

January 28, 2006



TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN WRITERS

Spring Newsletter

Message from the President

By now the last ornament has been packed away, the last Christmas tree needle vacuumed out of the carpet, the remains of holiday feasts relegated to the freezer or the garbage disposal. 2006 has arrived, and along with it that annual decision: To make New Year's resolutions, or not? And if the decision is yes, how to make some-or even one!-that won't be doomed to failure by the end of February?

Last year one of my resolutions was to write every day. I can't honestly say I stuck with that one religiously! But one thing I did do-and I'm so glad I did!-was to nurture my writing by taking advantage of TMW's and others' writing workshops and conferences.

As I write this message, TMW is gearing up for January Jumpstart VI. For those of you who have never attended this event, plan to do it next year! It's a wonderful way to, well, jumpstart your writing for the new year: a day and a half of writing workshops, usually with two tracks (poetry and fiction) to choose from, led by first-rate instructors-not to mention the chance to catch up with, laugh with, and learn from your fellow writers. If you go once, you'll be hooked. Special thanks to Sue Richardson Orr for leading the effort to put together this great opportunity every year.

Resolve also to register for TMW's 18th annual conference, coming up in April-see full details in this newsletter. We're excited about the slate of presenters Frank Jamison and his Program Committee have put together, and hope you will be too. All the usual topics-fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and writing for young people-will be covered, along with some great specialty sessions, like incorporating humor into your writing and conducting historical research for your fiction or nonfiction. If you're like me, as you study the schedule you'll wish you could somehow be in two places at once.

However you decide to further your development as a writer this year-whether by disciplined daily work with pen or typewriter, by attending learning events, even by haphazard scribbles on the backs of envelopes-do it! In *For Writers Only*, Sophy Burnham includes this quote from Samuel Beckett: "Ever tried? Ever failed? No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better."

Here's to a year of writing successes. May 2006 be filled with joy and love for you and yours.

— Carol Grametbauer

Important Dates

Upcoming Writing Contest Deadlines

New Millennium Writing Awards
1-31-06
Knoxville Writer's Guild Contest
2-28-06
Tennessee Mountain Writers
3-1-06

Upcoming Conferences

Tennessee Mountain Writers
April 6-8, 2006

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TMW/TWA January Jumpstart VI

Organizer Sue Orr reports:



The sixth annual January Jumpstart was held at the Best Western in Sweetwater, Tennessee, January 13 - 15, 2006. The largest group ever attended with 24 in Poetry, led by Bill Brown, and 12 in Fiction, led by Steve Womack. There were nine newcomers, ten members of the TMW Board and two members of the TWA Board in attendance. Attendees spent two days interacting, fellowshiping, and networking with other writers in addition to

the three 3-hour sessions of intense workshop time with in class writing and overnight assignments.

Both Workshop Leaders received Excellent ratings on the evaluation sheets and there were many positive comments: "TMW - greatest on Earth!" - Sylvia Woods. "Had a great time at Jumpstart. It was time well spent for me." - Greg Screws. "It was very well organized, and I enjoyed it immensely." - Connie Foster. "My Jumpstart experience was not a good experience--it was fantastic!! I not only got to meet and talk with Steven Womack, an author that I have followed for years, but I learned how to improve my own writing talents, received extremely constructive feedback about what I had written and got to know some of the most talented people I've ever had the opportunity to meet" - J. Alan Johnson.

New Millennium Writing Awards

January 31 2006 is the final deadline for entering the current **New Millennium Writing Awards** contest. That day's postmark will work.

Three winners will receive a total of \$3,000 in prizes, plus publication in the next issue of New Millennium Writings--due out next June--and online at www.mach2.com. Winners and runners-up will be announced in April and May.

\$1,000 for best Story; \$1,000 for best Poem; \$1,000 best Nonfiction (nonfiction includes humor, memoir, interview, profile, travel, essay, opinion, journalism, creative nonfiction, etc.).

To Enter, follow these Guidelines:

1. No restrictions as to style or content.
2. Winners & selected finalists published in the Year 2005 Issue, which you will receive for entering, and also on the NMW Website, at www.mach2.com
3. Send by midnight of Tuesday Jan. 31.
4. Simultaneous & multiple submissions welcome.
5. Each Fiction or Nonfiction piece is counted as a separate entry and should total no more than 6,000 words.
6. Each Poetry entry may include up to three poems

(for the price of one), not to exceed five pages total.

7. Include name, phone, address, email address, title & category on first page.

8. Manuscripts not returned. (Send SASE for list of winners, or provide email address, or simply await your book. Winners also posted at our website.

9. Include \$17 check payable to NMW with each submission.

10. Send to: "NMW," Room EM, PO Box 2463, Knoxville, TN 37901.

Member News

Connie Green and **Frank Jamison** both had success with poems recently. Connie published "Ode to An Onion" in *The Kerf*, Oct. 2005; "Trees as Muse" in *Tar Wolf Review*, Fall 2005; and "One Moment Remembered" in the anthology, *Crossroads: A Southern Culture Annual*, Oct. 2005.

Frank's poem "Emptiness" has been accepted by *Illuminations*, University of Charleston, Department of English Journal.

Congratulations to two of TMW's talented poets.

Tennessee Mountain Writers Conference

Workshop Leaders

Gaylord Brewer—Poetry
Judy DiGregorio—Incorporating Humor in Your Writing
Roberta Dorr—Historical Research for Fiction and Nonfiction
Connie Green, Dot Senn—Writing for Your Local Newspaper
Cara Ellen Modisett—Nonfiction
Margaret Pennycook—Writing for Specialty Publications
Michael Shoulders—Writing for Young People
Lynn York—Fiction

Banquet Speaker

Ina Hughs--Knoxville News Sentinel Columnist

For more information go to www.tmwi.org

Brochures, including registration forms will be mailed very soon. If you would like one, but do not receive one in the next few weeks, contact us at TMW Inc., P.O. Box 5435, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5435, phone 865-671-6046 or print a registration form from the website.

Tennessee Mountain Writers—Writing Contest

The contest is open to all who do not make their livelihood in the category of entry and is sponsored by TMW in conjunction with the April 6-8 2006 conference held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Categories:

Fiction 3,000 words maximum. Short stories or novel portion (any selected section, for adults and youths). Please indicate short story or novel on the manuscript.

Children's Literature: 1,500 words maximum (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, etc.) written FOR children.

NOTE: Novel portions written for adolescents/young people should be entered in the fiction category.

Inspirational: 2,000 words maximum (fiction or nonfiction).

Nonfiction: 2,000 words maximum (essay, article, humorous, how-to, etc.).

Poetry: 1 poem (any form, any style)

*Insufficient response may result in cancellation of any category.

ENTRY RULE

*Entries must not have been previously published nor have won an award in a previous TMW contest.

*Entries must be double spaced (poetry excepted).

*Good photocopies are acceptable.

*Author's name must **NOT** appear on the manuscript. Include a separate cover page for each entry with:

1 Author's name, address, telephone number and email address.

1 Category and title of specific work

*Include also **one** index card with author's name, address, telephone number and email address, and a list of **ALL** entries, title of work and category being submitted by that author.

*Limit of two (2) categories per category per person.

*Any one piece may be entered in only one contest category.

ENTRY FEES

*\$10 per entry, for part-time participant or non-registered entrant

*No fee for fully registered TMW participants for first entry in each category: \$5 per entry for additional entries.

DEADLINE

*Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2006.

*Mail entries with conference registration or under separate cover, to TMW Inc., P.O. Box 5435, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5435.

**Entries not following rules will be disqualified: fees will not be refunded.

AWARDS

First Place—\$100 & plaque

Second Place— \$50 & plaque

Third Place—\$25 & plaque

Honorable Mention Certificate

Sue Ellen Hudson Excellence in Writing Award—

\$100 & Trophy.

Editor's Note

"Are you writing?" asked a young friend.

I sat in the large window of my Dutch hotel overlooking the gracious, tree-lined grounds, listening to the cawing of the rookery.

"No, I'm doing a sudoku."

He was disappointed. He hoped he had caught "The Great Writer" at work. He thought the lovely setting should inspire me.

But inspiration doesn't always come from the expected sources, such as new or exotic settings.

True, I have written travel articles on Arizona and Hawaii, and poems set on rainy nights in Florence, but my most recent trip to Holland and Britain produced nothing, though I had a wonderful time. On the other hand, the scent of my son's deodorant, as I passed his room, three days after he had left the house, brought a rush of motherly emotion that quickly resolved into a poem.

Deadlines can also force inspiration to spring up from what seemed an empty well. As panic rises, I become more daring, more risk-taking and more creative, just sitting at the computer, or while I am ironing, trying to calm the jitters that say this time I won't come up with the right words in time.

The contest deadlines of Tennessee Mountain Writers Conferences have provided a nudge, many a time, to polish pieces. The workshops of have often provoked an unexpected poem or paragraph, because the instructors have opened doors to unexpected ideas. Sometimes, they apply a little hothouse pressure too, granting just a few minutes to complete a task. Fellow participants often spur enthusiasm.

Wandering like Wordsworth through the daffodils may well provide inspiration for an article, poem or novel. My next trip to Australia and New Zealand could result in dynamic and dramatic prose, not necessarily of kangaroos or koalas, but of-, well, I don't know yet. Whatever happens, TMWC in April will be there to help me work out in the equivalent of a writers' gym, helping to keep my brain in trim.

Just like my sudoku..



—Margaret Pennycook

Knoxville Writer's Guild

The **Knoxville Writers' Guild** will sponsor competitions in poetry, fiction, and essays, with prizes totaling \$2,000. The deadline is **February 28, 2006**. For more details go to the KWG website www.knoxvillewritersguild.org

Coming in 2007 to TMW Conference

Nationally acclaimed poet **Nikki Giovanni** will be the banquet speaker and widely published poet and author **Leatha Kendrick** will present a workshop. Plan to be there too.

Writer's Block Buster

Stuck? See if this jogs your mind. What if...

...you play the same lottery ticket numbers each week and finally, your number wins but you cannot find your ticket?

...a brother you never knew you had knocks on your front door and introduces himself.

...you drained a lake? What would you find?

...the coke machine gave you your change but it kept spitting out quarters?

...someone offered you a million dollars for 24 hours of your time?

...you moved to a country where you didn't know the language?