

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

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AUGUST 2005

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READING POETRY FOR PEACE

Please join us Wednesday, August 3rd, for a Poetry Reading for Peace. The event will be held at Lincoln Library in the Carnegie Room and begins at 7:00 p.m. This event is cosponsored by PWLF and the same individuals who pulled together the reading of poetry against the war last Spring.

The event on the 3rd is meant to bring together artists for the 60th anniversary commemoration of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, the first use of nuclear weapons, and in celebration of the fact that Atomic bombs have not since been used in open warfare. The public is invited and this event is free of charge.

Ethan Lewis, Associate Professor of English at UIS, where he teaches Shakespeare and Modern Poetry, will be the master of ceremonies for the evening.

How has fallout from the use of nu-

clear bombs affected your life? Many of us grew up sticking our heads between our knees in schoolroom hallways, drilling for the day the missiles came. Others of us remember the Bikini bomb tests and all the Red Fear following. How do these things affect us?

Here are some facts about Monday, 3 August 1945:

~ Enola Gay, a B-29 bomber, dropped the A-Bomb, named Little Boy on Hiroshima at 8:15 AM local time (local to explosion)

~ Little Boy exploded 2000 feet above the city (a point now commemorated as the A-Bomb Dome)

~ Hiroshima was more greatly devastated by the bomb because of its geographic location (the shock-wave rebounded from mountains

back into the city's center)

~ Far too many people died very ugly deaths both immediately and lingeringly.



Come to the Library on August 3rd and let us hear your voice.

EVERYWHERE I LOOK, I SEE LATIN! *by Vicki Bamman*

It's supposed to be a dead language so maybe I'm being haunted....

Since I'm studying the Romance languages (the ones derived from Latin) and trying to learn some Latin, I've been sensitized to it. Many, many English words derive from Latin, directly or indirectly, via French, Italian, Spanish, or another language. Latin-based words are easily recognized in other languages: they tend to be the ones that look a lot like their English counterparts.

A Word A Day is a web-based language service that e-mails a word each day, with its meaning, derivation,

a little of its history, and examples of its use. AWAD also has quotations about language, and links to other language resources and to language-related news stories. It's a great resource and I thank the friend who sent it to me. They often present Latin words or phrases that are still a part of the language. In July, they wrote:

"Although Latin is a 'dead' language, it remains alive through its extensive vocabulary used in medicine, science, law, and also via the numerous words that the English and other languages have borrowed and built

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"For it seems to me that the poetical language of an age should be the current language heightened, to any degree heightened and unlike itself, but not (I mean normally: passing freaks and graces are another thing) an obsolete one."

— Gerard Manley Hopkins

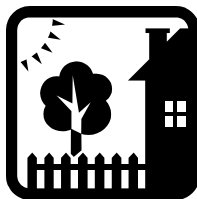
ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC - JULY 23, 2005

In the interests of sharing the events of the afternoon with all our members, the following are the minutes submitted by PWLF Secretary, Vicki Bamman. If you have questions regarding the goings-on, please feel free to contact any of the PWLF board members.

Meeting called to order at 5:45 pm.

Welcome by President David Pitchford:

Thank you to Mark Russillo for hosting the event, and to Théa Chesley for braving the heat to cook, and to Corrine Frisch and Tim Sheehan for bringing the provisions.



President's Message:

Dave told the membership that after being reelected to the board, he accepted the presidency with the understanding that he would not accept it again next year. We need to find new leadership and develop strong board members.

Overall, the organization is doing pretty good. Imo's readings are going strong.

Barnes and Noble readings are still a possibility. It is a good venue as it provides a lot of contact with the general public. Mixed messages are being received: Job Conger has spoken to them on our behalf and been sent away; but Dave has heard, via others that PWLF is not locked out, though other people are. Dave intends to pursue that.

Dave offered congratulations again to Ken Sibley, who has given the President's Award, and to Anita Steinstra for her work on *Navigating the Maze*.

First Wednesday in August:

Instead of going to Imo's, PWLF members are invited to Lincoln Library (the public library) for a reading to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima. PWLF is one of several organizations sponsoring this event. Ethan Lewis will be the emcee.

Vintage Visions - Liz Huck

The deadline for Vintage Visions has been extended to August 15. Liz urges all members to get their poems in. She has some great stuff but wants more.



Treasurer's Report - Tim Sheehan

Tim is working on getting some corporate sponsorships. He needs a committee to help him. In response to a question from the members, Tim said that one thing we need sponsors for is so we can become artistic tenants at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. That would give us an address and a presence in the community and would make it easier for us to get more grants. We also need money to pay for publications, such as NTM. This year a grant was promised by another organization but has not yet been received, but the expenditures have already been made. We need a cushion to cover such contingencies.

Siobhan pointed out that when PWLF members participated in the Iles School Poetry Day, she provided a copy of the poems generated by the kids to the teachers and one copy to the school. With more money, copies of their work or even a book could be provided to the students.

Corporate sponsorships could support poetry and writing workshops for the community. The Center for the Arts would give us a venue for doing them.

Dave said that a member asked why we spent so much money on publications like Prism and Penchant, printing them and mailing them, getting the Perfect Binding and so on. He said that PWLF does not publish Prism, but buys it, at below cost, from the publisher. Its purpose is to provide a forum for writers, especially members of PWLF, to get their works published. He has considered sending Penchant as a PDF file to members instead of mailing it, but there is something about hardcopy, seeing things in print, on paper, that is different, more real than in e-mail. It reminds us of our passion for the printed word.

The Board thanks everyone who was able to join us for the Annual Meeting and picnic. Watch your PenChant when next summer arrives for our next Annual Meeting and picnic.

August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Poetry for Poetry @ Lincoln Library in the Carnegie Room @ 7 p.m.	4	5	6
7	8	9 Fiction Faction —7 p.m. @ the Pitchford's	10	11	12	13
14	15 PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 7 pm	16	17 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22	23 Fiction Faction —7 p.m. @ the Pitchford's	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.			

September 2005

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 IMO's Open Mic @ 7p.m.	8	9	10
11	12	13 Fiction Faction —7 p.m. @ the Pitchford's	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 IMO's Poetry Night - Featured Reader TBA @ 7p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27 Fiction Faction —7 p.m. @ the Pitchford's	28	29	30	

WRITE ME SOME POETRY

We've been over these topics before. How do I start to write when I can't think of anything to put down on paper? Where are the ten-word challenges when I need them? What did YOU do with the last ten-word challenge? Does anyone ever visit WRT any more? When I write something where can I go to see if it could be better?

A great start putting pen to paper for a poem is to GRAB A DICTIONARY and use your birthday month, day, and year to gather words to start your poem. For example, my birthday is 7-14-63, and I am 42. I open my dictionary and find the 7th word on the 7th page: Accent. I flip to page 14, count down 14 and find Adam's apple (this could be interesting.) Now moving to page 63 – or 1963 if there are enough pages in your dictionary – which there aren't in the one I'm using right now – and in my case I count from the top of page 63 until I come to the 63rd word in a

row: arbor. Now because I haven't moved out of the A's I am going to add my birth date and my age to get one more word: $7+14+63+42=126$ and then pick a word at random... birthmark. Yes, it is a variation on the 10-word challenge and you have to play with it if you want to get into the other letters of the alphabet. Perhaps you count in from the beginning of every section (the A's, the B's, the C's...) and count out your birthday numbers that way. What ever works for you to get a randomized list of words without going around and asking other people for words.

As for WRT, I haven't been out there much myself lately. However, I do know where you can take your poetry for critique if you want it: Writers Bloc on Saturday mornings at Trout Lily Café in lovely downtown Springfield. (Look for a poem from me there soon using the above referenced words.)

POETRY EXPANDS IN IT

In a move long overdue, the Poetry Foundation has formed a partnership with the Library of Congress to support the American Life in Poetry project, an initiative of Ted Kooser, the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress.

The U.S. Poet Laureate is offering a brief, weekly column to newspapers, "American Life in Poetry," free of charge. Here in Springfield we are lucky enough to have the Illinois Times which has agreed to carry Ted Kooser's column if not every week at least on a regular basis. The column features a poem by a contemporary American poet and a brief introduction to the poem by Ted Kooser.

According to the website:
<http://www.americanlifeinpoetry.org>

the sole mission of this project is to promote poetry. There are no costs or obligations for reprinting the columns, although it does come with the requirement that the text of the column be reproduced without alteration.

The poems chosen are brief and hopefully are enjoyable and enlightening to readers. Look for it in IT this week where the featured poem is by Lisel Mueller.

You can check it out on line or pick up a copy of IT from any one of a number of places around town -

including this editor's favorite coffee house, Trout Lily Café.



The point of all of this? I want you to write me a poem. Send it to me so I can consider it for publication in PenChant. If you want to go the extra step, submit it for publication in Prism. We'd love to hear from you and read your words.

The Classifieds

Poetry and Prose Wanted: The editors of the literary quarterly, Prism, are seeking quality writing for the pages of Prism. Information on deadlines and submission guidelines available at www.pwlf.com and www.pitchblackbooks.com

Submit your work for consideration today!

Willing to Work: Two teenage boys available from July 13th through August 13th for yard work and odd jobs around your place. Hourly or flat fee - prices negotiable. Please contact Colin or Ian at 217-529-9244.

This space for 'rent': Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield is looking for Corporate Sponsors. If you know of a business that might be interested, please contact one of the PWLF board members to discuss this fantastic opportunity.

Writers Sought: Do you write? Do you have something you want to say to the writing community of Springfield or the world in general? PWLF is looking for (more than) a few good writers to contribute articles, book reviews, sketches and cartoons to the monthly newsletter, PenChant. If you believe you are the writer we're looking for, please contact the editor of the newsletter at submissions@pwlf.com for information on how you can get your work published monthly.

For Sale: Black lacquer headboard for Queen size bed and dresser with mirror. Great condition! Comes with a two drawer nightstand. If interested, contact Siobhan at siom1@hotmail.com - price negotiable. Let's make a deal!



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.

Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield Calendar of Events

Aug. 3rd—7:00 p.m. - Poetry for Peace at Lincoln Library

Aug. 9th—7:00 p.m. Fiction Faction @ the Pitchford's

Aug. 15th—PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 7 pm

Aug. 17th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Aug. 23rd—7:00 p.m. Fiction Faction @ the Pitchford's

Aug. 26th - Poetry Parnassus - *Contact Anita Steinstra*

Aug. 31st—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

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

Sept. 13th—7:00 p.m. Fiction Faction

Sept. 19th—PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 7 pm

Sept. 21st—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Sept. 27th—7:00 p.m. Fiction Faction

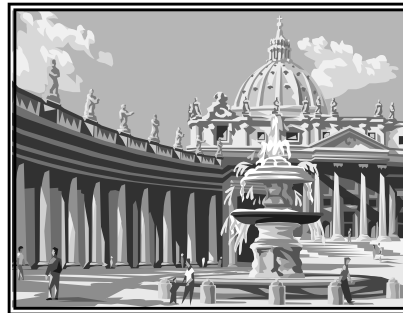
Sept. 30th - Poetry Parnassus - *Contact Anita Steinstra*



EVERYWHERE I LOOK I SEE LATIN!

(Continued from page 1)

upon. And it's still the official language of



the Vatican City state. We use Latin expressions for many purposes, sometimes to sound more literary and at times for idioms that pack a concept in just a few words that would otherwise take a few sentences."

Another place I've seen Latin recently is in a magazine, *Mental Floss*. Billing itself as "where knowledge junkies get their fix," the magazine's slogan is: feel smart again. Writer Kevin Fleming notes that Latin is as dead as Elvis, who, by the way, made \$54 million in 2004!

I decided to write about Latin words

because I wanted to recommend these two resources to my friends who are interested in words and knowledge and in feeling smart again.

But in keeping with the tradition of this column, I have a couple of favorite words to offer as well: *vademecum* and *quidnunc*.

Vademecum, or *vade mecum*, comes from the Latin for "go with me." It refers to: 1. anything a person carries about with him because of its usefulness. 2. A book for ready reference; manual; handbook. Your *vademecum* might be your PDA; your teenager's would be his iPod; anyone's might be their cell phone.... my husband's *vademecum* for all his medical appointments is ... ME!

A *quidnunc* is an inquisitive person or a gossip. The word comes from two Latin words, *quid* what and *nunc* now. It's easy to see how a person asking "what now?" came to be called a *quidnunc*!

You can subscribe to A Word a Day at wsmith@wordsmith.org. *Mental Floss* can be found on the newsstand at Barnes and Noble.

PWLF

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Something worth Writing About!