

The Write Place At the Write Time

Home

About Us

Announcements

Interviews

Fiction

Poetry

"Our Stories" non-fiction

Writers' Craft Box

Book Reviews

Writers' Contest!

Submission Guidelines

Indie Bookstores

Feedback & Questions

Inscribing Industry Blog

Archives

Scrapbook of Three Years

Come in...and be captivated...

Search

Announcements

Our Writers:

~Mark Barkawitz's novel, *Giant Killers*, is coming out this spring as an E-book by BigCatEpublishing in New York. Release date & purchase @ his new website: <http://www.markbark.org/>. Also, his short story, "Life in the Fairlane", was a finalist in the Line Zero Winter Literary Contest and will be published 3/15 in Issue Six of their anthology.

~Anne Whitehouse's recent publications:

Poetry—Literary Magazines

A Good Small Magazine, Issue 1, Jan. 2012. "Blessing XV".
<http://asmallgoodmagazine.wordpress.com/2012/01/14/blessing-xv-by-anne-whitehouse/>

Scythe, Issue VII, Winter, 2012. "Preserves", "Remembering Cora", "After Irene", "The Decisive Moment".
<http://scytheliteraryjournal.com/anne-whitehouse.php>

Poetry—Anthology

"At the Winter Solstice". *Love Notes*, Vagabondage Press, 2012.
<http://www.vagabondagepress.com>

Fiction-Anthology

"The Son's Complaint," "Spirals Around Two Peaks," *Being Human: Call of the Wild*. New York: Editions Bibliotekos, 2012.
<http://www.ebibliotekos.com/2012/02/being-human-call-of-wild.html>

"A Modern Princess," has been published in *Contemporary Literary Review: India*.

~John Bolen's short story, "Loreto" has just been published in the online literary magazine *Front Porch Review*. The story is adapted from his one-act play of the same name that was first produced at the Vanguard Theatre in December, 2004. Directed by Lynne Bolen, it starred Anthony Cohen, Joyce Eriksen, Stu Eriksen and Terry Winkler. The short story is also included in *Nothing for Christmas & Other Holiday Tales* released this last year in paperback and Kindle editions on Amazon.

~Noelle Sterne's recent interview:
http://www.kfab.com/cc-common/podcast/single_page.html?podcast=WeekendShows&selected_podcast=12-18-11_Suzanna_1324267524_4611.mp3

Our Artists:

~C. Michelle Olson, often a featured photographer within *The Write Place At the Write Time*, is now offering her detailed digital art to authors. Her photographs are supplied to AG Press for any potential author seeking to purchase photography for book covers or photos for books. Anyone interested can check them out at:
http://www.agpress.8m.net/contact_2.html.

Our Publication:

~*The Write Place At the Write Time* is newly listed in the 2012 edition of the *Novel and Short Story Writers' Market* as well as *The Review Review* (<http://www.thereviewreview.net/>)

~See the Duotrope Digest interview of our Editor-in-Chief, Nicole M. Bouchard (<http://duotrope.com/interview.aspx?id=5769>).

~ *Read below about our partnering with Milken Community High School this summer to donate our time and resources by taking a few select students through an individualized, online creative writing course.

~ Our blog devoted to the business aspects of writing, Inscribing Industry, is now accessible via one of the page tabs on our website. *Check out our guest blogger, SuzAnne C. Cole, as she details a summer of readings and book signings:

(<http://inscribingindustry.blogspot.com/2012/03/reading-into-readings-writers-life.html>).

Guest Blogger Bio: SuzAnne C. Cole is a retired college instructor with an MA from Stanford. Her essays have been published in *Newsweek*, *Houston Chronicle*, *San Antonio Express-News*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Personal Journaling* and many anthologies as well as *The Write Place at the Write Time*. She also writes plays, poetry, and short fiction in a studio in the Texas Hill Country. Visit: <http://inscribingindustry.blogspot.com> and become a follower!

~We have a presence on Facebook via our fan page & a Twitter account (@WriteplcWritetm) which offers insights, quotes, tools and resources:

Visit Facebook.com and stop by The-Write-Place-At-the-Write-Time-literary-journal page

Writer and Reader Corkboard:

~*CapeWomenOnline* magazine is "...a venue for women to share their ideas, experiences and resources while inspiring each other in their life's journey. We feature seven dynamic sections that cover Literary and Creative women, Holistic Health, Work, Environment, Life Stories and Community Action. Come join the conversation!"

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As we will be partnering with the creative writing program at Milken Community High School this summer to take a few select students through an individualized four week online creative writing course, we wish to share with you the story of how we became familiar with this extraordinary school and the director that is the heart and soul of its creative writing program.

A Los Angeles member of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), Milken Community High School utilizes state-of-the-art technology and holds high standards for academic excellence and quality of community service .

We first became familiar with Milken Community High School a few years back when we received a query letter from a young woman stating that she was a senior at the school and involved in a creative writing program that gave her an opportunity to send her work to literary magazines. The poem

was aptly titled, "Growing Up" by Chelsey Sobel and held within it a candid wisdom. Wanting to know more about a school that would give young writers the invaluable gift of being introduced to the real, unvarnished literary world at a young age, we sent a letter in reply conveying our wonder at this mature piece and the program that produced such a student. We received a touching e-mail from the director of the program, thanking us for our detailed letter, saying "...it means so much to the kids to see that it is not just a vast impersonal abyss out there in the world of publishing." Since then, we have had the pleasure of receiving further high quality submissions from the school and, in a recent phone exchange, I got to speak with program director, Melody Mansfield, and learn about the incredible work she is doing with creative writing students.

For any writer in the business to look back to when they were first starting out, the first triumphs and harsh disillusionments, we can all remember a time when we wish we'd had a tender sort of guidance and induction to publishing. It was around that age that I recall making the independent choice for 'a road less traveled by', having seen creativity and individualism squelched and stamped out like wild fire in so many traditional academic settings. I was starting out on my own into uncharted territory. That experience makes me particularly sensitive to wanting to encourage the young writers who come to that crossroads after me. My staff and I wanted to do something special to show our support of the school and its gifted students. We came up with the idea that we would offer to donate our time and resources this summer to a select group of students by taking them through our intensive four week online creative writing course. We feel that this will be as much of a rewarding learning experience for us as it will be for the students. We are thrilled to be working with the school and with Melody, whose contributions to shaping future waves of writers that could affect the literary landscape are incredibly significant.

Read Melody's perspectives below on the formation of her program, its alumni and philosophy.

~Nicole M. Bouchard

Editor-in-Chief

The Write Place At the Write Time

"The creative writing program, as it exists today, began as a simple creative writing elective I taught at the high school level in 1998. It soon became apparent to me, however, that the elective format did not give us the time or space needed to move beyond the "creative" moniker to address the more substantive issues of technique and excellence in fiction and poetry. For this, we needed to study the masters, learn the terminology, and develop more rigorous standards of evaluation. I then reconceived the class as a core level English course, and reworked it until it met the University of California standards for an accredited course. These courses, "The Study of Fiction" and "The Study of Poetry," came to be the academic basis for the entire program, and informed the rest of our work in the "Writes of Passage" student reading series, the Literary Journal, the "Spotlight Poet" distinction, the "Scribbler's Anonymous" writing club for underclassmen, the "Sunday WordPlay" guest author series, and all of the other continually evolving programs in the "Creative Writing Program."

As the program grew, I gradually shared more and more of the tasks and responsibilities with the students themselves. I now interview students annually for the highly coveted positions of "Creative Writing Student Leaders" and we work together to make the program as student-centered as possible. My criteria for my students leaders revolves around three main areas: demonstrated passion for writing, demonstrated dependability in accomplishing tasks, and demonstrated kindness toward and support of their writing peers.

Some of my former CW student leaders have gone on to become professional writers themselves. One of them is now a writer for The New Yorker. Another has published both a novel and a book of short stories. She writes that "My professors in college and graduate school were always shocked that I entered the classroom with such a high level of familiarity with writing. I could not be who I am today (professionally or personally) without this program" (Thais Miller, class of 2006). One of my original leaders, Gabriel Mizrahi (class of 2004), writes that "I now work in the

entertainment industry as a corporate strategist and writer. My words are my currency with the clients and readers, and I owe a great deal of my style and passion for writing to Melody's program."

I love to hear these stories, as you might imagine, but I am actually just as proud of the non-exceptional English students who found their voices in our writing program. For many of these underperforming students, the opportunity to take an "inside-out" approach to writing (analyzing literature not as an end in itself, but as a way to better understand their own emerging writing skills) results in not only improved scores in traditional English courses, but in a new confidence in themselves and in a lifelong love of words that serves them in a variety of non-writing careers.

One of the many things I have learned in this fourteen-year endeavor is the importance of allowing students to "own" their own successes and/or failures. I feel strongly that the most authentic way we can "honor" one another's work is to give it our full attention. We practice doing so both in our "workshops" and in our peer reading events ("Writes of Passage.") Publication is a bonus, but not the goal of our writing. Nevertheless, I do require my students to send out their work for possible publication, primarily to embody the Churchill-ian philosophy that "Success is moving from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm." Most student work is not published, and that is just fine; we've done the work and we've taken the additional steps of researching markets and writing cover letters. After that, it is up to the cosmos. We applaud one another's efforts and move on. But every now and then, we get to see our own words in print as well. And that is a sweet reward."

Melody Mansfield
Director of Creative Writing
Milken Community High School

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