



# Write Bites

September 2008

Winston-Salem Writers

Volume IV No.9

## September 3: State of Our Art

In the WSW program, "The State of Our Art," an acclaimed author, poet and playwright will review current trends in creative writing.

Join us at 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 3, at the downtown branch of the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem as we host Dr. Mark Smith-Soto, director of the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Smith-Soto also is professor of romance languages at UNCG and editor of *International Poetry Review*. In addition to reviewing the state of our art, he will talk about publication from the perspective of an editor of a literary journal, read from his poetry, and answer questions from the audience.

Winner of a 2005 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in creative writing, Smith-Soto has



Dr. Mark Smith-Soto

published two full-length poetry collections, *Our Lives Are Rivers* [University Press of Florida, 2003], and *Any Second Now* [Main Street Rag Publishing Co., 2006].

His poetry has appeared in *Antioch Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Literary Review*, *Nimrod*, *Poetry East*, *Quarterly West*, *Rosebud Magazine*, *The Sun*, and numerous other publications. Twelve of his ten-minute and one-act plays have been produced. *Trio*, his first play in verse (inspired by a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.) was produced by Theatre Orange of the Arts Center of Carrboro and Chapel Hill as a winner of their 2003 "Ten by Ten in the Triangle" competition. The play was subsequently published by Dramatic Publishing of Chicago (2005).

The Center for Creative Writing fosters the efforts of those who believe in the power of the crafted word to transform and improve individual lives and society as a whole.

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## Learning from Masters of Dialogue

Dialogue is a key element of fiction (and creative nonfiction, too). Writing effective dialogue — words that show instead of tell, and advance the story — can be a great challenge to the most talented of writers.

Let's see what we can learn from an entertaining and prize-winning play, in which well-crafted dialogue is critically important!

WSW invites you to take part in a breakthrough workshop. You will read the script of one of Broadway's most humorous and most acclaimed plays. Then, you can attend a Little Theatre performance of that same play — and meet afterward to share what

you have learned and discuss how it applies to your own creative work and the work of others.

It's an exciting, ambitious, and innovative program presented by WSW for members only.

**The play:** You Can't Take It With You by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart.

### The schedule:

First meeting 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday evening, September 9 (Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem)

Play performances: September 18 (preview), 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28 (Little Theatre)

**Follow-up meeting:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday evening, September 29 (Centenary)

**Cost:** Workshop tuition of \$20 includes (for the first 10 WSW members who have signed up) a book with the full script of the play. Little Theatre tickets are additional; price ranges from \$10 for the September 18 preview to \$20 for regular performances.

Call (336) 354-6190 or email [stage@wswriters.org](mailto:stage@wswriters.org) to register or learn more about WSW's "Text to Stage" program. Deadline to register: **September 3rd.**

# You Can Be A Tutor

WSW has recently established an affiliation with the YMCA Literary Initiative to recruit volunteer tutors for the Adult English-as-a Second-Language (ESL) Program. This is an important community-outreach project for our organization.

According to Denise Yost, WSW secretary and board member, the YMCA Literary Initiative is looking for "a few good men or women" with a desire to help others. There are no special requirements for being a tutor, just a love for reading and writing.

"If you tutor an ESL student, the program leaders actually prefer that you not

know that person's language," Yost said. "The program gives you plenty of support, lesson plan ideas, and so forth, so you don't need previous teaching experience."



The three greatest needs are:

- 1) Volunteers who can tutor adult ESL students or low-level readers in one-on-one sessions or in small groups
- 2) Professionals in the area of ESL and literacy willing to

give a presentation (extra and more valuable training) once or twice a year. The program wants to provide tutors with occasional training, in three-to-six-hour sessions, by professionals who specialize in training and instruction of literacy or ESL.

3) Recommendations of places where tutors and students could meet for sessions. Space at the YMCA is often reserved by other programs during the summer.

*Please contact Brandon Bost at the YMCA at 336-727-9850 for more information.*

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## Stevenson Named Essay Judge

WSW President **Jennifer L. Stevenson** will judge a county-wide essay contest celebrating the Forsyth County Public Library's annual Big Read event, which is studying *Fahrenheit 451* this year.

The topic is: "If you had to save only one book, which one would it be?"

The Flow Companies, Inc. and Friends of the Central Library are sponsoring the essay contest. Judges are Don Flow of the sponsoring company; John Gates, former *Winston-Salem Journal* editorial page editor; Allen Joines, mayor of Winston-Salem; Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Forsyth County library director; Stevenson, who also serves on the On the Same Page Steering Committee; and Kevin Watson, Press 53 publisher and editor.

## Bookmarks and WSW

The Bookmarks Book Festival is almost here and we need more volunteers to work the WSW booth. The event, which drew more than 7,500 visitors last year, will take place September 13 at Historic Bethabara Park.

**Tom Collins** heads the Bookmarks Committee with **Tony Lindsay** serving as Booth Volunteer Coordinator and **Tom Seaman** as Author/ Book Coordinator. Other members of

the Bookmarks Committee are **Lane Goddard, Vivian Bivins, Randall Jones, Jennifer Stevenson** and **Jo Anne Goetz**. Please contact Chairman Tom Collins at [tcollins@wswriters.org](mailto:tcollins@wswriters.org) if you can be a booth volunteer for a short time during the day.

The WSW booth will talk to visitors about our organization and making WSW better known to the community. The WSW booth will also showcase published works of WSW members.

## Writer's Night Out(side)

Friday, August 29th  
6:30 p.m.

**Cafe Prada**

Corner of Fourth & Broad Streets

Come Join the Fun and Try Some Italian Ice Cream!

# WSW At-Large Directors

*Here's the chance to meet three directors at-large for the WSW board. Last month we published biographies of the WSW officers.*

**Vijya Campagne** served fourteen years as a Contract Manager and Learning Center Manager at the New York City Private Industry Council, an organization primarily created to disburse federal funds to qualifying non-profit organizations to train and help economically disadvantaged people secure jobs.

During this same period, she provided consulting services to other non-profit organizations to help them plan and implement a competency-based learning system. In 1985 and 1987, she received an achievement award for her outstanding contribution in the effective use of this learning system.

During her career Campagne was drawn to the Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) model that provided powerful tools for transformation in individuals. After studying it for five years at the New York Training Institute of NLP, Campagne applied the NLP model to popular organization-development concepts.

She developed plans to institute the Courtesy, Professionalism and Respect Strategy at the New York City Police Department (NYPD) where she worked for ten years.

Campagne received her bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio and her master's degree from City University of New York.

**Lane Goddard** is a veteran workshop leader, author, editor and publisher. Since co-founding (with husband David Hatcher) LandaBooks, nearly 20 years ago, she has helped thousands of working adults improve their writing skills.

Workshops include Proof-reading, Editing, and Grammar; Words at Work: Building a Better Vocabulary; and Writing That Works. She's also developed, written, and edited non-fiction books; designed and produced workbooks and visuals; and developed training programs.

A graduate of Duke University with a major in English, Goddard earned a master's degree (also in English) from the University of Florida, and has done post-graduate work in counseling and business administration. In 2000, she was a participant in George Mason University's Heritage Workshop in Fiction, a juried nine-week program taught by Richard Bausch.

She has also taken writing workshops at The Writers' Center (Bethesda, Maryland) and Berry College, and was a member of the WSW-sponsored workshop given in June 2007 by Pat Schneider.

Goddard is co-author of four books, including [\*The Landa List\*](#), a grammar and punctuation guide, and [\*The Writing Process\*](#), a step-by-step approach for everyday writers. She chairs the WSW Ad Hoc Committee on Publications.

**Tom Seaman** is a Director-at-Large and Special Projects Chair.

He retired from Boeing (formerly McDonnell-Douglas Corp.), where at various times he was Divisional Program Manager for Air Force One, KC-10, and T-45 Programs; MDC European Distribution System Aircraft Program and Proposal Management advisor to Construcciones Aeronauticas in Madrid, Spain; and Commercial and Government Advanced Logistics and Product Support Programs Manager, among other positions.

He also was president of a small research and development company and president of a computer-aided training system company.

Seaman has written two novels and several short stories, and co-wrote a stage play. His nonfiction work includes a book on golf, numerous articles, political columns, business plans, program plans, proposal volumes, contract and sub-contract documents, and assorted procedures. He has been a technical writer and manual editor.

Before moving to North Carolina, Seaman was a member of the Springfield Literary Society, affiliated with Southwest Missouri State University. He has led critique groups, where he specialized in critiques of screenplays, novellas and novels.

**Dan O'Sullivan** is also a Director-At Large.

*Win Big Bucks!*  
**Enter Our Blog Bits Contest**

Submit an idea for the WSW **Write Bites Blog** by September 15 and your name will be entered in a drawing for a \$10 cash prize to be awarded at this month's Open Mic.

**Here are the guidelines:**

(1) Send in as many ideas as you want, but your name only goes in the pot once!

(2) Non-members are welcome to submit ideas, but don't qualify for the drawing. Join WSW, please!

(3) Subjects: Anything related to prose, poetry or publishing — local, state, national.

(4) Format: Tell us what you want the blog posting to be about. Include a link if you know it.

(5) You don't have to actually write the posting (unless you want to show off).

(6) Email your idea to **blog@wswriters.org** by September 15.

(7) If your idea is not used in the blog, you will still qualify for the drawing.

(8) You don't have to be present at Open Mic to win, but you'll be cheered (and envied) if you're there.

TIP: Cheat by looking at previous blog entries. Visit the Write Bites Blog via a link at the top of our web site — [www.wswriters.org](http://www.wswriters.org) — or go directly to the blog at <http://lanyard.blogs.com/writebites/>

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