

**Minutes of the Maine Media Women's Meeting Held on September 10, 2011, at Mobius in Damariscotta, Maine**

**Business Meeting:**

**President Carol Jaeger** welcomed the 10 members and 7 guests in attendance, gave a brief history of MMW, and then announced the topics of this year's upcoming meetings:

October 1: Importance of recording your memories; meeting to be held at Katy Perry's home in Hallowell, for members only.\*

November 5: Internet Marketing with Cheryl McKeary (member); Thomaston location to be announced.

December 3: Holiday party, probably at the home of member Louise King in Friendship.

January 7, 2012: Member Showcase I, Damariscotta.

February 4: Member Showcase II, Thomaston.

March 3: Art Restoration with Terry Marsh; Damariscotta.

April 7: Photographer's presentation on taking pictures of people, presenter to be announced; Thomaston.

May 5: Annual Meeting; speaker(s) and location TBA; Rockland area.

June 2: Presentation on music and how it affects our thoughts, creativity, etc.; presenter TBA; Damariscotta.

July: Annual picnic; date and location TBA.

\* "Homework" for this meeting: Write briefly about 3 major and 3 smaller things or events in your life.

**Treasurer's Report—Janice Lindsay:**

Checking account:	\$6,924.56
MMW scholarship:	\$2,237.73*
KVA scholarship:	<u>\$2,180.12</u>
TOTAL:	\$11,342.41

\* 2012 is the year we will again award a scholarship to a deserving high school senior going to college to pursue a communications career. (This scholarship is given in even-numbered years.)

**Announcements:**

1. Carol will survey members re: moving the Annual Meeting to the end of April instead of early May, as May seems to be too busy with graduations, weddings, etc., to ensure a good turnout. Changing this requires a change in the bylaws, so the survey results will constitute the vote needed to make these changes. >>>>>>

(Announcements, cont'd.)

2. Patricia Ondek received an MMW mini grant to attend a poetry seminar, and will present her work during a “Poetry on the Rooftop” event in Rockland on September 18. All are invited to attend. Pat will also present her poetry at one of our Member Showcase meetings this winter.

3. Carol announced that her goal for the next two years of her presidency is to grow our membership—which currently stands at only 48 paid members! (Dues were payable in May, and un-renewed members will be deleted from the mailing list in December.) One idea Carol put forth as a way to draw attention to MMW, and thereby attract new members, was the possible creation of an award for best news coverage, best feature story, or something along those lines—something that could make us highly visible. Other ideas are welcome!

Around-the-Circle Introductions were made.

**Program on Memoir Writing:**

Carol introduced member **Caroline Janover**, who has developed and conducts well-attended seminars on this topic in the Damariscotta area. Caroline pointed out that we all have stories to tell, and there are many ways of doing so—through audio & video recordings, art, poetry, sculpture, and/or memoir writing.

Difference between *autobiography* and *memoir*: The former is fact-based, chronological, relies on research, and is provable. The latter requires no research, is anecdotal, and is an honest recounting of distinctive moments in your life as you recall them. You get to decide who you’re writing for and what things to include or omit.

Many reasons for writing your memoir: self-discovery; finding patterns and making sense of your life; healing (with focus on *creating* something). Memoir is a way of seeing where you’ve come from, where you are now, and where you’re going.

Getting started: Get comfortable with where you’ll write, what time of day you’ll write, and what tools you’ll use, then write for perhaps 10 to 15 minutes per day. Don’t worry about inspiration, spelling, etc.; just write. Might start with a “life map” of simple bullet points (standout events or things). Incorporate vivid and specific details, colorful verbs; use all the senses; write about both accomplishments and failures.

“Think small” to find the big meanings in your life. Let the memories percolate (or “compost,” as Caroline referred to it); it takes time. Most importantly, tell the truth as you remember it. That’s what memoir writing is about.

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Suggested references:

Goldberg: **Writing Down the Bones**  
deSalvo: **Writing as a Way of Healing**  
Zinsser: **Writing About Your Life**  
Lamott: **Bird by Bird**