

NWU-TC NEWSLETTER

January 2006

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LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

Hello union comrades, I hope that everyone has enjoyed a joyous holiday season. Welcome to 2006. It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the first decade of the new millennium; remember Y2K, when we thought the technological world was going to come crashing down? Well, we made it. Now if we can just survive the "Bird Flu", everything is going to be alright. 2005 was wrought with natural disasters, namely the inauguration of George W. Bush, but there were other disasters as well: Tsunami's, earthquakes and who could forget the record number of hurricanes (27) at the end of the year? They actually ran out of names for them all. But I digress. I'm writing to congratulate you all on creating a fantastic local chapter of the NWU. I know that there are some significant issues at the national level, and that it will require some serious heavy lifting to right the ship. But if our chapter is any indication, I am very optimistic about the future.

We have seen a slight increase in our membership, have some fabulous new brochures to distribute, and we now boast a dynamic website that will surely enhance our image and help to create our "brand" as they say in the business world. And for those of you who are interested in all things political, you'll be thrilled to know that the "Writer's 4 Change" group is continually developing its niche, and they are planning some great events for 2006. Sadly our "Literary Division" co-chairs had some competing life changes that forced them to resign their roles, so that division won't be active for a while. But rest assured, the steering committee will be actively seeking ways to revive the division or develop other opportunities for that workshop to happen. (If you are interested in co-chairing that division, please contact Susan Foster or myself) Fortunately, the "Book Division" typically covers similar issues as the "Literary Division", so check out their monthly offerings if you are so inclined.

Lastly, as has been our tradition, the chapter is hosting a "Holiday Celebration". This year, however, it will be a "Post Holiday Bash". But in keeping with the holiday spirit, it will be on January 15th, Dr. Martin Luther King's actual birth date. Please join your NWU-TC Chapter members and myself at my home. It will be "Potluck", and the Union will provide the beverages. It is guaranteed to be a great time. I look forward to seeing you there.

What: "Post Holiday Celebration"
When: January 15th, 2006; 4:00 – 8:00 pm
Where: 3940 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis 55407
Phone: (612) 822-0578

Please RSVP either at the above phone number or via e-mail, shesgotgame1@msn.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sincerely,

Andrea Jenkins
Co-chair NWU-TC

The NWU Book Division presents . . .

Mystery Solved, with William Kent Krueger and Ellen Hart
Tuesday, January 10 at 1:00 p.m.

If you're interested in any aspect of the shaping, writing, publishing, or promoting of mystery fiction, you can't afford to miss the appearance of William Kent Krueger and Ellen Hart at the January 10 meeting of the NWU Book Division. These two seasoned authors have been entertaining and perplexing readers for years, and a number of their books have won regional and national awards. Kent and Ellen often work together promoting their books as part of The Minnesota Crime Wave. They recently appeared together in the Minnesota mystery anthology, "The Silence of the Loons". The great mystery is: How will they distill their depth of experience into a one-hour presentation?

William Kent Krueger writes the Cork O'Connor series set in Minnesota's great north woods. His first two books, "Iron Lake" and "Boundary Waters", received a number of awards including the Anthony Award for Best First Novel, the Minnesota Book Award and the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award. His third novel, "Purgatory Ridge", also won the Minnesota Book Award. One critic has dubbed him the Michael Connelly of the Midwest. He recently wrote a stand-alone thriller, The "Devil's Bed". The latest Cork O'Connor mystery, "Mercy Falls", was published in September 2005.

The author of 19 novels, Ellen is a five-time winner of the Lambda award for Best Lesbian Mystery, and two-time winner of the Minnesota Book Award for Best Crime & Detective Fiction. She has taught mystery writing for ten years at the Loft Literary Center. Her two latest books are The "Iron Girl", from St. Martin's Press, a *Jane Lawless* mystery, and "No Reservations Required" from Fawcett Books, a *Sophie Greenway* culinary mystery.

The Book Division February meeting...

The Editorial Process: From Proposal to Finished Work
Tuesday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us on Valentine's Day, February 14th, as we follow the process by which a book proposal becomes a book. Books Division co-chair Cary Griffith, and Ann Regan, editor-in-chief of Minnesota Historical Society Press/Borealis Books, will discuss how a "vague inquiry" (in Cary's words) that followed a Books Division meeting last spring led to an e-mail correspondence, a

solid book proposal, a letter of intent, and finally, after many other editorial steps, a finished book. Cary's book, "Lost in the Wild", is scheduled for release by Borealis Books in March 2006. With luck, we will have a couple of advance copies at the meeting.

The Book Division meets on the **second Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** at RCA, just south of Minnehaha Liquors on Minnehaha Avenue. The café 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.

The BizTech Division presents . . .

Is Eloquence Dead, or Just Dying?, with Ben Shank
Tuesday, January 17 at 1:00 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.

His topic: how pressures in the business, technical, and Internet worlds are affecting the ways we communicate. Get his learned, entertaining take on the demise (or dearth) of eloquence – and for discussion, bring along your own favorite examples of eloquence.

We meet 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, good company. See you forthwith!

The NWU-TC BizTech division meets third Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Resource Center of the Americas (RCA) located at 3019 Minnehaha Avenue South in Minneapolis. RCA is half a block south of East Lake Street, right behind Minnehaha Liquors. Contact co-chairs Susan Foster at context@mn.rr.com or Nick Pease at peaseprose@earthlink.net with any questions.

Writers 4 Change presents...

Writers 4 Change
Wednesday, January 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Writers interested in social change are meeting once a month to inform and support our work. Our emphasis for the next few months is to introduce ourselves to groups and organizations active in social change. We will invite representatives and network with these groups as professional writers.

Everyone is welcome to attend. However, beginning in January the Twin Cities local has decided to charge \$10 admission for non-NWU members.

If you'd like to be added to the Writers 4 Change Yahoo Group (to receive meeting reports, participate in exchanges, etc.) send an email to Jackie Mosio at jbellomosio@aol.com and she'll do the cyber magic to get you on the list.

Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Resource Center of the Americas near Minnehaha and Lake Street. Contact Jackie Mosio at jbellmosio@aol.com with questions.

The Journalism Division presents . . .

Food Passions, with Patricia Cumbie
Wednesday, January 4, 1:30 p.m.

Writer and editor Patricia Cumbie will speak at the NWU Journalism Division meeting 1:30 pm, January 4th, at—take note—our new meeting location: Resource Center of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis, 55406. Patricia is the editor of MIX, a food coop newspaper, and has 15 years of professional experience in the health foods industry as marketing director, co-op membership director and writer. Under her directorship, the MIX has become a venue for articles—yes, she uses freelancers—that express people’s passions about food and foster informed food choices and healthy living. Patricia’s broad scope of short stories and essays has appeared in several literary journals, and the anthology “Best New American Voices”.

The NWU-TC Journalism Division next meets first Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at The Resource Center of the Americas, near Minnehaha and Lake Street. Come to the Menchu room on the lower level. There is a \$10 charge for non-union members. Contact Jennifer Pedalty, jpedalty@comcast.net, for more information.

The Literary Division. . .

NWU-TC is seeking new coordinators for the Literary Division. Please contact Andrea Jenkins or Susan Foster if you are interested.

Kudos to...

Tom Dubbe
NWU member, Tom Dubbe’s book “Nightmares and Secrets” subtitled “The Real Story of the 1984 Child Sexual Abuse Scandal in Jordan, Minnesota” published by Memorial Press is now available and can be ordered directly from the publisher. See www.tomdubbe.com for more information about the book and the author. To read a current review, go to www.armchairinterviews.com and click on “Great Reviews”.

Naomi Cohn
Naomi has received a 2006 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant.

Member readings, events and classes...

SASE GLBT READING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

7:00 p.m. at Intermedia Arts
2822 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis

Hosted by Andrea Jenkins and John Medeiros
Free and open to the public.
For more information, call 612-822-2500.

Brian Malloy's debut novel, "The Year of Ice" (St. Martin's Press, 2002), was honored with the American Library Association's 2003 Alex Award, was a New York Times "new and notable" book for 2003 and a Booklist Editors' Choice for "The Best of 2003". His second novel, "Brendan Wolf", will be published by St. Martin's Press in 2007. His nonfiction has appeared in OUT magazine, Minnesota Monthly, A View from the Loft, The Readerville Journal and the anthology "The Man I Might Become: Gay Men Write About their Fathers" (Marlowe & Company, 2002). He teaches creative writing at the University of Minnesota and the Loft Literary Center.

Gary Eldon Peter's short stories have appeared in Water~Stone, Great River Review, River Oak Review, Evergreen Chronicles, Orchid: A Literary Review, and other publications. His awards include a Loft Mentor Series Award, a Loft/McKnight Fellowship, a Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship, and two SASE/Jerome grants. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College, lives in St. Paul and teaches in the General College Writing Program at the University of Minnesota.

This SASE Carol Connolly Reading is co-sponsored by SASE: The Write Place and Intermedia Arts.

Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference

Held at Bemidji State University, on the beautiful shores of Lake Bemidji, the weeklong The Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference offers small workshops in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and scriptwriting. There is also a multi-genre workshop designed specifically for novices. The low participant to faculty ratio fosters a genuine community.

June 18-24, 2006
Distinguished Visiting Writer: Sharon Olds
Poetry Workshop: Paisley Rekdahl
Fiction Workshop: Robin Hemley
Creative Nonfiction Workshop: Judy Blunt
Novice Workshop: David Jauss
Symbolic Imaging Workshop: Tina Parke-Sutherland
Faculty Reading Series: Open to the Public

For details visit <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/writersconference> or contact Susan Carol Hauser, Conference Director at shauser@bemidjistate.edu

Welcome new members...

Anna Matetic

Anna is a freelance writer living in Rochester, MN. She recently sold her first article to the Post

Bulletin in December and is currently working on her second article for them as well as another article for an online newsletter and website. Anna seeks to develop her writing in the areas of food, culture and travel.

Diane Wilson

Diane joined the NWU-TC this fall after attending one of the Union's information sessions on book contracts and copyright law with Michael Carlson. She is a creative nonfiction writer, with a first book, "Spirit Car", to be published in August, 2006 by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. "Spirit Car" blends historical fiction and memoir to tell the story of Diane's mother who was enrolled on the Rosebud reservation and spent six years at the Holy Rosary Mission School on the Pine Ridge reservation. Though her mother preferred not to talk about her past or Indian identity when Diane was growing up, after researching the family's history from the 1862 Dakota War to the 2002 Dakota Commemorative March, Diane was able to recreate family stories and understand how assimilation policies have manipulated Indian identity. Diane has also worked as an arts administrator for the past 15 years at the Southern Theater and is hoping to build a freelance writing business in the coming year.

James D. Huntsinger

James D. Huntsinger is a new member from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His first book is a memoir about his wife who is dying of Picks Disease, an aggressive form of dementia. The memoir combines their love story with an in-depth description of the disease and the bureaucracy found within the health care system. He is rigorously trying to find a publisher.

Currently, he is working on two nonfiction books about his life as a rancher in West and East River South Dakota starting in 1961. The first book delves into a bygone era where cattle and sheep drives were common, shepherders were still important to most sheep operations, and old time cowboys rode the range. The second book continues depicts James and his wife's cattle business in the years before corporations and mega ranches gobbled up many smaller operations.

Newsletter edited by: Teri Sele at terisele@gmail.com and Nick Pease at peaseprose@earthlink.net.
