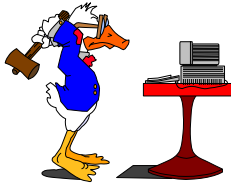


Magdalena Hernandez attended a week long seminar given by Denise Chavez, author of Face of an Angel. Though the workshop, which ran from 9:00 am to 9 p.m., was grueling, Magdalena said, “It was like a healing session. . . you just wrote and wrote and wrote . . . you didn’t want to stop writing.” We could all use that kind of inspiration.

Eileen Mattei will be leaving us . . . to attend “It was a Dark and Stormy Night: The Role of Setting in Narrative Nonfiction” on July 12th. Sponsored by Gemini Ink, this workshop will “explore the techniques that can help writers achieve a sense of place and establish a mood for their work.” For an extensive listing of GI offerings, see www.geminiink.org or call (210) 734-9673 for more info.

Amelia Root just got back from attending Writing from the Heart: A Guided Writers’ Retreat, a seminar sponsored by Highlights (for Children) Foundation. It ran from June 20-27th at Boyd’s Mills, PA. The workshop leader was Pat Cowley from New Zealand, a successful children’s book author. Pat spent two days talking about writing, then critiqued the writings of the 14 participants. “It was well worth it,” said Amelia, a “repeat attendee” of the Highlights seminars. Check out www.highlightsfoundation.org for available seminars in writing for children or contact Kent L. Brown at (570) 253-1192.

Byliners, be sure and let us know about your experiences with writing seminars and workshops. It’s always good to know which workshops are worth the time and money.



The 2003 Excellence in Writing Contest deadline is almost here—all entries need to be postmarked by July 31. For more information or entry forms, contact Excellence in Writing, P.O. Box 761, La Feria, TX 78559.

Also please remember to check in occasionally at our website. An easy way to get there is to type groups.msn.com and do a search for Byliners. Make us one of your favorites so you can find us again, then stop by and post a few writing hints or let us know what you’ve been up to lately.

Our July meeting will be about how to judge the Excellence in Writing contest entries. Judging the contest entries is a great way to see what makes a story work and, more importantly, what makes a story not-work. Judging will help you to be a better writer in general, and give you a lot of insight as to how the entries are chosen. It’s a win-win situation—help yourself as a writer and help Byliners by volunteering to be a judge.

Newsletters will go out both by snailmail and e-mail this month. If you want to get your newsletter or get notified of events by e-mail, please send me your email address and be sure let me in past any antispam filter. You don’t have to get the newsletter by email—if you prefer regular mail we’ll be happy to accommodate you. Let me know if you have any problems or suggestions concerning the newsletter at jharris@xanadu2.net or 440-0396.



The July meeting of Valley Byliners will be at the Harlingen Public Library on July 12 at 1:30 p.m. The program is on Contest Judging