

NWU-TC NEWSLETTER

December 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

BizTech Division: Is Eloquence Dead, or Just Dying? with Ben Shank

Writers 4 Change Division: Reflections and Sharing

Book Division: Two Avenues to Publishing, with Sid Farrar and Maria Manske

Literary Division: Self-Publishing, with Michael Maupin and Maria Manske

Journalism Division: Stand Up for Your Publishing Rights!

DIVISION MEETINGS

BizTech Division: Is Eloquence Dead, or Just Dying?

Tuesday, December 20, 1-2 p.m.

Ben Shank, owner of Writing Consultants, Inc., has taught writing and has written professionally since 1975. He's been a newspaper writer and editor; has written and edited company newsletters; and in the academic sphere, has taught from grade schools to graduate schools. His poetry and short fiction have appeared in Twin Cities journals.

Besides all that, Ben has been a stage writer and performer in the United States and Europe. He participated in Minneapolis' Fringe Festival in 2004 and 2005. He once was (emphasis his) an accomplished magician.

His topic: how pressures in the business, technical, and Internet worlds are affecting how we communicate. Get his learned, entertaining take on the demise (or dearth) of eloquence – and ask about his newly famous madman ancestor!

Things get started at 1:00 p.m. in the Menchu Room, downstairs at the Resource Center of the Americas, just south of Lake Street on Minnehaha. Free curbside parking, good eats upstairs and good company below. See you there!

Book Division: Manuscript into Book: Traditional and Self-Publishing Routes to Publication

Tuesday, December 13, 1-2 p.m.

Are you wondering how to proceed with that half-finished novel, memoir, or get-rich-quick scheme? Join us on December 13 as two veterans of the book industry discuss the pros and cons of “traditional” trade and self-financed publishing.

Sid Farrar has worn a variety of hats in his 30-plus years in the publishing world—independent bookstore manager, buyer for a national chain, associate publisher, executive editor, editor-in-chief, and executive director. In recent years he has made use of his many connections and areas of expertise to help individual writers achieve their publishing goals. By appraising manuscripts, putting writers in contact with editors, agents, publishers, and marketing personnel, he has helped innumerable writers conceptualize, develop, and produce their books and other publications and successfully take them to market.

The virtues and pitfalls of self-financed publishing will be examined by Maria Manske. Maria has been involved with books and publishing for over 15 years. After working as a book buyer and store manager, she went to work for several Twin Cities-based publishing companies doing operations, production, customer service, sales, and marketing. At Consortium Book Sales and Distribution, she was marketing manager for four years. Currently she is the associate publisher at Prism Publishing Center, where she manages the Syren Book Company imprint, which provides editing, design, production, printing, and marketing services for both established authors and neophytes who have chosen to take the self-publishing route.

The Book Division meets on the second of each month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at RCA, just south of Minnehaha Liquors on Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue. The caf? offers a wonderful selection of food, beverages and coffee drinks. Please contact co-chairs John Toren at toren@bitstream.net or Cary Griffith at Cary.J.Griffith@Corporate.Ceridian.com with any questions.

NWU-TC Literary Division: Self-Publishing: Is It For You?

Wednesday, December 28, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Help! I have an epic novel burning a hole in my bottom desk drawer! What should I do? Can I self-publish it?

NWU-TC member and Lit-Division chair, writer, screenwriting instructor, and former book editor Michael

Maupin will share his experiences on the long and winding road toward the self-publication of his novella *The Crowded Room*, through Bookmobile, in April 2004. It is currently available through amazon.com and Itasca Books. Was it the right decision? Does he have any regrets? Come and find out!

Maria Manske has been involved with books and publishing for over 15 years. After working as a book buyer and store manager, she went to work for several Twin Cities-based publishing companies doing operations, production, customer service, sales, and marketing. At Consortium Book Sales and Distribution she was marketing manager for four years. Currently she is the associate publisher at Prism Publishing Center, where she manages the Syren Book Company imprint, which provides editing, design, production, printing, and marketing services for both established authors and neophytes who have chosen the self-publishing route.

The NWU-TC Literary Division meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mahai Book Club Room (3rd Floor) at Open Book, 1011 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis. www.openbookmn.org/ Please contact current chair Michael Maupin at msmaupin@yahoo.com with any questions.

Writers 4 Change Division: Hello again!

Wednesday, December 21, 1-2 p.m

Writers at our workshops are committed to change, social justice, environmental awareness...and more.

This month we will do something a bit different. We'll reflect on what first prompted us to become activists -- what person, experience, ideas made that shift in us -- and we'll share our stories with each other.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 1-2 p.m. That's December 21 at the Resource Center of the Americas (basement meeting room) on Minnehaha near Lake Street. Hope to see you there!

-- Jackie Mosio

Journalism Division: Stand Up for Your Rights!

Wednesday, December 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

In the rush to get published, many writers skip over the fine print explaining the publishing rights the magazine is buying. North American serial rights, one-time rights, electronic rights; what does it all mean?

Experts from the Twin Cities chapter of the National Writer's Union will explain the differences and what impact they have on your earnings. Tips for negotiating better rights contracts will also be presented.

The NWU-TC Journalism Division next meets first Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Linden Hills Community Center, on the northwest corner of South Xerxes and West 43rd Street, Minneapolis. For directions, or if you have questions about the National Writers Union, the NWU-TC journalism division or upcoming meetings, Please e-mail Jennifer Pedalty at jpedalty@avagroup.com or Louis Dzierzak at lkdcorn@visi.com.

January Journalism preview: Patricia Cumbie, Editor of MIX, A Twin Cities Natural Food Co-ops publication, will talk about writing food and health articles.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

SASE Women of Color Reading

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 pm., at Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave S. www.patrickscabaret.org. This month featuring Sun Yung Shin and Ayme Almdarez. Hosted by Coya Heart Artichoker. Free.

For more info call 612.822.2500

Kysar Publishes, Reads

Kathryn Kysar has two poems in the January issue of Mizna, which will sponsor a publication reading at 7:30 p.m. on December 16 at the Loft. Kysar also has a poem in the new issue of Great River Review.

New E-Zine for Writers: Between the Lines

The Editorial Department announces a new publication, Between the Lines. It's an e-zine, available for subscription on the company's Web site at <http://www.editorialdepartment.com/>. The first issue includes several articles of interest, including interviews with publishing insiders.

in 1980 to help writers of fiction and nonfiction turn promising manuscripts into salable properties, The Editorial Department is the oldest firm of its kind in operation today. Our founder, Reni Browne, began

her career as an editor for Scribners and went on to edit hundreds of books during her tenure as senior editor for William Morrow and Stein and Day, and later as a freelancer with The Editorial Department. Here, she also coauthored the top-selling Self-Editing for Fiction Writers, now in its fifth printing from Harper Collins.

-- Sue Grieger

Welcome, New Members!

New to NWU? If you've joined up in the last few months, please step into the "New-Member Spotlight," a feature of this newsletter beginning in the January issue.

We want to know all about you – your background, your interests (personal and professional), the kinds of writing you do, your expectations of the chapter, and whatever else you'd like to share. Please send us a graf (50-75 words) to introduce yourself. And welcome aboard!

-- Nick Pease and Teri Sele

Membership Growing

I'm pleased to report that our chapter gained 12 new members during the past two months. I hope all will contribute to our innovative "New-Member Spotlight" (see above).

I'm also very happy to be working with Marly Cornell, who has joined our Steering Committee as co-coordinator for membership. She'll be calling new members and asking those of you who have lapsed to renew. If you have questions about your membership or NWU benefits and services, contact Marly at animarly@aol.com or me at sggrieger@earthlink.net.

Best wishes,

Sue Grieger

Co-coordinator for membership

Grieger, Aloysius Enter Blogosphere

NWU workshops really work! After attending the Journalism presentation on blogging in October, Sue Grieger started publishing a blog. Actually, Sue is the amanuensis for her feline companion, Aloysius. Aloysius reviews books by and about cats, writes poetry and short humorous essays, and muses about life as a cat. Confused? Check it out at <http://catymology.blogspot.com>.

Happy holidays!