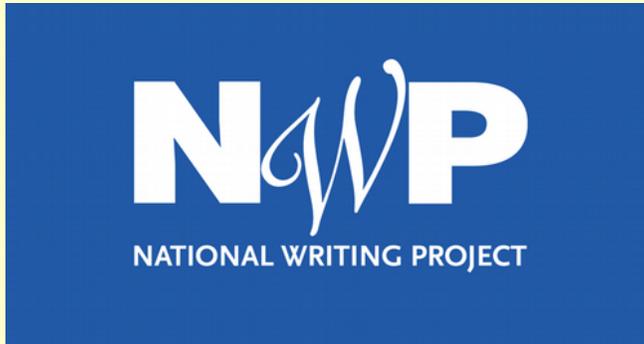


APRIL 2018

Welcome to the April edition of the monthly newsletter for the Alaska Writing Project! This is where to find information on upcoming events and the latest educational and writing resources, courtesy of our parent organization:



Using Blogging to Grow Independent Writers

By Michigan teacher *Hattie Maguire*

“Though it nearly broke me last year, this year I’ve come around to this idea of independence. Teaching this [AP Seminar] course has forced me to rethink how and when I give feedback. It’s made me consider how I prepare my students to be ready for all this independence— how I can relinquish control and kick my little birds out of the nest. “

Read the full post at bit.ly/2GWOsnB

THE HOWL

Have a story to share with our subscribers about your own teaching or writing journey? Some advice? Let us know!

Send an email to cmskvorc@alaska.edu

Remember National Novel Writing Month?

The creative organization known as **NaNoWriMo** that challenges writers of all ages and skill levels to write a novel every November also hosts two “camps” per year, and the first is in April! Challenge yourself or your students to do something BIG this month, setting small short-term goals, or taking on a month-long project with a group, while enjoying resources and inspiration provided regularly by published authors and seasoned “wrimos.”

Check out these sites for more info:

- nanowrimo.org
- campnanowrimo.org
- ywp.nanowrimo.org

Our staff

Jonathan Bartels, *Director*; Assistant Professor, College of Education
University of Alaska Anchorage

Adam Mackie, *Co-director*; English teacher, West Anchorage High School

Mindi Vogel, *Co-director*; 6-12 grade English teacher, Polaris K-12 School

Caitlin Buxbaum, *graduate assistant*, UAA



Why *The Howl*?

First, the origin of our logo...

The logo was born in an Advanced Institute with Mary Richards, Luke Almon, Joe Seitz, Mindi Vogel, and Jonathan Bartels who were all instrumental in bringing AWP back to life after years of a dormant writing project site in Alaska. The wolf was to inspire bold action that empowers teachers' autonomy and independence as professionals. It also alludes to the frontier spirit of fierce trailblazers that are paving the way for lively writing and meaningful education opportunities for all. The logo was designed by Polaris student, Ryan Bonk.

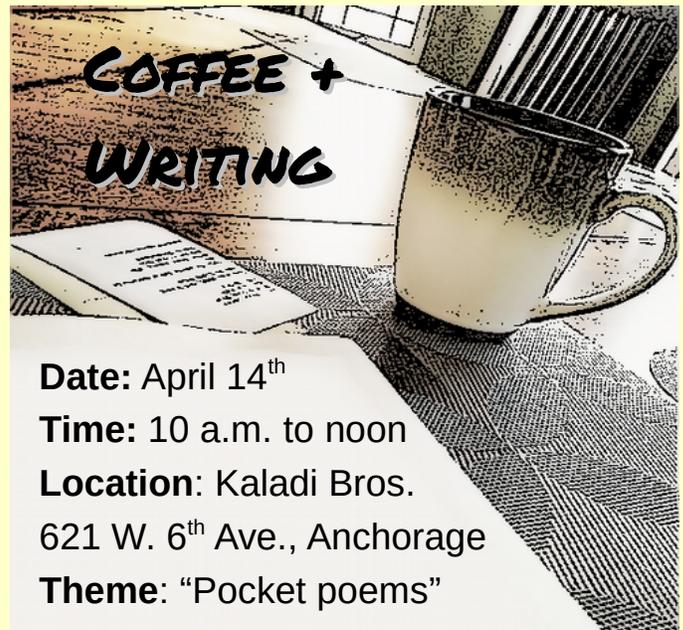
...then the rationale.

Of course, our logo shows a wolf howling at the moon, an image many see as somewhat mystical, or associated with "the call of the wild." But do wolves even *really* howl at moons, full or otherwise? Well, not exactly. They do turn their noses to the sky when they howl, but just to extend the reach of their call, which is in fact what we aim to do with this newsletter: extend our reach and voice as a supportive organization, as well as the voices of our readers and fellow writers and teachers.

It also pays a nice homage to Allen Ginsberg's classic Beat poem, "Howl," which you can read at bit.ly/2GGRVxl

Follow us!

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Date: April 14th

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Kaladi Bros.
621 W. 6th Ave., Anchorage

Theme: "Pocket poems"

April is **National Poetry Month**, but you don't have to consider yourself a poet to appreciate and utilize this prompt; "pocket poems" are **short poems intended to be carried with you and shared with others**, whether that means spontaneously reading it aloud to a group of people, wordlessly handing it to a passerby, or leaving it on a coffee table for someone to find. Or, maybe, you can envision a character of your own making doing such a thing, and what impact it would have on the story. Nonfiction writers might even describe a time where they were the recipient or witness of some small but inspirational act; consider, what effect did that occurrence have on the people involved?

As always, the sky's the limit (figuratively speaking, of course, since we welcome stories that are "out of this world")!