



## **NWU-TC Newsletter January 2007**

### **Challenges to Writers in the Digital Age**

In an article entitled "The Imperiled Future of Copyright," NWU President Gerard Colby reviews the challenges that writers face from Google and other Internet companies. These companies are advocating changes in copyright laws.

"Google and other giant software companies are trying to convince the public—and that includes students, professors, and librarians (our traditional allies)—that information on the Internet should be free and instantly accessible, and that copyright protection written into the U.S. Constitution is a hindrance to the free flow of information.

"This is a direct challenge to our legal right to be asked for permission before our works are digitally copied, with or without compensation. The erosion of copyright has a direct impact on the livelihood of every writer. We must educate ourselves about this important issue."

To read Colby's complete report, go to the NWU website, [www.nwu.org](http://www.nwu.org)

### **Have You Registered for Hire a Union Writer?**

NWU members have a new resource for finding work. It's called "Hire a Union Writer." This web portal lists NWU members looking for work and allows them to upload up to three work samples. Employers will be able to search the database and contact writers who meet their needs. As soon as enough members have registered, promotion to potential employers will begin. Members can register by logging in to the NWU website's "members only" pages.

### **Our Chapter Events**

We've got a great lineup of events for the coming months, starting with January's session with the Managing Editor of *Minnesota Monthly*. I hope you'll take advantage of these free, informative workshops.

Best wishes for your writing success in 2007!

Sue Grieger  
Chair, NWU-TC

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## JANUARY CALENDER OF EVENTS

### Our Poets Corner:

**Saturday, January 13, at 4:00 p.m.**, Rebecca Frost, will be reading as part of "Poets on Ice" and the Art Shanty Project, on Medicine Lake. Poets will be reading in a heated shanty, each for 30 minutes between 1-7 p.m. that day. The Shanty Project is a five-week celebration and collection of artists, crafts sponsored in part by the McKnight Foundation. In homage to winter, our season to celebrate as only Minnesotans can. Medicine Lake is about nine miles west of downtown Minneapolis, on Highway 55, turn left at South Shore Drive and continue for about a mile along the shore of Medicine Lake.

Frost, the former NWU-TC Literary Division co-chair, also presented a reading on January 7, at Magers and Quinn Bookstore in Minneapolis, as part of the "What Light" poetry selections. That event was co-sponsored by [mn.artists.com](http://mn.artists.com)

**Friday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.**, Sharon Chmeilarz, NWU-TC member, will be one of the featured poets reading at Magers and Quinn Bookstore in Minneapolis.

A new blog for poetry, **Northography** features thought-provoking stimuli and photos in a collaborative setting and is designed to assist creative writers. Please visit [www.northography](http://www.northography) for further inspiration and more information.

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**Tuesday, January 16, 1 p.m.**, Please join us at the Resource Center of the Americas (RCA) to hear our special guest, Joel Hoekstra, the Managing Editor of *Minnesota Monthly*. Mr. Hoekstra will include discussion of the magazine's aims, and offer advice to aspiring freelancers.

Joel came to *Minnesota Monthly* from a position as Senior Editor with *Experience Life*, a health and fitness publication produced by Lifetime Fitness. He also worked as a freelance writer and editor, prior to his current position with the *Minnesota Monthly*; that also included work for This Old House, *Metropolis*, *Northwest World Traveler*, the *Star Tribune* and several other national and regional magazines. During the course of this varied career; Joel has had the opportunity to interview such notable personalities as actor Morgan Freeman, chimp researcher Jane Goodall, and clothing designer Tommy Hilfiger. Contact

John Toren [jhtoren@comcast.net](mailto:jhtoren@comcast.net) or Cary Griffith [Cary.J.Griffith@ceridian.com](mailto:Cary.J.Griffith@ceridian.com) with any questions.

The Resource Center of the Americas (RCA) is located at **3019 Minnehaha Avenue South** in Minneapolis, half a block south of East Lake Street, right behind Minnehaha Liquors.

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Please note that **Writers for Change** will meet one half hour earlier at **12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24** at the Resource Center of the Americas (address above).

The guest speaker, Curt McNamara will present mapping (radiant thinking) and its relation to biology, memory and the writing process. McNamara is a professor at the Minneapolis College Art and Design as well as a practicing designer, and systems researcher who has studied creativity and has twenty years experience in commercial and industrial markets. He is a scholar of R. Buckminster Fuller; authoring the entry on Fuller in the UNESCO Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems. An active Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers member, Curt received the IEEE Millennium Medal in 2000 for his ongoing work in education. Some of the courses he teaches include: Innovation, Sustainability and Design and Framing the Big Picture: Systems Thinking, and Life Cycle Analysis. Please contact [jbelloso@aol.com](mailto:jbelloso@aol.com) for additional information.

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Jim Wishner, NWU member and radio commentator invites all interested in workers' rights to tune into his show, "**The Connection**," Air America Minnesota (**KTNF AM 950**), **Sunday, January 14**.

Wishner's guest is Eric Lehto, AFSCME Council 5, representative, will discuss the Employee Free Choice Act, the bill that languished in the past Republican congress. AFSCME, whose membership is forty-three thousand strong, represents union workers throughout Minnesota, is sponsoring and promoting this bill.

The bill would strengthen protection for workers' freedom to choose and require employers recognition a union once the majority of workers sign cards authorizing union representation. It also provides for mediation and arbitration of first-contract disputes; and authorizes stronger penalties for violation of the law when workers want to form a union.

The show airs after the 5 p.m. Sunday News Weekly on KTNF. It also streams live online at [www.airamericaminnesota.com](http://www.airamericaminnesota.com) A CD of the program would be available by contacting Jim Wishner. Please email Jim, with your address or contact information, to [jim@citilink.com](mailto:jim@citilink.com) for your own personal copy.

If you have suggestions about future guests or topics, a news tip for the Minnesota News Connection statewide broadcast service, please also contact Jim Wishner at 651-578-1967 or 888-692-9358.


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### **Mark Your Calendars ~**

Learn what it takes to be an alternative travel writer, from pre-trip research and note taking to selective observation.

**Alternative Travel Writing** will be taught by Deborah McLaren, beginning Tuesday, March 13 through April 17, from 9:30 -11:30 am at Open Book, Winter/Spring 2007. Enrollment is open for this six-week class (M49-2).

Participants will discuss story ideas; create structure for your story; and turn recollections into a draft travel piece. Be prepared to write in class: choose a past trip or a familiar travel destination for your topic; bring notes, travel guidebooks, photos, postcards, journals, promotion material, clippings, and any other source materials. Be prepared to discuss ethics in travel writing as well as various forms of "alternative travel," such as ecotourism, voluntourism, cross-cultural exchanges, off the beaten path.

 This class uses a [sliding fee scale](#). Please proceed to checkout to determine final fee.

 The following [scholarships](#) are available for this course: Full, Partial

Deborah McLaren has more than fifteen years of experience writing about alternative travel. Her book *Rethinking Tourism and Ecotravel* (Kumarian Press, 2nd ed. 2004) is a best-seller in its genre. Deborah is a contributing writer and editor of *Transitions Abroad* magazine. In addition to writing, Deborah has worked in community tourism development with Indigenous peoples from the Amazon to the Arctic, and as a consultant to UN programs in Bhutan and northern India. She has just completed a series of articles about community recovery after the 2004 tsunami in southern India.

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Wang Ping, author and artist, will have a photo/video exhibition on the Three Gorges Dam and the Migrants throughout March 2007, at the **Janet Wallace Art Gallery, Macalester College in St. Paul.**

*The Last Communist Virgin*, a new book of stories by Ping is forthcoming from Coffee House Press in April, 2007. For more information, please visit, [www.wangping.com](http://www.wangping.com)



The NWU-TC Book Division offers the following line-up for Tuesdays at the Resource Center of the Americas:  
February; Stanley Gordon West, (author of numerous novels and historical works about Minnesota and Montana); March, Robert Alexander (AKA R.D. Zimmerman) and in April (poetry month), Phebe Hanson and Beverly Rollwagen will be giving an entertaining program. Please watch for more detailed descriptions or contact, John Toren at [jhtoren@comcast.net](mailto:jhtoren@comcast.net) or Cary Griffith, [Cary.J.Griffith@ceridian.com](mailto:Cary.J.Griffith@ceridian.com) with any questions.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### **2006 Midwest Book Awards- Call for Entries Reminder – Deadline February 1, 2007**

There is still time to enter the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Book Awards. 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. AWARDS- First, Merit and Honorable Mention winners are awarded in each category. Award winners receive certificates and may purchase foil seals for use in their marketing efforts.

This year, for the first time, authors of award-winning books will also receive certificates. First-place winners are featured on the MIPA web site, in a special edition of the MIPA Newsletter, at the 2007 Midwest Booksellers Association (MBA) trade show, and other MIPA associated events. In addition, you are invited to attend the Midwest Book Awards Ceremony at the prestigious Minnesota Humanities Commission, 987 East Ivy Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All entries **MUST** carry a 2006 copyright.

Independent and/or non-profit publishers, and self-publishers located in the 12-state Midwest region are eligible: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD & WI. Entry Fees must accompany your book submission. **Entry deadline is February 1, 2007.**

For fee information, book entry categories, entry form, and further details, please visit [www.mipa.org](http://www.mipa.org) or contact, Marly Cornell, Chairperson, 2006 MIPA Midwest Book Awards, at [animarly@aol.com](mailto:animarly@aol.com)

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## FREE STUFF FOR WRITERS

Am capping my most prosperous year ever by refurbishing my office! This means I have some good, serviceable items to give away. Come and get 'em:

- *Computer desk*, with hutch, file drawer, pigeonholes, etc. Holds everything!
- *Steelcase desk*, an oldie but goodie. Solid construction, seven drawers.
- *Cordless phones*. Having upgraded (I hope) to cell, I now have several excellent phone sets for disposal.

Items may not be available for a few weeks, but give a call and let's set up a viewing. Contact Nick Pease at 612-798-5562, or [peaseprose@earthlink.net](mailto:peaseprose@earthlink.net)

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**Editor's Note:** The following is included as a courtesy to those concerned with the current status of the Iraq war. As NWU-TC editor, an invitation was extended to me – unfortunately, I was unable to attend. I requested a follow-up report so that those interested might avail themselves of the results and probable further actions.

On New Years Day, thirty people gathered at the Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul for a day of fasting, meditation and discussions about the war in Iraq and the anticipated (now planned) escalation.

This event, inspired by Rob Ramer, resulted in a full report of political key points and creative ideas for action. For information on this report or to join in future discussions; please contact Rob Ramer at 651-208-5836 or [robramer@mn.com](mailto:robramer@mn.com) Additional links can be obtained from Ramer as well.

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

We are in the second week of the New Year and I have yet to make a resolution. Not that I couldn't find a few faults or personal demons that needed change; it was the dismal outlook of the 'have to' that eventually aborted any promised hope of success with whatever the resolution. I learned instead to adopt a phase or watch word that I would adhere to throughout the year. Doing so has served me well.

“Things are not always as they seem”, will be my mantra for the year 2007. The inspiration for this phrase came by way of handwritten note left on my car windshield because I had taken up two parking spaces. Whoever left that

note, clearly did not consider that phase or the probable reality of the actual 'space' afforded me in that hinterland of parked vehicles.

I have left such messages when confronted with similar parking idiocies – mine were less than cordial – by far.

Whether writing or receiving such missiles my 'things are not always as they seem' phrase and a little temperance would work well here. Along with realizing that poor parking is more often the domino effect passed down from one parkee to the next. I will try and put this (my) year's catch-phrase into practice and remember that such temporary inconveniences are hardly worth a scribble.

2007 began the time-honored tradition of setting goals, 'quitting this or losing that' (you can fill in the blanks). Equally passé' are the marketers whose claim (we can), 'make it work for you (this time)' swill use the new year to exploit their product/method/cure. My opinion is that these traditions and assertions tend to keep us self-absorbed.

Perhaps it's time to think that 'things are not always as they seem', and ask why, with our media, government leaders, or simply of the neighborhood's poster child for 'anger management'.

May this year bring out the best in all of us.

The deadline for the February newsletter submissions is January 28. Please send them to Jan Alan, NWU-TC Editor, [jangigi@earthlink.net](mailto:jangigi@earthlink.net) Thank you.

In solidarity,

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"Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight."  
- Albert Schweitzer -