



Twin Cities Chapter Newsletter ~ Summer 2007

Inside this issue: Delegates assembly information, more scheduled Free Form Reading Series, Jeremy Iggers, Ian Leask, and a different kind of 'writers' survey (check out the Classifieds).

Letter to Twin Cities Writers

This 'summer' newsletter and only edition till September created more angst than I would've expected. Without apologizing, that angst was of my own making – because now as the chapter chair and a delegate, had thought my letter should 'detail' every nuance of the upcoming National Delegates Assembly this August. Without first-hand experience, that isn't possible. But I can offer a brief overview and advise you as members; this assembly is one of the most critical; (acknowledged also by our President, Jerry Colby) since declining membership and financial issues have plagued the union at all levels – both local and national.

Delegates from each chapter nationwide meet every two years to address concerns and plan future strategies for the union. The number of delegates and attendance at a separate resolutions committee is based on chapter size, as are voting privileges. Often, as not, resolutions for change are submitted by chapters months in advance and submitted to chapter steering committees for consideration, and signatures, ensuring passage. Each resolution must carry a formal statement and list categorically specific findings that would warrant whatever the resolution demands or suggests.

Our Twin City chapter delegates are Mark R. Connor, Jan Alan and Richard Nadler, all members of our steering committee. Richard will serve on the resolutions committee. Another steering committee member, Sharon Smith compiled valuable data and figures identifying particular years of membership decline. While not formerly a resolution, this evidence will be brought into discussion.

I have confidence in our delegates, in our local chapter and look forward to what we can bring to this critical assembly.

In solidarity,
Jan Alan, NWU-TC Chair

First Things First ~

Aside from specific announcements sent to each chapter or division; members seldom get behind-the-scenes insight into how much effort and introspection is given toward decisions made or of the multiple discussions exchanged between the grievance (go-ca's) division, and/or officers at the national level regarding the difficulties writers' experience.

Hopefully, this column First Things First, and new addition to the NWU-TC newsletter, will enlighten members to the value of our union, and what they are fighting to change. A prim example of this fight is given below.

A go-ca advisor, whose specialty is academic journals, has graciously allowed full permission for its use; in the following response regarding royalties.

Academic journals are notorious for grabbing ... EVERYTHING. Many academics simply accept this because:

- 1) They've been trained to write for almost nothing (academic book royalties).
- 2) They've been trained to write for nothing (journal articles).
- 3) They need the article published for tenure.

And so, academic journal publishers exploit members of the academy, most of whom simply accept it because they've simply accepted it as part of academia. This, of course, must change.

On a more humorous note, a sports journal solicited a lesser than eloquent response when reading payment for publication was a requirement, etc. to wit, "I had a two word response when I read that. The second word was, You."

NWU-TC Member Readings ~ Free Form Reading Series

The Free Form Reading Series launched in June at Maegers and Quinn was a resounding success. Please join us for another reading on -

Thursday, **August 16**, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at **Nina's Coffee Café**, above Common Good Books in the Blair Arcade on the corner of Selby and Western in St. Paul*

The Twin Cities Chapter of the NWU invited interested writers to read from their published or unpublished material. Please join emcee, Mark Connor, and hear from these writers:

Lucie B. Amundsen will read from three humor essays culled from the everyday drama of family life.

Sharon Chmielarz will read poems from her latest two books, *The Rhubarb King* and *The Other Mozart* and possibly some newer poems.
Lyda Morehouse will read the opening to her work in progress, a messianic chick-lit novel called *The Second Coming of Emily*.
Sherry Roberts will read from a work in progress about a dyslexic woman who fights book banning in a small North Carolina town.

The event is free and open to the public. * [Nina's address is 165 Western Ave N., St. Paul. Phone: 651.292.9816](#)

Future Free Form Readings will be held in other locations. The next date is September 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Micawber's Book Store in St. Anthony Park. If you want to participate in future readings, contact Marly Cornell at animarly@aol.com or call, 952-929-5913.

¥¥¥

The GLBT Reading Series presents, NTC-TC'S own **Rebecca Frost**, as the featured reader, with Jessie Chandler at Intermedia Arts, on Wednesday, **July 25, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**, as part of the Carol Connolly Reading Series.

This event is free and open to the public. It is hosted by John Medeiros and Andrea Jenkins. The address is 2822 Lyndale Avenue South, in Minneapolis. For additional information, call 612-874-2815. event is free and open to the public.

Rebecca Frost served on the editorial board for Water-Stone, Hamline's nationally recognized literary journal, in the spring of 2007. Her poetry is published in *What Light*, an anthology of winners of the mnartists and Magers and Quinn sponsored poetry competition, as well as other anthologies and journals. Frost is also a recipient of a 2004 SASE - VERVE Grant for spoken word poetry.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please mark your calendars for the following workshops and activities confirmed for the coming months. Notices will be sent out just prior to each event. For additional or new information regarding the time, date and the featured topic will be posted on the NWU-TC website, www.nwu.tc.org

Wednesday, October 10 - Jeremy Iggers, topic: Media/Online Media

Saturday, October 13 - Twin Cities Book Festival, all day event

November (date TBD) Ian Leask, topic: Training writers on what to choose and train how best to read/present their work.

CLASSIFIEDS

Books Needed for Arboretum Library Sale

The Friends of the Andersen Horticultural Library at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is seeking donations of gently used books on all subjects – from gardening to cooking, poetry, mystery novels and how-to guides – for its annual fall book sale. Donations are being accepted at the Arboretum through Sept. 21. If you have a large amount of books to donate, call ahead and arrange for help with unloading. (No condensed books or old textbooks.)

All proceeds from the sale, set for Oct. 5-7 at the Arboretum, will benefit the Andersen Horticultural Library, which is the only research library of its kind in the Upper Midwest. For information on donations or the sale, call the library at 952-443-1405. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is located 9 miles west of Interstate 494 on Highway 5 in Chanhassen.

¥¥¥

A Writers Survey ~

If you have ever experienced writers block or writers high, or anything in between, **Roseanne Bane, Imagination Ink**, would like to hear about your experiences. Bane is surveying writers for her book on writer's resistance; and would like to include NWU-TC members in the pool of participants.

Writer's block is the most extreme form of resistance; while not all writers experience writer's block, Bane's theory is that all writers experience some kind of resistance at some time. She is conducting a survey to test this theory.

The survey would take about ten minutes. After analyzing the data, she would interview willing writers to share their resistance stories in the book.

If you're willing to participate with the survey, please go to:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm= 2bxhgsIhnjrOxgQ 2bRPD7x2Q 3d 3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2bxhgsIhnjrOxgQ_2bRPD7x2Q_3d_3d)

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at 612-722-4139 or email Rosanne@RosanneBane.com

¥¥¥

Make the Connection with NWU-TC's own Jim Wishner - inviting Twin Cities listeners to tune into his show, "The Connection" on weekends, Sundays at 7:00 a.m. on KTNF 950 AM aka, Air America-Minnesota. "Good stuff, between the static crashes," according to Jim.

Note: Just a reminder to colleagues that Jim is always 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 or 651-578-1967. The station also streams live online at www.airamericaminnesota.com Radio prime time. Once upon a time.

¥¥¥

Want to know more about your TC Chapter?

Get involved! Whether new or renewed member, we welcome you and offer this invitation to get involved.

Whatever your interests may be, chances are we will have a venue that fits your needs, or enhances your style. The payoffs to consider certainly include a sense of satisfaction and possibly a chance for 'bragging rights' along the way.

Here are some possibilities:

Volunteers to represent NWU-TC and host our table at the Twin Cities Book Fair in October – as well as book signing possibilities.

Interested in business and technical, or journalism? We could use a few 'good men' (generically speaking) to head up these divisions and assist with future meetings.

I know an editor and chairperson that could occasionally use an assistant by way of a Co-chair or assistant editor to help along the way.

Interested? For more information, contact Jan Alan jangigi@earthlink.net ether

Marginal Notes from the Editor

'Summer time and the living is easy....' Not at this moment, or for this editor. I'm wearing several hats at this time, and am trying not to care that my flats of flowers have yet to meet the soil they were meant to when planning my garden last March. Even the rabbits turn up their noses at what might have been their usual smorgasbord. There's always August – and the up side is that retail prices for garden leftovers and the unwanted go way down.

This will be my last editorial until September, and probably the shortest one I have ever written. It's been a wonderful year for me as the editor, and I have

learned a great deal. For example, I am looking into time-management classes. Probably because all too often each newsletter was tackled with the earnestness of a sledge hammer but obsessing over every word – with great deliberation. *Gone with the Wind*, probably took less time to write than some of my editorials.

That aside, I want to thank everyone for your support and comments. I would do this all over again – well heck, I will be. See you in September. Have a safe and wonderful summer.

The deadline for the September issue is August 28. Please forward submissions to the editor, jangigi@earthlink.net

In solidarity,

Janet (Jan) Alan, Editor
Poise & Pen
Writing, Research & Editing Services
3520 East 55 Street / 612-727-2750
jangigi@earthlink.net

“The coroner will find ink in my veins and blood on my typewriter keys”

~ C. Astrid Weber ~