

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

Dwight Bitikofer



**Poet, Publisher, and Auctioneer
SLWG member since 2006**

WORKSHOP: "Revving Up Your Read! ~ Live Performance Skills for Writers"

**on Saturday, September 8, 2007
10 am until noon
at Barnes & Noble-Crestwood
9618 Watson Road, Crestwood, MO 63127**

Please [register in advance](#)
Get [map and directions](#).

For SLWG workshop details, visit our [Workshops](#) page.
All are welcome. This event is FREE to SLWG members. The \$5 charge
for non-members may be fully credited toward dues within 30 days.

DWIGHT BITIKOFER (last name rhymes with bitty gopher) started writing poetry in seventh grade when a teacher shared some personal poetry she had written. The muse has been active during points of change in his life. At other times the muse has been largely dormant. In recent years, Dwight has focused more and more on the voice within. Recently, he has found open mic readings of his work to be the highest expression of his poetry.

In July 2006, Dwight spent a week at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival offered each year by the University of Iowa in Iowa City. He studied there with Minnesota poet Juliet Patterson. In June 2007, he returned and studied with poets Jane Mead and Daniel Khalastchi.

In March, 2007, Dwight was chosen as one of two featured poets for the monthly poetry performance at Focal Point sponsored by St. Louis Poetry Center. St. Louis Writer's Guild has asked him to lead a workshop on the topic of reading one's poetry aloud.

Since 1992, Dwight has written a bi-weekly column called From the Publisher's Desk. That column appears in the Webster-Kirkwood Times, a paper Dwight helped to found in 1978. It also appears in a sister publication, the South County Times. In 2001, Webster-Kirkwood Times, Inc. published a book called Columns – Favorite columns from a hometown newspaper. The book features 25 columns from each of four Times columnists, including Bitikofer.

A few of the Publisher's Desk columns take stands on issues. Most tell stories of family or of road trips or they weave an image of a few moments of time – word pictures for the soul.

Dwight grew up on a farm in central Kansas, a farm still occupied and operated by members of his family. He graduated from Canton High School in 1969. He attended Hesston College, a two-year college in Kansas.. He moved to St. Louis in late 1971 and worked in a small social service agency. Later, he drove and dispatched taxis for Yellow Cab Company. He returned to school at Webster College, now Webster University. He was business manager of the student paper there. He graduated in December, 1978, a few months after he and other Webster students started the Times.

Dwight was editor of the Times for a couple of years and then became general manager. In 1992, he became publisher of the paper while continuing to act as general manager. He continues in these roles.

Check out a couple of Dwight's poems: [click here](#)