



NEWSLETTER

“YOU HAVE TO THROW YOURSELF AWAY WHEN YOU WRITE.” —MAXWELL PERKINS



From The Pictograph Murders

A novel by Patricia Karamesines

The wash broadened into a fan of moist sand. The walls, too, widened to form a rounded chamber capped by an azure disc of sky. Just a few yards away lay a shallow plunge pool. Kit waded in and drank noisily. In the talus slope behind the pool, water clattered around three moss-framed, stone-keyed seeps. The wiry and crooked little streams stepped and ruffled down slope to empty into the pool.

Alex sighed. All that existed in the world were the seeps, tinkling like liquid chimes, and Alex, her sympathetic chords thrumming in response. Water in the desert—sunlight’s perfect foil. Here were veins of it—capillaries, really—weaving their way singing *Take, take, only enough and no more*.

Out of faith that the seeps would be running, Alex had carried little water in, only one bottle mostly gone now and one empty. The seep on the far left dripped faster than the others. Each time it was different, which one seeped fastest. Choosing her steps to avoid damaging a garden of columbines, she climbed to the far seep.

She propped one bottle under the fastest dripping seep and set a second in the next. Compared to the faucet blasts of modern plumbing, these beads dropped ever so slowly. She guessed that if you depended on a place like this to sustain you, you planned your thirsts. You waited for the water to come to you; you couldn’t force it. If she wanted, she could count how many drops fell as they plunked like pearls down broken green strings of moss. All around her, echoes played off stone walls—whispers reciting tonal charms.

From The Newsroom

Thanks for all the submission this quarter! Please keep up your great writing and sharing it with your fellow MP&W members.

Thanks also to those of you who have sent in your dues, and welcome to new member Lora Akers.

Included with this newsletter please find MP&W’s new tri-fold brochure. This brochure explains a little about our mission and membership. Please share this with your literary and writing friends.

MP&W will offer a sponsorship to one member for October Confluence workshop participation. Details will be forthcoming.

Finally, please know that each Saturday *WordWatchers* meets at the Love Muffin café at 10AM to talk about writing. Read the piece below (and continued on the reverse) for more information about this lively group.

Tune in to more exciting literary happenings at our website (listed below).

—The MP&W Board

Visit: www.moabpoetsandwriters.org



WordWatchers,

MP&W’s weekly coffee klatch and soul-baring

meeting of both working and aspiring writers, happens every Saturday at the Love Muffin at 10 a.m. Here is a collage of words from some of our members:

[Continued on reverse...]

Submissions:

To submit a maximum 300-word prose piece or maximum 40-line poem to the Moab Poets & Writers Newsletter Editor, send an email to:

mcneild@grandschools.org

If your piece is accepted, you will be asked for a digital photo and short bio.



WordWatchers [continued from front],

“WordWatchers, for me, is vital time with my writing kin. Gently and with humor, they hold me accountable to set goals and report on how my writing is going. I love this safety net of inspiration, ideas and camaraderie...” – Monette Clark, creative nonfiction writer, editor

“watching words. watching people. watching muffins magically appear and disappear. watching love in the air. watching wonderful worlds,” – Diana Adams, poet & storyteller

“WordWatchers is a place where people say "way to go" when you tell them you did as little as write a single word...to share with others the writing tricks that work for you...see people who are fast becoming close friends, sip coffee, share a smile...” – Heidi Wainer, creative writer, lover of sci fi

"Writing is a lonely pursuit....WordWatchers provides writers of all streaks with a safe space to come out of their cubbyholes and connect with others who share a love of words....Come one, come all: put down the pen, turn off the computer...". – Eulalio Paul Cane, self-published author, co-creator of WW

“This miraculous journey with co-travelers began in the fertile green days of summer at the Farmer’s Market with Paul, Mylene, Deborah, Marcy, Joan, Rebecca, and me...it’s in a fluid and continuous process of becoming itself...” – Nancy Kurtz, journalist, editor, co-creator of WW.

[Submitted by Nancy]

Gathering Storm

By Marcia Hafner

I can smell the musky dampness of an approaching storm that seems to have come out of nowhere. The race is on! Can I possibly make it back to the truck before I am engulfed by its raging fury? I am off the beaten path with a long way to go as I keep a wary eye on the dark, mushrooming clouds. The swirling dust on the heels of an increasing wind sandblasts my face and stings my eyes. When I glance up I am shocked to see that Sleeping Ute Mountain has disappeared in a thick veil of blackened clouds.

The tinkling song of horned larks is carried along in the intense breeze. Where do these birds go when the weather turns sour? Do they try to make it to a sheltered spot or just hunker down? These hardy birds prefer the driest of the dry habitat so they must have their own strategies to survive a rampaging storm.

I make it back to the security of my truck just when the worst of the impending storm hits. Now I can relax and enjoy the surreal beauty and drama of the wild weather just beyond my window. The powerful wind rocks the truck. Rain beats against the windshield. The temperature drops like a rock. Day darkens almost to night. And then as suddenly as it came, it is gone.

Summer 2006

for Brian and Jake by Diana Adams

flickering blue flame
glowing with no shame

a young man's art
fleeting blue dart fart

Calendar

April

Visit with other WordWatchers at the Love Muffin! 10AM every Saturday.

A poetry workshop is being planned for the spring. Stay tuned to your email for updates.

May

Visit with other WordWatchers at the Love Muffin! 10AM every Saturday.

June

Visit with other WordWatchers at the Love Muffin! 10AM every Saturday.

Open Mic. Date, time and location to be decided. An email update will be forthcoming.

Open Mic Information:

Bring a treat (or enjoy those provided by MP&W), select one of your pieces of poetry or prose that you would like to read aloud, and join us in this informal setting to celebrate the power of language. Listeners are welcome too.

Visit the MP&W website for more dates & details:

www.moabpoetsandwriters.org

Contributors

Patricia Karamensines

has won several literary awards for her poetry, essays, and fiction. She has published in literary journals & magazines locally and nationally.



Diana Adams

is a speech and language teacher for Grand County School District.

No Photo Available

Marcia Hafner

is an avid bird-watcher and a freelance nature writer.

