



# Green River Writers

Volume 14, Issue 2

## Special points of interest:

July 16–19, 2009  
Summer Retreat (all genres), Kavanaugh Center, Crestwood

Nov 12-15, 2009  
Poetry Retreat, Kavanaugh Center, Crestwood

### Retreat Dates 2010:

January 14-17

July 8-11

November 4-7

## Inside this issue:

What Writers Read	2
Markets & Opportunities	3
FIX-IT Corner	4
Personal & Professional Notes	5
Calendar	6

## From the President’s Desk

### Happy Springtime to all Poets & Writers & Friends . . .

**What better** season to stop everything and metaphorically smell the flowers -- these posies being all you GRW friends and family who never get thanked. I’m thinking of busy members with full-time jobs (at the workplace or at home) who take time to serve as contest sponsors and judges, to research workshop sites, to attend planning meetings, to keep our websites and computers going, to scrape together paper plates, napkins, cookies and pounds of coffee and bring them to share when we’re in those planning/writing/critiquing meetings. And to people who aren’t able to attend our meetings and events but who still spread the GRW gospel wherever they go. Then there are the non-writer wives who bake and send some of those cookies with their writer husbands, the non-writer husbands and sons who haul their non-driving writer-wives and mothers

to meetings – and come back to get them at ridiculous hours. We love you all! I’m sorely tempted to start naming names, but I won’t for fear of leaving someone out. Just know who you are, and know how we value your presence in our lives.

**As GRW Prez,** I’m occasionally asked what to do to become a successful, published poet or prose writer. I’d love to come up with a magic formula, some unique advice that will Get You There, super-fast. Hey, if I had that kind of Easy Button, I’d have pushed it myself, way before now. The truth, of course, is – and I can see you now, holding your heads in your hands and groaning, “Here she goes again” – first, Read Everything: poetry, novels, nonfiction, the back of the cereal box (I once got a poem off the side of a pretzel container; likewise, GRW member Marian Allen had a poem published on the side of a coffee can). Then, Write Without (continued page 2)

## SUMMER RETREAT NEWS

If you are planning to attend this event, register by calling Mary O’Dell, 502-245-4902/ 502-552-9578 cell or email Mary.Odell@insightbb.com or complete and mail the registration form on page 5 **before June 15. This is also the cut-off date for cancellation, and must be enforced. A \$50 (non-refundable) deposit must accompany all registrations.**

Registration is \$20, and rooms at Foeman Lodge and in Olds Cottage are \$50 per night, single. Meetings will be held in Olds Cottage, only a few hundred yards away. The Cottage has a full kitchen equipped with dishes, utensils, cookware and dishwasher. There are also 4 bedrooms at this location; these rooms go fast, **Note:** those staying in the Cottage rooms must bring linens (double or single), including blankets, pillows, towels, and soap. Each Cottage room has a walk-in shower. Limited parking is available at the Cottage, for those staying there and for a few cars from Foeman.

**Last day to cancel a room reservation is June 15. THIS DEADLINE WILL BE ENFORCED.**

# Green River Writers

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Green River Writers Newsletter  
 is published quarterly by  
 Green River Writers, Inc.  
 103 Logsdon Ct.  
 Louisville, KY 40243

## From the President's Desk (continued)

Ceasing. And after that Rewrite, Rewrite, Rewrite. Is it creative and inspiring? Sometimes. Is it damn hard work? Always. But you're a writer. You write. If you're not writing, you're not a writer. Sounds harsh, but that's how it is. Some days (weeks, months) even I am not much of a writer. Other times, I am.

**Years ago**, when GRW started, we were, for the most part, struggling beginners, writing our hearts but unsure of ourselves and reluctant to share our work with a friend, let alone consider submitting to a journal, agent or publisher. Now, twenty-five years later, a goodly percentage of us have vitas and bookshelves crammed with successes.

**And so**, for those still at the start of their writing lives, take heart. Keep at it -- writing and editing and asking for help, keep reading and submitting. One day soon, those rejections will transform into acceptances, and you, too, will be counting your successes.

Your Prez,

Mary "Ernie" O'Dell

## WHAT WRITERS READ By Terri Alekzander

When I was asked to write about what I'm reading, I thought seriously about whether I should present myself as a literary snob reading only high culture literature or the bookish mutt that I am--reading *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* in the same day that I savor a chapter of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and an article on reducing liquids for a hearty broth in *Cooking Light*. I've decided on the latter. After all, I probably couldn't pull off a convincing vocabulary-charged piece on a magnum opus like *War and Peace*.

Right now, on my bedside table, with only a few pages to go is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. This memoir is a quick read, albeit a painful wincing one. Walls writes with the critical objective voice of a journalist or detective with a just-the-facts-ma'am style that wields an unexpected emotional punch. On one very large hand, Wall's parents shouldn't be parents. They are irresponsible, neglectful, unsteady people who manage to produce four children. On the other, they are intelligent, talented, creative folks with a sense of adventure that is untarnished through most of the book.

The Walls family travels from one small Southwestern desert town to another living in squalor, in a car, in abandoned buildings. The father, Rex Walls, is a charismatic, talented man who fails at keeping steady work in mining or as an electrician

because of his "drinking situation." He is a slick talker who slithers into opportunities but inevitably defeats himself with his anti-establishment paranoia, undisciplined schemes and drunkenness. The family frequently sneaks out of town in the middle of the night to avoid an angry bill collector or landlord. In the next town, another prospect, another chance for Mr. Walls to tell tall tales to his children about dreams of building a glass castle for which he has sketched elaborate architectural drawings.

Rose Mary Walls is an artistic free spirit who doesn't want the responsibility of a household or children. Her children sleep in cardboard boxes under a dripping ceiling while her paintings and supplies enjoy the driest sunniest corner of the house. Walls tells the reader that her mother proclaims to be an "excitement addict" who follows her husband on every hare-brained scheme. She believes children learn from the adventure of life which includes surviving danger. Walls is badly burned at the age of 3 when she spills boiling water on herself while cooking hotdogs. She has to have skin grafts and is in the hospital for six weeks until her father "rescues" her from the overly-sterile confining environment that he (continued page 4)

## MARKETS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Kentucky State Poetry Society Contest.** Deadline : June 30, 2009. For brochure send SASE to: Irma Cooper, Contest Chair, 1321 Bihlman Drive, Portsmouth, OH 45662-2305

**New Southerner Magazine**, edited by GRW member **Bobbi Buchanan**, has expanded its coverage to include a seasonal selection of prose, poetry and art, as well as its existing venues for articles, book reviews and features on self-sufficiency, environmental stewardship and local economies. Prose and poetry submissions are accepted exclusively through their annual literary contest, which awards \$200 prizes for poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Entry fees are \$10 for prose, \$10 for up to 3 poems, and the deadline is October 1. Electronic submissions preferred. Guidelines may be obtained by emailing [contest@newsoutherner.com](mailto:contest@newsoutherner.com). Questions should be directed to [bobbibuchanan@newsoutherner.com](mailto:bobbibuchanan@newsoutherner.com).

**Absent Willow Publishing** and their online **Absent Willow Review**, recently launched by authors Rick Decost & Bob Griffin, are looking for horror, fantasy and science fiction. For guidelines, contact Rick Decost & Bob Griffin, **Absent Willow Publishing LLC**, PO Box 66, Rochester, NY 03866.

**Cave Wall**, a journal of poetry and art, reads submissions Au-

gust-September. For guidelines, send SASE to *Cave Wall Press LLC*, PO Box 29546, Greensboro, NC 27429-9546 or visit [www.cavewallpress.com](http://www.cavewallpress.com)

**Atlantic Pacific Press** is accepting submissions for poetry, drama and fiction. Go to [abcworks@att.net](mailto:abcworks@att.net) for guidelines

**Relief: A Quarterly Christian Expression** accepts submissions year-round at [www.reliefjournal.com](http://www.reliefjournal.com). They want short fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry from "authors who don't pull their punches." See website for guidelines or to purchase sample copies.

**The Enigmatist**, edited by Mike Gullickson, 104 Bronco Drive, Georgetown, TX 78633, will be offering a new contest starting July 1 with a deadline of October 1. For guidelines, contact Mike at [poet-kind@yahoo.com](mailto:poet-kind@yahoo.com).

**Public Republic**, a new international online journal, invites submissions of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, interviews, news articles, opinions and photography (<http://www.public-republic.net>). *Public Republic* has been publishing in Bulgarian since 2006 and has recently expanded to reach a global audience with separate English and German language journals.



**Haiku**  
by **Becky Alexander\***

at the foot  
of my stone Buddha  
the first strawberry

\*Long-time member **Becky Alexander** was with us at the **Fall Poetry Retreat**. **Becky** and her husband **Dave** are small press publishers in Ontario, Canada.

## MEMBER NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS:

**Paul Stine, Todd Hogan, Dorsey Grice, Elizabeth Lovins, Heather Haley and Judy Palsmeier**

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

**Cate Pearson** – 8210 Whipps Mill, Louisville, KY 40222

### EMAIL CHANGES:

**Joyce Coomer** – [jmcoomer@windstream.net](mailto:jmcoomer@windstream.net)

**Christine Strevinsky** – [chrisstrev@gmail.com](mailto:chrisstrev@gmail.com)

**Bobbi Buchanan** – [bobbibuchanan@newsoutherner.com](mailto:bobbibuchanan@newsoutherner.com)

# Green River Writers

## WHAT WRITERS READ

(continued)

believes is harming his daughter.

I welcome Walls's ability to avoid psychoanalyzing the reasons for her parents' inability to function in society. Even as her father's behavior changes from erratic to abusive, she is matter-of-fact and non-judgmental. Even as her mother withdraws into her art and her mind, Walls permits the reader to experience a bit of empathy for this woman who cannot fully realize her dreams. Despite the horrific experiences of her childhood, I am uplifted by this book and its affirmation that children are the most resilient and wise of us all. The Walls children believed they were living a grand adventure. Even as they got older and saw the cracks in the stories, they had enough of their parents' daring character to keep looking up and out.

Walls writes with a compassion and acceptance of her parents that we can all admire regardless of the experiences of our own upbringing.

P.S. I've just discovered poet Bob Hicok. If you've not read him, look for his poem "The Maple." In the words of texters and bloggers everywhere, let me just say "OMG! I love this poem."

## IN MEMORIUM

**Suzanne Fisher Sud-deth**, wife of GRW member **Charles Sud-deth**, passed away on March 12 at the Hospice Unit of Norton Hospital.

\*

**Susan Pyles**, family member of GRW president **Mary O'Dell**, died at her home in Madison, Indiana after a long illness.

\*

**John Birkett**, long-time Green River friend, died March 16. John has served several times on the Novels-in-Progress teaching staff and is the father of GRW member **Ellen Birkett Morris**.

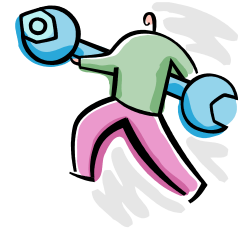
## THANKS

**THANKS** to . . . poetry and prose meeting hosts January-April, 2009 –and **Patrice Pittman, Georgia Wallace, Barbara Greer, Gail Chandler, and Mary O'Dell**

**Thanks to Virginia Anderson and Mary O'Dell** for working the phones at the recent Public Radio Fundraising evening.

**Thanks to Barb McMakin and Stephen G. Frazier** for their generous monetary donations to our organization.

**Thanks to Rae Cobbs, Harriet Leach, Joe Schmidt and Amy Guestle** for representing GRW at the recent fundraiser held at Clifton's Pizza.



## FIX- IT CORNER

### Split Infinitives and other obscenities

One must know what an infinitive is before one can figure out how not to split it – and from what. So here goes, straight from the Grammar Glossary of *Miriam-Webster's Notebook Guide to Punctuation*, which defines an infinitive as a verb form having the characteristics of both verb and noun and usually used with *to*. As in "We had *to stop*" or "*To err* is human." In other words, "*to \_\_\_\_\_*." You may fill in the blank with any old verb. If you just must break the rules and split said infinity, just stick any old adverb in there and you've done it. As: "*to quickly run*," or "*to flagrantly err*." If you're curious as to why this splitting of infinitives is so grossly inappropriate, ya got me. Ask somebody else. Next time, I'll attack other horrific problems, such as ambiguous antecedents or the whole confusing world of mass nouns. Meantime, write good and have fun . . .

**Please send questions & suggestions for topics for this column to [Mary.Odell@insightbb.com](mailto:Mary.Odell@insightbb.com).**

## *Where the Red Road Meets the Sky*

**Gail Chandler's**

first chapbook  
now available from  
Finishing Line Press

Price \$12.00  
plus \$1.00 shipping.

To order, visit  
[www.finishinglinepress.com](http://www.finishinglinepress.com)  
and click on New Releases and  
Forthcoming Titles.

## *Nothing Like an Ocean*

**Jim Tomlinson's**

second collection  
of short stories

is now available from  
University of Kentucky Press  
and your local bookstore.

His debut collection, *Things Kept, Things Left Behind*, won the 2006 Iowa Short Fiction Award.

## Personal & Professional Notes

**Virginia Anderson** was recently nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award at Indiana University Southeast.

**Mary O'Dell's** poem "Summons" has been accepted by *Cairn Poetry Journal*. Her "Instructions Upon the Occasion of My Death" will appear in *Of a Certain Age: Voices of Experience*, an anthology.

**Cate Pearson** won 3rd place in *Literary Leo's* 2009 flash fiction contest. **Gail Chandler** won 2nd place in poetry and HM in short fiction.

**Scott Solomon's** story "Mixed Breeding" was published in the Summer 2008 issue of *New Letters*.

**Barb McMakin's** poems "Photograph of the Year" and "Every Man Comes With a Box" were published in the April, 2009 issue of *The Enigmatist*.

**Sherry Chandler** has been awarded the 2009 Katherine Osborne Scholarship to attend Wildacres Writing Workshop near Little Switzerland, North Carolina.

**Jo Emery**, executive director of the Radcliff-Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, was named a Kentucky Certified Chamber Executive by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives.

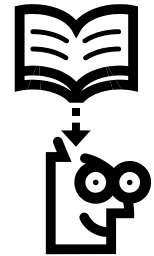
**Sandy Brue**, chief of interpretations and resource management at the National Park Service's Abraham Lincoln Birthplace in Hodgenville, KY, was recently interviewed in an in-depth article in the *Courier-Journal*.

**Sheri Wright's** poem "She Rides the Clouds Bareback" appears in the current issue of *Earth's Daughters*. Her poem "Marked" was recently read on "Accents" produced by WRFL 88.1 in Lexington. Sheri's chapbook *The Courtship of Reason* was recently accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press.

**Tanya O'Nan** recently had a poem accepted by *Sow's Ear Poetry Review*.

### POETRY MENTORING SESSIONS

Both group and individual sessions are still being offered as follows: Thursday morning group, 10 am – 1 pm at Frascelli's Restaurant in Crestwood -- \$20 per session. Anyone interested in a second, evening session for fall should call 502-245-4902 or 502-552-9578, or email Mary.Odell@insightbb.com. This group will be formed, should there be enough interest. Individual sessions as requested – 103 Logsdon Court, Douglass Hills -- \$10 per hour. On-line or regular mail submissions for edit or critique – send to 103 Logsdon Court, Louisville, KY 40243 -- \$1 per page.



**Mail to:** SUMMER RETREAT, Green River Writers, Inc., 103 Logsdon Court, Louisville, KY 40243

_____ Single room, Thu. July 16	\$50	_____ Shared room, Thu. July 16	\$25
_____ Single room, Fri. July 17	\$50	_____ Shared room, Fri. July 17	\$25
_____ Single room, Sat. July 18	<u>\$50</u>	_____ Shared room, Sat. July 18	<u>\$25</u>
Total Single _____		Total Shared _____	

\_\_\_\_\_ Deposit (required) \$50 (non-refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ Registration \$20 TOTAL FEES/DEPOSITS ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Call (502) 245-4902 to confirm room availability **Reservation DEADLINE: June 15, 2009**

# 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

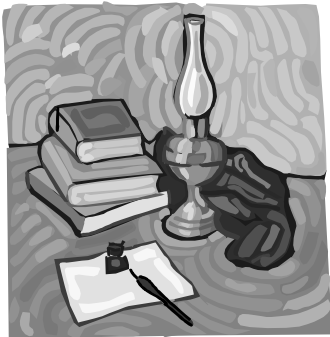
Phone: 502-245-4902

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## Calendar

### *Poetry*

#### **May 2**

Julie Segal  
4321 Brookwood Ave 40220  
753-9255

#### **June 6**

Patrice Pittman  
3060 Beals Branch Rd 40206  
895-8087

#### **July 11**

Georgia Wallace  
11706 Frank Ave 40243  
244-5001

#### **August 2**

Cate Pearson  
8210 Whipps Mill Rd 40222  
753-9255

Poetry meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

### *Prose*

#### **May 10**

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

#### **June 14**

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

#### **July 12**

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

#### **August 9**

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

Prose meetings begin at 2:30 p.m.