



Midwest Writing Center

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



The Writer's Block E-Newsletter

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

*** February 2012 ***

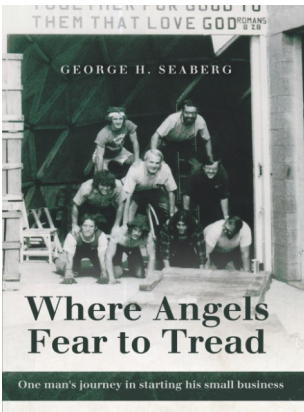


George Seaberg—February's Featured Author

MWC is proud to introduce **George Seaberg**, its first featured author (if you are a member and have a books on consignment under a current agreement, watch your email for information on how you can become a featured author-of-the-month). George's book, *"Where Angels Fear to Tread"*, is the story of how his small manufacturing business succeeded in the competitive world market. It is available for purchase at MWC and on the MWC website. The book was written from the diary and notes George kept while launching and growing Seaberg Industries, a manufacturer of metal parts mostly for big companies in the Fortune 500 Index from 1972 into 2006. George's goal in writing the book was to help potential entrepreneurs by providing inspiration and a guide to pursuing their dreams.



George's passion for writing was inspired by his freshman English teacher at the University of Iowa, Mr. Andrews, who he says "instilled a genuine desire to communicate by writing." But When George sold his company in 2006, he didn't immediately start his writing career. Instead, he focused his attention on keeping physically, mentally and spiritually fit; travelled with his wife to Europe, Scandinavia and Russia and with his grandchildren to places in the United States. He also continued his piano lessons, helped his son coach his junior high basketball team and became a First Responder for the Riverdale, Iowa Fire Department.



The idea for *"Where Angels Fear to Tread"* had been in George's mind since he started Seaberg Industries in 1972. He initially wrote it as a family history for his children; he showed it to a local editor who expressed enthusiasm for the project which led to publication. George will be a featured speaker at the University of Iowa's Student Leadership Institute on April 20th and 21st hosted by Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids which will be attended by thirty engineering, business and computer science undergraduates. For aspiring writers, George offers this advice: "WRITE 10,000 words about any subject! Then throw them away and start writing about the things you enjoy."

Join George for a reading from *"Where Angels Fear to Tread"* on Wednesday, **February 8th at 7:00 p.m.** at **Bettendorf Public Library** as part of the BPL and MWC read local series.

Out Loud Open Mic Night February 23rd



Looking for a good read or that special gift?

Visit MWC's book store at www.midwestwritingcenter.org/RedesignedSite/Bookstore/Bookstore.htm for a vast selection of local author and MWC published books



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 18th 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

Get Ready for Iron Pen

or any other prompt writing endeavor—

By attending the *Playing with Prompts 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. **Special \$10 rate for last year's entrants!**

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

**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.

IT'S A NOVEL THING!

The spring 2012 of the Pen In Hand Mini-Conference will feature workshops all about fiction writing, especially novels. Pen In Hand will take place on **Saturday, March 24, 2012**. Four workshops will be offered between 9:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

- ⇒ **"Who Was That Masked Man?" - Creating and sustaining memorable and interesting characters** with **Rebecca McKanna**
- ⇒ **"Talk the Talk" - Creating workable and rewarding dialogue** with **Ann Boaden**
- ⇒ **"Stuck Like Glue" - Putting energy, tension and excitement into your fiction to create the can't-put-it-down story** with **Dr. Kelly Daniels**
- ⇒ **"Before & After" - Before: Novel planning & outlining; After: Writing a query letter and the submission process** with **Mike McCarty & Mark McLaughlin**

Register on-line, by phone or by mail by March 17th to receive early bird pricing! Visit www.midwestwritingcenter.org and click the **Pen In Hand** link under the "Events & Opportunities" tab for more information.

MWC TO OFFER TWO ON-LINE CREATIVE WRITING BASICS WORKSHOPS!

MWC101: Creative Writing Basics I with Julia Coleman

For the novice to intermediate writer of any genre; elements of voice and individual style, precision, technique, observation and research, and customizing a writing environment will be explored. *Offered 2/4-3/2; 4/7-5/4; 6/2-6/29; 8/4-8/31; 10/6-11/7.*

MWC201 Creative Writing Basics II: Voice & Style with Jodie Toohey

For the beginning to intermediate creative writer who has completed Creative Writing Basics I (formerly known as Basics for Beginners) or has a foundational understanding of basic creative writing conventions to further explores the conventions of voice and style as a journey of discovery of these elusive qualities that are unique to each workshop participant. *Offered: 3/3-3/30; 5/5-6/1; 7/7-8/3; 9/8-10/5; 11/3-11/30.*

The online workshops are offered in a four-week, facilitated course format with one hour of live discussion each week (day/time determined with participants during first week). Skype is used for real-time text conferencing.

Cost for either workshop is \$65 for members/\$75 for non-members. Visit www.midwestwritingcenter.org for system requirements, additional details and instructions for registering!

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.

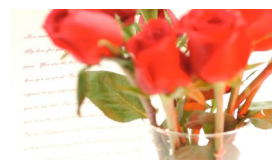
Any poems not previously published are eligible.

Entry Fee Information:

Entry fee is \$10 for up to three poems for one category or \$15 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 now available at www.midwestwritingcenter.org



MWC MEMBER BUZZ...

Congratulations to *Jodie Toohey*, winner of Bettendorf Public Library's Love Poem Contest. Join BPL for a Valentine for Faye Clowe February 16th at 6:30 p.m. at BPL.



Don't Forget—MWC Sells Books!

If you are an author, don't forget to put your books on consignment with MWC! Books are sold on-site and on-line. MWC receives 15% of the sale price of the book (which you set) if you are a member and 20% if you are a non-member. Plans are in the works to try to increase consignment book sales in 2012 including special opportunities for MWC Members selling books on consignment. So if you are a member and have books for sale, consider putting them on consignment. If you already have books on consignment but are not a member, consider joining. Membership starts at only \$25 per person and offers lots of benefits. If you are not a member and have books for sale but they are not on consignment with MWC, consider joining and putting them on.

Looking for a critique group?

The Writers' Studio next meetings February 4th & 18th at 11 a.m. at MWC.



DID YOU KNOW?

Your donations made to MWC are tax

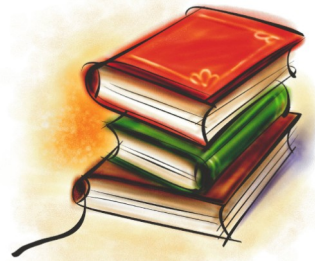
deductible? Please remember us when making your tax deductible donations.

MWC TEAMS UP WITH BPL

The Midwest Writing Center has teamed up with the Bettendorf Public Library for a "Read Local" event series. Local authors will be reading, signing and selling their books every other month alternating between MWC and BPL.

February 8th: George Seaberg
April 14th: Ellen Tsagaris & Jan Van Vooren Rogers
June 13th: Lilly Setterdahl
August 11th: Michael Neis
October 10th: Laura Hartman
December 8th: Ann Boaden

MWC's events will start at 1 p.m.; BPL's start at 7 p.m. the Bettendorf Single Room at the library.



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

225 E. 2nd St. Suite 303, Davenport, Iowa 52801
Phone: 563-324-1410 Fax: 563-324-1410