

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF

BLOOMINGDALE

AUGUST 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our August workshops will be on August 8th and August 22nd, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Format rules are: Minimum, 12-pt. font and double spaced with one-inch margins on all sides.

The deadline for the 2010 calendar submissions is September 15th, 2009.

SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“Overhead, a Cessna 210 circled lazily in the sky, **like a hawk with a full belly just out for the thermal ride.**”

“Patsy and I shook our heads in unison, **like windshield wipers.**”

“Patsy had a memory **like an attic trunk.**”

“**Like an elephant swatting a gnat,** the Ford smacked the sports car’s front fender and spun it around.”

Source:

Cahill, Mary. *Carpool*. Fawcett Crest. 1991. Pp. 150, 172, 175, and 195.

MORE MANGLED MODIFIERS

“He rode his horse across Highway 12 and up and down the sidewalk in front of the saloon a good half hour before deputies arrived, shouting obscenities and being obnoxious.”

“Some sources said shortly after his death Mao Tse Tung had expressed a wish that his body be cremated.”

“Pele soaked an ankle he injured in an ice bucket.”

Source:

Lederer, Richard. *Anguished English/An Anthology of Accidental Assaults Upon Our Language*. Wyrick and Company. 1987. pp. 102 and 103.

COMMON METER

Alternating lines of iambic tetrameter (four beats) and iambic trimeter (three beats). The favored meter of Emily Dickinson:

**Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me...
--Emily Dickinson**

Source:

Vaughn, Michael J. “Poetry: Meter/ Why Meter Matters” *Writer’s Digest*. Nov-Dec 2006, p. 95.



(From Carol's garden in Naperville.)

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

(Please send any Column Two Personals submissions to my e-mail address for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.)

Writers Conferences and Book Fairs
By: John J. Flaherty

In 2009 I attended two writers' conferences in 2009. The first was the 2009 Association of Writers and Writing Program (AWP) Annual Conference at the Chicago Hilton Hotel in February. The second was the Printers Row Lit Fest at the Harold Washington Library

Center and the nearby Printers Row complex held on June 6 and 7.

Both of these meetings were well attended. The AWP affair had over 8,000 attendees. I was amazed at the crowded aisles, overflowing classrooms and long lines to pay your \$200.00 late registration fee (I had pre-registered so I got away with paying \$180.00) and the hundreds of young people lying around and sitting on the floors and stairways.

The Printers Row Lit Fest is always crowded. It is free and young people were everywhere as well. Young mothers with small children in strollers and babies in knapsacks were standing in lines waiting to get in to the popular seminars. The allotment of pre-registered tickets had gone quickly, but the organizers had reassured us that tickets would be available at the library one hour before each lecture's scheduled time. As it turned out, they were correct. The personnel at the various registration tables pointed out the correct lines to go to when I named the particular author or seminar I wanted to attend. Tickets were passed out to the people in line shortly before the classes opened. Hundreds and hundreds of writers and aspiring writers patiently waited in these long lines. Most everyone was friendly and people in front of me and behind me freely started conversations about the authors and their books.

Both of these events have two main aspects, the seminars and the book fairs. There are dozens of classes, discussion groups, and lectures by popular authors, scholarly educators, editors, and publishers of literary journals, as well as publishing houses. They both have very large book fairs as well.

The AWP book fair had booths representing mainline literary magazines

as well as small and start-up journals. Unlike the Printers Row Lit Fest there were no used book stores at the AWP book fair. The AWP book fair had almost 1,000 booths, each manned by several people. This book fair was not open to the public. Only registered attendees were allowed in. It was nice because you could talk to the editors of the journals about your work and yourself and they were very receptive. Of course they tried to talk to you about buying a subscription so you could get a feel for what "type of material" they were looking for. Generous discounts were available if you signed up at the fair.

The Printers Row Lit Fair is an annual event sponsored by the Chicago Tribune. It is a madhouse to try to get to the used book stalls and you have to be patient. Some folks are actually reading the books, not just browsing. If you are only interested in talking to a publisher of literary journals or books, the Printers Row Lit Fest is not a good choice. These vendors are only interested in selling things and not interested in talking. AWP vendors, on the other hand, will chat with you. The chief editor of the Georgia Review, a prestigious journal, actually started to quiz me after I introduced myself. He asked me what kind of stuff that I wrote and suggested that I send it to him. He said it would be a while before he got to it but he would look at it. Of course I signed up for a subscription and got a 20 percent discount.

The classes at the AWP seminars were overflowing and in many cases you could not get in past the doors. Also, they were scattered throughout the Hotel and you had to wait in line to get into an elevator. Actually I did not find these lectures too interesting. Most of the stuff

they talked about I had already read in the various writers journals. In my mind, the value of this conference is mainly in the book fair not the seminars.

Naturally the ones that I attended had to do with getting your work published. But it was the same old stuff. I thought that a number of the authors were rather immature people. But they have gotten their work published; some even have a couple of books in print.

KEEP WRITING!

From: Mary Ann Lufkin
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