

Spotlight: *We're pleased to present...*

Thelma Urich



Fiction Writer, Essayist, Poet, Playwright, Novelist
President of the National League of American Pen Women, St. Louis Branch
Secretary, Missouri Association of Playwrights
Member, Missouri Writers Guild
St. Louis Writers Guild Member of Distinction

SLWG Member Since 2004

THELMA URICH, writer of both adult and children's fiction, poet, playwright, unpublished novelist, Moderator of two creative writing workshops, president of the St. Louis Branch, National League of American Pen Women, Inc., secretary of the Missouri Association of Playwrights (MAP), member of the Missouri Writer's Guild, SLWG member since 2004.

Thelma Urich returned to school after her daughter was in High School and her son entered Middle School. Her one year's credits transferred from Harris T.C. to Notre Dame College, South St. Louis. She did a semester's work a year, (i.e. six hours in the fall, six hours in the spring, and three hours in Washington University's May classes: 15 days in which to do a semester's work with same reading list and papers due). Two years

into this schedule Notre Dame closed their doors and Thelma transferred to Webster College where she earned her Bachelor's degree in English Literature.

Thelma says she realizes she is lucky in that she does not have to make a living with her writing. This gives her an opportunity to experiment with different genres. She has finished her first novel, and it is still looking for a home. She has started a second novel that is "supposed to be a mystery. We'll see," she says.

Short stories, articles, some essays, a children's novel, and 10-minute plays, all add to her creative accomplishments. Thelma's first love, however, is poetry and she experiments with different styles and types, some traditional works, like the sonnet and the sestina, and some contemporary ones, too. "I have just finished my first Ethereen in honor of Ben Franklin's 300th birthday," she told us. (An Ethereen has a 10 line stanza with each line having an additional syllable.)

**Ben
Franklin,
Inventor,
lived long ago.
Flew a kite in rain,
a metal key attached,
Electric experiment
highly successful and no doubt
well worth the sneezing and coughing, glad
the Age of Enlightenment had arrived.**

**Ben
Franklin,
bold Statesman,
Founding Father
of our new country,
had a zest for life and
helped forge our Constitution.
Rallying delegates to sign,
Keeping King George out of our business.
Boston Tea Party just the beginning.**

T.H. Urich, 2006

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