

PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2005

NAVIGATING THE MAZE

By: Anita Stienstra

What can you do to help inspire and encourage youth in our community to engage in the literary arts? Be active in *Navigating the Maze*!



1. Give the children in your neighborhood a NTM flier
2. Distribute NTM fliers at work to parents
3. Tell a teacher about the program
4. Mention the website address to co-workers with children http://www.pwlf.com/navigating_the_maze.htm
5. Share the program with the children in your life

OR

6. Proofread NTM text
7. Input submissions
8. Post fliers
9. Contact the media

(Continued on page 5)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

How to Seduce...	2
Fond Farewell	2
Calendar Pages	3-4
NTM	5
Together We Read	5
Classifieds	5
A Word or Two	6
Events at a Glance	6

A WORD OR TWO

By: Vicki Bamman

I read this description: "between stalagmites of city towers." What a great image, I thought, but don't stalagmites go down from the ceiling of a cave? I looked it up. I was wrong; stalagmites are the ones on the floor of the cave.

While I was looking into this, I learned that the formations made by crystallized mineral deposits are called speleothems. Besides stalagmites and stalactites, there are "drapery", "flowstone",

"gypsum flowers", and helictites, which are strangely twisted cylinders that grow from the walls, ceiling, or floor of a cave, or from other formations. The word speleothem is related to speleology and spelunking. Speleology comes from the Latin word *speleum*, cave, which derived from the Greek *speleion*, cave, plus the ending, *-ology*, knowledge. Speleology means the scientific study or exploration of caves, and its practitioners are

called speleologists. Those who make a hobby of exploring and studying caves are called spelunkers. Spelunker comes from the Latin *spelunca*, cave, and Greek *spelynx*, which is related to the Greek *speleion*, cave.

People who live in caves are troglodytes. According to the dictionary, a troglodyte is also an anthropoid ape, such as a gorilla or chimpanzee, and a genus of birds, specifically wrens.

(Continued on page 6)

HOW TO SEDUCE THE MUSE

By Tim Sheehan

I'm probably not the best person to write about how to seduce the muse. I have been avoiding her for a long time now and know all of the tricks that drive her away. If I share them with you maybe you can help me make the date. Therefore, I propose a column, that will almost certainly be irregular in appearance, that examines how to avoid writing and maybe how to overcome that avoidance.

Since I sat down here a half an hour ago to write this, I've poured a glass of wine, been to the bathroom, made a sandwich, researched the concept of muses on the internet, checked my e-mail, connected to yahoo music, poured another glass of wine, and looked for a quote about writing to set the theme of this piece.

OK, so the first thing that I have to do is take the advice of Wendell Berry who in his poem "How to be a Poet" said:

- Make a place to sit down.
- Sit down. Be quiet.

Who knew it could be so simple? As it turns out, everybody. Natalie Goldberg, Wild Mind: Living the Writers Life and Writing Down the Bones, says .. [page 2 - 4] Go ahead, try these rules for tennis, hang gliding, driving a car, making a grilled cheese sandwich, disciplining a dog or a snake. Okay. They might

not always work. They work for writing. Try them. 1.) Keep your hand moving. Pick a time and once you begin, don't stop. 2.) Lose control. Say what you want to say. 3.) Be specific. Not car, but Cadillac. Not fruit, but apple. 4.) Don't think. Writing practice will help you contact first thoughts. 5.) Don't worry about punctuation, spelling, grammar. 6.) You are free to write the worst junk in America. 7.) Go for the jugular. If something scares you, go for it. ... Robert J. Ray, The Weekend Novelist, says, "Let your family and friends know your schedule,...don't answer the door, don't answer the phone, don't take time to pay your bills or to worry about your life. This is writing time. It is sacred."

The first part of that, getting your family off of your back, may be the easiest part. Getting yourself off of your back may be way harder. Try this.

Schedule for yourself an extra fifteen minutes. Make a pot of coffee (wine may not be the best choice here). Open a package of cookies and put five on a plate (if they are Chips Ahoy, three if they are Archway). Turn on the stereo (Mozart works for me or Miles Davis). Remind yourself that e-mail will still be there in an hour and so will the wine. Then, sit down. Be quiet and write.

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 2005

Poem: "How To Be a Poet" by Wendell Berry from *Given: New Poems*. © Shoemaker Hoard, Washington, D.C. Reprinted with permission.

How To Be a Poet (to remind myself)

Make a place to sit down.
Sit down. Be quiet.
You must depend upon
affection, reading, knowledge,
skill—more of each
that you have—inspiration,
work, growing older, patience,
for patience joins time
to eternity. Any readers
who like your work,
doubt their judgment.

Breathe with unconditional breath
the unconditioned air.
Shun electric wire.
Communicate slowly. Live
a three—dimensioned life;
stay away from screens.
Stay away from anything
that obscures the place it is in.
There are no unsacred places;
there are only sacred places
and desecrated places.

Accept what comes from silence.
Make the best you can of it.
Of the little words that come
out of the silence, like prayers
prayed back to the one who prays,
make a poem that does not disturb
the silence from which it came.

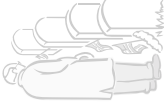

FOND FAREWELL

Max McIntyre of Springfield, pictured here with his wife in 1999, was a retired athletic coach and teacher. He was also a member of the Poets and Writers Literary Forum. A veteran of



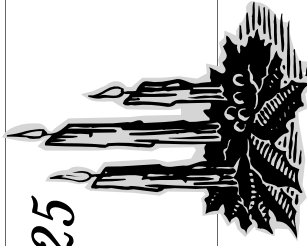
World War II who served during the occupation of Japan, McIntyre was active in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. It was with sadness that we learned of his death this past September.

NOVEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 IMO's Open Mic 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5 Vachel Lindsay Birthday Bash - 11 am to 4 pm @ the Vachel Lindsay
6 Vachel Lindsay Asso- ciation Brunch - res- ervations required.	7	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16 IMO's Open Mic 7:00 p.m. Barbara Hambly @ the Hoogland - 7 pm	17	18 Book signing @ the American Legion Tom Jones - <u>Lost Survivor</u>	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Marcellus Leonard performs @ Schlafly Bottle Works, 8 pm in St. Louis	2	3
4	5	6	7 Imo's Open Mic Night @ 7 p.m.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Imo's Open Mic Night @ 7 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 PWLF participates in First Night



NAVIGATING THE MAZE

(Continued from page 1)

10. Organize featured readers night

This is the eighth year that Poets and Writers Literary Forum will produce a chapbook of poetry from high school and junior high school students living in Springfield and the surrounding area.

Remember that each contributor to the *Maze* receives copies of the book and is invited to read their poetry during a Poets and Writers Literary Forum featured reader night. Our sponsor last year was the Vachel Lindsay Association.

Submission deadline is Friday, March 3, 2005. Along with one to three poems, contributors need to provide name, age, grade, school and contact information (mail or phone). Typed manuscripts are appreciated but not required. Please send poems to: NTM, P.O. Box 202, Chatham, IL 62629 or navigatingthemaze@yahoo.com.

Your work will be appreciated.

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TOGETHER WE READ BARBARA HAMBLY'S *THE EMANCIPATOR'S WIFE*

"I always wanted to be a writer but everyone kept telling me it was impossible to break into the field or make money. I've proven them wrong on both counts."

-Barbara Hambly

Barbara Hambly is a prolific and successful writer whose work "spans the Star Wars universe, antebellum New Orleans, various fantasy worlds, and are sometimes linked with our own." Her most recent novel, *The Emancipator's Wife*, a fictional account of the life of Mary Todd Lincoln has been chosen by several area libraries as this year's "Together We Read" selection. Ms. Hambly will be coming to town this month and the public will have a chance to meet her at two free programs.

Free reader's guides containing author information and discussion questions about *The Emancipator's Wife* are available at all the

participating libraries. To get a feel for the scope of her work readers can visit

www.barbarahambly.com

Author visits

Wednesday, November 16, 2 p.m. Barbara Hambly will speak at a tea hosted by the Rochester Public Library. Reservations are required. Phone 498-8454 to reserve your spot.

Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m. Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. 6th St. in Springfield. Ms. Hambly will read from *The Emancipator's Wife*, answer questions, and autograph books. Reservations are not necessary.

Book Discussion

Wednesday, November 9, Noon. Fiction Faction group at Lincoln Library (Main), 326 S. 7th St. in Springfield.

CLASSIFIEDS

Poetry and Prose Wanted: The editors of the literary journal, Prism Quarterly, are seeking quality writing for the pages of Prism. Information on deadlines and submission guidelines available at:

~ www.pwlf.com

~ www.pitchblackbooks.com

~ www.daybreakpoetry.com

Submit work for consideration today!

Willing to Work: One teenage boy available after school for yard work and odd jobs around your place. Hourly or flat fee—prices negotiable—contact Ian at 217-529-9244.

This space for 'rent': Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield is looking for Corporate Sponsors. If you know of a business that might be interested, contact one of the PWLF board members to discuss this fantastic opportunity.

Writers Sought: Do you write? Do you have something you want to say to the writing community of Springfield or the world in general? PWLF is looking for (more than) a few good writers to contribute articles, book reviews, sketches and cartoons to the monthly newsletter, PenChant. If you believe you are the writer we're looking for, please contact the editor of the newsletter: submissions@pwlf.com for information on how you can get your work published monthly.

Sponsors

Public libraries in Ashland/Pleasant Plains, Chatham, Rochester, Sherman, and Springfield, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, and the Brookens Library at the University of Illinois at Springfield.



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

Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield

Calendar of Events

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

Nov. 5th - Vachel Lindsay Birthday Bash

@ the Vachel Lindsay House 11 .am. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 6th - Vachel Lindsay Association Brunch

@ the Hoogland Center for the Arts - Call for details & reservations

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

November PWLF Board Meeting TBA

Dec. 1st - Marcellus Leonard performs

@ the Schlafly Bottle Works in St. Louis, 8 pm

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

Dec. 21st—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

December PWLF Board Meeting TBA

Last Sunday of each month—
Poetry Parnassus @ Joe's to Go—South 6th Street 1 to 3 p.m.



A Word or Two

(Continued from page 1)

The word is used figuratively for one who is extremely conservative or reactionary in politics, or "one of a degraded type or brutish nature," especially "a dweller in a hovel or slum." Troglodyte comes from two German words, *trog*, a cave, and *dyein* to creep in, enter.

Most people have heard of troglodytes, in one or more of its uses. But there is another term for cavedwellers: troglobite. Troglobites are animal species that live in the dark innermost part of caves where there is no light, wind or change in temperature and humidity. They are blind, and have highly developed senses of smell and touch. Troglobites are unable to live outside that environment. Among troglobites are certain beetles, fish, salamanders, and spiders.

Cave comes from the Latin word *cavus*, meaning hollow. It has nothing to do with the "cave" in *cave canum*, which means "beware of the dog."

I couldn't find an explanation for the suffixes -bite and -them. My allegedly unabridged dictionary let me down, and the online resources I checked didn't help either.

~

Have a word or two you'd like Vicki to write about? Drop her a note and peak her interest. We're always interested in the odd word.

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