



Fall 2011

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Healing Effects of Conference: Making time for coast-to-coast friendships

by Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas

I just completed my online registration form to attend the 2011 National Federation of Press Women conference September 8-11. NFPW was founded by Helen Miller Malloch, the 20th president of the Illinois Woman Press Association. To quote a 1951 editorial written by Malloch, "The primary advantage of National Federation of Press Women is the convention where members have an opportunity of talking over their problems and of listening to stimulating speakers."

Malloch was wise beyond her vision of the alliance of women writers which took on its form in NFPW. Originally started when IWPA sought getting copyright legislation through Congress, Malloch recognized the benefits and strength women would attain through membership of the larger organization including the professional recogni-

tion brought from the national contest.

Malloch went on to state that with the exception of "two occasions when IWPA entertained National, I believe not more than a handful of members have attended National convention." She was of the belief members were "missing much that the NFPW can give them." She acknowledged by not taking full advantage of the opportunity to attend conference members missed out on the many new ideas that could be gleaned from the organization's programs and publication, as well as the publicity, prestige and experience members would attain volunteering at a conference. She recognized "members are drawn closer together through the work involved and many lasting friendships are the result."

Women friends have played important roles in history. The IWPA founding members took up the

cause of women's suffrage and many other good causes born out of those friendships. From women's shelters to women's business associations, women friends have joined together to make a difference in our country.

Glance at the cover of almost any magazine today and you'll likely find an article acknowledging the importance of women friends. Read the headlines: "Real Women Tell What Keeps Them Close," "How 5 Women Lost 676 lbs and what you can gain from their stories" and "10 Steps for Having Friends for Life." Broadcast news and television programs are no different. Click the remote on any given day and there is a bevy of programs where women join forces to make a difference in their community...close friends reunite after years of separation...women get life changing makeovers on Hoda and Kathi Lee ... programs such as The Talk and

Our Mission

The IWPA (since 1885) is an organization of communications professionals whose objective is to maintain and improve the professional standards of members in mass communications in Illinois, to promote their interest, and to provide for the sharing of ideas and information. IWPA is an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women.

As Illinois Woman's Press Association members, we have experienced the value and benefits of our diverse organization first-hand. We look forward to working together with our membership to move our affiliate into its 127th year!

Website: <http://iwpa.org>.

'Like' us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Illinois-Womans-Press-Association/166249870091851>



Healing Effects of Conference: Making time for coast-to-coast friendships (con't)

The View offer support, encouragement and tell stories that reflect the lives and interests of women around the world.

If we know having and networking with friends is so good for us, why don't we seize the opportunity to embrace our membership, especially during this globally tough economic period? Since 1885, women (and men) have joined IWPA to expand their professional skills, nurture fellow communicators, and sustain and strengthen those changing or starting their careers.

Researcher and author Ruthellen Josselson, Ph.D. illuminated the theory, "Every time we get overly busy with work and family, the first thing we do is let go of friendships with other women. We push them right to the back burner. That's really a mistake: women are such a source of strength to each other. We nurture one another. It's a very healing experience."

Medical studies continue to show us that social ties buffer against stress leading to diminished risk of disease by lowering blood pressure, heart rate and even cholesterol. We know friends help us live better and longer lives.

This will be my fifth national conference since becoming a member of IWPA. I look at it as an annual opportunity to improve my health. The

personal benefits I gain from attending these conferences are immeasurable. Each conference experience has helped encourage my writing and supported my decision to increase my leadership roles. I'm excited to see old friends, but even more enthused at the opportunity to cultivate new contacts (both male and female), expand existing friendships, explore new opportunities and set new goals both personally and professionally. I'll receive recognition during the NFPW Communications Contest Awards Banquet for my writing, an honor I'm thrilled to accept and have already added to my professional resume. It's time for me to step down as National Membership Chair at this conference, but move forward to accept new responsibilities as the Secretary of NFPW for the next two years. It will be a full weekend with much to accomplish but I can already feel the healing effects of attending this conference.

For those members unable to make the trip to Iowa for the NFPW conference, IWPA kicks off a fresh season of programs on September 17. I encourage you to welcome Cynthia Price, the Immediate Past-President of the National Federation of Press Women back to Chicago to speak to our affiliate at Carmine's on Rush. Price is also the Director of Communications at ChildFund International where she is responsible for driving

all aspects of public relations, including reputation management, policy development, media relations, and message development.

Meeting Price is particularly beneficial to newer members not as acquainted with the work of NFPW, and for those seasoned members who haven't taken advantage of the opportunity having National connections provides. Join me as we network, renew friendships and share inspiring ideas. It's amazing the healthy impact attending this event can have on your life.



IWPA President Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas

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IWPA Members Win Big at 2011 NFPW Communication Competition!

Fall 2011

by Rebecca Sarwate

It's another great year for the Illinois Woman's Press Association, as members prepare to accept honors for their writing at the 2011 National Federation of Press Women conference September 8-11.

IWPA members took 10 first place awards, 7 second place awards, 5 third place and 2 honorable mention.

Kathryn Achenbach	Second	Special articles - Fashion
Marlene Cook	HM	Newsletter - Four-color
Bethany Doty	Second	Social Media Campaign - Written for not-for-profit organization sites
Bethany Doty	First	Public relations - Campaign for a non-profit or educational institution
Cecilia Green	First	Newspaper, trade paper, magazine, newsletter or Web site - Institutional
Cecilia Green	Third	Single-sheet poster/Poster Campaign/Billboard/Banner - Billboard
Suzanne Hanney	First	Special articles - Social issues
Suzanne Hanney	HM	Photographer-writer
Mary Hilboldt	Third	News reporting - Publication/magazine/supplement for general circulation
Marjie Killeen	First	Columns - Informational
Megan King	Second	Social Media Campaign - Written for not-for-profit organization sites
Megan King	First	Public relations - Campaign for a non-profit or educational institution
Liz Logan	Third	Section edited by entrant - frequent or regular sections - Publication/magazine/supplement
Liz Logan	Second	Writing for the Web - News articles written specifically for the Web
Susan Noyes	Third	Personality profile - 500 words or fewer
Dassie Rice	Second	Social Media Campaign - Written for not-for-profit organization sites
Dassie Rice	First	Public relations - Campaign for a non-profit or educational institution
Caitlyn Stoeckley	Second	Social Media Campaign - Written for not-for-profit organization sites
Caitlyn Stoeckley	First	Public relations - Campaign for a non-profit or educational institution
Mary Wagner	Second	Photography on the Web or electronic publishing - Single photo
Mary Wagner	Third	Writing for the Web - Web content written for corporate or for-profit organization sites
Mary Wagner	First	Writing for the Web - Feature articles written specifically for the Web
Mary Wagner	First	Blogs - Written for special interest sites
Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas	First	Internal communications

Congratulations to our members for their hard work and well-deserved accolades! You are an inspiration to all of us to strive for our personal best. On to 2012!

IWPA Members

Take Home 24

Awards at

Nationals!



National Federation of Press Women



So We All May Be Heard: Elizabeth Armstrong Reed

by Marlene Cook

Elizabeth Armstrong Reed was the third president of IWPA and also the seventh. Her first term began in January, 1894 and ran through June, 1986. Her second term began in June, 1902 and ran through June, 1904. During her second reign, meetings were changed to the first Thursday of each month between 7 and 10 p.m. at the Palmer House in Chicago. Board meetings took place on Saturday afternoons before each meeting.

Elizabeth Armstrong was born on May 16, 1842 in Winthrop, Maine to Alvin and Sylvia Sylvester (Morrell) Armstrong, both prominent educators. Elizabeth was privately tutored, but claimed to be a self-taught scholar. Later in life, she received a number of degrees including Master Degrees from Northwest and Wesleyan Universities, and Dr. of Humane Letters Degree from Bethany College.

A zealous Christian, Elizabeth was a scholar in comparative religion and wrote numerous books on Bible, Buddhism, Hindu and Persian literature. She was of strong character and had driving energies and led a vigorously organized life. Her researches in Oriental literature became known throughout the world and her books, still available online, have been used as textbooks in colleges wherever the subject of Oriental Lit is taught. Her works were the only works written

by a woman that were accepted by the Philosophical Society of Great Britain. She became a member of the Royal Asiatic Society on the recommendation of Prof. Archibald. H. Sayce of Oxford University and of Dr. T. W. Rhys Davids of the Royal Society of Great Britain.

She met Hiram Vaughn Reed, preacher and newspaper publisher, at a religious debate in Buchanan, Michigan. She was 18 years old when they married in 1860. He managed to eke out a living as a Campbellite preacher in Harvard, IL and founder of the Midwest's first literary magazine, Lakeside Monthly. He also lectured on religion. They made their home at 1633 Kenmore Avenue in Chicago.

They had three children, two sons, Earl Howell Reed and Dr. Charles Bert Reed, both prominent in Chicago circles, and a daughter, Myrtle, a popular romance novelist. Earl was an author and etcher, Charles a surgeon and gynecologist. Myrtle was an author, poet, journalist and philanthropist, but led an unhappy life and died at age 36 after overdosing on Veronal, a barbiturate.

Elizabeth was deeply interested in all reform: religious, social and philanthropic work. She was especially interested in the work of the Audubon Society and other humane movements. She was a member of the Chicago Women's Club and the

Chicago Culture Club. In 1893 she was chairman of the Woman's Congress of Philology at Chicago and in 1896 became editor of the Course of Universal Literature published by the University Association. As an Orientalist, she was prominent among Congresses of the World Columbian Exposition, and was a member of the International Congress of Orientalists and the Victoria Institute. She also was a contributor to the Encyclopedia Americana and the Biblical Encyclopedia.

Although every account of her life includes her presidency of IWPA, nowhere is there recognition of outstanding performance or legacy in the association.

Elizabeth died on June, 15, 1915 and is buried at Rosehill Cemetery and Mausoleum, the largest and oldest cemetery in the City of Chicago, at 5800 North Ravenswood Ave. Another IWPA member and founder, Frances Willard, also is buried in this cemetery.



Marlene Cook, IWPA
Historian & Archivist

Today's Illinois
Woman's Press
Association Members
Continue to be
Inspired by Those
Who Came Before

History Bytes: The Mallochs

by Marlene Cook

On May, 5, 1944 the Malloch Forest was dedicated at Muskegon, Michigan in honor of Douglas Malloch, lumberman-poet, and his second wife, Helen Miller Malloch, IWPA's 20th president and founder of NFPW. Helen, a divorcee, met Douglas at the prestigious New York Writers Guild.

Margaret March-Mount, NFPW conservation chairman, commented, "No newspaperwoman needs to be told of the need for pulp for paper for a free press, and for timber to rebuild a broken world."

Douglas, who began writing at age 11, became president of the Chicago Press Club in 1911 and personally welcomed President William Taft to a Press Club reception. The Mallochs supported each other in all journalistic endeavors and Douglas helped fund Helen's work in founding NFPW. Much of his work related to the forest area where he grew up in Michigan amidst logging camps, sawmills and lumber yards.

One of his poems is still a lesson for today.

Be The Best of Whatever
You Are

If you can't be a pine on the top of
the hill

Be a scrub in the valley--but be
The best little scrub by the side of
the rill;

Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the
grass,

And some highway some happier
make;

If you can't be a muskie then just be a
bass--

But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to
be crew,

There's something for all of us here.
There's big work to do and there's
lesser to do,

And the task we must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be
a trail,

If you can't be the sun be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail

--

Be the best of whatever you are!

Members In the News — Connie Wilson’s Summer of Yahoo

IWPA member Connie Wilson is an active member of the Yahoo search engine contributor network, Connie regularly publishes entertainment pieces, political observances and stories to suit any reader’s Web browsing palate.

Her work this summer includes the recent articles:

- [Obama Addresses Unemployment, Manufacturing Jobs, Economic Challenges in Alcoa Appearance](#)
- ["The Tree of Life:" Terrence Malick’s Metaphysi-](#)

- [cal Movie of the Moment](#)
- [GOP Debate in New Hampshire on June 13, 2011 Reveals 7 Very Conservative GOP Hopefuls](#)
- [Paul McCartney at Wrigley Field, July 31, 2011 and You Are There!](#)
- [President Obama Addresses the Nation Regarding the Debt Ceiling Crisis on July 25, 2011](#)
- [Movies Made in Chicago: 80 Films Covered on Chicago Film Tour](#)

- [Mysterious Death of News of the World Reporter Sean Hoare Rocks Murdoch Phone-tapping Scandal](#)
- [Colin Quinn \(of "SNL"\) Performs "Long Story Short" at the Broadway Playhouse in Chicago](#)



Busy IWPA Member
Connie Wilson

Members In the News—Tracy Ahrens, *Raising My Furry Children*, on Sale

Weaving Dreams Publishing officially launched Ahrens non-fiction on August 24, with a cover price of \$18.95 plus tax.

Steve Dale wrote a guest story for the book. It also features over 45 images of Ahren’s pet portraits in graphite.

You can order the tome through any major bookstore, Just ask at the main counter. Or, simply go to the publisher’s website, weav-

ingdreamspublishing.com. The book will also be available at Amazon.com and other similar sites.

There are so many books out there these days, self published and traditional, that there is no room for every one in store, but Ahrens is also working with brick and mortar outfit Barnes & Nobles to stock a few volumes on its shelves.



IWPA Member Tracy
Ahrens

Members In the News—Obituary: Lily Pagratis Venson

Lily Pagratis Venson, 86, a longtime community advocate and 46-year member of the IWPA and NFPW passed away on June 27. She was an award-winning journalist and feature writer for the Lerner newspapers for over ten years. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for more than 100 articles over eight years on a successful community crusade to preserve 100 acres of private golf land to establish Warren Park in West Rogers Park in Chicago. Ms. Venson was awarded a plaque for excellence in reporting on this crusade from Governor Richard Ogilvie. Today, Warren Park is enjoyed by the citizens of Chicago as a result of her perseverance.

As a dedicated journalist and with the power of the pen, Lily Venson courageously fought a host of powerful land developers and city politicians who were intent on converting the golf course into a lucrative housing development. The dream of having the property dedicated entirely to a public park was both visionary and unwavering.

As a journalist Ms. Venson covered the Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1965, she was assigned to join the last day of Dr. Martin Luther King’s historic 1,000 man march and personally witnessed Dr. King’s now famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Ms.

Venson’s powerful front-page article about this memorable civil rights event was entitled "The Dust of Alabama is on My Shoes."

Ms. Venson also served as Public Information Officer for Cook County Hospital and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, during which time she received awards for journalism from the Illinois Press Woman’s Association and the National Federation of Press Women. She was recently honored by the National Federation of Press Women as a 45-year member. She was a longtime member of the Society of Professional Journalists.



46-Year IWPA Member
Lily Pagratis Venson
(Center)

Member Profile: Beth Dugan

by Cynthia Ogorek

Welcome to the wit and writerly wisdom of Beth Dugan, one of IWPA's newest members.

When asked if she has a favorite kind of writing, Beth responded "pop culture and feminism." Elaborating on the latter, she talked about the recent "rash of movies with kick-ass girl heroines" and why the male point-of-view still underlies literature and the arts.

"It isn't that women don't support each other," she responded. "But women don't see the female experience as the universal experience." So, although today's popular movie heroine may be "kick-ass," the bravado is window-dressing. "She's still subject to male machinations behind the scenes."

In an attempt to hurry gender

equality along, Beth has taken it upon herself to buy as many "girl" books as "boy" books for her two nephews. She is also providing them with banned books. "Although," she says with a laugh, "they like Walter the Farting Dog better than Heather Has Two Mommies, I keep trying." The boys' parents say that Beth's role in the family is to be the "subversive book educator."

Growing up in the Glen Ellyn area, Beth started writing in high school and felt even then that she "had something to say that no one else can say."

"I was an opinionated teenager," she recalled, with a chuckle. "Always getting kicked out of religion class."

Beth has been freelancing on the side for eight years with assignments that have varied from finance to book reviews to fash-

ion. She's been published in New City Chicago, Boutiqueville.com and Venus Zine, a magazine devoted to women in music, particularly rock. "There are some great female bands in Chicago," she has found, "but rock is still very much a boys' club."

Her current "real" job is a content writer position at The Association for Project Management (APICS).

She joined IWPA in May on Becky Sarwate's recommendation with the intention of connecting more deeply with the Chicago area community of writers. "Grad school gave me a community [to which] I've stayed connected and [I] feel [IWPA] is an even better way [to do that]," she added.

Beth is slated to become IWPA's program manager at the end of 2011.



New IWPA Member
Beth Dugan

Members: Be Part of the Illinois Authors' Wiki!

Are you listed in the Illinois Authors' Wiki? There are two main points to consider for inclusion. Each author needs to have:

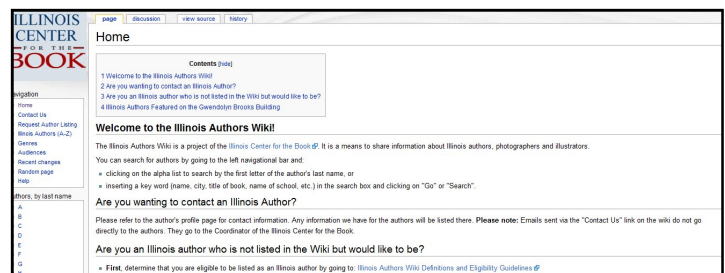
1. An Illinois Connection - lived in Illinois at some time or written about an Illinois subject of interest, and
2. Published a book with a ten digit ISBN#- the Wiki connects to Amazon and WorldCat via ten digit ISBNs. If anyone is not sure of their ten digit ISBN, they can go to Amazon to find it.

More specific information on the Illinois Authors Wiki Definitions and Eligibility Guidelines can be found at : http://www.illinoisauthors.org/authors/Help>About_Illinois_Authors.

If you meet the criteria above, please complete and submit the "Request Author Listing" form. It is online at: <http://www.illinoisauthors.org/authors/Special:RequestAuthorListing>.

Once the form is submitted, it will be forwarded to Bonnie Matheis, Coordinator, Illinois State Library for approval and creation of the author profile for the Wiki. After the author profile has been created, Ms. Matheis will contact the person submitting the information with the link to the author profile in the Wiki.

Yet another great way to raise our collective profile. Let's get registered!



Screen Shot of the Illinois Authors' Wiki

Want to Go International with the IWPA?

by Marlene Cook

The Illinois Woman's Press Association, celebrating its 127th anniversary as a prominent media organization, will host a trip to Germany May 22 to 29, 2012.

German colleagues from the Journalistinnenbund, (League of Women Journalists) will meet the group at various locations throughout Germany to offer behind-the-scenes tours traditional tourist may not be privileged to experience.

The German League of Women Journalists, founded in 1987, has 500 members throughout Germany.

The invitation to IWPA stated, "We would like to share our culture and traditions, as well as our technologies and would like to give our colleagues from the U.S. some insights into the world of German media. We'd like to show you how we work and hold discussions about our mutual careers. We would also welcome learning from you about American media."

The trip will include tours of Germany's largest newspaper, television station, radio station and behind the scenes of Parliament. Lively conversation about differences and similarities in journalism in the two countries will be enhanced by dining and fun-loving German traditions.

The seven day trip, with escort Volker Viet, of Travel-Ways, includes Frankfurt Airport transfers, ground transporta-

tion, six nights in four-star Maritim Hotels with portage of luggage, six buffet breakfasts, four three-course dinners, one pub dinner with entertainment in Berlin with unlimited drinks, one medieval banquet in Castle Aterbach, River Rhine cruise, entrances to Parliament Reichstag, Check point Charlie, and much more. Cities include Coblenz, Cologne, Marienborn, Berlin, Leipzig, Nuremberg and Heidelberg. Cost is \$2,275, double occupancy, excluding airfare. Travel insurance will be available through Travel-Ways.

Contact IWPA travel chairman and historian, Marlene Cook, at MarWrites@aol.com for a complete itinerary and reservations.



German National Flag



Castle Aterbach



River Rhine



Checkpoint Charlie

New Members

Are you new to the Illinois Woman's Press Association? If so, we'd love to hear your story. How did you first learn of the Association, how did you come to be a member, and what have been your experiences so far?

Information can be submitted to PenPoints Editor Rebecca Sarwate at bdiva88@msn.com. Be sure to send photos!

Calendar of Events

September 8-10th – 2011 NFPW Conference

September 17th – Please join us at Carmine's Restaurant on Rush Street in welcoming Cynthia Price, President of the NFPW and Director of Communications at ChildFund International. To register, please visit iwpa.org by Wednesday, September 14th.

November 12th – (one week earlier than the usual meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday) – Becky Sarwate, Editor of IWPA's PenPoints – blogging and social networking

February 18th – TBA

April 21st – 3rd Annual Pizza Networking Event at Marlene Cook's

May 19th – Annual Mate E. Palmer Award Banquet at the Union League Club



IWPA