

CDA Chapter  
60th Anniversary  
1943-2003

Idaho Writers League  
Coeur d'Alene Chapter

# News & Views

January 2003

[www.idahowritersleague.com](http://www.idahowritersleague.com)

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

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

## President's Corner

Mary Smith, President

What an exciting new year! Imagine an organization that has met continuously for 60 years. In this day and age, such a thing is remarkable. We are privileged to honor the past and be the celebrants of the future of such a legacy.

Besides the regular meeting programs, we have a number of special events. January begins with a writing workshop series instructed by master teacher Petrushka Pavlovich. Registration information is in this newsletter.

In February, nationally recognized and honored, Elizabeth Lyon will hold a workshop at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Further registration information is also in this newsletter.

The middle of March brings to town the Pacific Northwest Independent Booksellers Association convention at The Resort. We are members of this organization which means the cost is \$4 total for attending two and a half days of workshops, meeting authors, editors, publishers, and most importantly, talking at length with those who sell our creative efforts.

That's the first quarter of our anniversary year. As your new officers and board members, we are thrilled with the plans so far. We are also grateful for so many of you who have chosen to be a part of this adventure. May this stimulating and motivating year see the fulfillment of your writing dreams.



## The Two Faces of Fiction

By Helen L. Campbell

*(This article is an expanded version of material I presented in my*

*April 10, 2002 workshop on short story writing.)*

If you write short fiction and plan to market your stories (or enter them in contests) you can save a lot of time, money, and disappointment--as well as reducing your harvest of rejection slips--by first understanding the two main "families" of fiction. In the trade, these distinct styles are referred to as *literary* and *commercial*.

The main differences between *literary* and *commercial* fiction are quite evident. In a commercial story, the plot and story development take on a bell-shaped curve. You begin low and build up to a crisis. By the end of the story, the conflict is either resolved, or your characters have learned something that helps them to better cope with their problems. Commercial fiction *always* has a plot and *always* has a resolution, even though the protagonist may simply learn, as the bumper sticker says, "A kick in the

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## An IWL History Moment

By Dottie Maley, Historian

Close your eyes and picture this. The time: 1805. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark discovered Idaho at Lemhi Pass and crossed into North Idaho over the Lolo Trail 70 years later, in 1874, the first railroad came into the state and the first daily paper, The Owyhee Daily Avalanche was issued at Silver City. The following year, the Lemhi Indian Reservation was set aside by President Ulysses S. Grant for Shoshones, Bannocks and Tukuarikas. Bear Lake County was created and bank failure ruined Silver City and South Mountain Mines.

A scant one hundred years after that, in 1974, the works of four local poets, Ruth Kidder Watkins, Betty Rohrscheib, Bernice Ferris and Josephine Moore, all belonging to the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Idaho Writers League, were included in a book published by the Spokane Chapter Composers, Authors and Artists. The book, "Spokane Is A Song," was an anthology of Northwest poets. Each author was invited to attend a book signing at Daltons Book Store in Spokane. They were asked and permission was given, to publish their work in Braille.

That year many members attended the State Conference in Moscow, the theme of which was "Peacocks and Lilies". The chapter members walked off with awards in nine different categories. At each meeting of the chapter manuscripts and/or poems that were read were voted on by the members. The winner was given the chapter trophy to keep until the next meeting. Also at these meetings roll call was followed by a couplet and one that could certainly apply today, was by Carrie Spence. "With all my hard earned cash, most wrecklessly I part, but when I lost a postage stamp it almost broke my heart."

1975 saw Josephine Moore elected president. Sadie Brooten, long time chapter member was awarded the

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## Monthly Meetings

By Patti Dickinson

1<sup>st</sup> VP-Program Director

The Tax Man Cometh ~ this part of January's program was prompted by fellow program director, Patty May. She said, "With tax time around the corner, ask your husband if he would talk to us about income taxes as they relate to writers." It took some arm-twisting to get my C.P.A. husband David to agree, but the clincher was my reminding him how many questions I had the first time I listed "writer" under occupation on my 1099. Okay, so the subject of income taxes makes most people's eyes glaze over! But not to worry, he's a funny guy (not your average accountant-type) and his talk on What Every Writer Should Know About Income Taxes will be brief/informative and then you can ask questions. David has been in private practice for 25 years; his mantra is (similar to New Yorkers) "If I can stay sane dealing with the IRS, I can pretty much do anything." Over a period of 18 months my non-fiction Hollywood the Hard Way was rejected 19 times. His eyes may have glazed over but he hung in there through that, so I'll vouch for not only his tax expertise, but his support and understanding of writers!

The 2nd part of the program will be on the upcoming book to be authored by CdA Chapter members for the Children's Village. Mary and I will go over the Basic Guidelines for Stories (handouts will be provided) on ideas, length, what not to do, what to be sure to do, plus editing, deadlines, etc. For details on this exciting project, read President Mary Smith's article on page 5 of News & Views-how the program for December [write a children's Christmas story or poem] evolved into reading to the children of CV. And from that to our chapter self-publishing a trade paper book that we can all be proud to list on our résumés. This collaborative writing/self-publishing/ marketing effort constitutes nothing less than a hands-on opportunity to learn by experiencing all three phases. And to become a published writer/ published poet in the process-

there are no losers here! This is synergism at work.

Both programs: What Every Writer Should Know About Income Taxes and The Basic Guidelines for Stories & Poems for our IWL book will be given at the day meeting at the Jewett House, on Wednesday, January 8th, and Thursday evening January 16th at the LDS Church at Honeysuckle & Maple Avenues in Hayden.

Please be prompt to give us plenty of time for both programs+ questions, refreshments, and then our reading [including TLF if you wish.] The day meeting the Jewett House starts at 9:00 a.m., the evening meeting at the LDS Church begins at 6:30 p.m.

## STUDENT WRITING CONTEST COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

By Judith A. Farrey, Committee Chair

The Student Writing Contest committee met for the first time and reviewed the grant proposal and parameters. It was agreed that more emphasis will be placed on publicity than on paid advertising. Our grant application did specify that we plan to use paid advertising to publish a contest application form, and we will. But our talented and enthusiastic committee members are committed to writing articles, giving interviews, getting pictures in the paper, getting the word out to the schools and getting information posted on the Internet. Wow, what a group of talent and dedication.

Jenni Hearne, David Hibberd and Bill Kersting are the current members of the committee, and you are encouraged and welcome to join us.

For more information, send me an e-mail at [farr@icehouse.net](mailto:farr@icehouse.net) or phone me at 623-2123.

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butt is a step forward." If you were to compare a commercial-type story to a painting, it would be one in which you can recognize objects: flowers, fruit, a face, a horse.

The story curve of a literary story is basically a flat line. Literary fiction seldom has a plot, in the classic sense of the word, and does not necessarily "resolve" in a satisfying manner. The protagonists are rarely better off at the end than they were at the beginning, although their feelings and the depth of their conflicts may be, and usually are, deeply explored. In a painting, this would be like modern art. The shapes may be unrecognizable as whatever they are or they may not represent a tangible object at all. Color, shape, form, and emotion are what the artist is depicting.

Admittedly, there's a lot of sniping back and forth between writers of both styles. Literary writers sneer at plots--they claim that stories with plots are contrived, simplistic, and unrealistic. Writers of commercial fiction say that literary stories are boring, don't have any point. As a writing professional, you must adopt the attitude that neither style of fiction is "better" or "worse" than the other. They are simply *different*.

Although creating stories with ingenious plots and surprise endings takes a lot of skill, a literary story, with no plot to prop it up, must draw on all of the writer's tools and knowledge to bring it up to the level that readers of literary fiction demand. Theoretically, unless you have some reason to limit your own perspectives, you should be able to write in both styles.

One point in favor of writing literary short fiction is that there are dozens and dozens of journals and "little" magazines to which you can submit your work. (Writer's Market guidelines are usually very clear as to whether a publication is "literary" or not.) Admittedly, these publications rarely pay anything other than a free copy of the edition in which your story appears. On the other hand, opportunities to sell commercial short fiction are slim to none. The few magazines that still publish fiction are

looking to the big-named authors, and a so-called short story may often be nothing more than an excerpt from the writer's upcoming blockbuster novel. The good news is that, in novel writing, the opposite is true; commercial fiction rules.

The bottom line is that you should write! write! what interests you. Pour your heart and soul into it. *But* before you submit your story to an editor or contest judge, study the publication's guidelines or contest rules thoroughly. Better yet, read several sample copies of the target publication. Become thoroughly familiar with what those editors consider good quality and appropriate writing. The results will speak for themselves.



## Refreshments:

January 8<sup>th</sup> Patti Dickinson  
January 16<sup>th</sup> Janet See  
February 12<sup>th</sup>  
February 20<sup>th</sup>

Refreshments are on a volunteer basis. We would like everyone to participate. More than one person can bring treats to either of our meetings. To volunteer please contact Barbara Rostad at 777-1030.

## Birthdays:

Martha Potter 1-29

Please contact Judith Farrey to update your birthday for the roster.

## Internet Insights

By Judith Farrey

A Review of  
<http://www.writeronline.us>

Www.writeronline.us looks like a website that has potential. If you are interested in publishing your work online, either short fiction or non-fiction, excerpts from longer works, or poetry, check out the content and the writer's guidelines. Even if you don't want to publish on-line, it is worthwhile to subscribe to this free writer's e-zine that includes two or three how-to articles, an interview, poetry and short fiction.

The website's homepage displays a menu for markets, archives, classifieds and a writer's store, but as of early November, each had no content other than a "coming soon" statement. The only fully developed page is one for Absolutely Write Editorial Services, including services, fees and bios of the editors ([www.writeronline.us/main/ed-services.shtml](http://www.writeronline.us/main/ed-services.shtml)).

Reading the "What to send us" section will help teach you how to ask effectively for critiquing.

For now, content yourself with subscribing to the e-zine, and keep your eye out for archived articles in the future. Definitely worth the 15-20 minutes a month it will take you to read.

## Volunteer Critiquing Needed

We have a member who is institutionalized and we are looking for volunteers to critique a sample chapter of his novel-in-progress. IWL "is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes." This critiquing opportunity fits squarely into this mission and readers will be introduced to a world not many of us have seen or experienced. For more information, please call Judith at 623-2123 or e-mail [farr@icehouse.net](mailto:farr@icehouse.net). Thank you.

## From the Editor:

By David E. Hibberd

During our November meetings, I was one of the four individuals submitted to the chapter members as an officer for 2003. As the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, my responsibilities are over the newsletter.

I now have the task of trying to fill the shoes of Kristen Howard who previously oversaw the newsletter. I am already finding out just how difficult that is, and I don't think it has anything to do with my size 12's being much larger than Kristen's shoes.

Both Kristen and Janet See have dealt with the difficulties of formatting the newsletter, only to have things go helter skelter the moment you add something new to the pages. This new look is an effort to make things behave in a more reasonable manner.

For those of you receiving the email version, you will notice there are some colored backgrounds to part of the text. This is to make it easier to follow text from one page to another.

There are going to be some new items added to our newsletter. There are many talented writers in our chapter and we would like to showcase them. We will provide a section for a featured poet as well as one for flash fiction. We will also feature articles about the craft and business of writing from our members. The stories and articles will have a word count of 250-500 words.

This will allow us to read what others have to say, and provide our members with an opportunity to be published. Those who would like to submit articles, stories, or poetry for the newsletter, please contact Janet See at [Jan19522@hotmail.com](mailto:Jan19522@hotmail.com) and let her know what you would like to submit. If possible, submit your writings as MS Word documents.

We look forward to hearing from you. By way of example, this column without the title and byline is 313 words in length.

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**9:00AM, Jewett House**

***Cd'A Chapter Day Meeting***

**Suggested Writing:**

Juvenile Fiction (2000 words)

Light Verse (40 Lines)

This is our daytime monthly chapter meeting. See the article on page 2 about *What Every Writer Should Know About Income Taxes* and *The Basic Guidelines for Stories & Poems*.

**Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**6:30PM, LDS Church at N. Maple**

**& E. Honeysuckle**

***Cd'A Chapter Evening Meeting***

**Suggested Writing:**

Same as for the Wednesday meeting.

This is our evening monthly chapter meeting. Be sure to note our new meeting place at the LDS church on the corner of Honeysuckle and Maple. Topics are the same as our daytime meeting.

**Thursdays:**

**January 9<sup>th</sup> – February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Post Falls Senior Center**

**Petrushka Pavlovich:**

Structuring your story. See adjacent article.

**Friday, February 21**

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Saturday, February 22**

**8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

**Coeur d'Alene Resort<sup>8</sup>**

**Elizabeth Lyon Seminar:**

Friday Workshop:

It's All in the Execution: Improving Your Style

Saturday Workshops:

The Editor's Hit List: The 12 Most Common Reasons Why Novels Get Rejected & How to Fix Them  
Secrets of Fiction Technique for Nonfiction Writers

Cost: \$85.00 Prior to Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>

\$95.00 After Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>

Includes Saturday luncheon

\$25.00 Friday Workshop only

## IWL 2003 Writing Contest

Assigned Titles:

Caught in the Act – Second Fiddle

Assigned Themes:

Shadows - Crossroads

## Petrushka Pavlovich Training

To those of you wishing to take Petrushka Pavlovich's class:

Welcome to a unique experience in writing. Ms. Pavlovich offers a really in-depth method of starting your work, continuing to build your story, and structuring the entire piece, whether it be a novel, short story, or screen play. You will learn to create characters with personality and depth and to move your story in classic three-act structure.

Starting date: Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003, to run six weeks on each Thursday thereafter.

Time: 1 pm to 4 pm

Place: Post Falls Senior Center. Take the Spokane Street Exit off I-90, turn south (left if you're coming from Coeur d'Alene), and go to Third Street. Turn left, go approximately 1/2 mile, and you will see a sign on the left indicating the Senior Center. The class will be held in the Dougall Room.

Cost: \$125 if checks are received before Jan. 1, \$150 for checks received after that date. \$50 non-refundable deposit will get you into the class. The rest of the money will be collected on the first day class will be held. It's worth it for the early birds, as you will get 15 to 18 hours of instruction for this amount. Please make checks payable to P. Pavlovich and mail to Jane Aune, 2292 W. Jester, #1106, Post Falls, Idaho 83854-7314

Petrushka will accept people after the first day for the full amount.

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North Idaho College Distinguished Citizen award for “dedicated and diligent volunteer work for and with people, needing some kind of assistance”. Grace Roffey Pratt, another chapter member and historical writer and poet, brought the old west to life with the publication of *Patience Willoleaf’s Receipt Book*”. Said Mrs. Pratt, “In 1909 “recipe” was a word too high-falutin to use. The book entailed her mother’s rules for cooking and baking the materials available such as products of the field, forest, and stream.

That year also saw Bernice S. Ferris win the coveted Poet of The Year award. She said, “My poems reflect my response to what I see and feel. They are simple and meaningful. I do not try to be clever or profound, nor are they symbolic except as words are symbolic. I have steeped myself in poetry since grade school. To me, poetry is a necessary ingredient in life.”

To revert back to the book, “Spokane Is A Song”, this wonderful little poem was one offered by Betty Rohrscheib and is titled Forecaster?

Plump-bellied Robin in scarlet vest,  
You chatter on my lawn.  
You chirp that spring is here, at last,  
And Summer’s coming on.

Every year I heed your sign,  
Skin down to scant attire.  
Every year, a cold is mine,  
You’re such a pretty liar.

Welcome Robin, do your thing,  
A weatherman you’re not.  
Oh bird of beauty on the wing,  
Your thermometer is shot.



## Congratulations:

David E Hibberd had a letter printed in the Jan. 2003 issue of *Star Trek: The Magazine*.

## Spare My Son

Spare my son,  
My son whose laughter  
Echoes  
Across two short decades.  
My son, the dropout  
The underage drinker  
The seeker of new direction  
Through service to his country.

Spare my son  
Who loves sports,  
Cars, girls  
In no particular order  
My son, whose tiny footprints  
In the sand  
Expanded  
To march in military boots

Spare my son,  
Who wears a gold cross  
Sits shiva  
Faces east to pray

Spare my son:  
My dark-skinned son  
My freckle-faced son  
My turbaned son

Spare my son, Mr. President,  
*My son*

Barbara K. Rostad

## Contests –Challenges

<http://www.glimmertrain.com>  
Eight contests throughout the year.  
<http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp>  
Sponsors four contests per month.  
[www.writersjournal.com](http://www.writersjournal.com)  
Various contests throughout the year.  
Register for a chance to receive free books. Check their list of past winners.  
<http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/>  
Annual and monthly contests.  
<http://www.barnesandnobleuniversity.com/index.asp?nhid=bn&userid=0DV922AIX8>  
Barnes & Noble University free and fee paid writing courses via internet.

The New Year give us a time to reflect on the past and look to the future. Here is a writing prompt idea taken from *Writers Digest*.

Create a writing schedule for the next three weeks. Start with five minutes per day. Add five minutes to every writing session. Note on your schedule how you’re doing. January 02, 2003

## Children’s Village - The Book

Our reading to the children of Children’s Village has been a huge success. We read our own work, work of the children themselves, and other stories and poems. We were warmly received by the staff and children and we’ve been invited back any time. Your IWL board wants to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in this project. We also thank IWL member Robin Heflin for her outstanding article on this project in the December 21st edition [the Saturday Handle Extra section] of the *Spokesman Review*. The article touches on an exciting turn the project has taken. Read on...

The project has been so successful we have been asked to participate in a fundraising project for Children’s Village. Our idea magnet, Patti Dickinson happened to mention our CV reading project to Tom and Marge Murphy, long-time Children’s Village supporters. They thought our writings plus some of the children’s stories and poems would make a wonderful book to be sold as a fund-raiser for Children’s Village. Patti stressed that this is strictly voluntary, and though it will be an IWL trade-paper publication, we will not be responsible for publishing costs. Our responsibility will be to write, put together and edit--take it from manuscripts to finished book. Be assured this will be a professional product, so be prepared accept constructive critiquing and do rewrites. We are working toward a deadline of April 13. So, darlinks, get seriously busy writing and re-writing "stuff" to be published this year. Patti and I will go over the guidelines at both January meetings.

Coeur d'Alene Chapter  
Idaho Writers League  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## 2002 Officers

**Mary Smith**, President  
762-4081

**David E. Hibberd**, Second VP & Newsletter Advisor  
509 928-5528

**Sandy Smith**, Publicity  
773-9525

**Dottie Maley**, Historian  
762-2247

**Patti Dickinson**, First VP & Program Director  
667-8912

**Judith Farrey**, Treasurer  
623-2123

**Jan See**, Newsletter Editor  
772-7646

**Secretary**  
(Position Available)

### *Who is the Idaho Writers League?*

#### **Purpose of the Organization**

The Idaho Writers League is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, for the promotion of social welfare, including:

- a. To promote and maintain a high standard of literary output and to recognize accomplishments of Idaho writers;
- b. To stimulate public respect and support for the art and profession of writing;
- c. To provide a unified organization for writers and those with serious interest in writing and literary skills;
- d. To encourage new writing talent; to exchange ideas through the League publication and local and state meetings;
- e. To stimulate writing by means of contests and recognition awards;
- f. To encourage regional activity among neighboring chapters.