

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by LOUISE COLLN

It is five-thirty a.m. **KATHY RHODES**, author, editor, publisher, business woman, wife, and mother, having scanned the paper and had a cup of coffee, is at her desk.

"Mornings are the creative time," she says. "Usually I do my own writings at that time." Kathy's writings are frequently of simple events that become meaningful with her rich descriptions of both outer and inner worlds.

Raised during the 1950s and 1960s in the Mississippi Delta, "the most southern place on earth", she writes personal essays that reflect her Deep South roots--warm observations and reminiscences about family, place, and southern life, laced with nostalgia and/or humor.

Kathy, a former English teacher, earned a B.A. from Delta State University, and did post-graduate studies at the University of Memphis. Her works have appeared in magazines, newspapers, and literary anthologies, including *Our Voices: Williamson County Literary Review*, 1995, 1997, and 1998. Her essay,

"The Wedding Hankie," was included in Simon & Schuster's nationally distributed *Chocolate for a Woman's Soul II*, released in Spring, 2003. She has also written for regional publications, such as *The Oxford So and So* and *The Writer's Loft's The Trunk*, and online publications, such as

USA Deep South, *Southern Hum*, and *The Ensign Literary Review*. *Pink Butterbeans: Stories from the Heart of a Southern Woman*, her book of creative nonfiction, is a collection of 50 personal essays.

By eight a.m. Kathy is at her business desk. She works with her husband, as book-keeper for their computer service and networking company as well as creating newsletters and doing web design. She has recently moved her office into her home, where she is at her desk until noon, and then takes phone calls and checks messages throughout the day. Often a phone call will be from one of her adult sons.

Kathy does much of her editorial work at times throughout the afternoon, or on weekends. She is creator and editor of the online magazine, *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Journal*, (www.asouthernjournal.com), "a Place for Emerging and Established Writers to Publish Their Works." She writes a weekly column, "Uncorked!", for the e-zine.

She is editor of *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Anthology* (forthcoming Summer, 2006), a collection of short stories, essays, and poems of 28 writers from the e-zine. She has recently started offering a proof-reading, and editorial service to help writers create a finished, polished manuscript ready for reading.

Kathy, an avid gardener, does yard work in late afternoon, before finishing her day with dinner and time together with her husband. On some evenings she attends events connected with writing. She is a



TWA contest winners awarded at first writers' conference



L-R: River Huffman, Chance Chambers, Competition Coordinator Bill Ahlschwede, Susan Murphy and Penny Dyer

Winners of TWA fiction and nonfiction contests in attendance were recognized at the recent TWA Writers' Conference.

Creative Nonfiction

1st Place

"Placement"
Sunshine O'Donnell
Philadelphia, PA

2nd Place

"When One Considers
the Whole World"
Penny Dyer
Chattanooga, TN

3rd Place

"The Body Life"
Janice Willis Barnett
Unicoi, TN

Winners of the current TWA writing contests will read at the Southern Festival of Books in October.

Sudden Fiction

1st Place

"The Great Crestini"
Susan Murphy
Birmingham, AL

2nd Place

"Robert Foster"
Paul Padgett
Nashville, TN

3rd Place

"Pumpkin Bread"
River Huffman
Humboldt, TN

Honorable Mention

"Learning to Make
Popsicles in Mexico"
Chance Chambers
Nashville, TN

member of Writers in CAPS. She is also the facilitator for a monthly Open Mic Night for aspiring writers at Barnes & Noble, Brentwood, Tenn. She has also helped with book signings at Franklin's Landmark Booksellers.

She is a member of the Tennessee Writers Alliance, was a ready and willing volunteer for the inaugural TWA Writers' Conference, and an executive member of the Williamson County Council for the Written Word, an organization dedicated to encouraging, educating, and empowering writers, through which she co-ordinates an annual fiction workshop.

Kathy, who loves language, edited her first book at the age of ten. Her most meaningful goal at this time is the imminent publishing of the anthology, *Muscadine Lines, A Southern Anthology*, and the continuation of her e-zine.

"This", she says, "puts together writing, editing, encouragement, finding and helping new talent. It's everything I know and like together in one place."

TWA Board Member Louise Colln is the author of five novels. She lives in Franklin.

