

Special points of interest:

March 9-16 – Novels in Progress Workshop (NIPW) Spalding University, Louisville

January 16 – Winter Board Meeting, 6 pm. 103 Logsdon Ct, Louisville

January 17-20 -- Winter Retreat, Kavanaugh Center, Crestwood

July 16 – Summer Board Meeting, 6 pm. 103 Logsdon Ct, Louisville

July 17-20 -- Summer Retreat, Kavanaugh Center, Crestwood

Nov 6-9 -- Poetry Retreat, Kavanaugh Center, Crestwood

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Green River Writers

Volume 13, Issue 1

From the President's Desk

Hey, Gang –

Gear up, it's a whole New Year! Throughout this Newsletter you'll find opportunities for writing, retreating, publishing and sharing your work.

Now, a word about the contents of your Newsletter. I imagine you've noticed that the same people's names come up again and again – in the Personal & Professional Notes section, the Thanks column and as contributors of poems and articles. Your name could be among them! Please send us something – a poem, a short-short fiction or essay, a list of your writerly achievements, or suggestions of your own favorite markets. We'd love to publish you!

And speaking of Markets & Opportunities, this issue's column focuses on our

own Kentucky presses and journals, most of which can also be found online. Except the listing for Craighleigh Press, a neat little company out of Canada, run by our friend and long-time Green River member Becky Alexander. Becky does some lovely books as well as calendars and other pretties. Give her a jingle.

We hope several of you take advantage of the upcoming Submissions Day. It works like this: you bring your work (individual poems, a short poetry collection, pieces of short fiction or essays) and you leave with envelopes stuffed and stamped and ready to drop into the mailbox. Also welcome are any markets guides and sample copies of journals you'd like to share. For a paltry \$5 to cover cost of paper, packaging & postage, you can find yourself – well, Submitted!

I'm often amazed when I ponder the myriad activities our Green River members participate in, and in wonder that something born twenty-two years ago with a group of seven hungry writers has grown to the size it is today. How much effort, trust and love (not to mention paper and toner) have gone into this little mill! And we're so glad you are a part of it. Write us, call, email or come on by. We'd love to have you.

Your prez

Mary "Ernie" O'Dell



Green River Writers

Novels In Progress Workshop 2008

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The 2008 Edition of Novels In Progress Workshop will meet March 9 to 16 on the campus of Spalding University in Louisville. This year's conference promises to offer more opportunities than ever for participants to learn how to complete, improve and market their novels.

The 2008 conference faculty includes successful authors from a variety of backgrounds and genres:

Andrew Beahrs
 (historical fiction)

Elizabeth Bevarly
 (romance)

Jeanne M. Dams
 (mystery)

Julianne Lee
 (fantasy and science fiction)

Elaine Fowler Palencia (literary and women's fiction).

Participants can choose from three enrollment options based on their instructional needs and availability:

Full Conference
\$479 (\$429 with early-bird discount until February 15!)
 Daily Breakout Sessions on essential writing

skills, strategies for completing a novel, and tips for getting published

Personal instruction with faculty mentor
 Faculty-moderated peer critique sessions
 Featured Industry Speaker (Friday)
 Agent and Editor Panel Discussion (Saturday)
 Pitch Meetings with editors and agents (Saturday)

Breakout Sessions Plus
\$329 (\$279 with early-bird discount until February 15!)
 Daily Breakout Sessions

on essential writing skills, strategies for completing a novel, and tips for getting published
 Featured Industry Speaker (Friday)
 Agent and Editor Panel Discussion (Saturday)

Single-day
 Morning and afternoon breakout sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (\$99)

Agent and Editor Panel Discussion, plus Agent and Editor Pitch Meetings on Saturday (\$169)

All participants are invited to several social activities throughout the week:

NIPW Soup Kitchen
 Dinner following Orientation Meeting on Sunday, March 9
 Mid-week Pizza Party (Wednesday)
 Closing Party for participants, faculty, agents and editors (Saturday)

Register online at
www.nipw.org!

For additional information: call Jeff Yocom at (502) 417-5514

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS
 Steve Weigenstein

EMAIL ADDRESSES
 Carol Schwope –
cjschwope@myway.com

Harriet Leach – leachharriet@yahoo.com

Rae Cobbs –
raecobbs@insightbb.com

Sherry Chandler –
sherrych@bellsouth.net

ADDRESS CHANGES
 Cate Pearson – 505
 Logsdon Ct, Louisville,
 40243

John G. Warren – 3305
 Winchester Rd, Louisville,
 40207

Pat Owen – 5441 Harbor-
 town Rd, Prospect, 40059

Armando Feler – 205 West
 57th Av, New York, 10019

BEYOND THE WORDS

by Mark Brown

What Came to Me

by Jane Kenyon

I took the last
 dusty piece of china
 out of the barrel.
 It was your gravy boat,
 with a hard, brown
 drop of gravy still
 on the porcelain lip.
 I grieved for you then
 as I never had before.



In “What Came to Me,” Jane Kenyon shows how line breaks, when chosen with care, deepen the impact of a short poem. In nine lines she captures the choke of grief when an unexpected reminder resurrects a departed one in all aspects but the physical, which is the aspect most grieved. This feat is rarely achieved with such compression—compression that makes the ending spring with such force.

As parcels of a whole poem, line breaks act as units of measure, sense, and breath. As emphatic devices, they act as italics, underlines, and bold type. As punctuation, they act as periods, commas, dashes, colons, and semicolons. All of these uses are ultimately ways to control the pace of the eye through the printed poem or of the voice through the spoken poem.

While the line breaks in “What Came to Me” may seem arbitrary, Kenyon has used them as units of measure and emphatic devices. If the strong stresses are counted in each line, a pattern of alternating two beat and three beat lines emerges: I TOOK the LAST/ DUSTY PIECE of CHINA.... The pattern gives the poem cohesiveness and symmetry and produces a dirge-like cadence. The eye dwells on short lines, and the ear dwells on stresses, which slows the reader down to a contemplative pace. The short lines also increase the emphasis that breaks give to the first and last word of the line. In this poem, the effect imitates the points where emotion might be choking the speaker, causing awkward, non-syntactic stalls. But also the reader is propelled by the odd breaks to the next line, which gives a distinctive push-pull quality to the poem.

In the short poem, every element carries more weight than in the longer poem where there’s elbow room. But this moment of grief was brief and profound. A longer poem would have diluted the poignancy. Kenyon kept the urgency by paring down to one object in a tight frame. By using a short line with heavy enjambment, she gives the reader no room for distraction.

Green River Writers

OUR NEW RETREAT CENTER

By Sherry Chandler

Green River Writers held their annual fall poetry retreat, November 8-11, at the Kavanaugh Life Enrichment Center in Crestwood, Kentucky. It was our first retreat at this facility, and as each of us individually solved the maze and found the goal, the golden air was filled with cries of Eureka! and of delight for reunion with old friends and the loveliness of the grounds.

Founded in 1875, Kavanaugh is a 55-acre retreat and conference center run by the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church. About 15 poets stayed in the spacious rooms of Foeman Lodge. The Lodge looks out over a small clear lake that, on that weekend, reflected the reds and golds of the maples and hickories growing around it. Proximity to Louisville made it possible for another half dozen day-trippers to join us for three days of free-writes, critiques, a few healing tears, and much laughter.

We had use of the Robertson Room, which offers kitchen facilities along with conference tables, easy chairs, and sofas, so that we were able to enjoy both the nourishment of poetry and shared food. Jitters Café was in walking distance for those who didn't bring provender. Jitters offers comfort food and excellent coffee at very reasonable prices. Our kickoff event was a delicious and merry dinner by special arrangement at Jitters.

The grounds are quiet and wooded and the Spirit Walk offers about a mile of nicely maintained trail for those writerly walks. Kavanaugh is an excellent place for writers to find life enrichment both in company and in solitude. I think we've found a new home.

NOTE: The Winter 2008 Retreat will be January 17-20. A registration box will not appear in this Newsletter, since the date for room sign-up is already past. However, day-trippers are still welcome. Day fee is \$15. If you wish to come as a days-only participant, please call 245-4902 or email Mary.Odell@insightbb.com.

NOTE: The Green River Contest brochure will be mailed the first week of January with a deadline of February 15. Results will be posted in this Newsletter and on our website in May. New categories will be available. Look on www.greenriverwriters.org.



EXCUSE ME, . . .

EXCUSE ME

To negotiate a Pee
from window seat C,
U must navigate around
passengers A and B.

POEM BY ANNA LUCAS

Watermark

AVAILABLE NOW

GRW co-founder and novelist, Jim O'Dell's bizarre and darkly humorous tale of one man's survival against all odds

\$22.95

Plus \$2.50

postage & handling

Send check or money order to: Mary O'Dell, 103 Logsdon Ct, Louisville, KY 40243 or email mary.odell@insightbb.com

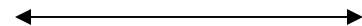
Markets & Opportunities

Craigleigh Press 2008 Poetry Contest - First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25. Fees \$5 per poem or 3 poems for \$10. Deadline January 31, 2008. For guidelines, go to http://www.geocities.com/panthergpss/Craigleigh_Press.html or send SASE to Craigleigh Press, 453 Westminster Dr., S., Cambridge, ON Canada N3H 1T5.

Chaffin Journal, Dept. of English, Case Annex 467, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond KY 40475-3102. (859)622-3080. Editor, Robert W. Witt. Submit 5 poems or one piece of short fiction, any form, subject or style. Accepts simultaneous submissions, no pre-published. Cover letter preferred. Submit regular mail only Reads June 1 -October 1. Sample copy \$6.

Steel Toe Books, Steel Toe Books Poetry Prize, Dept of English, 20C Cherry Hall, Western Kentucky University, 1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, KY, 42101-3576. (270)745-5769. Email: tom.hunley@wku.edu. Editor, Dr. Tom Hunley. \$20 entry fee, submit 48-64 pages. Deadline May 1. Email for further guidelines.

Wavelength: Poems in Prose and Verse, 1753 Fisher Ridge Road, Horse Cave KY 42749-9706. Editor, David P. Rogers. Submit 1-10 poems, 30 lines max. Accepts previously published and simultaneous submissions. Cover letter preferred. Wants more prose poems. Do not send for guidelines; if you need to know more, email mary.odell@insightbb.com.



SUBBING-DAY WORKSHOP – Sunday, February 24, 2-5 pm. If you'd like to attend, please email Mary.Odell@insightbb.com. Attendance will be limited to between four and eight participants, so call early. If more wish to attend, a second session will be scheduled. Those signing up will receive an email with particulars by February 15.

Personal & Professional Notes

Sherry Chandler has poems published at <http://www.nthposition.com/expertssshyfrominstant.php>. Sherry also has an online chapbook at The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature. Look at <http://www.deadmule.com/poetry/2007/08/sherry-chandler-worldview/>

Barbara McMakin placed in the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs contest with "Big Sister" and "On the Knobstone Trail." Her poem "To Love and to Loathe" placed in the Massachusetts State Poetry Society Contest. Barb's poem "Friday, September 11" was published in *Lucidity*.

On November 6, NIPW workshop leader **Kit Ehrman** presented a workshop, "Plot – a Road Map for your Story," at the Summit Plaza Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Kit has received many awards, among them the Triple Cross, 2007 Best Book of Indiana. She was IPPY Award and ForeWord Magazine Book-of-the-Year Medalist.

Beth Dotson Brown's book *Yes, I Am Catholic, How Faith Plays a Role in My Life*, was recently released by St. Mary's Press.

Mary O'Dell's poem "The Heart Broken Open" won first place in an Ohio Poetry Day category. Mary led two poetry workshops this fall, one at the Murphin Ridge Retreat and another at Kentucky State Poetry Society.

John G. Warren recently placed in an essay contest.

Green River members placing in the Kentucky State Poetry Contest were **Marietta Ball, Becky Alexander, Angela Thomas, Sheri Wright and Gail Chandler**.

On September 2, 2007, GRW co-founder **Jim O'Dell's** book *Watermark* had its coming-out party. *Watermark* was well-received, and a hilarious time was had by all. Information on purchasing the book may be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In the Summer 2007 edition of *News from the Mews*, the newsletter of the Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky organization, is a comprehensive article about long-time member, **Earl Stigger**. Dear, curmudgeonly Earl was a prolific prose writer and a great supporter of Green River Writers. For years, he sponsored a category in our contest. He also made generous anonymous donations to Green River, as well as to the Raptor Rehab organization. Earl died in March, 2007 at the age of 87. Thank you, Earl, for gracing all of our lives.

On October 26, **Gail Chandler, Stephanie Allison** and **Mary O'Dell** worked at the annual ArtsWalk in Shelbyville, Kentucky. GRW had a book table and participated in readings.

Gail Chandler, our token world traveler, has, in the last few years, visited the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Egypt, China and has been several times to Africa, where she, along with her church, helps to sponsor an orphanage. Her latest treks have been to Kenya and Rwanda, after which she sent GRW an email which she has given us permission to share.

E-MAIL FROM GAIL

"I arrived in Nairobi today. I am sitting in the Safari Club hotel on the seventh floor listening to the call to prayers in the distance. I can see the lights of skyscrapers from my window, my balcony.

"We cried many tears in Rwanda. It's been easier to talk about the gorillas we saw than genocide. Yesterday, we saw a room filled with clothing from the victims, a case of skulls, most of them children, and again, the mass graves. Babies' blood, where heads had been smashed against the wall, was still on the bricks of a church. Sun shone into the room through bullet holes. A statue of the Virgin overlooked the sacrament table, the white cover stained.

"I could say I'm well and having a good time but that somehow sounds obscene.

I love you all,

GAIL"

THANKS

THANKS to . . . poetry and prose meeting hosts September-December, 2007 -- **Mary O'Dell, Cate Pearson, Jean Tucker, Sandy Daugherty, Gail Chandler and Christine Strevinsky**.

Thanks to **Virginia Anderson** and **Mary O'Dell** for representing GRW at the Public Radio Partnership Fun Drive in October.

Thanks to **Georgia Wallace** for soldiering on with our Newsletter's publication despite a recent broken arm.



Scott Adams, author of *The Dilbert Principle* (Collins) says, "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

Writers Helping Writers

Over the past twenty years, Green River Writers, Inc. a non-profit organization, has steadily encouraged the fellowship of writers of all genres, and developed a variety of programs designed to accommodate the novice and the experienced. Green River Writers' primary goal is to provide an atmosphere of encouragement and support where writers can freely share ideas and opinions. Our policy is to critique without expressing personal value judgment of content, thus enabling members to express themselves on any subject.

Green River Writers, Inc

103 Logsdon Court
Louisville, KY 40243

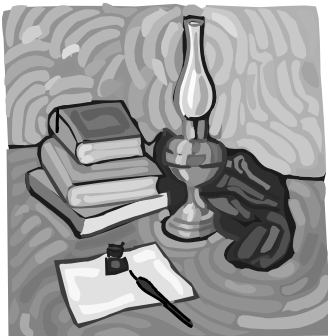
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We're on the Web!

www.greenriverwriters.org



Calendar

Poetry

January 5

Patrice Pittman
3060 Beals Branch Dr 40206
895-8087

February 2

Victoria Rose
3907 Ridgecrest Circle, Crestwood
241-4197 (carpool)

March 1

Gail Chandler
935 Trout Lane Shelbyville
502-633-1671 (carpool)

April 5

Georgia Wallace
11706 Frank Avenue
244-5001

Poetry meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Prose

January 13

Ernie O'Dell
103 Logsdon Ct 40243
245-4902/552-9578

February 10

Ernie O'Dell
103 Logsdon Ct 40243
245-4902/552-9578

March 2 (NPW March 9)

Ernie O'Dell
103 Logsdon Ct 40243
245-4902/552-9578

April 13

Ernie O'Dell
103 Logsdon Ct 40243
245-4902/552-9578

Prose meetings begin at 2:30 p.m.