



Twin Cities Chapter Newsletter ~ October 2007

Inside this issue: Two notable events headline this October; local media maven and NWU-TC sponsored guest speaker, Jeremy Iggers, addresses the state of Twin Cities journalism, on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 1:00 p.m., and

The Twin Cities Book Festival on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College, near Loring Park. Stop by the NWU-TC display as we celebrate our twentieth year in conjunction with this Festival. For more information on these and other workshops, go to the Calendar of Events section within or visit www.nwu-tc.org

Letter to Twin Cities Writers

For most folks, autumn means an ever-changing palette of colorful foliage, back to school and the World Series. If one makes their living with words-Minnesota, the Twin Cities anyway, is the place to be-at least in the month of October. We have a veritable 'harvest' of opportunities through book fairs, celebrations, conferences and markets. These sources abound allowing wordsmiths of all genre to connect, commune or 'show off' whatever that forte may be.

That borrowed passage from my previous editorial was worth repeating because October has become the writers season, or certainly the month that celebrates 'the writer in all of us' and to that end; what more appropriate place to fete, or at least acknowledge our Local's twentieth anniversary than at a gathering where writers and their counterparts, rule.

For the most part, that is enough.

In Solidarity,

Jan Alan, NWU-TC Chair

First Things First ~

Attendance at the Delegates Assembly this last August, was a first for me – and I went with the mixed feelings of wanting to ‘kick butt’, and the sense that there was much more I needed to learn from my betters. Granted, our membership, both nationally and locally, had taken some hard knocks, and while we aren’t quite ‘circling the drain’ yet – there is too much at stake for current members, renewed or otherwise, to take a passive ‘wait and see’ how things went at this assembly.

I came away from that assembly not terribly optimistic and certainly not able to convey that to our members – until I read the letter from a fellow delegate and chair from San Francisco whose concerns mirrored my own.

Our present situation dictates that we will likely be under the administrator ship of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) for about two or three years, or until our membership numbers improve and we remain financially stable. While this appears like a ‘UAW hostage situation’ for our members – that is not the case at all and working towards rebuilding is a doable task. To members, like you and I, the union’s governance is a minor matter at best, and that events like parties, meetings and contract sessions are why we joined.

From a marketing sense, I would like to recruit by offering our members a better product – that is, compelling union programs that would be reasons for more people to join. My efforts to that end though, would require some feedback from our Twin City members.

This is your union; what do YOU want as a member of the National Writers Union?

NWU-TC Summer Series Readings ~

The Summer Series Readings which ended late September were a resounding success. Kudos and our thanks go to Marly Cornell for her superb efforts in organizing these events. Our nod of thanks go out also to her husband, Ernie, whose presence with lending hand, spirit and sound equipment all played its part in that success.

And finally, to Mark Connor, our emcee –whose introductions and monologues proved to be as entertaining as those works read by our authors. Thank you Mark, for a job well done!

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

Tuesday, October 9 - Professional Editors Network, (PEN), Trends in Editing: Global Competition; 1-3 p.m. at Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., St. Paul.

¥¥¥

Wednesday, October 10 – Jeremy Iggers; 1-3 p.m. at the East Lake Library, public meeting room, 2727 East Lake Street, Minneapolis. Sponsored by the National Writers Union NWU-TC, this event is free and open to the public. For parking and additional information the library phone number is 612-630-6550.

Iggers, former Star Tribune writer, and co-founder of the Twin Cities Media Alliance, will address the purpose of this alliance (which is, in part according to Iggers), ‘...is to bring together media professionals and engaged citizens to improve the quality, diversity and accountability of the local media. Given the recent changes taking place on the local media scene, the need for that kind of collaboration has never been greater.’ In addition to publishing the Twin Cities Daily Planet, the TC Media Alliance provides media skills, citizen journalism classes, and hosted public forums on citizens and the media.

¥¥¥

Wednesday, October 10 – The Midwest Independent Publishers Association, (MIPA), meets at 7:00 p.m., inviting NWU-TC friends to observe how a book can be made in minutes.

This meeting is a field trip to the Konica Minolta’s Edina showroom, 7300 Metro Boulevard, Suite 250 (take the 70 Street exits off of Highway 100).

Come and see the new capabilities and discuss the technological future of publishing. This event is free, and refreshments will be served.

Visit www.mipa.org for additional information.

¥¥¥

Saturday, October 13 – The Seventh Annual Twin Cities Book Festival, sponsored by Rain Taxi, from 10-5:00 p.m., at the Minneapolis and Technical Community College; 1501 Hennepin Avenue, near Loring Park in Minneapolis. This event is free and open to the public. For specific listings of participants, readings and presentations, visit their website. <http://www.raintaxi.com/bookfest/>

Stop by the NWU-TC display and help us celebrate our twentieth year. A list of our book signers can be found at our website at, <http://www.nwu-tc.org>

¥¥¥

Exploring Creativity through Writing and Bodywork; is a two-day workshop offered among the other Fall 2007 classes and workshops at Intermedia Arts.

This class will include a blend of writing exercises, individual meditation, and ritual. Explore writing, creativity and bodywork exercises to unblock your creative process, set goals, and promote healing. The instructor(s) are Julies Nyquist and Amy Mattila.

The two Saturday sessions, October 27 and November 3, 2007, run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., will be held in the theatre at Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Avenue South.

Amy Mattila. Call or email (612) 871-4444 or info@intermediaarts.org with any questions.

¥¥¥

Just in time for Halloween, the People's University will present, "Reading the Days of the Dead: Its Theory of Person and Society," with Juanita Garciagodoy, scholar and author of *Digging the Days of the Dead*.

In this illustrated lecture about interpreting Mexico's Days of the Dead, Garciagodoy will consider the practices and paraphernalia of the fiesta in order to tease out some of its philosophical implications. At the end of the lecture, audience members will be invited to build an ofrenda to our dead at the library.

Tuesday, October 30, 2007, 7-9 p.m., at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, in Pohlad Hall. This event is free, but space is limited. Registration is required. Please call 612-630-6155, or visit www.friendsofmplslibrary.org

COMING IN NOVEMBER

WORKSHOP: How writers select and read their work

On **Tuesday, November 6 at 1 PM** at the Minneapolis East Lake Library, author, writing coach and publisher **Ian Graham Leask** will offer advice to writers on preparing a public reading of their work, including how to select what to read and how to read effectively.

Leask, the London-born publisher of Scarletta Press, Inc., is also a literary consultant, radio host and author of *The Wounded and Other Stories about Sons and Fathers*, (New Rivers Press). He has taught writing and literature at the University of Minnesota, The Loft Literary Center and COMPAS writers-in-the-schools. He produces and co-hosts KFAI's program for writers, *Write On! Radio*.

CLASSIFIEDS

18th Annual Midwest Book Awards - Presented by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA) – **Call for entries**. Publishers and authors are invited to enter the 18th Annual Midwest Book Awards competition for excellence in books published in 2007. **The deadline is February 1, 2008.**

For more information, please contact Marly Cornell, Chair, MIPA Midwest Book Awards, 3914 Ottawa Avenue South, St. Louis Park, MN 55416
animarly@aol.com

¥¥¥

Rebecca Frost, former co-chair of the NWU-TC Literary Division, and longtime performer and educator, now writer, offers private sessions and consultation in LearningMethods™.

This systematic and rigorous approach will help you to clear up fuzzy thinking, unearth misconceptions and overcome fears. Rebecca will coach you to improve public presentation skills and read your work with pizzazz. Call 612-827-7956 with questions, or to set up an appointment.

For further information, visit FFI www.learningmethods.com and www.embodiedarts.com

¥¥¥

Make the Connection with NWU-TC's own Jim Wishner – once again inviting Twin City 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. Contact information, dejim@prodigy.net or 651-578-1967. The station also streams live online at www.airamericaminnesota.com

Marginal Notes from the Editor

Will return with the November issue -

"Labor was the first price, not bought with silver, but by labor, that all wealth of the world was originally purchased."

~ Adam Smith ~

The deadline for the November issue is October 30. Articles, comments and items of interest (this is your newsletter and we would like to hear from you), can be sent to jangigi@earthlink.net

In solidarity,

Jan Alan, NWU-TC Editor