

# WRITER'S INK

## THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

### MAY 2010

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our May workshops will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

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

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#### SIMILE SPOTLIGHT

“A thick shock of snowy hair rose on his bony head **like an egret’s crest.**”

“Burke bared his teeth **like a wolf baying at the moon.**”

“A cold, formal nod and the silver hair shimmered **like cirrus clouds across a winter sky.**”

Source:

Hart, Carolyn G. 1989. *A Little Class on Murder*. Bantam Books. Pp. 25, 30, and 52.

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#### THE WORDS YES AND NO

When the words after *yes* and *no* do not repeat or echo the words in the question but contain other information, use a period after the *yes* or *no*.

Q. Did you see her earlier in the day?

A. Yes. She had left with her sister.

A. No. I had to leave before she arrived.

A. No. The next day.

A. No. She wasn't there.

Source:

Wakeman-Wells, Maggie. *Journal of Court Reporting*. “The Words Yes and No.” March 2009. P. 58.

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#### COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

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

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#### HYPHENATING COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

If two (or more) words are recognized as a unit already, there is no need to hyphenate them as they already form a unit. This is the case with all multiword compound nouns.

- ✚ Senior citizen
- ✚ Real estate
- ✚ Credit card
- ✚ Due diligence
- ✚ General admission

Since these words are found in the dictionary as compound nouns, which mean they are already thought of as a unit, and they are already two words, they remain two words wherever they appear including when they are adjectives in front of a noun.

- ✚ Senior citizen event
- ✚ Real estate transaction
- ✚ Credit card debt
- ✚ Due diligence process
- ✚ General admission ticket

Source:  
Wakeman-Wells, Margie. *Journal of Court Reporting*. "On Words: Hyphenating Compound Adjectives." February, 2010. P. 27.

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### **BLOOD AND THUNDER**

The deadline for submissions to *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine* is May 15.

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### **NATURE LITERATURE AT THE MORTON ARBORETUM**

By: Jill Spealman

In February, I took a break from writing to further explore the genre of nature writing in the Nature Literature class offered at the Morton Arboretum. Fourteen reader and writer colleagues and I were treated to five weeks of nature literature discussion, centering on the works of Emerson and Thoreau. The assigned reading (Emerson's *Nature* and

Thoreau's *Walking*) was somewhat daunting, but we were soon drawn into the mystical world of the Transcendentalists. Even back in 1839, when *Nature* was published, Emerson recognized the power of nature to restore the soul: "To the body and mind which have been cramped by noxious work or company, nature is medicinal and restores their tone." Similarly, Thoreau ruminates in *Walking* (1862): "I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend four hours a day at least—and it is commonly more than that—sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements." The class was led by Jim Ballowe, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Bradley University and author of *A Man of Salt and Trees*, a biography of Joy Morton. Ballowe has written many other works, including nature poetry. He never failed to inspire new thoughts about nature writing and provided us with references galore. As a final class project, each student provided a short list of nature literature favorites and we found many modern works that were influenced by Emerson or Thoreau. Surprisingly, the class became quite involved through email and sharing of ideas online. We were exposed to many flavors of nature writing and I now have a reading list for years to come. If you're interested in nature writing, I also recommend the Arboretum's Nature Writing course, usually offered in September.

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### **KEEP WRITING!**

From: Mary Ann Fristoe  
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