

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5

MAY 2005

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NTM Success	2
Great American Vacation	2
A Word or Two Vicki Bamman	2
Calendar Pages	3-4
Vintage Visions Cover Contest form	5
Election Results	5
Events Schedule	6

President's Awards Granted

While there were a number of very worthy people on whom to bestow the honor, this year's PWLF President's Awards were limited to two recipients: the Vachel Lindsey Association and Ken Sibley.

Since its inception, The Vachel Lindsey Association has been holding the Pro-methian torch in Springfield. In its time, the VLA worked with the Illinois Historical Society to establish the Lindsey home as an historical landmark – and later restore the home. This year the VLA granted PWLF \$500 for the Navigating the Maze program. VLA's repertoire group was featured in 2004 at a Barnes & Noble event. Corrine Frisch, a member of the board of directors for both PWLF and VLA, received the award for



the VLA at the NTM reading April 28th.

Ken Sibley exemplifies his own book title *People with a Certain Dignity*. Ken has released several chapbooks over the last few years, has supported the Forum enthusiastically for many

years, and has contributed significantly as a private donor. Ken's latest book, *A Certain Dignity*, was released early this year by Sibley-Gray Press. Look for Ken at PWLF

readings, or order his book from: Ken Sibley, P.O. Box 566, Rochester, Illinois 62563. Send \$10 for the book and \$3 for shipping.

Our thanks, appreciation, and regards for Ken Sibley and the VLA.

PWLF WELCOMES MARITA BRAKE

By: Job Conger



Plan to be on hand Wednesday night at IMO's May 18, starting at 7 when we welcome Bloomington-based poet/songwriter Marita Brake in a return engagement of sorts. The last time she "played Springfield" was in 1967, at the Something Else Coffeehouse, located in a brownstone office building on the northeast corner of Fourth at Capital. It was a golden age when a second generation of "beat-ish" poets trekked in the footsteps of Kerouac and Corso cross country between Greenwich Village in New York City and Haight Ashbury in San Francisco. Bob Dylan and Joan Baez were royalty and groups including Peter, Paul and Mary, The Kingston Trio and The New Christy Minstrels played to enraptured, ardent audiences. At the Something Else, a

hardy ensemble of regulars belted out the tunes of the day and traded guitar licks in the back performance room where a John Updike poem on the wall proclaimed, "The scum, once come/Has come for good." Among those ensemble were a Sacred Heart senior named Marita Brake and recent Springfield High grad named Job Conger.

Marita graduated Sacred Heart and pursued her music career elsewhere. In the course of her travels she played the recital auditorium at Carnegie Hall in NYC, performed all over the country and moved to Bloomington, Illinois. This year, she published her first book of poetry, *Untamed Hearts*, which I reviewed in *PenChant*. Her two CDs, *Gypsy Moon* and *The Celtic Rose*, and book may be

purchased through her website – www.maritabrake.com – and purchased May 18 at IMO's. Reviews of her CDs may be read at my Easy on the Ears website --

www.aeroknow.com/ears.htm

When the parents of a mutual friend died, we reconnected via e-mail and I invited her to come to Springfield to play. Thanks to P&WLF, finding a venue was easy. Marita's songs and poems today remind me of those days in 1967. Underneath that patina of practice and polish, she is still the smiling, effervescent fountain of joy she was back then, and it will be a true pleasure for this fan to share her poetry and music once again.

After getting to know her at IMO's, chances are you will become a fan as well.

ANOTHER SUCCESS - NTM '05



Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the young poets read their work. Congratulations!

*“Verse is a pedestrian taking you over the ground,
prose—a train which delivers you at a destination.”
T. E. Hulme*

A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

The word “gingerly” caught my attention not long ago. Gingerly is both an adverb and an adjective, and means “with extreme care or caution, wary or warily.” I couldn’t see a connection with the word ginger. Ginger is a plant whose root that is used fresh, candied, or dried and powdered to flavor food and medicine. There is a figurative use that means liveliness or energy.

It turned out that the words have different origins and different histories. “Gingerly” is thought to come from the Old French word *genzor*, the comparative form of *gent*,

meaning delicate. Ginger is traced through Middle English, Anglo Saxon, Late Latin, Old French, Greek, Sanskrit, and possibly Dravidian -- now we’re using alphabets I don’t have on my computer -- to words that mean “horn body.” The drawing of the ginger plant looks nothing like the wild ginger that grows around here.

Then I looked at another word pair, *soundly* and *sound*. “*Soundly*” is a common adverb. It means: in a sound manner; deeply, heavily, profoundly (for example, he slept *soundly*); or vigorously, strongly,

severely (ex: Father punished us *soundly*); or thoroughly, completely, properly (she prepared *soundly* for the exam) or with good judgment or common sense (he decided *soundly* to keep out of trouble).

What does “*soundly*” have to do with the word “*sound*?” It turns out that “*sound*” has a multitude of meanings, most of them easily recognized in context. They include “noise, note, or tone,” “that which is, or can be, heard” ... “the effect produced on the mind by what is heard.” It’s used in geography for a

(Continued on page 6)

HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOURS YET?

Poets and Writers Literary Forum of Springfield, in cooperation with the Prairie Art Alliance (PAA), hopes that you will write and share your memories of Summer Vacation on Thursday, May 26th when we celebrate the “Great American Vacation.”

From May 4-July 2 the PAA will present an exhibition inspired by the great American summer vacation. Displayed works will include landscapes, souvenir still lifes, and portraits.




PWLF has taken this opportunity to showcase the talent of local wordsmiths to illustrate this theme through poetry and prose.

Think back - do you remember riding in the station wagon, facing backwards, watching the pop up tent trailer bounce down a two lane road? Remember the excitement? Remember carsick, SEE ROCK CITY, Jellystone Campground, not caring what the movie is as long as the theater is air conditioned? If so, we want you to write about it and join us on May 26th to share those memories.

We will be celebrating the Great American Vacation in the Gallery at the Hoogland Center for the Arts on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 (until they throw us out).

The Hoogland Center for the Arts is located at 420 South Sixth Street. Parking in the garage next door is free after 5:00. For additional information call Tim Sheehan at 753-3178.

May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.	5	6	7
8	9	10 Fiction Faction 7 pm	11	12	13	14
15	16 PWLF Board meeting @ IMO's 7 pm	17	18 Featured Reader - Marita Brake @ IMO's 7 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23	24 Fiction Faction 7 pm	25	26 Great American Vacation Reading @ the Hoogland Center for the Arts 7 pm	27 Poetry Parnassus	28
29	30	31 				

June 2005

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

Election Results and more

This year we had what very well might be a record turnout for our annual elections. We had 18 ballots submitted, three of which were from family memberships. As previously reported, the election resulted in the following individuals elected to the PWLF Board, each for a two-year term: David Pitchford, Tim Sheehan, and Liz Huck. Members of the board with a remaining year in their term are Corrine Frisch, Bill Jarrico, Vicki Bamman, and Siobhan Pitchford.

During the April 2005 Board meeting, the new members were welcome to the Board and elections for officers were held. This resulted in the following:

David Pitchford - President
 Tim Sheehan - Treasurer
 Vicki Bamman - Secretary

Membership involvement is crucial for an organization to stay viable. I applaud all of you who voted in the election. Our next matter is the issue of an Annual Meeting.

So far we have received seven responses to the questionnaire asking for your input on this subject. The tally of the responses expresses a general interest in an Annual Meeting. All seven respondents indicated a preference for the business meeting prior to the "good part" or food por-

tion of the meeting. My question to you – the rest of the membership – is would you like the Board to decide based on these seven respondents or do you want to let us hear your opinion as well? You have until May 16th to reply. At that time the Board will determine a date, place and time for the Annual Meeting. We hope to hear from YOU before then. Responses may be sent to me, Siobhan Pitchford, at siom1@hotmail.com or via snail mail to PWLF – Annual Meeting, P.O. Box 5666, Springfield, IL 62705. You may also communicate your preferences to any Board member.



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

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

May 16th - 7:00 pm PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's

May 18th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Featured Reader - Marita Brake @ IMO's

May 26th—7:00 p.m. to ? The Great American Vacation reading -
Hoogland Center for the Arts

May 27th—Poetry Parnassus - A. Steinstra's home

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 2)

long narrow body of water, such as the Long Island Sound. As a verb, it includes to summon, for example, “the trumpet sounds for battle”; and to announce, order, or direct by a sound, for example, “sound the retreat.” It can mean to sink and reach bottom, the way the weight of a line does, or to go toward the bottom. Some whales “sound” to great depths in search of food. Sound can also mean to make inquiry or investigation.

As an adjective, sound means free from disease, injury, decay or defect; healthy or in good condition; for example, a sound mind and a sound body. It also means solid, as in a sound foundation. It means “in accord with or based on fact, reason, or good sense”, such as sound advice, a sound objection, sound judgment. Soundness is also related to being well grounded in principles or knowledge, being well informed, or reliable, or having conventional or orthodox ideas or views; for example, a sound teacher is knowledgeable; a sound critic is well grounded in the principles of the field of criticism; a sound conservative agrees with the orthodox

views. Other meanings include loyal, true, trusty, free from error or logical or legal defect, deep, heavy, profound, vigorous, thorough, and hearty. The adjective meanings are related the adverbial form “soundly” that I started with, and now I’m wondering how this word acquired so many different meanings and uses. My unabridged dictionary devotes a column and a half to the word! One group of meanings comes from Old French and Late Latin; another from Middle English, Old French, and Latin; yet another from German, Danish, and Anglo Saxon, and one use derives straightforwardly from a single source, an Anglo Saxon word that is different from the Anglo Saxon words that form part of the development of other definitions. Somehow they all come out with the same spelling and pronunciation. I guess all this demonstrates that we shouldn’t make assumptions about common words. And it demonstrates how English incorporates useful words from a variety of sources, something that has been, and continues to be one of the strengths of the language.