



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kathy Rhodes 615.945.5076

LITERARY GROUP'S FIRST BOOK GATHERS WILLIAMSON COUNTY WRITERS

Williamson County Council for the Written Word
Currie Alexander Powers and Kathy Hardy Rhodes, Co-editors

(Franklin TN, July 1, 2009) – The Council for the Written Word (CWW) announces the release of its first anthology, *Gathering: Writers of Williamson County*, published by CPO Publishing, a Roger Waynick Book Group company. This eclectic collection features 31 authors—CWW members and Hall of Fame award winners—some published for the first time and some famously published, such as Madison Smartt Bell, Tom T. Hall, Robert Hicks, and Paula Wall. CWW is a Franklin-based nonprofit literary organization celebrating its 10th year of encouraging, educating, and empowering local and area writers.

“The work of CWW is mostly others-oriented,” says Kathy Rhodes, co-editor of the book and President of CWW. “We promote the art of writing by hosting a bimonthly critique group and two annual workshops, widely publicized and drawing from a national pool of authors. We also preserve the county’s literary heritage by maintaining a database of over 400 authors who have lived in Williamson County and published a book, and we’re the only organization in the state of Tennessee to keep this kind of record. Now we are delighted to put our own book on the market.” Dave Stewart, CWW Vice President says, “*Gathering* collects original works by current best-selling and new Southern writers from the heart of Williamson County, Tennessee.”

Gathering’s stories range from Civil War to Civil Rights; from a hippie flower-child in olive drab fatigues to a pale-face Indian girl in a chicken-feather band; from a sapient farmboy whose sunsets are two cornfields away from his sunrises to a sassy, spiky-heeled senior who trails pickle juice from a diner’s dills stashed in her purse. The stories are rich in qualities readers treasure in the best Southern literature: a sense of character and place; an appreciation of language, humor, and tradition; a love of the land.

Rhodes says, “We envision this book in every household in Williamson County. In its richness of words and depth of talent, it is a reflection of this place we call home. We also encourage people to buy it as a gift for friends and family, here and afar. Buying this local collection is like tying a ribbon around a bunch of freshly picked buttercups gathered along a country lane and handing them over with a heartfelt smile.”

John Seigenthaler, host of WNPT’s “A Word on Words” says, “**This anthology is a testament that Williamson County is a place that nurtures—no, treasures—the written word. These authors reflect a culture that tells us how important it is to keep reading.**”

Contributors to the book are CWW members Angela Britnell, Louise Colln, Dorris Callicott Douglass, Susie Dunham, Linda McClure Dunn, Nancy Fletcher-Blume, Ginger Manley, Olive Mayger, Laurie Michaud-Kay, Kathy Hardy Rhodes, James E. Robinson, David B. Stewart, and Jim Taulman, of Franklin; Suzanne Brunson and S. R. Lee of Brentwood; Chance Chambers, Currie Alexander Powers, and Alana White, of Nashville; Christopher Allen and Nancy Evelyn Allen of Nolensville; Carroll Chambers Moth of Fairview; and Mary Ann Weakley of Spring Hill. CWW Hall of Fame writers included in the “gathering” are Madison Smartt Bell, James A. Crutchfield, Robert Hicks, Susie Sims Irvin, Tom T. Hall, Madison Percy Jones, Paula Wall, and Rick Warwick. Bill Peach of Franklin is a CWW member as well as a Hall of Fame award recipient.

Sonny Brewer of Fairhope, Alabama, editor of the *Stories from the Blue Moon Café* series says, **“Gathering together good Southern storytelling, putting it all in one place, well, that’s God’s work. And when the work is well done, as it is in this collection, the reading is like a fresh morning’s helping of warm-baked bread, sliced and buttered, bright sweet jelly on the side.”**

Gathering: Writers of Williamson County (256 pp., trade paperback, \$19.95) is available at Landmark Booksellers in downtown Franklin, from CWW at cww-writers.org, and through other online venues such as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Royalties from sales of the book will help support the work of CWW.

###

Book Information

Title:	Gathering: Writers of Williamson County
Author:	Williamson County Council for the Written Word (CWW)
Co-editors:	Currie Alexander Powers and Kathy Hardy Rhodes
ISBN-10:	1591864690
ISBN-13:	978-1591864691
Release Date:	July 1, 2009
Binding:	Paperback
Page Count:	256
Dimensions:	9 x 6 x 0.6 inches
Retail Price:	\$19.95
Publisher:	CPO Publishing
Distributor:	Ingram
Available at:	amazon.com , barnesandnoble.com , cww-writers.org , or by order through most retail bookstores

Contact Information

Name:	Kathy Rhodes
Telephone:	615.591.7516 or 615.945.5076
E-mail:	gathering@cww-writers.org kathyrhodes@bellsouth.net
Web site:	cww-writers.org
Address:	CWW, PO Box 298, Franklin TN 37065

About the Co-editors

Currie Alexander Powers was born in Toronto, Canada. She is the author of the novel *Soul of a Man*, and her writing has appeared in *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Anthology* and *Tin House*. As a musician, she has played and recorded with Bruce Cockburn, Rick Danko, and Stephen Fearing, and her songs have been recorded by Sara Craig and Blackie & The Rodeo Kings, among others. She is working on her second novel *Running From the Button Moulder* and continues to write songs. Powers lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



**Currie Alexander Powers and Kathy Hardy Rhodes
On River Jordan's "Back Story" at the Southern Festival of Books 2008**

Kathy Hardy Rhodes is a board member of the Tennessee Writers Alliance and President of the Williamson County Council for the Written Word. She is author of *Pink Butterbeans: Stories from the heart of a Southern Woman*; publisher and editor of the online magazine *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Journal*, currently in its fifth year; and editor of the book *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Anthology*. Her essay "The Wedding Hankie" was included in Simon & Schuster's *Chocolate for a Woman's Soul II*. Her essay "An Open Letter" was included in *The Best Creative Nonfiction Volume 3*, published by W. W. Norton in 2009. Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta, Rhodes lives in Franklin, Tennessee.

Kathy Rhodes *President*
Dave Stewart *Vice-President*
Louise Colln *Secretary*
Laurie Michaud-Kay *Treasurer*
Suzanne Brunson *Corresponding Secretary*
Eddie Moth *Historian*

The Council for the Written Word (CWW) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is empowering writers, promoting the art of writing in Williamson County and beyond, and preserving the literary heritage of Williamson County.

CWW's primary project is maintaining a database of past and present authors of Williamson County. *Williamson County Celebrates the Written Word* is an alphabetical index of every person who has lived in Williamson County and published a book. It contains a brief biography of each of more than three hundred local authors, as well as a listing of their published works. Once presented in book format, it is now online at the Williamson County Public Library website, updated regularly: <http://lib.williamson-tn.org/>, Local Authors Collection.

CWW presents two annual workshops:

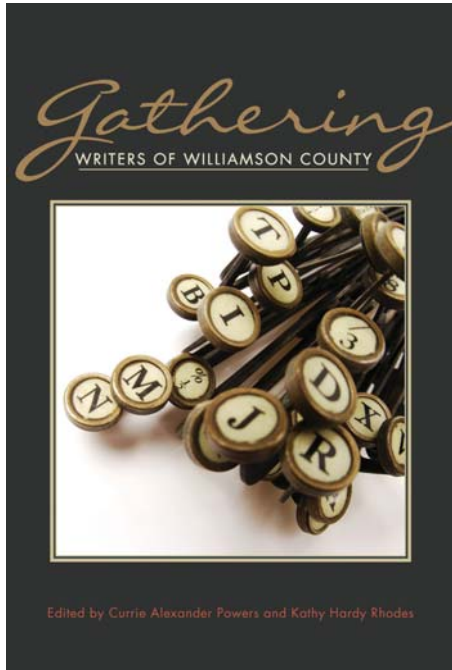
- ▶ Spring Writers' Workshop, an intensive half-day event with instruction and hands-on experience in a specific genre
- ▶ Fall Writers' Seminar, an all-day event for aspiring writers with local and area authors, agents, editors, publishers, and publicists

CWW conducts regular monthly business meetings.

CWW supports a writing critique group, which meets the first and third Saturdays of each month at 10:30 at the Williamson County Public Library in Franklin. This group is open to all writers, members and non-members, with any level of writing skill in any genre.

On occasion, CWW hosts a Hall of Fame Banquet or Reception, honoring a Williamson County resident whose personal and/or professional dedication and contributions have enriched the literary community and/or the county's heritage.

New From CPO Publishing



Gathering: Writers of Williamson County

By: *Williamson County Council for the Written Word (CWW)*
Co-editors: *Currie Alexander Powers and Kathy Hardy Rhodes*

Published by CPO Publishing
Paperback: 256 Pages
Size: 9" x 6" x 0.6"
Retail Price: \$19.95
ISBN#: 1591864691, 978-1591864691

"This anthology is a testament that Williamson County is a place that nurtures—no, treasures—the written word."

— John Seigenthaler, host of WNPT's "A Word on Words"

Gathering: Writers of Williamson County marks the tenth anniversary of the Council for the Written Word. This eclectic collection features fiction and creative nonfiction of 31 authors, all CWW members and/or Hall of Fame award winners—some famously published, some previously unpublished. CWW was organized in 1999 for the purpose of empowering writers, promoting the art of writing, and preserving the literary heritage of Williamson County, Tennessee.

Gathering's stories range from Civil War to Civil Rights; from a hippie flower-child in olive drab fatigues to a pale-face Indian girl in a chicken-feather band; from a puzzling palsy in a convent to prized contraband in a consignment shop; from a matriarch's front-porch secrets to a patriarch's final trip to the filling station; from a sapient farmboy whose sunsets are two cornfields away from his sunrises to a sassy, spiky-heeled senior who trails pickle juice from a diner's dills stashed in her purse. The stories are rich in qualities readers treasure in the best Southern literature: a sense of character and place; an appreciation of language, humor, and tradition; a love of the land. *Gathering* travels well beyond the borders of Williamson County.

About the Author

CWW is a nonprofit literary organization based in Franklin, Tennessee, with a mission of encouraging, educating, and empowering writers.

About the Editors

CURRIE ALEXANDER POWERS is author of *Soul of a Man*. KATHY HARDY RHODES is author of *Pink Butterbeans: Stories from the heart of a Southern woman*, editor of *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Anthology*, and publisher/editor of the online magazine *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Journal*.

Available at:

cww-writers.org

barnesandnoble.com

amazon.com

or by order through most retail bookstores

