

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2005

POETRY PARNASSUS

Anita Stienstra

Come one, come all. A new PWLF group called Poetry Parnassus will meet the last Friday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Poetry Parnassus is open to all PWLF members to share and to receive aid in the revision of their poetry or for those who wish to help others in this process.

Meetings will proceed in roundtable style with poets in turn passing out copies of their poetry and reading the poems to the group. During this

time and for a few minutes following, participants will handwrite their responses to, and comments on, the poems using constructive criticism. Feedback should include



personal reactions to the poem, images, diction, technique, tone, or other poetic

devices.

After discussion, poets will receive back the copies to take home.

If you will be attending the first meeting on Friday, March 25 please e-mail, call, or let me know. The group will meet at 1808 Deerfield Road in Chatham. Remember to bring copies of your poems for everyone.

If you have any questions or need further directions phone 483-7154 or e-mail annapoet@excite.com.

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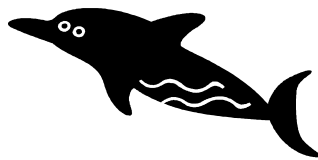
A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI ABOUT ANIMAL VERBS

Vicki Bamman

Recently my attention was caught by the prevalence of animal verbs, that is, the verbs we use that are animal names, like saying that "misfortune dogs his footsteps." What got my attention was my mom saying, "Well, I swan!" and I suddenly thought, I wonder what that means. Then I read a description of someone in the water and it said that he "porpoised." I imagined him breaking through the surface of the water and then going back under, over and over again, the way a porpoise might. So that got me noticing how often we use "animal verbs."

An eponym is a word derived from a person's name. Examples are: bowdlerize, macadam or macadamize, and macintosh (the raincoat, not the computer). I don't

know if there is a similar specific term for words that derive from animal names; I'd be surprised if there weren't since the usage is so common. Does anyone know?



Whether or not they are a special category of words doesn't matter; they are wonderful words, among the best in the English language, because they are colorful and expressive.

There are a number of such verbs. Here's a partial list: dog, quail, peacock, cat, horse, wolf, fox, cow, porpoise, and swan. Some of the words stand alone, and some use a preposition: for example, horsing around.

To dog someone means to

hunt someone or follow them like a dog, to pursue or follow relentlessly: Misfortune dogged his footsteps. It also has the figurative meaning of "to worry as if by a dog; beset; afflict." For example: Injuries dogged the baseball team all season. There's also "to drive or chase away with a dog or dogs," though usually we say "set the dogs on someone" in that case.

To quail is to be afraid, to lose courage, or to shrink back in fear. Undaunted by hardship, the pioneers did not quail at repeated misfortunes but pressed on. It also means to bend or shake as if in fear: the trees quailed before the wind.

To peacock is to strut like a peacock, to make a conceited

(Continued on page 8)

GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY FAIR *By: Job Conger*

A Review of *Untamed Hearts* - Poems by Marita Brake—36 pages, softbound, with color cover and black & white photographs \$9.95 plus postage from gypsymoon@juno.com

Website: www.maritabrake.com

Now living in the north country of Bloomington, Illinois, Marita Brake wrote her first poems as a student at Sacred Heart Academy in Springfield, and in 1967 she was a regular at an artists' mill called The Something Else Coffee House on the north east corner of Fourth at Capitol. That's where this reviewer "discovered" her. I rediscovered her poetry in 2004 and am proud to report she hasn't lost her gift. In *Untamed Hearts*, her first book of poetry, the graphic design suggests a gallon of talent in a one-quart bottle. There's even a table of contents of picture titles (all by Tamie Yost and Don Rosser) on the last page of the book. The poetry takes more than a cursory glance to fully appreciate.

Brake's poems hint of Haight-Ashbury roots, Joni Mitchell, "Joan" Denver (though there never was a Joan Denver, I hope the inference is obvious). She is Sylvia Plath without the neurosis. Emily D., but satisfied. Each poem is placed opposite or combined with a photograph whose connection is mutually reflected. Some poems, sometimes rhymed, extend more than one page. One is accompanied by the same picture spanning two-page spreads that grows lighter, and the poem becomes more readable. Each picture is well matched to the photograph and many will give the reader the urge to pause and savor the words on the palate of the mind. A case in point:

More Spirit Than Skin

There is
A Delicate Knowing
A Gnostic Fiber of Awareness
Woven of Intuition
And Spiritual Fidelity
Telling Me
That Some Days
We Are
More Spirit Than Skin

The consistent (some would say chronic) use of Upper Case Letters is what I call "a Marita thing." Get past it and enjoy where the poem takes you Or let

it stop you in your track and go nowhere; your choice.

Her approach, using a slightly tan, marbled paper with a rich feel to it, makes for great expectations before reading the first poem. It's easy to take your time with this book, to look at each poem more than once, because it's a short book, and not too much to savor and swallow in one sitting. This effort is sure to inspire local poets to emulate its look.

The poems have a patina of estrogen – as did Plath's, as did Teasdale's – but don't dodge this tome the way you might dodge a "chick flick" at the movie house. There's a lot to be learned here, sensitivities to savor. Marita Brake has combined a mature, vibrant voice with deft touches in the graphics. The result is more than a string of pop beads of different, single colors. I enjoyed every poem, and I bet you will too.

Deadline for NTM—March 5th

POEM FROM LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE— MIRAGE BY NANCY GANGULI

Render me stupid.
I was so bound to your beauty.
Harsh insight *flashes*
inside my head.
I squint against brilliant pain
slicing
through the surrealistic sheltered
grove
of my own delusions,
grasp, grope
an exit from this deceptively soft
mirage
that loves to mimic love.
I borrow from tomorrow's strength
as one last trickle of hope
mingles with my tears.

Nancy Ganguli
2/3/05

Deadline for Vintage Visions—June 30th

DAVID PITCHFORD

I have been president of PWLF since 2000 and continue to learn and gain skills as an administrator for the Forum. The boards I have served on have boasted many accomplishments, suffered successes, and weathered tempests. As a group, PWLF is very strong and has as members many passionate writers and fans of writing. As an organization, PWLF has great potential for growth and tighter administration. My tenure on the board should bring stability and continuity. I am as committed to and passionate about our writing community as ever, and, I hope, a little wiser for the years I've spent here.

I am happy to continue my commitment to the organization. As a key figure in the administration of the organization, I plan to continue our extant programs as well as researching the plausibility of adding more programs and publications to extend our influence and expand our vision in pursuit of our mission. It would be good to reach out to writers in and around our community whose writing is not expressly for the humanities - to journalists and technical writers as well as poets and fiction writers.

David Pitchford

TIM SHEEHAN

For the past year, Tim has held the role of Treasurer on the PWLF Board. As he runs for a second term, he reminds us of the organization he has incorporated into our reports and the hard work he has put into straightening up some of our older files.

Tim continues to be a vigorous supporter of community arts. He recognizes the importance of constant fundraising through events and grant writing. As a Board member this past year he has been able to connect PWLF with the wide assortment of community organizations with which he is affiliated.

Tim Sheehan

WILL BURPEE

I'd long wondered if there were a group in Springfield like PWLF and Writers' Bloc. More than anything else, I believe I bring a passion for this organization to which I've belonged these past eight years. When you care about something, you want to do all you can to support and nurture it.

My most recent experience with a not-for-profit would have to be with my church, the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Besides being a member, I've been involved with a number of projects. Currently I'm in charge of a regular monthly series of talks called the "9:30 Forum" and am a member of the church's Social Action Committee.

I think I could best be of service in Advertising/Marketing, and PenChant editing.

Will Burpee

As a member of Poets & Writers Literary Forum, you have the right to cast your vote for any of the six candidates running for the PWLF Board. Please vote for up to three (3) of these candidate.

Vote by placing an "X" or a ✓ in the box below the names of the candidates for whom you are voting.

Remember you may vote for up to three (3) candidates.

Return your ballot either by mail to:

PWLF
Election Committee
P.O. Box 5666
Springfield, IL 62705

Or by hand-delivering it to a member of the Election Committee—Paula and Bill Collins, KAT Corrigan or Bill Jarrico. Ballots must received or be postmarked no later than April 2, 2005.

DIANNE POTTER

With an M.A. in Biology and 13 years of work experience at the Illinois EPA, I bring a highly diverse background to PWLF. I am a Licensed Massage Therapist and run my own business in my spare time. This of course requires me to be a Jack (or Jill) of all trades, careful organizer and multi-tasker. I write, create custom greeting cards, and make semi-precious stone jewelry as well. I have experience in desktop publishing and newsletters. My interest in running for the board is to provide support to an organization that has welcomed me and my writing. I see this as a vital organization to the writers' community of Springfield.

STEPHANIE MALCOM

New to PWLF I find myself intrigued by this organization. I bring a wealth of experience in Public speaking, fundraising, and grant writing with me as I run for the Board of PWLF. Previously, I helped start a non profit in New Orleans called New Orleans Cares and sat on the Board of Directors.

I have worked at two other nonprofits as a Fund Developer, raising over \$600,000.00 total revenues. Additionally, I have started my own grant writing business called Grant-It Consulting. I am most interested in helping out in the areas of Fundraising and Development for PWLF. I look forward to this opportunity.

LIZ HUCK

I'm a long time member of PWLF and served on the board in the organization's early days. I'm a poet (author of the chapbook "Many Glories Together" and the "web book" *Party of One*), a fiction writer (co-author with Al Perry of the novel *The Lanyard*), and occasional freelance web designer (www.robbybiz.com).

I am currently editing and producing the PWLF 2005 anthology *Vintage Visions*. Within the next year, I expect to retire from the Department of Human Services and take up life as a full-time writer. PWLF is an essential source of companionship, insight, and inspiration for me as a writer, and I look forward to the opportunity to help build and strengthen this vital resource for other writers.

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Dianne Potter

Stephanie Malcom

Liz Huck

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Open Mic at IMO's 7:p.m.	3	4	5 Illinois Authors' Book Fair
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Open Mic at IMO's 7:p.m.—Celebrate the Irish!	17 	18	19
20	21 PWLF Board Meeting at IMO's 7:p.m.	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Featured Reader— Bob Bartel—at IMO's 7:p.m.	31		

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Ballots for the PWLF Election must be received or postmarked by this date.
3	4	5	6 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.	7	8	9 Election Committee Mtg 6:30 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15 ILES Poetry program	16
17	18 PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 6:30 p.m.	19	20 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Navigating the Maze reading 7:00 p.m. Location TBA	29	30

VINTAGE VISIONS COVER CONTEST- ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail (optional): _____

Bio: _____

Send your design for the front and back cover of a 6" by 9" book, with the words "Vintage Visions - Poets and Writers Literary Forum Anthology, 2005" on the front, to:

Liz Huck
 ATTN: Vintage Visions Cover Contest
 2 Verna Drive
 Springfield, IL 62702

Artwork must be in hard copy, sent by mail; the artist's name must not appear on the artwork. Enclose check or money order for \$5 entrance fee, made out to PWLF. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2005.

Vintage Visuals

You can design the cover of the year's hottest poetry and prose anthology! For a \$5 entry fee, you have a chance for a cash prize of at least \$50 (exact amount depending on the number of submissions) plus a free copy.

Send us your full-color design for the front and back cover of a 6" by 9" book, with the words "Vintage Visions - Poets and Writers Literary Forum Anthology 2005" on the front. Your name should not appear on the

artwork.

Entry must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$5, made out to PWLF, and by the entry form found above and on the website, www.pwlf.com. Entries must be submitted in hard copy, by mail, and postmarked by June 30, 2005. Send them to:

Liz Huck
 ATTN: Vintage Visions-
 Cover Contest
 2 Verna Drive

Springfield, IL 62702

All entries become the property of PWLF, and will not be returned.

Call for judges

Interested in judging the cover contest? We're looking for three volunteers. Contact Liz at 217-546-0069, or ehuck@springnet1.com.



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.

PWLF

To increase awareness and appreciation of Literary Arts



Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield Calendar of Events

Mar. 2nd—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Mar. 16th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Mar. 21st—7:00 p.m. PWLF Board Meeting at IMO's

**Mar. 30th—Featured Reader at IMO's—
Robert Bartel, founder and 1st president**

Apr. 2nd—BALLOTS DUE

Apr. 6th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Apr. 20th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

Apr. 28th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. NTM Release Feature

Every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m.—Open Mic at Sunsup Koffee Kafe
hosted by Jill Manning

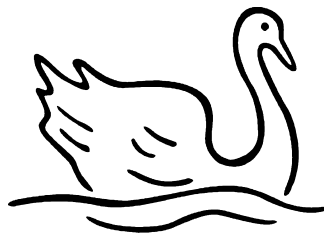


A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

(Continued from page 1)

display. I think this often takes a preposition: I was peacocking about in my new finery when I fell off my shoes.

To cat around is slang for aimlessly seeking amusement. Related is to tomcat, which means acting like a male cat, going on the prowl.



To horse someone is a transitive verb meaning to provide someone with a horse or to put them on horseback. Informally, to horse means to make fun, or to play jokes on someone, or to perform boisterously. The expression "horse around" means to fool around or get into mischief.

To wolf is, not surprisingly, "to eat like wolf", or to eat greedily or ravenously.

Fox is an interesting word. It is a transitive verb that means to trick someone, or to deceive them, by being sly and crafty. As an intransitive verb, it means to

act slyly and craftily. Another common use means to discolor or to stain, or to become discolored or stained. A book that is foxed has reddish brown or yellowish stains -- the meaning comes from the color of the fox.

To cow is a transitive verb that means to make afraid or to frighten. The bully cowed many of the younger children with his threats. To intimidate is a synonym.

To porpoise means to move, travel, or dive in the manner of a porpoise, "making series of bumps or plunges."

To swan means to move like a swan, to float or drift. It is "especially British", according to my dictionary, but people around here "swan around." I heard someone remark that another person was "swanning around the office like she thought she was somebody."

When you use animal names as nouns for a person, or as adjectives to describe them, that's yet another category of meaning. When a person is "dogged" by something, that is one thing; when a person is a dog, it has a different implication entirely. But that's another column for another day.

By the way, "I swan" is an expression that means "I declare" and probably derived from "I swear."