

Green River Writers

May 2003

Volume 10, Issue 2

Green River Writers, Inc. will once again host its annual summer Retreat at U. of L. Shelby Campus in Louisville, KY. From July 23 through July 27, you can focus on what you really love — writing. The Retreat offers opportunities for the new writer, as well as the professional, to participate in group reading, critiquing and freewrite sessions in fiction, non-fiction, essay, memoir, playwriting or poetry.

This year, writers can elect to participate in a Manuscript Exchange. You may bring several copies of a short story, essay, group of poems, memoir or novel chapter for individual critique by a peer. Several well-published writers, among them poet, novelist and short fiction writer Mary O'Dell, author of *Poems for the Man Who Weighs Light* and *Living in the Body*, Sherry Chandler, author of *Dance the Black-Eyed Girl*, recently released by Finishing Line Press, whose poetry and short stories have appeared in such journals as *The Louisville Review* and the *Licking River Review*, and Georgia Wallace, author of *My Father's Daughter*, whose poetry has appeared in regional, national and international journals such as *Pegasus*, *Mediphors* and *Amber*.

A Get-Acquainted Reading will open the Retreat Wednesday evening July 23, where participants can introduce themselves by reading a piece of their own work and a piece by another author.

On Saturday evening, July 26, at 7:30 p.m., participants are invited to read their work. The program will be presented at Central House in the dorm complex of Shelby Campus. Public and guests are invited to attend the reading and an informal reception following the program.

The Registration Fee is \$150 Residents (includes room for 4 nights)*, \$50 Commuters. **Reservations MUST BE MADE BY July 10 and MUST**

INCLUDE a \$50 Non-refundable Deposit. This deposit will be subtracted from the total registration fee. (See page 2 for Registration)

* Due to U. of L.'s new cancellation policy, we must ask that all residential participants plan on attending the entire Retreat. Green River now has to reserve and pay for all rooms in a dorm *or* empty rooms will be assigned to non-participants. This means we must pay for ALL rooms in a dorm in order to maintain the integrity of the group.

19TH ANNUAL
SUMMER
RETREAT
JULY 23 - 27

Inside

From the President's Desk	2
Election Procedures Revamped	3
Dance the Black-Eyed Girl - A Review	3
Personal & Professional Notes	4

From the President's Desk

Greetings to all our writer friends and colleagues,

I hope you're thinking seriously about contacting GRW headquarters and nominating someone — yourself? — to run for GRW board member. Three positions are open, and we'd love to have some new and enthusiastic folks onboard.

And while I'm on the subject, I'm happy to announce the appointment of Sherry Chandler as new GRW secretary. Congratulations, Sherry!

Another piece of business: the University of Louisville's newly enforced policies dictate that when GRW uses the Shelby Campus dorms, we must pay for all rooms reserved instead of the ones actually occupied during an event. Thus, if we reserve only part of a dorm, the leftover rooms will most likely be rented to others. Such a situation compromises the integrity of the event and our group interaction. And so, in order to continue our dorm-based events, we are requiring that a deposit be made in advance.

Now for a couple of more upbeat items: our March Novels-In-Progress Workshop, though down some in attendance, was a great success. About two-thirds of our participants were new this year, some excellent writers among them. A bunch have joined GRW and are staying around to participate in our other activities. Our committee (Jeff Yocom, Cheryl

Stuck and Cate Pearson) met recently for assessment/mop-up, and Jeff's summary of participant evaluations was wildly heartening. (I know— it's a linguistic stretch, but hey —) And another good thing — the committee is already fired up about planning for next year. Let's hear it for Jeff, Cheryl and Cate!

As well as heading up the NIPW committee this year, Jeff Yocom provided the event a website, for which we are most grateful; long-time GRW member Terri Alekzander has now set up a permanent website, which will incorporate all facets of GRW — our newly-revived contest, an on-line copy of the Newsletter, and all information about all meetings and events. Log on at www.greenriverwriters.org and let us know what you think. GRW members are most welcome to post relevant items there. Just contact Terri at terri12564@peoplepc.com. We've also heard from a couple of folks who are interested in helping Terri with this project — Steve Ryan and Jeff Yocom. If this is something that interests you, let us know.

A word concerning the new format/location/time for our local Prose meetings: The word is, YES! It's working! The group will keep meeting at Derby Lanes, Beulah Church Road, 2:30-5:30 p.m. on the second Sunday. Since making these changes, PF has attracted several new members and won back some members we haven't seen for a while.

(continued page 5)

Mail to: Summer Retreat, Green River Writers, Inc, 703 Eastbridge Court, Louisville, KY 40223

_____ Residential	\$150. 00*	<i>*Includes</i> Private dorm room with linens
_____ Commuter	\$ 50.00	July 23, July 24, July 25, July 26
_____ \$50 Non-refundable Deposit	\$ _____	July 27 Check out
TOTAL FEES/DEPOSITS ENCLOSED	\$ _____	I need a first floor room _____
Name _____	Phone _____	
Address _____	E-mail _____	
City/State/Zip _____	Sex: M _____ F _____	

**** Call (502) 245-4902 to confirm room availability ****

ELECTION PROCEDURES REVAMPED

Nominations due by May 15

At a recent meeting of Green River Writers Board of Directors meeting, the current director drafted a new policy for filling future openings. Here are the ways you as a Green River member can be involved in this decision-making procedure: **If you'd like to run for available board positions or nominate someone else, please call (502) 245-4902, email - maryodell@netzero.net, or send a letter/postcard to GRW, 703 Eastbridge Court, Louisville, KY 40223, by May 15.** Members will receive a ballot listing those running by May 30. All who are listed on the ballot will be notified as to results of the election by June 15; names of new board members will also be announced at the Summer Retreat and in the September Newsletter.

Qualifications:

GRW board members must:

1. be dues-paying members of GRW
2. be familiar with the organization's mission and policies
- 3 be willing and able to attend semi-annual board meetings
4. be able to offer opinion, advice and unbiased comment concerning issues that come up between regularly scheduled board meetings.

Requirements:

- Board meetings are held during or immediately prior to summer and winter retreats (July and January) each year.
- Terms are for two years and begin August 1 of each year.
- Board member is expected to notify GRW as soon as possible if he/she cannot attend, to send a proxy or to authorize the current GRW board to appoint a proxy.

We hope these new policies will result in more active member participation. Don't hesitate! Call, write or email and nominate yourself or someone else. Don't forget, **nomination deadline is May 15.**

DANCE

THE BLACK-EYED GIRL

BY SHERRY CHANDLER

REVIEWED BY MARY E. O'DELL

In this premier collection, Sherry Chandler gives us close-up photographs of family life as it was, as it is — snapshots that are sometimes beautiful as “grandmother’s slender hand curled loose on a cotton handkerchief,” sometimes bleak as the ruminations of Kitty, 83, whose family kisses her leathery face as though she were “a wrinkled baby.”

These poems, gentle yet edgy, are full of wry, sometimes ambivalent affection for the people and circumstances of her life — for Daddy, who can “walk a roof beam like a sidewalk,” whom she mourned by breathing through the flannel of his old shirt “to catch his smell, whiskey and sweat;” for her husband, with whom she has “grown together like tumor and healthy flesh.”

As observer of her larger family, Chandler can “watch the faces jump from age to youth, baby to man” as many of us have, yet claim with courage her own feelings toward a father whose voice “makes the earth tremble, the house tremble.”

This poet, capable of wide ranges of emotion — from the elegant humor found in “Dr. Pepper Clock” to the poignant longings expressed in “What She Wants” (“to see Zimbabwe” or “Live like a nun, alone in a white cell”) — exhibits, above all, control — of those emotions and of the language. When she does temporarily take leave of the dispassionate observer’s role and give us a glimpse of her own most intimate feelings, as “in days when I had Tarzan for a father” or as she “brace(s) against the groping, slack-mouthed, semi-conscious kiss”) Chandler turns to form — the villanelle, the sonnet.

The poems in this collection span a woman’s life and needs; we see her go from the stark joy of “living in a cave full of rabbit bones” to her measured decision “to live my life with the enigma.” Which, after all, is what we all must do in the end.



Personal & Professional Notes

George Harper published "A Walk in the Park," an article concerning the removal of outdoor signs in Louisville's Waterfront Park, and "The Carroll County Incident," about sign ordinances being ruled unconstitutional; George also writes CD and book reviews for Blues News and the Kentuckiana Blues Society.

Bobbie Buchanan, Ellen Morris and Margaret Ricketts recently won Artist Enrichment grants from the Kentucky Foundation for Women.

Ernie O'Dell's poetry was published in *The Sow's Ear Review* and *The Mennonite*. The 2nd Edition of her collection *Poems for the Man Who Weighs Light* is now available.

Jo Emary's article "On Perfection" was published in *The Sun*.

Evelyn Angert appeared on WAVE3 TV last month while teaching her yoga class.

Terry Kanago's columns are now published in the Neighborhoods section of the Spokane-Spokesman-Review.

Nita West's poem "To My Son" was bought by Lynxfield Publishing of Pittsfield NH for their anthology *Messages from Mother to Sons*.

Marian Allen's short story "Pick of the Litter" was published by E@K, Electronic Fiction; you can read it by logging onto <http://www.NetAuthor.jorg/E2K>.

Irene Mosvold's personal essay was a finalist in the Essay section of the Penn Faulkner contest.

John D. Engle, Jr. was published in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Marietta Ball's short story "Horses Can See in the Dark" will appear in the 2003 edition of the anthology published by Triple Tree Press. Marietta also won third place in the MOTA 3: Courage contest.

Mary Ann Carrico-Mitchell's story "Frankenmuth, Dentyne and Lucky Strike Cigarettes" has been accepted by KWC's tobacco anthology. Mary Ann's poems "Reservations" and "Sky Sundae" have been accepted by Weeds Corner Publishing Company.

Angela Jenkins' essay "Bologna Blitz" was accepted by KWC's tobacco anthology.

Bob McElya's piece "Food for Love" was presented at the Mex-Theatre in the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

Georgia Wallace's poems "Contemplating Arson," "Mandatory Cigarette," and "Kentucky's Finest" were accepted by KWC's tobacco anthology.

Mildred Aukerman published an article recently in *M. Magazine*.

Sandy Brue, our Alaska connection, now works as Chief of Interpretation in Seward, with the National Parks Department. Her article concerning Mary Lowell, a Russian/Alaskan native who sold her homestead right to the founders of Seward, came out in the Nov/Dec issue of *Legacy* magazine.

Congratulations to **Elaine Palencia** on the arrival of her first grandchild, Michael James Harper who was born March 11 to Rachel and Jeff.

Pax Riddle's latest novel, *The Education of Ruby Loonfoot*, was picked as "Best Read of 2002" by *The Native American Times*, a national Indian newspaper.

Dick Hague's most recent full-length poetry collection *Garden*, published in 2002 by Word Press, will be followed by his next full-length collection *The Time It Takes Light*, in 2004, also from Word Press. Dick also writes the creativity column for *Personal Journaling Magazine*.

Sympathy
to the family and friends of
Warren Henderson
who recently passed away

THANKS

Thanks to **Betty Stuedle, Joyce Wilson** and **Ernie O'Dell** for representing GRW at the Public Radio Partnership's winter membership drive.

A big thanks to *ALL* who helped in any way with our recent Novels-In-Progress Workshop. Special thanks to **Keith Snyder** and **Bob Donohew** for their financial contributions, to **Joyce Coomer** for her excellent work on the brochure and for the paper donation, to **Julie Bolt** and **Judy Milford** for running the bookstore, and to all the folks who helped keep the coffee pot going, supplies restocked and the mess cleaned up. The BIGGEST THANKS OF ALL, of course, is served on a silver platter to our hard working NIPW '03 committee members **Cate Pearson** and **Cheryl Stuck**, and to committee chairman **Jeff Yocom**, who made it ALL POSSIBLE!

Muchos gracias to last poetry meeting hosts **Cate Pearson, Kris MacAlhane, Mary Pat Nimon** and **Sherry Chandler**. Thanks to **Joyce Wilson** and **Jerry Bratten** for obtaining locations for our newly scheduled prose meetings.

NOW AVAILABLE!

from
Finishing Line Press

Dance the Black-Eyed Girl

Poems
by
Sherry Chandler

Finishing Line Press

<http://hometown@aol.com/finishing1>

Price: \$12.00

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome new members:

Shelda Hale, Don Black, Jacqueline Selby, Todd Hogan, Gail Chandler, Virginia Nordin, Sue Ballard, Diane Jordan, Roger Collins, Michael Coblenz, and Jim Tomlinson.

Address changes:

Earl Stigger, 4010 Lilac Spring Dr,
Louisville, KY 40242.

Email updates:

Earl Stigger-raphab@aol.com
Robin Whitehouse-ladygolfer2@aol.com
Ernie O'Dell-maryodell@netzero.net
Georgia Wallace-gwsd@netzero.net



From the President's Desk

Last but not least (c'mon, allow me one really bad cliché — after all, I came up with “wildly heartening” a while back) a word about our contest. I assume you have received a brochure by now and are madly choosing your best work to send off to Contest Director Terri Alekzander. This is good! One other thing — if you know of a place where writers gather, be it coffee shop, pub, library, bookstore or another writers' group, give a yell and we'll hand you a stack of contest guidelines to leave there. We'd love to be inundated with submissions.

That's all for now. I'm off to the Springtime Forest to wax creative — well, not really. I'd rather just dash off a line or two here in GRW HQ

Your prez,

Mary "Ernie" O'Dell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary O'Dell (Lifetime)
Tomi Danaher (03)
Mary Pat Nimon (03)
Jean Tucker (03)
Linda Frith (04)
Joe Jarboe (04)
Judy Gill Milford (04)

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Green River Writers

Calendar

May 10 - Poetry

Barbara Greer
1324 S. First St 40208
637-2892

June 7 - Poetry

Georgia Wallace
2602 Alanmede Rd 40205
458-4839

July 11 - Poetry

Mary Pat Nimon
1723 Eastern Parkway 40204
473-7393

August 3 - Poetry

Kim Johnson
1721 Bonycastle 40204
451-8852
(Poetry Meetings begin at 6:30 PM)

May 18- Prose

Derby Lanes
7709 Beulah Church Road

June 8- Prose

Derby Lanes
7709 Beulah Church Road

July 13 - Prose

Derby Lanes
7709 Beulah Church Road

August 10 - Prose

Derby Lanes
7709 Beulah Church Road

(Prose Meetings begin at 2:30 PM)