



Midwest Writing Center

Fostering appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators.



225 E. 2nd St. Suite 303
Davenport, Iowa 52801

The Writer's Block E-Newsletter

*** December 2011 ***



MWC MEMBER BUZZ...

Congratulations to Andrew Ziegler!
He was recently named the 2012 Poet in Residence. Look for his exciting plans for April, 2012 soon!



DID YOU KNOW?

Your donations made to MWC are tax

deductible? Please remember us when making your end of the year tax deductible donations.

DO SOME HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

ALL DAY Saturday, December 3rd: Present the Barnes & Noble Voucher (see below) when you check out at Barnes & Noble at Northpark Mall and MWC will receive a portion of the sale. This is a painless and fun way to support the Midwest Writing Center and local authors. Several local authors will be there from 1—4 p.m. signing their 2011 released books including Mike McCarty, Mark McLaughlin, Larry Riney, Anna Shammass and Connie Wilson.

GET YOUR VOUCHER: Download the PDF attached to the email which brought you this newsletter and print it out. Don't have a printer? *No problem*—just stop by MWC to pick them up! Can't find the PDF? *No problem*, just email mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org and ask to have it emailed to you as an attachment! Can't get to Barnes & Noble on Saturday? *No problem!* If you have a printer and a scissors, just download the PDF, print several copies, cut them out and pass them out to your family, friends and coworkers.



Looking for a critique group?

The Writers' Studio, next meetings - November 3rd & 17th at 11 a.m. at MWC.

Out Loud Open Mic Night December 30th



Submissions will be accepted for the Out Loud Poetry Anthology until **January 15, 2012**. All who have previously participated in Out Loud events may submit!



YOU ARE INVITED!!

to

The Midwest Writing Center

Christmas Party!

When: December 8, 2011 from 5-7pm

Where: Midwest Writing Center @ Bucktown Center for the Arts on the 3rd floor in the conference room.

MWC members and friends are invited for a Holiday Party!

Come celebrate with us and

enjoy yummy food, conversation, and door prizes!

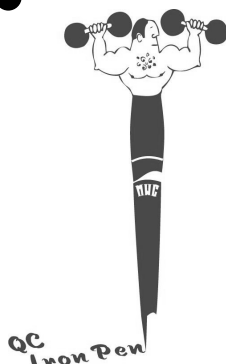
If you are planning to attend (no need to send regrets), please email us at mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org or call

Get Ready for Iron Pen

or any other prompt writing endeavor—

By attending the *Writing from A Prompt Workshop* with Jane Carmen on February 4th, 2012! Jane will help you get ready for the Iron Pen Contest later in February or with any writing project requiring starting with a prompt. This workshop will be held from 1-3 p.m.; cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Register on the web or by calling 563/324-1410!



February 17-18, 2012 - 4th Annual Iron Pen Contest

Load your ink and get ready to pull the trigger! Participants will receive the first line of their work on Friday, February 17th at 5 p.m. via email and will have until Saturday, February 18th at 5 p.m. to submit their short story, poem or other work using the prompt. Winners will be announced by email on Wednesday, February 22nd and will present their work and receive an award on Saturday, February 25th at 2 p.m. This contest is open to everyone 12 years old and older. Cost is \$10 per entry. Online registration will be posted soon! *Questions?* Call 563/324-1410 or email mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org.

February 25, 2012 - Iron Pen Awards Ceremony

Join us at 2 p.m. to celebrate the winners of our Iron Pen Contest. Refreshments will be served and the winners will be reading their work. **FREE!**

**HELP
WANTED**

VOLUNTEER!

Ever wanted to do more for MWC but don't have the resources to make a monetary donation? Then consider volunteering! It only takes as much time as you can give; you choose your schedule and your job.

Right now, we really need volunteers to:

- Maintain our professional library and regional library inventory
- Maintain scrapbook of media coverage
- Update and maintain e-tapestry (don't worry, we'll train you)
- Send out letters and information to new authors
- Maintain Amazon store (someone with more Amazon know-how than us would be great!)

If you're interested in helping, just call Lauren at 563/324-1410 or email her at mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org.

CASH PRIZES for Poetry!

Don't Miss the 39th Annual Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest!

Entries accepted January 1st through March 31st through Submission Manager at www.midwestwritingcenter.org/submissions.

Cash prizes awarded to first, second and third place poems in the national and regional (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin) categories.

Any poems not previously published are eligible.

Entry Fee Information:

Entry fee is \$9 for up to three poems for one category or \$14 for both national and regional categories; \$2 for each additional poem. Send an extra \$4.00 for a copy of *Off Channel*, which will include poems from the winners and top 25 finalists.

Submission requirements will be posted on our website soon!

From the MWC Board and Staff:

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Mark your calendars for these other upcoming exciting events scheduled for 2012!

March 10, 2012 - Literary Banquet

Join us at the Outing Club for this exciting event! More information and keynote speaker will be announced soon!

Spring Pen In Hand Session - March 24, 2012

This installment of Pen In Hand will feature various facets of novel and fiction writing. More information coming soon!

Writer's Studio and Out Loud are BACK for 2012!

On the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month, writers are invited to attend **Writer's Studio** at MWC from 11 am to 1 p.m. to read their work, receive and offer constructive feedback. The meetings are free and registration is not necessary. Just bring your work and ideas!

On the final Thursday of every month starting at 7 p.m. (generally), writers are invited to bring their poetry to share with others who attend **Out Loud**. Each month a poem of the month is chosen by the attendees and, if the winner submits his or her poem to MWC electronically, it will be posted on MWC's website. All attendees of Out Loud are also invited to submit to the Out Loud Anthology. Submissions for the 2012 anthology started coming in October 1st and will be accepted through January 15, 2012. So if you've ever attended Out Loud, get your submissions in (see the website) and if you haven't and want to submit to the 2012 anthology, join us on December 30th (note this is a Friday)!

Writer's Studio 2012 Dates:

January 17th & 21st
February 4th & 18th
March 3rd & 17th
April 7th & 21st
May 5th & 19th
June 2nd & 16th
July 7th & 21st
August 4th & 18th
September 1st & 15th
October 6th & 20th
November 3rd & 17th

Out Loud Open Mic Readings 2012 Dates:

January 26th
February 23rd
March 29th
April 26th
May 31st
July 26th
August 30th
September 27th
October 25th
November 29th
December 20th

Do you need a writing mentor?

Does your business need writing advertising copy?

Do you need help writing your family's story?

Do you have a manuscript and need help formatting it for a printer?

Looking for someone to design your cover?

Visit our blog for tips and suggestions for freelancers AND consumers!

Go to
www.midwestwritingcenter.org
and click on an icon like the one
below!



Our programs are partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and the Riverboat Development Authority



Should you wish not to receive e-mail information about upcoming events at the Midwest Writing Center, please send a reply with REMOVE in the subject line to: mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org

Midwest Writing Center

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