

COEUR d'ALENE CHAPTER

IDAHO WRITERS' LEAGUE

Lakegazette



Celebrating our 63rd Anniversary 1943 - 2006

April 2006

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

COEUR d'ALENE IWL MEETINGS:

April 12 Jewett House

9:00 A.M. to Noon

Program: Sammie L. Justesen,
Literary Agent.

Refreshments: Michael Marsden

Refreshments: Sherry Ramsey

April 20 Lutheran Church

4800 Ramsey Road

6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Program: Children's Writing
Contest Awards

Refreshments: Jim Turner

Refreshments: Need Volunteers

April Birthdays:

4/18 Anna Goodwin

4/28 Linda Fletcher

Refreshment Volunteers:

If you would like to help in April 2006, please contact Barbara Rostad, Hospitality Chair: (208) 777-1030. We will also need extra refreshments for our special May, 2006, night meeting with guest speaker Elizabeth Lyon.

Circle that date on your calendar!

Local Literary Agent to Speak at April Meeting

by Sherry Ramsey, 1st Vice-President

We will have Sammie L. Justesen, as our guest speaker at the April 12 meeting. She lives in and works in Sandpoint as a Literary Agent. Sammie has worked as an independent writer/editor for publishing houses such as Mosby, Springhouse, Lippincott, and Prentice Hall. During the past five years she has edited numerous works of fiction and nonfiction. Sammie published a medical guide, technical articles, poetry, and short stories. As an editor, she especially enjoy working with and coaching first-time authors. As a literary agent, Sammie is willing to consider unpublished authors.

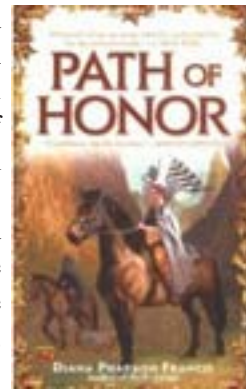


Her website: www.northernlightsls.com
(sammie@northernlightsls.com)

Agency: Northern Lights Literary Services
306 N. Center Valley Rd.
Sandpoint, Idaho, United States



Then Our speaker for the June Day and Night speaker will be Diana Pharaoh Francis. She has written two Sci-Fi books, Path of Blood, and Path of Honor. She would like to know from our members, what we're interested in. I think building a fantasy world would be important for this genre and maybe systems of magic. I don't know. I love hearing about the publishing industry, but we can hear that from many authors



and we don't get a Fantasy writer for these guys very often. I'd like them to be able to get out of her what they can't glean from other speakers. I would like the members of our chapter to email me with ideas about her Sci-Fi and Fantasy presentation.

My email is lr Ramsey@supersat2.net.

WHAT IS A POEM?

by *Liz Mastin*

The Ode

The ode is another of the forms that originated in classic antiquity. It was a solemn, elevated, and heroic form and in ancient times it was widely used to praise athletes and statesmen. It was usually sung. According to Webster's New World Dictionary, the definition of ode is: *A poem characterized by a lofty feeling, elaborate form, and dignified style. In modern use it may be a lyric poem, rhymed or unrhymed.* Odes were often full of exaggerations, flatteries, and claims of excellence and high standing of the subject. Later the Romantic Movement found the ode useful in praise of the world and man's place in it.

In the nineteenth century, the ode departed from its old heroic iambic pentameter form. Keats used the *new ode* to celebrate the nightingale, the Grecian urn, and the Autumn weather. Shelley also used this form when he wrote "Ode to the West Wind" and he used sonnets to construct it. Thus, various forms may be used in the penning of an ode.

Evening Splendor

Liz Mastin (*my* ode)

Boats are bounding on the lake
With captains call and clatter.
Birds fly gaily overhead,
Full of evening chatter.

A tour boat cruises slowly by.
The entire world seems glad;
Yet today surrounded in splendor,
My heart is feeling sad.

I miss the friendship of Christian souls
Who help my heart to sing,
And who join with me in happy songs,
With praises to the King.

For God it was who made the evening,
The glorious sun at day;
Joy will enter again, my heart
When He returns to stay.

To Autumn (1st stanza of three)

John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cells.

Miracle Glass Co.

Charles Simic

Heavy mirror carried
Across the street,
I bow to you
And to everything that appears in you,
Momentarily
And never again the same way:

This street with its pink sky,
Row of gray tenements,
A lone dog,
Children on roller-skates,
Women buying flowers,
Someone looking lost.

In you, mirror framed in gold
And carried across the street
By someone I can't even see,
To whom, too, I bow.

As you can see, there are many ways to write an ode. They are truly fun and I encourage you to write one.

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Reporters - Positions open

If you have any stories, poems, articles, or just bits of information, send it to the email address above. Deadline: the 25th of each month.

MEMBER BIO

Sherry Ramsey

I am a writer. Wow!

I've waited a lot of years to be able to say that. I've always loved to write, but didn't always know I wanted to be a writer. When my sister and I were kids, our cousins would come over. We'd drag out paper, and pens, set a timer for thirty seconds and start writing. When the timer went off, we'd pass our paper left and write for 30 seconds on the new one that came to us. We did this for several rounds and then read them aloud. What fun!

The first time I wondered if I could be a writer, I had just read a romance novel with a wonderfully unique plot. It could have been the best book, but the author ruined it. The hero was a complete jerk and had no redeeming qualities to make me like him. I couldn't stand the creep! The heroine was a weak simpering fool with unrealistic dialogue. They deserved each other. I was angry at the author for ruining such a great plot, and wasting my valuable time for nothing. I kept thinking about what I'd have done with the story if I were the author.

I wrote a letter to Silhouette and told them I'd like to write romances and how did I get started. They wrote me back a wonderful letter with the name of some writers books for beginners, and wished me luck.

The next thing I knew, I was enrolled in The Institute of Children's Literature. Don't ask me how I went from romance to children. I just wanted to write so many things and I didn't care where I started. Even now, I'll write children's for a while, then switch to non-fiction magazine articles, then off to romance. I love it all!

I had my first published article in the July 2004 issue of Idaho Magazine. They've now published five of the seven articles I've sent them. I donate articles to the Priest River Times for the experience and the bylines, and one of my articles was published in the March River Journal. I was recently assigned several articles by North Idaho Lifestyles Magazine and asked to write the 'Breaking Ground' column for them in each issue. Last week Sandpoint Magazine assigned me a 200 word almanac piece that I'm looking forward to writing.

I joined the Sandpoint IWL in October 2004. I really enjoyed getting to know other writers and getting involved in the group. I immediately volunteered for Secretary, Treasurer and to write the newsletter. Before long I joined the Society of Children's Book Writer's and Illustrator's in Spokane. Sandy and Mary Smith encouraged me to try the Coeur d' Alene group. Once I did I was hooked. Now I find myself 1st Vice President and loving it!

OUR POET'S CORNER

No Pink Bird

by Marian Baker

Bars on a blackened window shed
Were plugged like cork in a bottle
As stilts on a pelican flying overhead
Stuck into a framed throttle

No pink bird
Ever turns to toast
On a grieving word
While winds wane and suns roast

If he flies straight
Past the bark
Maybe it's a fortress first rate
Into the heat and dark

Skies will envelope him
A cloud strikes a pose
The colors of the rainbow dim
And enclose

All the fearfulness
Attested to
In shadows caress
And of all bars in prisons arrest

Who stand caught
Perhaps wicked
If only in thought
Inside and out a creaked-

Wreck split and splintered
Butting up against
Life's bars wintered
Weathered and rent

Is kindness a word therein?
Will the bird be?
Fooled by perching?
His pink song gutted and spindly?

Create a Wise Reader from How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy By Orson Scott Card

Edited by Mary L. Smith to fit the space

An audience never lies. Watch the way they lean forward, eyes riveted to the screen or stage. Then, suddenly, a large number shift in their seats, look at their watches, thumb their programs. Body language says they've lost interest. As a writer, you can't watch your readers read your manuscript. But you can train one reader to notice his own process of reading and take notes that will help you find the weak spots in your manuscript.

It is better if your Wise Reader isn't trained in literature or writing craft. You don't need someone to tell you how to fix your story. You need her to tell you what it feels like to read it. Okay, how do you train this Wise Reader? You ask questions.

Were you ever bored? Did you find your mind wandering? Can you tell where that was happening? (Let him take his time, look back through the story, find a place where he remembers losing interest.)

What did you think about the character named Magwall? Did you like him? Hate him? Keep forgetting who he was? (If he hates your character for the right reasons, that's good news. If Wise Reader couldn't remember who Magwall was from one chapter to the next, that's very bad news.)

Was there anything you didn't understand? Is there any section you had to read twice? Is there any place where you got confused? (The answers to such questions will tell you where exposition isn't handled well, or where the action is confusing.)

Was there anything you didn't believe? Any time when you said, "Oh, come on?" (This will help you catch clichés or places where you need to go into more detail.)

What do you think will happen next? What are you still wondering about? (If what he read is a fragment, the answers to such question will tell you what lines of tension you have succeeded in establishing; if what he read is the whole story, the answers to those questions will tell you what lines of tension you haven't resolved.)

You must treat your reader's observations with respect even if they hurt your feelings. Thank the Wise Reader, go home and address her observations by adjusting your manuscript. Always do something to address every problem reported in the reading process, because the Wise Reader is never wrong. Never. Why? Because he is reporting on his own experience of reading. How can he be wrong about his own experience?

I suggest you make a template of the questions and give it to the Wise Reader along with the manuscript. He can write page numbers in the appropriate places and notes where he deems them necessary. You will receive much more helpful feedback, it will be organized and you won't be trying to read a napkin.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Larry and Michael,

Just wanted to let you know that my experience with the Idaho Writer's League was a springboard for me as a writer. Just the one meeting was all I got except for the online things. I will be rejoining, but in the Boise area because that is where I'll be for about 6 weeks.

The good news is...I have received some tutoring in publishing, and writing, through the English Department at the BYU in Provo. It was sort of an accident, but, hey, I'll take anything I can get. As a result of that, and several submissions, one of the LDS market publishers is interested and another has asked that I delay signing a contract until they can read it.

Since I have written three sequels to the first book, there is a possible series. If I should actually make enough money in the next few years to live on my own (I'm filing for divorce and homeless) I will return to northern Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Chapter. Plus, if this works out and I actually become a published writer, I will ring my bell so loudly that you will hear it clear up there!!

Thankyou!

Lynn M. Steen-Madsen

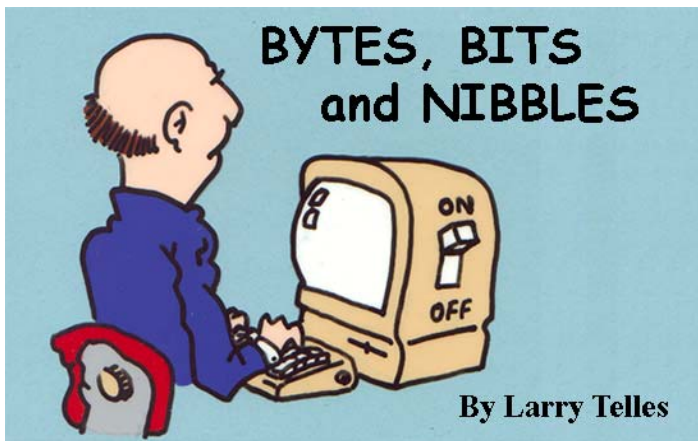
Editors note: I got real curious when that the name didn't ring a bell. So I went back to the guest sign-up sheets we pass around at the meetings. I found Lynn on the October 12, 2005 sheet. She was the only one to sign it that day. I sent her a copy of the Nov-Dec Lakegazette via email and that was last I heard of her until now.

Dear Writing Group Editor,

Perhaps your members might be interested in this writing workshop in Tuscany in June. I would be grateful if you would circulate the information contained in the attached flyer. Further information is available at www.likeheaven.it

Thank you for your kind attention and best wishes with your writing.

Niala Maharaj
Hildebrandstraat 50
1053 WB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: 31-20-6834515



Spring is finally here. In a few weeks everything should be in bloom, including your writing!

Second Round for Michael:

Michael Marsden is having a book signing at Hastings in Coeur d'Alene from noon to 3 pm on April first. Come see his new north Idaho ghost story *THE MAN IN THE CLOSET*. There will be FREE COOKIES for the first 60 in attendance.

What can a Fantasy Writer say?

Dianna Pharoah Francis is a published Fantasy Writer and teaches at the college in Dillon, MT. She has agreed to speak at our June day and night meeting. She wants to know what *YOU* want to hear about. Some of her suggestions are: crafting a novel, the publishing industry, building worlds, systems of magic.

She wants to tailor the talks for our group. Please e-mail Sherry Ramsey at lr Ramsey@supersat2.net and let her know what you would like to hear from Ms. Francis. Look for the write-up on Dianna Pharoah Francis in the June Lakegazette.

Want to see Nevada?

Announcing the 2006 Juniper Creek Writers Conference, July 14-16 in Carson City. This affordable, fun, event offers workshops for all levels of writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry,

screenplay and children's lit. Optional manuscript critiques/script pitches. Please visit www.junipercreekpubs.com/events for more information, plus information on our 2006 Juniper Creek/Lone Mountain Writers Poetry and Short Story Competition. Cash prizes plus publication.

Success Story February 2006:

The PaperJourney Press publishes offbeat, quirky literary fiction. Their Flash Fiction contest is an experiment with the sub-genre of the short story. Its purpose is to showcase the talents of writers from around the world. Excellence in writing and the numbers of entries made choosing the winning BLINK entries most difficult this year. New member of the CDA chapter and first time author, Terry Durham, took the challenge and landed her flash fiction short story in the internationally distributed literary book, BLINK.



Congratulations, Terry. May this be just the beginning of a long line of successes.

On your next visit to Costco:

Brandilyn Collins has 3 of her books at Costco---selling for \$8 ea. That's big time when Costco starts carrying your work. Unfortunately I don't remember the titles.

Check this out:

The Kootenai Shoshone Area Libraries are sponsoring authors reading their work. This is in conjunction with the Idaho Humanities Council. *Rathdrum Reads* on the 1st Tuesday of April will present *A Thousand Pieces of Gold* by Ruthanne Lum McCunn from 5:30 to 7 P.M. The other libraries: Athol, Harrison, Hayden, Pinehurst, and Spirit Lake have similar programs. Take a look at ksalibraries.org/programs/bookgroups.htm for more information. 30

From Prose to Poetry

Thank you IWL for inviting Wes to give us the free verse poetry presentation at the evening meeting in February. The writing exercise was fun as well as inspiring. The little poem resulting from that evening is now in a safe place for later discovery for my grandson to read when he is older.

My little adventure with my grandson would be forgotten had it not been for the little exercise. Now that it is preserved in poetry form, both my grandson and I can share that moment all over again.

Here's the poem. You decide whether it falls into your Good Poetry or Bad Poetry category. I've put it in my own warm fuzzy nostalgic memory category to save.

A VALENTINE GIFT FOR GRANDSON JAXSON AND ME

by Anna McClain Washington

Strobe-lighted miniature basketball
Activated bounce by bounce
Grandson's gift delight.
Tiny hands commanded its joy
"Ook... 'Amma, i-eet!"

Without hint of plan
Tiny little fingers encircled mine.
"Come 'Amma".

Led down the stairs
I did not know to where.
Some miniature adventure
This two-year-old as my guide
To the basement we went.

His tiny steps lead, my elder steps cautiously behind,
Carefully going, each of us, one step at a time.

"I-eet off, 'Amma."

I complied.

Awaiting in darkness

Suddenly bounce, bounce, and bounce

Strobe light darted through the air.

"Ook 'Amma! I 'ike i-eet. Wowee!"

Ball bounced, bounced, bounced

We scampered in the dark

Happy, joyful, over again, again and again.

Jaxson shared his "i-eet".

Valentine gift adventure

Grandson gave me.

Now, "I 'ike i-eet. Wowee!"

Nonfiction Book Proposal Checklist

By Larry Godwin

1. It should be entirely double-spaced (except for the cover letter) and printed in a plain, 12-point font (Times New Roman or Courier), unbound.
2. It should include a single-spaced cover letter comprising a short introduction to the proposal's contents.
3. It should include a title page that contains only the working title plus your name, postal and e-mail addresses, phone number (and agent data, if applicable).

4. It should tell what the book is all about, i.e., provide an overview or brief summary.
5. It should detail your book's subject, structure and contents, and explain how that subject is or will be developed.
6. It should indicate the intended audience(s).
7. List up to six competing published titles. Give a short synopsis of each and explain why yours constitutes an improvement, is unique, and the audience will want to read it.
8. It should justify the book's existence from a commercial perspective.
9. It should include a chapter outline with abstracts that cover the major points in each chapter.
10. It should include your bio or resume: relevant credentials, qualifications (specific expertise, training and personal experience), professional ties and publishing credits. State your motivation for writing the book and why are you the ideal person to do so.
11. It should state your marketing plan, including how and to whom your book can be successfully marketed. Explain how you will reach your audience(s).
12. It should include two or three sample chapters, depending on the editor's or agent's submission guidelines.
13. State the estimated completion date and word count, with the book percentage completed.
14. The tone should be professional and upbeat. Exude confidence. Make sure your proposal is logically organized and demonstrates that you write well.
15. Optional: include laudatory letters and comments about you; laudatory publicity about you; a head shot photo; and copies of published articles you've written.

References:

- a) Kathryn S. Brogan, Editor, "Before Your First Sale," *Writer's Market*, 2006 ed., p. 9.
- b) Jeff Herman, "The Knockout Nonfiction Book Proposal," *Writer's Guide to Book Editors, Publishers and Literary Agents*, 2001-2002 ed., pp. 715-736.
- c) David A. Fryxell, "The Short, Sweet Sell," *Writer's Digest*, October 2004, p. 60.

Editors note: This is the month of the Easter holiday and that is the reason for this article. I do not believe that I should censor or refuse to print anything unless it falls into the category of pornography. My intention is not to offend anyone but to fill this newsletter with material I have most often nearly begged to receive. I am the only person on this newsletter staff responsible for this article's publication.

Easter Means Many Things to Different People

by Joan S. Hust

A few years back I was driving to work, and I saw a funny looking rabbit on one of those billboard signs along the highway that caught my attention right away. I thought WOW who would of ever thought of such an eye catcher for an advertisement? It happened so fast that I did not really get a good look at it. I just knew that I would have to look at it again as the curiosity was almost more than I could stand. I usually do not take the same route home but I did this time, as I wanted to look back at the sign. Believe it or not I could not find it plus the high-speed noisy bumper-to-bumper traffic did not help my attitude.

I thought about it as I went to bed, and could hardly wait to hit the road in the morning, face all the traffic, horn blowing, drivers revving their engines, and cutting in and out of the lanes. Would you believe within five minutes on the road there was an accident? Well, I guess I'll be late to work, but I decided quickly no matter what that I was going to pull over to the side, and really take a good look at the Rabbit sign anyway. The traffic came to a dead stop. Everyone cut off his or her engines. Some of the men drivers got out of their cars to see what was going on. If this had happened five minutes sooner I could have taken the off ramp. I started daydreaming, and thinking why so much attention to a rabbit. My folks gave me a bunny from day one till I was married. I had a whole closet full of colorful, stuffed rabbits. I never did play with them. I thought they were cute. Each one was different. They stayed in their given space on the shelf in my closet my whole life.

Easter was originally a pagan festival. The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with an uproarious festival commemorating their goddess of offspring and of springtime, Eastre. Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25th. The Lenten Season is the forty-six day period just before Easter Sunday. It begins on Ash Wednesday which is the Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday"). It is a celebration sometimes called "Carnival," that is practiced around the world on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It was designed as a way to "get it all out" before the sacrifices of Lent took place. New Orleans

is the focal point of the Mardi Gras celebrations in the U.S. The pagan festival of the Eastre occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, Easter.

The Easter Bunny is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. Anglo-Saxons worshiped the goddess, Eastre, through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America. It was widely ignored by other Christians until shortly after the Civil War. Easter itself was not widely celebrated in America until after that time.. The Easter bunny and the Easter egg predates the Christian holiday of Easter. Christians were the first to celebrate Easter.

Oh. Oh. I guess I have been too relaxed as my eyes were closed, the sun was shining through my window, and I felt comfy and czy. The cars are all honking their horns at me, some are shouting as the road has been cleared of the accident, and the policemen are waving me on. I pulled off to the side of the road within five minutes, stepped out of my car, and looked up at the huge highway advertisement sign that read Did he die for you? Why of course not I thought to myself. Jesus died for me. I learned that many years ago in Sunday School.

One of the first hymns I learned to transpose, and play on my saxophone because it was in the key of C was what we know now as Christ Arose. It became more meaningful to me when I became a Christian in my sophomore year in High School. The Salvation Army band in our town played it every evening the week before Easter, and at the sunrise service on the beach. Rabbits are cute, and cuddly, and children love to receive them along with colored Easter eggs in a basket, BUT nothing takes place of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here are 10 reasons to believe that Christ rose from the dead:

A Public Execution Assured His Death
A High Official Secured The Gravesite
In Spite Of Guards, The Grave Was Found Empty
Many People Claimed To Have Seen Him Alive
His Apostles Were Dramatically Changed
Witnesses Were Willing To Die For Their Claims
Jewish Believers Changed Their Day Of Worship
Although It Was Unexpected, It Was Clearly Predicted
It Was A Fitting Climax To A Miraculous Life
It Fits The Experience Of Those Who Trust Him
Did that rabbit die for you? No way. Jesus died for you and me. Christ's resurrection is more than a fact of history. It is the proof of our salvation. This song was sung in Swedish "Kristus Uppsta" in my Grandparents home.
Up from the Grave He Arose

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

The Annual IWL State Writing Contest for 2006

1. Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave He arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and He lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
(Refrain)

3. Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
(Refrain)

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

by David E. Hibberd

On March 21st the Idaho Writers' League lost a truly great woman. Two days before her passing, I was listening to a young man speaking at church. He said, "The essence of pride is self, and the essence of humility is others."

Betty was the essence of humility. She gave of herself for over 35 years to the IWL. She was in toastmasters for two and a half decades. She served her country in the Marine Corp both as a Marine and as a civilian employee. Betty gave to her family and to her friends. She was a talented writer, using humor in much of her writing and gave us her laughter and her smile.



All whose lives have been touched by her will always remember Betty Rohrscheib.

Scientific Information

(You can't live without)

Easter is a movable holiday feast. Its date varies each year, but it falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. It cannot come before March 22 or after April 25. The First Nicene Council in A.D. 325 set the method of determining the date of Easter.

- (1) Four writing contests are held annually.
- (2) The contests are the Assigned Title Or Theme Contest, and the Open Contest.
- (3) The First Chapter of a Novel Contest.
- (4) The First Chapter of a Nonfiction Book (called the Book Contest).

Assigned Title Or Theme Contest

The assigned titles for the 2006 contest are "A Cloud Of Dust" and "A Handful Of Stars"

The assigned themes are "Nostalgia" and "Revenge"
You may write on either a theme or a title:

A. Contest submission postmark dates for all four contests begin February 1 and end July 1 during the contest year.

B. The Assigned Contest, Open Contest, Novel Contest, and Book Contest may, but are not required to award First, Second, and Third Place prizes and three honorable mentions. Monetary prizes awarded to First, Second, and Third place winners will be determined by the state officers each year. All award winners and honorable mention recipients will receive certificates.

C. Only paid members of the IWL may enter.

D. New members must have their chapter president sign the cover sheet verifying that dues have been paid.

E. Entry must be the work of the author, not previously published or contracted for publication at the time of submission, and not a previous winner in any IWL state contest (either monetary award or honorable mention).

F. Cover Sheet: Each entry must include a cover sheet. The cover sheet will include in the upper left the author's name, address, phone number, email address if any, chapter name, contest name, contest category (Assigned and Open Contests), title, number of pages (Novel and Book contests), words (Assigned or Open Contests fiction and nonfiction categories) or lines (Assigned or Open Contests poetry categories), and indicate if the manuscript and critique should be held until after the conference or returned when received from the judges. Each item must be on a separate line, double-spaced. Failure to include a cover sheet will disqualify the entry.

G. Manuscript format: Place the title about one-third down from the top margin, centered and in all caps. Drop four lines and begin the writing. Title and page number must be on the top right corner of every page after the first page. Author's name must NOT appear ANYWHERE on the manuscript or the entry will be disqualified. Entries must be typed using Times Roman, Courier, or Arial font and double-spaced with one-inch margins all around. Poetry may be single or double-spaced. Do not staple manuscripts. Use paper clips or butterfly clips with manuscripts and synopsis pages.

H. For all contests, include a self-addressed envelope large enough for the return of the manuscript(s) and critique(s), along with sufficient return postage. One return envelope may be used for multiple entries in the Assigned Contest or the Open Contest. If using one return envelope, include a list of all entries for the contest. It is recommended that the postage is not affixed to the return envelope. Entries without a return envelope cannot be sent back.

I. Entries exceeding the page, word, or line limit will be disqualified and returned.

J. Only one entry per Category per member is allowed in each contest. In the Assigned Contest, members may only choose one Assigned Title OR one Assigned Theme for each category. Only the first entry in any category will be accepted, additional entries will be disqualified and returned.

K. Categories and word limits are as follows:

Adult Genre Fiction: 3,500 words. A story written in the romance, mystery, western, suspense, speculative, or any other genre, using the elements of plot, theme, character, tone, mood, and style.

Teen Fiction: 3,000 words. Concise, sharply focused work of fiction that explores a single idea or emotion, set off by conflict. Written for ages 13-18. The action and plot of the story should center around teenagers.

Children's Fiction: 2,500 words. A fictional prose narrative written for children. Indicate target group (under 8) or (8-12) under title when submitting.

Short Humor: 2,500 words. Fiction or nonfiction that is written to entertain.

Creative Nonfiction: 2,500 words. Nonfiction works that use fiction techniques such as dramatic description, dialogue, and an inner point of view to give the writing the feel of fiction.

Article: 2,500 words. An article is a nonfiction composition that deals with a single topic. It may be instructive, informational, or persuasive, and focuses on people, places, historical events, and personalities, new ideas, how-to, or personal experience. An article usually appears in magazines, newspapers and journals, and often involves research.

Personal Essay: 2,500 words. Nonfiction prose that expresses personal experiences and opinions dealing with aspects of everyday life. It can be entertaining or persuasive, varying from serious to light and humorous.

Light Verse: 40 lines. Is written mainly to entertain and features crispness and unexpected twists. Greeting card verse, limericks, whimsical short poems, etc. Any form, rhyming, or free verse.

Serious Verse: 40 lines. May be structured or prose-like, free verse or rhyming, in any meter, on a serious subject or written in a serious tone.

L. Only one entry per member is allowed in each contest. Members may submit a joint entry, but may not submit an additional individual entry. Additional entries will be disqualified and returned.

M. Novel and Book: An entry fee of \$25.00 payable to IWL is required with the entry. Personal checks or money orders are preferred. Submissions must include a synopsis up to two pages and manuscript up to twelve pages using the manuscript format. Synopsis pages must include the word "Synopsis" and the title in the upper right corner of each page. Each page after the first must include a page number after the title in the upper right corner. Author's name must NOT appear ANYWHERE on the synopsis or the entry will be disqualified. If no Synopsis pages are included the entry will be disqualified.

N. Manuscript pages must be numbered separately from the synopsis pages. Three copies of the synopsis and manuscript must be submitted in the entry. Only one cover sheet is required. Entries with fewer than three copies of the synopsis and manuscript will be disqualified and returned.

O. Vardis Fisher Award: Judges for each writing contest category will choose the most humorous entries and designate them for a separate judging for the Vardis Fisher Award. The League First Vice President will select a minimum of three judges outside of the League to pick one winner. The prize will be determined each year by the State Officers.

P. Check with www.idahowritersleague.com for a list of contest receivers.

These rules are not complete. These can be considered the highlights of the entire contest rules. Check with the website if you have any questions. Just remember that the envelopes must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2006 to be eligible for the contests. This is where \$15 of your dues goes. Why not enter and see if you can pick up prize money for doing something you love to do, write!

discover the magic that can lead you to the pot of gold at the end of the publishing rainbow.
You're invited to attend . . .

Writing with Purpose

May 5 - 7, 2006

Western Pleasure Guest Ranch

1413 Upper Gold Creek Rd.

Sandpoint, Idaho

(208) 263-9066

Sponsored by the Inland Empire Chapter Romance Writers of America

Click on any of the underlined words on this page for a related web link of more information.

Friday, May 5

4:00 pm. Check in

6:00 pm. Wine and Hors d'oeuvres

7:30 pm. Dinner

8:30 pm. Guest Speaker

Publisher **Jeremy Holtzapfel** ~ *North Idaho Lifestyle Magazine*

Saturday, May 6

Rise & Shine

8:00 am. Breakfast

9:00 am.

Welcome - IECRWA President **Terry Keller**

9:15 am.

Interactive Workshop "**Write Your Story, Scene by Scene**" **Mary Smith**, Workshop presenter

10:30 am. Break

10:45 am. Continue with Workshop

12:00 Lunch

1:30 pm. Interactive Workshop "**Pre-Planning: Not Just for Architects & Builders**" **Bonnie Hamre**, Workshop presenter

2:30 pm. Break

3:00 pm. Continue with Workshop

5:00 pm. *On your own ~ enjoy walking around the ranch or writing and networking.*

6:00 pm. Dinner

7:30 pm.

Fireside Chat: Agent **Sammie Justesen** ~ *Northern Lights Literary Services*

Sunday, May 7

Rise & Shine

8:00 am. Breakfast

9:00 am.

FAQ Session "**Ask Rita**"

11:00 am. Checkout

Please note: Alcohol is permitted, but not provided by the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch. It is permitted to bring your choice of beverage. Plan to bring any other snacks you may require. There are additional stores, shopping, and lodging available in the city of Sandpoint, 17 miles away

Make checks payable to: **Inland Empire Chapter RWA**. The deadline to register is April 8, 2006. No refunds after April 8.

Substitute attendee may take your place.

Mail check with your name, address, phone and e-mail to:

IECRWA Retreat
c/o Linda Fletcher 622 SR 274 Tekoa, WA 99033

\$125 IECRWA Members for the entire weekend.

\$75 IECRWA Members Saturday only

\$150 Non-members for the entire weekend.

\$85 Non-members Saturday only

Born on the Ute Indian Reservation, Mary had a far-from-normal upbringing. This background has furnished endless grist for her writing mill. Since 1985, Mary has written Western historical, character-driven romances where shared adversity brings respect and finally healing and love to her heroes and heroines. Her books, published by Zondervan, Guideposts, David C. Cook, and Barbour Publishing, have won her the Idaho Writers League **Writer of the Year** award and Idaho and National Press **Women's Novel of the Year**. Also The Writer Magazine **Service Award** Her latest, *The Christmas Necklace*, in the anthology, A Prairie Christmas, included a sell out print run at Wal-Mart for two years running. She is currently working on a suspense novel set in the Frank Church Wilderness of Idaho. Explore Mary's new website at www.MarynLanger.com



Write Your Story Scene by Scene Workshop: A scene is memorable when it catches the reader offguard. With practiced ease the writer "magician" focuses the audience on something else while he sets up his deception. Misdirection is also the writer's key to surprising the reader. Though every scene has a purpose or focus, the best scenes achieve their purpose through subtle misdirection . . . and sprinkled lightly throughout a winning story is humor. Please bring a work in progress that has several scenes, a favorite novel or two, a notebook and writing instrument.

An accomplished and multi-published author of fiction and a freelance writer, Bonnie Hamre was thrilled to see her first book, *A Lifetime Affair*, published by Kensington in 1994. Fourteen books later, she's published in electronic and print form in contemporary and historical fiction, time travel, and erotica. Bonnie is busy writing her next book at her home in western Washington. Catch up with her news and book releases at www.BonnieHamre.com



Pre-Planning Workshop: You started a book with enthusiasm. Your characters are vivid, your plot compelling, the action moves forward smoothly and you're deeply involved and committed. However . . .

Did you finish that book? Did you get bogged down somewhere along the way? And did your middle not only sag, but drop out the bottom? Did your characters rebel? What do you do now?

Pre-planning your novel is the answer! Bring your knowledge of writing basics, lots of paper and colored markers or pens and we'll dig deep into what you can do to write a persuasive hook, action that will grab your reader and not let go until you conclude with a thoroughly satisfying ending.

Sandy Smith

Coeur d'Alene Chapter
Idaho Writers League
P.O. Box 1113
Hayden, Idaho 83835 USA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

HAPPY
EASTER

2006 Officers

Larry Telles: President
208 762-2548 (ltelles@icehouse.net)
Sherry Ramsey: 1st VP & Co-Program Director
208 448-0718(Lramsey@supersat2.net)

2nd Vice President

Position Open

Jenni Hearne: Treasurer
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664-4525 (valmandiloff@yahoo.com)

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.