



# NEWSLETTER

“WE CARRY WITH US THE WONDERS WE SEEK WITHOUT US.” –SIR THOMAS BROWNE



## From “Language as Wilderness” By Patricia Karamesines

Suppose, for a moment, that prevailing evolutionary theories are on course, and human beings are, in fact, offshoots of the natural world. That suggests that human language is part of nature; in fact, we could consider language a great wilderness in its own right, an extension of this planet’s striving. But let’s not stop with humans: From the hundred of expressions one sees in hummingbird flight to the tonal utterances of my brain-injured daughter, to my students’ reaching through words for something to hold on to, something beyond a grade, something meaningful, a way out or a way to, language erupts, blossoms, evolves and erodes like other features of life and landscape.

For this reason, it’s perhaps time to drop the idea that language is a tool that we pick up, use to accomplish a task, then set aside when we’re finished (an idea that may hearken back to hunter-gatherer times when all forgings were done to secure survival). We should investigate the possibility that language has moved past its fashioning to capture experience. Instead, in the vein of other natural forces and effects, it acts to *create* experience.

So any efforts we make to improve our behavior toward the natural world ought to include efforts to improve behavior in the natural environment we call language. Viral human behavior seeking its next opportunity blossoms in language and sustains itself with language, relying upon the easy rhetoric of pedestrian forms of Manifest Destiny.

## From The Newsroom

Moab Poets and Writers in conjunction with the Smart Shelter Network are offering an ongoing workshop for writers interested in pursuing the transition from paper based literature into the media of the digital age...performance poetry, video story telling, audio books/poetry, etc. This winter's group is limited to 4 participants, however, as of press time, one position remains open. Applicants should have some form of written literature (poetry, short story, novel, technical work) and a desire to work with others in the group to discover the changes in their writing that shifting media can produce. Current participants are producing a collection of short stories in video, an artist's profile for an invitational photography show on DVD (to accompany and introduce the show) and development of performing techniques for an established poet. A group presentation and discussion of Paperless Literature will be held in April to present the winter's work and discuss its effects on the writers.

This winter's work continues that begun this last summer with Aspen Writer's Foundation/ novelist Shere Coleman in beginning production of her biographical novel Providence as well as The Telluride Bedtime Storybook (video vignettes) by Gary Duncan. To apply for the remaining position, e-mail Gary Duncan at: [gary@smartshelter.com](mailto:gary@smartshelter.com).

Further information about the Paperless Literature Project and other Smart Shelter Activities is available on this website: [www.smartshelter.com](http://www.smartshelter.com)

–The MP&W Board

## 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](mailto:mcneild@grandschools.org)

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



### TAYLOR THE DOG

kind brown eyes, the grey showing  
on muzzle and once sturdy legs  
slowed by a game knee from years in the woods  
and rivers old Taylor marks her days by  
the promise of chicken skin when the timer  
dings from the rotisserie

cool hollows dug in the forest loam or soft  
carpet next to the bed  
little hands of grandchildren caressing her body while her  
tail swings like a metronome ticking time to joy

she must be sent home or the walk will tire her  
my grey mother comes past us in her car and coaxes  
Taylor back home calling her name with such sweetness  
and understanding

I watch them both returning home

deer and turkey tracks litter the road

we are all ghosts  
slowly filling with life  
then empty  
again

–Tom Eyler

### Calendar

#### January

January 25: Final Friday open mic in will be held at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center (100 N 100 W) downstairs in the “Patio Room.”

#### February

February 29: Final Friday open mic reading will take place at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center (100 N 100 W) downstairs in the “Patio Room.”

#### March

March 28: Final Friday in March will be opened with a **reading by Heidi Hart**, author of *Grace Notes* (available at the Moab Public Library). Like the previous two open mics, this will be held at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center (100 N 100 W) downstairs in the “Patio Room.”

March 29: **Workshop with Heidi Hart**. Discover the art and value of journaling – how to do it and why. This workshop will teach you how to mine your journal for essays and other material. Don't miss this chance to renew your craft with an everyday tool.

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

[www.moabpoetsandwriters.org](http://www.moabpoetsandwriters.org)

### Open Mic Archive



The Christmas open mic on November 30<sup>th</sup> was a great success with featured readers Cosy Sheridan and Chad Niehaus, special guest Gary Duncan and several open mic readers. Chad showed slides of *Ant Hymn* while Cosy sang the ballad. After singing the song twice through and increasing the tempo, she and Chad answered numerous questions about their collaboration, the production of the book, the song, and Chad's illustration technique. Following the break, everyone enjoyed acting as the live audience for a video recording of Gary Duncan's performance piece on our shift from print to paperless world. Gary is a member of a poetry group in Aspen. (See front page for more on Gary and his writing/media project.)



Contributors Joan Gough & Dan McNeil

### Contributors

#### Patricia Karamensines



*has won several literary awards for her poetry, essays, and fiction, including from Brigham Young University, the University of Arizona, the Utah Arts Council, the Association for Mormon Letters, and the Utah Wilderness Association. She has published in literary journals and popular magazines locally and nationally.*

#### Tom Eyler

*spends his days working as the Grand County School District's humorist/Special Education teacher.*

No Photo Available



#### Dan McNeil

*rock climbs, runs, and occasionally writes in Moab, UT.*

### [Western and Eastern]

Western and Eastern  
skies at odds so great clouds build  
into tall power.

– Dan McNeil