

CREATIVE READINGS

Host

Jim Hudson
Medical Writing Associates
Simi Valley, California

By Jim Hudson

It was a dark night, but not a stormy one. Outside and far, far away, Hurricane Isabel meandered northward 500 miles offshore to visit the Carolinas, while in Miami, the waning gibbous moon hung lazily in the hot, still, humid air. Inside the hotel's cool, cozy theater, nearly 80 medical writers witnessed the artistic talents demonstrated by 13 of their peers. Tonight triskaidekaphobia would be suspended; a baker's dozen would briefly become a lucky number. Before it was over, audience responses would shift from hilarity to heartbreak and back again.

Kicking off the readings were the two ample Jims, **Cozzarin** and **Hudson**, dancing a kick line to the tune of "Mr. Cellophane" from the Broadway and movie blockbuster *Chicago*, with lyrics to the AMWA hit "I'm Just an Editor" (John Kander, score; Sue Hudson, lyrics). Pound-for-pound, the audience caught a ton of terpsichorean talent.

Kayla Williams read a moving work on assisted living called "Preston Wayne." We heard **Les Parker** telling us about an encounter between a peripatetic postal worker and a dog named Norman ("Two Squares Make a Good Stew"). **Carol Pearce** reminisced about her coming-of-age skating experience in "Nicky Hokey."

Tad Coles shared a tender memory of his father in "The Last Fishing Trip." In her "Speaking of Sex...", **Donna Miceli** delightfully described changing attitudes among generations. **Larry Liberti** terrorized us with purple-press reports from *The Weekly World News* about a "Spanish Galleon Circling the Planet Mercury," "Microscopic Aliens," and "SARS from Drippy-Nose Kids."

Suzanne Heyd performed two poems she wrote: "Honey Tree," and "Kernel." **Sandra Curvus** shared an excerpt from her novel *Country Club Wives*. **Dan Liberthson** read

several of his short poems, ranging from poignant recollections of his family to pun-filled verses about "Bi-polar Order" and the Anchorage bears. Probably the sidesplitting reading of the evening was **Jennifer King's** remembrance of her penny-pinching father in "Power Child."

Finally, **Jim Cozzarin** and **Sue Hudson** sang a parody of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis" (Kerry Mills, score; Sue Hudson, lyrics) in a salute to next year's annual conference. Following the readings, a total of four door prizes of books were awarded from names randomly drawn from a golden box: two books to two lucky readers and two to two fortunate audience members.

Jim Hudson is a freelance writer in partnership with his wife, Sue Hudson; their business is Medical Writing Associates of Simi Valley, California.

Editor's Note: Look for the creative writings of AMWA members as a regular feature in upcoming issues of the *AMWA Journal*.



As evidence that it is never too early to think about the next AMWA Annual Conference, a special "AMWA choir" sang a parody of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis," with new lyrics penned by Sue Hudson (far left). Joining Sue are Jane Neff Rollins, Flo Witte, Jim Cozzarin, and Teresa Wolfe. The 64th AMWA Annual Conference, Gateway to Knowledge, will be held on October 21-23, 2004, in St. Louis, Missouri.