



On The Interweb

By Théa Chesley

This article, which I hope will become a regular feature of PenChant, highlights World Wide Web sites of potential interest to PWLF members. I've found many of these sites while researching other things. In this first installment: useful and amusing sites about **words**.

World Wide Words <http://www.worldwidewords.org/index.htm>

"Michael Quinion writes on International English from a British view-

point."

This author of four books on words maintains a somewhat scholarly site with articles about words, answers to reader-submitted questions about words, reviews of relevant books, "Topical Words" ("These pieces arise as a result of my occasionally spotting a word in a newspaper or online that suggests itself as a topical subject of discussion."), "Turns of Phrase" (new words – "Locavore" was recently covered, for example), and "Weird Words" from Abacot to Zymurgy.

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AND THE NOMINIES ARE....

In case any of you have been wondering the following is a breakdown on who is on the Board and who is running for Re-Election. As happened last year, we have the opportunity for someone to launch a write-in campaign; however, please make sure you can convince the write-in candidate to serve the two-year term (or are so convinced yourself!) This means that the board of Director for PWLF consists of:

Vicki Bamman— *Is she running for Re-election?*

Thea Chesley – **Running for Re-Election**

Corrine Frisch – Re-elected for a two-year term (2007-2009)

Liz Huck – Re-elected for a two-year term (2007-2009)

Ethan Lewis – Elected for a two-year term (2007-2009)

David Pitchford – Re-elected for a two-year term (2007-2009)

Jean Staff – **Running for Re-Election**

Write in Candidates _____



Elections for the Board are now open. Once the new Board is elected, they will vote on who will take the helm, who will guard the bank, and who will serve as scribe for the Forum. Look for this news to appear in print or web-life in the near future.

It is hoped that those members who have not yet renewed their membership will do so soon (see page 5 for your renewal form). **Please complete your ballot and send it in via email attachment or to P.O. Box 5666, Springfield, IL 62705. Ballots must be postmarked by April 18th or received email by that date to be considered valid.**

NAVIGATING THE MAZE STILL 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 along side 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, in-

clude 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.

Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, March 7, 2008.

Questions can be e-mailed to:

navigatingthemaze@yahoo.com

(please type **NTM question** in the subject box).

On The Interweb

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You can subscribe to a weekly email newsletter that will surely keep you informed and amused – and that's not just *rodomontade*!

The Collective Nouns <http://www.ojohaven.com/collectives/>

Ever since its first edition, I've been a fan of *An Exaltation of Larks* by James Lipton (The Ultimate Edition, 324 p.; Penguin Group, November 1993; ISBN-13: 9780140170962), and the game of "venery" (the venereal game?) of collective nouns. This web site (not connected with James Lipton, who is the creator, executive producer, writer and host of Bravo's *Inside the Actors Studio*) amasses collective nouns, many submitted by site visitors. As with some internet sites, this may be more whimsical than authoritative, but whether you're part of "An obscurity of poets" or "A rhyme of poets" you'll find this site worth a look. Check out the link to the "Linguistic Fun Page," too.

Théa Chesley, Local Poet & Wag is also a certified, paper-trained librarian, qualified to help you find knowledge and information in a vast universe of mere data.

15 Years to Celebrate

This year marks the 15th year of PWLF's existence and during a recent meeting the Board discussed the possibility of another party. They have tentatively set aside Saturday, April 26th as the date with the event being an evening affair. The location is still to be determined.

Anyone wishing to assist in this endeavor should contact one of the Board members for additional details. This includes anyone with an opinion on what type of celebration it should be—a gala event, a cozy sit-down dinner, a buffet; should there be music, prizes, raffle drawings and awards?

Please get involved to keep PWLF going another year or three or fifteen. Remember, you get out of this organization what you put in to it, just like the rest of life.

To get more involved email me your information and I'll pass it along to the President, siom1@hotmail.com.



Ballot

Each family membership gets two (2) ballots and each single membership gets one (1) ballot. For each ballot, select the three (3) candidates you would like to have on the Board. Please submit your completed ballot in one of three (3) ways:

- 1) Hand-deliver it to someone on the Election Committee – Liz Huck, Ethan Lewis, and Kat Corrigan;
- 2) Mail it to PWLF – Election Committee, P.O. Box 5666, Springfield, IL 62705
- 3) Email it as an attachment to Liz Huck at lizhuck@gmail.com

Vicki Bamman (*One of the sweetest women in Springfield; an amazing poetess; witty, cute, and completely capable*)

Théa Chesley



Jean Staff

AUTOBIO FOR PWLF BOARD SEAT

Background:

I have lived in Springfield most of my life, mostly in the karma of 62702. My favorite home was located upon a pond until the 46 residing ducks were replaced by nearly as many gang members. Now retired, widowed, and semi-disabled, I moved to a too-quiet neighborhood where I practice eccentricity, not yet fully succeeding. (I have only 2 hats and live with one cat, Sparkles Muldoon aka Sparky aka Fat Black Cat). I spend my time writing poetry, short stories, prose poetry trying to understand the technological world determined to invade my space including my computer named Alien. Working toward good health and remnants of youth, I pursue a spiritual path without much self discipline, faithfully take and enjoy my meds., color my hair, and try to remember where I put my tri-focals. I do all this while listening to my husband's jazz trio, Neil Diamond, Rachmaninoff, and Mary J Blige. Each day I take a moment to mourn wine, plays in Chicago, skinny jeans, Winstons, my baby grand, and couples sex. (Not necessarily in that order.) Then I take a moment to count my blessings. (All of the above and more.)

Qualifications:

Early Jobs often involved writing/auditing/editing in some form: case notes, business letters, display ads, training manuals, and job descriptions-letters of resignation. From these **I learned how to organize and string words together.**

Careers

1) Nurturer to two husbands, not simultaneously, 14 wonderful children - three biological, five step, two foster, four grand, and approximately 57 pets.

2) Advocate, Trainer, Counselor, Group Facilitator for abused women and children at a d v shelter.

These two careers taught me crowd control, group facilitation, and conflict resolution-important skills, I believe, for any board meeting.

Publications: *San Pan, Prism, Illinois Times, Vintage Visions, Post Mortem Musings.*

In addition, I was on the planning committees and participated in the *Take Back the Night* marches in 1991 and 1992 and have met the following celebrities: Pinky Lee, Frank Sinatra Jr., Ramsey Lewis, and Gloria Steinham. I think these should count for something.

I have enjoyed serving on the board for the past two years and would like to serve another term. Having done it once, perhaps my greatest qualification is my willingness to do so again!

_____ (space for a write in candidate – Proposition 32)

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

The moon lives
on the World's other edge
I wander—lost
wonder how to pull it back
into my life
once full.

**This page intentionally left blank
(well, almost blank...well, not really blank at all
since there is actually writing on it...ok, so perhaps
you can see a poem or two as well...are we sure there
isn't anyone else out there who would like to edit the
newsletter?)**

Pieces of Ourselves

Overheard conversations, a foray
into another life, an invasion
of privacy, unintentional, yet
we find pieces of ourselves trapped inside
the lives of someone we don't know—or want
to know. The intimate details poured out,
no regard for surroundings, not vacant
but filled with curiosity seekers,
accidental voyeurs caught, no one can
look away from the train wreck happening
two seats from where we all sit, mesmerized
by the sorrow, anger, anguish, and shame.

We become mute collaborators, each
afraid of where our own words can be heard.

Sibhan
02-14-07

Membership in PWLF



The cost of membership is lower than when PWLF turned 10 years old!

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 matter to PWLF.

Wherever you fit into the picture of what PWLF has been —is—and could still become, we hope you will consider – or re-consider—your membership with this organization. We are asking you to 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. 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

March 19th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at our newest venue—Bernie & Betty's (check out the website for their menu)

April 16th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at our newest venue—Got the income tax blues? Come read us your poetry and prose and share your woes with us at Bernie & Betty's

April 24th—Navigating the Maze Reading 7:00 p.m.—tentatively scheduled to be held at the Illinois State Museum

April 26th—Tentative Date for 15 year celebration—check the website or ask a board member for an update

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*