

# News & Views

August 2002

www.idahowritersleague.com

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Questions or Submissions?  
Email the Editor at  
[cdawriters@hotmail.com](mailto:cdawriters@hotmail.com)

Submissions are due to the Editor  
by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to  
publication.

## The President's Corner...Bits and Pieces

*Mary L. Smith, President*

We would like to thank those who took the time to respond to the survey. The items checked have been tallied and all comments noted. The results say that you want to learn all phases of the craft of writing and you dislike making choices between workshops. Therefore, for the first half of each meeting, we will be having workshops, lectures, seminars, authors on all the subjects listed in the survey. The second half of the meeting is slipping away from us, however. That is your part, the sharing of your writing. It is essential that **everyone** share something they have written. We may have to break into groups to do this, but we all must have a chance to be heard, every time.

The night meetings beginning in September will be back at the Lake City Senior Center. We will be sharing the building with people coming for dinner if we continue to hold our meetings on the third Thursday. Any other Thursday we can have the whole place to ourselves. What say you all about this? Please email me or call, but I do need to know your feelings about such an arrangement.

Special thanks to Dottie Maley for inviting us to her retirement party at the Leisure Park clubhouse patio. We had food galore and a delightful time visiting. And speaking of food, a big round of applause to Barbara Rostad for

chairing the refreshment committee. We have been wonderfully fed in body as well as spirit this year.

As we launch our fall season, Patti has some wonderful talent lined up to teach us. I want to thank her for her selfless hours of work to give us wonderful programs. We are a volunteer organization with lots of openings for people to get involved. We hope some of you will come forward to let us know you are willing to lend a hand.

Our 60<sup>th</sup> member's dues are in the bank. This is a milestone in the chapter history. With this wonderful number, we are looking forward to a grand finish to an exciting year. Mark your calendars the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, rev up your keyboards and pens, get ready, and WRITE.



## Exciting August Speaker

*Patti Dickinson, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president and  
Program Director*

You won't want to miss our August meeting(s) (see dates, times & locations below). August's program is being given by one of Zondervan Publisher's

biggest names. Our speaker is Brandilyn Collins, “a rising star” in Christian suspense according to the June 17<sup>th</sup> edition of Publishers Weekly. PW goes on to say that the [Christian] suspense genre has grown from zero 17 years ago to today, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> best-selling fiction category overall. For a comprehensive look at the Christian suspense market, check out <http://publishersweekly.reviewsnews.com/index.asp?layout=articlePrint&articleID=CA223246> or <http://publishersweekly.reviewsnews.com/index.asp?layout=articlePrint&articleID=CA223245>

Brandilyn’s talk is on the **4Ds**, from her excellent book *Getting Into Character*. She has agreed to do an in-depth workshop next year at the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Writers Fair** on how to develop your novel’s characters. But in the meantime, she will share the **4Ds, Desire, Distancing, Denial, and Devastation**, which she says will: “be very helpful for a novelist plotting a story in any genre.”

For those of you who heard Brandilyn’s address at the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Writers Fair**, you know she is prepared, informative, and an excellent speaker. She will also give the **4Ds** workshop for the evening meeting, so day or evening, anyone interested in writing novels, come prepared to learn from a best-selling author. Don’t miss this!

Brandilyn has promised to provide handouts so we need a count of attendees for both meetings; please email our IWL Internet Maven, **President Mary Smith** if you plan to come. The day meeting is **Wednesday August 14, 9:00 a.m. to noon** at the Jewett House at 1501 E. Lakeshore Dr. in Coeur d’Alene.

For more information on Brandilyn’s books and career, check out her website at <http://www.brandilyncollins.com>.

(\*\*\*\***For August only**) the evening meeting is at new-member Elizabeth Brinton’s house (thank you, Elizabeth!) on **Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** at 1310 E. Ash Ave. in the Sanders Beach area of Coeur d’Alene. From Sherman Avenue turn south on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, then left on Ash, which is the next street north of Lakeshore Dr. Elizabeth’s house is a 3 story on the right hand side with plenty of street parking. Please be prompt, as we want to give plenty of time to our speaker and have time for questions. \*\*\*\***NICHE** lost their lease so September’s evening meeting will be at the Lake City Senior Center.



### IWL Website Update

By David E. Hibberd, Webmaster

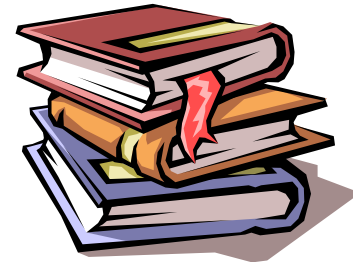
Go to [www.idahowritersleague.com](http://www.idahowritersleague.com) and take a look around.

Our thanks to Doug Erickson and the Idaho Falls Chapter for providing the conference information and for all of the work they have done in preparing for this year’s Snake River Rendezvous. The conference schedule has been updated.

I have added to each chapter’s main page, a counter to show how many visits to those pages have taken place. Also, by checking out the pages for other chapters, you can see which chapter pages are working for their chapters.

Please let me know if there is information that you would like to see included on the site. If you do not wish to receive periodic notices of important updates to the site, please reply to this message and let me know.

Thanks to all of you for making the Idaho Writer’s League a great organization for Idaho (and other) writers.



### CHARACTERS

By Judith A. Farrey,

The March/April 2002 edition of Book magazine lists the 100 best characters in fiction since 1900. The top ten are Jay Gatsby, Holden Caulfield, Humbert Humbert, Leopold Bloom, Rabbit Anstrom, Sherlock Holmes, Atticus Finch, Molly Bloom, Stephen Dedalus, and Lily Bart.

Obviously, this is a subjective list, but how can we create a best character? A perusal of my writing books revealed the common themes of the need for writers to observe and understand human nature, physical, mental and emotional, create believable conflict and resolution, and to give the reader a visceral relationship so they don’t just know about our character, but they know our character.

Stuart Fischhoff, Ph.D, media psychologist and filmwriter, finds that the “core” of a character “is expressed in what a person does and what a person won’t do; what they think and what they don’t think; what they feel and what they don’t feel. Contradictions to these consistencies should be dramatic plot

points which are critical moments in both storyline and character arc. . . . The core of characters is also seen in whom they befriend and whom they alienate; what they say “yes” to and what they say “no” to; what they disclose and what they hide; what are their dreams and what are their nightmares; where they are lionhearted and where they are fainthearted; whether they follow, lead or choose to walk alone; and, yes, even how they treat animals and little children.”

Christopher Vogel, literary consultant, wrote **The Writer’s Journey**, based on Joseph Campbell’s concepts of “the hero’s journey” and archetype characters. He states, “in any good story the hero grows and changes, making a journey from one way of being to the next: from despair to hope, weakness to strength, folly to wisdom, love to hate, and back again. It’s these emotional journeys that hook an audience and make a story worth

[reading].”

Elaine Maries Alphin, author of **“Creating Characters Kids Will Love,”** received a letter from a twelve-year old boy who wrote that one of her characters “is a lot like me” and “I really like your book.” But Ms. Alphin astutely observes that the boy didn’t so much like her book, as he liked and related to someone who “wasn’t just a paper character to him”. She had brought a character to life on the page for him. Fair enough, but how do you bring an imaginary child to life? Usually you notice a child because of what she is doing. Your character should be doing something, taking action. Why she is doing what she is doing and what her experiences are up to that point will determine how she will take action. That is what you must show. The same will be true for what she thinks, feels and says.

In **Word Painting**, Rebecca

McClanahan advises that characters “do not exist until we describe them,” that they “drift bodiless and ethereal,” and that they “acquire weight and substance through the physical details” and “in a state of activity.” In other words, the reader sees a moving picture in his mind’s eye. Choose sensory and significant details about characters and their surroundings, describe their movements and speech, see them through the eyes of other characters, reveal their private world of thoughts and feelings, and see the world through their eyes.

Finally, in her book **Getting Into Character**, Brandilyn Collins reminds us that good fiction is “convincing characters caught in compelling conflict” but that readers won’t believe our story unless we “create full-fledged characters with a deep sense of human truth.” How does she suggest we achieve this? By being observers, “ardent students of human nature,” and learning to write “round” characters who are “capable of surprising in a convincing way.”

Not all memorable characters are likeable, but they all are alive on the page. Satisfying characters give us as readers a chance to get inside them, probably more than we can ever get inside any living person. They satisfy the physical, mental and emotional voyeur and seeker in all of us. Who will your next best character be?

## Happy Birthday!

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Marion Lillie  | 8/2  |
| Dottie Maley   | 8/28 |
| Barbara Rostad | 8/20 |
| Jan See        | 8/16 |

## History Moment

By Dottie Maley

“There are few things that endure in a world in which obsolescence is planned. Among the enduring things are poetry, literature, art and music.” The editor of the Coeur d’Alene Press wrote this in October of 1960 in recognition of Poetry Day.

Those words might never have seen the light of day if the following mysterious episode had not occurred. It appears that Mrs. Helen Woods of Boise Writers League, had promoted poetry day so extensively in that area in 1958 and ‘59 that her loyal supporters insisted that she be named by the National Director, as Poetry Day Chairman for ‘Southeastern Idaho.’

Mrs. Woods and obviously no one else in southern Idaho realized that our own Jessie Cameron Alison, founder of the Coeur d’Alene chapter was already State Chairman. During those two afore-mentioned years, Poetry Day went virtually unrecognized in our area, not because Mrs. Alison didn’t try, but her letters to Governor Smylie, asking for a proclamation, (which was a necessary procedure in proclaiming this a state wide event,) had gone unanswered.

When this faux pas was discovered, a mortified Mrs. Woods wrote an apology to Mrs. Alison and suggested that perhaps she could be co-chairman of the southeastern Idaho area instead of chairman. It was agreed by an equally embarrassed national committee head that the suggested arrangement could make for better efficiency. So in the summer of 1960 Mrs. Alison once again wrote Governor Smylie, asking for the poetry day proclamation. The governor was happy to comply and the event got off to a rousing start.

It was not only Poetry Day for us here in Idaho, but for our nation and the world. At this time almost all of the states and 34 other countries observed this day. A rare concept expressed in the phrases of its originator, Mary O’Conner of Philadelphia read as follows. “The purpose of World Poetry Day is to unite the nations of the world by the invisible ties of poetry, thereby bringing a deeper universal understanding of one another. There should be but one heart...one world, and a world in which there are no hours for enmity – not differences of birth in hearts that dream of poetry encircling the very earth.” Mary O’Conner had been bedfast since a paralyzing fall in 1937. Of her 3000 poems almost 100 were translated into five different languages. She is in Who’s Who of American Women...Who’s Who in the East and International Who’s Who In Poetry.

When there were so many fine writers in our group it may seem that a lot of time is spent talking about Jessie Cameron Alison, but we need to remember that this is the very talented woman who founded this chapter. It was her personal field of dreams; the people did come and are still doing so. It is so important that the vision and hard work that made this chapter a reality be kept intact.

In another example that shows how remarkable this woman was, Paula Barnhart, author, wrote in the 1965 Idaho Leagazette, “A genuine princess is exceedingly rare, and truly lovely ladies, rarer still. Jessie Cameron Alison, Poet Laureate of the Coeur d’Alene chapter, is just such a rare, fine lady. All of us here agree, that her presence at our meetings adds a distinct touch of elegant creativity.”

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, August 14,  
9:00AM, Jewett House  
Cd’A Chapter Day Meeting**

This is the monthly chapter meeting held during the day. Join us to hear guest speaker Brandilyn Collins, Christian Suspense Author.

**Thursday, August 15,  
7:00PM, Elizabeth Brinton’s  
Home –1310 E. Ash, Cd’A  
Cd’A Chapter Evening Meeting**

(At Elizabeth’s this month only)  
Brandilyn Collins, Christian Suspense Author is guest speaker.

The regular Cd’A Chapter Evening meetings will resume at the Lake City Senior Center beginning in September.

### **Snake River Rendezvous**

September 26, 27, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls, Registration 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> and on Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Conference -- Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. AND Saturday 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. For more information check the website [www.idahowritersleague.com](http://www.idahowritersleague.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Treat Reminder for the August Meetings**

Michael A. Marsden  
Bev Toelle

### **Writer Volunteers for September Issue (due to editor by August 25<sup>th</sup>)**

Dottie Maley  
Karen Hayes

## Yoga for Your Eyes

By Judith A. Farrey

Writers are most susceptible to eyestrain, especially now in the computer age. Take a few moments and treat one of your most valuable senses to some rest and relaxation.

Try these exercises taken from Vasantha's "Yoga For Eyes" Video (<http://indolink.com/Vasantha/yoga3.html>). They can be practiced anytime of the day even while taking a half-minute break from your work.

**Exercise 1:** This simple exercise relaxes and relieves tension from the optic nerves. Open your eyes wide and look up. Hold it for 5-10 seconds. Close your eyes and squeeze your eyes. Hold it for 3-5 seconds. Repeat as you please.

**Exercise 2:** This practice relaxes the optic nerves and helps improve eyesight. Holding your head straight look to your right, and hold the position for about 5 seconds. Repeat the movement looking to your left, looking up, and down.

**Exercise 3:** This practice lubricates and soothes dry eyes. Improves eyesight. Place a tip of your index finger between the eyebrows. Looking at the fingertip, slowly move the finger to the tip of your nose without blinking. By this time eyes release tears naturally and you feel like blinking. Repeat few times. Note: Sometimes you may feel like blinking your eyes as you practice, as your eyes release tears quickly. For some it takes many practices to feel the benefits if the eyes are very dry.

## Treasurer's Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2002

Judith A. Farrey  
July 2002

**Membership:** We have 27 new members since the first of the year, and currently have 8 honorary members.

**Meeting Expenses:** We have paid \$100.00 annual rent to the Jewett House in lieu of collecting a dollar from each member who attends the Wednesday morning meetings. We had to pay \$25.00/month rent to the Lake City Senior Center in January and February for Thursday evening meetings. Since then, we have had free use of the NICHE offices. Now, however, NICHE has been moved to UofI's new offices and no longer has meeting space. As a result, beginning in September, we'll again be meeting at the LCSC and will again incur the \$25.00 monthly fee unless or until someone can find another free space.

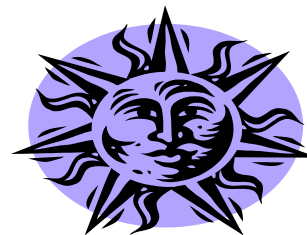
**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Writers Fair:** By now, you either attended or heard about our most successful first annual writers fair. Financially speaking, we have a \$358.00 profit. If it were not for the generous cash donations from ByLine Magazine, Dave and Jenny Matheson, North Idaho Museum, and Nikki Inc., donations of facilities, services and materials from the CdA Resort and Conference Center, CdA Press, Insty-Prints and Writers' Digest and all the local companies and organizations who filled our goody bags, and the members of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Idaho Writer's League who gave so generously of their time, we would have suffered a net loss. So, to all of you who worked for so many hours and donated so much time and material, I thank you.

These proceeds will be reserved as a beginning balance for next year's CdA Chapter 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Writers Fair.

**Idaho Community Foundation Grant:** We applied for and have been awarded \$700.00 to use for a writing contest for area students grades 4-8. Our plans are to hold the contest early in 2003 to coincide with our chapter's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While we have not worked out the details, our general theme will be Idaho. We will use the grant money to finance advertising, printing and postage, prizes and an awards ceremony. This is an exciting project and we will soon be inviting you to participate in preparation and judging.

**Special projects Account:** the Board has voted to open a savings account (linked to our checking account) which will begin with \$400.00 writers fair money and the \$700.00 grant. We aren't as concerned with making a profit as with keeping separate and accurate accounts for the writers fair and the writing contest.

If you have any questions about our finances, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have any comment or suggestions, please make them known to the Board for consideration and appropriate action. Thank you very much for your trust and support.



### Quotes:

"Poets are like Baseball pitchers. Both have their moments. The intervals are the tough things."  
Robert Frost

"First drafts are for learning what your novel or story is about."  
Bernard Malamud

## 2002 Officers

**Mary Smith**, President  
762.4081

**Patti Dickinson**, First VP &  
Program Director  
667.8912

**Kristin Howard**, Second VP  
667.8243

**Judith Farrey**, Treasurer  
623.2123

**Nikki Arana**, Publicity  
773.9525

**Jan See**, Newsletter Editor  
772.7646

**Dottie Maley**, Historian  
762.2247

**Secretary**  
(Position Available)

### ByLine Contests: with August Deadlines

1<sup>st</sup> CHAPTER OF A NOVEL—Deadline August 6, 2002. Opening chapter of an unpublished novel. Mainstream or genre; adult or YA audience. Maximum 25 pages. Entry fee \$5. Prizes: \$70, \$40, \$20.

NEW-TALENT POETRY—Deadline August 15, 2002. Any style or length. Open to any writer who’s never won a cash prize in a ByLine poetry contest. Entry fee \$3. Prizes: \$40, \$30, \$20, \$10.

CREATIVE NONFICTION—Deadline August 20, 2002. Nonfiction (either essay or article) that reads like a story, using fiction techniques to present factual information or events. Maximum 2,000 words. Entry fee \$4. Prizes: \$40, \$25, \$15.

LIGHT VERSE—Deadline August 30, 2002. Greeting card verse, limericks, whimsical short poems, etc. Maximum 14 lines. Entry fee \$3. Prizes: \$40, \$20, \$10.

### PNBA: (Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association)

At the July 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting a motion was made by Judith and seconded by Dottie to have our IWL chapter join the PNBA. It’s a marketing organization, which costs a modest yearly fee. Being a part of this enables us as individuals to pay a \$5.00 badge fee and attend their Trade Shows, one of which is coming up September 13-15 in Portland. Membership would make it possible for us to have a booth as the IWL. The Trade Show held in recent months at the Cd’A Resort is where the book “The Resort” debuted. “**The Resort**” is a story of Mystery and Intrigue taking place with the **Coeur d’Alene Resort** as the backdrop, and having it debut here at the PNBA Trade Show seemed so very appropriate and auspicious.

The Spring Show is held each year in Coeur d’Alene at the Resort. Dates for 2003 are March 14-16. Contact Mary Smith, [marynl@nidlink.com](mailto:marynl@nidlink.com) for more information.

Coeur d’Alene Chapter  
Idaho Writers League  
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USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

