



News Release

Naperville Writers Group

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Frank Fedele and Greg Stolze Awarded Naperville Writers Group Founder's Prizes

Naperville, IL -- The Naperville Writers Group announced the winners of the 2008 Founders Prizes to a standing room only crowd at the launch of the twentieth anniversary edition of its literary journal, *Rivulets*.

The Marilyn Houghton Kayton Founder's Poetry Prize was given to Frank Fedele for his poem *Van Gogh's Ear*. Fedele began writing poetry about three years ago. His prize-winning poem was one of the first poems he has published. "We've very pleased to have Frank, a newly published poet, win this Prize," Janice Hastert said. "It shows how the Naperville Writers Group's environment helps novice authors and poets hone their craft."

Fedele lives in Glen Ellyn with his wife Susan. When he isn't writing poetry or running he works as a software development manager for an international software consulting company.

Greg Stolze's short story *Regret, with Math* won the Richard Eastman Founder's Prose Prize. Stolze is a veteran author whose work has been published in more than eighty books. "We're lucky to have Greg as a member," said Naperville Writers Group

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chairman Joe Larkin. “He is one of a number of fine published authors in our group who give guidance to our less experienced members.”

Stolze says he has been writing fiction since long before he had any interesting life experiences to write about. Since then he has fathered two sons and written six novels and many short stories. More information about Stolze is available on his website www.gregstolze.com, which also has free games.

The Naperville Writers Group established the prizes to celebrate the journal’s twentieth edition and to thank the group’s co-founders, Richard Eastman and Marilyn Kayton for the generosity of their time and talents.

Marilyn Houghton Kayton is a writer, program presenter, fiber artist, story teller, and friend to all, She has two degrees in education and has taught at the high school, college and university levels. She tells us that, when in junior high, her father said to her, “when you write, be sure to read it out loud. Let the words roll over your tongue to see if they taste good.” In high school, after her English teacher read her essay about summer vacation, he said to her, “You are a writer – don’t hand in any of the regular assignments – just write what you want and hand that in.” What power! Some of her programs include *Five First Ladies*, *Poetry and Colors*, and *Old Radio Programs*. Her collections include *A Box of Color* and *Spaces*. She has written a novel entitled *Warmed by Fires*.

In 1986, several years after Dick Eastman retired from his more than thirty-year career teaching English at North Central College, he co-founded the Naperville Writers Group. Early meetings were held in Dick’s living room, where the basic meeting format was established: pieces were read and then critiqued. When Dick commented on a member’s work, he applied all his teacher’s skills and his own experience writing poetry, fiction and academic works. Not only did he provide suggestions and encouragement to other group members, he shared his own work for critiquing.

Dick brought more than his expertise in the writer’s craft to the group, he brought organizational skill. While at North Central he held a number of administrative positions,

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including Dean of the Faculty. Over the years he guided the group, acting in many capacities on its board of directors, including Facilitator, Editor of Rivulets, and Chair of Authors Evenings. He always had gentle advice to make the group more effective.

Two distinguished writers served as judges for the founders' prizes. The prose judge, Sachin Waikar, is a freelance author writing both fiction and non-fiction whose work appears or is forthcoming in the Seal Press anthologies *Toddler* and *A Matter of Choice*, along with *Highlights*, *South Asian Review*, *Woman International*, and Indo-American children's magazine *Kahani*. His screenwriting has placed in HBO/Miramax's *Project Greenlight* and earned a nomination for an ABC/Disney Writing Talent Grant.

The poetry judge, Donna Pucciani, has published approximately three hundred poems in the U.S. and U.K. in such journals as *International Poetry Review*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Iota*, and others. Her work has been featured in anthologies on cancer, gardening, and social issues. She has won awards from the Illinois Arts Council, Chicago Poets and Patrons, the Frieda Stein Fenster Memorial, and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her books of poetry include *The Other Side of Thunder*, *Jumping Off the Train*, and *Chasing the Saints*. She currently serves as Vice President of Poets Club of Chicago.

The Naperville Writers Group's monthly literary evening will feature readings by Waikar and Pucciani. The event will be held Friday November 21 from 7 to 9 pm at the Barnes and Noble at the Promenade Center in Bolingbrook, 631 E Boughton Road. The event is free and open to the public.

The Naperville Writers Group is a not-for-profit organization open to all adults. Members develop their writing skills through thoughtful, positive and useful critiques. Our members come from throughout Chicago's western suburbs and range from published, award-winning writers to those seeking an outlet for their interest. Wendy Teller, 630-527-6206, Communications Coordinator, can provide further information about the

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Rivulets reading. Further information about the Naperville Writers Group is available at www.napervillewritersgroup.org.

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