



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

*** January 2012 ***



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 tax
deductible donations.

Looking for a critique group?

The Writers' Studio, next meetings
January 7th & 21st at 11 a.m. at
MWC.

Out Loud Open Mic Night January 26th



Looking for a good read or that special gift?

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



OUT LOUD PARTICIPANTS: GET YOUR SUBMISSIONS IN!

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!

Visit [http://www.midwestwritingcenter.org/RedesignedSite/Events/
OutloudAnthologySubInstructions.htm](http://www.midwestwritingcenter.org/RedesignedSite/Events/OutloudAnthologySubInstructions.htm) for details.



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 \$10 for up to three poems; \$2 for each additional poem. To
submit to both national and regional contests, entry fee is \$15 for up to
three poems in each contest category, \$2 for each additional poem.

Submission requirements now available at www.midwestwritingcenter.org

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.

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

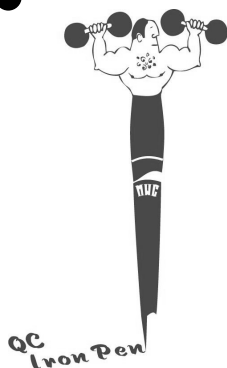
\$10 for 2011 Iron Pen Contest

Participants

\$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 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.

*****Everyone that participates in this year Iron Pen Contest will have a chance to win a paid-in-full tuition with a value of \$225 to the David R. Collins Writing Conference in June of 2012.**

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.

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 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (definitive schedule and instructor announcements coming soon). Mark your calendars; here is what we have planned:

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

Watch the website for instructor information and registration instructions!

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 & Jane VanVooren Rogers*

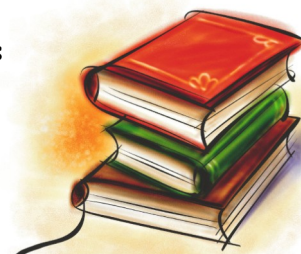
June 13th: *Lilly Setterdahl*

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. in the Bettendorf Single Room at the library.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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).

GET OUT YOUR DAY PLANNERS!!

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.

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@midwestritingcenter.org

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