

## PW WRITING SALONS

In order to offer our writers more deliberate, planned writing time, Peninsula Writers would like to begin offering Writing Salons. Writing Salons (sometimes called Write-ins) are just writing time away from the hustle and bustle of writers' lives, offered at least once a month at various members' homes or other chosen venues. Writers gather for a half an hour to socialize, followed by **silent** writing time. Phones are turned off; Facebook is not checked. One and a half hours later, the Salon is over and everyone packs up and goes home.

This is not the same as a small writing group where writing is shared to give or receive feedback. This is just time to write.

We attempted these Salons during our UFO Challenge. The Salon in Lansing was not attended, but the Grand Rapids Salon had five writers in attendance. Gloria Klinger offers one of these Salons in Grand Haven on the weeks her small writing group doesn't meet. For those who have attended such Salons, the structured writing time has helped writers be more productive.

If such an event is of interest to you, or you would be willing to host such an event, please let PW know. Since we have members around the state, we are looking for Writing Salon opportunities in multiple locals. The Writing Salon does not have to be at the same members' home each month, either; the host/hostess duties can change from month to month, thus sharing the "wealth." Nor do all the Salons have to occur at the same time or the same day; schedule when it is most convenient. Salons need not be at someone's home; the Write-ins in Lansing are held at a local coffee shop. And if a member lives too far away from a Salon, he/she could "join" by setting aside the hour and a half of a Salon and write at home during the same time as the members at the actual Salon location. Members could also set up a Skype or Facetime link if they wanted to virtually be in Salon attendance.

Not everyone can attend our Retreats, but these Salons can act as a "mini-retreat"---time away to write, in the companionship of other writers.

### Suggested Writing Salon Rules

1. Allocate a half an hour to gather and socialize. (Host may, but does not have to, offer refreshments.)
2. After that half-an-hour, silent writing time begins.
  - a. Turn off cell phones.
  - b. If a participant needs to talk, it should be done quietly and **only when absolutely necessary**
3. After an hour and a half, the Salon is over and participants pack up and go home. The next salon may be set up at that time. The time and place can then be sent to the Webmaster for inclusion on the PW Webpage to attract other PW members.