



The Museletter

News from NEHS, National English Honor Society • Fall 2008

What's Inside

Chapter News. . 2-6

- The Honor in What We Do
- Bringing Lovers of English Together
- Chapters in Spotlight
- Chris Crutcher Vistis the Sarah Byrnes Society
- Theatre Trips to NYC for one Chapter
- How do you? . . .
- Web 2.0 Literacy
- Dollars for Scholars

Words, Words, Words. . 7-9

- The Language We Use, the Language We Love
- Wit and Wisdom
- Words from Afar
- Creating your Own Literary Event Calendar

Creative Corner. . 10-11

- Writing Prompts for Even the Brightest Minds
- A Dismal Realization
- Light Things are Beautiful
- Seeds of Emotion
- Call for Essay Submissions



Visit us online at:
www.NEHS.us

Thoughts on the “Society” within the National English Honor Society

I have been thinking of late about the concept of “society.” As we have witnessed the word being used throughout the presidential campaigns this year, I have wondered how the word has been defined within the context of its use and within the minds of its users. Our American society has seen amazing excitement and renewed involvement in the political process. Young adults, be they at the university or high school level, have engaged in debates, rallies, conventions, eagerly expressing their opinions about the future of the society we call the United States of America. Often, differences of opinions arose, but almost always the participants valued the process, understood that debate is healthy, and expressed deeply held convictions, all of which are hallmarks of a “society” that, at its core, is civilized, dignified, and respectful. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* provides a number of definitions of “society,” the most significant for the purpose of this article being, “A group of human beings broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual interests, participation in characteristic relationships, shared institutions, and a common culture.” In the macrocosm of the U.S., that definition certainly characterizes, with all our rich diversity, “American.” And in the microcosm of the National English Honor Society, we hope it also defines the basis for the existence of NEHS.

My role in the NEHS “society” has recently changed, and I would like to introduce myself. Almost six years ago, Dr. Johnson invited me and other educators from around the country to help with his vision of establishing what came to be known as the National English Honor Society. My voluntary role for a number of years was as the High Plains advisory council representative. With the amazing growth of NEHS, however, the need for an additional person to take the

helm of the honor society became apparent this past year; Dr. Johnson’s inspirational leadership has resulted in an ever-growing program, now with 257 chapters and 13,000 student members! And so, I was asked to consider becoming the new director, a move that has immersed me in this honor society more deeply than I ever imagined possible. I bring thirty-seven years as an English teacher and district administrator to the position, with continuing work now at the college level as a supervisor of student teachers. Additionally, the National Council of Teachers of English has been my professional home; I have held several leadership positions in NCTE, including serving two years on the Executive Committee; in November, I will become the chairperson for the NCTE Standing Committee on Affiliates. I believe I have contributed to these “societies,” as they have helped me to grow, and I trust they have provided me the right skills to direct NEHS.

I have been welcomed into the NEHS and Sigma Tau Delta societies with warmth but also with high expectation. We have established a “Denver office,” where I live, that works in concert with the National Office in Illinois. We are working toward adding at least seventy more NEHS chapters across the country in the coming year. That goal will only be reached if we apply the principles of “society,” working toward our common interests, inviting others to join in our efforts, and together, embracing the only honor society for outstanding high school English students in the country. Watch for news about a membership campaign in the coming months!

Thanks to all of you for welcoming me; please do not hesitate to contact me or the central office if we might be able to support you in any way.

- Dave Wendelin, NEHS Director

Chapter News

NEHS: The Honor in What We Do

A short time ago, Dr. William Johnson, Executive Director of Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) and my predecessor as director of NEHS, wisely corrected my mixing of the words “honorary” and “honor society.” I had written an article for another publication advocating the importance of NEHS and described the organization at one point as an “honorary.” Dr. Johnson pointed out that the appropriate reference, indeed upon which ΣΤΔ and NEHS have been founded, was an important difference between the two concepts. He wrote, “When you mention Sigma Tau Delta as an honorary, please use ‘honor society’ instead. We’ve made a big point of distinguishing these two, with ‘honorary’ being used for those groups that merely provide a title, or a certificate, or a name recognition but don’t necessarily expect active participation. ‘Honor Society’ we use as the term to describe Dave Wendelin, NEHS Director what we *hope we expect, and do*” (emphasis mine).

What a fine lesson Johnson gives to me and to all of us involved in NEHS; while participation is an honor, what we hope to instill in our chapters and members is the value of the “society,” a group of individuals passionate about



Dave Wendelin, NEHS Director

English who are willing to do, to act. NEHS chapters are formed by students and faculty with mutual interests, those who believe language, books, films, and all that encompass literacy are important to the world. I value that willingness to take action, that duty to serve others with the talents given, and I know that value is shared by all connected to NEHS.

- Dave Wendelin



We want to know...

What has your chapter been doing to collaborate with nearby chapters of NEHS or Sigma Tau Delta?

check out <http://www.niu.edu/sigmatd/regions/index.shtml> for a chapter directory


Bringing Lovers of English Together

This year, our chapter has a two-fold mission. The first is for as many of our members as are able to attend the National Conference, “Reflections,” in Minneapolis this coming spring. The second is to foster an even greater sense of community among our neighboring Sigma Tau Delta and National English Honor Society members. Upon learning that our nearest, and only, NEHS neighbors were over 250 miles away, we decided to try to remedy that situation.

Our “remedy” is to invite high schools from the greater-Milwaukee area to a literary conference. Our chapter would gain the experience of having hosted a conference and all of the skills that calls for. The high school students will have an opportunity to share their analytical and creative works with a wider audience. We will be able to then fulfill two aspects of our Sigma Tau Delta mission, “to promote interest in literature in the English language” and to “promote . . . good fellowship among its members.”

*Susanna Redmer, Public Relations Officer and
Wendy A. Weaver, Chapter Sponsor,
Chi Epsilon Chapter,
Mount Mary College
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Chapter News



CHAPTERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What NEHS Chapters around the Country Are Doing to Accomplish the Mission and Purpose of the NEHS Constitution

NEHS shall strive to

✓ *confer distinction upon secondary school students for high achievement in English language and literature;*

Falcon chapter at Lower Dauphin High School in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania:

Invited local authors, poets and songwriters to discuss their craft with the students.

National English Honor Society at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, Florida:

Hosted a poetry slam, an activity in which students volunteer to perform one to two poems of their choice and are scored based on their performance, memorization and originality.

Prometheus Bound chapter at Hillside High School in Durham, North Carolina:

Ran two poetry shows over the radio through 88.7, the Youth Noise Network and Duke University, performed five spoken word shows at a local coffee house before standing room only audiences and published a book of their poetry. The Cd's, DVD's and books they compiled at those events are available for purchase in their community.

✓ *provide, through its local chapters, cultural stimulation in secondary school environments;*

Maverick Ink Well chapter at Archbishop McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Helped with Peace and Justice's sponsorship of A Battle of the Bands for Darfur, supported drama's production of *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Fantastics*, and worked closely with the art department to create a venue to display student art in both the literary magazine and the school calendar.

National English Honor Society at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, Florida:

Sponsored Books of Hope, a program in which students create their own children's books and the books are then sent to Uganda to children in refuge.

Prometheus Bound chapter at Hillside High School in Durham, North Carolina:

Attended the Jena 6 rally in Raleigh, recorded interviews and brought the message and intensity to their school. They attended the Katrina Project at the Carolina Theatre of Durham and worked with the staff to provide free tickets to all Hillside High School students.

✓ *encourage interest in the English language arts;*

Everglades High School NEHS at Everglades High School in Miramar, Florida:

Wrote and performed a play at an elementary school.

National English Honor Society at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, Florida:

Organized National English Honor Society Week in order to promote literature throughout the school through reading marathons, book exchanges, poetry slams and posters promoting literature.

To see the whole document, visit <http://www.nehs.us/nehs/constitution.shtml>; the portion used in this edition of the Museletter is Article 1, Section 2

Chapter News



Continued: What NEHS Chapters around the Country Are Doing to Accomplish the Mission and Purpose of the NEHS Constitution

CHAPTERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sr. Mary Ellen Bernard chapter at Preston High School in Bronx, New York:

Organized Shakespeare's birthday assembly for the whole school, sponsored a school-wide children's book drive and collected over 1,200 books in two weeks time; organized an English Movie Festival, morning poetry readings over the P.A. during homeroom during the month of October and morning Women's history readings over the P.A. during homeroom throughout the month of March.

The Marvin Bell chapter at Center Moriches High School in Moriches, New York:

Started an English Language Celebration Week, hosted Great Books Day where all students and staff were encouraged to bring in either their favorite book or a book they were currently reading and share it with classmates and friends and sponsored Literature Day where students dressed as their favorite character or author.

√ *promote exemplary character and good fellowship among its members; and*

Lindbergh English Honors Society chapter at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis, Missouri:

Sponsored and ran a used clothing drive for the Scholar shop, a local not-for-profit that sells used clothing to provide scholarships for donors and needy students.

FCNS NEHS chapter at First Colonial High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia:

All members accomplished three hours of community service per semester; one of these hours earned by aiding an English teacher. Overall, their chapter accomplished over 150 hours of community service.

Spiritus Mundi chapter at Eastside High School in Gainesville, Florida:

Poetry lunch club met weekly to share poems written by members and to discuss interpretations of selected poems. A writers club also met for the purpose of critiquing members' prose and poetry writing.

√ *serve society by fostering literacy.*

Sigma Tau Epsilon at Pinson Valley High School in Pinson, Alabama:

Raised money for Birmingham Literacy Council; collected books for local group children's homes.

Maverick Ink Well chapter at Archbishop McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Sponsored book drives for Hope Outreach for underprivileged children, sponsored create-a-book for poor schools and read to the elderly, blind and sick in hospitals.

Kawliga chapter at Ysleta High School in El Paso, Texas:

Held a book drive for the Ysleta Pre-K and read to the students and then let them choose a book to take home. For many of these children, it was the first book that they have ever personally owned.

Flora High School English Honor Society chapter at Flora High School in Flora, Illinois:

Donated books from their book drive to the English department for Drop Everything and Read.

Chapter News

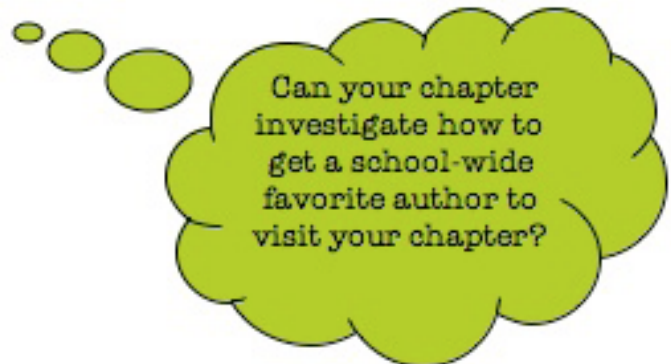
The Sarah Byrnes Society Invites Chris Crutcher Back for a Visit

The Sarah Byrnes Society, Smithville High School's chapter of the National English Honor Society, had the honor to host an author visit featuring young adult literature writer Chris Crutcher. Mr. Crutcher spoke to our chapter members October 16, 2007. Mr. Crutcher discussed his writing style and habits, his newest book *Deadline*, and he also spent much time conversing on the issue of censorship. After a question and answer session, chapter members and faculty had photos taken with Mr. Crutcher. The English Department of SHS then treated Chris to dinner at a local sports restaurant, Chappel's, where local and state sports history is central to the restaurant's theme. As a sports fan and one who makes sports an important element to his stories, this was the perfect place to cap off an incredible visit!



I encourage all chapters to investigate how to get their favorite author to their school. Create fundraisers to host an author visit. It was an exciting and beneficial event. Students get to meet a real person and it brings their feelings about reading to a whole new level of appreciation.

*Stephanie Robertson, Faculty Advisor
The Sarah Byrnes Society
Smithville High School
Smithville, Missouri*



Theatre Trips to NYC for One Chapter

Our chapter is from W.T. Clarke High School, situated in Westbury, New York; [...] about a forty-minute commute between our Long Island town to Manhattan. Having such a close proximity to New York City, we take full advantage of it. [During] the inaugural year of our chapter, we took several trips to see various plays and musicals in the city. Our first trip was to see William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, starring F. Murray Abraham. Later that year several members of the chapter went to see the Broadway adaptation of *Hairspray*. Based on what my friends had to say it was quite the experience. The final trip we made that year was to see *The Color Purple*, starring Fantasia Barrino. Last year was also a successful year for theater outings

too, [...] the chapter went to see performances of *Wicked* and *The Lion King*. This year we plan to keep the tradition of theatre outings alive. In fact, as we have had in years past, there is a specific Vice President for planning theater outings. Together with the insight and suggestions of other officers, our Vice President of Theatre is beginning to plan more trips to the city.

*Thomas Szenher, Chapter Secretary
Henry David Thoreau Society Chapter
W.T. Clarke High School
Westbury, New York*

Chapter News

How does your Chapter...?

Organize your literary magazine?

Fundraise?

Utilize various technologies?

Advertise for NEHS at your school and in your community?

Organize meetings?

Celebrate literary events?

Communicate with members?

Celebrate literacy?

Make connections with local libraries and book stores?

Decide which community events you support?

Encourage interest in English?

After each NEHS event, ask your chapter secretary or an active member to write a reflection on the event for the Museletter; the purpose, the process and the outcome is inspirational to other chapters. We love to hear about what is going on in the NEHS community!!!

Submissions should be emailed to Jennifer Goen at nehs@niu.edu.

Dollars for Scholars

Thinking of college? It's not too early for seniors to begin your application for NEHS college scholarships. Through the generosity of our parent organization, Sigma Tau Delta (honor society for English students at four year colleges and universities), and from Sigma Kappa Delta (for English students at two year colleges), several scholarships are available, ranging from \$500-\$1500 in value. Academic accomplishment, chapter involvement, and writing ability, are the criteria.

Check the NEHS website (www.NEHS.us) for full details and directions.

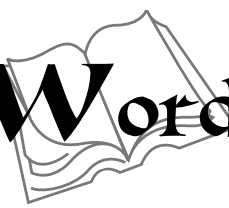


Literacy through Web 2.0 Tools

You could:

- Make word art for your chapter at www.wordle.net.
- Use www.voicethread.com to make interactive presentations with images, text and voiceovers.
- Experiment with Flickr Images to make literary character trading cards!
- Create a fun and engaging advertisement for your chapter using www.blabberize.com.
- Show underclassmen how to brush up on their vocabulary through games and flashcards using www.quizlet.com.
- Explore the literary world with Google at www.googlelittrips.org.

Words, Words, Words



Asylum for the Verbally Insane

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!
Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren't invented in England.
We take English for granted, but if we explore its
paradoxes, we find that
quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square,
and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing,
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but
not one amend.

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of
all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a
humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking
English should be
committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people

recite at a play and play at a recital?

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship.

We have noses that run and feet that smell.

We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.

And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the
same, while a wise man and

a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a
language in which your house

can burn up as it burns down,

in which you fill in a form by filling it out,

and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

And, in closing, if Father is Pop,

how come Mother's not Mop?

I give up.

- Anonymous

"Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader—not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon." - E.L. Doctorow

"Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it." - P.J. O'Rourke

"To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting." - Edmund Burke

"Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life." - Mortimer J. Adler

"Books are never finished they are merely abandoned." - Oscar Wilde

Words, Words, Words



Word from Afar: a Very Brief History of the English Language

Pre-English Period (before 600 AD)

410-600 Settlement of most of Britain by Germanic speaking West Germanic dialects that are distantly related to Latin, but also have a sprinkling of Latin.

600 A.D., the Germanic speech of England comprises dialects of a language distinct from the continental Germanic languages.

Old English Period (ca. 600-1100)

Middle English Period (ca. 1100-1500)

1066-1075 English becomes the language of the lower classes and bilingualism gradually becomes more common, especially among those who deal with both upper and lower classes. But because authors write literature in French, for all practical purposes English is no longer a written language.

1205 First book in English appears since the conquest.

ca. 1300 Nobility begin to educate their children in English. French is taught to children as a foreign language rather than used as a medium of instruction.

1362 English becomes official language of the law courts. More and more authors are writing in English.

ca. 1380 Chaucer writes the Canterbury tales in Middle English. the language shows French influence in thousands of French borrowings. The London dialect, for the first time, begins to be recognized as the "Standard", or variety of English taken as the norm, for all England.

1474 William Caxton brings a printing press to England from Germany. Publishes the first printed book in England. Beginning of the long process of standardization of spelling.

Modern English Period (ca. 1500-present)

1500-1650 Early Modern English develops and The Great Vowel Shift gradually takes place. There is a large influx of Latin and Greek borrowings and neologisms.

1552 Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, publishes the Book of Common Prayer, a translation of the church's liturgy into English.

1611 King James Bible published, which has influenced English writing down to the present day.

1700s Classical period of English literature. The fashion for borrowing Latin and Greek words, and coining new words with Latin and Greek morphemes, rages unabated. Elaborate syntax matches elaborate vocabulary


17th-19th centuries British imperialism. Borrowings from languages around the world and the development of American English; establishment of English in Australia, South Africa, and India, among other British colonial outposts.

To see the full timeline, visit: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words04/history/index.html>.

And be sure to check out the comparison of the Lord's Prayer in different stages of English at <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words04/history/paternoster.html>

Still Curious? Check out: <http://www.etymonline.com/>
to see where your words come from!

Words, Words, Words



Wit and Wisdom Oxymoron ? Paradox? Irony?

“The poet is the liar who always speaks the truth.”
- *Jean Cocteau*

“A good writer always works at the impossible.”
- *John Steinbeck*

“You could compile the worst book in the world entirely out of selected passages from the best writers in the world.”
- *G.K. Chesterton*

“Write a nonfiction book, and be prepared for the legion of readers who are going to doubt your facts. But write a novel, and get ready for the world to assume every word is true.”
- *Barbara Kingsolver*

“It is with noble sentiments that bad literature gets written.”
- *Andre Gide*

“Writing biography is a paradoxical enterprise, at once solitary and communal.”
- *Penelope Niven*

“It takes a heap of sense to write good nonsense.”
- *Mark Twain*

“Literature: proclaiming in front of everyone what one is careful to conceal from one’s immediate circle.”
- *Jean Rostand*

“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”

- *Maya Angelou*

Creating your Own Literary Events Calendar

It almost always happens the same way. I hear about a really great event or opportunity, but it is too late to do anything about it. So, for this edition of the Museletter, instead of giving you just a list of events, I am giving you the tools you need to create your own Literary Events Calendar for your chapter.

1. POETS AND WRITERS

<http://www.pw.org/calendar>

The Literary Events Calendar is a nationwide calendar of readings, workshops, and other literary events. If you’re interested in attending events featuring any of the writers listed below, please be sure to get in touch with the contact person listed to confirm the time and place for the event.

2. THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK

<http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/bookfair.html>

A research center for the Library of Congress, the Center for the Book maintains a selection of events across the U.S.A. and around the world.

3. MONTHS IN LITERATURE

http://classicit.about.com/od/1monthsinliterature/1_Months_in_Literature.htm

The months of the year sometimes have literary significance. What does August make you imagine? How about May or December? Here are resources related to months of the year, related to literature.

Once you get your calendar compiled, send us a copy and get planning on how to celebrate!

Creative Corner



A Dismal Realization

I am greeted by a sea of dark suits
Solemn glances
Warm regards
Words of encouragement from tear-stained faces.
I nervously tread down the crowded isle;
This is my first time saying goodbye
To someone I dearly loved.
My love-consumed heart clogs my throat;
I cannot hold back the tears
From my grief and sorrow.
I ask, "How could you take her
And leave me here alone?"
I wonder what I have done
To deserve my guardian's withdrawal?
A life has ended
The room is dark
Questions race through my head
There's nowhere to go from here- but wait!
In the darkness
I see a light pushing through;
A swollen belly,
A face that glows.
That radiant face,
Unknowing of the given circumstances
Is that of an innocent child.
Now I understand what everyone means!
For with each death, a new life begins;
From darkness
Come light,
There is no end.

*Shelby Cuomo
The English Enlightenment Chapter-
Whitehall Senior High School
Whitehall New York*

Try using these thought-provoking quotations to spark writing, thinking, and discussion:

"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them."
- *Michael Jordan*

"Nothing pains people more than having to think."
- *Martin Luther King Jr.*

"If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing."
- *Benjamin Franklin*

"Words once spoken, can never be recalled."
- *Wentworth Dillon*

"Reading is to the mind, what exercise is for the body."
- *Joseph Addison*

"Politics is war without bloodshed."
- *Mao Tse-tung*

"Listen or thy tongue will keep thee deaf."
- *Native American Proverb*

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
- *William Butler Yeats*

Light Things are Beautiful

Light things are Beautiful:
The radiant sun,
A candle's warm glow,
The moon's bright light,
The stream that flows,
The early morning sky,
The sun shining of fresh fallen snow.

And dark things are Beautiful:
The brilliant night sky,
My deep beautiful ocean,
The green grass where I lie,
The great ancient forest,
A horse's watchful eye.

*Olivia Korpe
Aquila Bellica Chapter
Oak Ridge Highschool
Conroe, Texas*

Creative Corner



Seeds of Emotion

A man walks out of a dreary tavern, trudging down a windy and treacherous path full of distractions, temptations, and corruption. This path is lined with redwoods that scrape the sky, itching for the opportunity to tumble at any false move. Further ahead in the path lies a chalice, which holds many powers; good and bad, right and wrong, but the most significant of all is the power of control. As he looks down he sees a cloth of texture within, this texture is mysteriously familiar. It reminds him of something he has longed for all his life, something that resides in the seed of his earthly desires, yet something that has evaded him all his life. He touches it between his thumb and index finger and the texture soothes him till he becomes blisteringly numb to his surroundings, yet emotionally vivacious and sensitive. The path seems interminable; he continues on and comes across a lake of vibrant blue water, which provides him with the physical nourishment and the emotional love to continue on his journey of solitude. He senses an abode, yet not by conventional means, as his senses have often deceived him before, instead he trusts his instinct. He walks at a crescendoing pace, each stride in great anticipation of this mysterious advent, he walks till it seems as though he is leaving the only world he has known behind, and still he finds no dwelling. He grows weary of the mask that has arrested his face for so long; out of fatigue and frustration he fights it off.

Suddenly a person flashes before his eyes, someone familiar, someone important, someone who he loves. The sanctuary he envisioned now is clear and real, and he enters this mysterious refuge of hope with the seed of his spirit pounding. As he opens the door a table is set in front

of him with a silk tablecloth, one belonging to someone of great consequence. Then suddenly the same person he saw before appears, it is the girl he unconditionally loved with no love in return. She always cruelly toyed with his heart and one day, after many sleepless nights which evolved into years, he gave up on her. That one day he moved on in theory, but not in spirit. That one day he left what mattered most to him because it hurt him the most. Today, he sees her with the same love and passion he always has, and she does something which was once at the seed of his heart. She walks up to him, brushes back his hair and whispers in his ear that she regrets every moment she antagonized him while he only chose to see the good in her. She whispers that she was wrong and that she can't live without him. And she whispers that she loves him. She steps back and looks him in his eyes as tears of joy stream down his face. Every word he ever prayed to hear in his life has just been uttered, but he looks at her, shakes his head, kisses her forehead, and tells her that it is too late. He steps back ever so slightly maintaining eye contact with the eyes he once saw with every blink, no matter how far away they were, and dreamt of in every second of sleep. He feels as though there is so much more to be said, but nothing could ever be adequate, thus he leaves, never to return, content with the fact she had her chance and she lost it forever. Now he is in control. Now, he has conquered the seed of his soul.

*Taraz Darab
Spiritus Mundi Chapter
Eastside High School
Gainesville, Florida*

Attention Students: We Want to Hear From You!

The Museletter is looking for student members to write about how NEHS encourages literacy in their school and hometown communities. What does NEHS do for your school as a whole? What does being a part of NEHS mean to you? The most compelling essays will be published in the next edition of The Museletter.

Submissions should be no longer than 500 words and should have your name, chapter name and the name of your high school attached to the submission.

The deadline for the Spring edition is March 31, 2009.
Send all submissions to editor Jennifer Goen at nehs@niu.edu.