



# NEWSLETTER

“HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT I THINK TILL I SEE WHAT I SAY?” –E.M. FORSTER



## Researching the Story By Marcia Hafner

You've been asked to write a non-fiction article of local interest. The euphoria lasts about ten minutes before the panic attack hits and you wish you could fly to the moon to avoid this impossible task. This is a normal reaction, so relax and take a deep breath. Give yourself the luxury of a day or two to think it over. During this time, keep reminding yourself that you can do it. Then get in there and start the research one step at a time. Here are some suggestions to get you going.

1. Get on the Internet and Goggle it. Then print the material out so you can quickly refer to it later on.
2. Go to the library where there's a wealth of reference materials at your fingertips. If you can't find it, don't hesitate to ask the librarian. That's what she's there for.
3. Look in the museum, especially for resources on geology, history and geography. The staff is more than happy to assist you.
4. Check out the bookstores. When I go in to browse around, I often find the perfect book or magazine to add to my own reference library.
5. Pick up the phone and talk to the experts. People love to pass on their knowledge and tell the stories that add pizzazz to make the plain old facts come alive.

Now you're ready to sit down in front of the screen to compose the story, one rough draft after another. Before you know it, it all pieces together and you've written your article.

## From The Newsroom

Dear Moab Poets & Writers,

Welcome new members: Shirley Haycock, Patricia Karamesines, John Spinks, Mylene Dressler, & Pat Wakeley. We are pleased to gain your involvement.

Consider purchasing the specially priced Glyphs set as a gift to yourself or a loved one. Glyphs III: \$15, II: \$12, Full set: \$25-

MP&W needs your input: What type of workshops would you enjoy? Please contact Joan Gough at the following address with suggestions:

[joangough@hotmail.com](mailto:joangough@hotmail.com)

With your help, we can continue to share superb local writing with MP&W members through this newsletter. Read below for submission guidelines. We hope that members will enjoy the new layout of MP&W's quarterly newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email or have comments, please contact the editor at the address below.

Finally, thank you, Katie Lee, for the spirited kickoff of our Glyphs III gala celebration. We were honored by your presence and moved by your words.



–The MP&W Board

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

## 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.

**Excerpted from Jen Jackson's  
"Hope is the Thing with Feathers"**

Driving through northern California on a warm June evening – one car among two straight lines of many – we came upon an enormous swarm of barn swallows, all forked tails and finesse, swooping through and under and around the flight paths of one another. There were easily 50 birds in this natural cloud of insecticide, hunting and playing in easy unity.

We slowed our vehicle to better absorb the multiplicity of rusty breasts and blue backs, the riot of feathered confetti at the roadside. They emulated the gnat swarms they preyed upon, mirroring the gifts of life that sustained them.

I turned back to the road and observed the straight lines of vehicles and asphalt beyond and behind us, the unnatural order to it all. I wondered how we lost our ability to emulate and honor all that brings us sustenance, energy and life. When did we turn the mirror upon ourselves – rather than outward – and become preoccupied with our own small images?

Another evening, lying on the sandstone surface of a swallow-viewing sky-island, enjoying the swooping curiosity of joyful creatures, my literary mind struggled with terms to describe the agility and precision of swallows in flight. I kept reaching for metaphors drawn from aviation or the military – images culled from man-made machinery.

Now, in retrospect, I am thankful for an inadequate military vocabulary, for these words are ill-suited to describe wild perfection. It is a substitution of the imitation for the original – like calling microwaved Velveeta fondue, or tearing down the forest to build a church, a house of God.

It is a reminder to stop looking in the mirror, to recognize how much

fuller the world is beyond the human reflection. We live in a vastness that stretches beyond the reaches of words, an idea the writer in me will someday accept. And rejoice.

**May Seventh**

I am outfaced,  
helpless,  
countenancing beauty  
I cannot describe—  
unnamed colors,  
the delicacy of leaves, flowers;  
the gullet of my soul is stopped,  
filled to brimming.

Perhaps I should not be here,  
perhaps,  
like a man at a table  
covered with delectable viands,  
I am in danger of surfeit.

Have I some nerve  
lying against my soul  
that will fail with fullness,  
can I not encompass, digest  
this beauty?

No abstraction, no contraction  
can bring what I see within my  
ken.

I am over-nourished, gluttoned  
to guilt,  
the god of me too young  
at sixty-four to consume more  
than what lies before me.

Have mercy, beauty;  
blind me, guide me  
away, do not let the day  
expire  
before I have found the way  
back to my walls,  
my chair, my books.

Yet, if I must be consumed,  
as I know I must, then here—  
let the mountains,  
the trees and flowers, Earth,  
receive my precious dust.

–Tom Savage

**Calendar****October**

Final Friday in October (26<sup>th</sup>) will likely feature Cozy Sheridan and Chad Niehaus sharing their publishing experience. Location: Mondo Café, unless otherwise noted.

**November**

Final Friday in November (30<sup>th</sup>) reading will take place at the Mondo Café, unless otherwise posted on the MP&W website.

**December**

Final Friday in November (28<sup>th</sup>) reading will take place at the Mondo Café, unless otherwise posted on the MP&W website.

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

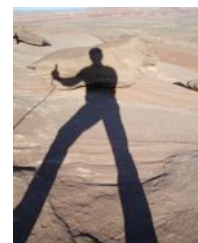
[www.moabpoetsandwriters.org](http://www.moabpoetsandwriters.org)

**Contributors**

**Marcia Hafner,**  
*an avid bird-  
watcher, is a  
freelance nature  
writer.*



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



**Tom Savage—**  
*"I am following my  
lights inward,  
seeking the path as  
I travel it, and the  
journey is  
everything. I  
cannot imagine  
how life could be  
better than it is  
today".*