

August 20, 2008

Dear National Arts Club Member:

The Education Committee at The National Arts Club is pleased to announce that "Creative Writing: Children, Authors and Teachers" will continue for the 2007/2008 academic year. We are also delighted to have Marilu Ramirez, member of the NAC Education Committee, as the program coordinator. You can help in several ways: 1) volunteer for the program, if you are a published author, 2) share the volunteer opportunity with an author you know, or 3) underwrite the program in a classroom. Your support will keep this program a vital part of the Club's educational programs.

Background and Structure

Since inception in 1989, more than 8000 children have participated in the program. For many of these children in New York City schools, the program is their first realization that authors are real people; that writing is worthwhile, not just an assignment and that writing can also be a career. There are three exciting components to the project: 1) authors visit classrooms and work with students to encourage them to write creatively; 2) students and teachers visit the Clubhouse for two Enrichment Programs annually to meet well-known authors and 3) a Creative Writing Festival is held at The National Art Club featuring the children's works. Genres have included: play writing, poetry, mystery, picture books, nonfiction, news reporting, biography, autobiography, journalism and history.

What is the commitment of volunteer authors?

Volunteer authors are assigned to work in with outstanding teachers who work in grades from 3 – 12. Participating authors must be published, willing to commit to a minimum of three classroom visits, planned in collaboration with their assigned teachers. Once teachers and authors agree on the schedule of visits, teachers prepare the class for the author's visit, often sharing some of the author's work. Authors' visits are spaced out so that students can begin to prepare their writing on the first visit. Authors make an interim visit and by the last visit the students' work should be ready to be finalized. Authors assist teachers in preparing the students' work for display at the Creative Writing Festival. Evaluations tell us that this volunteer experience is very rewarding for all involved.

Please complete the attached form and attach a bio, bibliography and writing sample. Send the form to the Creative Writing Program, The National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park, New York, NY 10003 or via email: mariluramirez1@aol.com or erdnyc@aol.com or fax: 212.253.2244. An electronic version of the form is available on the website: www.nationalartsclub.org.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Dr. Esther R. Dyer
Chairperson, Education Committee

Ms. Marilu Ramirez
Program Coordinator