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and more....

THE Seacoast Writer

SWA Fall Conference Memories

With a windy nor'easter blowing through the area only a day before the conference, we were fortunate to dodge that bullet. The Saturday of our conference proved to be a lovely autumn day, complete with a backdrop of brilliant foliage to enhance our travel to and from the McConnell Center.

We again enjoyed sumptuous food provided by **Green Bean Caterers**.

Most of us wished that we could attend all four workshops since each one promised and delivered an outstanding presentation.

Those who attended **M.F. Bloxam's workshop (Creating a Sense of Place)** thought it was "outstanding." Bloxam offered a "nice mix of story, lecture, exercises, and sharing. She provided fantastic guidance for creating a setting."

Members found **Albert and Carol LaChance's workshop (Finding Your Voice)** "inspiring." It was "very emotional with shared stories." "The LaChances taught workshopppers a new method of meditation to dig deeper" into the well of creativity.

Rae Francoeur (Getting Published) got at least one member "all fired up to start doing what I dread." Workshopppers received "good, concrete ideas" and thought the workshop was "eye-opening, useful and practical."

Gordon Lang's Prose Poetry workshop was "true inspiration and well-organized." Many participants commented on the wonderful handouts. Members "learned that poems could be written in a different format."

Future conference suggestions included plot development, self-publishing, poetry for children, query letters and synopses, and nonfiction that inspires.

Thank You!

Once again, we thank the **Portsmouth Poet Laureate Project** for loaning us their sound system for the conference and **Adam Schlager** for monitoring the system.

Congratulations

The winner of our fall conference drawing was **Jacqueline Leary** of Beverly, MA, a conference first-timer. She will receive a \$10.00-off coupon for a future conference.

Welcome Aboard!

We are thrilled to have a new **SWA Secretary**. **Michelle Bausmann** has volunteered to join the Board of Directors in the planning and administration of our wonderful organization.

Members and friends

David Castro has launched a website called *Readers for Writers*, which provides a service for any writer to obtain a review from a reader in any genre, a reader who is not a personal friend or relative. You can learn more about this service at www.readersforwriters.org.

David is the founder and President of I-Lead (www.i-lead.org). He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and has lifetime fellowships from the Kellogg Fellowship Foundation, the Eisenhower Foundation and Ashoka. If you would like to contact David, his phone number is 484-432-5022 and his email address is dc@i-leadusa.org.

After having submitted some of his poetry to a national competition for Senior Poet Laureate of each state, **SWA member, Roger Finch** was awarded the title of Senior Poet Laureate for the State of Maine for 2010.

Former SWA contest judge **Cynthia Neale's** new book, *Norah, the Making of an Irish-American Woman in 19th Century New York*, is being released by Lucky Press, LLC, on March 1, 2011. It is an adult historical novel. You can find information about Cynthia and her work at www.cynthianeale.com, www.luckypress.com/cynthianeale.html, and <http://cynthianeale.wordpress.com> where you will find her blog, *Tell It Slant*.

Katherine Towler's novel, *Island Light*, has recently been published by MacAdam/Cage. It is the third novel in her Snow Island trilogy. Katie, a resident of Portsmouth, is a former SWA fiction workshop presenter.

Chris Elliott and Tammi Truax, SWA's Social Media Editor, will be reading original work at Water Street Books in Exeter, NH, on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

SWA member Julie Bigg Veasey also has a new release, *Jadine* (CreateSpace Publishing), a stark tale of a young orphan trying to make her way in a hostile world. Julie is also the author of two other novels and a book of poems. You can read more about her at www.juliebiggveazey.com.

During the month of November, **SWA member Loa Winter** exhibited her watercolors in a show entitled *Feathers and Verse* at the Newbury Town Hall. The same exhibit also featured poetry by Loa and her friends.

Share your Good News

We would love to hear your success stories. Send us your good news (published books, short stories, poetry readings, etc.), and we will share it with our readers. Email your information to **Peggy Elliott** at donleavy@aol.com. The submission deadline for the next newsletter is March 11, 2011.

Want to Hang Out with the Write Crowd?

Pat Parnell, Conference Coordinator, is busy lining up workshop presenters for the spring SWA conference on May 14. She is looking for a volunteer who is interested in helping with the spring conference and taking over the position (with Pat's help!) for fall 2011. This is an opportunity to network with an array of folks involved in writing and publishing, plus you'll enjoy **free admission** to our spring and fall conferences. You will also have wonderful support from the rest of the SWA Board. Call Pat at 603-778-1470.

Coming Events Not to Be Missed

Rebecca Rule continues to interview writers as part of The New Hampshire Authors Series. The events take place at UNH's Dimond Library and are sponsored by The Friends of the UNH Library and New Hampshire Public Television. Each interview is conducted in front of a live audience and recorded for future broadcast on NHPTV.

Becky will interview Edie Clark on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Edie did a nonfiction workshop at one of our conferences a few years ago.

On Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., Becky will interview Ernest Hebert. Ernest was a Keynote Speaker and a presenter at another SWA conference.

For more information, call 603-862-1540.

Help Us Go Viral

Seacoast Writers Association is now on Facebook. Please find us at www.facebook.com/seacoastwritersassociation. We need all members to become fans and suggest the same to their friends, using the link on the page. Our Facebook page is how we can best keep you posted of late breaking news, member accomplishments, and special announcements. We welcome your news too. Share!

Save the Date!

The Seacoast Writers Association's Spring Conference will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at the McConnell Center, Dover, NH. Rebecca Rule, humorist and storyteller, will be our Keynote Speaker.



Lonely Winter Tree
photo by Marilyn Rudenstein

Ready, Get Set, Go...

The Seacoast Writers Association annual writers contest is underway. The deadline for submission is February 1. Winning authors will receive prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 in each of three categories: short story, personal essay, and poetry. Please note: Entries must be received by the Contest Director by February 1. Be sure that you allow sufficient time for delivery.

Winning entries will be published, in fall, 2011, in the SWA anthology of contest winners, *Currents VII*, and will also be posted on our website.

The contest is open to the public with no restrictions on geographic area. Writers are permitted to enter in all three categories, but may submit only one entry in each category (except for poetry where up to three poems may be submitted). Entries will be judged by experienced published writers chosen for their critical expertise. All work must be original and cannot have been previously published.

Entry forms and guidelines can be downloaded at www.seacoastwritersassociation.org or send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to **Contest Director, Pam Gjettum**, 6 South Street, Exeter, NH 03833. No entries will be accepted without an entry form. Entry fees are \$7.00 per entry for SWA members and \$15.00 per entry for non-members.

Prizes will be awarded at the SWA Spring Conference

Winners, who are guests of the SWA conference, will be notified in advance. First place winners are invited to read their winning entries.

Seacoast Writers Association
PO Box 6553
Portsmouth, NH 03802-6553



Cash Prizes! Publication!

Send your short story, poetry,
personal essay to SWA's
writing contest!

Check this newsletter for links to
guidelines and entry forms.