

Moab Poets and Writers

Summer 2005

Volume 2, Issue 2

Welcome to the Moab Poets and Writers newsletter

Upcoming Events

- ❖ June 24 - Summer Open Mic at Gold Bar
- ❖ Prose Group meets regularly every other Monday at the MARC - June 6th&20
- ❖ Oct. 28 - Halloween Open Mic
- ❖ Oct. 29 - Rare Book Lecture and Road Show



In This Issue

- ❖ 2nd Rare Book Road Show
- ❖ Utah Humanities Grant
- ❖ Challenge America Grant Proposal
- ❖ Board Vacancy
- ❖ What Do YOU Think?
- ❖ Along the Colorado
- ❖ Goodbye to Mara
- ❖ MP&W Membership
- ❖ On Writing and Publishing

MP&W to Bring Second Rare Book Road Show to Moab

Tony Weller will be back for the second Rare and Collectible Book Road Show Saturday, October 29th. So mark your calendars and tell your friends. It will be from 10:00 to 1:00. Tony will address what creates rarity and value in books and building a good book collection. After the introduction covering these topics, he will appraise books that people have brought. There will be a nominal charge per book he appraises and a limit to the number of books that each person can have appraised. There will also be an opportunity to sell books.

Tony is the owner of Sam Weller's Zion Bookstore in Salt Lake City. He is also the son of Sam, the founder and long time owner of Weller's.

Locally, Andy has limited rare book collections at both Back of Beyond Books and Arches Book Company.

Utah Humanities Quick Grant Awarded

The Utah Humanities Council just notified us that the grant board member Joan Gough wrote was accepted and will be funded for the requested \$450.00. This money will be used to bring Tony Weller down in October for our second Rare Book Road Show. (see related article) The Utah Humanities Council funds projects that are centered in areas of study such as history, literature, philosophy, folklore, women's studies. They must be open to the public. Check out their web site at www.utahhumanities.org



Tony Weller taking questions during last year's workshop

Mara Goes Forward with Grant Proposal

Mara Shurgot has written a proposal to the Utah Arts Council to be part of the national Challenge America Project. This project funds the teaching and publishing of poetry from under-represented groups such as kids in detention. The proposal would cover a 6-session class to be taught at the Seek Haven Shelter this June and July. The poetry that the participants write is then published in a chapbook by the Arts Council. The work from other groups such as homeless children in Salt Lake is impressive.

Board Has Vacancy

Robin Straub found it necessary to resign her position on the MP&W Board of Directors and Mara will be leaving in June, so we have two positions on the board open. If you are interested, please contact a current board member (Pam Allred, Rusty Salmon, Julie Fox, Joan Gough, Tom Eyler or Ann Gordon). We need people with time to help with board functions, ideas and imagination for the future, and writing or publishing skills because the third Glyphs will be coming up soon. Most of all, we are looking for people with enthusiasm for writing, so please consider sharing your talents with us!

What Do YOU Think?

The MP&W Board would like to know what you think about the direction Moab Poets has been going, e.g. seasonal as opposed to monthly open mics. Mara e-mailed a survey to everyone on our mailing list, but we have received very limited response. It isn't very long and we really need your input to make this survey meaningful. So, if you have it sitting on your e-mail "back burner," please take a few minutes to fill it in. Maybe you didn't get the survey because of a SPAM blocker, or we don't have your correct email address. Please let us know correct emails! If you would like a survey, please e-mail us at MP&W (moabpw@hotmail.com) and request it. Another alternative is to use the questions below, fill out the answers on a sheet of paper and drop it off to us at EklectiCafe or snail mail to MP&W, 59 So Main, Suite 3, PMB 123, Moab, UT 84532.

Survey

- 1). Why did you originally join MP&W?
- 2). What direction would you like to see MP&W move in?
- 3). What presentations or readers would you like us to sponsor?
- 4). What has been your favorite event that we've hosted thus far?
- 5). How do you think we could improve?
- 6). We moved from monthly Final Fridays to seasonal Final Fridays but are now hearing that some members miss Final Fridays. Would you be interested in seeing us return to 8 "Final Fridays" a year (skipping February, July, August and combining Nov./Dec.)? If so, would you be willing to help host one of these, which would mean helping a board member open and close the site and being an MC?
- 7). Would you be interested in attending the poetry group if it were started again? Would you be interested in facilitating this group?
- 8). How do you feel about the newsletter?
- 9). Do you feel dues are too high, too low, or just right?
- 10). Any other thoughts???

THANK YOU!!!!



June Open Mic - Along the Colorado

Summertime will be here before we know it and those lazy (or maybe wild) days along the Colorado River will be the theme for our next Open Mic. We'll have reservations for Gold Bar (down the Potash Road to the camp grounds) and will have a fun evening of hot dogs and other refreshments. Bring your summer poetry or prose to read and particularly anything that may focus on the river. Join us June 24th at 6:30 PM for eats and treats before the readings at 7:00, or meet at Eklectica to share rides at 6:00 PM.



Goodbye to Mara

We are losing a wonderful board member who has served as the Chair, put on a great workshop, and been there to help out whenever she could with MP&W functions. Mara has a marvelous opportunity to try out North Carolina with a summer job! In her resignation to the board, she thanked everyone for their creativity, enthusiasm, and elbow-grease. We'll miss her tremendously and wish her the best as she moves forward towards new horizons. Board member Pam Allred is the new chair and we all look forward to working with her!

Moab Poets & Writers Membership

Get a friend who writes to join us at MP&W! Bring them out to our next reading, attend the Prose group, or help facilitate a new Poetry group. Things are always more fun with more folks!

Remember, benefits of membership include updates about local seminars, workshops, featured readers, and writing contests. A couple of these contests that are coming up are the **Utah Arts Council's 47th Annual Original Writing Competition, 2005** (deadline June 24th) with many entry choices for all writers across the state from poetry to novel length (see www.arts.utah.gov) as well as the **League of Utah Writers Competition** (deadline June 15th), where SOME categories are open to non-members (see www.luwrite.com for details).

Poetry Corner

(If you have a short poem or piece of prose you'd like to submit for future issues, please send to MP&W.)

The wild stalks softly
In the angular
Veins of skyscraper
Modern world view
In front of the windows

The wild stalks softly
Smells on wind firing ancient
Memories
The sleeping mother
Temporarily cloaked in
Concrete
Reaches rocky arms
Beckons with wild
Black raspberries
And clear water
In the roundness of life

The wild stalks softly
Something moves through the
Trees
Is it only the wind
Or something much more
Seductive
Anchored by the gravity
Of our perceptions
This dream

by Tom Eyler

On Writing and Publishing - *Monthly column by Michaelene Pendleton*

Agents

How do you get an agent? And when do you need one? There are no pat answers to these questions.

Agenting is a Catch-22. Most agents won't sign you unless you have publications credits. It's more difficult to get published without an agent. Unless you have a connection with a reputable agent, your best bet is to get published somewhere (GLYPHS 2, anyone?) so that you have a resumé to send with your inquiry letter. Small presses, university presses, even a good showing in a contest will establish your serious intent.

If you have a good business head, you may not need an agent, but be aware that you will spend as much time selling and promoting as writing. Orson Scott Card suggests that you sell your book first, then take the publisher's offer to an agent who will be happy to take over and protect your interests.

The standard agent's fee used to be 10%. Many agents now want 15%. Rule of thumb: if the agent wants 15%, then you should not bear associated costs for copying, postage, etc. If you find a 10% agent, you may be asked to pay for these costs. Find this out up front.

A good agent can help make your career. If you approach an agent, or are approached by one, before you sign, you **must** get a client list. Contact some writers who use that agent and check their satisfaction levels. A bad agent can kill your career. Be smart, investigate.

Next time: Cover Letters

Moab Poets and Writers
59 South Main, Suite 3, PMB 123
Moab, UT 84532

