



**NWU-TC Newsletter
November 2006**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Local News and Events:

While our union has had its problems in recent months, our TC Chapter goes on ticking. In October, we exhibited at the Twin Cities Book Festival and met many friends, new and old. Whenever I speak to writers in a venue like this, I'm pleased to hear how many remember and value the educational events and the camaraderie that NWU-TC has brought to them over the years. Check out this month's events—take advantage of the opportunities to get together with other writers, learn about publishing and increase your effectiveness as a writer. (See below for details.)

Our chapter Steering Committee continues to explore programming opportunities and co-sponsorships with other writers' groups. At the October Steering Committee meeting, we discussed possible collaborations with the Anderson Center—the artist's retreat center in Red Wing. We are also exploring participating in the Minnesota Book Awards, now sponsored by the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library. The awards program will be held May 5, 2007.

How to Join or Renew your Membership: During the past six months, the NWU elected to put the membership database on the www.nwu.org website and make online membership application and renewal a standard. There have been some problems with the new system; members have reported not being able to use the web-based application. If you've had difficulties using the website renewal, or if you are not sure when your membership expires, please contact me at suegrieger@earthlink.net.

National Events: NWU chapter chairs meet with the National Executive Committee in Boston November 10-12. The agenda focuses on the union's national organizing plan and the budget for the coming year. The core of the organizing plan is much-needed outreach to lapsed members and potential new

members, and there is a proposal to seek a grant from our parent union, the UAW, to fund these activities.

Another promising proposal is a fund to which chapters could apply for organizing grants; in the past, the Twin Cities Chapter received grants for startup money to support two major conferences: WOW—a conference on intellectual property held in 2001, and Cashing In, in 2003. I still hear from writers who attended those conferences. Wouldn't it be great to hold another one?

Now here's how you can help us succeed: We're looking for volunteers to help plan future workshops and events. Our most successful programs have happened because one or two members had good ideas and worked to make them a reality. Write to me at suegrieger@earthlink.net.

Yours in solidarity,

Sue Grieger, Chairperson
NWU Twin Cities Chapter

NOVEMBER CALENDER OF EVENTS

Please join us at **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14**, at the **Resource Center for the Americas**, when we will be privileged to have Jane Jeong Trenka as our speaker. Jane is the author of several books, including ***The Language of Blood***, her memoir on being raised as a Korean adoptee; which won a Minnesota Book Award in 2004 and was chosen by Barnes & Noble as a "Great New Writer" selection. For the past two years, Jane has been living in Korea, and we are fortunate that she's agreed to join us during a brief visit here to the Twin Cities.

Jane will address the hows of shaping a memoir, putting together an anthology, and writing a masked drama. As well as, how to find a publisher, what it's like to exile oneself to a foreign country, the limits of agents, and the value of good luck. It should be a very entertaining and informative afternoon.

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.

Contact John Toren jtoren@comcast.net or Cary Griffith Cary.J.Griffith@Ceridian.com with any questions.

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Does Your Publication Have a Business Plan? Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, at the Linden Hills Community Center, to hear Joseph Moses discuss how you can develop a business plan for your publications. His talk will focus on sales and marketing strategies designed to maximize profit from book sales and minimize wasted effort.

Joe is a co-founder (along with Milt Adams of Beaver's Pond Press) of Adams Business & Professional Publishing. Open discussion throughout the meeting will allow participants to explore the burgeoning world of author-published books—the costs, opportunities, and pitfalls. Whether you're sitting on a hot manuscript or an already-printed book, this meeting will be of interest to you.

The Linden Hills Community Center, 3100 West 43rd Street, is a few blocks west of Lake Harriet, and is a few blocks south of Lake Calhoun on Xerxes Avenue and 43 Street. Please contact co-chairs John Toren at toren@bitstream.net or Cary Griffith at Cary.J.Griffith@Ceridian.com with any questions.

There is no longer a fee requirement for non-NWU members. This event is free and open to the public.

Our Members Present ~

Kathleen Winters will discuss her new biography, ***Anne Morrow Lindbergh: First Lady of the Air***, at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 14, at the Borders Bookstore, 8472 Tamarack Bay, Woodbury.

For night owls: from 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m., November 9, Winters will be a guest on WCCO's "World of Aviation" radio show. Please visit www.kathleenwinters.com for book description and reviews.

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Sharon Chmielarz will be reading with Mary Kay Rummel on Tuesday, November 21, 7:30 p.m., at the University Club, Carol Connolly Reading Series. The readings are from, respectively, are ***The Rhubarb King*** and ***Illuminations***. The University Club is located on 420 Summit Avenue, St Paul.

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Alicia Conroy will read from her new book of stories, ***Lives from Mapmakers***, with novelist Pamela Carter Joern, on Thursday, November 30, at 7:00 pm at Magers and Quinn Bookstore, located at 31 Street South and Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. Joern is the author of, ***The Floor of the Sky***. Rumor has it there may be hot chocolate--it's perfect time to pick up some books for holiday giving!

Alicia's story, ***All This Talking About God***, appears in the November issue of *The Rake* magazine, distributed free at bookstores and cafes around the metro

area. She also recently came in second in a spelling bee (no mean feat) at the Twin Cities Book Festival sponsored by Rain Taxi Review of Books in October.

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Co-authors, Linda and Allen Anderson invite you and your animal-loving friends to their multi-media book presentation, reading, and signing of their new book **RESCUED: Saving Animals from Disaster**, at The Loft Literary Center, Open Book, 1011 Washington Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55415 on Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m., Info. (612) 379-8999.

Throughout November, additional multi-media events and signings will be held at Hennepin County Public Libraries. For specific dates and locations, please visit, their website, www.rescuedsavinganimals.net

The authors and their publishers are donating a portion of proceeds from the book to animal charities. Representatives from local animal rescue groups and shelters will be present at the Loft event.

“Local authors Linda and Allen Anderson (also writing instructors at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis) turned their horror into action, writing the compelling book **Rescued: Saving Animals From Disaster**. Through emotionally wrenching; firsthand accounts of animal rescue and reunion, the book examines how the hurricanes of 2005 changed the way Americans view animal rescue.” -- Deborah Caulfield Rybak, **Minneapolis Star-Tribune**

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In celebration of horses who serve as healers, protectors, and companions, best-selling authors Allen and Linda Anderson have added to their successful series of books about the depth of human-animal relationships.

Their new anthology, **Angel Horses: Divine Messengers of Hope**, is available in bookstores nationwide. On Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. the Andersons will do a multimedia presentation and book-signing of *Angel Horses* at Barnes & Noble, 3000 Eden Prairie Center, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Info: 952-944-5683. Local contributing authors to this book are Lois Stanfield, Lynn Baskfield, and Jane Larson Wipf, from Minneapolis and Janet L. Roper of Shorewood will share their stories.

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A new poem written by Rebecca Frost was selected by the "What Light" poetry contest. This poem and others will be published on www.mnartists.org and www.magersandquinn.com
Winners of this cycle will read Sunday, January 7, 5:00 pm, at Magers and Quinn Bookstore in Uptown, south Minneapolis.



Editor's note: My request for newsletter submissions brought this entry from Douglas Bass, a new member to NWU-TC. His contribution is a reminder that recognition from experienced writers often makes the difference.

The Unexpected Friend

Ah, the people and things that come into people's lives. Some, by invitation and some unexpectedly; Francine Prose recently came into my life. Well, not personally, but in the person of her wonderful book, *Reading Like a Writer*. This was something I certainly didn't expect, but something for which I give thanks.

Mr. Bass learned of and entered a contest where the prize would be a copy of the above-mentioned book. He writes, "The contest was to write a haiku with the word "prose" in it. It could be as either a common noun or a proper name. I was thinking that prose just doesn't get the love it deserves, and wrote..."

Crack between the worlds
Opens between just two words.
Yet they call it prose?

"I just knew that everyone would know that I stole that first line from Carlos Castaneda, so I never gave it much thought. There were roughly 20 submissions to the contest, many of which considered prose as the less attractive sister of poetry. The submissions weren't from average people. There were published authors submitting, such as Clare Dudman and Ian Hocking in the United Kingdom. Fortunately for me; the judging process was arbitrary, capricious and unfair."

Mr. Bass' haiku garnered him the book and a *Trying Neaira* book card from Debra Hamel, author, who wrote the inscription, 'for the real-life, non-virtual Douglas,' which was very kind of her. I consider this not just another book, but a book that is an invitation to jump into the writing pool. I couldn't ask to be invited by nicer people."



Mark Your Calendars

Jackie Mosio ~ Writers for Change

Through Jackie Mosio's efforts, a continued partnership between our Twin Cities chapter and the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Red Wing was given the green light. This partnership will provide opportunities for TC member participation through a variety of venues; including, speakers, web site links, holiday and summer art celebrations, as well as the Children's Book Fair.

A display table at the annual holiday celebration, Saturday, December 9, 2006, initiates our chapter involvement. If you would like to work on partnering ideas and the relationship with the Anderson Center, please contact Jackie Mosio at jbellomosio@aol.com. To learn more about the Anderson Center, please visit, <http://www.andersoncenter.org/>

Bioneers Report

The **Northland Bioneers Conference** held on October 20-22 overflowed with ideas and energy! Along with the national plenary sessions beamed from San Rafael, California, the local conference offered excellent seminars. I attended four of these sessions and took away a wealth of information.

Bioneers is based on the idea that if we study nature and natural systems, applying them to the systems we create (**biomimicry**), our systems will be more sustainable and in harmony with nature.

A seminar on the profound changes in business spurred by the convergence of conscious capitalism, science and spirituality prompted the formation of a book club to discuss these issues. If you'd like to join or want more information, contact Jackie Mosio at jbellomosio@aol.com.

In addition, a future session on this (biomimicry) concept for writers, is to be presented by Curt McNamara from the University of Minnesota. Please watch for the specific date of this presentation. For further information on biomimicry visit, www.biomimicry.net and related sites: www.thinkcycle.org, www.worldchanging.com, www.triz-journal.com.

More information available at www.bioneers.org



The Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference Workshops & Readings is scheduled for June 17-22, 2007, at Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota.

This conference will feature the Distinguished Visiting Writer, Bret Lott; Poetry, Tim Seibles; CNF, Steve Almond; Novice Poetry, David Jauss; Novice Multigenre, Ann Copeland and Symbolic Modeling: Tina Parke-Sutherland.

The Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference provides a supportive and friendly atmosphere for writers at any stage of development who work hard at their writing and who would like to better understand the creative act.

For more information, please contact the conference director; Susan Carol Hauser, MFA Chair, English Department at 219-755-3355, shauser@bemidjistate.edu or <http://www.susanhauser.com>

Watch for new information at <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/writersconference>

Passages ~ In Remembrance

Mary Ann Mattoon passed away on November 2, 2006 at the age of 82. She was a longtime member of the Twin Cities chapter of the NWU and a regular attendee at our Book Division meetings. A well-known Jungian therapist and the author of several books on Jungian psychology, Mary Ann was also an active volunteer in her community and was involved in Democratic Farmer Labor politics. We will miss her!

Marginal Notes from the Editor

I deliberately never learned to type with any sort of speed, probably because I was determined to move beyond the typists' pool of the only gainful employment available then— as did many of the like-minded of my generation. With the advent of computers, I was weaned on the Wang, the precursor of today's you-can-do-anything-technical wonder for proofreaders. The day a co-worker hit the wrong key and sent 500 proofed recipes somewhere "out there" to the nether land of cyberspace (never to be recovered), two things occurred to me: one, the computer was something special, and two, I was a typist after all.

For those of us who freelance, I suspect we buy into the naïve belief that we are "masters of our own destiny" – until we have to sell our wares to a publisher or wrangle with our personal computer. When you deal with the source of power that connects you with the outside world – the Internet, you are the master of NOTHING.

I speak from personal experience.

It gets even more complicated if your ISP and cable/DSL are separate companies (and competitors, to boot). Never mind, the complication when there is a merger, or coup.

In my quest for a continued re-connection and master-hood, over the last two agonizing weeks in my attempts to send out this newsletter; I learned that international travel for colorful native interaction isn't necessary as "up close and personal" with several individuals from India (and Ingo from Uruguay), is just a phone call away.

Today the only electrical appliance in my home that hasn't been upgraded, improved or technologically enhanced is my toaster. It still works after twenty years.

The next time my computer goes down, for whatever reason, while I may try to regain that 'master-hood' thing again— the old-fashioned way— communicating with my typewriter, phone---in view of the Orwellian experience of the last two weeks, I may seriously consider the possibility of my toaster.

The deadline for December newsletter submissions is November 28. Please send them to Jan Alan, NWU-TC Editor, jangigi@earthlink.net Thank you.

In solidarity,

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The following quote is dedicated to our newly elected officials and their constituents, as well as a reminder to our members.

“Either write something worth reading, or do something worth writing.”
- Benjamin Franklin -