

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Invitation	2
Introduction to Longing	2
Trivia	2
Pull out Calendar	3-4
Pushing Prism	5
Kudos	5
A Word from Vicki	6
Calendar	6

PWLF MEMBERS INVITED TO 9/11 COMMEMORATION

Lincoln Library, Springfield's Public Library, will remain open for 24 hours on September 11, joining libraries across the country to commemorate the September 11, 2001 terrorist tragedy. The main library downtown (7th & Capitol) will open at 12:01 a.m. and remain open until midnight on the 11th.

Where does PWLF

fit into the library's plans? We have been invited to organize and host a poetry event. After the board okayed the idea, I volunteered to be the coordinator.

The time of the poetry program has not yet been set. September 11 falls on a Saturday this year, so most of us won't have to worry about going to work the next day in case we decide to do a

pajama poetry party (probably this is not going to be the case).

Full details will appear on our web site soon and will be in the September issue of Penchant. In the meantime, please call me (546-5136) if you have a good idea and/or if you would like to help me make this not only a worthy commemoration

(Continued on page 2)

A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

Words are our tools, and we as writers sometimes seem to be guilty of mistreating our tools. Maybe familiarity really does breed contempt -- at least when it comes to words. One way we mistreat them is by using words to mean things that they don't mean, like the misuse of 'akimbo' and the egregious abuse of 'disinterested' to mean 'uninterested'. Sometimes we're so familiar

with the way a word is used that we think we

'Deceptively simple'

know what it means when we don't. Sometimes we couple words so that when we use one, we reflexively use the other. It's almost as if the words no longer have a separate existence.

I often see the word 'simple', preceded by the word

'deceptively, as if nothing can simply be simple. The words are coupled even when it doesn't make sense. A magazine offered a recipe for a 'deceptively simple' salad that involved one kind of lettuce and some bottled dressing. That was simple -- there was nothing deceptive about it. It's deceptive if something

(Continued on page 6)

THROUGH THE LONGING DAZE

The following is an excerpt from the Introduction to Siobhan's new collection of poetry, Through the Longing Daze, as written by R. David Skinner.

Poetry is the Heartbeat of Truth and the beauty of the human soul manifest through language – a lesson brilliantly realized throughout this volume. Few voices could illuminate the daze of tangled emotions and experience as dazzlingly as the voice that infuses Through the Longing Daze. Siobhan so perceptively relates her own experiences through these poems that one cannot help but share in those experiences – or, in the case of the multitude of those readers whose journeys parallel Siobhan's, find the clear expression of their own experience.

Though her style is somewhat Romantic, Siobhan mitigates the confessional tone of

her poetry by tearing down the facades of that movement's conceits and showing the truth

Poetry is the Heartbeat of Truth and the beauty of the human soul manifest through language ...

of our pluralistic existence. Such lines as “Labeled unfor- giving / her strength, called weakness / she clings to both, reassurance / she is right in their wrong” from *A Picture's Worth* aptly demonstrate that doubt and confusion are healthy aspects of the person and a positive influence despite the commonly held mis- apprehension that doubt and suspicion are pathological as- pects of a damaged personality – that these are the flaws that lend the diamond soul its unique priceless- ness. In *A*

Time Limit to Love, Siobhan persuasively argues against the romantic notion of love as spiritual possession, offering the ultimately empowering alternative of love as a choice, or rather a series of choices terminal only with “the inten- tional making of [an end].”

...
Through the Longing Daze ... is the partial journal of Euridice on her trek through the underworld, only Euridice has empowered herself to walk hand in hand with Or- pheus – or walk alone when necessity bids – to find life beyond the end of daze.

To enjoy the complete text of Skinner's introduction to this collection of poetry, as well as the collection itself, pick up the book. Visit www.pitchblackbooks.com/longing.htm to reserve your copy today.

AN INVITATION

(Continued from page 1)

effort, but a showcase of the talent we see so much of at our PWLF open mics.

This 24-hour event is part of The September Project, which is making an effort to share ideas about democracy, citizenship and patriotism. For more about The September Project visit their web site at <http://www.theseptemberproject.org>

TRIVIAL

Can you answer this ques- tion:

Which person, in 1964, became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize?

If you can, perhaps you should form your own team and compete in the upcoming PWLF Trivia Night!

That's right; the Board of PWLF has begun talks on de- veloping a Trivia Night as a much-needed fundraiser for

the Forum. We will be inves- tigating locations and dates over the course of the next month. So far the event is ten- tatively scheduled for Satur- day, October 16th.

Watch your PenChant and the website for more informa- tion –and begin putting your table together now!

Read through the rest of PenChant to find the answer to the question.

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 IMO's Open Mic at 7p.m.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 PWLF Board Meeting @ Pitchford's 7 p.m.	17	18 IMO's Open Mic at 7p.m.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Barnes & Noble Open Mic at 7p.m.	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

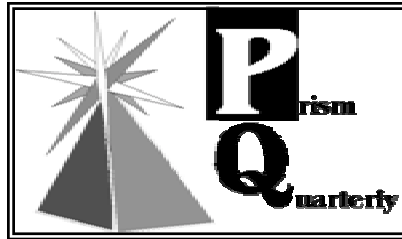
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 IMO's open mic at 7p.m.	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 9/11 Commemorative @ Lincoln Library
12	13	14	15 IMO's open mic at 7p.m.	16	17	18
19	20 PWLF Board Meeting @ Pitchford's at 7p.m.	21	22	23 Barnes & Noble open mic at 7p.m.	24	25
26	27	28	29 IMO's open mic at 7p.m.	30		Answer to the trivia question: Martin Luther King

PUSHING PRISM

How proud were we to have *Prism* 7.1 in hand? We thought we were as proud as we possibly could be – but we may have been mistaken. David registered with an online listing site and things began to snowball. Since June, PWLF has received hundreds of pages of submissions from over 30 different authors. And submissions continue to pour in.

Have you submitted? Members get highest priority. A good boost with this much competition! *Prism* 7.2 will have the least work by mem-

bers of any issue to date—not because we have so many submissions, but because so few came from members. (This is no bad thing – just a fact we thought you might be interested to know.)



Despite our small circulation and limited exposure, *Prism* is getting some high-

powered attention. Look for a wonderfully flattering article by Dr. Eugene Wiley on our website (also printed in *Prism* 7.2). (Dr. Wiley is not a member, if you're wondering – but we are trying to recruit him.)

We would like your help with *Prism*. We need you to spread the word. PWLF has basically no advertising budget, so we need the best kind at the best price – WORD of MOUTH – it's free and very powerful.

KUDOS

Congrats to publishing authors: Liz Huck, *Many Glories Together*; John Knoepfle, *prayer against famine & other irish poems*; Siobhan, *Through the Longing Daze*.

Liz debuted *Many Glories Together* at IMO's for her July 14 feature.



Mikel Weisser and his wife Lisa also released chapbooks recently, which Mikel brought around to IMO's. We'd tell you more about them, but those people aren't members. (^;

Daybreak Press (who partners with PWLF in publishing *Prism*) announced plans to publish Siobhan's new collection of poems, *Through the Longing Daze*, as well as forthcoming collections by Marcellus Leonard and Théa Chesley. All three promise to be excellent works.

If you have good news to share with PWLF members, please contact our editors at Siobhan@pwl.com. To pitch your book to Daybreak Press, contact David by email: Pitch@pitchblackbooks.com.

Submissions for the next issue of *Prism* are being accepted now through September 15, 2004. Send yours to submissions@pwl.com.



Poets & Writers Literary Forum

P. O. Box 5666
Springfield, IL 62705

Email: submissions@pwlf.com

PWLF

To increase awareness and appreciation of Literary Arts

If you are interested in contributing to—or taking over the task of editing—the Pen-Chant, please contact any of the PWLF Board members.

It is through the contributions and energy of all that we achieve success.



Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield

Calendar of Events

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

Aug. 16th—7:00 p.m. Board Meeting @ Pitchford's

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

Aug. 26th—7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Open Mic at B&N

Sept. 1st—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Sept. 11th—9/11 Commemoration @ Lincoln Library

Sept. 15th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Sept. 20th—7:00 p.m. Board Meeting @ Pitchford's

Sept. 23rd—7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Open Mic at B&N

Sept. 29th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

(Continued from page 1)

looks simple but isn't. I want to ask that writer what's 'deceptive' about it.

Sometimes these 'coupled' words are used that way because we don't know what they mean and therefore don't know how to use them separately. One example is 'condign punishment.' Have you ever heard or seen 'condign' used with any other word? Condign means 'richly deserved.' How about a condign reward? A condign rest – there's something I'm still waiting for. We gave condign recognition to the founder and past presidents of PWLF at the anniversary party in

April.

Maybe these phrases get picked up and spread around because they sound good and express something that we want to express. Then we get into the habit of using them and they become automatic. We writers need to have the habit of using descriptive and expressive language in creative and colorful ways, and we won't be able to do that if we don't pay attention to how we use words. I'm calling on writers to think about the words we use and how we use them.

Let's try not to abuse our tools.

Drifting Dreams

A crust of ice across the drifting snow.
Wind in the shutters, rattling panes
framed by icicles, born of the sun,
ornaments hung by celestial hands.
Bare branch shadows etch the moonlit scene,
casting down a giant jigsaw dream.

Into this reverie I step,
choose a puzzle piece to lift,
just below the portico
where spring delphiniums bloom to be
the color of the Arabian Sea.

Then carefully I fit it back in place,
willing the world to black and white,
knowing that the truest eye must sleep to see
the bluest blues, the deepest greens.

C. Frisch

Board Members of Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield

David PitchfordPresident
Email Address: prez@pwlf.com

Vicki BammanSecretary
Email Address: Vicki@pwlf.com

Tim Sheehan.....Treasurer
Email Address: Tim_Sheehan@pwlf.com

Corrine FrischDirector
Email Address: Corrine@pwlf.com

Bill JarricoDirector
Email Address: dad@pwlf.com

Siobhan Pitchford.....Director
Email Address: Siobhan@pwlf.com

Donna Ruyle.....Director
Email Address: tsikli@royell.net

Website: www.pwlf.com

Become a Member
—or—
Renew your membership today!

(Check One)

Single Membership \$ 27.93
Family Membership \$ 33.93
Student Membership \$ 19.93
Total for Membership \$ _____

+

Please accept my donation* of \$ _____

Total amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check—#_____

HAND-Delivered Cash

(We are **unable** to accept cash in the mail.)

(Check with your tax advisor regarding tax deductible donations as Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield, IL (PWLF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.)*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

Please contact me. I'd love to work on—(check as many as you want):

Publications

Membership

Fund Raising