



NEWSLETTER

“BOOK LOVERS NEVER GO TO BED ALONE.” —ANONYMOUS



Photo by Tricia Pilcher

Liminal

by Jen Jackson

Dippers are cusp-dwellers. They occupy the space between ether and water, soaring and swimming, avian and piscine lives. Never is this cusp more evident than when a dipper bobs on a midstream rock, eyeing her next aquatic meal. With toothpick legs flexing and bending, round body bouncing, she teeters purposefully on the edges between light and heavy, submerged and aloft, hunger and satiation. With this *high-low-high-low-high-low* routine, she effectively occupies both spheres at once in her intention and her being.

Perhaps dippers have something to teach us about transitions, malleability, about the utility of embracing the unexpected. As the dipper says, “So what if songbirds live in trees; the water looks inviting...” we, too, can question what has always been and contemplate a midstream transition point. It may even require a bit of bounce to collect our wits for the plunge.

In light of this, it is no surprise that the dipper is known as a bird of wisdom. The Ainu people of the islands of Japan assign her great importance. One myth holds that their god of plenty, Chikap Kamui, sought to alleviate a famine by sending a message to heaven via a bird. He first asked Crow to act as messenger, but Crow fell asleep during the

[Continued on reverse...]

From The Newsroom

Thanks for all the submission this quarter! To submit for the next edition, see the guidelines below.

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

Call for Submissions: *Canyon Legacy*. Do you have a curiosity about the stories that make Moab what it is? Would you like to pursue those threads of interest and inform the community of all that you unearth? The Museum of Moab’s *Canyon Legacy* is seeking submissions from regional writers on an ongoing basis. We are interested in your articles on the natural, cultural and prehistory of the Colorado Plateau, specifically southeastern Utah. Contact the editor, Jen Jackson, at jacksjen@gmail.com. You may also mail disks or hard copies of your work to: *Canyon Legacy*, 118 E. Center Street, Moab, UT 84532. However, email submissions are preferred.

Be ready for a workshop on September 24th with National Geographic Travel Magazine writer Charlie Kulander.

Finally, the Board would like to thank Ann Gordon for continuing to update and revise the MP&W website. THANKS, ANN!

Visit: www.moabpoetsandwriters.org
—The MP&W Board

Poet’s Society

by Tricia Pilcher

Family...

Rejects are the creators of all intellectual creation.
Brotherhood hangs their hands into their sisters.

Each has a voice,

Each is alive.

Pounding hearts,

Dry mouths parched from nerves,

Swallow.

Rhythm of words,

Logic is seeping from the cracks of the awakening.

Pausing may cause reflection,

A whisper creating screams.

It is the Poet’s Society.

Submissions:

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

007danimal@gmail.com

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

**Liminal [continued from front]**

recitation of the lengthy message. Mountain Jay did the same. Finally, Dipper Bird came forth and listened attentively. He carried the days-long message to heaven and brought heaven's answers in return. The famine was alleviated due to Dipper's efforts.

The Ainu people thus consider the dipper a bird of good fortune, a bird of heaven. Furthermore, the Ainu believe that dippers are wise and eloquent creatures and that to swallow the still-warm heart of such a bird will confer these characteristics upon he who ingests it.

Wisdom, eloquence...maybe such attributes are inherent to those carrying knowledge of darkness and weight despite the capacity for sunlight flight. Maybe these are the qualities of cusp-dwellers.

**Online Resources for Writers**

by Ann Gordon

This month's online resource is Time to Write (at www.timetowrite.com). This cool website has lots of goodies like quotes, bulletins and Writing Tips. German webmaster and author, Jurgen Wolff, is also a hypnotherapist and NLP practitioner. He has written a book called *Power Trances*, in which he offers visualizations that can even help us cope with the inner critic. He also has a blog, which can be found at: www.timetowrite.blogs.com.

Not Your Normal Woodpecker

By Marcy Hafner

My first sighting over thirty years ago of a red-shafted flicker (a subspecies of the Northern flicker) had me very puzzled. Watching it feed on the ground I was positive it wasn't a woodpecker. After all, woodpeckers cling to trees. What would any woodpecker in his right mind be doing on the ground? Frustrated, I knew this distinctive bird with its shimmering reddish-orange wing linings had to be in the field guide somewhere. Finally as a last resort I looked in the woodpecker section and there it was with all the other woodpeckers that knew how to behave like a woodpecker.

The flicker is the only woodpecker in North America that commonly feeds in open spaces where it spends a lot of time scrounging in the dirt for insects with a special fondness for ants. They also show a stronger flight pattern than other woodpeckers and within just a few yards of a tree or utility pole, they suddenly raise themselves up a few feet and grab on to their landing site.

After a long, dreary winter, I know spring is finally in full stride when I hear them yodeling their "wicka-wicka-wicka" mating call. With a long continuous drum roll, they tap out their territory, which seems perfectly okay as long as their excavation activities don't include the side of your house. At Cape Canaveral on June 8, 1995 their nuisance rating went up a notch or two when it was discovered that their cousins the yellow-shafted flicker had drilled 200 holes in the foam insulation on the fuel tank of the space shuttle, delaying that scheduled flight for days.

I never underestimate the determination of these intriguing birds to try to tear your house down! Fortunately the flickers in my yard have not become pests, and over the years I've enjoyed their dramatic personalities and extraordinary unwoodpecker habits.

Calendar**May or June**

MP&W will offer an open mic and workshop with Brooke Williams, renown writer and local talent. Stay tuned to email and the MP&W website for forthcoming information.

July

Poetry slam, July 17th at the Jailhouse Café. Socializing begins at 6:30pm, reading at 7. Bring your favorites, or bring your own work.

September

Charlie Kulander workshop. Date and time TBA.

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.

Yes, indeed, the Moab Confluence Festival will reprise in 2010 and is slated for Friday & Saturday, October 22-23. Go to www.moabconfluence.org

Visit the MP&W website for more:

www.moabpoetsandwriters.org

Contributors**Tricia Pilcher,**

38 years of living a wayward path and love for the art of communication pushes her forward. Passions: nature, traveling to new places, and looking for stories in what was left behind.

**Ann Gordon's**

vocation is technical writing and instructional design, while her avocation is creative writing. If those roles were reversed, she could spend more time in the desert!

**Marcia Hafner**

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

**Jen Jackson**

writes as an act of gratitude for her desert home. She lives with her husband in Moab.

