

WRITER'S INK
THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE
NOVEMBER 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our November workshop will be on November 14th only from 9:00 a.m. until noon Format rules are: Minimum 12-pt. font and double spaced with one-inch margins on all side.

The Bloomingdale Library Annual Open House is December 1st, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Come and help pass out our calendars!

SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“Shriveled leaves stirred restlessly in the wind **like an army of brown-shirted soldiers on the march.**”

“There was something painfully sad about seeing all those beautiful leaves dying, falling from their respective trees in a final agonizing blaze of colorful glory, **like fighter bombers shot down in flames.**”

“Outside, the day had turned even colder; the wind cut across her cheek **like a switchblade.**”

The procession to the cemetery, a small chain of cars connected **like a spinal cord**, crept along under the brain-matter gray sky.”

Source: Seewald, Jacqueline. 2007. *The Inferno Collection*. Thompson Gale. pp. 18, 33, 37, and 79.

THE COLON (PART DEUX)

Two overriding grammar rules govern the use of the colon

1. The colon must have a grammatically complete sentence in front of it. If the lead-in is a fragment, do not use a colon.

Examples:

The list includes name, age, and social security number.

The list includes these facts: name, age, and social security number.

He sent them to Harris, Evans, and Sills.

He sent them to his associates: Harris, Evans, and Sills.

Source: Wakeman-Wells, Margie, “The Colon.” *Journal of Court Reporting*. March 2009. P. 57.

COFFEEHOUSE IN THE LIBRARY

By: Mary Ann Lufkin

On September 30th, I attended the Bensenville Public Library's Writers' Group "Coffeehouse in the Library," where Whitney Scott was the featured reader. She read a short story about bigotry and hate-crimes, which was very emotional. Whitney is an animated speaker.

Comfortable, upholstered furniture; fresh fruit; yummy cookies; what's not to like? This event was not held in a meeting room, but in the middle of the library with a rustic, stone fireplace. Unfortunately, the routine noise of the library detracted from the readings.

After Ms. Scott's reading, the floor was opened for "open mike." Several members of the public and the Bensenville Public Library's writers' group read their original works.

Membership in Bensenville's writers' group is free. Like a lot of writers' groups, they give assignments. For instance, one speaker read their assignment from last spring: poems about the economy, which were hysterical. Their current, lofty assignment is to publish a book in seven months. It is run by their Reference Librarian, Carolyn Paprocki. I will bring her chap book, which she read from, to the next workshop.

COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

Did you know the Writer's Workshop has a display case in the basement level of the Bloomingdale Library that highlights members who have been published? Visit the case and challenge yourself to be displayed.

WHITNEY SCOTT'S WRITERS' WORKSHOP

By: Marjorie Lee

Author Whitney Scott was featured as Bensenville Library's Writer-in-Residence in September. She hosted a Saturday morning writers' workshop for the public on September 19th. Her presentation provided though-provoking information about the difficulties of achieving success as authors seeking publication.

Ms. Scott provided an interesting batch of information about improving writing skills:

1. The importance of a lead that is a "hook" to attract the reader (and the publisher)
2. The need to link the conclusion to the lead
3. The importance of establishing a point of view and carrying it through consistently

An interesting exercise during the session was a ten-minute writing assignment on the topic, "Why Do I Write?" Several participants read their responses. This might be called an "open mike" practice.

Ms. Scott's emphasis is the issue of a person recognizing whether they "want to write" or "need to write," an interesting self-analysis.

Ms. Scott's credentials are too numerous to list. She is the president of the Tall Grass Writers Guild, which hosts monthly "open mikes" and featured-reader sessions. She stressed the value of "open mike" participation as a method of meeting people with comparable interests and possibly creating contacts for linkage to agents or publishers.

Ms. Scott is available for consultation, workshop sessions, and poetry and fiction readings. Her books are available through Outrider Press, Inc., 2036 Northwinds Drive, Dyer, IN 46311. She also may be contacted by e-mail at: outriderpress@sbcglobal.net.

She is a very sharing person. Her generous handouts could be identified almost as a curriculum guide for her writing court.

KEEP WRITING!

From: Mary Ann Lufkin, malufkin@comcast.net.

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Wild turkeys in a Wheaton backyard.