



## **Twin Cities Chapter Newsletter ~ April 2007**

**Inside this issue:** Upcoming Festivals and Award events; poetry readings, writer's workshops and topical meetings from choosing the right category for your book, effective grant writing to 'Becoming the Other.'

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### **Letter to Twin Cities Writers**

Exciting things are stirring within our chapter. We've added new activists who are committed to working on upcoming events, creating more opportunities for writers, and building our chapter's membership.

At the March 27 Steering Committee meeting, three of those activists joined us and were appointed as Steering Committee members.

Mark Connor has been a member for several years and wants to work on recruitment and networking events. Mark is a journalist and a budding playwright. Kate Havelin, a member for nearly two years, plans to work on programming, including our "Free Form Reading" series. Kate is the author of *Minnesota Running Trails: Dirt, Gravel, Rocks & Roots* and other books. Sharon Smith, our newest member, will assist with events and other tasks. Sharon is a mystery writer who is finishing her first book. Several other members responded positively to the invitation to get more involved—and more are welcome.

Our plans for the coming months include:

- Launching the "Free Form Reading" series starting this summer at Magers & Quinn Books in Uptown, Minneapolis. Please watch for dates and details to be announced. More than twenty writers have asked to participate.
- Continuing monthly workshops during which editors, publishers, and writers talk about the business of writing.
- Studying how writers can understand and use New Media and technology to further their careers.

Best wishes for your writing success.

Sue Grieger  
Chair, NWU Twin Cities

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**Special thanks** to John Toren and Cary Griffith for their dedicated efforts in heading the Book Division. Throughout their tenure, they brought in a variety of speakers, providing members resources and topics for informative meetings. Volunteers are the heart of any organization-thanks for your hard work!

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### **Our Members Present ~**

April readings:

Alicia Conroy, author of *Lives of Mapmakers*; and a finalist for the Minnesota Book Awards, will be speaking with other finalists at *The Rake* magazine's book club held at Kieran's Irish Pub, 330 2 Avenue, Minneapolis, at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, April 10; and Monday, April 30, at the Woodbury Library, Woodbury.

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Micawber's Bookstore, 2238 Carter Avenue, St. Paul, features Mary Kay Rummel and Sharon Chmielarz reading poetry on Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Chmielarz will also be reading with the Northography writers on Friday, April 20, at Coffee Hag, in Mankato; and at the Brooklyn Park Library, on Monday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. For directions to the library, call 952-847-5325.

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**Celebrate Earth Day**; Sunday, April 22, with poetry readings by Richard Broderick, Kathryn Kysar, and Thomas R. Smith and music by Jazz Trio with John Jensen, and the Universal Rock, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, 3400 Dupont Avenue South. For more information regarding this all-day celebration, contact the church office,

612-825-1701, or visit <http://www.firstuniv.org/>

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### **APRIL EVENTS CALENDAR**

**The Secrets of Effective Grant Writing**, an interactive session led by grant-writing expert and teacher Lori-Anne Williams will be held at the Rondo Community Library, 461 North Dale Street, St. Paul, on Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m.

This event, hosted by the Professional Editors Network, (PEN), is open to NWU-TC members. For directions to the library, call 651-266-7400.

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**Is Your Book on the Right Shelf?** Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA) invites NWU-TC writers to join in a lively panel discussion that will assist writers in deciding which category (i.e., what shelf) your book best belongs. Libraries and bookstores have limited shelf space – choosing the right category can play a major part in attracting readers to your book. The panel discussion will also include the category chosen for entering book contests.

Topic panelists include: Susan Henry, cataloging librarian, Susan Henry, cataloging librarian, Connie Anderson, book reviewer, Dorothy Molstad, publicist for Voyageur Press, David Unowsky, owner of the Hungry Mind, Ruminator, and currently of Magers & Quinn and Scarletta Press.

This event also includes an invitation to come early for networking opportunities; and takes place at the St. Anthony Park Library (lower level), 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul.

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The Loft's sixth annual **Festival of Children's Literature**, Friday and Saturday, April 20-21 at the Loft Literary Center features editors, authors, art directors, marketing specialists, illustrators and publishing professionals.

Samples of workshop topics include: "Emerging Markets, New Trends," "Getting Down to Writing Rituals" and "Publishers Profiles." To register (for one or both days), or for more information on the particular sessions, visit [www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org) or call 612-379-8999.

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**Becoming the Other: The Persona Poem** is a one day workshop, taught by Kathryn Kyser. Saturday April 14, 10:00-3:00 p.m., at the Loft Literary Center.

What is a persona poem? This workshop will use writing exercises to try on the voices of others by using photographs, historical figures, chance, and shifting point of view. We will look to local writers like Wang Ping, Sharon Chmeilarz, and Ed Bok Lee for our inspiration. We will share our work but not critique it. Bring a sense of adventure and a bag lunch. At the end of the day, participants will leave with several poems started.

To register, or for more information visit, [www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org) Cost is \$44.00 for members, \$48.00 non-members.

Kathryn Kysar, award-winning author, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association for Writers and Writing Programs this spring. Kysar will represent individual writers who are not part of writing programs that are members of AWP; and will serve on the board until 2011.

Kysar has held residencies at Norcroft, Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts and the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. She is currently editing an anthology of essays by Midwestern women writers.

### **COMING IN MAY**

Champagne, celebrities and books galore ...at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Book Awards held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-St. Paul, Saturday, May 5, 2007. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 11 East Boulevard.

Book awards will be presented to winners in eight categories, as well as two new categories; the new Readers' choice Award sponsored by the *Pioneer Press* and the Kay Sexton Award, for outstanding contributions to Minnesota's book community.

Alicia Conroy, NWU-TC member and one of the finalists will be one of readings sponsored by Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library at the Central Library on Nicollet Mall, 6:00 p.m., May 4; and at a reading/signing held by the Friends of the St. Paul Library at the St. Paul downtown library at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, before the awards event that evening.

### **YYY**

The 2006 Midwest Book Awards Ceremony will be held at the prestigious Minnesota Humanities Commission, 987 East Ivy Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA) 17th Annual Midwest Book Awards attracted an unprecedented 146 nominations from 65 publishers in ten of the twelve Midwestern states in our region. The 69 award-winning titles come from 35 different publishers representing all ten states. There were ties in two categories.

Sponsored by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA); this competition for excellence in independent or non-profit publishing recognizes creativity in content and execution, overall book quality, and the book's unique contribution to its subject area.

There is no charge to attend, but reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 2. To reserve a space, or for more information, contact, Marly Cornell at [animarly@aol.com](mailto:animarly@aol.com)

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## **A Writers Festival ~ May 11-12, 2007**

The Loft Literary Center together with the Minnesota Magazine & Publishers Association (MMPA) to present the first-ever Magazine Writers' Festival, May 11 and 12, at the Open Book in downtown Minneapolis. The festival is designed to help both aspiring and experienced writers build their skills—and better understand how editors and publishers work. Check out this dynamic program, which features more than thirty top area writers, editors, and publishers. The keynote speaker is David Carr, media critic with the *New York Times*. This Minnesota native will share his journey to the Big Apple and what trends he sees ahead for magazines—and for magazine writers.

Registration costs are \$180; \$160 for Loft/MMPA members and can be done in person at the Loft, by phone, 612-379-8999 or online at [www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org)

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

Make the Connection with NWU-TC's own Jim Wishner - inviting Twin Cities listeners to tune into his show, "The Connection" on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. on KTNF 950 AM aka, Air America-Minnesota.

"Good stuff, between the static crashes," according to Jim. Note this reminder to colleagues that Jim is looking for writers to interview. If you have a new work out, essay, book, musings or thoughts - Jim would like to hear from you -

You can contact him at [dejim@prodigy.net](mailto:dejim@prodigy.net) or 651-578-1967. The station also streams live online at [www.airamericaminnesota.com](http://www.airamericaminnesota.com)

Radio prime time. Once upon a time.

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## **Bloggers Mutual Support Group Forming**

Do you have a blog, have you blogged? Sue Katz, a member of the Boston chapter of the NWU, has started an email list for bloggers. Note her invitation to join.

"I have started the following yahoo group and welcome other NWU bloggers to join.

"Group home page:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bloggers\\_Mutual\\_Support\\_Group](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bloggers_Mutual_Support_Group)

"Group email address: [Bloggers\\_Mutual\\_Support\\_Group@yahoo.com](mailto:Bloggers_Mutual_Support_Group@yahoo.com)

"As a new blogger (my agent suggested I use a blog to increase my "platform"), I'm hoping to hook up with bloggers at all levels of experience and expertise to support each other, share info and marketing ideas, pose tech questions, whatever."

This isn't an official NWU list, and you don't have to be a member to join.

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### **Northography**

Northography is a regional literary website in existence since April 2006. Its purpose is to encourage authors (mostly poets) to post creative writing in a collaborative environment. Each week, a stimulus (usually an image) is posted, authors respond creatively, and responses from the prior week are archived. Authors are also encouraged to comment on each other's work. The results are often experimental and fresh, and reflect a commitment to constant improvement of artistic quality. Artists are selected based on their submitted literary work.

Our artists represent a wide spectrum of styles, backgrounds and experience. Some are well-known and well-published, while others are relative newcomers. For more information, contact Britt Fleming (Charles Brittain Fleming), Administrator, Northography, at [britt@northography.com](mailto:britt@northography.com)

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### **NWU-TC member request:**

Rochester resident, Anna Matetic needs some NWU member input on the freelance class she is teaching. She is specifically looking for other kinds of publications; the 'custom publications' or sub-sections of trade and consumer magazines that should be included with the numbers of publications as a source for freelance writers.

Matetic currently writes for the smaller magazines and newspapers; and is teaching her first freelance class. While she has already done significant research; her goal is to give the students many outlets for their writing. Contact Anna at, [anna.matetic@gmail.com](mailto:anna.matetic@gmail.com)

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### **Additional Resources for Writers/Business Owners**

Online resource offers 'Just-in-Time solutions to help start-ups take off, growing

companies to soar. Biz Info Library is the source for best practice articles and practical, proven small business/entrepreneur solutions. Tired of search engines returning millions of results on business terms such as "cash flow" or "marketing?" Small businesses and entrepreneurs now have a solution. A powerful new online resource, the Biz Info Library ([www.bizinfo library.org](http://www.bizinfo library.org)), provides immediate access to reliable expert information, ideas and insights on owning, operating, and growing a company.

Launched in February, the Biz Info Library is an online collection of articles featuring practical, results-focused information. Along with some of the top publishers on small business and entrepreneurial success, content providers include world-renowned authors and leading business experts.

"There's too much information about entrepreneurship out there, so it's difficult and time-consuming to determine what, and who to believe," said venture capitalist and blogger Guy Kawasaki, author of the best-selling "The Art of the Start" and an article contributor to the Biz Info Library. "What's needed is a vertical search engine for entrepreneurs and The Biz Info Library delivers on this need."

Biz Info Library eliminates frustrating online searches that produce thousands and sometimes millions of results. Users can quickly find relevant information by using either a keyword search, an advanced search, or by reviewing all articles in a particular category and subcategory.

Biz Info Library is a collaborative effort of three leading not-for-profit organizations whose missions emphasize support for entrepreneurship and small business: The James J. Hill Reference Library, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Edward Lowe Foundation. Administered by the Hill Library, Biz Info Library is free to all users. Sponsorships and custom-branded versions of the Biz Info Library are available.

### **About The James J. Hill Reference Library**

Founded in 1921, The James J. Hill Library is a non-profit, private business research organization, located in St. Paul, Minn. It is considered the nation's premier source for publicly accessible practical business information. Through its walk-in service, online products, educational programs and professional services, the Hill Library helps people achieve their business dreams by providing access to the best informational resources and expert reference assistance. For more information, visit [www.jjhill.org](http://www.jjhill.org).



### **Minnesota Artists**

Check out [mnartists.org](http://mnartists.org) the new arts events calendar for Minnesota artists and arts organization. The calendar is completely unique and we feel confident it's going to be

a dramatic improvement from the previous mnartists.org news & events system. The events calendar is self-posting and is fully integrated into mnartists.org to help you connect in more ways with your audience.

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**The Café of the Americas has re-opened under the management of La Loma.** The unmistakable aromas of Mexican home-cooking are once again filling the Resource Center now that the Café of the Americas has re-opened for business. The Café's new hours are **6 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.**

**Save the Date!** La Loma and the Resource Center will be hosting a Grand Re-Opening celebration for the Café on **April 14.** The Resource Center will be hosting an open house for community members to get reacquainted with us while they feast on homemade tamales—look for more details shortly. Remember to stop by on April 14 to feed your body, soul and mind!

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### **Marginal Notes from the Editor**

I'm a union girl. I am a long time member of AFL-CIO, Local 17, originally known as the bartender's union. Membership was by suggestion; meaning it was a package deal as part of taking/getting the job. I don't recall having any questions for or resistance to joining the union – and through the years, the union has served me well and vice versa. Among other benefits, it gave a sense that my back was somehow 'covered'.

I have come to appreciate that the National Writers Union also gives that same sense of being 'covered'. Though admittedly I am officially a contract advisor and negotiator (albeit still with a mentor with the help that offers); I tended to despair over the cost of membership and its real value.

That is until I was given a book offer requiring that I write up my own contract that would cover some of the convoluted subject matter and length of commitment to get the 'job done'. Membership in this union is one's choice. It is a given that a writer wants to be published-more often succeeding to that end with great compromise and self-sacrifice-and little recourse regardless of where the written piece might be shuttled.

I can't think of a better choice then to join a group whose goal is to help the writer succeed with a contract that dignifies both parties and ultimately raises the bar for future contracts while 'covering' one's back.

To alleviate possible mental whiplash for my readers; please note the sudden subject change within this editorial. The change is due to my fascination lately with Minnesota's erratic weather. Over the past four weeks, I have suffered sunburn,

windburn, endured a leaky basement and have become re-acquainted with my snowshoes. There was no Easter egg hunt for the neighborhood kids this year either. In short, we've experienced all four seasons- I'm not sure what month this is-not sure I want to know.

This may be the beginning of a newer fifth season-one not for the faint of heart.

The deadline for the May issue is April 28. Please forward submissions to editor, [jangigi@earthlink.net](mailto:jangigi@earthlink.net)

In solidarity,

Janet (Jan) Alan, Editor

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“You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm”

- Colette (1873 - 1954), in New York World-Telegram and Sun, 1961