

## [The Write Place At the Write Time](#)

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### *Announcements*

#### **Our Writers:**

~Cheryl Sommese opened for the emerging poet, Muad Saleh, in two Spoken Word events held in New York City and Manchester, NH. Both poets presented four of their most treasured pieces. Duane Oliver Taylor, a highly-regarded publicist located in New York, made the arrangements. Mr. Taylor has been the publicist for well-known artists such as Will Smith and Kid Rock.

~Noelle Sterne inaugurates a new column for writers this summer (mid-July) at *Coffeehouse for Writers*. The column features motivational and craft advice, reflections, encouraging examples, and nagging for writers at all levels. Title: "Bloom Where You're Writing."

~Laury A. Egan's collection, *Fog and Other Stories*, will be published May 20, 2012 by StoneGarden.Net Publishing. Available in paperback, Kindle and Nook formats, and electronic downloads:

[http://stonegarden.net/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_book\\_info&cPath=3&products\\_id=23](http://stonegarden.net/index.php?main_page=product_book_info&cPath=3&products_id=23)

The 23 stories deal with the metaphorical concept of fog as a state produced by grief, mental illness, love, anger, dementia, pain, prejudice, or dreams and how the human being refracts reality through these diffused prisms. Protagonists struggle with psychological and physical distortions that lead them down problematic paths, whether due to jealousy or desire in the case of lovers or hypothermia experienced by a fallen mountain climber. In the

story, "Fog," set in Ireland, the narrator encounters the real thing. For more information: [www.lauryaegan.com](http://www.lauryaegan.com)

### **Our Artists:**

~Ken Steinkamp received second place for his "Timed Exposure I" piece in the New London CT Hygienic Arts Gallery Seventh annual regional show: Crossing the Bridge.

### **Staff:**

~Editor-in-Chief Nicole M. Bouchard, along with colleagues from *Solstice*, *Drunken Boat* and *Midway Journal*, appeared on the Small Press Panel: *How Online Journals and Social Media Transform Poetics* at the Fourth Annual Mass. Poetry Festival and has a forthcoming article in *CapeWomenOnline* that will be featured as a two part series entitled "The Written Ripple Effect" that focuses on the fundamentals of building a strong portfolio of writing.

### **Our Publication:**

~We have planned a large scale Fiction, Poetry and Non-fiction Contest to run over the summer from June 22nd until September 20th with three esteemed guest judges including Gwendolen Gross, Ellen Bass and Kathleen Flinn. For details on prizes, entry fees/requirements and judge bios, visit the Contest page!

~After much consideration, we have come to a decision concerning our publication frequency. Due to the magazine's significant growth over the past four years (something we couldn't be more thrilled about) and the fact that we, at present, remain a relatively small volunteer staff who are writers ourselves, we feel that in order for us to continue to provide the same degree of time, energy, quality and high standards you've come to expect from our publication, we need to go from producing four issues each year to three. Therefore, beginning in autumn, we will be a triannual publication as opposed to a quarterly. This will not affect the autumn publication date of September 22nd. The winter/spring issue will be released January 22nd and the spring/summer issue will be released May 22nd. 9/22, 1/22 and 5/22 will be our publication schedule going forward with reminders and updates sent out accordingly. The deadline for the autumn/winter issue will be August 15th. The deadline for the winter/spring issue will be

December 15th and the deadline for the spring/summer issue will be April 15th. Please let us know if you have any questions and we will be happy to answer them for you.

~ \*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.

~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:**

~Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing: "The MVICW (<http://mview.com/>) is now open for registration and scholarship applications for the 2012 Summer Writing Program. The Summer Writing Program will run from July 15th-20th on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The MVICW was founded in order to give writers the opportunity to develop their craft among established authors. The Institute offers a comprehensive week-long focus on writing, providing writers with the necessary time to devote to their art. This year's faculty includes award-winning poets, Catherine Pierce and Marcus Wicker, and award-winning short story and novel writers, Michael Kardos and Phong Nguyen (editor of the nationally acclaimed literary journal, *Pleiades*). MVICW is happy to be able to provide merit-based and need-based scholarships.

The MVICW is also offering The MVICW High School Writers Collaborative, a summer writing camp for all students in 9th-12th grade. This one-week summer camp runs from July 9th-13th at The Martha's Vineyard Charter School. Students between 14-19 years old will come together to learn poetry and prose alongside skilled teachers, university professors, and published writers. A comprehensive description of the 2012 Summer Writing Program and The MVICW High School Writers Collaborative, along with scholarship application and registration information can be found at its website, <http://mview.com>."

~Late Night Library (<http://www.latenightlibrary.org/>) "...is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting talented writers early in their careers. Our programs include a series of podcasts about debut titles, podcast conversations with cultural innovators, events that connect diverse literary communities, and a virtual network of writers and readers. We are based in Brooklyn, New York, and Portland, Oregon."

~*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!"

[www.CapeWomenOnline.com](http://www.CapeWomenOnline.com)  
Inspire Encourage Network Share



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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