

SLWG Spotlight: *We're Pleased to Present...*

Donna Springer



**Poet, Nonfiction Writer, Photographer
Registered Nurse, Runner**

**Member, St. Louis Camera Club, St. Louis Poetry Center
Board of Directors, St. Louis Track Club**

**Former SLWG Treasurer, Membership Chair
2006 St. Louis Writers Guild Member of Distinction
SLWG Member Since 1986**

DONNA SPRINGER has been writing since a ninth grade English teacher tapped her creativity by having class members enter a state short story contest. Winning honorable mention was a pleasant surprise for her. She put her writing on a back burner, however, while majoring in Biology at Gettysburg College and completing a Masters Thesis in Pathology at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She made a cross country move to earn a B.S. in Nursing at Saint Louis University.

When she began studying toward a degree in Communication Arts at Florissant Valley Community College in 1990, she moved her writing more toward the front burner. Her

background in Nursing was very helpful when she wrote about a campus group dealing with AIDS for the college newspaper, *The Forum*. *The Forum* was voted the best college newspaper in its category; Donna's writing about an AIDS support group was among the nominees for non-fiction articles.

Donna combined her interests in health and writing by work with Regional Medical Center's newsletter, *The Insider*, and through work with the Saint Louis Track Club. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Saint Louis Track Club since 2003, and has written a monthly column for their *Track Time News* since 1997. In 2001, she placed second in a writing contest sponsored by The Missouri Nurses Association, with a vignette about her brief experiences nursing in Costa Rica. She is on a peer panel which reviews articles for *RN* magazine. Currently, Donna is employed at Forest Park Hospital.

Donna joined the St. Louis Writers Guild in 1986 to focus her interest in writing, and to meet other writers. She was a member of the Guild's steering committee from 1996 to 2005, and served as treasurer for eight years. When the coffers turned negative from buying new software equipment, Donna mapped a Saint Louis Heritage Run to raise funds for the Guild. The run had a suitable literary theme and began at Kate Chopin's star on "the Loop's" Walk of Fame, and U-turned at the Eugene Field House downtown. She included this run in her training for the Lewis and Clark Marathon and collected pledges from Guild members and other friends. More than \$300 put the Guild's accounts "back into the green."

Other St. Louis Writers Guild activities Donna has been involved in include serving as Membership chairperson, keeping a Guild photo album, securing speakers for programs, leading workshops, organizing a tour of the Eugene Field house, and pinch hitting as a newsletter organizer. She was honored to have her poem, "Mid-time, Six A.M. Saint Louis" chosen for honorable mention in the 2006 Deane Wagner Poetry Contest this year.

Donna continues to write poetry and non-fiction, and to combine her interests in health, fitness and communications. She also holds membership in the St. Louis Camera Club and the St. Louis Poetry Center. This longstanding member has made a real difference. She says she honors the traditions of the St. Louis Writers Guild, and hopes to see them continue.

Read Donna Springer's award-winning poem from the 2006 Deane Wagner Poetry Contest:

**MID-TIME
SIX A.M.,
SAINT LOUIS**

Light creeps east
From the Arch grounds
Toward sombered branches,
That emerge from a dark void
To be seen from an apartment window.

The window overlooks Hampton Avenue.
A Schnuck's truck, a Metro Bus,
Commuters' cars, and yellow school busses

Spin strands of a web,
Which wends,
And wakens Saint Louisans
To thrust their ways
Northward, southward, westward,
And Archward.

Daylight
Grows minute-by-minute
Soon strong twig lines emerge
The day
Creeps into the night
As six a.m. blends,
Breath by breath
Into seven.

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