

A Log of Daily Activity of the San Antonio Writer's Project

14 June 2007

Journal writing:

Kim shared that she is having a hard time writing in her journal. She is two weeks into a divorce after having been married for 13 years. She is living alone for the first time. She reports being frustrated because she has a story to tell but she is having a hard time telling it. Her creative side does not seem to be working. Several people offered words of encouragement.

Irene reported that she has had a hard time writing but last week Sara's presentation allowed her to open up and write.. She wrote about spending time with her nephews and nieces -the little people - people she likes to be around.

Announcements:

- ❖ Kimberley reported that we have a paper allowance and need to use it.
- ❖ Lennie read a letter from the executive director of the NWP encouraging all of us to write a letter to our congressmen and senators to support the NWP which is funded by a federal bill associated with NCLB.
- ❖ Dr. Henkin welcomed Aurelia to our meeting, an active participant in SAWP.
- ❖ Joni announced that she had placed a link to her web page in the SAWP web page.
- ❖ Lennie encouraged everyone to place at least one of our writings on the e-anthology.

Previous Day's Log: Erlinda reviewed the log for 13 June 2007

Useful Internet addresses: quotes for teaching with feeling (from Nora)

- ❖ www.motivateus.com
- ❖ www.bestinspiration.com/quotes
- ❖ www.teachinghearts.net (click on teacher quotes)
- ❖ www.adprima.com

Presentation: Each participant was called on to read a piece of original writing.

- ❖ Bob Caldwell: "The Hanging Tree," Bob read the first part of a short story (?) that could grow to a novel. The story involves a young girl who discovers why her father disappeared when she was 5 years old.

- ❖ Jennifer Hall: “I Don’t Want to Write Today,” Discussed what she did and did not want to do on a particular day – playing with dogs, working in the garden, enjoying the sun and reading.
- ❖ Joni Koehler: “Dancing in Circles,” A short story describing the appearance of and the male behavior of her son Adam and husband Brian as the son begins to grow into manhood and asks a girl for the first dance (date?). Joni also seemed to come to some understanding about the relationship between males and females.
- ❖ Ruben Cantu: “Reading Nancy Atwell,” Ruben read a personal narrative about an experience with a high school girl and a personal experience with abortion and its impact on the people involved.
- ❖ Sheryll Putnam: “Borrowed Feast”: A short story set in a Filipino fish market about a young boy and his three brothers and sisters from a poor background who are trying to get a full meal.
- ❖ Kim Saxon: “Untitled,” a personal narrative about the behavior of her mother and “drinking” change. The story included a description of the life of Billy Harper, who seemed to have a significant impact in the life of her mother. She mentioned that she was still searching for a plot and a setting for this piece.
- ❖ Kalpana Iyengar : “A Chapter from a Novella,” A description of the life and times of a young girl’s father.
- ❖ Irene Reyndon: “Cut to Black,” A review of the TV series, “The Sopranos.” reported that “The Sopranos” dealt with the “big things” in a humorous fashion.
- ❖ Nancy Gregory: “Four Poems,” The first poem, interlaced with music, dealt with a drive thorough a city. “The Tea Party” dealt with a child hiding in the yard to make mud pies for a tea party. A third poem dealt with the war in Iraq. The fourth poem was a goofy thing about her dog Toby.
- ❖ Erlinda Reyes: “Victoria’s Victoria,” Set at Palo Alto College’s commencement for the high school equivalency program (GED). It told the story of the child of a family of migrant workers.
- ❖ Katherine Willis: “Ode to The Veiled Tomato,” A description of a tomato being prepared for a salad.

Author’s Corner: Marian Haddad from El Paso came and talked with us about writing.

- ❖ Elroy Bodie: A favorite Writer. Wrote Sketches, On a Special Light by Trinity Press. He had to find his prose form. He writes “sketches.” They are not short stories, essays or poems. They are more like “observations.”
- ❖ We must listen with “inner” and our “outer” ears and then react to what we observe.
- ❖ David Pastor, editor of the Texas Observer. He is interested in and will publish short, serious literary pieces on pop-culture.
- ❖ Commit yourself of 20 minutes of timed writing every night. Let your subconscious take over. Select the miracle line from each piece and put them together into one piece.
- ❖ To be a better writer, we need to choose a favorite writer and read everything they have written and immerse ourselves in their voice, style, etc.

- ❖ If you do not have time to devote full time to an MFA program, try a low-residency program. Attend class only once or twice a year and earn a degree on line with a mentor.
- ❖ Reading is a way to inform your writing and is to be considered as writing time.
- ❖ Joseph Komunyakaa – an author to be read.
- ❖ Sharon Olds has a cultic following because of her rawness. People love her or they do not. She gives permission to be real. When you write, be genuine but it must be refined.
- ❖ Create the resume of a serious writer- go to workshops, hire a private mentor, submit for publication with determination and persistence, participate in associations, submit to e-anthology with NWP.
- ❖ When you submit for publication the publisher has to pay for the right of ownership. Otherwise the author retains the rights.
- ❖ Ms. Haddad read three of her poems.
- ❖ Marion announced a poetry reading on 28 June, at Barnes & Noble on 281 and 1604. Marion will be there to read and she invited to workshop members to come and participate.
- ❖ Marion also announced that she participates in the public school Visiting Writers Program. This means that she will come into someone's classroom for a one hour presentation and reading or she will come in for several days of writing workshops. You may contact her through her e-mail address, marion.haddad@aol.com.
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