

Coeur d'Alene Chapter
Idaho Writers League

Lakegazette



Celebrating our 64th Anniversary 1943-2007

June 2007

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

COEUR d'ALENE IWL MEETINGS:

June 13

Jewett House

9:00 A.M. to Noon

Program: **Wes Hanson**

Memoir writing

Refreshments: Susan Garver

Refreshments: Larry Telles

June 21

Lutheran Church

Kathleen & Ramsey Road

6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Program: **Tad Brooks**, editor
at the *Spokesman-Review*

Freelance opportunities

Refreshments: Mikki Webster

Refreshments: Michael Marsden

June Birthdays:

6/01 ELIZABETH MASTIN

6/28 VALERIE MANDILOFF

Needed:

REFRESHMENT volunteers for
the summer and beyond. Both
day and evening meetings.

**The signup list for July
through the rest of the year
has disappeared. If you
remember signing in please
contact Barbara Rostad at
(208) 777-1030 so she can
update the new list.**

Thank You

Goals

Six Months and Counting

Sherry Ramsey

Well, it's June. Half of the year is over. We made our list of goals in January, right? You guys did do that when I asked you to, didn't you? Pull out your list and see if you've reached any of your goals. Are you any closer now than you were in January? If not, get on the stick. You still have six months left to accomplish the goals you set for yourself. Pick one goal today—right now. Stop everything you're doing, and do something positive to help you attain it. I'd really like you all to send Jim Turner an update for our July/August issue of the newsletter. Tell him what you've done to reach your writing goals since January, and if you've reached any of them yet. I can't wait to hear of your successes or at least your attempts.

In May we had Larry Godwin come over from Missoula and teach us how to Dr. our poems at the day meeting. Nikki Arana spilled the beans on her seven secrets for writing a successful novel at the night meeting. Thanks to both for sharing your knowledge with us!

Be sure to make the Wednesday, June 13 day meeting, from 9-12 at the Jewett House in Coeur d'Alene. Wes Hanson will give a workshop on writing memoirs. Wes teaches classes at the North Idaho College Workforce Training Center, but you can benefit from his knowledge here for free! I know we have quite a group of you interested in memoir writing and this is your perfect chance to learn the ropes.

The June 21 night meeting will be held at the Lutheran church on the corner of Kathleen and Ramsey roads from 6:30-9:30. Tad Brooks, editor for many sections of the *Spokesman-Review*, will give us a heads up on what they are looking for in freelance writers, and articles. He also has a special challenge for our fiction writers to help him with an experiment he'd like to try. This meeting is for everyone and I hope you can all make it. Tad is very open to new blood writing for him. I've recommended six writers to him (some from our group and some from my Sandpoint group) and he's accepted work from every one of them.

I hope you take the opportunities to learn from and enjoy our June speakers. We are so fortunate that people will take time from their busy lives to help us learn our craft. Thanks to all of you who've held workshops for us. Have a great summer!

Have A Look, Stay a While, and Enjoy

By Larry Telles

If I'm not doing research or writing, I'm off looking at unusual web sites.

I am not a web surfer so to speak, but this observing doesn't take long. I only go to sites that have been sent to me by someone I know, given to me by a friend, or found in a newspaper or magazine article. With two firewalls and one virus checker I have no fears if I encounter those bad guys.

I'm not going to recommend any one of the web sites I list here. Each one of us writers are looking for something different. Most of the sites have newsletters, which is how I check what each site sends out on a monthly basis. They don't send them out unless you sign up.

The first three are for screenwriters or anyone interested in that genre. www.inktip.com, www.finaldraft.com and www.writersuniversity.com. If your book gets published, you might want to think about writing the screen play. If they can continue putting those stupid survivor shows on television, you writing a screenplay isn't that far off the mark. Those who are into a novel might try www.absolutewrite.com and www.tbrnet.com (The Book Report Network). One of the sites is devoted to children's writing. It's www.write4kids.com. I hope you remember that Mary Buckham has two sites, which contain good information, www.marybuckham.com and www.writeruniv.com (Writer U).

The web site that I have been to several times in the past couple of months belongs to Jerry Simmons. He has been in the business a long time as you can see by his bio on www.WritersReaders.com. He also mentions www.NothingBinding.com. I have his CD and a book on order. When you want to self-publish, you need to get all your ducks in a row. Checking out web sites doesn't cost anything up front, unless you want to indulge in a product that you find on the web. Just ask yourself, will it help your cause? My book project wouldn't be where it's at today without help from one or two of those sites above.

A few years ago, we had a web site column in this newsletter. Judith Farrey did the column. I miss that column and I miss Judith. Keep your eyes open, it will pay off in huge dividends. The next tip you get might be the last piece in your puzzle.

On The Move, Again

Dear friends,

I am a product of the Third World, and I feel lucky to have seen so much of the world and count myself as a TCK - third culture kid – a child with parents from one culture growing up in a second culture and thereby creating a sort of third culture out of our experiences. I was fortunate to have several cultures in far-flung places to call home during my youth, but I sometimes felt like a potted plant moved from location to location – constrained by constant moving and never able to set roots deep into the soil.

TCKs have a whole set of psychological identity issues, strengths and weaknesses because of the way we grew up. We tend to be idealistic, independent; yet often, we're isolated or loners, sometimes not trusting the strength of our relationships or feeling like we fit in anywhere. Many times our self-reliance and independence makes us feel like we don't need anyone else. We tend to bond instantly with others like us who've lived all over the place. We tend to have unique, often creative personalities. We are able to see problems from an outsider's perspective, which can lead to great problem-solving skills. Being uprooted and transplanted a lot may make us feel insecure, unsettled, and unstable. On the other hand, for many of us, each new place is a fresh start, a chance to re-create ourselves, and an opportunity to experience wonderful new things.

For me, a lot of this is true, and I have always felt like I can fit in anywhere but I don't really fit in anywhere. Idaho Writer's League has provided a community where I have felt, for once, like I truly belong.

Before I moved here, I lived in Alaska for 14 years, England for 3. I moved here six years ago because I needed my parents' help raising my children. I always knew once my children graduated from high school, that I would move on from Idaho. I like it here, but I have "itchy feet," so to speak. There is still a lot of the world I want to see and experience. I thought I had at least three more years here, but recent changes in employment are pushing me to make this change sooner than expected.

My daughter Andrea and I will be moving to Olympia, Washington next month. I have many good memories of my friends in the IWL. I've enjoyed learning and growing with my fellow writers, and I hope you will keep in touch. My children and I have taken in sustenance from this place; and I hope in exchange we have nurtured the soil where we temporarily transplanted our roots.

Farewell and keep writing!
Jenni Hearne



Jenni Hearne

Short Story

This Is It

J.A. Jeske

He's a miserable wreck, but I'm dying. I couldn't begin to feel his pain, nor he mine. Life does go on, and then off like that. I've had a good life, good food, nice home, fun and friends, and even a mistress who loved me dearly.

He wanted to take a walk this morning. I made it as far as the mailbox and then had to stop. I wanted to lie down, but what would the neighbors think?

"Well, George," he said, "come on. Let's go back. This is too much for you. Come on George."

I am his best friend, and he mine.

We sat on the porch then, well he sat in his chair; I had to lie down on an old couch he'd hauled to the porch years before. He recalled the times we'd had: fishing on Lake Coeur d'Alene when he got so excited while hooking the big one that he tripped over me, lost his balance, fell out of the boat and I leaned over the gunwale, cocked my head and gave him a look that changed his surprise to uncontrollable laughter: The hunting trip where he got so excited about the big Chink I spotted that he loosed a 12-gauge, six-shot round into the front fender of his pickup: The weenie roast where he sat his weenie down behind him and I ate it, leaving him scratching his head wondering where he'd put it, gave up, got another, sat it on the bench beside him, and I ate it too: and the time I laid down in the cool shade behind his truck, fell asleep, didn't hear him start the engine and he broke my leg backing out.

At the memory of this one, he could no longer hold back his tears. I never held that one against him and it broke my heart to see him cry.

"Oh, George," his voice breaking, "I'm gonna miss ya."

Still sobbing in huge, heaving gasps he reached over on the table, put something onto a small sandwich and held it out to me. It was my favorite, ham, and though I'm not long for this world, I'm always hungry. I wolfed it down, slobbering like a moron while he reached to hug me close, tears running off his cheeks like a spring rain.

I felt woozy but, I began to dry his tears like I'd done so many times before. My eyes are not focusing right, but well enough to see his face, ashen white. As darkness came over me I heard him gag, then cough, sputter and then he fell from his chair on top of me. Clutching me in his arms, I knew that death was taking me. As all around me disappeared, he gasped a throaty rattle from deep inside. Master was coming with me?



New Member - Janie Hansen

In the past, my husband, Bruce, and I traveled to different states in search of a place to live when we're no longer comfortable climbing the stairs in our three story home. Or when we are ready to leave the ranch life, horseback riding, and such. Coeur d'Alene's clean streets, nice shops, the lake in town, and nice walking paths is what attracted us. The people are also very nice. The town also has medical facilities that will work for us. Seattle is close by for medical treatment as well. The small town environment is what we enjoy. We are from Susanville, CA, only 12,000 population, but there are three prison's there now which has changed the nice little town environment. The people are no longer kind and considerate, as they are in Coeur d'Alene. So we bought 40 acres seventy miles north of Susanville and established a mini-ranch. I still sell real estate out here in the country, and my husband is my broker. I have, as of this year, decided to phase out that part of my life and am a full time novelist.

I am currently in contract with a literary agency and we are polishing my first manuscript *Whipsaw*, so she can shop for a publisher. In the interim, I'm writing my second novel and have two more waiting to be written.

Two years ago we purchased a house in Coeur d'Alene, which is now a rental. We only come up once a year to do a walk-through of the house. In time we'll move into that house.

I needed and wanted to be a part of a writer's group to mingle with other creative writers and learn from them. On our May 2007 vacation, we spent five days in Coeur d'Alene. I went to the library and asked if there was a writers group. They directed me to IWL. Those ladies at the library are extremely helpful and that is where it all began. Once we relocate, I'll be active in IWL. Until then your Lakegazette will keep me abreast of what's happening in the IWL circle.



Authors' Biography

Janie Hansen, after nearly a quarter century in the real estate business, now works as a full time novelist. Years prior, she has also worked as a school bus driver, Registered Dental Assistant, civil servant, Notary Public, and Loan Signing Agent.

As an outdoor enthusiast, she loves horseback riding in the back country, bird watching, golf and down hill skiing.

She currently resides in northeastern California on a ranch with her husband, two horses, three dogs, and two cats. She is currently working on her 2nd novel.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jim Turner - Editor
(208 664-9244) jimturner1@juno.com

Larry Telles - Assistant to the editor
Sherry Ramsey - Assistant to the editor
Nancy Barnes - Assistant to the editor
Ann Story - Assistant to the editor

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the 25th of each month.

The Poets and Their Poems

Liz Mastin

W. B. Yeats

Irish poet, dramatist, mystic and public figure

W. B. Yeats was Ireland's greatest poet. It is said that he is the greatest poet to have written in the English language since Wordsworth. According to *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, Yeats was one of the primary driving forces behind the Irish Literary Revival and was co-founder of the Abbey Theatre. In his later years, Yeats served as an Irish Senator and in 1923 was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

Yeats was born in Sandymount, County Dublin in 1865. He was the son of John Butler Yeats, a portrait painter descended from a family of merchants and Susan Pollexfen, who came from a wealthy Anglo Saxon family in County Sligo and owned a prosperous milling and shipping business. Soon after his birth, Yeats moved to Sligo to stay with his extended family. It was in his grandparent's home he overheard family servants talking of Ireland's invisible world of myths and fairies and other supernatural things which influenced him later on both in his writing and in his life. He loved to listen when they would gather around the fire and share strange tales of leprechauns, chime-children, sprites and the doings of an unseen world.

The Yeats family were all into artistic endeavors. William's brother Jack was a well-known painter and his beautiful sisters, Elizabeth and Susan were also highly artistic. Yeats's father moved the family to London England, to further his career as a portrait painter. In 1877, William entered the Godolphin Elementary School which he attended for four years. In 1880, the family moved back to Dublin and lived in a suburb called Howth. Yeats attended the Erasmus Smith High School and it was during this period he began writing poetry. His first poem was published by the Dublin University Review in 1885 when he was twenty years old. Yeats's early work focused on the Romantic style, based on Irish lore and his first poetry



collection was entitled *The Celtic Twilight*. He would begin writing many more lyrics on themes of love or mystical and esoteric subjects.

Several Poets who influenced Yeats were William Blake and Percy Bysshe Shelley.

In 1887, Yeats co-founded the Rhymer's Club with an Ernest Rhys. This group of poets worked together and created several anthologies containing their respective poetry. In 1889, W.B. Yeats fell deeply in love with Maud Gonne, a young heiress who was involved in the Irish Nationalist Movement. Yeats proposed marriage to her four times, each time being turned down. Yeats then left Ireland for an extended stay in America on a lecture tour. His other affair during this time involved Olivia Shakespear but it lasted only a year.

In 1896, together with friends; Lady Gregory, Edward Martyn and other writers,

Yeats became the person who was largely responsible for the establishment of the Celtic Literary Revival. Much of this literary movement focused on ancient sagas and Ossianic poetry and the newer Irish folk song tradition. Yeats went on to establish The Abbey Theatre where his work was presented along with others. Next he established the Dun Emer Press in order to publish work by writers associated with the Revival. It later became the Cuala Press in 1904 and operated with the help of his sisters until 1946. The press produced over 70 titles, 48 of them books by Yeats himself.

In 1911, Yeats married Georgie Hyde-Lees. She was only twenty-six and he was fifty-two at the time. They had two children: a boy and girl; Anne and Michael. He then bought the Ballylee Castle which became the family's summer home for the rest of his life.

Yeats entertained a lifelong interest in mysticism, spiritualism, occultism and astrology. He and his wife would engage in such things as automatic writing, séances and visions. He is quoted as having said: "The mystical life is the center of all I do and all that I think and all that I write."

In 1913, Yeats met Ezra Pound and felt he was the only poet "worthy of serious study". Though he liked Pound's poetry, Yeats remained a master of the

traditional verse forms. Modernism influenced Yeats in that he began writing with more austere language and with a more direct approach to his themes. His new work is evident in the volumes *In the Seven Woods*, *Responsibilities* and *The Green Helmet*.

During this middle period, Yeats poetry moved away from the *Celtic Twilight* mood of his earlier work and he became more interested and involved in politics. He was appointed as senator to the first Irish Senate in 1922. He helped select the designs for the first coinage of the now Irish free state. In 1923 Yeats received the Nobel Prize in Literature.

His later poems and plays were written in a more personal vein. W. B. Yeats died in Menton, France on January 28th 1939 at the age of seventy three. He was buried in County Sligo and his tombstone epitaph reads: “*Cast a cold eye on life, on death. Horseman, pass by*”.



“*You*” could write a poem like this:

1. It is written in eight line stanzas
2. There are eight syllables in each line
3. It is written in iambic Tetrameter (four beats per line)
da dum’ da dum’ da dum’ da dum’
4. The rhyme scheme varies and that’s O.K.
mostly acbdegfh and some lines not rhymed and some slant rhyme

Wandering

W.B. Yeats

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire a-flame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glittering girl
With apple blossoms in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done,
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.



A Very Short Story

Susan originally created *Blink* for a contest. The contest requirements stated that the story had to feature a town or city as a main character and it had to be 250 words or less. Susan says that she incorporated critiques from the last day-time CdA IWL meeting in this version.

Blink

Susan Garver

The speed-limit sign alerts me I'm getting close to town. Traffic is not forced to stop here; the only intersection is a two-way stop and the stops are not in the direction of this road. I must have blinked and missed the green sign marking the town boundary.

Even though I don't need to stop at the intersection I will. I turn right and blink again as I stay on paved roads. I turn again. I'm now blinking faster and more often as I travel to the back of the property. No, it's not the aroma from the local farms that causes the additional blinking, although at other times of the year it might be. I park the car and walk a short distance.

Few people stop and visit this town. Most people may not even know it exists as it is absent from many maps. But I do stop. I know that there is a post office here, and a library and a fire station and a cemetery, but no stop light and not even any stores although you can get something to drink at the bar. My little sister married a man from this town. As I blink again, my vision temporarily clears. The name and dates carved on the granite marker in front of me declare her to be a permanent part of the history of Turin, New York. I wonder if I have enough tissue in my purse: Turin does cause me to blink.



Toot Your Own Horn

New and exciting opportunities keep surprising us here in CDA! Special projects, invitations to teach, and read your work all seem to be laid at our feet. We are truly blessed.

Now it's *your* turn to let us know about your accomplishments. Remember that all authors have to get involved in self-promotion. Let it start here!

Send an email telling about your work. What it is and where we can look for it. Let your success be an inspiration to others!

Send your **SUCCESS STORIES** to jimturner1@juno.com

Success Stories

From Sherry Ramsey

My friend, Cassandra Cridland from the Sandpoint IWL, and I were asked by an editor at the Spokesman whom we've never worked with before, to take on a huge project for the June 2 issue. He was initially concerned that it would be too much for us to finish by deadline. We finished two days early!

I spoke at a writer's retreat in Sandpoint on writing for magazines and newspapers and it went very well—I wasn't even nervous!

I was asked by Kathryn Hunt of the NIC Workforce Training Center if I'd teach a class at the Post Falls Center and the Sandpoint Center on how to write for magazines and newspapers. I'm going to give it a try!

Kathy Dobbs shares...

I was invited to do a poetry reading at the Lewiston/Clarkston Doll Tea (an audience of 50 women) on Saturday May 19. It was the 1st time I read one of my own poems at a public gathering.

My story about the Post Falls Library ran in the *The Spokesman Review Your Voice* section and one about Camp Fire USA in the *Handle Extra*.

INVEST IN CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Sherry Ramsey

Conferences and workshops can be spendy, but look at the big picture. They are your schooling—further education for your chosen path. Last year I spent more on conferences than ever. I went to the Writer’s of the Flathead Conference in Whitefish (\$150), The Society of Children’s Writer’s and Illustrator’s Conference in Worley (\$75), Idaho Press Club Journalism Conference in Cda (\$35), and the Idaho Writer’s League Conference in Boise (\$85 + \$100 airfare). That’s \$445 plus gas. I would never go to that many conferences normally, but... well, I’m not really sure how it happened. I love going to conferences though, and always end up racing home with renewed energy to write something new.

My point is, for under \$500 I received some excellent training on writing. I learned tons of great tips for my freelance writing from Carolyn Campbell at the Whitefish Conference that I’ve already used many times. I gleaned interesting information from the SCBWI conference, but more importantly, I met New York agent, Ginger Knowlton. She asked for the first three chapters of my children’s novel. Later, she asked for the entire manuscript. While she didn’t accept me as a client, my manuscript was read by two people in her agency and came back with wonderful comments on how I could improve my ending and chances for a sale. Getting read by two people in the firm before getting rejected is a big deal. It’s further than I’ve ever gotten with my novels. And for Ginger to take the time to write a letter telling me what is and isn’t working was very encouraging for me. That was more than worth the cost of the conference to me. Not only that, but I went to the SCBWI Conference in Seattle recently and Ginger Knowlton was there and remembered little ol’ me from Oldtown, Idaho—population 190!

At the IWL conference in Boise last year I took the workshop from a lady who talked about writing your own column. I would never have pitched my own column to the Spokesman if I hadn’t listened to that speaker. Now I have my own bi-weekly column—all because I went to a conference. And my first three columns more than paid for the cost of the conference, airfare and food. The Idaho Press Club conference put me in touch with a group I never would have met otherwise. I learned great tips from



CDA Chapter’s Mary Buckham workshop.

Nils Rosdahl on how to give a great interview. I also ended up joining and entering their contest for professional writers and one of my articles received an honorable mention.

Do you see how many ways you can benefit from attending conferences and workshops? It can be the catalyst that shoots your writing to the next level. Set a certain amount of money aside for conferences, and a great place to start is our IWL conference in Coeur d’Alene in September. Your writing deserves it!

Recommended by Mikki Webster

Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott

Anne Lamott’s book, ‘Bird by Bird’ is a tasty treat for new writers. The title, and main idea, was her dad’s response to her frantic brother, who had a science paper due next day. “You’ll do it, and you’ll do it Bird by Bird.” Here’s a bit from pg. six. “But how:, my students ask.” “How do you actually do it?” “You sit down,” I say. “You try to sit down at approximately the same time every day. This is how you train your unconscious to kick in for you creatively”. Then Lamott amuses us with her struggle past the mental voices.—Banshees and drunken monkeys— she calls them. voices of “anxiety, judgment, doom, guilt. also severe hypochondria.” Then, a bit later, the payoff for her perseverance; “You begin to string words together like beads to tell a story.” ahhhh.

I noticed that Lamott used the word unconscious. Wonder if she had read Dorothea Brande’s old book first published in 1934, ‘Becoming a Writer’. Brande says a beginner needs to train her 2 ‘selves’ the conscious and unconscious, to cooperate. She gives lively descriptions of their workings, the arrogance of conscious, the skittishness of nconscious, and then, a true teacher, we are provided with exercises. Like, writing without judging the words, first thing in the morning. Before the fog has lifted, letting it pour out. Then, put those pages away and do it again tomorrow. Don’t look. Leave the editor part of you out of this. Pile them up. Later, with a habit started, you will find something good or fresh among the rest.

2007 Conference

Sherry Ramsey

The Sandpoint group is hard at work planning the 2007 IWL Conference which will be held at the Coeur d'Alene Inn, Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29. We have many incredible speakers lined up—possibly more than ever before! The price will be \$110 if you register before August 15, and we'll accept registration through PayPal. Friday only will be \$75 and Saturday only is \$85.00. Be sure to get your registration in before the August 15 early bird date to get these prices.

We have **agent, Sammie Justesen** and her husband, Dee, from Northern Lights Literary Services who will speak on what they look for at their company, and they'll take pitches all day Friday for only \$15. You can look them up at www.northernlightssl.com.

David Cowser, publisher from Ink and Paper, Inc will give a class on how to pitch your ideas on Saturday. He will then take pitches for the rest of the day for only \$15. David came to the Boise conference last year and took pitches. He accepted several from our IWL members and two will be published just before the conference, Angie Abderhalden and Chris Moore. David will also have a workshop with Angie on how the process went from her pitch at last year's conference to her published book at this year's conference. You can check these guys out at www.inkandpapergroup.com.

Kim and Carl Stearn, owners of **Books In Motion** from Spokane will have a workshop on how you can get your books on tape. They'll explain the process and answer any questions you have. You'll find some New York Times bestselling authors dealing with Books in Motion, including one of my favorites, Christine Feehan! See for yourself at www.booksinmotion.com.

Kelly Milner Halls is well-known for writing over 2000 articles and getting them published all over the nation in both children and adult magazines. She has an impressive list of non-fiction children's books: *Albino Animals*, *Dinosaur Mummies*, *Wild Dogs* and many more. She is a much sought after speaker at conferences and has the distinguished honor of teaching at the most coveted children's workshop in the United States this July, The Highlights for Children Workshop at Chautauqua in New York. At our conference, Kelly will give a workshop on writing non-fiction for kids and another on creating a buzz to market your work for any genre, any age group. Check out her fun and informative website at www.kellymilnerhalls.com.

Carrie Stuart Parks is known nationally for speaking and teaching law enforcement agencies on forensic drawings, and even works with the FBI. Her class will be on deception where she'll tell you what to look for in language, facial features and body language when someone is being deceptive. An excellent class for someone to teach us to write knowledgeably about our lying characters. The dirty rats! Look her up at www.carriestuartparks.com.

Nikki Arana is an award-winning novelist who is quickly gaining a reputation for her public speaking and teaching skills. If you take one of her classes on the craft of writing, you'll leave with your own manuscript in better shape, and you'll be itching to get home and work on it. She will give classes on story structure and the seven secrets to writing a successful novel. Learn more about Nikki at her website www.nikkiarana.com.

Boots Reynolds is the #1 bestselling artist for Leanin' Tree cards. He's a cowboy artist who wrote a cookbook which will be out before the conference. He also writes humor a humor column for the River Journal. His workshop will be called, "If I Can Write a Book, You Can Write a Book". Read all about Boots at www.bootsreynolds.com.

Nils Rosdahl is the Sentinel adviser and journalism instructor at North Idaho College. He has a business column in the *Spokesman-Review* and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Community College Journalism Association. Nils will give classes on how to interview and tips on writing articles. You can read Nils' articles by going to www.spokesmanreview.com and typing his name into their search engine.

Wendy Carroll worked in the screenwriting and editing business for many years, including a 13 year stint with Disney. She now teaches classes and is sought after for speaking engagements on the craft of writing screenplays.

Bonnie Hamre is a multi-published fiction author and she also writes travel articles. She presents incredible workshops on the craft of writing. You won't want to miss Bonnie's workshop. To learn more about Bonnie and some of her books, go to her beautiful website at www.bonniehamre.com.

Sherri George is a long time member of the Idaho Writers League and lives in Twin Falls, Idaho. For this conference she will hold a class on "Using Astrology to Build Realistic Characters". This method works well and it's fast. Her second workshop is writing historical fiction.

Cathy Neet, teacher and long time writer is going to teach you how to stay organized while you write your

novel, short story or free-lance. Take this hour long workshop to stay sane and in control of your writing area while you rush to meet that deadline.

Angie Abderhalden is from the Caldwell area and has just sold her book, *Questionable Ethics*, a cozy mystery to the Ink and Paper Group. She is the secretary and newsletter editor for Partners in Crime Boise. She will be speaking this hour on how to write mysteries, plus she'll hold a workshop with her publisher, David Cowsert, showing how the process went from pitch to book shelf. Be sure to enter the doors of mystery and come out wanting to write one yourself.

Jonathan Johnson is a name we won't forget in Sandpoint. He gave a wonderful workshop on writing poetry at our conference. He teaches at WSU in Washington and we are very pleased to have him back with us. He's well-known for his collection of poems *Mastadon* and *In the Land We Imagine Ourselves* and his memoir *Hannah and the Mountain*. To find Jonathans poems, go to any search engine and type "Jonathan Johnson Poet" and oodles of sites will pop up!

Mona Vanek has twenty years of experience as a news correspondent and photojournalist. Her work has been published in more than a dozen magazines, e-zines and books which includes a 28 minute historical docu-drama. She also has an online free writing course called "Access The World by Internet — And Write Your Way To \$\$\$."

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about writing for the internet. Check out her classes at www.internetwritingworkshop.blogspot.com.

Beverly Lauderdale lives in California. She is a travel writer as well as a novelist. We are excited that she has offered to give us a great workshop on travel writing. She has taught classes in "Craft of Writing," and her main passion is fiction, but she found that travel writing utilizes many fiction techniques. This will be a very good workshop and well worth your time to explore the world of how to put your travels into an excellent article.

Well? You have to admit this is an impressive lineup. I urge everyone to grab this opportunity to meet with agents, a publisher, and many published authors. You'll hear workshops on many different topics. There is truly something for just about everyone at this year's IWL conference. See you there!

For more information, contact Sandy Smith at sandy@netw.com (208-263-7207) or Sherry Ramsey at Lramsey@supersat2.net (208-290-8749).

This month's recommended books

- ◆ *The Enneagram Made Easy*
Baran, Renee and Wagele, Elibabeth
- ◆ *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*
Browne, Rennie and King, Dave
- ◆ *Living by Fiction*
Dillard, Annie
- ◆ *How to Write a Damn Good Novel*
Frey, James
- ◆ *Bird by Bird*
Lamott, Anne
- ◆ *Coaching the Artist Within*
Maisel, Eric
- ◆ *45 Master Characters*
Schmidt, Victoria
- ◆ *Making Shapely Fiction*
Stern, Jerome
- ◆ *Six Figure Freelancing*
Kelly James-Enger
- ◆ *Writer's Journey (The)*
Vogler, Christopher
- ◆ *The Writers Market*



Sherry Ramsey confides....

I have over 65 writing reference books. I'm reading a great one right now by Kelly James-Enger called, *Six Figure Freelancing*. So far it's only working if I count the two zeros behind the decimal point. But it's definitely getting me riled up and ready to submit to the nationals—and maybe some corporations!

A book I swear by is often referred to as the writer's bible—*The Writer's Market*. The first 100 pages has great articles on the craft of writing and submitting. It teaches query letters, formatting and lots of other tips. The rest of the book has publishers guidelines, contact info, editors, conferences, contests and tons more.

God Won't Deal Man a Bad Hand

Liz Mastin

The big sun shines brightly
Warming my chilled bones
And I am at peace
In a "Positive" world.

Circling above me:
A bird merry-go-round;
Their pipe organ cantos,
A twittering song.

And the hazy blue half sky
Which meets the horizon,
Shines down its own song
In celebrative theme,

For life is perceived
In many ways but should
Be enjoyed for great beauty:
God, - it's all very good.

Look at the transient
I sat by at Starbucks
Sitting there mumbling
Soft words to himself.

Ragged and homeless
As he was just seeking
Some short-term shelter
On Pike Street – alone.

Just a brief hello
I offered this poor man
His beard and his old clothes
His long arms and frayed coat.

Then slowly and calmly
As sweet as a fresh lamb
He turned to me and said
"God won't deal man a *bad* hand."



POET'S CORNER

AGE

Kathy Dobbs

Freckles at youth
then pimply skin
in later years
the wrinkles set in
Lines of age
that carve the face
like a sculptor
molds his statue
with chisel and grace.
Each tell a story
of living and life
heartache, happiness
joy and strife.



Nikki Arana's Newest Release *As I Have Loved You,*

first reviews are in!

As I Have Loved You

By Nikki Arana

Christian Review of Books

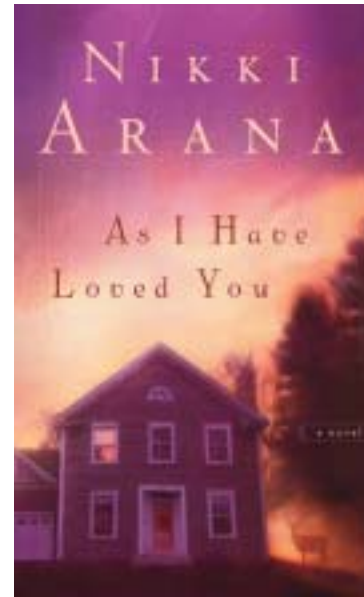
Review by Roseanna White

Wow. Really, that's the first word that springs to mind when you ask me to sum up Nikki Arana's new release, *As I Have Loved You*. She grabbed me in the prologue, when she parts the misty veil between heaven and earth and reveals the plan of God on one boy's life, and she kept me hooked until the last page. This book made me cry—which is a real feat—and kept me thinking for days on end.

Leigh Scott is a woman who has worked hard to win that morsel of security in her life, and now everything rests on her son. Jeff's been fighting severe ADD all of his life, but he's finally almost done college and has a career lined up. She's had to give up many of her own dreams to help her son reach his, she's had to protect him from her disaster of a marriage so that he carried only good memories of his father. Now it's finally time to focus on herself a little, to turn her modest writing career into one worthy of the call she feels on her life. But how is she supposed to focus on the proposal that's been requested when Jeff's spending so much time with a girl that can only mean trouble?

Jeff's always seen things in people that others don't. And in Jessica he sees a beautiful girl with auburn hair who's been hurt so much but has always managed to rise above it. His mom doesn't much like their blossoming relationship, but how can he deny Jessica when their friendship is all she has? Still, he doesn't intend things to go the way they go. And when the situation gets continually worse, he's not sure how to repair the damage. All he knows is that he loves both women and will do whatever it takes to keep them both in his life.

The touch of the Holy Spirit plays a huge role in *As I Have Loved You*, and the story addresses the struggle and misconception that can go hand and hand with seeking that power, as well as the beauty and grace that accompany it when it finds a pure and open heart. The characters are deep and flawed and fighting desperately for their faith, but each chapter hammers home the lesson of the title: that if we're to truly please Him, we must love one another as He has loved us.



Arana manages something spectacular in this book. Her writing is a scalpel that cuts straight into the heart, and she reveals truths that both hurt and heal. As we look into the deepest longings of Leigh and Jeff and Jessica and John, an old friend of Leigh's, we see different sides of the same problem, different wounds seeking the same balm. Each character grows and shifts and changes, alternately taking steps forward on the path to God and then slipping away down the path to self. But it's the journey they each choose to make that really illuminates the depths of humanity within them; and it's the place they finally reach that made me blink back tears and wonder what wonders await me behind the misty veil.

Publisher: Revell

Publication Date: June 2007

ISBN: 9780800731670

Price: \$12.99

Genre: General Christian Fiction/Contemporary

Nonfiction Book Proposal Checklist

Larry Godwin

1. Include a single-spaced cover letter that comprises a short introduction to the proposal's contents.
2. Otherwise, except for your bio (see below), the book proposal should be double-spaced. It should be printed in a plain 12-point font (Times New Roman or Courier) and unbound.
3. Include a title page that contains only the working title and subtitle plus your name, postal and e-mail addresses, phone number, and agent data, if applicable. Note: The work's title and subtitle should communicate the book's substance in a direct way.
4. Tell what the book is all about, i.e., provide an overview or brief summary, and indicate its genre. State your motivation for writing the book, the problems, reasons, or situations that prompted you to do so, and why you are the ideal person to undertake this project.
5. Detail your book's subject, structure, and contents, and explain how that subject will be developed. If applicable, explain how you intend to conduct your research.
6. Indicate the intended audience(s).
7. List up to six competing titles, with publication dates and names of authors and publishers. Give a short synopsis of each and explain why yours constitutes an improvement, is unique, and the audience will want to read it. Do not disparage a competing book.
8. Justify the book's existence from a commercial perspective. Explain why the intended audience(s) will need or desire your book.
9. Include a chapter outline, with abstracts that cover the major points in each chapter.
10. Include your bio or resume, single-spaced: relevant credentials, qualifications (specific expertise, training, and personal experience), professional ties, and publishing credits.
11. State your marketing plan, including how and to whom your book can be successfully marketed. Explain how you will reach your audience(s) and where buyers may find the book apart from bookstores. If you can speak in public and wish to tour, so indicate.
12. If you can obtain endorsements from famous writers or experts in your field, so indicate.
13. Include two or three sample chapters, depending on the editor's or agent's submission guidelines.
14. State the estimated completion date and word count, with the book percentage completed.
15. The tone throughout should be professional and upbeat. Exude confidence. Make sure your proposal is logically organized and demonstrates that you write well.
16. Optional: include laudatory letters and comments about you; laudatory publicity about you; a head shot photo; and/or 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.

Fennel is an Herb

Joan S. Hust

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is used for seasoning and food. It has an aniseed flavor. The word *foeniculum* in Latin means fragrant hay. In middle ages, the plant was placed on the door to ward off the evil effects of witchcraft. Herbalist crushed the seeds of fennel to make eyewash which is believed to be effective in the treatment of conjunctivitis.

Other Names for Fennel

Bari-Sanuf..Bitter Fennel..Carosella..Fennel Oil..Fennel Seed..Finochio.
Florence Fennel..Garen Fennel, Sweet Fennel, Wild Fennel..Anethum
Foeniculum

History

Fennel in Ancient Greek was called *marathron* (place of fennel). The Battle of Marathon took place in 490 BC.

Fennel in medieval times was used in conjunction with St Johns Wort to keep away witchcraft , and other evil things. This might have originated because fennel can be used as an insect repellent. It was also the herb that hung around the neck during burning at the stake for the crime of homosexual activity, and consequently has become the Italian slang for gay (in the Italian form of the word fennel - *finocchio*).

Fennel is thought to be one of the nine herbs held sacred by the Anglo-Saxons. The others are still not totally certain but they seem to be mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), wild chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), crab apple (*Pyrus malus*), chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*), and viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*). The final one still remains a mystery.

Cookery



It is used traditionally as a leaf vegetable or herb in cooking, particularly with eggs and fish. It is also used as a diuretic , and to improve milk supply of breastfeeding mothers.

Florence fennel, popular in Italy and Germany, among other countries, may be eaten as a salad, often with chicory and avocado; or blanched and marinated, or cooked in risotto. In all cases it adds its characteristic mild anise flavor.

Fennel seed is used extensively as a spice in the Indian subcontinent and all over the Middle East. It is an essential ingredient in the Bengali spice mixture *panch phoran* and in Chinese five spice powders. It is known as *saunf* or *moti saunf* (Hindi, *mouri* Bengali, *shombu* Tamil). It is a strong aromatic anise-flavored spice that is the dried fruit of the fennel plant. The seeds are brown or green, but slowly turn a dull gray as the spice ages. A good green color is considered a sign of quality. Fennel seeds are often confused with aniseed, which is very similar in taste and appearance, though smaller. Indians often chew on plain *saunf* as a mouth-freshener. Fennel is also used as a flavoring in some natural toothpaste.

Cultivation and Uses

Fennel is widely cultivated both in and outside of its native range for its edible, strongly flavored leaves and seeds. Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is the sole species in the genus *Foeniculum*, and is native to southern Europe (especially by the Mediterranean) and southwestern Asia.

It is a highly aromatic perennial herb, erect, glaucous green, and grows to 2 m tall. The leaves grow up to 40 cm long. They are finely dissected with the ultimate segments filiform that are about 0.5 mm wide. The flowers are



produced in terminal compound umbels 5-15 cm wide, each umbel section with 20-50 tiny yellow flowers on short pedicels. The fruit is a dry seed from 4-9 mm long, half as wide or less, and grooved.

The Florence fennel (Cultivar Group *F. vulgare* Azoricum Group) is a selection with inflated leaf bases which form a sort of bulb. It comes mainly from India and Egypt and it has an anise-like flavor, but is more aromatic and sweeter. Its flavor comes from anethole, an aromatic compound that also flavors anise and star anise. Florence fennel is smaller than the wild type and has inflated leaf bases which are eaten as a vegetable, both raw and cooked. There are several cultivars of Florence fennel that are known by several other names, notably finocchio.

Fennel has become naturalized along roadsides, in pastures, and other open sites in many region including northern Europe, the United States, southern Canada and in much of Asia and Australia. It is propagated by seed, and is considered to be a weed in Australia and the US.

Description

Fennel is a semihardy perennial, often cultivated as an annual, grown for its leaves, seeds, and stems. The branching erect stem is round, smooth, striated, and a blue-green color. The tapering root looks like a carrot. The flowers are small, and yellow. The leaves branch out from joints of the stem. They are deep green, and divided into feathery segments. The fruit is oval and ribbed. It flowers July through October. It is native to the Mediterranean.

Growing Conditions : Average well-drained soil -- Full sun

Fennel Facts

Fennel is one of those spices in your kitchen cabinet that can be put to many uses. This herb for centuries has been used to relieve gas and to stimulate your appetite. Fennel oil with honey in warm water is an old-time cough remedy that was used long before the arrival of the over-the-counter “ussins”. The oil used externally is a folk remedy for joint inflammation due to rheumatism and arthritis.

Chef Tips

- Heat will destroy the delicate flavor of fennel leaves.
- Add fennel leaves to cooked recipes at the very last moment.
- Add ground seed to hot or chilled tomato soup.
- Mince a bulb of fennel, and add to a salad of avocado or grapefruit.

SOME IDEAS from *The Victory Garden Cookbook*

- ◆ Sprinkle chopped fennel leaves on hot baked oysters or clams.
- ◆ Add cooked fennel to omelets, quiches, stuffings or sauces.
- ◆ Add stalks to stocks for their flavor.
- ◆ Add sliced sautéed fennel to fish chowders.
- ◆ Cook fennel in your favorite tomato sauce.
- ◆ Place stalks and leaves on barbeque coals as they do in France. The fennel scent permeates the grilled food.
- ◆ Slice steamed or blanched fennel, cover with a vinaigrette and serve chilled.
- ◆ Chop raw fennel and add to tuna fish sandwiches.
- ◆ Slice fennel thin and layer with raw potatoes, cream and cheese to make a potato au gratin.

Let's brew some tasty fennel tea. Put a teaspoon of seeds in a teacup, add boiling water, and cover for 5 minutes. Strain and drink slowly savoring every drop before dinner is served. You might be inclined to add some fennel to your bouquet of fresh flowers. Eating a few fennel seeds before a meal will help curb your appetite, and chewing a few afterwards will aid digestion. Actually tea brewed from the leaves or seeds will serve the same purposes. Fennel leaves are high in calcium, iron, potassium, and vitamins A and C.

Fennel oil is sweetly aromatic in both odor, and taste. It is used commercially in condiments and creams, perfumes, liqueurs, and soaps. Jeanne Rose, modern herbalist, states that fennel is cleansing, medicating, and an infusion of the ground seeds can be used to make a steam facial. The flowers and leaves fennel can be used to make yellow and brown dyes for wool.

According to the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database there are no known interactions with foods.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

2007 Officers

Larry Telles: President

208 762-2548 (ltelles@icehouse.net)

Sherry Ramsey: 1st VP & Co-Program Director

208 290-8749 (Lramsey@supersat2.net)

Jim Turner: 2nd Vice President - Newsletter Editor

208-664-9244 (jimturner1@juno.com)

Ann Washington: Secretary

777-9787 washingtonhouse@earthlink.net

Shirley Ellis: Treasurer

772-1940 shirjz@yahoo.com

David E. Hibberd: Webmaster

509 928-5528 (dehibberdwrites@comcast.net)

Mary Jane Honegger: Publicity

687-2900 honegger2@verizon.net

Linda Juergensen: Historian

683-2792 (hljuergensen@gmail.com)

Barbara Rostad: Hospitality Chair

208 777-1030 (BKR9950@aol.com)

Sandy Smith: Sunshine Committee (for a few more months)

263-7207 sandy@netw.com

Mary L. Smith: Special Projects

762-4081 (marynl@verizon.net)

Patti Dickinson: Very, Very Special Projects

667-8912 (pattid@imbris.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.