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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.

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Book Information

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