

Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

The spring of 2004 will see the fifth general election for the Board of Directors for Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield.

Per our by-laws, a Board of no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) members must be maintained by a general vote of the entire membership. Board seats are electorate positions with terms of two years, being replenished each year by a general election.

To help ensure continuity of service and administration, a split is maintained in



Are you ready to serve on the Board of Director for PWLF?

the board membership. Each year approximately half the board seats are open for election.

This year we have four (4) seats to fill at election time. We seek nominees to fill these positions with dedication, team work and energy. All members willing to dedicate their time and effort in fulfilling the vision and administration of the forum are encouraged to nominate themselves for these openings.

The present Board of Directors consists of six individuals, three of who have an additional

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Nominating Committee Selected

The Nominating Committee for the 2004 elections has been created. The PWLF by-laws indicate that the committee shall consist of one non-officer Board member and three members-at-large.

Freshman board member Nancy Ganguli has agreed to serve on the committee. She has recruited Melinda Paine, Paula Collins and Wms Collins to serve on the committee with her. The

responsibilities of this crew include recruiting individuals from the membership at large to run for a position on the Board. Additionally, at the close of the election,

Please don't run in the other direction ...

they will gather and count the ballots to determine the newest members of our Board of Directors.

Why are we telling

you this? So that you will be prepared if one of them calls or walks up to you and asks if you are interested in running for the board. Please don't run in the other direction when you see one of them approaching you. They are relatively harmless and mean well. We hope that you will consider the question before agreeing—or not—to run for the board positions open this spring.

Upcoming Events. . .

What: "The Bawdy Beggar's Bitterness Ball" Also known as: "The Paupers' Pity Party"

When: February, Friday the 13th, at 7:00 pm

Where: ALUUC (the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation), 745 Woodside Road, just off S. 2nd St., not too far from the Toronto Road exit of I-55.

Come one, come all, to an evening during which we will shake our fists at The Fates and moan about Bad Luck and Them Who Done Us Wrong. Admission will be half price for anyone showing, at the door, either

- a) a pink slip;
- b) a "Dear John/Dear Jane" letter;
- c) an eviction notice; or
- d) dressed as Al Gore bearing a ballot with a "hanging chad."

Featured entertainment (among other things) will be:

- a limerick contest (please keep to PG-13, if you would, please - nothing about Nantucket . . .)
- darts (you may feel the need to bring a picture of an ex-boss, -lover, -spouse, -landlord, whomever)
- open mike (feel free to sing the blues!)

If you have questions about this event, please contact PWLF member Will Burpee wburpee@motion.net.

*Mark your calendar for
Friday the 13th of February,
Saturday the 14th, and
Saturday, March 13th*

What: All Those Years Ago a play by Rob Bartel (Director/Producer/Writer – and former PWLF President) and Tony Turasky, (Executive Producer).

When: February 14th

Where: Center for the Arts

From a Press Release by former PWLF President, Rob Bartel:

My play "ALL THOSE YEARS AGO" is set for performance at The Center For The Arts on February 14th. Show times are at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Seating ranges from \$14.50 for Reserved to General admission of \$12.50. Dinner will be \$12.50 per person extra. Turaskys will do the dinners and a wet bar will also be at the center. My wife Janice and I will also have our Beatles collection on display.

The Britles, (Beatles Tribute group) will do a intermission concert for both shows. The tables will have a ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE THEME - Please Please Me, From Me To You, She Loves You, P S I Love You, etc... Part of the profits will go to the local food bank to

feed the needy and a box will be set up to drop off can goods.

The dinner is from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. Advance tickets for the play and tickets for the dinner can be purchased now at the center 523-ARTS.

Being Valentines Day, this dinner and play combination will be a great event for those who enjoy the music and story of George Harrison's trip to Benton, IL in the summer of 1963 to see his sister Louise. Hopefully, she will be at the both shows.

What: Poetry Reading

When: March 13th

Where: Museum of Funeral Customs

Poets interested in participating in this event should contact the Museum Curator by February 20th. The reading will focus on such themes as death and dying, grief and mourning, eulogies and epitaphs.

Contact information:

- By phone to (217) 544-3480
- or by email to: museumcurator@ifda.org

Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, title of the poem and its author, the length of an oral reading of the poem, and the subject matter of the poem. You will be contacted to advise of acceptance as a reader for this event.

Technical Difficulties

Thank you for your support of the Literary Arts in central Illinois. We value you as a member of Poets & Writers Literary Forum. How wonderful it is to share a common passion.

As you know, Siobhan and David Pitchford have acted as publishers and editors for the Forum over the last four years or so. In this capacity, they used their own computer equipment to build a database for our Forum, edit and publish several projects including Prism Galliard and PenChant, and in the last two years have maintained our Forum's webpage. While we certainly would like to take this oppor-

tunity to thank them for their dedication and generosity, misfortune has it that we should instead importune your help in a more mercenary repayment of their services: in short, they need money to pay for the recovery of data from their crashed hard drive, and the PWLF board of directors unanimously agreed to ask our membership to assist in that expense.

The Forum has three-plus years worth of documents and files on the Pitchford's hard-drive. This includes what is likely scores, if not hundreds, of poems from PWLF members and contributors to Prism

Galliard, Navigating the Maze, PenChant, Poetry of the Sex Goddesses, and more. All electronic versions of PG also reside on the comatose disk.

Having checked into computer repair in Springfield, David was brought, rather unwillingly, to the conclusion that no one in the area has the capability of recovering data from mechanically malfunctioning hard drives. MicroPower was kind enough to refer him to a company in California, but this particular service threatened to charge upward of \$3,000. Not an attractive offer. Our villain, for he is such in his incapacity to backup his data, then pro-

Nominations Sought

(Continued from page 1)

year left on their Board positions:

- David Pitchford, who currently holds the presidency, was re-elected to the Board in 2003;
- Donna Ruyle, whose term runs through to 2005, is our current Secretary;
- Nancy Ganguli, Freshman Director, is new to the board this year;

Our gratitude to them for their efforts and willingness to continue service, as well as thanks to these three Directors whose terms expire (though are renewable by popular vote) this year:

- Kat Corrigan, Treasurer of the Forum;

- Jeff Pain, veteran Board member;
- And Siobhan Pitchford, who is ending her first two-year term as a Board member.

To nominate yourself, submit a nomination in writing, stating your qualifications and what benefit you bring to the forum leadership. The nominations will be, either in part or whole, printed in the March 2004 issue of PenChant. Include in your nomination letter, all information you believe necessary for the purpose of winning a position on the Board.

Deadline for submitting nominations is February 23, 2004. Send them via email to prez@pwlf.com or snail mail to PWLF Election Committee,

P.O. Box 5666, Springfield, IL 62705.

If you would like to nominate another member for a position on the board, you must first secure agreement from the nominee that he or she is willing and able to serve. Please include a statement in the nomination information you submit verifying that you have spoken with the nominee and they have agreed to serve, if elected.

This is an opportunity for members to make their voice heard in the future and destiny of our organization. As we enter our next ten years, we need leaders who can continue to guide our efforts *to increase support and appreciation of Literary Arts.*

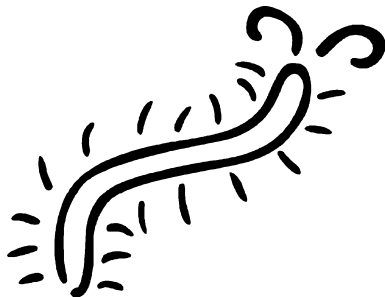
Poetry—from the maddening crowd

Challenge: if not a human being, I least want to be...

UGH, A SLUG

If denied my human form,
I least want to be a snail,
slug or intestinal worm,
all devoid of beauty I can discern,
lacking sense of fun, social interaction,
intellect, ponderment or wonder.
Leaving sticky slime trails
is a questionable quest, risking
being stepped on by bare feet
of little Jeff or Nancy,
being salted by kids up the street.
Unlike my good friend, Thea,
I see no phallic connection
to antennae of snails or slugs,
and the joy of fucking
hermaphrodite fellow slugs
completely eludes me.
Regarding intestinal worms,
their friendly neighborhood
sounds downright shitty.

Nancy Ganguli



Other Than I am

If I were to be other than I am, flesh and
blood woman, is there anything I would not
want to be? If it meant I would be nearer to
you then I would be any—or many—things...

...the mud you scrap off your shoes
when you walk in to her house after tramping
through your day.

...the dying vine you mist when the
thought strikes, forgotten and thirsty for your
love.

...the stray wandering outside your
window, listening to the warmth crackling in
the life within.

...the scribble of words you write on
paper, absentmindedly remembering my im-
age.

If I were to be other than I am, I would still
be who I am—a flesh and blood woman, in
love with a flesh and blood man.

Siobhan

Illinois has a new Poet Laureate

On December 11, 2003, Governor Rod Blagojevich named Kevin Stein as the new Poet Laureate of Illinois. He was one of 25 poets nominated to replace Gwendolyn Brooks. Ms. Brooks held the position from 1968 until her death in 2000.

Mr. Stein is the Caterpillar Professor of English at Bradley University and has published several scholarly and poetry books. Among his goals as poet laureate, Stein plans to establish a website

aimed at encouraging young people to become authors and host a monthly radio show with a focus on Illinois poets.

Additionally, he also would like to start a statewide contest for junior high and high school students. He is mandated to travel around the state and attend at least 4 events a year. His term is for four (4) years, however he can be reappointed. Previously, the Poet Laureate served until their death.

Poets & Writers Literary Forum has added Mr. Stein to the mailing list; both snail mail and electronic mail in an effort to help him better understand our mission “to increase support and appreciation of the Literary Arts”. We hope he will choose to attend one or more of our functions in the coming months and years.

Data Los

ceeded to search the web for other services. A Texas firm won the bid with an estimate of two to nine-hundred dollars.

We ask that members donate what they can to

Back up your data!
Your monetary contributions are tax deductible; the service of PWLF's volunteers is priceless to us all.

help the Pitchfords cover the expenses for this repair. Your monetary contributions are tax deductible; the service of PWLF's volunteers is priceless to us all.

(Also on that disk

are Siobhan's manuscript novel-in-progress, three years worth of her poems [many without backup], an unknown quantity of David's poems, his undergraduate schoolwork, and hundreds of picture files which include both personal pictures and shots from forum events.)

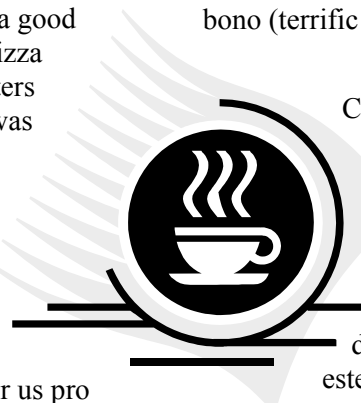
Brews Muse 2 Hits

A million thanks and our highest compliments to Job Conger for his dedication and strident efforts in publishing the second issue of Brews Muse. As some of the members of Writerz Blok learned Saturday morning, Job's signature coffee rings are not so simple as they seem.

Brews Muse debuted at IMO's

January 21st before a good crowd of innocent pizza carnivores and pensters alike. The reading was charged—thanks in part to Sam Davis' securing a donation of terrific beans from DC Coffee Products, which the fine, fond folks of IMO's brewed up for us pro

bono (terrific hosts they are!).



Copies of Brews Muse 2 are available, for the usual and customary fee of five bucks (\$5), from the forum directly, or interested readers can pur-

Poets & Writers Literary Forum

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PWLF
 To increase awareness and
 appreciation of Literary Arts



Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield

Calendar of Events

- February 4th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic—IMO's 751 S. Durkin
- February 5th—7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fiction Faction at the Pitchford's
- February 18th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic—IMO's 751 S. Durkin
- February 19th—7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fiction Faction at the Pitchford's
- February 26th—7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Open Mic—Barnes & Noble



Brews ☕ Muse Debuts

chase copies from board members at readings. Some copies are stocked at Trout Lily café (purchase a copy there and pull out the coupon for a great deal on food at TL).

Thanks also to the fine folks who sponsored Brews Muse 2: Sun's Up Koffee Kafe, Trout Lily Café, IMO's Pizza, and the individuals who purchased ad space.

Job worked up a terrific cover and layout in this publication, and the idea to have a pull-out coupon sheet in-

stead of a tear-out was top notch. Terrific work Mr. Conger!

Several folks have commented lately on how good it is to see Job on the scene again and working with the forum. It's a fine thing to work with someone so dedicated to the Literary Arts and publishing. Especially good is to see him more relaxed and genuinely congenial as he has been since popping back on the PWLF scene of late—he's

been a pleasure to work with.

Along with Job's work on Forum projects, he's been busy on his own, and gave one of the

best performances we've seen last winter at his IMO's feature. His Lindsay night at Barnes & Noble was lively and top notch as well—interested parties should contact him for his latest works *Strange Gold* and *Bear's Kin*.

