

A CHANGE OF VENUE

For the past approximately two years, Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield IL (PWLF) has been holding open mic events on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at Galina's downtown. Initially this venue worked reasonably well; however, it has become apparent that we need to branch out and find alternative venues. Attendance has fallen off and the 5th Wednesday events were put on hiatus as a result of this underwhelming support for the open-mics.

In an effort to bring some life back to the verbal arts events, the Board has selected a venue with better parking and a fine selection of reasonably priced edibles – **Bernie & Betty's Pizza** located at **1101 S. Spring Street**. At this time the venue is tentatively set for the 5th Wednesday of each month in which there is a 5th Wednesday (January, April, July, and

October – we will not be holding one on the 5th Wednesday of December 2008 as that is New Year's Eve!).

The Board continues to entertain and welcomes all suggestions for venues alternative to downtown as parking can be a challenge, which results in lower attendance (at least that is our story and we're sticking to it for the time being!). Notice will be put on the website as such venues are identified and the open mic emails will indicate where each will take place.

We hope to have at least ten (10) people in attendance this **Wednesday – January 30th at 7:00 p.m.** – to test the viability of Bernie's & Betty's. Come and treat yourself to a little dinner and enjoy the reading – either through your own participation as a reader or as a listener (we need both).

If a night other than Wednesday would work better, please tell us!

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NOMINATION TIME

Would you like to participate in making the Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield Illinois (PWLF) a better organization? Would you like to help revive the enthusiasm for the art of reading poetry aloud? How about joining the effort to connect the various writing groups in and around the Springfield area, does that interest you?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions then please consider nominating yourself for a place on the Board of Directors for PWLF. We have reached around the calendar once again and find ourselves on the brink of elections. Nominations will be accepted up to and including a postmark of February 29, 2008. You may nominate yourself or another *willing* individual.*

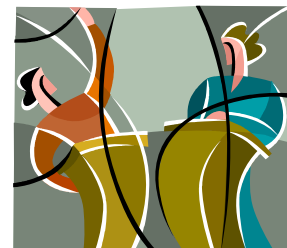
Nominations must include:

- Name
- Address
- Email (if applicable)

A brief paragraph on what you would like to see PWLF achieve in the next two years and how you believe you can contribute to those goals.

Nominations may be mailed to: PWLF, c/o David Pitchford, 3360 Carman Ave, Springfield, IL 62703 and they may also be hand-delivered to PWLF President David Pitchford.

** Seats on the Board are open to all members of the organization. If you need to renew your membership and would like to nominate yourself for a place on the Board at the same time, please use the form on page 3. If you wish to nominate someone else for a place on the Board, you must ensure the individual is willing and able to participate.*



NAVIGATING THE MAZE NOW TAKING SUBMISSIONS FOR 2008

In the **tenth anniversary** edition, *Navigating the Maze* will feature the poetry and artwork of high school and middle school students living in Central Illinois alongside new work submitted by past contributors.

Each accepted submission to this special publication of *Navigating the Maze* will receive two copies of the book and is invited, along with their family and friends, to a special program 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24 at the Illinois State Museum where they may read their poems.

Published and edited by member Anita Stienstra, the book is a production of Poets and Writers Literary Forum and sponsored this year by the Springfield Highland Games and Celtic Festival (<http://www.central-illinois-celts.org/Highland%20Games.htm>) and the Vachel Lindsay Association.

Submission Guidelines

- Open to students grades six through twelve.
- Open to any past contributor from 1999-2007, who has graduated high school. For consideration in the 10th anniversary edition include your new work, a short bio,

and the title(s) and year that your work appeared in *The Maze*. In addition to following the guidelines below, include in your e-mail subject box or on your mailed material—**PC**— for “past contributor”.

- Submit one to three poems and/or one to three pieces of artwork.
- Include name, age, school, grade, & contact info (e-mail or phone number plus mailing address). ***With a teacher's permission, students may use the teacher's contact information at the school instead of their home address & phone number.**
- Mail to: NTM, P.O. Box 202, Chatham, IL 62629
or E-mail your submission to:
navigatingthemaze@yahoo.com
(with **NTM submission** in the subject box).
- Teachers may submit their students' work in a single envelope.

ANNUAL MARDI GRAS SCHEDULED FOR SPRINGFIELD

Winter has truly arrived this year. To escape from the doldrums, Springfield Mardi Gras NFP invites one and all to a 3-day celebration of the Carnivale Season – Sunday, February 3, Monday, February 4 and Fat Tuesday, February 5. “I invite everyone in Springfield to come and celebrate Mardi Gras Springfield style. It will be a fun event for our City and something for everyone to enjoy,” said Mayor Tim Davlin, last year’s Mardi Gras King.

Festivities will kick off with a **New Orleans Jazz Brunch**, 11am – 2pm, Sunday, February 3, at Charles and Limey’s, 620 South 1st (the former Baur’s Restaurant). Chef Michael Taylor, will prepare the New Orleans Brunch menu. The Beignets will provide music. Parking is in the lot just south of the building. Tickets are \$30, and must be purchased in advance at Trout Lily Café, The Cardologist, Charles and Limey’s, and Gateway to India.

Monday night, February 4, join us for a **Lundi Gras Costume Ball** from 7-10pm at the Inn at 835, 835 South 2nd Street. Music will be provided by The Debbie Ross Band. Authentic New Orleans cuisine by Gaetano Gambino of Gambino’s (Rochester), and Michael Higgins of Maldaner’s will be served buffet style from 7 to 9pm. There will be a costume contest judged by a panel of local celebs, and crowning of this year’s Mardi Gras King. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and include everything but the cash bar. Tickets for this event are

available at Trout Lily Café, 218 South 6th, and The Cardologist, 225 South 6th.

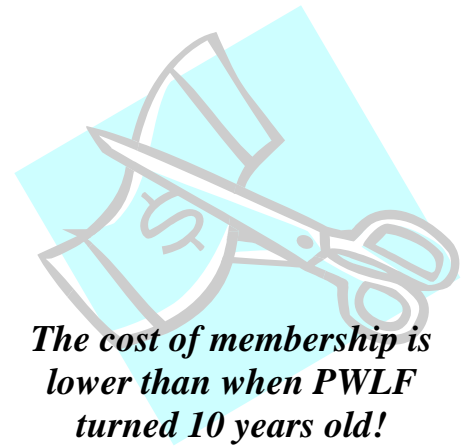
On Fat Tuesday, February 5, festivities will begin with free face painting for children at Trout Lily Café from 5:30-6:30pm, followed by a **family-oriented sidewalk parade**, 6:30-7:30 PM, led by Frank Parker’s Jambalaya Marching Band. Costumes are encouraged, and participants are urged to join the Marching Band as it begins snaking through the downtown, picking up additional revelers along the way. Watch for those beads! At 7:30pm the **Second Line Downtown Pub Crawl** begins at Robbie’s Restaurant, 4 South Old Capitol Plaza: more marching with Frank and the band, this time in and out of downtown pubs, more revelry and more beads! Once again, costumes are encouraged!

These events have been great fun in past years. As always, the Tuesday night events are free and open to all.

(Article courtesy of Springfield Mardi Gras NFP contact, Kate Hawkes)



Membership in PWLF



Have you thought about renewing your membership? Thought about continuing YOUR support of the literary Arts in Springfield and the surrounding area? Well, now's the time. Prices are back where they were in the earlier days.

Each of you are an important component to the success of this organization—whether through your efforts to grow the organization, your presences at open mic events, or just through the support of your fellow artists . . . each of you matters to PWLF.

Wherever you fit into the picture of what PWLF has been—is—and could become, we hope you will consider—or re-consider—your membership with this organization. We ask that you please renew your membership today. Help us replenish the coffers so that we can continue such programs as *Navigating the Maze* and reaching out to other writing organizations and purveyors of poetry and prose such as the Museum of Funeral Customs, the Vachel Lindsay Home, VLA, etc. Simply complete and return the form below. PWLF is a not-for-profit 50c3 organization. Check with your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

Please renew my membership in Poets & Writers Literary Forum. My check is enclosed.

Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

email: _____

____ Student \$10 ____ Single \$15 ____ Family \$20 ____ Other Donation

I would like to be more actively involved in PWLF. Please call me (____) _____ or email me at the above address to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Return this form with your check to: PWLF, P.O Box 5666, Springfield, IL 62705

While you're at it, why not nominate yourself for the Board of Directors? You'll find the instructions on page one; just complete the following:

Goals for PWLF to Achieve in the next two years:

1) _____

2) _____

How I can contribute to the accomplishment of these goals:



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 scheduled for publication once every two months.

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

Your Forum needs strong leadership. Please either volunteer or encourage anyone you know with administrative skills to volunteer to help the Board.

Let's keep the Forum thriving.

PWLF

To increase awareness and appreciation of Literary Arts

CLASSIFIEDS

Poetry and Prose Wanted: . Information on deadlines and submission guidelines available at:

~ www.pwlf.com

~ www.daybreakpoetry.com

Submit work today!

Calendar of Events

January 30th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at our newest venue—Bernie & Betty's (see inside for a listing of a few items from their menu)

February 3rd, 4th, and 5th—It's Mardi Gras Time!

- **Sunday, February 3, New Orleans Jazz Brunch, 11am – 2pm, at Charles and Limey's, 620 South 1st**
- **Monday, February 4th, Lundi Gras Costume Ball from 7-10pm at the Inn at 835, 835 South 2nd Street.**
- **Fat Tuesday, February 5, festivities begin at Trout Lily Café with free face painting from 5:30-6:30pm, followed by a family-oriented sidewalk parade, 6:30-7:30 pm and then the pub crawl**

Check the website for updates on Open Mic events.



TIDBITS. . .

- Do you have an idea for a chapbook of poetry—either your own or a collection of works from locals? Talk to a Board member today and submit your proposal.
- Know someone who should be in Navigating the Maze? Contact Anita Stienstra for additional information and check out the website for submission guidelines. (See article on page 2.)

A Sneak Peek at the Menu for Bernie & Betty's Pizza:

(check the website www.pwlf.com for the full menu)

Appetizers:

Onion Rings - \$4.50

Potato Skins (topped with cheese & bacon, served with salsa and sour cream) \$6.50

French Fry Basket - \$2.50

Combo Basket (Mushrooms, Onion Rings & Mozzarella Sticks, serves with spaghetti sauce) - \$6.95

Salads:

Garden Salad (Lettuce, tomatoes & cucumbers) - \$2.95 ('small) \$3.95 (full)

Chef Salad (add ham, egg and cheese to the garden) \$4.95

Betty Spinach Salad (spinach, onion, bacon, tomato, cheddar, & walnuts) \$3.95 (small) \$5.95 (large)

They also have Horseshoes (\$6.95) and Ponyshoes (\$5.50), a myriad of sandwiches ranging from \$4.25 for a classic BLT to \$6.75 for a Chicken Club; and Pasta (\$5.25 to \$7.75) – from Spaghetti to Fettuccine Alfredo to Seafood Marinara; and of course, Pizza.

Testimonial: *“At the office, we've been known to order from Bernie & Betty's for lunch on Fridays and one of my favorite is the Betty Spinach Salad – I'm full on just the smaller size!. Of course, I've enjoyed their pizza too.” –Siobhan*