favorite place to go in Chattanooga? I really don't have a favorite place these days. I like Urban Stack...?

What is something you are looking forward to? Finishing my current book and starting the next one, and finishing the next one so I can start the one after, and so on... Every book is exciting!

Who do you nominate for next time? Michael Kobernus

Mad Blab answers: I think this newsletter is long enough already, don't you? I'll try again in 2 weeks.

*Ok, I was on the committee, too, but 1) It feels weird to thank myself and 2) I just did the fluffy bits. Mark, Leah, and Sherry are the real heroes here.

STAY CONNECTED

