

## **CWG 2021 Spring Writing Contest: Judges**

### **Fiction:**

#### **Becky Wooley:**

Becky Wooley is the author of three humorous, clerical crime novels set in Bennettville, Tennessee, a fictional version of her home, Chattanooga. She is one of only a few conservative Protestants writing in the clerical crime genre, which is known for its scrutiny of religion and politics. Wooley survived a private Christian education, served a decade in campus ministry, and has been privy to the inner workings of American Christian institutions as a church secretary and minister's wife. She knows where the bodies are buried.

Wooley has written and produced radio and stage productions for churches and colleges. Her essays, columns, and features have appeared in numerous church and secular publications. She has spoken at Bible lectureships and book clubs, has acted onstage professionally, and holds a B.A. in speech, and an M.S. in Media.

She has been a member, off and on, of Chattanooga Writers Guild since 1995 and currently participates in the North Georgia Writers Group.

#### **Kale Sartor:**

Kale Sartor tells many stories – real, imagined, and everything in between. She has been published in anthologies such as *Napkin Notes* and *Prose and Cons* as well as publications such as *Thought Catalog* and *The Green Blotter*. She studied writing and anthropology at Lee University and the University of New Mexico. You can find her writings for *The Mighty* at [themighty.com/u/kale-sastre](http://themighty.com/u/kale-sastre) or follow her on Twitter @kalesastre. She also has a list of publications available at: [www.ksastre.wordpress.com](http://www.ksastre.wordpress.com).

### **Fiction Final Judge:**

#### **Kelle Z. Riley:**

Kelle Z. Riley, writer, speaker, global traveler, Ph.D. chemist, and safety/martial arts expert has been featured in public forums that range from local Newspapers to National television.

Her other publications include a romantic suspense (*Dangerous Affairs*); the Undercover Cat Series books: *The Cupcake Caper*, *Shaken, Not Purred*, *The Tiger's Tale*, and *Studying Scarlett the Grey*, which feature a cupcake baking scientist-turned-sleuth; and the Riches and Royals Series: *Read My Lips*, *Royally Scandalized*, *Reluctantly Royal*, and *Counterfeit Commoner* in which modern working women discover loving a prince is harder than it looks.

A former Golden Heart Finalist, Kelle resides in Chattanooga, TN. She is a member of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild, Sisters in Crime, Romance Writers' of America and various local chapters.

### **Creative Nonfiction:**

#### **Kelly Hanwright:**

Kelly Hanwright is the author of *The Locust Years*, a new poetic memoir on growing up with a parent who had undiagnosed schizophrenia. A poet, teacher, dog trainer and self-proclaimed rogue living in the beautiful Smoky Mountains. She loves her life with the man who helped restore its meaning. She pinches herself to make sure she's not dreaming every day that she gets to pass on the magical, healing gift of language to her high school students. A Best-of-the-Net and two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, she plans to continue both devouring and publishing poetry. Work has appeared in *Lady Literary Magazine*, *Birmingham Arts Journal*, *SoulLit*, *Heart of Flesh Literary Journal*, *American Diversity Report*, and more.

Check out her blog: <https://kellyhanwright.com/blog/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kellyhanwrightwriter>

#### **Alice Sanford:**

For approximately forty years before retirement, Alice Sanford taught Latin, English, creative writing, and humanities in middle Tennessee. Her own writing (poetry and prose) has appeared in *Santa Barbara Review*, *Echo*, *Art/Life*, *Cathexis NW*, and other journals and on-line publications. Previously, she has served as preliminary judge for literary competitions sponsored by *The Women's National Book Association*, *Humanities Tennessee*, *The Junior Classical League*, and *The Porch Collective*.

### **Creative Nonfiction Final Judge:**

#### **Ann Thornfield-Long:**

Ann Thornfield-Long, a co-author of *Tennessee Women of Vision and Courage* (Crawford and Smiley, 2013), has published poetry in *Artemis Journal*, *Silver Blade*, *The Tennessee Magazine*, *American Diversity Report*, *Liquid Imagination*, *Riddled with Arrows*, *Abyss and Apex*, *Wordgathering*, *The Linnet's Wings*, and others. Winner of the Patricia Boatner Fiction Award (Tennessee Mountain Writers, 2017) for her unpublished novel excerpt, and won the Grace Writers Poetry Award in 2020. She was awarded a Weymuth residency (2017) and has received Rhysling, Pushcart and Best of the Net nominations. She worked as a Journalist for four area newspaper, including the Knoxville News Sentinel, and published a weekly newspaper for six years.

### **Poetry:**

#### **Finn Bille:**

Finn Bille has been an active member of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild since its inception on September 11, 2001. He has twice served on the Guild's board of directors and has published in several of its anthologies.

In the Chattanooga area, Finn has taught at Baylor School and UTC and North-West Georgia College, where he briefly taught creative writing.

His poems were included in *Southern Light: Twelve Contemporary Southern Poets*, edited by Ray Zimmerman, and he has published poetry in *The Bridge: Journal of the Danish American Heritage Society* since 2015.

Finn's books of poetry include *Waking Dreams*, *Rites of the Earth*, *Fire Poems*, and *The King's Coin: Danish-American Poems*.

He says that although there are no absolute rules in art, here are a few of his rules for the art of poetry: Never say the obvious; do not explain; be specific; show, don't tell. Follow these rules and try to break them artfully.

Finn's latest collection, *The King's Coin* is sold at Winder-Binder bookstore on Frazier Ave in Chattanooga and at the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. The text of *The King's Coin* can be downloaded, free, from his website: [www.finnbille.com](http://www.finnbille.com)

### **Kemmer Anderson:**

Kemmer Anderson, taught English for 40 years at McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he was faculty advisor to the Amnesty International Chapter. He has published in the *Sewanee Review*, *Sojourners*, *Christian Century*, and *St. John's Review*. He has received 4 NEH grants to study John Milton at Stanford and University of Arizona, Galileo in Florence, Italy, and Thucydides at Gustavus Adolphus College. He has published a collection of essays on John Milton's influence on Thomas Jefferson for *Milton at Monticello*. He is a graduate of Davidson College where he played soccer goalie and wrote poems. He has received M.A. degrees from UT-Chattanooga & St. John's College. He and his wife Martha gardened on Wing Shadow Farm for 21 years. They have traveled in Greece, England, Ireland, Israel, and Palestine (Korea, U.S. Army – 1969). Author of three books of poetry: *Wing Shadows Over Walden Ridge*, *Songs of Bethlehem: Nativity Poems*, and *Palamedes: The Lost Muse of Justice*.

### **Poetry Final Judge:**

#### **KB Ballentine:**

Ballentine's seventh collection of poetry *Edge of the Echo* was released May 2021 by Iris Press. *The Light Tears Loose* was published in 2019 with Blue Light Press. *Almost Everything, Almost Nothing* was released in 2017 by Middle Creek Publishing. The 2016 Blue Light Press Book Award winner, KB's fourth collection *The Perfume of Leaving* was preceded by *What Comes of Waiting*, also by Blue Light Press (2013). Published in many print and online journals such as *Crab Orchard Review* and *Haight-Ashbury Literary Journal*, KB has two other collections of poetry, *Fragments of Light* (2009) and *Gathering Stones* (2008), published by Celtic Cat Publishing. Her work also

appears in anthologies including *Pandemic Evolution* (2021), *In Plein Air* (2017), *Carrying the Branch: Poets in Search of Peace* (2017), *In God's Hand* (2017), *River of Earth and Sky: Poems for the Twenty-first Century* (2015), *Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume VI: Tennessee* (2013) and *Southern Light: Twelve Contemporary Southern Poets* (2011).

Ballentine received her MFA in Poetry from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. She currently teaches high school theatre and composition and adjuncts for a local college.

Learn more about KB Ballentine at: [www.kballentine.com](http://www.kballentine.com).

### **Creative Culinary Creation:**

#### **Nan Grill:**

Nansy Grill is a freelance writer, book reviewer, interviewer, former newspaper journalist, workshop leader, author of user's guides, and many short stories. Her work has been published by *2nd & Church*, a Nashville literary magazine and *Gold Dust*, a magazine of literature and the arts. At *Gold Dust* she was Special Features Editor. The magazine published Grill's book reviews and interviews. Her work-in-progress is based on a true story of the 1930s. Not an historical fiction writer, Nansy enjoys writing stories set in the 1920's, '30's, and 40's. A sample of her book reviews can be found at: [www.ngrill.wordpress.com/](http://www.ngrill.wordpress.com/). Ms. Grill is co-founder and last active member of Thunder Rock Writers, a group formed by four writers, including award winning writer Marsha Brantley, missing since 2009. Grill appeared on an episode of 48-Hours (2018) CBS, June 28, 2019, concerning Brantley's disappearance and continues to follow the unsolved mystery. Nansy is a widow and lives with her three fur babies in Cleveland, TN.

#### **Sherry Poff:**

Sherry Poff grew up in the hills of West Virginia. She now lives and writes in and around Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she interacts with a large group of students and family members. Sherry holds an MA in Writing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and is a member of the Chattanooga Writers' Guild. She served as a board member for the CWG for six years. Her stories and poems have appeared recently in *American Diversity Report* and in *Flash Nonfiction Food* (Woodhall Press). She has work forthcoming in *Dwelling Literary* and in *The Raconteur Review*. Sherry's short poem "Resurrection" was nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

### **Creative Culinary Creation Final Judge:**

#### **John C Mannone:**

John C. Mannone, a food connoisseur and poet, is from a long tradition of Sicilian and Argentinian cuisine, and believes food is another form of poetry. His literary work

appears in *North Dakota Quarterly*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Baltimore Review*, as well as in *Foreign Literary Journal*, *The Acentos Review*, *Riddled With Arrows*, and many others for food-related creative works. He is often called to lead workshops and serve as a contest judge—he was the celebrity judge for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (2018). A Jean Ritchie fellow in Appalachian literature (2017), he has won prizes in poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction. His four poetry collections are *Sacred Flute* (Iris Press, 2021/2022), *Flux Lines* (Linnet's Wings Press, 2021), *Disabled Monsters* (Linnet's Wings Press, 2015), and the chapbook *Apocalypse* (Hiraeth Publishing).

For more information about his thoughts on food and poetry, see the recent blog article for Grace Writers, as well as his links to some food-related creative works, on his website, The Art of Poetry: <https://jcmannone.wordpress.com/creative-culinary-creation-2021/>