

LeBow as they share their experiences with self publishing. Wednesday November 4, 2009, 6:30-8 pm Rediscovered Bookshop, 7079 Overland Rd., Boise, 208.376.4229. For more info: hshaklee@uidaho.edu. <http://www.sageecosci.com/Writers.html>

NOVEMBER AT REDISCOVERED BOOKSHOP...

***Partners In Crime Writing Group**

-Join both writers and readers of mystery in the valley to listen to speakers and discuss trends in mystery writing. Tues., November 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m., FREE.

***Speculative Fiction Writers Group**

-Come and find out more about writing in this genre and learn about the current trends and writing styles of science fiction and fantasy. Thurs., November 19, 6:30 p.m., FREE.

***Christian Fiction Writers Group**

-With the Christian Fiction Writers Group falling on Thanksgiving this year, we will be meeting at a later date. Authors and aspiring authors are meeting this month to share ideas and critiques about the world of Christian fiction. This is a very friendly group, come and check it out. Thurs., December 3, 6:30 p.m., FREE.

***Boise Novel Orchard Write-in**

-With Nation Novel Writing Month in full swing, we will be holding write-ins every Wednesday in November to inspire and help get the creative juices flowing! Weds. November 4, 6:30 p.m., FREE.

***Boise Novel Orchard NaNoWriMo Closing Party**

-Come in to celebrate the culmination of National Novel Writing Month with a group of writers who have undertaken the task of writing a 50,000 word novel in one month.

Share your struggles and triumphs over the sleepless nights and impossible plot twists with other novelists in the valley. Weds., November 30, 6:30 p.m., FREE.

Rediscovered Bookshop

7079 Overland Rd
Boise ID 83709
208-376-4229
www.rediscoveredbookshop.com

Call for Entries:

Idaho Magazine Fiction Contest

We want imaginative, well-developed stories with interesting characters, emotional punch, and a distinctly Idaho flavor. You may write about anything, as long as it has an Idaho setting, theme, or an Idaho character as a central element of the story. All stories must be unpublished. Deadline: **January 31, 2010**. For details, www.idahomagazine.com.

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS -
PERMANENT VACATION: LIVING AND
WORKING IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS**

Bona Fide Books seeks literary essays about experiences living and working in Yellowstone National Park for a collection about life in our parks. Some go seeking commune with nature; others to escape. Diverse park experiences are desired. Although we enjoy thlife, and the societal, environmental, and existential implications of life in the park. What happened there, and how did it influence your life? (Humor also welcome.) Writers will receive \$100 for their essay and one copy of the collection.

Deadline: January 5, 2010. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, and 12 point Times New Roman or Courier font with standard formatting applied; word count is limited to 5,000. Send to submissions@bonafidebooks.com with "Permanent Vacation" and the title of work in the subject line.

For more information, please go to www.bonafidebooks.com.

Writers Who Wine

Meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the True North Creative Learning Center, 150 E. Aikens in Eagle. Come and join a fun group of writers who enjoy reading their works while sipping wine with friends. Bring wine or treats and something to read. There's a writing prompt each month. For more information, contact Elaine Ambrose at elaineambrose1@aol.com

SHOW US YOUR SHORTS

The **10th Annual Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition** is accepting entries! We're looking for fiction that's bold, brilliant ... but brief. Send us your best in 1,500 words or less. But don't be too long about it—the deadline is December 1, 2009.

The Grand-Prize winner will receive \$3,000 (that's \$2—or more—per word).

Plus, the 1st- through 25th-place manuscripts will be printed in the *10th Annual Writer's Digest Short Story Competition Collection*

Go to <http://writersdigest.com/short> for rules and to enter on-line.

Editor's note: if anyone would like to submit an article, please send it to Eileen at Amermoon1121@cableone.net. I would love to have more member content. Here is an opportunity to share what you have learned about writing with the rest of the group.

waste of time; your characters should lead you, the writer, where you have never been, with perhaps themes you had not planned to explore. This must work for Koontz is the sixth highest paid writer in the country, in a tie with John Grisham, and we know Grisham is a billionaire. If you weigh success by income, there you have it. You don't need outlines and that word covers all those others: synopses, character sketches and family trees.

P. D. James said in a television interview that she has some idea for the ending of her story, but she depends solely on her characters' getting her there and they may change her mind. Every book PDJ has published has been a bestseller.

Another point you must consider when your novel is up and running is, do not go back and read all that you have written until you have finished the first draft. Rereading what you have already put on paper is believed to be the main reason many, many manuscripts never get finished. Read merely a few paragraphs where you left off writing yesterday—left off in the middle of a sentence—and let your characters lead from there.

Prepare to be surprised.

World War II

**Some came in on a wing and a prayer.
On Sundays I got prayer and a wing.**

-Lindsley Rinard

Classes & Events

UPCOMING CLASSES WITH KEN RODGERS, MFA

***Introduction to the Novel -
For beginning and intermediate writers
Write your novel or revise your manuscript**

Learn to use the elements of fiction. Work in a friendly atmosphere. Workshop your novel. And most importantly, write, write, write.

Where: True North Creative Learning Center, 150 E Aikens Rd, Suite B, Eagle, ID 83616

When: **Saturdays, Oct 3, 24, Nov 7, 21 and Dec 5, 2009**

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Cost: \$150.00 for five sessions

Idaho Magazine reports big news:

January 2010 = 100th issue!

History is coming, and it's getting closer. We're looking for special stories, please check with us regarding the October deadline.

Help us celebrate Idaho!

Think of the things you've learned about Idaho that you didn't know. Think about the fascinating people you've met through our pages during our first 100 months. Think about helping to make the future happen. kfleusch@idahomagazine.com or www.idahomagazine.com for more information.

DROP-IN WRITING WORKSHOPS WITH NORMAN WEINSTEIN

All are welcome to attend this informal community workshop for writers at all levels. Mr. Weinstein is a poet and critic writing about poetry, music, architecture and design. He is the author of a book about jazz, another on Gertrude Stein's writing, and six books of poetry. He currently reviews jazz for The Christian Science Monitor as well as the literature of architecture and design for Architectural Record. Bring pen and paper and a willingness to explore. **The workshops are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. at The Cabin. Free.**

BOISE NONFICTION WRITERS Speaker Series.

Wednesday, **October 7, 2009. Get out and write: connecting fiction strategies to non-fiction writers.** Every November, thousands across the globe try to write a 50,000 word novel in 30 days. Join **Megan Carmody**, local organizer for National Novel Writing Month, as she discusses the origins and purpose of National Novel Writing Month and explains how the mad dash of writing is helpful to any writer. Come prepared with your favorite portable method of writing – we'll put these techniques to use right here on the spot. Wednesday October 7, 2009, 6:30-8

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BOISE NONFICTION WRITERS Speaker Series. Wednesday, **November 4, 2009. The Pros and Cons of Self-Publishing: What we've tried and what we've learned.** Join writer and whitewater activist **Maria Eschen** and language teacher **Gail**

made up of the chapter publicity officers and the state publicity chairman

Proposal 2)

Regarding IWL State Treasury:

There is over \$17,000 available money. Proposed: transfer money from CD to Savings Account. This additional money will be transferred to checking as needed and used to

1) Increase amounts of money given for writing contest winning entries;

2) Increase amounts given to judges for writing contests;

3) Pay to bring a publisher and/or editor to the yearly conferences, out of the IWL State Treasury instead of having the host Chapter have to come up with the money, which some Chapters cannot afford.

Passed: Money will be transferred from the CD as needed on a quarterly basis to cover the expected shortfall for the next quarter and do the three items listed above.

Proposal 3)

Proposed: that Judges for future Open, Assigned Theme/Title, Fiction Book, and Nonfiction Book Contests be selected from professionals in:

post-secondary education; OR

publishing and/or editing; OR

from active, published writers of literature, popular literature, or journalism; OR

from graduates of accredited colleges or universities holding a Masters Degree in Fine Arts, Humanities, English Language and Literature, or related liberal arts degree.

We further propose that judges' compensation be doubled across the board, and made proportional to reading and critique workload; and that compensation be state (League) funded rather than conference (Chapter) funded.

Passed: This may make it a little harder for smaller chapters to come up with qualified judges but each town with a chapter has a college so there is a resource to check out.

Proposal 4)

Proposed: that the current poetry line limit of forty be extended to one hundred lines to allow longer narrative and ballad forms to compete in the four affected categories.

Passed.

Checkpoint #1

By Lindsley Rinard

If you have trouble getting your story off the ground and running, perhaps this information is for you. Reading books about writing is not always a good idea, for they often conflict with each other at some point. One of these points is what I'm discussing here.

One school of thought is that when starting a novel, you should make an outline, write a synopsis, sketch out the characters, even draw up a family tree for your protagonist *and* your antagonist. Years ago I tried this method but before I got to the tree, I felt as if I had already written the book. Why write it again? I trashed all that material. I was sick of it. It wasn't alive.

I had read numerous biographies and autobiographies of writers and didn't recall that any of them stated anything like the nonsense above. Then I did two major steps in this study. I read the flaps on the books about writing. Almost without exception these authors—telling you how to write—had published a few novels, but not one of them was a well-known novelist. The second step was to read, in their own words, how famous novelists proceed with this. The best source for this information is a series of publications called *Writers at Work*, *the Paris Review Interviews*, edited for many years by the late George Plimpton. [These should be in the larger public libraries.] In addition to these interviews, I recalled writers who were deceased before these interviews were published. I can guarantee all they needed to start a novel were seclusion, paper, pen, dictionary and imagination. That is to say, no notes.

Master suspense thriller Dean Koontz tells you on page 67 of his latest novel *Relentless* (second to last paragraph) that outlines are a

TOWN CRIER

OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER
IDAHO WRITERS' LEAGUE, CALDWELL CHAPTER

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
OCTOBER'S MEETING AGENDA.....	1
THIS MONTH'S AGENDA.....	1
NEW LEAGUE OFFICERS 2010	1
PROPOSED CHANGES TO	1
IWL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES	1
CHECKPOINT #1.....	2
CLASSES & EVENTS	3

October's Meeting Agenda

October 15, 2009 at the Offices at Everett Street

- Call to order** at 7:00 p.m.
- Reading of last meeting's minutes
- Reading of treasurer's report
- Introduction of Guests

OLD BUSINESS

- Chapter Officer Election
- IWL Conference in Twin Falls report

NEW BUSINESS

- How to build well rounded characters
- Proposed Schedule for 2010
- Adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

This month's meeting will be held at the office on the corner of Everett Street x 7th Avenue in Caldwell. We'll be upstairs this month. If you need further directions, call Eileen at 859-4206 or "reply" to this newsletter.

This Month's Agenda

October is costume month! We are going to illustrate how to build well rounded characters for your stories by using each member as an example. Remember that old game to while away the waiting: Make up a little story about each person that goes by as you wait at the airport or park or in line at the coffee shop or at the restaurant waiting for the food? We're going to use that idea and a list of things the

author ought to know about their main characters to make up character back stories about each member.

Wear something that might be seen on the streets that could make a character stand out from the crowd. For instance: your protagonist always wears a gaudy silk scarf or your antagonist carries a classic black umbrella because no matter what the weather or a supporting character is 50 but still wears mini-skirts regardless of how inappropriate.

We'll go through the list and make up back stories for each person based on the character quirk they come up with. Remember, this is all in fun and we want no hurt feelings!

New League Officers 2010

IWL President

Amy McClellan Idaho Falls

First Vice-President

Gary Townsend Idaho Falls

Treasurer

David E. Hibberd Coeur d'Alene

Second Vice-President

Cindy Snyder Twin Falls

PROPOSED CHANGES TO IWL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Proposal 1)

Proposed--that the IWL State Treasury fund creation of an Idaho Writer's League brochure and supply it to all active chapters in accord with their needs for publicity, member recruitment, and community service information.

Passed: The design of the flyer will be handled by the publicity committee which is