

The Community Writing CONNECTION

For the Love of Words

By Joanna Sewall
Writing Assistant Specialist

Even after years of writing and working with writers, I am continually amazed by the breadth and scope of writing possibilities. Given that we live in the age of the Internet and



the high-tech library, where centuries of written texts are only a click away, maybe I shouldn't be. Yet, working at the Community Writing Center, I see the writing process in all of its stages everyday. And, seeing the writing process in action reminds me how much remains unwritten—from best sellers to quirky 'zines.

I think one of the most fascinating stages of writing is invention and brainstorming, where ideas begin to come together. Each individual is capable of doing this and each individual is unique. So, as I see it, that alone is evidence that an infinite number of pieces of writing "exist," whether they have been committed to ink, saved as megabytes or lingering in people's minds awaiting the opportunity to be shared.

To me, the DiverseCity Writing Series (DWS) program embodies this philosophy. DWS writers are dedicated to developing their ideas and those ideas become drafts. Words are chosen and rejected and chosen again. The subject, word choice and word placement are all original. Each draft is one of a kind; the style and voice of the writing varies from person to person. Then, twice a year, when DWS writers submit pieces to the DWS anthology, I get to see pages of essays, stories and poems emerge. But, the writing process doesn't stop there. Even after the submission deadline, I receive last minute phone calls and e-mail updates. Although these changes may be as small as replacing or removing a single word, they are important. What's more, they represent the significance that characterizes all acts of writing and all aspects of the writing process. For some, meaning may be found in finally starting a piece or in revising and making the last adjustments to a final draft. For others, it may be simply seeing writing unfold in generous handwritten loops or the progress of crisp typewritten words across a computer screen. Whatever it is, the writer is the one who defines what is important and that, in turn, is reflected in the piece of writing.

The DWS, with its eight writing groups, is a small scale model of the global writing community that includes Utah, the United States and the rest of the world. In the DWS, writers are constantly engaged with some aspect of the writing process: actively giving and receiving support and feedback as they move from beginnings toward endings and back again.

ENCLOSED

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Community Writing Center
511 West 200 South, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
www.slcc.edu/wc/community



New Writing Coaching Program

Beginning in the summer, Writing Coaching will be available online. Check our website (www.slcc.edu/wc/community) for updates about this new opportunity.

Online writing coaching:

- Gives you feedback on your writing from a Writing Coach regardless of time or location.
- Takes place through e-mail exchanges.
- Is open to anyone 16 years or older in the greater Salt Lake metropolitan area for any non-school writing project.

Along with online Writing Coaching, you can get feedback on your writing at the CWC, the Main City Library, and the Sorenson Multicultural Center. For more information, call 957-4992.

Thank You to our Members!

Thank you to the following individuals who became supporting members of the Community Writing Center recently: Olivia LaFebre and Christopher Windel. All membership contributions go directly to support CWC programs: Writing Coaching, Workshops, Partners and the DiverseCity Writing Series. Members receive benefits including two free workshops per year, and special invitations to CWC-sponsored events. Membership contributions are tax-deductible. To become a supporting member of the Community Writing Center, fill out the enclosed CWC Membership Form today!

Join Us for KRCL

Day in the Park

Join the CWC staff on Saturday, June 11th at Jordan Park (1060 S. 900 West) as we table this exciting and fun all-day event! Help us introduce the CWC to the community, enjoy great music, and spend a couple hours outdoors! Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts between 10:00am and 6:00pm. Contact Joanna at 957-4992 or joanna.sewall@slcc.edu. Come on out and have a great time!



DiverseCity Writing Series

Looking for creative inspiration? Join a DiverseCity Writing Series group and write!

- Centro Civico Mexicano
- The City Library
- Community Writing Center
- GLBTCCU
- The Daily Brews
- Literacy Action Center
- Pathways to Recovery
- REI (environmental writing)

The CWC would like to welcome its newest DWS group, The Daily Brews (6556 South 3000 East), which meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 1-3pm. Contact the CWC at 957-4992 or cwc@slcc.edu for more information on all DWS group meeting dates and times.

New Writing Group for Veterans

The CWC is forming a new writing group for veterans of all ages, eras, backgrounds, experiences, and branches. If you have served in the military, in wartime or peacetime, you are welcome and encouraged to join us. You don't need to think of yourself as a "writer" to take part; you just need to have a desire to try! What you write is totally up to you: fiction or non-fiction: short stories, memoirs, poetry, profiles, plays, journals, narratives, letters or rants! You don't have to write about your military experience, although you'll be in a supportive environment if you do. The group will be led by Dru Hazleton, an experienced teacher and writing workshop leader. For more information, call 957-4992 or e-mail Dru at dru.hazleton@slcc.edu. The group will meet Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning May 17.

Writing Tip

Assess Your Reader

A good writer connects to his or her audience and keeps readers in mind at all times. As you get started and as you write and revise, ask yourself the following questions about your readers.

- Who will read your piece of writing?
- Will readers expect formal or informal language?
- Will readers expect technical terms?
- What types of documents does my reader usually read?

-*Keys for Writers*, 2002



From Our Writers

The Sea and Me

By Dori Townsend

I look to the sea,
Within my soul lies.
It speaks to me,
Brings calm to my life.

The waves are my emotions,
The wind my desire.
Blowin' ripples o'er the water,
Constant motion I require.

The sea is where I go,
When yearning for peace...
It knows my soul,
My heart...Me.

I have always loved the ocean. I feel comfortable near it, on it and in it. I went to Laguna Niguel for New Year's last year with my friend and every morning we would go to the beach to watch the sun rise and again every evening to watch it go down again. One morning I went alone to write and this poem is what came out of me.



A Very Fluid Process

By John P. Wilkes

I grew up in Michigan, "The Great Lakes State." During childhood I spent a great deal of time near, on or in water—fishing, boating, swimming—alone or with family. The two villages of my youth are separated by twin rivers; the Maple and the Grand. The young-adult me worked on Mackinac Island in Lake Huron and the Belleview Biltmore Golf Resort on Florida's Gulf Coast. I traversed "The Sunshine State" and



worked at Desert Inn Daytona, right on the Atlantic Ocean. Few things relax me more than a dip in the pool, a sweaty steam or a scalding bath or shower. I love water. I find all its forms cathartic, cleansing.

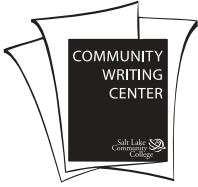
I seem to be more drawn to large bodies of water, the bigger the better, which is ironic because I'm a lousy swimmer. I understand this on one level through the experiences of my past, and I am Piscean after all. Depending on who you believe, humans are 60-90% water. Water comprises the majority of Earth. H₂O reminds us of the miraculous origin and the sustained nurture of this little trip called life. I think there's more to it than just the obvious physical aspect though.

The sea exposes the vastness of our planet, the inherent cruelty in its nature. The oceans remind us of the endlessness of our cosmos. Away from the shore there's always something blocking our view, especially in the cities, but when we stand on a beach our view is expanded. We see further and surmise that in the total picture we are quite unimportant. That insults us; it frightens us and in typical human fashion we are challenged to conquer it.

For me it's like fashioning a story or article idea. Writing scares the heck out of me because I compare myself to those people who can crank out a novel, short story, essay or poem, seemingly at the snap of a finger. I must remind myself that they've been practicing this craft much longer than I have. I'm rarely successful. So I tackle monumental concepts Einstein couldn't wrap his brain around for articles with a deadline of yesterday to prove that I'm not intimidated by the written word; the piece never gets done, my editors and myself are angry and disappointed, nobody calls, I get no assignments and no joyousness ensues.

When I cut my idea down, choose that small part which most intrigues me and accept that as enough, the article tames itself and the outcome is pleasing to everyone. I get to write; I get published, which improves my life. Hopefully this improves others' lives, better our community and preserves our planet for future souls to visit. That's big.

Our universe is big. When we think of its vastness we're overwhelmed. We believe we can accomplish nothing. We can't live in all that greatness. We must simplify to survive. Small thinking? Perhaps. Small like the water-bound, single-celled micro-organism that evolved into all that surrounds us.



Salt Lake Community College
4600 S. Redwood Road
P.O. Box 30808
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0808

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Workshops

To register for CWC Workshops, return the enclosed registration form or call 957-4992.

WD = Workshop Date(s)

CF = Commitment Fee

Ten-Minute Plays

“A ten-minute play is a streak of theatrical lightning. It doesn’t last long, but its power can stand your hair on end.” — *Take Ten: New 10-Minute Plays*.

Learn how to create this exciting, dynamic form of drama.

WD: Mon., Jun. 6, 13 and 20, 6-8 PM

CF: \$30

Poetry in the Park

Grass between your toes, leaves rustling overhead and a bird’s song to accompany you through this open-air poetic writing journey, with an emphasis on imagery, metaphor and simile.

WD: Thur., Jun. 23 and 30, 6-8 PM

CF: \$20

CLICK, CRASH, BOOM:

Writing Comics

Learn the craft of creative writing for comics. This workshop will explore the structures and process of writing in a comics medium—using text and dialogue dynamically to supplement image.

WD: Tues., Jul. 5 and 12, 6-8 PM

CF: \$20

The Art of Editing

Errors undermine your writing. This workshop will help you craft what you’ve written into the polished, professional document of your dream.

WD: Wed., Jul. 13 and 20, 6-8 PM

CF: \$20

EVENTS

DiverseCity Writing Series Reading

Join the CWC’s DWS program in celebrating the publication of the fourth *Sine Cera* anthology Friday, Jun. 10, from 7-9 PM at the Patrick Moore Gallery 511 West 200 South, SLC
FREE!

KRCL Day in the Park

Join the CWC staff on Saturday, June 11th at Jordan Park (1060 S. 900 West) from 10AM-7 PM as we table this exciting and fun all-day event! Help us introduce the CWC to the community, enjoy great music, and spend a couple hours outdoors!

Community Writing Center Workshop Registration

Register Now for Summer 2005 CWC Writing Workshops!

Three Easy Ways to Register!

- 1) Fill out the form below and mail it to the CWC with payment.
- 2) Call us at 957-4992 and provide us with your payment information over the phone.
- 3) Come to the CWC at 511 W. 200 South (southeast corner of building) and register with payment.

We will send you an e-mail reminder (or we'll call you if you don't have e-mail) one week before the workshop starts.

CWC Workshop Registration Form

Summer 2005

Date _____ Name _____ E-Mail: _____

Phone _____ CWC Writer # _____ (If you are not already registered with the CWC, we will ask you to complete a free registration on the first day of the workshop.)

I would like to register for the following workshops:						
Workshop Name	Date(s)	Fee	Member	Volunteer	Sub-total	
Ten-Minute Plays	Mon, 6/6, 13, 20	\$30.00				
Poetry in the Park	Thu, 6/23, 30	\$20.00				
Writing Comics	Tue, 7/5, 12	\$20.00				
The Art of Editing	Wed, 7/13, 20	\$20.00				
			Total Payment Enclosed			

Payment Type (Circle One) Cash/Check Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Make Checks Payable to "SLCC Community Writing Center" (Returned checks will be charged a \$20.00 fee.)

—Cancellation for reimbursement must be received one week prior to workshop start date.—

Office Use Only: (Date and Initials must be by each entry)

Payment Rec'd/Vol. Comp'd: _____ Receipt Sent: _____ Receipt # _____

Support the Community Writing Center

BECOME A CWC MEMBER!

WHAT IS IT?

The Community Writing Center Membership Program is open to anyone who wishes to support our programs. All contributions to the CWC are tax-deductible through the Salt Lake Community College Foundation, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.*

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Other than the knowledge that you are supporting a unique community education and arts program, you will receive:

- Priority registration in workshops
- Two free workshops each year
- Copy of *si ne cera*, the DWS anthology
- CWC T-shirt
- Recognition in CWC newsletter
- Invitations to special CWC events

PROGRAMS YOU WILL SUPPORT WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION:

- **Writing Coaching**—free one-on-one writing support to anyone who wants it
- **Writing Workshops**—for the public and for local non-profit organizations, from poetry to press releases
- **Writing Partners**—collaborating with organizations to support their clients, staff, and volunteers
- **DiverseCity Writing Series**—our valley-wide writing group program, promoting diverse voices everywhere
- **The Center**—a space solely dedicated to the writing well-being of the entire community

Community Writing Center Membership Form

Please indicate which membership level you would like to receive.

- Volunteer** (12 hours per year/Basic) **Chapter** \$500/year **Other:** \$ _____
- Sentence** \$36/year (Basic) **Novel** \$1000/year
- Paragraph** \$100/year **Anthology** \$5000/year (Corporate Membership)

Date _____ **Name** _____ **Phone** _____

Address/City/ST/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ **CWC # (if applicable)** _____

Payment Type (Circle One): Cash/Check Visa MC Discover AMEX

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Make Checks Payable to "SLCC Community Writing Center" (Returned checks will be charged a \$20.00 fee.)

*Members can claim as tax-deductible dollar amounts above the value of services or products they receive as membership benefits. Members can elect not to receive benefits in order to claim their entire contribution. Please check the box if you would prefer this option.

Office Use Only: (Date and Initials must be by each entry)

Payment Rec'd/Vol. Comp'd: _____ **Receipt Sent:** _____ **Receipt #** _____