

Moab Poets and Writers

Summer 2004

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Welcome to the premier issue of the Moab Poets and Writers newsletter

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Cowboy Poetry Event

During February 2004, the Moab Poets and Writers coordinated and sponsored Moab's first Cowboy Poetry event (the Grand County Library co-sponsored the event at Star Hall). The gathering on Friday evening was a resounding success! The everyone who participated had a great time. A Cowboy Poetry workshop, led by Rod Miller, was held Saturday at the MARC. A big thanks to Rusty Salmon for the long hours she worked to make this dream a reality for our area.

Next year's event will have a new name (still being finalized) to reflect a broader involvement with our Western culture. Cowboy poetry and music will still be a big part of the program, but we would like to expand the weekend to include food, lectures, other poetry, maybe even dancing! Next year's event will be held on Presidents' Day weekend. Please remember to mark your calendars!

Rare / Collectible Books Fair

Have you ever wondered if your old books are worth something to book collectors? On Saturday, June 12th, Tony Weller, from the Sam Weller bookstore in Salt Lake City, came to Moab at the request of MP&W in order to discuss rare and collectible books.

In the morning, Tony gave a wonderful presentation about collectible books and what factors make some of them worth lots of money. He gave tips on how to spot collectible books and how to save or resell them. A small fee was charged for this event at the MARC.

In the afternoon, Tony appraised people's collectible books -- some were in poor condition, so they weren't worth much, but some of the books were appraised at hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

Everyone learned a lot and had a great time. MP&W plans to sponsor a similar event sometime in the future.

Final Friday Featured Readers

In the summer of 2003, MP&W started sponsoring a Featured Reader (or Readers) to open the Final Friday events. Featured Readers start the Final Friday meeting by reading from their own poetry or prose. The Open Mic session follows. This photo was taken at the Final Friday gathering at Gold Bar last August.

MP&W Featured Readers include:

Ann Gordon: Technical writer / editor, Ann read from *Woman War Chief*, the historical novel she co-authored.

Glyphs II Contributors: For the combination November-December event, some contributors to *Glyphs II* read from the volume and autographed copies for sale.

Ellen Meloy: Award-winning author, Ellen read excerpts from her book, *The Anthropology of Turquoise*.

Cowboy Poets: The Moab Cowboy Poetry event took the place of Final Friday in February; many visiting cowboy poets recited their poems and ballads to the audience at Star Hall.

Michaelene Pendleton: Editor and science fiction author, Michaelene read one of her short stories, titled *The Great Economy of the Saurian Mode*.

Debbie Hughes: A local poet and published writer, Debbie read many of her poems.

Quotes about Writing

Gaston Bachelard

A word is a bud attempting to become a twig. How can one not dream while writing? It is the pen which dreams. The blank page gives the right to dream.

Peter De Vries

I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork.

William Faulkner

I never know what I think about something until I read what I've written on it.

Issac Asimov

From my close observation of writers...they fall into two groups: 1) those who bleed copiously and visibly at any bad review, and 2) those who bleed copiously and secretly at any bad review.

Book Review by Ann Gordon

Damn! Why Didn't I Write That? How Ordinary People are Raking in \$100,000.00 or More ... Writing Nonfiction Books & How You Can Too

by Marc McCutcheon © 2001 ISBN 1-884956-17-3 264 pages

Published by Quill Driver Books / Word Dancer Press

This author is clever, entertaining, and motivating. Marc explains how ordinary people, even without a college degree, can write extraordinary [nonfiction] books -- Marc is a high school dropout who earns \$100,000 a year from his books. The book lists many successful nonfiction titles and a Great Book Idea checklist, along with information about literary agents, book proposals, market niches, query letters and book promotion.

This book contains great ideas and statistics, like the fact that 46,500 of the 50,000-plus books published each year are nonfiction. Marc argues that since consumers purchase much more nonfiction than fiction, a writer's best chance of making money from writing is to publish nonfiction. Marc's book is a great read; I highly recommend it.

Thanks to Ann Gordon for creating the MP&W newsletter.

Writing Information on the Web

Moab Poets & Writers Web Site

<http://www.geocities.com/moabpoetsandwriters/>

For those of you who like to connect to the Internet, please check out our Web site. MP&W information is updated regularly on the site. This is a good place to find the schedule for Poetry and Prose Group meetings, Final Fridays, Featured Readers, Special Events and Writing Workshops. Check out the Online Resources page for lots of links.

Funds for Writers Web Site

<http://www.fundsforwriters.com/>

Want some help in figuring how to make money with your creative writing? This Web site offers information about writing grants, e-books, writing contests, and more. E-mail newsletters are available, some for a fee, some for free. Check out this Web site if you need inspiration, motivation, helpful tips, or information about freelance markets where you can sell your stuff!

Moab Poets & Writers Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2004, please do so now. Remember, along with your membership card you will also receive:

- ◆ Updates regarding local seminars, writing workshops, featured readers, and writing contests
- ◆ Reduced cost (15%) for attendance at MPW-sponsored workshops, retreats, seminars and conferences
- ◆ Quarterly newsletters about MP&W events and other writing news
- ◆ An invitation to participate in local readings of your work and that of others
- ◆ List of other members with contact information, when available
- ◆ Contact with other regional organizations of similar nature
- ◆ Membership in a network of creative people who are there to help, encourage, and empathize with others

As an MP&W member, you will be part of an established poets and writers organization, which has a published forum and has gained regional respect. You will also be helping to support this form of creative arts, to encourage others like yourself to participate, and to introduce young people to the opportunities for self-expression in the written word.



General Membership - \$18 Students and seniors - \$15 Sponsoring Business - \$35

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Check here if your contact information can be added to the membership mailing list

General Areas of Interests (prose, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, etc.): _____

(Please include your membership payment with this form and mail to: MP&W, 59 So. Main, PMB 123, Moab, UT 84532)

The 46th Annual Utah Original Writing Competition sponsored by the Utah Arts Council

Submissions are currently being accepted for the 2004 UAC writing competition. The competition, open to all Utah residents, was established in 1958. There is no entry fee.

CATEGORIES:

Novel, General Non-Fiction, Book-Length Collection of Poems, Juvenile Book, Poetry,
Short Story, Personal Essay.

CALENDAR:

May 3

Earliest manuscript acceptance at Utah Arts Council offices.

June 25

Entries due: 4 pm at Utah Arts Council 617 E. South Temple, SLC Utah, 84102.

July 16

Manuscripts mailed to judges.

Sept 20

Winners contacted. (Please notify us of changes in address.) Press notified.

QUESTIONS:

Visit UAC Web site at: <http://arts.utah.gov/literature/competition.html>

Contact Guy Lebeda by email at glebeda@utah.gov or phone 801-236-7553

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