

# WRITER'S INK

## THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

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OCTOBER 2010

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### OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Our October workshops will be on October 9th and October 23th 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.

4 pages maximum.

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### NUTS & BOLTS: WHAT IS ASSONANCE?

Assonance is using the same vowel sounds within words--you create rhyme within a sentence. Assonance can be used in poetry and prose to reinforce words and create moods.

For example:

The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.

### COLUMN TWO PERSONALS

As reported in the July newsletter, member **Marjorie Lee**'s photo "He Taught Me To Walk" will be published in *Blood and Thunder: Musings on the Art of Medicine*, a publication of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. In late July, Marjorie was also invited to display her work at the Blood and Thunder gallery exhibit in the College of Medicine's Basic Sciences Education building. Her photo depicts her son Kevin, who has Down Syndrome, pushing his late father, who had Parkinson's Disease, in his wheelchair. Each helped the other with mobility during different life stages.

Marjorie hopes to attend the Blood and Thunder reception in Tulsa on October 14.

*(Please share your writing adventures in the November newsletter.)*

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### GEAR UP FOR NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH

NOVEMBER 1-30, 2010

National Writing Month describes itself as a "a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing." Participants begin writing November 1. The goal is to write a 175-page (50,000-word) novel by midnight, November 30. Valuing enthusiasm and perseverance over painstaking craft, NaNoWriMo is a novel-writing program for everyone who has thought fleetingly about writing a novel but has been scared away by the time and effort involved. Go to [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org) for details.

## PLACES TO SEND YOUR WORK

Every month I'm showcasing a few places to submit your work. Here are this month's places:

### *The Ledge Magazine*

Poetry Chapbook Competition

Submit 16-28 pages of original poetry. Cash prizes. Entry fee \$18. Deadline October 31, 2010. Open to all styles and forms of poetry. For more information refer to [www.theledgemagazine.com](http://www.theledgemagazine.com)

### *Motes Books*

Publisher seeks submissions for 2011 MOTIF Anthology. Deadline November 1, 2010. Submissions should address the theme of "WORK" significantly and artfully.

MOTIF is an anthology series published annually by MotesBooks of Louisville, KY. Previous volumes have featured emerging and established writers in various genres.

For more information refer to [www.motesbooks.com](http://www.motesbooks.com)

### *Magnapoets*

Publishing two themed anthologies in spring and summer 2011. All forms of poetry are welcome. Deadline January 1, 2010.

Theme 1: Love. Romantic, platonic, unrequited, absent, etc.

Theme 2: Epiphanies explored as loosely or personally as writer chooses.

For more information refer to [www.magnapoets.com](http://www.magnapoets.com)

### *A Prairie Journal*

Online magazine seeks text and images related to the North American prairie and its associated landscapes, flora, and fauna. Deadlines September 15 and March 15.

For more information refer to [www.aprairiejournal.com](http://www.aprairiejournal.com)

*Read submission guidelines carefully.*

*More places next month. Got a place you want to share? Let me know.*

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## NEW WORD OF THE MONTH

### **diaspora**

The movement or migration of a group of people, such as those sharing a national and/or ethnic identity, away from their established homeland.

"The Irish diaspora are all persons of Irish nationality who habitually reside outside of the island of Ireland."

—Irish Citizens Information Board

## PRODUCING A CHAPBOOK: AN INTERVIEW WITH WWB'S CHRISTINE AUMENT

by Jill Spealman



I didn't know what a chapbook was, but I saw one for the first time when member Christine Aument shared her chapbook, *Detour*, at the library's Holiday Open House last December. The dictionary defines a chapbook as "a small book or pamphlet containing poems, ballads, stories, or religious tracts." We use the term today to refer to publications of up to about 40 pages, often poetry bound with some form of saddle stitch, though many are perfect bound, folded, or wrapped.

I interviewed member Christine Aument in an attempt to capture her experience developing her chapbook. Chris and her "publisher/editor" Richard Huttel were kind enough to answer my questions and provide insight.

### **Q** How did your idea to produce a chapbook come about?

**Chris:** My friend Richard and I planned a trip to Toronto last fall. Toronto has a lot of small presses, and over the years Richard has become friends with many people involved in the Toronto literary scene. Using his connections, he set up a reading for us as part of the "Livewords" series. It is common practice, when doing a reading like that, to have copies of your works for sale. I needed a chapbook to sell and trade at the reading.

**Richard:** When Chris and I accepted an invitation to read from our poetry correspondence in Toronto last year it seemed to me as her friend and long-time collaborator-in-correspondence-in-poetry that it was time for her work to be represented in a chapbook.

### **Q** Have you produced other chapbooks prior to this one?

**Chris:** This is my first, but in conjunction with producing a chapbook of my works, we also produced a smaller chapbook, *take-outs*, of just four poems, two of Richard's and two of mine. As Richard indicates, he has published chapbooks before.

**Richard:** I've self-published two chapbooks under my "e.p. press" imprint and have also had a few published by Toronto's Proper Tales Press and Surrealist Poets Gardening Association.

### **Q** Is your chapbook online anywhere? If so, where?

**Chris:** I don't think so.

**Richard:** Available for sale or to read on-line anywhere? Either way, not that I know of. Chapbooks do turn up on "abebooks.com" though.

## PRODUCING A CHAPBOOK: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

### **Q** How did you determine what to put in your chapbook?

**Chris:** Selecting poems was a collaborative effort. I think it was primarily just poems we liked or that struck a chord with one or both of us. We had to agree on the choices. Obviously you can do a chapbook on a theme if one has enough related poems to do so. Mine was not theme-specific, unless you consider the concept of Detour a theme. My writing, at this point, is a enjoyable detour in my life, making Detour an apropos title.

**Richard:** As editor/publisher I was a staunch advocate of the poems selected and the line-up!

### **Q** Tell us a little about the production process—did you use a special printer, or something like Alphagraphics or Office Max?

**Chris:** I'll let Richard answer the production questions. I did not do anything with the actual physical production of the chapbook.

**Richard:** It was convenient to use the Sir Speedy located in the lobby of the building where I work.

### **Q** Was the printer familiar with producing a chapbook? How many copies did you get?

**Richard:** Clearly they were hearing the word “chapbook” for the first time but once they understood that they were being given an opportunity to participate in a literary act, that copies were going to be sent to some interesting places, combined with the possibility that similar orders could follow on top of a tight deadline they really got into it! 200 copies were run.

### **Q** How did you intend to use your chapbook once it was completed? Did you distribute it anywhere?

**Chris:** The original intent was obviously the reading in Toronto, but we have talked about trying to set up readings elsewhere where we could showcase the books, or trying to get them into a bookstore. To date we have only done the reading in Toronto. We have not really carried through on the other ideas. We also tossed around the idea of doing a presentation on our poetry correspondence, which would provide a venue for marketing our chapbooks. Several of the poems in the chapbook sprung from our poetry correspondence.

**Richard:** The first order of business was to have copies available for the reading. Next it felt very good to present The Author with copies to share and possibly even sell. Hopefully Chris (and Chris & I) will have future readings to bring them to. Quite honestly placing copies with the rare bookstore that will so much as offer them for sale on consignment seems like more trouble than it's worth, but it was exactly such a maneuver that led to one my chapbooks being sent as a gift to someone stationed in Afghanistan recently!

## PRODUCING A CHAPBOOK: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

### **Q Did you use any guides or resources to produce your chapbook? If so, would you mind sharing?**

**Richard:** This is very much DIY territory. The closest thing to a guide I've ever seen is The Do-It-Yourself Publishing Handbook which is possibly more conceptual and even spiritual than addressing production values. There seems to be such a stigma attached to self-publishing! As if it's so much vanity. But as the DIYPH chronicles, there is a rich tradition of self-publishing that includes Thoreau, Yeats, Whitman, Bartlett of Familiar Quotation fame, and even Robert and his Rules of Order! I've also been very much inspired by Toronto's small press community. As far as actual production goes, there is a Word template that is a little tricky but gets the words on the page and ready for offset printing.

### **Q How long did it take from when your idea for the book was "hatched" until you finished?**

**Chris:** Richard said three months; I would say two to three months. We were also facing a very concrete deadline with the trip to Toronto. I do think it is best done in that type of timeframe, though, because it keeps the momentum. As writers, we all know that if something wallows for a year, we begin second guessing ourselves or changing something.

**Richard:** I think it was about three months between beginning to play around with different line-up ideas to carrying boxes of books home from the printer.

### **Q Any words of wisdom for potential chapbook authors?**

**Chris:** Go for it! It is a great experience. Not only do you get to see your work in print, but it forces you to go back and really look through what you have written. I know Richard found things that I had forgotten about, but had really liked. "Cherries, Bing" is one of those, and was written to a Saturday morning topic for The Writer's Workshop of Bloomingdale. Publishing a chapbook gives you something to hand out or sell to showcase your work, and a credit to include on any query letters.

**Richard:** "Do it--you'll never feel more like a poet/writer!" Someone told me that once after publishing his own chapbook and he was absolutely right!

Chris's chapbook *Detour* and her and Richard's collaboration chapbook *take-outs* can be viewed in the WWB's Blue Book located at the circulation desk at the Bloomingdale Public Library. Richard's chapbooks are *Bucktown Serenade* (published by his own e.p. press) and *Rainy Day Cliffhanger* (published by Proper Tails Press). Contact the author(s) to purchase copies.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **How to Write a Book**

College of DuPage Adult Continuing Education  
Saturday, October 9  
9 a.m. to noon \$49  
630-942-2208

### **Get Represented: How to Land a Literary Agent**

College of DuPage Adult Continuing Education  
Thursday, October 14  
6 to 10 p.m. \$55  
630-942-2208

### **Secrets of Successful Self-Publishing**

Harper College Writing Studio  
Mondays, November 8 to December 6  
7 to 9 p.m. \$299  
847-925-6707

### **Writing for Children: Revise and Refine Manuscripts**

Harper College Writing Studio  
Saturdays, October 9 to 15  
9 a.m. to noon \$79  
847-925-6707

### **How to Write a Thriller**

Harper College Writing Studio  
October 25  
7 to 9 p.m. \$29  
847-925-6707

### **Online Fiction Writers' Workshop**

Harper College Writing Studio  
October 22 to December 9  
On-campus orientation October 21, 7 to 9 p.m.  
\$109  
847-925-6707

### **Nature Writing**

Morton Arboretum  
Saturdays, October 16 to November 13  
9:30 a.m. to noon \$178 (members \$144)  
630-719-2468

### **Illinois State Poetry Society**

October 3  
1 p.m.  
Lisle Library

### **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Illinois Chapter**

#### **6th Annual Prairie Writer's Day**

Harper College, Palatine  
Saturday, November 13  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$165

[www.scbwi-illinois.org](http://www.scbwi-illinois.org)

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

Send your writing and ideas to:  
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