

WRITER'S INK

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE



OCTOBER 2011

OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Our October workshops will be on October 8 and October 22 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

(Please share your writing or other artistic adventures in the November newsletter.)

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

ADMISSION AND ADMITTANCE

Admission is the act of being admitted, or allowed to join or enter; admittance is almost identical in meaning but is usually associated with permission (or lack thereof).

AVOCATION AND VOCATION

An avocation is a hobby or pursuit; distinct from a vocation job or career. The former is derived from a word with the literal meaning of “called away,” and the latter is an antonym; it literally means “calling” and is related to the word “voice”.

BLOC AND BLOCK

Bloc refers to an alliance of people, groups, or countries. It is the French version of block, which may be, but seldom is, used to refer to the same concept.

PLACES TO SEND YOUR WORK

Illinois State Poetry Society 18th Annual Contest

Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 10, 2011. Winners to be announced in Dec. and will be published on the ISPS web site (illinoispoets.org) and newsletter with author's permission. For more information:

<http://illinoispoets.org/contest.htm>

Pants On Fire Press

Founded by former Disney creators, POFP is an award-winning traditional children's book publisher.

For more information:

<http://pantsonfirepress.com>

Prime Number

is a new literary magazine featuring distinctive fiction (flash and short stories), poetry, and non-fiction, as well as book reviews, craft essays, and interviews. The magazine will be published quarterly online and in a print annual.

For more information:

<http://www.primenumbermagazine.com>

Glimmer Train

Each quarterly issue presents about 220 pages of literary fiction—eight to twelve brand new stories by luminaries and fresh new voices making their way into print. A feast of fiction!

For more information:

<http://www.glimmertrain.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS

No Answers, Only Questions: A Writer Provokes Herself With Cris Mazza

Part of the "Writers Read" series, which brings authors to campus for evenings of readings and discussions. Writers Read events are free and open to the public.

Monday, Oct. 24, 2011

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 2800

<http://www.cris-mazza.com/>

Elgin Community College

CEC 268 Inexpensive Ways to Publish Class explores publishing using "ebooks."

October 29, 9:00 AM -3:30 PM

For more information:

847-622-3036

<http://www.elgin.edu/noncreditclasses.aspx?Term=2011FAN&Category=WRITE>

EDITOR'S CORNER

Send your writing and ideas to:

jspealman@comcast.net



Visit our website at:

www.creativeoptions.com/BWW/index.htm

Writer's Workshop of Bloomingdale
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Celebrating 20 Years!

A HISTORY OF THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP OF BLOOMINGDALE

BY ADELINE K. DOBBINS

In September of 1991, then-local resident Joan-Marie Moss initiated The Writer's Workshop of Bloomingdale. There were approximately 35 members in the initial group.

In November of 1991, then-director of the Bloomingdale Public Library, Mary Rodne, and the Friends of the Bloomingdale Public Library agreed to sponsor the writer's group.

The writers began meeting on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the library. Through the years they have maintained an average membership of 20 to 30.

A Planning Team, under Moss' leadership, was established to develop the group's first project (1993), a self-published anthology, *Yuletide Reverie*. The project was financed with proceeds from advance sales made by members of the writer's group. The bulk of the net proceeds were donated to the Friends of the Library; the remaining dollars enabled the writer's group to purchase coffee provisions, and adequate office supplies and postage stamps to publish and distribute a monthly newsletter.

Following the anthology project, the group members periodically participated in "Open Mic" readings at the library, area retail book stores, and exhibitions of the Artists Association of Bloomingdale. During this time period the planning team organized writing competitions as well: short story, poetry, and essay.

Each September in 1995, 1997 and 1998 the group put together a four-session, one-day seminar. The library provided pre- and post-seminar refreshments. A modest registration fee covered all expenses, including a catered luncheon. Professional speakers included authors, free-lance writers, journalists, publishers, agents,

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screenwriters, and poets—most of whom graciously waived their customary honorarium. The planning team handled all organization and publicity. All three seminars were filled to capacity and had considerable waiting lists.

As the group continued to evolve, members refocused on critiquing each other's work, in order to hone their writing skills. They also engaged relevant speakers, including Raymond Benson, the official author of the adult James Bond novels from 1997 to 2003, faculty members from the College of DuPage, et al.

A new project also was undertaken during that time period: a production (at the library) of a murder-mystery radio play written by a writer's group member. The performance, before an audience of more than 70, included live sound effects provided by Those Were the Days Radio Players, which was founded by radio broadcaster/historian Chuck Shaden, who was producer and host of the long-running public radio program, Those Were the Days.

As more members submitted work for publication they came face-to-face with the daunting reality that rejections should be expected in big batches when manuscripts, synopses, proposals, etc. were not properly submitted. This issue was addressed when the planning team appointed the Calendar Committee. That committee designed specific "Submission Guidelines" which were to be followed to the letter in order for offerings to be considered. Once members' works were properly (re)submitted, the committee spent many hours and hard physical labor producing hundreds of literary calendars from scratch.

According to schedule, copies of Calendar 1999 were presented gratis to library patrons during the library's 1998 annual holiday open house.

With the support of the Friends of the Library and the Board of Trustees, since 2002 the writer's calendars have featured full-color covers, which frequently have showcased original artwork submitted by members of the Artists Association as well as members of the writer's group itself.

As The Writer's Workshop of Bloomingdale launches into its next 20 years, it will continue adapting to ever-changing times, and focus on "Creating an Environment of Fellowship and Encouragement" for all writers.