

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2005

VACHEL LINDSAY ASSOCIATION & NTM

The **Vachel Lindsay Association** is happy to cosponsor this year's edition of *Navigating the Maze*. Nicholas Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931) was known as the Prairie Troubadour. Early in his career he made extensive walking tours of the country, familiarizing himself with the land and its people, and trading his poems and drawings along the way. In time, even though he became known for published work, his frequent public tours fixed his reputation as a wandering poet.

The **Vachel Lindsay Association** was founded in Springfield in December 1946, and incorporated in the State of Illinois in May 1947. Its mission was to "stimulate interest in the significance of the life, writings, and ideals of the poet." Many of the organizers were people who knew Lindsay and committed to preserving his legacy; the original Association advisory board in-

cluded: Paul Angle, Langston Hughes, John Masfield, Carl Sandburg, and Louis Untermeyer.

In 1995, Carroll C. Hall, a former teacher, left a bequest to the Association to assist with the promotion of the annual celebration of Vachel Lindsay's birth. One of the immediate concerns of the Association was to preserve the Lindsay home at 603 S. 5th Street.

It was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1972. The home was deeded to the State of Illinois in 1990. Today it is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. In the late 1990s, the Agency was responsible for a major restoration in which the home was returned to its appearance in 1917, a time when Lindsay would have been at the peak of his literary career. The home was again reopened to the public on the poet's

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SUMMER VACATION

Do you remember riding in the station wagon, facing backwards, watching the popup tent trailer bounce down a two lane road? Remember the excitement? Remember carsick, SEE ROCK CITY, Jellystone Campground, not caring what the movie is as long as the theater is air conditioned?

Poets and Writers Literary Forum of Springfield, in cooperation with the Prairie Art Alliance (PAA), hopes you do and that you will share your memories.

From May 4-July 2 the PAA will present an exhibition inspired by the great

American summer vacation. Displayed works will include landscapes, souvenir still lifes, and portraits.



PWLF has taken this opportunity to showcase the talent of local wordsmiths to illustrate this theme verbally.

Won't you join us and present five to seven minutes

of verse celebrating the Great American Vacation in the Gallery at the Hoogland Center for the Arts on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 (until they throw us out).

The Hoogland Center for the Arts is located at 420 South Sixth Street. Parking in the garage next door is free after 5:00. For additional information call Tim Sheehan at 753-3178.

"It is tremendously important that great poetry be written, it makes no jot of difference who writes it." - Ezra Pound

VACHEL & NTM

(Continued from page 1)
birthday in 2001.

The **Vachel Lindsay Association** is governed by a board of twenty members. It organizes an annual dinner at the time of the poet's birthday celebration. The Association publishes a quarterly newsletter and maintains a website at www.vachellindsay.org.

Membership is open to all.

This year for Navigating the Maze (NTM) we have 69 poems and 7 pieces of artwork. There are 44 contributors representing:

- ~ Taylorville High School,
- ~ Springfield Ball Charter Middle School,
- ~ Edinburg High School,
- ~ Sangamon Valley High School,
- ~ Glenwood High School,
- ~ Glenwood Middle School,
- ~ Lanphier High School,
- ~ Ursuline Academy,
- ~ Southeast High School, and
- ~ St. Joseph's Middle School.

The reading will be Thursday, April 28 at 7 pm in the Social Room on the 2nd floor of the Hoogland Center for the Arts.



Brett and Dog by Brett Manning

Cover artist for the past two years, Brett Manning, is a senior and has been accepted into the Art Institute of Chicago. She excels at her craft more each year! Congratulations, Brett!

"The same relation exists between all portions of every work of art, whether it be an epic or a song, and the more perfect it is, and the more various and numerous the elements that have flowed into its perfection, the more powerful will be the emotion, the power, the god it calls among us." - W. B. Yeats

FREE POETRY WORKSHOP

Saturday April 2nd

Decatur Public Library
Madden Auditorium

10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. (noon lunchtime free)

Presented by Dan Guillory

Professor Emeritus of English, Millikin U.

In recognition of National Poetry Month, the Library will present a hands-on workshop covering all aspects of writing and publishing poetry.

The four-hour session will begin with a group reading of poetry and end with readings of individual poems written during the day. Participants will gain first-hand experience using techniques such as list-making, free association, and instant editing. Dr. Guillory will provide tips on reading (there will be a display of poetry books prepared by the librarians), using notebooks, finding your own voice, evoking feelings, and using imagery in your writing.

There are no special preparations required, and participants who have never tried to write poetry before are especially welcome. Please note that pre-registration is required: call 424-2900, extension 7.

RENEW ME

Damn synaptic angle
is warped, occluded, flakes of rust,
my mind agettin' slow.
How coulda I forgotten
to glance up amidst the haste,
notice you through the crowd?
Sweetheart ...
you


my best friend
in all the land, long hand
extended out to me,
my contact to still waters,
your arms my safe harbor
for all that's left
of frayed and quivering
sanity ...

Nancy Ganguli

April 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Ballots for the PWLF Election must be received or postmarked by this date. |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Open Mic @ IMO's - —Poetry and Wine 7 p.m. | 7 | 8 Open Mike—Student Rec Center UIS 7 pm | 9 Election Committee Mtg 6:30 p.m. |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Fiction Faction 7 pm | 13 | 14 | 15 ILES Poetry program | 16 |
| 17 | 18 PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 6:30 p.m. | 19 | 20 Open Mic @ IMO's - Only Poetry—7 p.m. | 21 | 22 Open Mike—Student Rec Center UIS 7 pm | 23 |
| 24 PenChant Deadline | 25 | 26 Fiction Faction 7 pm | 27 | 28 Navigating the Maze reading 7:00 p.m. Location TBA | 29 Poetry Parnassus | 30 |

May 2005

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m. | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 Fiction Faction 7 pm | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 PWLF Board meet- ing @ IMO's 7 pm | 17 | 18 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m. | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Fiction Faction 7 pm | 25 | 26 | 27 Poetry Parnassus | 28 |
| 29 | 30  | 31 | | | | |

VINTAGE VISIONS COVER CONTEST- ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Bio: _____

Send your design for the front and back cover of a 6" by 9" book, with the words "Vintage Visions - Poets and Writers Literary Forum Anthology, 2005" on the front, to:

Liz Huck
 ATTN: Vintage Visions Cover Contest
 2 Verna Drive
 Springfield, IL 62702

Artwork must be in hard copy, sent by mail; the artist's name must not appear on the artwork. Enclose check or money order for \$5 entrance fee, made out to PWLF. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2005.

Get Involved!

In every organization there comes a time when the leadership needs to turn to the membership and ask for their opinion. The time has come for the Board of PWLF to ask the membership to GET INVOLVED and give us your thoughts on a couple of subjects. Please take the time to read over these questions and provide us with your answers. You can orally tell us what you think the next time you see one of us. You can call us and talk to us over the telephone. You can send your response in an email to any and or all of the PWLF Board members. Just PLEASE send us your thoughts on these matters. We are hoping to hear from everyone

during the month of April 2005. We will report the responses in the May issue of PenChant—and yes, we will keep your name out of it if you wish. We would appreciate the opportunity to quote or acknowledge any of you that are "okay with that."

Question One:

Are you interested in returning to Barnes & Noble for Thursday night readings once a month? If you replied "Yes", are you willing to set-up and emcee readings at B&N?

Question Two:

We are planning an Annual Meeting. Where would you like to see this Annual Meeting held? (someone's backyard, a park, a res-

taurant, or ...)

Question Two A:

Should the business portion of the Annual meeting be before, after or during the food part of the get together?

Question Two B:

The Annual meeting will be an opportunity for the membership to have a role in making some decisions for the organization. Will you attend?

Please send your replies via email, snail mail, face-to-face, or by calling a board member. You are important to this organization—please GET INVOLVED.



Poets & Writers Literary Forum

P. O. Box 5666
Springfield, IL 62705

Email: submissions@pwlf.com

If you are interested in contributing to the PenChant, please contact any PWLF Board member.

It is through the contributions and energy of all that we are successful.

PWLF

To increase awareness and appreciation of Literary Arts



Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield Calendar of Events

Apr. 2nd—BALLOTS DUE

Apr. 6th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Apr. 20th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Apr. 28th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. NTM Release Feature

Apr. 29th—Poetry Parnassus

May. 4th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

May. 18th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m.—Open Mic at Sunsup Koffee Kafe
hosted by Jill Manning



A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

Recently someone asked me why some words end in -er, like writer, and some end in -or, like sailor. I didn't know but I looked it up.

The "-er" suffix is one "added to nouns meaning a person having to do with." Thus, a writer is a person having to do with writing, and a farmer is a person having to do with farming, a worker is a person having to do with work, and a painter is a person having to do with painting, and so on.

The suffix "-or" is a "noun-forming suffix meaning a thing or person that." So a sailor is a person that sails, an actor is a person that acts, and a vendor is a person that vends. But why can't a person that farms be a "farmOR?" And why is the

thing that does computing called a computer instead of a "computOR?"

People who ask questions like those (that is, questions I can't find an answer to) are obnoxious.

The word "obnoxious" originally meant "exposed to harm." In the Spectator, Addison wrote "We are obnoxious to so many accidents." In other words, so many accidents expose us to harm. It also meant "subject to authority."

John Cleveland wrote "Kings are only the Tenants of Heaven, obnoxious to God alone." I'm glad to know that, in that poem, the word means that kings are subject to the authority of God alone, rather than implying that no one but God found them offensive! Later, the word obnoxious came to mean "harmful", and was used as a synonym for "noxious."

The author of a book about medicine in the early 1600's advised that "Cold aire in time of sweating is obnoxious and dangerous." He was right -- when I've worked up a sweat, a blast of cold air really is obnoxious, even if it isn't harmful.

