



Kentucky Christian Writers Conference 2018 Executive Board and Planning Committee

KCWC Founder



Kate Thomas

Along with founding the Kentucky Christian Writers Conference in 1997, Kate was a former public school teacher and has authored four books, co-authored one, and she has published several articles in her writing career. Kate is involved with public speaking and is a member of the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association. She is a graduate of CLASSeminar. Kate is the mother of two children and grandmother of four.

Executive Board

Email: board@kychristianwriters.com



Constance Darnell

Constance Darnell is a freelance writer and public speaker who has lived in Elizabethtown, Kentucky since 1997. She has been a local commentator on WFPL radio in Louisville. Constance is also a past coordinator and currently serves on the Executive Board for the Kentucky Christian Writers Conference.

The first chapter of her book, *Songs for Martha*, was published as a feature article in Focus on the Family's *Clubhouse Magazine* under the title "Special Delivery" and nominated for The Gold Medallion Award in 2004. Her articles have also appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers including, *Kentucky Monthly Magazine*, *The News Enterprise*, and *Devotions Magazine*. Constance studied writing in the MFA program at Spalding University, and in April, 2006 she won second place for Creative Nonfiction in the *Metroversity Writing Competition* for her essay, "Conundrum."

Constance was ordained to the Christian ministry in 2010 by the Christian Family Fellowship Ministry. Together with her late husband of thirty-eight years, Dr. Robert N. Darnell, Constance wrote and published (posthumously, in 2016) a book of his creative nonfiction; *Biscuits and Firecrackers*. Dr. Darnell was a beloved physician in Elizabethtown. Constance helped to oversee his practice and shared duties as pastor to the Locust Grove Community Church for four years. Their two adult children, Ezekiel and Ariel, reside in Rineyville and Danville, Kentucky.



Lisa Greer

Lisa is a contract analyst, writing contract language and handling negotiations for a local Fortune 300 company. She also does freelance writing, with over 300 published articles. Lisa has been a regular contributor for local publications such as *Southern Indiana Living* and *The Capitol News*. She and her husband own a freelance writing and photography business, Olive Tree Enterprises, LLC at www.olivetreeenterprisesllc.com.



Lea Ann Young Johnson

Lea Ann is an ordained deacon in full connection of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She retired after 30 years of serving as a counselor in an extension ministry position at Fort Knox, KY in June 2013. She has served on the Planning Committee of Kentucky Christian Writers Conference in various positions since 2009. She has published several articles and devotions in various newsletters and Christiandevotions.com. She currently lives in Lebanon Junction with her pastor husband, Calvin.



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Planning Committee



Mary Gaskins (Coordinator)

Email: coordinator@kychristianwriters.com

Mary Gaskins first attended KCWC in 2003, and has been an enthusiastic supporter ever since. It has been her privilege to volunteer in many areas, to make new writer friends, and pursue the craft of writing. She writes songs, poetry, articles, and short stories. She is fascinated by the way God requires people to perform together by giving them different skills and abilities. This year as coordinator, she enjoys working with a group of talented individuals to plan a conference where writers can grow and share their gifts.



Hallee Bridgeman (Assistant Coordinator)

Email: coordinator@kychristianwriters.com

With over half a million sales, Hallee Bridgeman is a best-selling Christian author who writes action-packed romantic suspense focusing on realistic characters who face real world problems. Her work has been described as everything from refreshing to heart-stopping exciting and edgy. Hallee loves coffee, campy action movies, and regular date nights with her husband. Above all else, she loves God with all of her heart, soul, mind, and strength; has been redeemed by the blood of Christ; and relies on the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide her.



Jean Matthew Hall (Secretary)

Email: secretary@kychristianwriters.com

Jean Hall lives in Louisville, Kentucky. Her stories and poems appear in a variety of inspirational magazines and anthologies. Jean is a member of the SCBWI, Word Weavers International, and the Louisville Christian Writers. Jean's recently signed with *Little Lamb Books* for a four book series of picture books about the four seasons of the year. The first book is tentatively scheduled to be released in 2018. Jean is represented by Cyle Young of Hartline Literary Agency.

Visit Jean at www.jeanmatthewhall.com and
<https://www.facebook.com/JeanMatthewHallAuthor/>



Betty Thomason Owens (Treasurer)

Email: treasurer@kychristianwriters.com

Betty is a published author of historical fiction, contemporary fiction, and fantasy-adventure. She's a coordinator of a critique group through American Christian Fiction Writers. She is also a mentor, assisting other writers, and a co-founder of a blog dedicated to inspiring writers: [Writing Prompts & Thoughts & Ideas...Oh My!](http://WritingPrompts&Thoughts&Ideas...OhMy!) Betty is a retired business office manager and bookkeeper. Now she spends her time writing and thinking about writing, as well as babysitting her youngest grandchild. Her other interests are travel and gardening—mostly flowers, and battling an army of neighborhood squirrels and rabbits. She lives in the Fern Creek area of Louisville, Kentucky, with her husband, Bob. They have three sons, and eight grandchildren. Visit Betty's site @ <https://bettythomasonowens.com>.



Hannah Conway (Faculty Chair)

Email: faculty@kychristianwriters.com

Hannah is a military wife, mother of two, middle school teacher, speaker, and an author with Olivia Kimbrell Press. Her novels are a deployment experience of their own, threaded with faith, and filled with twists, sure to thrill turns, and encouragement. Hannah is agented by Jessie Kirkland, and is a member of both the American Christian Fiction Writers, and My Book Therapy. Though Hannah is native to Elizabethtown, KY, she and her family now reside in Tennessee outside of Ft. Campbell. Connect with Hannah at www.hannahconway.com.



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Kristy Horine (Publicity Chair)

Email: publicity@kychristianwriters.com

Kristy is a Kentucky writer: journalist by trade, creative by grace. She declares herself Southern by birth and by heart. She is a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister, an artist, a chicken keeper, a gardener, a redeemed Child of God, freelance journalist, and friend. She founded *3rd Letter Christian Writers* in Lexington, KY in August 2015 and maintains a blog at www.writeonereallife.wordpress.com. She makes her life in Paris with her husband, Eric, and four children – Hanson, Anna, Emy, and Sadie. Her professional and creative work has been published in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. She believes that words have power to offer sustenance and hope and healing, and that they are the express gift of God.



Nicki Bishop (Registrar)

Email: registrar@kychristianwriters.com

Nicki is an art teacher, worship violinist and copywriter / content editor for *Heart to Heart Publishing, Inc.* Her articles and devotions have been published in *Focus on the Family* magazine as well as the inspirational compilation *Warrior Women, the Power of Prayer*. Nicki is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and contributes monthly on QuillsandInkblotts.wordpress.com.



Gregg Bridgeman (Publications)

Email: publications@kychristianwriters.com

Gregg began operating Olivia Kimbrell Press in 2011 acting as Editor-in-Chief. Then as now, he operates the press as a ministry. The primary objective remains that of lifting up and helping ministry-minded Biblical authors fulfill the Great Commission -- to bring the Gospel message to the entire world -- for every tribe and every nation. Gregg currently serves in the National Guard, is a decorated combat veteran, and is best known for his technical savvy and attention to the smallest detail.



Joyce Cordell (Historian)

Email: historian@kychristianwriters.com

Joyce is the published author of two biblical historic novels and is currently working on the third book in this series of unlikely believers. Her desire is to help readers come to see the characters of Scripture as the real people they were. She writes a weekly blog, *Searching his Word, Seeking His Heart* which can be found on her website at www.joycecordell.com. Joyce enjoys teaching Bible study at her church, reading at the beach, making picture albums for her seven grandchildren, and living life with her husband of 50 years.



Marty Fulkerson (Facility Chair)

Marty is the Church Administrator at Grace Heartland Church (GHC), the host site for the KCWC. He has been a part of the GHC Family since 1996. Marty has served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Elders before coming on staff as Church Administrator in April 2011. He is a former small business owner and banker; and is in his 14th year on the Elizabethtown City Council. Marty is an auctioneer and realtor. He and his wife, Rhonda, have a son, Dawson.

Dee Oliver (Resource Chair)

Email: resources@kychristianwriters.com

Pam Harlow (Hospitality)

Email: hospitality@kychristianwriters.com



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Carlton W. Hughes (Blog Administrator @ <http://kychristianwriters.blogspot.com/>)

Carlton's work has been featured in *Let All Nature Sing*, a 365-day devotional from Worthy Publishing; *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Dating Game*; *Simple Little Words*; the Instructor's manual and test bank for Inter-Act, an interpersonal communication textbook; and a Christmas play collection from Carpenter's Son publishing. He will also be featured in Worthy's upcoming devotional about dogs. Carlton is a regular contributor to two blogs, almostanauthor.com and writingpromptsthoughtsideas.wordpress.com. He has won awards for playwriting from Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference and for his work in children's ministry from the Church of God denomination. In his day job, Carlton is a professor of communication at Southeast Kentucky Community College and a site coordinator for the dual credit program at Harlan County High School. He is the children's pastor at Lynch Church of God and a year-round volunteer and Relay Center Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child. He and his wife Kathy have two sons, Noah and Ethan. Carlton is a fan of chocolate, good books, basketball, and classic television shows like "I Love Lucy."



Connie Camden (Webmaster @ <http://www.kychristianwriters.com/>)

Email: webmaster@kychristianwriters.com

Connie retired in 2010 from State Government as an Executive Staff Advisor to pursue her passion for Christian writing and public speaking. In 2011 she reached a goal of becoming a published poet when three of her poems were published by Christian Devotions. She joined the KCWC Planning Committee in 2014 as Webmaster. In addition to poetry, journaling, and devotional writing, Connie has crafted and delivered inspirational messages for various churches and women's ministry events since 1996. She served in Women's Ministry leadership at Buck Run Baptist Church from 1999 - 2010; and as Director of the community-based ministry, Women In God's Service (WIGS) from 2007 - 2012. Connie was hired by NTT Data, Inc. in 2011 and contracted with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), Office of Information Technology as a Business Analyst and is currently still contracted with KYTC, but is now employed by Pomeroy IT Solutions as a Business Objects Developer. Connie and her husband teach an adult co-ed Sunday School class at her local church. She is a native of Frankfort, KY where she lives with her husband of 31 years. They have two adult children, a granddaughter, granddog and grandcat.