
The Write Stuff

A quarterly publication of the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild

April 2010

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From the President's Pen

HAPPY SPRINGTIME!!

OK. Spring is a bit slow this year, but the Columbia Chapter Missouri Writer's Guild just keeps chugging along. We are ahead of previous years with the latest issue of ***Well Versed*** on the cusp of becoming reality. Members are enjoying a wave of recent publications. The every other month critique sessions are more popular than ever.

Chapter members will also soon have online critique availability, thanks to new member Mark Stratton who helped us set up on his web space. Board members have already had a look and soon, with a bit more tweaking, online critiques will be open to all paid members. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity!

We had a delay in announcing a date for the fall conference, largely due to the fact that Columbia College had yet to finalize their schedule for the coming school year, and, not surprisingly, their needs come first. Now, however, we have date and efforts to set up the conference can begin in earnest. This year's ***The Write Direction Conference*** will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010.

So, bring a friend or fellow writer to the next meeting. Mention our chapter to someone at work. I feel there are a number of writers still stumbling out in the wilderness because they do not know we exist. We can change that with a bit of effort.

Meanwhile, happy writing and much publishing success!

See you Sunday, April 11th!



Larry Allen,
CCMWG President

Upcoming CCMWG Meetings

Mark your calendars and reserve these dates for the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild monthly meetings. The Guild normally meets the first Sunday of each month with some exceptions due to holidays.

**Meetings are from 2 – 4 p.m.
at the Orr Street Studios.**

The CCMWG Board meets prior to CCMWG meetings; members are welcome to sit in on Board meetings. CCMWG meetings begin with a brief business meeting followed by a speaker or critique group. We alternate speakers with small group critiques for prose (short stories), poetry, non-fiction and novel to encourage writers to build on their strengths with respectful help from other writers.

Recent speakers have brought us programs on poetry, creating characters with archetypes, copyright law, self-publishing, submitting to magazines, and writing news releases.

April Meeting

(The meeting date has been moved from the first Sunday in the month to the second Sunday due to the Easter holiday.)

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Critique meeting: Bring copies of your prose or poetry to share.

May Meeting

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Speaker: To be announced

For more CCMWG news, visit our web site:

<http://columbiawrites.coin.org/>



Cape Girardeau Storytelling Festival: Where the River Turns a Thousand Tales

Date: Friday – Sunday, April 9, 10 and 11, 2010

Location: Historic Downtown Cape Girardeau, MO (2 hours south of St. Louis)

The Festival began in 2008. This year's featured story tellers are: Donald Davis, Syd Lieberman, Minton Sparks, Kevin Kling, Priscilla Howe and Marilyn Kinsella. For more information or to reserve your festival pass...

CALL: 800-777-0068

EMAIL: info@visitcape.com

CLICK: CapeStorytelling.com

Member Bios—a CCMWG Benefit

As a member of the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' guild you will be listed on the Member Page of the CCMWG website. When someone clicks on your name, they will be able to read your bio and access your web presence by clicking on a link on the screen.

- Although you are a talented writer and with many accomplishments, you may only update your bio once per year. Please submit your 300 word or less bio in a Word document and use no more than 3 paragraphs. Please do not include any web links or special formatting in your bio. You may use italics.
- If you have a web presence, include this information following your author's bio. You may include your website address, blog address, or link to a speaker's page on your personal website. You may include your email address if you wish to have it published.
- You may include a picture on your author page. Pictures should be sent as a JPEG with a minimum of 300 pixels per inch.
- Send bios to:
ccmwqwebmaster@yahoo.com

Noteworthy Stuff

Jim Coffman recently taught a class at the Columbia Library on "Get Started Writing Your Memoirs." The attendance and receptivity to the class were exceptional. One unique aspect of the class was Jim's story of writing a first draft of his memoirs 8 years ago and not yet finishing the project; however, the memoirs have spawned, 75 or more published essays and poems.

In December, **David Collins**, had an interview with Diane Johnson published in *The Writers' Chronicle*, the journal of the Associated Writing Programs. Diane is an American novelist with 14 books to her credit. The most recent was *Lulu in Marakech* although the most famous by far--it got made into a Merchant-Ivory film--is *Le Divorce*.

On April 7th the *Fulton Sun* will publish the last of a thirteen-part series of features on life in Rwanda that **David Collins** has been writing for a year and more now. Though he gets credit for the writing, he is actually a ghost writer on this project. He takes the stories from e-mails sent home by Nancy McCue, a Fulton woman who lived for two years in Rwanda doing missionary work for the Episcopal Church.

On **April 13th**, **David Collins** will give a reading at the Orr Street Studios, part of their "**Hearing Voices**" series. The address is 106 Orr Street; the time is 7:00 p.m. He will read from the Rwanda series and Nancy McCue, the woman who lived these experiences, plans to be there. *Mark your calendars now!*

Linda Fisher won 2nd place and \$100 in the Ozark Writers League's annual Gene Andereck Writing Contest with a short story "New Identity."

Linda Fisher attended the the Alzheimer's Association Action Summit in Washington, DC, in March. At the Summit, she gave copies of her book: *Early Onset Blog: The Friendship Connection and Other Essays* to Missouri legislators. The book, published by Mozark Press was released for sale in early March.

Debbie Parker recorded a session on the Paul Pepper radio show which aired on April 2 promoting the CCMWG.

CCMWG Showcase Benefit

In addition to a bio on the CCMWG website, members will receive an email telling them when their work will be showcased.

Rules for Showcase:

- Submit only upon request—no unsolicited manuscripts will be accepted.
- You may submit a maximum of five poems or a prose (fiction or nonfiction) of 3,000 words or less.
- If you are submitting more than one piece, put all writings in the same Word document. Please save your document in Word97-2003 document (*.doc) if possible.
- Pieces will not be edited, so submit them formatted exactly as you want them to appear.
Graphics are acceptable if included in the document.
Work must be original and may be either published or unpublished. (If your work is unpublished, please be aware that by including it in this showcase it is considered published. For example, you would not want to submit a piece you submitted for an upcoming *Well Versed*, but you may submit a piece published in a previous issue of *Well Versed*.) By submitting, the writer is authorizing the work for publication and certifying that he or she owns the copyright for the piece.
- Members are responsible for reviewing the website posting for accuracy.

Missouri Writers' Guild Conference News

The Missouri Writers Guild Conference will be held April 16-18 at Drury Plaza Hotel in Chesterfield. All details are available http://www.missouriwritersguild.org/mwg_conferencenews.shtml. Conference Coordinator Claire Applewhite has done her best to make sure it's an amazing time this year!

Update on Well Versed 2010 from Judy Stock

This year's anthology project is at the beginning of the end, or vice versa, if you wish. We intend to have copies of *Well Versed 2010* available at the May meeting of Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild. Those who attended had such fun at the book signing last September, that we are making plans to have another one--maybe in May or June.

We know it is time consuming to proof and sign copy, but please know we have worked hard to get your copy the way you wanted it. Thank you to all who entered the contest.

Not all entries are in the anthology, but everyone who entered had something in it. I think that is great news!

New Members

Please welcome new member,
Kim Turner!

Here is her brief bio:

Kim is a single mother of two wonderful boys, ages 7 and 9 years. She lives in Eldon, Missouri, and has loved reading and writing since she can remember. Kim writes a lot of poetry, songs, and short stories.

Kim says, "I have written a short non-fiction story about myself and my life journey. I would love to become a published author some day and am pursuing that goal. I am very excited to meet others who share the same love of writing."

Condolences

Susan Decker, a former member of CCMWG, died March 12. An obituary ran on March 17, 2010, in the *Columbia Missourian*.

Susan took up writing as an outlet when she got cancer. She wrote several short stories and "a non-fictional novel" and although her work had not been published, she had shared the work with other CCMWG members.

She will be missed.

Inspirational Stuff

"A sheltered life can be a daring life as well. For all serious daring starts from within."

-Eudora Welty

"There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as if they had never happened before."

-Willa Cather

"Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."

-Rudyard Kipling

Wanted: Newsletter Items

Send information of interest to writers; awards, accomplishments, and publications for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor, Carol Buckels at cgb@centurytel.net with the subject line:

CCMWG Member News by June 19, 2010.

MOZARK PRESS

www.mozarkpress.com

**A Shaker of Margaritas: Hot Flash Mommas
Fiction, Fun, and Forties Writing Contest
Mozark Press – Call for Submissions
Deadline: May 30, 2010**



“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” – Helen Keller

Mozark Press seeks fiction stories for an upcoming anthology, *A Shaker of Margaritas: Hot Flash Mommas*. The book will be comprised of stories about women living the adventure of midlife. The protagonist must be a woman in her forties with a colorful character and intriguing storyline.

Your audience will be *Hot Flash Mommas* who never waste a second reading a boring story. Grab them at the beginning, give them an unusual situation—or a usual situation handled in an unusual way—and bring it all to a satisfying conclusion. Give your imagination free rein. Any style will be considered except pornographic.

What’s in it for you?

- A chance to win prizes: \$100 first place, \$50 second, and \$25 third.
- All stories selected for the anthology win a free copy of the book.
- Authors whose work appears in the book will have a one-time opportunity to pre-purchase copies at 60% of retail price + postage.

For submission guidelines visit www.mozarkpress.com

Email Contact:

publisher@mozarkpress.com

Whispering Prairie Press
2010 Poetry, Flash Fiction, and Essay Writing Awards

Deadline: June 30,2010

Polish your favorite poems, short fiction, and essays for the 2010 Whispering Prairie Press 2010 Poetry, Flash Fiction, and Essay Writing Awards!

Prizes in Each Category: 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$25,
plus one honorable mention for every 10 entries.

Eligibility: Open to all writers age 18 and up, except members of the Board of Directors of Whispering Prairie Press. All work must be the author's original work.

Poetry: Any style, any subject. Limit: 36 lines

Flash Fiction: A complete fictional short story with a beginning, middle and end. 1,000 words or less

Non-fiction Personal Essay: 1,000 words or less

Submissions: All entries must be unpublished at the time of submission.

1. No limit on number of entries.
2. Submit hard copy with **no name on manuscript.**
3. Put word count for fiction or line count for poetry in the top right corner.
4. Include a **cover sheet** with name, address, e-mail, telephone number with area code, category, and title of entry. If author is a full-time college student, add the name of the school
5. Prose must be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman or Courier. Poetry may be single spaced.
6. Enclose **SASE** for next year's guidelines. Entries not returned.

Entry fee: \$5 for each entry or 3 entries for \$10. (nonrefundable)
Full-time college students: 2 entries for \$5 May mix categories.

Address: Whispering Prairie Press Writing Awards
PO Box 8342
Prairie Village, KS 66208-0342

Postmark Deadline: June 30, 2010

Results: Winners will be announced by August 1, 2010, and winners' names posted at www.kansascityvoices.com. Judges' decisions are final.

Whispering Prairie Press is the publishing arm of the Kansas City Writers Group and publisher of Kansas City Voices magazine.

Mark Twain performer coming to Maryville

MARYVILLE, Mo.— Mark Twain will visit Maryville next month in the form of a living history presenter to commemorate the centennial of the celebrated writer's passing.

George Frein will visit Maryville as Mark Twain on Monday, April 19 for a presentation at the First United Methodist Church, 102 N. Main St. Seating is limited to 500 people, but the presentation is open to the public.

Frein will discuss Twain's life and career and take questions from the audience both in character, using Twain's own recorded comments and writings, and out of character, offering his own insights about Twain.

Frein taught in the Philosophy and Religion Department at the University of North Dakota from 1968 to 1997. He became a performing scholar with the Great Plains Chautauqua Society in 1986, portraying Father De Smet, Henry Adams, Herman Melville and Mark Twain. On retirement he moved to Greenville, S.C., where he helped establish the Greenville/Asheville Chautauqua. There he added John Winthrop, John Adams, Dr. Seuss, John James Audubon and Abraham Lincoln to his cast of characters.

Frein is coming to Maryville as part of the **ReadMOre** program, an annual statewide reading program inviting readers in the state to engage in a series of shared reading and discussion activities. Each year, ReadMOre selects a single compelling piece of literature and provides readers with opportunities to participate in events related to the book and its author.

The year 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Twain's death, the 175th anniversary of his birth, and the 125th anniversary of the publication of Tom Sawyer. In honor of the anniversary, ReadMOre selected an anthology of four of Mark Twain's short stories, "The Mysterious Stranger and Other Stories," to celebrate his life and commemorate the centennial of his death. The four stories included in the anthology are: "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," "The £1,000,000 Bank-Note," "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" and "The Mysterious Stranger."

The ReadMOre program is supported by **The Missouri Humanities Council**. B.D. Owens Library proudly sponsors and organizes this program in Maryville, in partnership with the Northwest English Department, Maryville Public Library, the Maryville Chapter of the Missouri Writers Association and the Nodaway County Historical Society Museum.

For more information about the Maryville program, contact Connie Ury, library outreach coordinator, at 660.562.1669 or cjury@nwmissouri.edu.

More information about ReadMOre is available at http://www.readmoremissouri.org/Twain2010/ReadMOre_Brochure.pdf or <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/library/PR/twain/index.HTML>.

The full schedule of programs by George Frein as Mark Twain for ReadMOre is available at <http://www.readmoremissouri.org/Twain2010/2010GeorgeFreinTour.pdf>.

