



Coeur d'Alene Chapter Idaho Writers League

Lakegazette



Celebrating our 65th Anniversary 1943-2008

August 2008

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

COEUR d'ALENE IWL MEETINGS:

Note:
**There is only one
meeting in August**

August 21

**Potluck Picnic Meeting
Bobville-Hauser Lake
See page 12 for details**

August 23

AmeriTel Hotel
9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
Elizabeth Lyon Mini-Workshop
Manuscript Makeover:
Revisions Techniques
For Fiction and Memoirs

See page 6 for information

September 10

Jewett House
9:00 A.M. to Noon
Speaker: Joan Hust & Dr. Susan
Francis
Program: Turning Memories into
Memoirs
(Plus - Bio Critiques and Bio
Photos)

September 18

Lutheran Church
6:30 to 9:30 PM
Speaker: Pamela Aidan
Program: Effective book readings/
signings
(Plus - Bio Critiques and Photos)

Getting the Word Out

Part of our focus this year has been to increase the visibility of IWL in our community. So far, we're doing great! We now have 68 members and our chapter just keeps growing. Each month we usually get one or two new members – sometimes more.

Many of these people are coming because they are meeting some of you out there, and you share your enthusiasm for our organization. Others read about our meetings in community calendars and attend one of our meetings because they think our program looks interesting, or they just want to find out what we are all about.

We recently joined Arts Forward, a group of nonprofit arts organizations in our community, put together by the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to reach even more writers. Several of our members attended our first joint venture, the Buckets, Blues and Brews event at the Coeur d'Alene Chamber office a couple of weeks ago. We joined hundreds of others, enjoying food, music, and drinks during the event that was organized to raise funding for, and visibility of, each individual organization.

Thirteen area groups, including Art on the Edge, Clay Arts Guild of North Idaho, Northwest Sacred Music Chorale and the Christian Youth Theater, made "Art Buckets" that were auctioned off through a silent auction. The IWL Art Bucket drew a lot of interest throughout the evening and an appreciable number of people stopped by to talk about their interest in writing. Throughout the evening we handed out a number of our new pamphlets and told people how to check us out online.

Another joint venture we have joined through Arts Forward is to be part of a once-a-month ad that will appear in both the Coeur d'Alene Press and the Inlander. Watch for them on the first Friday of each month.

Our publicity chair has also helped spread the word about IWL. Jennifer Rova is doing a great job of getting IWL information into local community calendars and newspapers. Recently, one new member joined after seeing one of the IWL posters she placed around town. Way to go, Jennifer!

The great thing is, all the things we are doing are helping us get word about IWL out there. Together, our membership in Arts Forward, Jennifer's



**Mary Jane
Honegger**

notices, the additional ads, our new pamphlets, and the contacts our members are making, are helping us find other writers who will benefit from the informative programs, inspiration, and support, they'll find at IWL.

August Birthdays

08/20 BARBARA K ROSTAD
08/22 LINDA JUERGENSEN
08/28 LARRY B GODWIN

OPPORTUNITIES

dis-ABILITIES: Fiction is a collection of literary works by and/or about persons with disabilities. If you have written or know of a literary work that addresses this topic, **dis-ABILITIES: Fiction** invites you to send it by mailing to : dorkenn@yahoo.com and attaching your pdf or doc file. Short Stories of up to 5,000 words are welcome; please, no poetry, drama, or creative non-fiction. Include a 100 word bio, publication history of submission, and contact information. Payment for selected works will be in the form of two (2) complimentary copies of the published book. The publishing house is currently being negotiated. Submissions must be received by September 15.

Stay updated on Poets & Writers deadlines for grants, awards and submissions at pw.org/mag/grantsawards.htm

Winners! Six-Word Memoir Contest

First Place

Cup's half full...but it's cracked.

By Mary Jane Honegger

Second Place (three-way tie)

Born, discarded, adopted, surrounded by love.

By Ann Story

Marriages 6, Divorces 5, Game won.

By Sandra Kettle

Finally, what's outside matches what's inside.

By Petty Chapman

Third Place (two-way tie)

Loved, learned, explored, crashed, shot, survived.

By Mike Kincaid

Harrowing life, loving wife, blissful retirement.

By Dave Welts

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

Prizes will be awarded at our IWL August 21 picnic.

Speaking Opportunity for Writers

To: Idaho Writers League Chapters and authors,

Writers Guild of Eastern Oregon is looking for a personable, entertaining Author/speaker to start our fall schedule of Literary Night appearances on 12 September, 2008. WGEO is open to all genres of writing. We usually draw a minimum of 20 local citizens to our audience, so it is a really good opportunity to gain some exposure. Joanne Pence came up from Boise before, so she can describe her experience to you.

We like authors to present from 45 minutes to an hour, and may have two authors on the program between 7-9pm. We also like to present musical performers to round out the literary program.

Although we can't guarantee book sales or provide a stipend, Betty's Books likes to carry the books of authors who come to our audiences, and we can probably provide you a place to stay for the night at someone's home.

Check out our website at www.wgeo.org

Clair Button

cbutton@wgeo.org

Chapter Highlights

Ann Washington – Secretary

Program: Jenny Leo was the guest speaker at our July 9th day meeting. Her topic was Copywriting for Business: Beyond Junk Mail. While Jenny is interested in all kinds of writing, she says she earns her “bread and butter” as a freelance copywriter for corporate clients. Her clients include book publishers, advertising agencies, financial institutions, and non-profit organizations. Before going freelance in 2003, Jenny was a nonfiction marketing manager for book publishers (Tyndale House Publishers and Northern Illinois University Press). She is a native Chicagoan now happily transplanted to North Idaho. Jenny is a fairly new CdA-IWL member who continues to generously share her vast knowledge with us.

She encouraged members to become involved in the lucrative field of copywriting, yet another way to earn money writing. She shared her story. She was in the marketing side of book publishing. Part of her responsibility was writing the marketing for promoting the books, the jackets, etc. She came to love that so much she decided to do it full-time. Her Tyndale publisher said, “Here, take this work with you.” Thus began her freelancing. She said it took some guts, but she did it.

When copywriting, you are on your own so it isn’t for everyone, but if you’re willing to do it, the flexibility and benefits can be quite rewarding. Some plusses of freelance copywriting are the healthy income it provides and the variety of projects you encounter. Once you establish yourself, repeat business is common. On the downside, you have to remember your client is king. If you think you have written something really great and the client doesn’t like it, you *have* to change it. They’re paying you so you are their servant. At this point Jenny interjected a cute little joke:

How many copywriters does it take to change a light bulb? (Answer: None. They don’t want to change anything.)

Jenny shared a wealth of information which unfortunately would go far beyond available space in Chapter Highlights, but she offered to anyone interested in doing copywriting a good place to start is to read the book **The Well Fed Writer**.

Thank you, Jenny.

New Members: One great asset of CdA chapter of IWL is its membership. The variety of our personalities and writing styles provide added opportunities to learn

and grow as we share our own writing with one another. New members enhance those opportunities. It is our pleasure to welcome four newest July members: **Elizabeth Brinton, Christy Gibson, Georgia L. McKee and Don Olson.**

Our July 9th meeting marked the beginning of the “2-Minute Read”. This idea was first introduced by our 1st Vice President, Nancy Owen Barnes. One volunteer per meeting will be invited to share something he/she has written and read it aloud to the rest of the group. Pieces will be read but not be critiqued. Though the readings will be limited to just 2 minutes, they will hopefully provide a great vehicle for getting to know each other better as we share things we write. Board members have agreed to get the “2-Minute Read” going by first sharing their writing. Larry Telles is working on a teen-based novel and used it to set the pace for the rest of us by reading his opening chapter of “Shadows in the Hanger”. Wow! It’s going to be thriller.

BJ Campbell collected more additions for our *Bucket* contribution to the Arts Forward July 18th auction fund-raising event of Buckets, Blues & Brews night. President Mary Jane Honegger still had tickets for members to buy or to sell for that event.

Larry Telles gave an update on the upcoming (August 23rd) Elizabeth Lyon Mini-Workshop **“Manuscript Makeover: Revision Techniques for Fiction and Memoirs”**.

Nancy Owen Barnes reminded us there will be no day meeting in August, but the next meeting of the board will be at 9:30am August 11th at Perkins restaurant in Coeur d’Alene. Members are encouraged to attend board meetings and are always welcome. Everyone was reminded that we will hold our group picnic in “Bobville” the evening of August 21st. The chapter is providing the main dish. We are asking members to bring something potluck to share. Look for details in this newsletter.

BJ Campbell and Peggy Chapman were thanked for providing refreshments at the meeting.

Members are also reminded to keep newsletter information coming to Jim Turner. It is always good to hear news of our members.

Self-Publish Your Work for Friends

By Larry Godwin

At age 65, I've reached a plateau and finished editing every poem and prose piece I've written since high school that I thought was decent enough to share with others. Then I assembled the pages and had them photocopied and bound. This has been a self-publishing attempt of modest proportions, to be sure, but the project brought me satisfaction and a few thank you's.

It sounds like a simple enough task but as I waded through it, I found complexities I hadn't envisioned when I conceived it. Would it be proper to include both my prose and poems in the same book? How was I going to paginate the prose section? What kind of binding could I afford that would create a pleasing impression?

I made decisions that seemed sound and am happy with the finished product. In case you decide to undertake a similar project, I offer this checklist to minimize frustration.

1. If you write poems as well as prose, by all means include both in your book, albeit in separate sections. Your friends who appreciate your writing will enjoy all your work.
2. On a spreadsheet, list each item you wish to include. In my case, I created two sheets: one for poems and a second for stories. If the items dwell in different folders in My Documents, include the folder as well as the file name.
3. Edit each piece with love and patience. Ask a writer friend, or the members of your critique group, to review the items, one at a time, to catch typos and awkward words.
4. Organize the poetry and prose sections so each item appears in the sequence you desire. I decided I wanted my poems to fall in chronological order, but the stories should blend together as heavy subject matter followed by light, and short pieces by long.
5. Decide pagination. I took the easy route: number the poems in the lower-right corner using a typewriter, rather than include page numbers in each computer file. I decided not to paginate the prose section as one continuous series, but rather to retain the page numbers for each story separately and have the pieces printed on alternating colors of paper. That way, the reader can easily tell where one story ends and the next begins.
6. Print each poem and story and check it off on a printout of its spreadsheet.
7. Number each poem in the lower-right corner.

8. Type and print the front matter: title page, copyright page, introduction, and contents. I created two contents pages: the one for prose contained the story titles (which often differed from the filenames, e.g., "The" appeared at the beginning, not the end) and paper color, and the one for poems, the titles and page numbers.
9. Choose and purchase paper; the copier will give you a discount for providing your own.
10. Survey the copy shops in your area and get estimates for duplication. Choose one you've dealt with before, one that does neat, professional work.
11. Draft and print a cover letter to your copy shop specifying the number of copies, the sequence, whether one- or two-sided, and that the product should be collated but not stapled.
12. Choose the type of binding. Spiral is inexpensive but not very durable. I chose Velo-binding at Kinko's, with a clear, soft plastic front and hard plastic back; it's quite sturdy, neat in appearance, and costs \$4.00 each.
13. Make a list of recipients – include yourself! – and determine how many copies you want.
14. Have the book pages photocopied and bring them home before binding. Take a couple of hours to inspect each page; look for ink spots, paper imperfections, and crooked duplication. I found one page of one story was missing in all copies because two originals had stuck together in the machine.
15. Assemble the book. I placed the title and copyright pages and the introduction first, then the stories contents page, followed by each story on alternating paper-color stock. Then came the poetry contents page, and finally the poems themselves.
16. Take the sets of pages to a shop for binding. Check all bindings; one of mine was askew.
17. Hand-deliver or mail the books to your recipients. The cheapest method to ship is by USPS book rate; you can purchase delivery confirmation, if you wish.



Don't underestimate the time it will take to do the project right, nor the pleasure you will experience when you hold one of your books in your hands.



Stuck in a Writing Corner

by S. M. Garver

At June’s end, I decided the only way to make significant progress on my book was to commit to working on it on a daily basis (bum glue) rather than just when my muse decided to dance for me. I know my muse likes to frequent Taco Bell®, but driving there every day seemed an excessive way to reach my goal of completing my first draft by the end of July. I applied the glue to the seat of my home desk chair and wrote new content every day for two weeks. While some days were wordy, other days found me typing 50-100 words in my sleep at day’s end. (I had to keep the streak alive!) Then I reached a point where I was blocked from moving forward. It wasn’t writer’s block as I had ideas for new content. I was stuck in a writing corner.

You may be familiar with the concept of painting oneself into a corner. One starts painting. Merrily continues. Then just as one looks to be complete, one realizes completion isn’t possible because there is nowhere to stand without musing one’s prior work. That’s analogous to what happened to me. I reached a point where I hadn’t finished my story, but my most recent work, unbeknownst to me, had stymied all potential storylines in their tracks.

This book venture began as a short story that created more questions than it resolved. Short stories should answer questions not create them. Critique group members advised me my short story would make a great first chapter to a book. Because I never intended it to be a book, I didn’t have a storyline beyond my initial attempt. However, I didn’t let that deter me from moving forward. Critique group members suggested what they’d like to know more

about so I continued to write in the hopes I’d figure out where I was going. That worked until I wrote myself into the corner. I knew I was not done—I had too many unresolved conflicts to be done—but I had no way of progressing the storyline without jumping through fantastical hoops, and I’m not writing a fantasy novel.

Time to stop and reassess. During my July venture, I continued my habit of frequently testing my library card’s validity. While that habit helped advance my writing craft skills and strengthen my story, it was a second-hand bookstore purchase which freed me from my corner. Screenplay: The Foundations of Screenwriting by Syd Field stresses a writer must know the end of the story in order to write the beginning of a script. Oops. That was definitely part of my problem. I only had a vague idea of how my story might end. He also stresses the end must jive with the beginning and all conflicts must be resolved by the story’s end.

...my most recent work, unbeknownst to me, had stymied all potential storylines in their tracks.

I decided it was time to review my work-to-date. I listed all conflicts in my more than 18,000 words. Then I brainstormed possible solutions. I not only came up with

ideas for future chapters, but I also discovered several possible endings. My original vague story ending blossomed into something concrete as I latched to one specific finale. This did not directly solve my problem of freeing myself from my writing corner. However, in realizing where I needed to be at the end, I now had a much better idea of the path my storyline must take in order to reach that end. I decided I had to back up from where I presently was in the storyline. I needed to back away from the corner and scrap some of what I had written so the room would open and I could move forward to complete my story in a realistic and believable manner.

I’m now out of my writing corner and scribbling new words every day. While I may not complete my first draft by the end of July, I now know where my writing finish line is, and have mapped a series of steps to lead me there. Bum glue will get me the rest of the way as I stay away from writing corners.

Elizabeth Lyon Mini-Workshop

Manuscript Makeover: Revision Techniques for Fiction and Memoirs.

Saturday,
August 23, 2008
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
AmeriTel Inn, Coeur d'Alene
(I-95 @ Ironwood)



Cost: \$25.00 - IWL members
Cost: \$30.00 - non-IWL members
Consultations: one-on-one - \$20 for 20 minutes.
Consultations start at 1:30 PM.

Elizabeth is currently working on a book tour to promote her latest book *Manuscript Makeover: Revision Techniques No Fiction Writer Can Afford to Ignore*. Elizabeth is a popular speaker, a down-to-earth instructor, known internationally for helping scores of writers break into print and secure movie options. An independent book editor & consultant to writers throughout the U.S. & Canada, Elizabeth has been a contributing writer to *The Writer & Writer's Digest* magazines as well as other publications. Her 1st "How-to-book" *Nonfiction Book Proposals Anybody Can Write* is considered a standard reference on preparing proposals. According to Literary Agent, Jean Naggar, Elizabeth's 2nd book, *The Sell Your Novel Tool Kit*, "is an indispensable guide that belongs on every writer's bookshelf."

Consultation information: E-Mail Elizabeth up to 5 pages in advance. This would include a paragraph to one page of synopsis if possible for books. She will edit your material ahead of time and will go over how to "makeover" in that one-on-one. Deadline is on or before August 12, 2008. No exceptions, since Elizabeth will be on the road after that date. Her E-Mail address: elyon123@comcast.net

Tear Off Registration Form For Elizabeth Lyon Mini-Workshop

Mark box, enclose check (to IWL), & mail: Idaho Writer's League, Lyon Workshop, PO Box 1113, Hayden, ID 83835

(Name) _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ e-Mail _____

IWL member: Workshop \$ 25.00 Number of tickets _____ X \$25.00 = \$ _____

Nonmember: Workshop \$ 30.00 Number of tickets _____ X \$30.00 = \$ _____

Consultation: 20 minute one-on-one _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please note: Tickets will be sold at the door if there is seating available. No registrations accepted after August 21, 2008 via mail. No cancellations after August 22, 2008, but a substitute attendee may take your place.



IWL Rubber Chicken Trophy

Last year the state IWL held a poster contest and rewarded the winner with a rubber chicken which will be passed on to this year's winner of the poster contest. Last year, Larry Telles drew a wonderful poster for our chapter which didn't win first place only because of what we all figure was some underhanded payoffs. Anyway, we need someone interested in creating a poster for this year's contest that has been entitled: WORK SPACES. Anyone interested let me know.

Work Spaces Pictures

On the same subject, once the state powers that be decided on the theme for the poster contest, they liked it so well they decided to collect pictures of "WORK SPACES" from the rest of us. They ask that we send photos of our work spaces that are "large enough to show some detail even if it's gruesome." Photos must be received by August 31. Questions? Call Earline Reid at 208-528-8673.

Send digital photos to: Wallace Swenson
whiteclouder@cablone.net
Send hard copies to: Earline M. Reid, 1980 Sequoia Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83404

You Made It Happen!

Thank You to all who donated items, overflowing our Bucket for the "Bucket, Blues & Brews fundraising event held at the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce on July 18th.

Donated by IWL:

- ◆ Gift Certificate to attend Elizabeth Lyon's Mini-Workshop
- ◆ *Sharing The Song* by Jessie Cameron Alison
- ◆ Bottle of wine
- ◆ Bucket decorations & other small items

Donations by IWL members:

- ◆ **Nikki Arana** - *As I Have Loved You* and *The Winds of Sonoma* plus chocolates & a box of kleenex
- ◆ **Nancy Owens Barnes** - *South to Alaska* plus a toy boat and *Going Home* – a framed poem
- ◆ **Elizabeth Brinton** - *My American Eden – Mary Dyer, Martyr for Freedom*
- ◆ **BJ Campbell** - *Idaho Magazine* May 2008 edition containing articles by 5 IWL members, and 3 copies of *Lakegazette* newsletters
- ◆ **Michael Kincaid** - *Alaska Justice* & float flying CD
- ◆ **Michael Marsden** - *A Walk in the Rain, The House in Harrison, and The Man in the Closet*
- ◆ **Liz Mastin** – *Lake Dreams* – a framed poem
- ◆ **Mary Smith** - *A Prairie Christmas* & 6-piece Mikasa nativity set
- ◆ **Sandy Smith** - *The Trouble With Romance/An Anthology, The Writer's Digest How to Write Short Stories* & battery powered lights
- ◆ **Larry Telles** - *Kaleidoscope*
- ◆ **Jim Turner** – *Idaho Magazine-Northern Exposure* article *Solstice Celebration*
- ◆ **Ann Washington** – note cards

See following page for pictures and notes of the event.



Nancy Owens Barnes, Jeanette Johnson, Lisa Odenberg and Mary Jane Honegger enjoy the Buckets, Blues & Brews event.



Many thanks go to the IWL members who helped with our Arts Bucket. Chapter authors and members were more than generous, donating 13 books, twelve of them written by chapter members. Other items in the bucket included framed poetry by Liz Mastin and Nancy Barnes, and a copy of the Idaho Magazine that included articles by five IWL members, donated by B.J. Campbell. Special thanks to B.J. Campbell for organizing collection of the items and Sandy Smith for decorating our bucket so beautifully.



Gentleman bids on the IWL bucket early in the evening. At the end of the night, the winning bidder was a woman who will be graduating with a teaching degree in a few months and wanted to be able to share all the books and articles by local authors with her students.

POET'S CORNER

Ode to Evening Geraniums

Liz Mastin

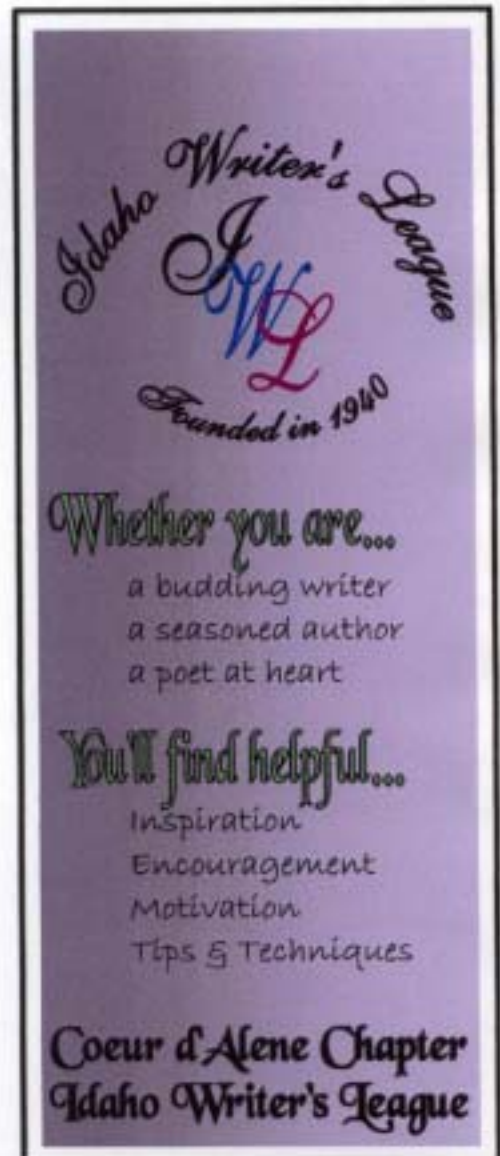
Who painted my flowers red?
These gangly clumped geraniums
Flooding three earthen urns,
Battling for position.
Valiant, these great smears of lipstick,
Vibrant and glowing,
Pulsate with sanguine intensity.
In the background, the lake laps
And docks creak hypnotically:
A soothing lullaby.
The once-bright golden deck
Loses its color as it mellows for slumber.
The air becomes comatose:
A floor for sleep-walking ghosts.
Darkened fir trees gather in the yard
Adding weight to night's shadow.
My huge geraniums glow brighter still:
The color of blood:
Blood of the day,
Blood of the night:
There is life in the blood!



New Look!

The Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the IWL has an updated brochure with a new look! We are hoping area bookstores and libraries will allow us to display our pamphlets, and will we be using them to hand out at upcoming workshops, conferences, and events.

We were very happy to have recently received permission to display them at the new Coeur d'Alene Library! If you know of a good place for our brochures to be placed, please let us know.



IWL Lending Library

Our Coeur d'Alene Chapter IWL Lending Library consists of a list of more than 200 books related to the craft of writing offered for loan by members.

Any member who has not received a copy of our Lending Library list, please email Nancy Barnes at nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com and she will email you a copy.

Hard copies of the list are also available at IWL meetings.

We encourage all members to take advantage of this great resource!

APHORISM:

**A SHORT, POINTED SENTENCE
EXPRESSING A WISE OR CLEVER
OBSERVATION OR A GENERAL TRUTH;
ADAGE**

- ◆ The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
- ◆ Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
- ◆ There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 AM. - Like this: It could be a right number.
- ◆ No one ever says 'It's only a game.' when their team is winning.
- ◆ I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.

** Thanks to Shirley Ellis!

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jim Turner - Editor
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Larry Telles - Assistant to the editor

Nancy Barnes - Assistant to the editor

Ann Story - Assistant to the editor

Mary Smith - Assistant to the editor

Deadline:
the 25th of each month.

Toot Your Own Horn

The July/August 2008 issue of the *Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living Magazine* contains book reviews for two IWL Members! Of Michael Marsden's new novel, *A Walk in the Rain*, reviewer Holly Chase Williams



writes, "Readers will revel in the relationships in this well-plotted story...". Nancy Owens Barnes' book, *South to Alaska*, also received a review by Williams who refers to her story as "A beautiful reminder that life begins where your comfort zone

ends." Congratulations to Michael and Nancy!

Ladies and Gentlemen WE HAVE A WINNER!

Nancy Owens Barnes learned this past week that she won First Place in the Poetry category of the Pacific Northwest Writers Association (PNWA) 2008 Literary Contest. All first place category winners were awarded a \$600 cash prize plus the PNWA Zola Award.

Let your chapter members know about your successes. Any success can be an inspiration for others.

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!

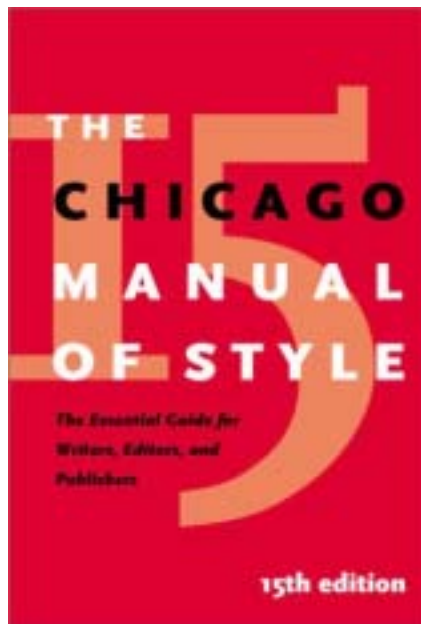
Send your **SUCCESS STORIES** to jimturner1@juno.com

It's a Matter of Style... to a Degree

Just how picky must you be as a writer? In the main, traditional book publishers use the Chicago Manual of Style as their guide, usually with a separate "house style" document that details the things a particular publisher does its own way. The differences between Chicago and The Associated Press stylebook, which most newspapers and magazines use as their guide, are significant. Chicago uses that final serial comma before "and"; AP does not. Chicago spells out numbers through one hundred, and other large round numbers; AP in the main spells out numbers only through nine. That's not even getting into Modern Language Association (MLA) style, typically used for papers within the liberal arts and humanities area; the American Psychological Association style, used in the social and behavioral sciences area; and other similar discipline-specific style guides.

Now, that said, let's be real here. You as a writer do need a basic grasp of spelling, grammar, and punctuation. But an agent or traditional publisher is not going to agree to work with you simply because you follow Chicago slavishly. What agents or publishers want are compelling stories, preferably written by authors with a marketing platform. How well you develop your plot, characters, and theme; how successfully you raise the stakes and create tension; and how you can help sell books are far more important than knowing about serial commas. Focus on the story!

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Prepare for September Meetings

WRITERS NEED BIOS

Nancy Owens Barnes

No matter what one writes, every writer eventually needs a bio. Author bios are necessary for book proposals, query letters, article submissions, book jackets, contributor pages, workshop presenters, and for just about any writing-related activity where a writer is putting forth their creative work.

THEREFORE, have we got a deal for you! Following the speaker programs of the September 10 and 18 meetings, we will have special bio-critiquing sessions to help members fine-tune their author bios, AND, member-photographer Larry Telles will be on hand to take digital photos of any member who needs a bio photo!

A good way to see how bios are structured is to check the bios of other authors on book covers and contributors pages of magazines. A basic bio should be brief, written in third person, and should include information on previously published works and education. Bios are often tweaked to match the publication or situation for which it is being submitted. For instance, if an author is writing for a regional publication, information on where the author lives might be relevant. A writer's goals may also be, at times, included in their bio. For example, if an author is hoping to write a series of mystery novels for young adults, that could be included *if it is relevant to the current situation*. *Relevance* is the key to any author bio.

**August Thursday
Evening Meeting**

Annual IWL Potluck Picnic

You and your guest are invited !

Thursday, August 21, 6:30 - dark

at "Bobville", 9510 N. Hauser Lake Road



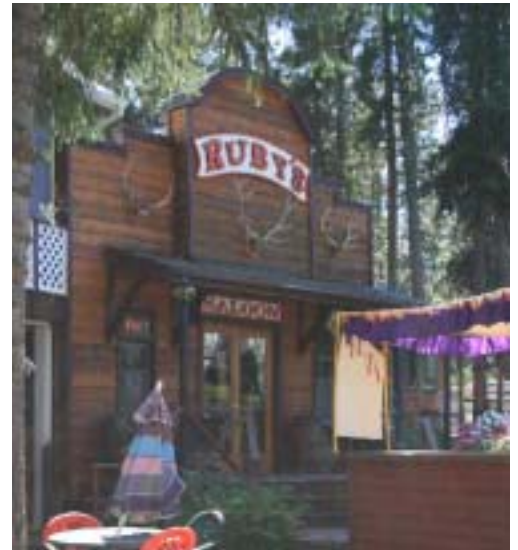
**Enjoy spending
a lovely
summer
evening in
Bobville...a
quaint Western
town from the
imagination of
our hosts, Bob
& Linda
Ashcroft**



Bobville is located about 1 mile north of W. Hwy 53 (Trent Road) on Hauser Lake Road, between Newman Lake and Rathdrum

Please do not park along the road, but turn into the driveway.

There is plenty of parking in a field to the left.



Bring a salad, dessert or appetizer
IWL will provide the rest.

Please RSVP by August 18,
so we know how
many to expect
(208) 687-2900.



Notes, News, Announcements and other unpaid political incursions

Hamilton Writers Guild 2008 Fiction Contest Guidelines

* Category: General Fiction, limited to 2000 words

* Deadline: Postmarked no later than September 30, 2008

* Entry fee: \$10 per entry

* Prizes: \$125 1st Prize; \$75 2nd Prize; \$50 3rd Prize

Winners will be announced on November 14, 2008 on our web site.

* For more information and a full list of contest guidelines visit our web site at: www.hamiltonwritersguild.org

Send entries to:

Hamilton Writers Guild Fiction Contest
PO Box 1205
Hamilton, Ohio 45012

Gival Press grants a Short Story Award annually with a prize of \$1,000 and publication on the press's Web site as well as their anthology of short fiction. Submit 5,000 to 15,000 words with a \$25 entry fee by August 8. Go to www.givalpress.com for more details.

The Past Loves Day (September 17) Story Contest by Spruce Mountain Press wants to hear your true story about a former sweetheart (we all have them). Cash prizes for the top three entries will be \$100, \$75, and \$50. Go to <http://ourpastloves.com/contest.html> for more information. The deadline is August 17.

The New American Press Summer 2008 Chapbook Contest accepts poetry, fiction, or non-fiction. The winner will be granted \$250 as well as other perks. Deadline is September 1. For more information, Go to <http://www.newamericanpress.com/contest.html>

Looking for input....

The Lakegazette is looking for your input. Now is the opportunity for you to get published. This newsletter can use articles, essays, poetry, book reviews, even short stories.

What's **your** story? How about jotting down a two hundred-word biography about you? Who are you? Where did you come from? What brought you to CDA? What do you write? Why do you write? Are you published?

You get the idea! I'd like to keep the topics based around writing or the writing experience. We are a writing organization and this newsletter should highlight that fact.

Dig around through your files and desk drawers and see what you have hiding in there.

Guidelines for submission are simple. Try to keep your piece to one page. 600-750 words or less. Submit as a WORD document, e-mail attachment. No need for any fancy formatting. Times New Roman 12 pt, single spaced works well for insertion into the newsletter. Please title your piece and include your by-line.

Submit to jimturner1@juno.com.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the Monday before the Wednesday meeting each month. This month's meeting will be at Perkins Restaurant in Coeur d'Alene on Monday, August 11, at 9:30 AM. All members are welcome to attend.

Getting it ALL TOGETHER

We are working on an inventory of IWL materials. If you have any records, supplies, memorabilia, or items of any kind that belong to the Coeur d'Alene IWL Chapter, please list them and send the information to president **Mary Jane Honegger**:

honegger2@verizon.net contact her at 687-2900.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

2008 Officers

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Kathy Dobbs: Sunshine Committee

208-765-4606 kathleendobbs@verizon.net

Jennifer Rova: Publicity

jrovacop@roadrunner.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.