



The Twin Cities Chapter ~ April 2008

Inside this issue: NWU-TC member readings in the region look at both literary and performance careers as well as what is so Minnesotan about the Minnesota Book Awards.

First Things First ~

• **Literary and Performance Careers** – Please join us for a FREE event, on **Wednesday, April 23** at 1:00 p.m. The Twin Cities chapter of the National Writers Union presents a discussion with e.g. Bailey and Shá Cage, directors of Trú Rúts Endeavors and the Minnesota Spoken Word Association.

Bailey and Cage, the directors of **Trú Rúts Endeavors** and **Minnesota Spoken Word Association** will share their experiences in both production and performance of creative work. They will talk about the essentials of organization and discuss the common issues of survival faced by freelance professionals.

Come to the St. Anthony Park Library, Lower Level, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul, 651 642-0411. All welcome.

• Steering Committee meetings are open to interested members. The next SC meeting is Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the East Lake Library, 2727 East Lake Street, Minneapolis. Please join us.

- The National Conference on Media Reform (NCFMR) comes to the Twin Cities June 6-8, 2008. For tickets and information, visit www.mediareformconference.com We are looking for members who will attend the conference and want to help promote our union. Please contact jangigi@earthlink.net for more information.

Letter to Twin Cities Writers

On the National level, members of the Organizing Committee have established two subcommittees. The National Campaign Research Development and a Local Organizing and Development are each comprised of representatives from local chapters. These representatives, including Twin Cities Steering Committee member Sharon Smith, participate in national committee calls. In February, the National Executive Board passed a National Writers Union Digital Bill of Rights. Additional ongoing campaigns include passing the Federal Shield Law, which fights to protect copyright laws and is before Congress now, and pursuing a pro bono case against Google.

On our local TC chapter level, author Kathryn Kysar wrote a note of thanks about how the union has helped members along the way. Kathryn wrote, "(Kate) owes many union members thanks in the creation of this book'. From 'Martha Roth (who) planted the idea of meaningful anthologies... contributor Morgan Grayce Willow at a Writer's Union Contract conference; Kate heard Ann Regan, her editor of Minnesota Historical Society Press, at the Writer's Union book group four years ago, and Kate received contract negotiation help from the Union." Thanks Kate for sharing your gratitude.

Writers traditionally are solitary figures; their only companion, a keyboard. But even solitary writers need to socialize sometimes. If you're interested in gathering with other writers for food, coffee or drinks, we can help organize get-togethers. Contact jangigi@earthlink.net if you're interested.

In Solidarity,

Jan Alan, NWU-TC Chair

~ About Our Members ~

Congratulations to NWU-TC member Kathryn Kysar, who recently won a Minnesota State Arts Board grant and received an honorable mention from the Loft/McKnight for poetry.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

What is so Minnesotan about the Minnesota Book Awards?

- A conversation with authors, editors, and publishers about the uniquely Minnesotan qualities of this year's nominated titles, include Minnesota settings, characters, and the nuances of publishing with local publishing houses. Annette Atkins, Mary Logue, Leslie Adrienne Miller, Joni Tevis, Wang Ping, are among the participants for this free event. Open to the public, the book talk happens at Kieran's Irish Pub, 330 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis on Friday, April 11, 2008, 6 – 8 p.m. Sponsors include the Loft, *Rake* magazine, MELSA, The Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, KFAI, U of M Bookstore, and Kieran's Irish Pub.

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- The Loft's Seventh Annual Festival of Children's Literature happens Friday, April 11, 9:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Aimed at writers for young people, illustrators, publishing professionals, and educators, the festival offers workshops, presentations, panels, book sales, and more. Details and registration information at <http://www.loft.org>

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- Jeremy Iggers, former *Star Tribune* writer and co-founder of the Twin Cities Media Alliance, offers monthly workshops for anyone interested in media reform. For more information, contact Jeremy@tcmediaalliance.org. The Media Alliance publishes the Daily Planet and offers free [citizen journalism classes and media skills workshops](#). Visit www.tcplanet.net for more information.

YYY

- The Freelance Communicators Network meets every month at the Old Country Buffet on County Road B2, between Snelling and Fairview near Rosedale. Join them for socializing and business on Friday, May 16th, 2008, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact John Fineberg at 651-699-3333.

Member Readings and Book Signing Events for April

- Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m. – Tom Swift will read excerpts from *Chief Bender's Burden*, Monkey See-Monkey Read, 425 Division Street South, Northfield.
- Saturday, April 12, 6 p.m. -- “Baseball Night” event with Dan Levitt, author of *Ed Barrow*, and Peter Schilling, author of *The End of Baseball* at Magers & Quinn bookstore, 3032 Hennepin Avenue South, Minneapolis. Ballpark food available, ballpark prices are not charged.
- Saturday, April 12, 7 – 9 p.m. -- Rebecca Frost will read excerpts from her new novel, *Love House*, at a fundraiser for a documentary film that exposes the history of pelvic exams within the medical profession. “At Your Cervix” includes a lineup of entertainment, refreshments, and information. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. at All God’s Children Metropolitan Community Church, 3100 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis. This event, open to all, has a suggested sliding scale donation \$15–\$50. For visit www.atyourcervixmovie.com
- Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m. -- Alicia Conroy will give a reading in the North Lounge, Lourdes Hall on the West Campus of Winona State University. Conroy is a guest author in Winona State University’s Great River Writers Series. She’ll read from her short story collection, *Lives of Mapmakers*, is also used as a text and taught at the university.
- Thursday, April 24, 7 p.m. – *Riding Shotgun: Women Write About Their Mothers*, an anthology written by Kathryn Kysar begins with a Conversation with Kerri Miller and contributors, Anne Ursu, Shannon Olson, Barrie Jean Borich, Ka Vang, Faith Sullivan and Wang Ping at the Central Minneapolis Public Library.

• Saturday, April 26, 7 p.m., Kathryn Kysar will read from her new anthology, *Riding Shotgun: Women Write about their Mothers*, at Birch Bark Books, 2115 West 21 Street, Minneapolis. Additional readers include, Heid Erdrich, Sun Yung Shin, Tai Coleman and Sheila O'Connor.

Classifieds

Editor's Note: This section of the newsletter and the NWU-TC website www.nwu-tc.org may soon post job openings. If you know of specific openings or can offer referrals for writers, contact jangigi@earthlink.net

• The Connection with NWU-TC's own Jim Wishner invites NWU-TC writers to be interviewed on his weekly show. Wishner's show, "The Connection" airs on Saturdays at 7 a.m. on KTNF 950 AM, aka, Air America-Minnesota. Contact dejim@prodigy.net or 651.578.1967. The station also streams live online at www.airamericanminnesota.com NWU authors Kate Havelin, John Toren, and most recently, Tom Swift, have taken this opportunity to promote their works. Thanks, Jim.

Marginal Notes from the Editor

Earth Day debuted in 1970. At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. The sights and smells of air pollution accepted as the sign of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Media coverage featured black and white photos of small groups carrying signs of doom and gloom for the future of Mother Earth. For the reading audience, this unhappy portrayal likely identified as 'just another protest' from that Vietnam Era.

Earth Day 28 years later, is covered by local stations as a national, even world event. Statistics about products not "bio-degrading," beam into households via television over morning coffee. Ecological studies are offered in multiple fields; including law, engineering, and as a way of life. Celebrate Earth Day April 22, 2008. Google "Earth Day" to see the numbers of events that we now celebrate because bystanders did not remain silent.

The deadline for the May issue is April 28. Please send articles, comments and items of interest the editor at jangigi@earthlink.net

In Solidarity and to the future,

Jan Alan, Chair/Editor

National Writers Union, Twin Cities Chapter

“What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander.”

~ Elie Wiesel ~