

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2005

FIRST NIGHT

Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield will actively participate in First Night Springfield this year. This annual New Year's Eve celebration of the Arts begins in the afternoon of December 31st. Free Children's activities take place from 1 to 4 p.m. and evening events begin at 7:00 p.m. The fireworks finale at Midnight will help Springfield ring in the New Year on the back of tradition and ceremony.

Advance tickets are:

- \$10 for Adults,
- \$5 for kids ages 5-18.
- A Family Pack is \$25.
- Group (20 people) is \$180.

At the Door tickets are

- \$15 for Adults.



"Scripted" poetry readings will be at First Presbyterian Church on Capitol and 7th Street, across from the Lincoln Library. Readings will take place from 9:00 to 9:45 and from 10:00 to 10:45 pm. David Pitchford will emcee

the event and introduce the poets: John Knoepfle, Marcellus Leonard, Anita Stienstra, Job Conger, Corrine Frisch, and Siobhan. David will also do his recitation of "Kubla Khan."

Although six poets have been invited to feature for PWLF, everyone is encouraged to attend and read during a brief 'open mic' portion of the evening.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NTM	2
Classifieds	2
Board Briefs	2
Calendar Page	3
Together We Read	5
A Word or Two	4
Events at a Glance	4

A WORD OR TWO

By: Vicki Bamman

There's a line, "I still miss him but my aim is getting better" that invites a double take as two different meanings of the word "miss" are recognized. *Miss* is one of those useful English words that has multiple meanings.

Here are some:

- to fail to hit or strike: He shot but *missed* the target. He hammers away but half the time he *misses* the nail.
- to fail to find, get, or meet: I went to meet my father but I *missed* him.
- to fail to catch: I *missed*

the train.

- to leave out: to *miss* a word in writing/reading
- to fail to hear, understand, or grasp: What did you say? I *missed* a word or two.
- to fail to keep, do, or be present at: I *missed* class last night.
- to let slip by: I *missed* your birthday.
- to escape or avoid: to barely *miss* being hit, to *miss* death by a hair
- to notice the absence or loss of; to feel keenly the

absence of: I did not *miss* my purse till I got home. He *missed* his mother when she went away.

From those meanings, I can't quite figure out which one fits the childhood use of "missing" on a math or spelling test. I missed two words on my spelling test. I missed all the fraction problems. Maybe it's that I failed to hit the right answer. Or I failed to find it? Or to catch it? On all the arithmetic problems, it would be fair to say that I

(Continued on page 4)

SUPPORT NTM

In its eighth year, *Navigating the Maze* is a chapbook of poetry from high school students living in Springfield, Illinois and the surrounding area. It is produced by Poets and Writers Literary Forum and edited by member Anita Stienstra.

Each *Navigating the Maze* contributor receives copies of the book and is invited to read their poetry during a Poets and Writers Literary Forum featured reader night.

Guidelines

- **Open to students grades six through twelve**
- **Submit one to three poems or artwork**
- **Include name, address, age, school, year in school, and contact information (e-mail or phone number)**

Mail to:

NTM, P.O. Box 202
Chatham, IL 62629

e-mail to:

navigatingthemaze@yahoo.com

Submission deadline is Friday, March 3, 2005

This year's PWLF featured reader night for NTM will be held:

Thursday, April 27, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Location TBA
Springfield, Illinois

Navigating the Maze is an annual endeavor. If you would like to give a brochure about *Navigating the Maze* to a teacher or parent, request this in an e-mail to prez@pwlf.com and we will send you a PDF file with instructions on how to open if you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader.

BOARD BRIEFS

The following is an excerpt from the November PWLF Board meeting. minutes

Several issues were discussed, including NTM (see article in the Nov. & Dec. issues of PenChant), Vintage Visions, First Night (cover article in this issue), and future leadership of PWLF.

Vintage Visions is nearing completion. Board Member Corrine Frisch offered to provide assistance to Liz Huck, Board Member and editor of VV.

There is enough material for approximately 36-40 pages of poetry and prose however it is hoped we can include bios of the writers as well. (If you contributed to VV, please provide Liz and Corrine with a brief bio.)

Future leadership was discussed at length. Ballots for the next election will go out in March, with elections in April, and the changing of the guard in May. Board members were encouraged to talk to members they believe are willing to serve in a leadership capacity for the Forum. (This is YOUR chance to be involved – consider it.)

EDITOR'S NOTE

My apologies to the readers of PenChant. This past month (November) has been full of changing schedules, increased work and a frazzled mind (or two). I had in my possession an article from samB but misplaced it and am hoping he can re-send it for future use.

Time slipped away as quietly as winter slipped in, leaving me wondering where in the world Thanksgiving ended up—not to mention Halloween—and perplexed about what to do about a fast approaching Christmas. It is my hope that with New Year, more PWLF members will become involved in the continued success of the organization—including submitting articles for PenChant to fill the pages.

I wish you all a happy, healthy holiday season and New Year.

CLASSIFIEDS

Poetry and Prose Wanted: The editors of the literary journal, Prism Quarterly, are seeking quality writing for the pages of Prism. Information on deadlines and submission guidelines available at:

~ www.pwlf.com

~ www.pitchblackbooks.com

~ www.daybreakpoetry.com

Submit work for consideration today!

Willing to Work: One teenage boy available after school for yard work and odd jobs around your place. Hourly or flat fee—prices negotiable—contact 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, 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: submissions@pwlf.com for information on how you can get your work published monthly.

JANUARY 2006

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



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 of the PWLF Board members.

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

Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield

Calendar of Events

Dec. 1st - Marcellus Leonard performs

@ the Schlafly Bottle Works in St. Louis, 8 pm

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

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

December PWLF Board Meeting TBA

Dec. 31st— 9 to 11 p.m. PWLF will be participating in First Night

Where: First Presbyterian Church - 7th and Cook

Who: Our line-up of feature poets :

John Knoepfle

Marcellus Leonard

Anita Stienstra

Job Conger

Corrine Frisch

Siobhan Pitchford

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

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

Last Sunday of each month—

Poetry Parnassus @ Joe's to Go—South 6th Street 1 to 3 p.m.



A Word or Two

(Continued from page 1)

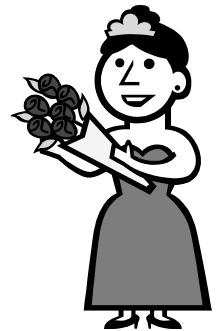
failed to understand or grasp them, but is that the right meaning to attach to saying that I missed them? Maybe the best thing is to say that I avoided learning about such things.

As a noun, *miss* means:

- a failure to hit or reach: In softball, I always had more *misses* than hits.
- a term for a young unmarried woman: *miss* vs. *MRS*.
- the title or form of address for a girl or unmarried woman: Excuse me, *miss*, do you work here?
- part of the title given to a young woman chosen to represent some thing or place, e.g. Miss Illinois, Miss International Harvester etc.

I chose to *miss* being "*Miss Sportsman's Club*" back in high school—My sisters and I were each asked to take that title because my brother worked there and this all-male club had no suitable female candidates. It wasn't an exclusionary club on purpose, but there weren't many women interested in going out early on cold damp mornings to shoot at clay pigeons, which is what the men mostly did. I didn't miss having to get up early to attend all their events, which *Miss Sportsman's Club* would have had to do.

I've noticed a lot of people use "not" when talking about missing someone. "I miss not seeing him," they say. I wonder why?



PWLF

To increase awareness and appreciation of Literary Arts

