



NWU-TC Newsletter October 2006

Letter from the Chair

We all know that Minnesota is one of the most literate states in the U.S. October brings two chances to celebrate our bounty: The first is October 12, when the Minnesota Magazine & Publications Association (MMPA) throws its annual magazine celebration at The Loft Literary Center. This year's event has some new writer-friendly features: editors will be easy to recognize by their color-coded nametags; there will be take-away copies of the magazines' staff lists; and on October 9, the Loft hosts a free workshop on how writers can make the most of networking opportunities such as this. Discounted admission to the celebration is available for NWU members. Read more and download a copy of the flyer from our news and events page at www.nwu-tc.org.

On October 14, Rain Taxi brings us the Twin Cities Book Festival, an all day celebration of books, authors, and literary organizations. Several NWU members will be signing their books at the NWU table. Be sure to stop by the NWU table and say hello. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

I was pleased to hear that the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library will be taking over the Minnesota Book Awards, which they started in 1988. For the past seven years, the Minnesota Humanities Commission has run this award program, but had to drop it because of funding cuts. This awards program showcases the best book(s) by Minnesota writers and Minnesota publishers. Look for this awards program in Spring 2007. More about the event at <http://www.thefriends.org/>.

Our local Steering Committee continues our chapter's collaborations with other organizations. Jackie Mosio and I will be taking part in a panel discussion on contracts at the October 11 meeting of Minnesota Independent Publishers Association, (MIPA). We are actively exploring how we can work with other writer-friendly groups.

Finally, I note that the week of September 23-30 marked the 25th anniversary of banned books week, sponsored by the American Library Association. Read all about it at <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek.htm#new> While you're at it; buy a button!

Best wishes for your writing success!

Sue Grieger, Chair
NWU-TC

Worth repeating –

On the National level, the NWU continues to serve members with contract advice and grievance assistance. The dedicated group of trained volunteers helps members get better contracts or recover money owed them by clients. To use this invaluable resource, write to advice@nwu.org and describe your situation. An advisor will contact you within a few days.

And locally, the current focus of our chapter is on the continuation of valuable relationships, networking and related educational and economic resources for the talented writers in our area. Our strength is in our solidarity as writers. The Twin Cities chapter of the NWU is one of the strongest in the country.

OCTOBER CALENDER OF EVENTS

NWU-TC OCTOBER DIVISION MEETING

Writers for Change

The **Northland Bioneers Conference**, Friday October 20 thru Sunday October 22, is a remarkable opportunity to hear speakers on the latest in supporting our earth, our communities and ourselves. It would also include participation in the **National Bioneers Conference** taking place in California without leaving Minneapolis!

Please visit <http://www.nbconference.org/schedule.html> for the names of speakers via satellite, and schedule information. This three-day conference takes place at the Minneapolis Technical College, 1501 Hennepin Avenue, will also feature local speakers and workshops.

Representatives from our NWU local have already assisted as volunteers; but more volunteers are needed for the event. Volunteering is a way of getting a pass to the programs as well.

Check it out! Charge up your soul-ar energy batteries at this great event!

<http://www.nbconference.org/register.html>

See you there!

Jackie Mosio

Writers for Change

NWU-TC

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The Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA) will feature a panel discussion on Book Contracts, from the viewpoint of authors, editors, designers and publishers.

This **free event** will take place on Wednesday, October 11 at 7 pm at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul. Ample parking is available.

The panel of four speakers include two NWU representatives. Please read the following bios of the participants.

Sue Grieger is a Grievance Officer for the National Writers Union. The union's Grievance and Contract Division consists of a nationwide network of trained volunteers who help NWU members understand and improve contracts and resolve problems with publishers. Ms. Grieger is also a business writer, copyeditor, and blogger.

Jacqueline Bell Mosio is a writer and editor who has taught professional editing in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Minnesota. A member and a trained contract advisor for the Twin Cities local of the NWU, she helped organize the WOW Conference on Intellectual Property.

Sherry Roberts comes from a journalistic background, having spent several years working in the newspaper and magazine businesses. In 1990, she and her husband Tony started The Roberts Group, a firm that provides editorial services, graphics design, and Web services. She writes, edits, and designs books, newsletters, brochures, marketing materials, and Web sites. She has contributed essays and articles to national publications such as *USA Today*. She also has published two nonfiction books and one novel.

Lane Stiles is Director of Fairview Press, a division of Fairview Health Services, and Publisher of Mid-List Press, a nonprofit literary publisher. He has worked in the book business for more than 30 years with a background in wholesale and retail bookselling as well as publishing. He has also worked as a freelance writer, editor, and designer and has authored numerous publications.

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NWU member, Kate Kysar, a St. Paul poet and creative writing teacher, will be hosting Another Poetry Salon: The Out-of-Towners, at Birch Bark Books on Saturday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. 2115 W. 21st St., Minneapolis. Info: 612-374-4023.

Readers are Candace Black, Scott King, Thom Tamaro and Rebecca Frost, NWU member. The event, sponsored by the Powderhorn Writers Festival, highlights the Broadside Project, a collaborative effort between artist and poet.

The 18 broadside posters that are included in the Powderhorn Writers Festival Broadside Project will all be on display from September 10th through October 15th at First Universalist Church, at 3400 Dupont Ave. So., Minneapolis. Call 612-825-1701 for hours.

CLASSIFIEDS

Call for Entries: The 2006 Midwest Book Awards presented by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA) will hold their seventeenth annual competition for excellence in independent or non-profit publishing. The awards recognize creativity in content and execution, overall book quality, and the book's unique contribution to its subject area. A representative jury of publishing professionals will judge entries. Decisions of the judges are final.

AWARDS

First, Merit and Honorable Mention winners are awarded in each category. Award winners receive certificates and may purchase foil seals for use in their marketing efforts. This year, for the first time, authors of award-winning books will also receive certificates. First-place winners are featured on the MIPA web site, in a special edition of the MIPA Newsletter, and at the 2007 Midwest Booksellers Association (MBA) trade show. You are invited to attend the Midwest Book Awards Ceremony at the prestigious Minnesota Humanities Commission, 987 East Ivy Avenue, St. Paul on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ELIGIBILITY

- All entries **MUST** carry a 2006 copyright.
 - Entry **deadline is February 1, 2007**. Absolutely no exceptions.
 - New editions of previously published books are eligible. Reprints do not qualify.
- § Any independent or non-profit publisher or self-publishing author located in the 12-state Midwest region is encouraged to enter: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD & WI.

ENTRY FEES

A single title may be entered in as many different categories as the publisher or author wishes, along with the following payment, as appropriate:

- MIPA Member: \$55 for each title (first category) and \$15 for each additional category.
- Non-MIPA Member: \$75 for each title (first category) and \$25 for each additional category.
- Check should be made to MIPA and sent with entries. Please note that *all fees are non-refundable*.

WHAT TO SEND

- **Send three (3) copies of each title** (one for each of the two judges and one for display) **for the first category** in which the title is entered. If the **same title** is

entered in more than one category, send **two (2) more copies** (for the two judges) for each additional category. We only need one display copy for each title entered. *No books or entries will be returned.*

- Affix a copy of the entry form to the inside cover of each copy sent. Entry forms may be photocopied or may be printed from our website, www.MIPA.org.
- Entry Fees MUST accompany your submission.

WHERE TO SEND

- Ship books and entry fees in the same package via U.S. Mail, UPS, FedEx, etc. to:

Midwest Independent Publishers Association
c/o Marly Cornell
3914 Ottawa Avenue South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
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House for rent: As listed on Craig's list in NYC. The owner is a MN member of NWU who winters in Egypt.

*Lake Wobegon *

A writer's cabin on Central Minnesota lake available from October to ~ (length of stay negotiable). Miles from Alexandria, two miles from Milona. Fully winterized and comfortably furnished. Includes a piano, porches and decks. Three bedrooms/three baths. Cooker's kitchen, laundry, attached garage. Will discuss pets.

Contact 218.943.5023... beyss@hotmail.com

Correction: The **Art of the Profile** workshop held at the Loft on September 23, 2006, should have listed John Rosengren as the instructor, rather than John Toren. Please accept the editor's apology for the misprint.

Marginal Notes from the Editor –

October is an interesting month. For traditional folks, noteworthy dates might simply include Columbus Day and Halloween.

But as months go, the following is just a sample to indicate that probably October has something for everyone.

Oktoberfest, originally the two-week celebration of drinking and eating that began in Munich in 1810; is also feted throughout the U.S. from California to Tulsa, and many parts in between. This is the month of Awareness's-Breast cancer, National Disabilities in Employment and 'Stand up Against Poverty'. Specific days reflect spiritual significance for major religions and for those 'Coming Out'.

October's full moon is identified as, or called the Blood, wine, Harvest, Kindly,

Blackberry, 'When Quilling and Beading are Done' (moon), and others depending on the date of the autumn equinox; your own cultural and ethnic origin or religious belief.

Notable this month is the thirty-fifth anniversary that began the use of the @ symbol for email addresses and software to create the first network email. Apparently, earliest uses of email weren't terribly different from the current uses; with these exceptions: messages could only be sent in plain text and there was no Spam.

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. October is an interesting month—for the writer in all of us-the month to appreciate.

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

In solidarity,

Janet (Jan) Alan, NWU-TC Editor
Poise & Pen
Writing Research & Editing Services
3520 East 55 Street
Minneapolis MN 55417
612-727-2750
jangigi@earthlink.net

'If writing were easy, everybody would be doing it.' Andy Rooney