

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE



APRIL 2011

APRIL WORKSHOPS

Our April workshops will be on April 9 and April 23 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.

COLUMN 2 PERSONALS

While I was gathering information about *Blood and Thunder* (see page 2), I noticed member Marjorie Lee's photo entitled "He Taught Me to Walk" circulating on the *Blood and Thunder* website: www.ouhsc.edu/bloodandthunder/ The photo was published in the 2010 issue.

(Please share your writing adventures in the May newsletter.)

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

National Poetry Month is a month-long, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets. The concept is to widen the attention of individuals and the media—to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our complex poetic heritage, and to poetry books and journals of wide aesthetic range and concern.

Go to www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/94 to read 30 ways to celebrate National Poetry Month.

The goals of National Poetry Month are to:

- Highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets
- Introduce more Americans to the pleasures of reading poetry
- Bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways
- Make poetry a more important part of the school curriculum
- Increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media
- Encourage increased publication, distribution, and sales of poetry books
- Increase public and private philanthropic support for poets and poetry



PLACES TO SEND YOUR WORK

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

Blood and Thunder

An arts journal published by the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

Deadline: May 31, 2011

All interested authors and artists are invited to submit original, health care-related, unpublished literary or artistic works.

For more information:

www.ouhsc.edu/bloodandthunder/submit.asp

Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

From their website: The purpose of the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition is to promote creative writing, encourage local writers while providing a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new literary talent. Winners receive cash prizes and have their works submitted for review and possible publication in the Illinois literary magazines -- Downstate Story, Ninth Letter, Quiddity, RHINO and Springfield Poets and Writers.

Deadline: June 30, 2011

For more information:

www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects/projectsb.html

Read submission guidelines carefully.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

College of DuPage

Writers @ Work Conference April 4-8

Free and open to the public

7-8:30 PM, SRC 2800

Explore the writing and publishing worlds with memoirists, essayists, poets, novelists and short story writers as they perform their works, discuss their craft and respond to questions from the audience.

The Working Writer

with Sonya Huber

Monday, April 4

Imagination Empowers Compassion

with David Madden

Tuesday, April 5

Writing as Exploration into Relationships

with Garnett Kilberg Cohen and Michael McColly

Wednesday, April 6

Reading the Past to Write the Present

with Brett Foster and Carlo Matos

Thursday, April 7

Open Mic

hosted by Program Board's Alter Ego Productions

with a spotlight on EFG

Friday, April 8, 6 to 8 p.m.

The Oasis Lounge, SRC 1750

(Special thanks to Kris Johnson for making us aware of these events.)

INSIDE WRITING AND PUBLISHING SEMINAR REVIEW

FOREVER YOUNG AT HEART

by Mary Ann Fristoe

On February 19th at the Oak Brook Public Library, Stephanie Kuehnert presented her seminar “Forever Young at Heart: How and Why I Write YA (Young Adult) Fiction.” This free seminar was co-sponsored by the Hinsdale Public Library.

She admits her writing process is always evolving. She loves reading a good book; it challenges her to write better. She takes notes when she is reading for recreation. When she gets stuck in her writing, she reads. She also allows time to daydream and let her ideas simmer. She realizes it (the writing process) takes a long time and told the audience not to beat themselves up if their schedules become unrealistic.

She cautioned the audience against writing just what is in fashion; citing that noted adult authors, who jumped ship after the success of *Twilight*, have failed. She writes what she knows and does not do a lot of research. She advised against talking down to YA audiences. Her writing is character-based. The “voice” comes from the character. She is true to her characters. She gets into the character’s head.

Stephanie started writing for punk-rock magazines. She writes edgier YA, not the sweet end of YA. She classifies her work as contemporary fiction. She feels she makes an impact on the YA writing community. She says there is a need for YA literature for boys.

She receives a lot of e-mails from teens. She espouses interfacing with book bloggers, to reach the YA audience, who love to interview authors. She utilizes Twitter to reach out, not to advertise. She put herself on tour, partnering book signings with cities where she has friends/relatives to stay with. She controlled the marketing and the publisher set up the events.

Since she is currently writing an adult book, the marketing department might want her to change her name. She is hoping to stay with the same publisher (Simon and Schuster) so they will market all her books. She has critique partners, similar to a writers’ group. Stephanie answered questions from the audience.

Read Stephanie Kuehnert’s writing blog here: stephaniekuehnert.blogspot.com/

BOOK REVIEW

by Jill Spealman

Writing Life Stories, 2000

by Bill Roorbach

A few months ago I wanted to know more about the genre of creative non-fiction. Some web searching led me to Bill Roorbach's book, *Writing Life Stories*. Roorbach is a creative non-fiction author who taught creative non-fiction at The Ohio State University. His book and the exercises in it are essentially the class text. The book focuses on personal essays and memoir, but is a good base for telling any non-fiction story. The exercises, in the author's own words, are "meant to discover mounds of juicy material for you." The exercises cause you to think and delve deeply into content you already know.

The Memory chapter challenges your memory limits and helps you rediscover lost worlds. One of the exercises in this chapter is to make a map of the earliest neighborhood you can remember and include all of the details like where your friends lived, where scary people lived, where the secret places were, and so forth. The next exercise in the chapter is to tell a story from the map.

In the Scenemaking chapter you "crack open" a sentence in your memory story to build a scene that moves the story forward—pure narrative, no voiceover, no exposition. The Scenemaking chapter is particularly detailed and the author suggests taking some time to grow: "Before you move on in this book, I'd suggest a period of studious reading and writing. Analyze the scenes of favorite writers. Think about how good writers separate scene and exposition."

The last chapter, Reaching Readers, is helpful once you've created a really good piece and want to go public with it. There are fun exercises for honing and submitting your work as well as for finding an agent.

The author includes his own essay which was published in *Harper's Magazine*. Also included is a list of suggested creative non-fiction readings in each of the sub genres: memoir, personal essay, journals and diaries, nature writing, travel writing, and literary journalism. The narrative and exercises in this book can guide you in writing a number of engaging stories.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Send your writing and ideas to:

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Visit our website at:

www.creativeoptions.com/BWW/index.htm

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