

December 8, 2006
Newsletter #2

Dear friends, advisors and co-conspirators of National Novel Writing Month and the Office of Letters and Light,

We made it! November is over and for those of us here at the NaNoNewsletter, that means only one thing ... sweet, sweet sleep. Well, two things: sleep and stats! Yes indeed, it's time for the Post-NaNo Statistical Breakdown, courtesy of our hard-working Board Treasurer Russ Uman. This year, there is so much excellent news to report:

- Around the world NaNovelists cranked out nearly *One Billion Words*, including 11 million written by students in the Young Writers Program. Nearly 80,000 people participated, with 12,948 of them making it to the winner's circle.

- Thanks to a flood of donations in the last week, we overshot our fundraising goal of \$200,000 by an additional \$37,000, and raised donation participation rates 78% over last year. We'll be able to donate enough to Room to Read to build 10 new children's libraries in Vietnam!

- Seattle, Washington beat out the rest of the world wordcount-wise, bringing over 16 million words of prose into the world during November. Runner up? Los Angeles! We're sure they'll turn the tables during Script Frenzy, our screenplay-in-a-month challenge that debuts in June, 2007.

- Did you know that along the way we had some help from National Public Radio? Throughout November, they posted "Novel Ideas," a series of helpful hints and writerly insights from novelists like Neal Pollack, Rita Mae Brown, Myla Goldberg, Mary Gaitskill and Joyce Carol Oates. The first novelist profiled is Gayle Brandeis, author of *Self Storage*, which was written during NaNoWriMo 2003 and will be published next month. You can find it all at:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6469023>

- The Christian Science Monitor updated us all on the fate of Christee Atwood, the brave, chicken-suited soul writing her novel in the picture window of a Waldenbooks. Check it out here:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1208/p20s01-bogn.html>

* Hooray, we're in the Paper of Record! Last Saturday, Phyllis Korkki of the New York Times did a humorous wrap-up of Novel Writing Month called "For a Block of Writers, 50,000 Words in 30 Days."

* We have a new Board Fellow. Nick Pearson, an MBA student from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, will be joining us for the next six months, and recently proved his mettle by building us a typerwriter out of cookie dough!

That's it for the second edition of the NaNoNewsletter - once we get the glitter out of our hair from last weekend's Thank God It's Over party, we'll start gearing up for Script Frenzy. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

Very Secretarily,
Kara
(50,451 words!)