



**Coeur d'Alene Chapter**  
Idaho Writers League



# Lakegazette

Celebrating our 65th Anniversary 1943-2008

December 2008

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

**COEUR d'ALENE  
IWL MEETINGS:**

**December 10**

Jewett House  
9:00 AM – Noon  
Christmas Party, Awards, Officer  
Installation  
Plus: Final Used Book Sale Sale

**January 14**

Jewett House  
9:00 AM – Noon  
Speaker: Mary Jane Honegger  
Program: Writing Articles

**January 15**

Lutheran Church  
6:30 – 9:30 PM  
Speaker: Mary Jo Krinkas  
Program: Public Speaking for  
Writers

**February 11**

Jewett House  
9:00 AM – Noon  
Speaker: Sammie and Dee  
Justesen  
Program: How to Get an Agent

**December  
Birthdays**

Wes Hanson	Dec 2
Mike Kincaid	Dec 3
Gloria Warnick	Dec 9
Richard Wilks	Dec 13
Larry Telles	Dec 14
Barbra Lund	Dec 15
Sherry Ramsey	Dec 20

## Something's in the Air

There is something special in the air this time of year. There is the expectation of winter, the anticipation of the holiday season, and the hope of the New Year. But there is something extra special going on at IWL.

That something is excitement and energy and enthusiasm! I felt it during our last board meeting and when I attended the author's book sale we held a couple of weeks ago. I felt it again during our first ever Open Mic Night at our November 20 meeting.

That something is the excitement of new ideas, the energy of recently elected board members and the enthusiasm of our new members. What a great time to be a member of IWL.

The IWL Authors Christmas Book Sale was a hit. Hearing the eleven participating authors share something about themselves and their books was just plain inspiring – and the authors sold quite a few books as well.

Open Mic Night was just plain fun. During the evening we enjoyed the marvelous variety of individuals that make up our writer's group. Amazingly, 14 out of 15 people who attended the meeting stepped up to the mic – some of them for the first time in their lives. Three of these were writers who had just joined IWL that evening. Talk about enthusiasm!

Members shared poetry, personal essays and memoirs. We heard about a psycho-therapist inspired murder, and a nurse's memoir of a dying woman's life. We shared the angst of writer's block; developed sympathy for a quartet of bungling burglars; and laughed aloud after meeting a lady with a bird's nest in her hair.

We enjoyed the beauty of winter through poetry and were treated to the early morning sights while searching for the summer solstice from the back of a motorcycle. We became mesmerized by a poem about flying cats (the earth moving type); were given a glimpse into the world of a fairy with a crystal flute; and were treated to musical performances by two of our multi-talented members.



**Mary Jane  
Honegger**

In the end, we all gave ourselves a big round of applause – what a fun way to end 2008!

I would like to thank IWL members and my board for their support this year. I look forward to seeing what fantastic programs and exciting adventures the new board has planned for us, and hope you'll all join us.

Mary Jane

### Membership Dues are Due!

We have many members who have renewed for 2009. How about you?

It's easy to renew. Give your \$35.00 check to Anna Goodwin or any of the officers at the next regular meeting.

OR You can mail your check to:

**Idaho Writers League  
P.O. Box 1113,  
Hayden, Idaho 83835**

OR Visit the Idaho Writers League website and renew via PayPal.

When you renew, make sure to let us know of any changes to your address, phone number, or e-mail address.

## Your Bio Goes Here

Send the Lakegazette a short biography of yourself. Something that you would use on a book jacket.

Let us know a little bit about who you are and what you like to write.

Send your submission in a Word document. Pictures should be in jpeg format.



## Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the Monday before the Wednesday meeting each month. The December 8th meeting will be at Perkins Restaurant in Coeur d'Alene at 10:00AM.

All members are welcome to attend.

## Election Report for 2009

### Officers

Nancy Owens Barnes



We are proud to announce the unanimous election of our 2009 Chapter Officers!

<b>President</b>	<b>Jenny Leo</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Nancy Barnes</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Jim Turner</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jennifer Rova</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Peggy Chapman</b>

Congratulations to the new Chapter Board Members.

## TWO-MINUTE READS

We need members for our Two-Minute Reads. To sign up for a Two-Minute Read, please email me at [nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com). The next Two-Minute Read opening for a day meeting is January 15 and the next opening for an evening meeting is February 19. So send me a note and I'll get you on the schedule.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR WORK!

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

**Jim Turner - Editor**  
(208 664-9244)     [jimturner1@juno.com](mailto:jimturner1@juno.com)

<b>Larry Telles</b>	- Assistant to the editor
<b>Nancy Barnes</b>	- Assistant to the editor
<b>Ann Story</b>	- Assistant to the editor
<b>Mary Smith</b>	- Assistant to the editor

**Deadline:  
the 25th of each month.**

# Chapter Highlights

Ann Washington – Secretary

**Board meeting news:** Outgoing officers will present a notebook with records of their office to the incoming president at the December 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting to guide incoming officers in their new position. The goal will be to maintain the notebooks to aid future board members.



Plans are in process for awards which will be presented at the December 10<sup>th</sup> day meeting. Jim Turner is seeking volunteers to serve on a newsletter team. Plans are underway for the 2009 spring workshop and the IWL State Convention to be hosted by the Coeur d'Alene chapter in 2010.

## Books For Christmas Event at the Coeur d'Alene Library

Eleven authors participated in the book signing held at the Coeur d'Alene library assisted by the Friends of the Library. This first-time event proved successful in selling about \$1,000 worth of books.

## Election Results

Members at the November day and evening meetings unanimously approved the slate of officer nominees. 2009 officers are: President, Jennifer Leo; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Nancy Barnes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jim Turner; Secretary, Jennifer Rova; and Treasurer, Peggy Chapman. New officers will be installed at our December meeting.

**November 12<sup>th</sup> the day meeting** focus was all about adding emotional impact to your writing. CdA chapter members Mary Langer aka Mary L. Smith, author of 10 books and Anna Goodwin, psychotherapist turned writer, were perfect presenters for this topic.

The approximate 25 members attending were reminded that 70% of what we think and do is revealed in the form of non-verbal communication. Mary suggested members watch TV at home next time without sound and take notice of all the non-verbal language. Watch how much is said with facial expression and body language alone. We will be amazed at how much we can learn without the use of words. As writers we need to *show* this language by putting these descriptions into words we use. Anna demonstrated how much we can tell just by watching a persons face. Just watch for expression in the eyes or for tension in the jaw for example. *Tip: Using three descriptive words shows more than just one when*

*putting body language into your writing.* Example using body language:

He gave the guy a nod, eyes downcast, throat working a little “Thanks.” The sound was a little rough, but he attempted a faint smile. He didn’t step back, just lifted his head and gave me a rueful half smile, acknowledging his near breakdown.

Mary and Anna guided members through several helpful exercises using photographs and word lists to practice writing emotional content. Once people got started they didn’t want to quit. Several members shared what they had written. The results of the exercises were impressive. Members learned one of the best things they can do as a serious writer is become a “people watcher” and add those things we notice to our writing to help our reader “see” the emotions of our characters.

## Open Mike Meeting

November 20<sup>th</sup> evening meeting provided hilarity as members shared an “open mike” night. Learning to use the microphone was part of the focus for the evening. There were about 15 members in attendance and nearly all stepped forward to share something they had written. Jim Turner played an instrumental piece on the guitar and read his recently published motorcycling article. Member Debra Anne Bishop entertained us with her guitar as she sang an original composition.

Dave Hibberd read an article he will be entering in the Idaho Magazine contest. Members shared all kinds of writing from historic, stories of dysfunctional families, poetry, and nonsensical rhyme. Most of the readings were humorous which left members laughing and wanting more. Everyone had such a great time it is likely “open mike night” will have a repeat performance next year.

Members had the opportunity to browse through Chapter archives of scrapbooks from the late 1980’s to 2001.

## Used Book Sales

Our used book sale is winding down. Members picked up some real bargains in our “Everything Must Go” sale pricing!

## A Finale of Sorts

S. M. Garver

**Last December** I made a commitment to submit something for each Lakegazette issued in 2008. This rumination marks the completion of that commitment. It's the bio I've never written, despite our newsletter editor's regular requests for members to write a bio for the newsletter. I'm going to ignore the 250-300 word count suggestion and write a full page because it's more of a this-is-me rather than a bio.

Although bios are often used as an introduction, you've already been introduced to snippets of my life. I use personal experiences as catalysts for article ideas and included those experiences in the pieces I wrote this past year. I mention this because I grew up a very private person sharing almost none of my thoughts, feelings, and experiences. It was easier for me to jump from an airplane than write about my life in a place where others would read it. I owned a diary once as a child, but wrote little in it for fear someone would find it, read it, and then tell others what they read. I took a huge step when I wrote Being Who I Am for last January's newsletter.

My belief that my life is still very much a work in progress is one reason I resisted writing a bio. I've yet to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. I didn't want to state a path then not keep my word and follow that path. The paths I've followed to date are a conglomeration of squiggly lines. I consider most of them a part of my past and not a definition of who I am today. Some of those paths do define who I am.

I'm a wanderer. I've moved numerous times and traveled significant distances on road trips. I've lived in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Georgia, California, and Idaho. I've lived for short periods of time with relatives in New York and Texas. I'm currently traveling the U. S. in a car loaded with all my worldly possessions. I'm writing this in a hotel in Kissimmee, Florida.

I'm a teacher of the communicating sort. My communication methods vary as do the teaching topics, but I love to pass along knowledge to enlighten and enthuse others about life. I trained fellow employees when I was a chemical engineer making those little beads that become foam drinking cups. I trained customers

to run their businesses more efficiently when I was a software instructor. While a regular patron at a roller rink I taught youngsters how to stay upright. I passed along knowledge and confidence to those hanging from a rope suspended from the ceiling while I was a member at a climbing gym. I pass along my writing experiences in this newsletter.

I'm definitely an independent person. I refuse to let others define my life which is why I moved out of a rental home and into my car in September. I didn't want the bank telling me when I had to vacate; I would vacate on my own terms.

My independence is probably part of the reason why I'm mateless, however I do plan to find a mate. The main reason I've not yet acquired a spouse is I spent too many hours working when I was younger.

I'm young in spirit or maybe I'm just in a body 20 years older than my mind. I recall in my early twenties my mother telling me I was then attempting to live the childhood I never had. I am the oldest of five offspring and helped raise siblings from the time I was two. Just a few weeks ago my brother said of my current plans, "This is something people do when they get out of college, not when they're 45." I refuse to let chronological age define who I am. I relish in defying what most expect someone of my age to do, regardless of the age I'm at.

I titled this a finale of sorts because I do not plan to renew my IWL membership. This is my last newsletter contribution; that's the finale. The "of sorts" is because I've not yet decided from where I'll base myself. I may rejoin at a later date as Idaho is one of the possibilities.

Although I do not currently blog, I do update my Web site regularly with photographs of places I've visited. You're welcome to follow my exploits and drop me a line at <http://www.smgarver.com>.

### **Editors Note:**

Thank you Susan, for your outstanding newsletter contributions in 2008. We look forward to hearing more tales of your journey. Jim Turner

# Perplexity

Larry L. Laws

**A**s I sit here with a poised pen-- “nothing.” No great inspiration to describe! A month ago two members from the Spokane Writer’s Club, attended our Idaho Writer’s League meeting. They emphatically stated, several times, “There is no such thing as writer’s block.” Hmm... “could have fooled me.” They suggested when faced with trouble writing, “just write...even “crap,” but just keep writing.” Well now if there is no such thing as writer’s block, then I’d better figure out what to call my affliction. Then a descriptive word, if it is a word, pops into my head, “perplexity.” I pulled the leather-bound Webster down and sure enough, there it is. “Confused, puzzled, complicated, yep, Big Dan is right on track.

This seems to be one of those days when nothing aint wrong and nothing peers to be right. That might give me something to complain about if I hadn’t already said I can’t find anything to complain about. Probably the hour glass in my noggin needs to be transposed to a complete inversion like in fraction division. You know “shifting sands.”

Last night as I surrendered to slumber land, no visions of sugar plums were a-dancing. Rather my sweet dreams were filled with visions of “tawdry mannequins” crow-hopping and cavorting with lust filled loggers still adorned with their caulk boots. “Could be a form of modern dance, I guess.” I could attribute these, less than comforting, visions to “gastronomical turbulence”, for I did attend an all out, no holds barred, birthday party. My son, Tim was the guest of honor, his little wife Theresa was in charge of the festivities and shore enough the well laden chuck wagon of gourmet delights did make a call.

I realize I did imbibe some, but it hardly seems possible that a few trips to the foamy keg could be the stimuli for such mind altering illusions. Rather I’ll lay the blame on carelessly mixing toasted tater with marvelous macaroni and pasta salads chased with coleslaw. I have had similar, but less sleep robbing visions, before. I’ll remember to refrain from mix

starches again. I did have a good time and met some wonderful people. Whether the above is crap or acceptable literature is subject to the reader’s interpretation, like in the “eyes of the beholder.” But, irregardless, “the perplexity” is conquered, the ink is flowing, and the world aint so bad after all.

## **We Need Your Expertise!**

Nancy Owens Barnes

Thanks to all members who shared their expertise by presenting a program to our group over the past year! In addition to speakers from outside our IWL group, we had a number of speakers from within our group and it is wonderful to have such a talented membership to draw from for our programs.

I have begun filling slots for our 2009 programs and encourage any of you who would like to present a program to let me know as soon as possible so I can get you scheduled. If you have considered becoming a speaker but are not quite comfortable in doing so, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and share your knowledge with us.



**How many writers does it take to change a light bulb?**

**Two.**

**One to screw it in almost all the way and the second to give it a surprising twist at the end.**

## How Many Copies Does the “Average” Book Sell?

**Nikki Arana** was recently involved in a discussion of the “average” book’s sales numbers. The average is 500. Though it’s for the year 2004. Following are excerpts from the discussion that she thought others would find interesting. Much of it was contributed by

Randy Ingermanson:

**In 2004, there were close to 200,000 new titles published and about 1.2 million titles in print.**

You have to remember that averages can be misleading when talking about a grossly tilted field like publishing. The average is the total number of all copies sold divided by the number of titles. In 2004, there were close to 200,000 new titles published and about 1.2 million titles in

print. A large number of those were self-published or old back-list and sold practically nothing. This drags down the average enormously.

### **Here are more numbers for the year 2004:**

80% of all titles sold fewer than 100 copies. (This is what is dragging down the average—those hundreds of thousands of self-pubbed titles that only get sold to family and friends AND ALSO those hundreds of thousands of old back-list titles that are no longer selling much.)

98% of all titles sold fewer than 5000 copies. (So if your book sold more than 5000 copies, you are at the 98th percentile, which is like being in Mensa, only it doesn’t sound quite as impressive.)

**A few hundred titles sold over 100,000 copies.**

**About 10 titles sold over a million copies.**

What is going on is that a handful of authors are immensely successful. A few hundred authors are doing very, very well. A fair number of authors are doing pretty well. And enormous numbers of authors are selling like, um, you get the idea.

All of the numbers above are for the year 2004 and they include both fiction and nonfiction. A successful agent posted on his blog a couple of

months ago with more recent numbers which show that the trend is toward ever more people self-pubbing, ever more people going the POD route, ever more back-list, and ever more books selling like, um, you get the idea.

Please understand this is not to diss self-pubbed or POD books. There are some fine, fine books that are self-pubbed or POD. But the vast, vast majority of badly edited and badly marketed books are self-pubbed and/or POD.

Also note that the sales numbers for traditionally published books (i.e., by royalty-paying publishers) are far higher. Probably the average such book

sells around 10,000 copies lifetime. This is a ballpark figure or a reasonable guess. Remember that this includes all royalty-paying publishers, from the Big Boys in New York down to the smallest publishers.

Also, note that it’s not unusual for finalists for major national awards to sell very few copies. It’s been said that some finalists for the National Book Award have sold only about 500 copies. Sometimes, high quality just isn’t appreciated by those great unwashed masses, who somehow prefer exploding helicopters or exploding bodies.

One final note on these numbers. One person reported that Dan Brown (whose fourth novel, *THE DA VINCI CODE*, sold about 40 million copies) had aggregate sales for his first three novels of about 20,000 copies. That’s fewer than 7000 copies per book, and he was publishing with major New York publishers right from the get-go. And the point of telling you these numbers is NOT to say “Dan’s first 3 novels didn’t sell well, but then he broke out.”) No. The point here is to say that “Dan Brown’s first 3 novels sold like a TYPICAL novel by an unknown novelist publishing with a major New York publisher, but he was one of the very few who broke out. And nobody quite knows why he broke out when he did, because the fourth book wasn’t any better than the third one, except that it violated more known facts.”

**...it’s not unusual for finalists for major national awards to sell very few copies.**



## Try Second Person in Fiction

Larry Godwin

The authors of most novels and short stories choose third-person narration and point of view (POV), e.g., *She won the election* and *He heard her crying in the next room*, to spin their tales. It's the most straightforward way to tell a story and since readers are used to it, why explore alternatives?

Increasingly these days we find examples of first-person use, e.g., *I removed the splinter from her hand* and *I could sense something was wrong*. The protagonist/narrator shares her perceptions without commentary and describes what she does, sees, and feels in her own words. By talking directly to the reader, the protagonist establishes an intimate personal bond with the reader and simultaneously pulls him into the midst of the piece, perhaps making the story and all the characters seem more immediate and real. Note with this option, the protagonist cannot die.

Few writers elect the final POV alternative, second person, e.g., *You always knew this day would come*. This choice is a powerful one that creates an effect even more intimate than first person, yet without melodrama. The reader feels personally involved in the protagonist's struggle, for the narrator addresses the reader with the familiar "you," as if she (the reader) were the protagonist. This technique fosters empathy and the reader actually becomes the protagonist, increasing the potential for absorption into the story. Thus writers can achieve a dimension of immediacy and reader identification with the main character via second person that makes their prose stand apart. An excellent example is "A Yuletide Tale" in the December 2003 issue of *ByLine*; we are inseparably involved in the young boy's labor to please his father when he selects and cuts the family Christmas tree.

However, one limitation of both first- and second-person POV is that it's difficult for the central character to physically describe herself. Fortunately, the skillful writer can employ effective techniques to overcome this problem.

A more serious limitation, for novels, is this: with strict first- or second-person POV, how does the reader gain knowledge about other characters' actions and dialogue when those persons are not in the protagonist's presence? It's impossible for the reader to know these details unless the protagonist later finds them out. To cure this problem, the writer could adopt a hybrid POV, using first or second person in the

scenes where the protagonist is present and third person for the other POV characters in their scenes. Of course, writing solely in third person precludes this obstacle from arising.

Note generally neither first- nor second-person POV may be suitable for genres like thriller, mystery, and true crime, if the aim is detachment.

Here's an excerpt from a short story where I used second-person POV, coupled with present tense.

**You fixed Dirk a tray of crackers and cheese to munch on while he watches "Deal Or No Deal" and he comes storming up to the loft, your sanctuary. He bangs open the door and shouts, "Damn it, Ellen, there you are. You're not writing another song, are you?"**

**You straighten up and put your hands in your lap; he's caught you again. "I'm sorry, I thought you wanted your own company - most of the time you don't seem to want me around."**

**He towers over you. "A wife is supposed to keep her husband company and do things for him, don't you know that? Instead of sneaking off by yourself, wasting time writing junk. Hell, that's all you ever do."**

**Tears start to come. "When we're together, it seems like you've got nothing to say to me. You criticize what I have to talk about, so I thought I'd leave you alone while you watch your program, that's all."**

**"I've got good reason to criticize. All you ever think about is music and religion and I'm sick of it."**

**You narrow your eyes and say, "You know, sometimes I just feel like leaving." This is the first time you've said that out loud.**

**He grunts, then turns around and slams the door behind him.**

You be the judge; could I have created the same effect using first or third person?

In your next fiction piece, experiment writing a few paragraphs using each of the three POV alternatives and see which is the best choice.

## SHIN LING, GARY AND TOBY

Jennifer Rova

**R**eading has always been a part of my life.

Growing up in the sheltered existence of a small town in North Dakota, one of the biggest surprises of my life was finding out not all people could read!

Several years ago, I became involved with a program to teach adults to read. After 12 hours of training, I was assigned my first student, Shin Ling, a young Korean, high school graduate who recently moved to the United States. She could read, but not English. Her ability to speak English was poor but she could make herself understood.

When queried about her most pressing reading needs, Shin said she shopped for food items by looking at the pictures on the packages. If it looked like something with which she was familiar, she bought the box and experimented. Most dishes were disasters. She soon learned to read “cup”, “boil”, “minutes,” and “bake”.

Her interest in American holidays was ignited when I gave her a Halloween card. This began a side exploration of why and when Americans sent greeting cards. She was delighted to learn about Valentine’s Day, and the Christian concept of Easter with the confusing chickens and pastel colored eggs. She learned to read many words via the Hallmark tutorial method.

Our lesson the beginning of Thanksgiving week was the most touching. Shin appeared with a small bag and a shy smile. We finished our activities and she handed me the bag. Inside was a beautiful hand painted silk scarf from Korea and a lovely greeting card wishing me and my family a happy Thanksgiving. She said I had explained that the meaning of the American holiday was a day people gave thanks for what they have and she was thankful to have me as her tutor. We worked together for almost a year.

Another student was an angry, highly successful, college graduate and business man. He had bluffed his way through high school and college, getting others to take his tests for him or through extensive participation in class. He was livid because a business partner had swindled him out of millions of dollars when he realized Gary could not read. He vowed that would not happen again. To my knowledge Gary, who learned to read at age 41, never told his children he could not read.

Not all students were successes. Toby, a truck driver, said he didn’t need to read and was there only

## POET’S CORNER

### White Mirage

Liz Mastin

The Mohave canyon  
With a wayward whimsey,  
Whipped the night air  
Into surf-sounding frenzy.  
I heard breezes lashing  
And wild currents, dashing  
Invisible combers,  
To imaginary shores.  
The incessent commotion  
Of mighty lions roaring  
Finally awakened me  
From storm-tossed sleep  
And with casual entreaty  
Beckoned me over  
To my large picture windows  
And low window-seat.  
Like a boat come dislodged  
Finds itself on the ocean,  
Arrived without warning  
In some brand-new dimension,  
I gazed at the desert  
Alive with moon-glow,  
And all the sere land  
Was enshrouded with snow.  
What a beautiful sight  
On this warm desert night;  
And despite the winds whipping,  
Despite the loud roaring,  
Despite such strong currents,  
Could loosen boat moorings,  
Despite these loosed convicts  
Striking hard at each hill,  
The white mirage snow  
Lay peaceful and still.

because his wife forced him. She left a message saying he refused to continue after our first lesson.

My students astounded me with their dedication to learn a difficult skill and their pride when they received a certificate of completion. Shin Ling remains my favorite student. I still get teary eyed when I wear the beautiful scarf she gave me for Thanksgiving. Reward is a two way street.



**I** sat at a small card table about twenty feet from the front door with a Cheshire cat grin glued on my face. I was at my first book signing.

My stack of books was sitting on a green tablecloth with ballpoint pen close by. The young people coming in the door of Hastings would not make eye contact with me. The little senior ladies with white hair all gave me a smile and said hello as they passed. One little boy about seven came by with his father. The boy stopped and watched my portable DVD player for about twenty seconds. He looked at me and said, “that’s an old movie, man!” This is part of paying your dues for writing a book. Did I sell any books? Yes, I did.

**Now it’s on to the Pleasant Land Book Store in Rathdrum on December 5th from 1 to 4 P.M. Larry Telles**



## Toot Your Own Horn

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 others be inspired by *your* success!

Send your **SUCCESS STORIES** to [jimturner1@juno.com](mailto:jimturner1@juno.com)

## 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](mailto:jimturner1@juno.com).

**Notes, News,  
Announcements  
and other unpaid  
political incursions**

**Spokane Authors &  
Self-Publishers**

Nancy Owens Barnes

In an interest to share information with other writing groups, the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of IWL and Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP) have agreed to share program information. In this regard, following are upcoming programs for SASP.

**December 4, 2008**

Anne Mini, Ph.D. returns with detailed information on "Writing a successful query letter and constructing a winning synopsis"

**January 8, 2009**

Sarah Conover will speak on the importance of "Preparing a book proposal and developing a Marketing Plan."

**February 5, 2009**

Poets Day

"Open Mike" for all SASP Poets  
Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers (SASP) meets on the FIRST THURSDAY of each month at the OLD COUNTRY BUFFET 5504 N. Division, Spokane, WA. The meeting room is open at 11AM for us to eat lunch. Our formal meeting starts at NOON with our featured speaker or other event. SASP encourages guests to attend meetings—*one time only please. To continue, you need to become a member.* (Personal guests of members are welcome at any time.) Membership dues of \$15 are due in January. For additional information visit [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://www.spokaneauthors.org).

**Books For Christmas**

Brandilyn Collins discusses her books with a visitor to the Books for Christmas event at the Coeur d'Alene library.



Richard Wilks pans for the camera while Mary Smith discusses the IWL with a guest at the authors table.

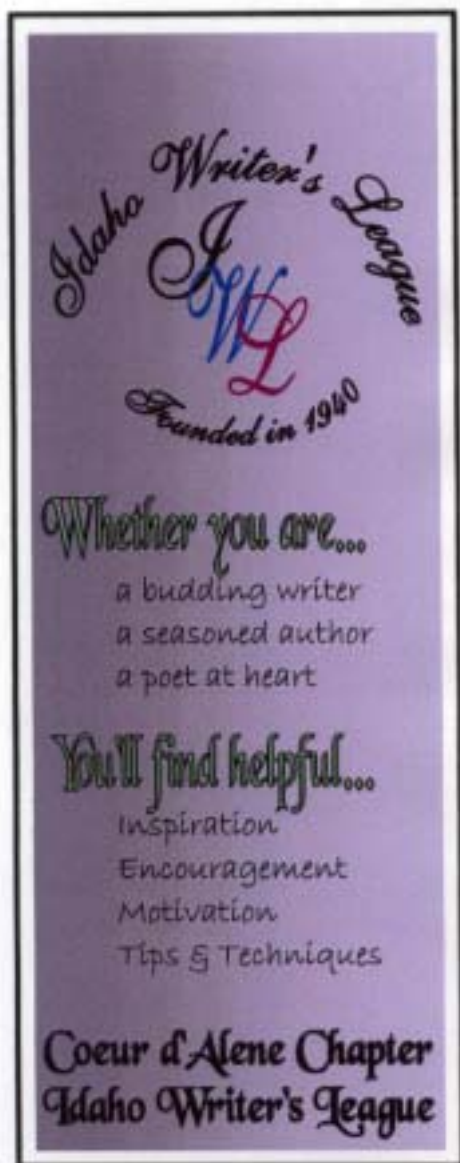
Nikki Arana autographs a copy of one of her books while Michael Marsden reviews his notes.



# Vo kab u lere

By Norm de Ploom

**Does your character in your book like to work crossword puzzles or do you? Here are some often used but slightly obscure words for your files. You will notice that many of the words contain a lot of vowels which is why crossword authors use them.**



**nene** (nay-nay)—rare, wild form of a goose found in Hawaii; state bird of Hawaii; “Hawaiian goose”

**rani**—princess or queen in the Indies or East Indies; plural ranee

**opine**—hold and state as one’s opinion

**étagère**—piece of furniture with open shelves and often with doors on the bottom

**URL**—an internet address; Uniform Resource Locator

**Ennui** (on-nwee)—feeling of being bored by something; dissatisfaction; “the blahs”

**lido**—a public outdoor swimming pool; pool deck of a cruise ship, a part of the beach where people can swim; **Lido**, an 11 mile long sandbar near Venice, Italy.

**riata**—lariat, lasso

**een**—poet’s word for “dusk”

**odea**—plural of “odium”; covered building in Greece or Rome for musical performances; a modern concert hall

**manx**—tailless cat; a name for the ethnic people of the island of Man

**iter**—a passage, especially between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sections of the brain;

**oater**—cowboy movie

**faery**—land of the faeries (tiny, mischievous, imaginary being); alternate spelling of “fairy”

**ete**—most often French for summer; estimated time enroute (left in journey); end-to-end

**erne**—a fish-eating sea eagle

**roué**—(rû-â’) a lecherous, dissolute man in fashionable society

**alee**—sailing in opposite direction of the wind

**etape**—(ye-tap) a place where troops camp after a day’s march

**eidolon**—phantom, apparition, an image of an ideal

**agora**—a marketplace especially in ancient Greece; currency unit in Israel

**rime**—a coating of ice on grass or trees

**emend**—to improve by critical editing usually by text book alterations

**otology**—study of medicine that deals with the ear

**redolent**—having or emitting a fragrance; suggestive, reminiscent

Here are some free, online crossword puzzle sites.

<http://www.quizland.com/cotd.htm> (easy)

<http://www.crosswordsite.com/> (easy, medium, hard)

[http://thinks.com/daily\\_crossword.htm](http://thinks.com/daily_crossword.htm) (good challenge)

## Suggestions for Posting Book Ads on Craig's List

(You may post the same ad on only one geographic area at one time from the same email address). Get around this limitation by using multiple addresses. You can get free addresses from Hot Mail, Yahoo, etc.

### Ad title:

Form: (Book/Genre: followed by your hook (70 characters, maximum/total))

Sample: **Book/Romance: Rachael needs a good husband—in the worst possible way.**

Copy/Paste this into the 'Ad Title' blank on the Craig's List form

Leave location blank or possibly put in your publisher's order URL

### Description:

Copy/Paste this into the 'Description' blank on the Craig's List form.

Sample follows:

**'Shanghaied Heart' by author Chuck Lyons... Novel, Romance, 292 pages, eBook or paperback...**

**Rachael needs a good husband—in the worst possible way...**

**How can this lone, 1960s Black teenager protect her father, her unborn child, and herself from the rapist's retaliatory death threats? She camouflages the source of her pregnancy by concocting a shotgun marriage to the best candidate within reach, an innocent White boy. But he's having none of it, convinced marriage and family so young will imprison him in a lifetime of hand-to-mouth farm drudgery...**

**To see more, search by title @: FictionWise.com (eBook) or Amazon.com (Print)**

Can't use hyperlinks, hence the 'To see more' line above.

Use three periods to give more separation. No special formatting or characters allowed.

So far I haven't run into a character limit for the **Description**, but keep it tight and focused.

Repeat your hook in the description.

Expiration time for a posting varies by region (as short as 7 days, as long as 45 days). Keep a log and re-post them into other areas as they expire.

Make up all your text ahead of time and then copy/paste it into the Craigs List form's blanks.

**Picture:** Insert a small-size cover image file (Copy/Paste doesn't work)



## Opportunity

### Message from Kitty Fleishman of Idaho Magazine

Idaho Magazine is looking for queries on some longer stories for the magazine (2,500 to 3,000 words) on non-fiction topics. We receive a deluge of shorter pieces, but it's nice to have some longer stories to include in each issue, as well, and using a chapter of a forthcoming book is a good way to get some pre-publicity and feedback before you go to press.

If you have chapters of books you'd like to submit on Idaho topics, we're most interested in looking at them.

Our writers' guidelines can be found at

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

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Interesting Article from Jerry Simmons Newsletter -

## Turn a new leaf in life and write a book.

By BARB STEGEMANN

**WHENEVER I give a talk**, I make a point of asking how many people in the audience wish they could write a book. Nearly every hand goes up. It puzzles me that more people don't put their thoughts on paper. I believe if you have knowledge on some topic, it is your responsibility to get over any fears you might have and write.

You can empower others with your specialized knowledge, story or wisdom. That's crucial because knowledge is the only thing that can win out over opinion, which can take organizations and communities astray.

I will never forget when broadcaster and author Michael Harris gave me a copy of his book, *The Judas Kiss*. Inscribed inside were the words "Write the book!" Harris told me that everyone has a book inside them. He was indeed correct.

Over a decade later, I finally wrote the book, *The 7 Virtues of a Philosopher Queen*. Now I tour our province giving talks empowering people to connect with their buying power. I get email from people who want to write their own book, and like Harris, I say go for it! Here's my advice on how to get started:

**First step - Visualize.** Peter Legge, Toastmasters' top motivational speaker in North America and CEO of Canada Wide publishing, has written eight books. When I told him I wanted to write a book on empowerment through philosophy, he said, "Barb, print off a copy of the cover of your book and wrap it around an empty journal and place it on your desk and visualize."

**Second step - Commit to what I call the "Mordecai."** Mordecai Richler used to write each morning from six to 10 o'clock and it did not matter whether he got a word, a page or a chapter. That daily commitment at the same time each day will guarantee your book will emerge.

**Third Step - Consider your target market, genre and the purpose of your book.** For Steve Murphy, broadcaster and author, his first book, *Live at 5: the Story Behind Its Success* (2002), sold thousands of copies. Murphy donated all proceeds, \$35,000, to Christmas Daddies and the IWK. His second book,

*Before the Camera* (2006), a personal story, sold about 12,000 copies. Both were Canadian bestsellers!

**Fourth Step - Decide if you are going to shop your book around** to the various publishers or if you are going to self-publish. I self-published because my mentor told me he did not want to see my book in a "bargain bin." So I control my distribution and the price. And when I speak at a fundraiser for a non-profit I am able to donate 40 per cent of the revenue to the cause because I am in control of my book and the price.

You may prefer the security and direction of a recognized publisher. Murphy went through Nimbus Publishing. And local author Lesley Choyce, who has written 40 books, built his own publishing company, Pottersfield Press.

With something like one out of every several thousand manuscripts actually finding its way into print, he warns that storytellers need to be prepared to work exceedingly hard. He adds, however, a truly great idea or story will find its way to its audience.

**Fifth Step - Be prepared to market.** No matter whether you choose a publisher or go the self-publishing market, you must be prepared to market. TV advertising worked very well for Murphy and his books. Social media such as Facebook are becoming very popular as well as online sales and local bookstores that will take local authors.

In life, there is no gain if there is no risk taken. Marcus Aurelius, one of the world's greatest leaders, would remind us that we're all dead in 100 years and no one is going to remember us. But if you write your book, perhaps your wisdom and legacy will live on and delight and empower others. Write the book.

*Barb Stegemann is an author and her company empowers non-profit, business and government to build stronger communities.*



## REFRESHMENT BRIGADE: HOW IT WORKS

Barbara Rostad, Hospitality Chair

You've all nibbled assorted goodies at both day and night meetings....and you've all seen that sheet of dates that gets passed around most every meeting. What's the connection?

It's a simple equation: sign-ups on the sheet equal snacks on the table.

It's also simple to please our palates. Put some food in front of us and we eat it.

We've never had an empty table yet and we thank those who have participated, especially those who have brought us treats more than once in a year.

Though the snacks are appreciated, their greater significance lies in the sharing among members as they chat over a cup of coffee and cookies...or cheese and crackers...or apples and grapes.

The aim is to give everyone a chance to offer their choice of treats and to reciprocate for those they have consumed. On numerous previous occasions. Homemade or purchased, we'll eat it with gusto.

Here's a quick rundown of expectations when you sign up for a date to serve.

- ◆ 1. Provide your name and your phone number.
- ◆ 2. Write down the date on your calendar. I try to remind people but it's not failsafe. Ask Sherry Ramsey about getting a reminder when she was already enroute from Priest River to the meeting!
- ◆ 3. Copy the name and number of other servers on your date or call me to ask (777-1030).
- ◆ 4. Contact your helper(s) to discuss what you'd like to bring. Typically a couple types of cookies or crackers and cheese or some fruit plus something to drink will suffice. It's not a smorgasbord.
- ◆ 5. Come a few minutes early and arrange your food.
- ◆ 6. Plan to spend a little time greeting members as they arrive. This aspect of serving is new. Since servers come early, we are asking them to double as greeters in the coming year.

IWL has a basket of paper goods and tableware at each meeting location for servers to use. Buying these is NOT your responsibility. At Jewett House the coffee is made by the caretaker; at the church we do it ourselves.

Not all of us want to be an officer. Not all of us are willing to present a program at a meeting or to share at an open mike. But each one of us has a favorite snack we like to make or buy and we can take our turn at providing this to our members.

Writers need nourishment from many sources. A coffee break together meets physical, social, intellectual, even spiritual needs. Please take your turn in our 2009 Refreshment Brigade.

## TWO-MINUTE READS

As many of you have noticed, we have begun holding two-minute readings at our regular meetings. These readings are important to the group in a number of ways. First, it allows members of the group to hear the writing style of other members. Second, it provides a friendly forum for authors to practice reading their work aloud and to receive positive feedback from members. Third, it helps us get to know each other a little better. And fourth, it's fun!

Due to time restrictions, however, it is best to ensure that the readings are done in an efficient, consistent manner.

Therefore, we ask that you please follow these simple guidelines for your two-minute read.

1. Be prepared. Practice your reading ahead of time to make sure it fits within two minutes.
2. If you feel a need to explain your material before you read it, your explanation must fit within your two-minute time frame. If you can, either read something that stands alone or something that does not require more than a few words of simple explanation.
3. Readers should stand and face the group when reading. This gives the author practice at reading in front of a group (which all authors should learn to do) and allows everyone to hear them better.

We began the Two-Minute Read program with the board members reading their work. Now it is time to begin hearing from the general membership. To sign up for a Two-Minute Read, please email me at [nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com). The next Two-Minute Read opening for a day meeting is January 15 and the next opening for an evening meeting is February 19. So send me a note and I'll get you on the schedule.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR WORK!**



## BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS & OPEN MIC NIGHT BIG HITS

Barbara Rostad

Seatbelt suspense. Silent films. Sand play. Southern routes to Alaska. Each of these was highlighted by an author from our own chapter at Books for Christmas in the Coeur d' Alene Public Library November 13, an event so successful many are suggesting it become an annual affair.

More than 10% of our membership talked about their books and offered them for sale, ringing up about a thousand dollars and bringing around one hundred dollars to the library coffers.

Though the books and the stories behind their publication have been described by most of these authors at our chapter programs, hearing all 11 promote their material in rapid-fire succession created an electric atmosphere that was jaw-dropping.

Both breadth and depth were apparent in the parade of books that included romance, mystery, spiritual journeys, history, adventure, academia and more.

Masterminded by Nancy Barnes with the help of Jennifer Rova, Books for Christmas was attended by nearly 50 members and guests.

Authors included Nikki Arana, Nancy Barnes, Elizabeth Brinton, Brandilyn Collins, Gary Edwards and Anna Goodwin. Also showing their books were Michael Kincaid, Michael Marsden, Mary Langer Smith, Larry Telles and Richard Wilks.



## Open Mic

A similar feeling was evoked at a second November event, an open mic program at the night meeting where over a dozen members read from their works for five minutes each.

Again, the intensity, quality and variety of material presented was impressive.

Not only were there excerpts from poetry, novels, history and assorted articles, but we also heard musical selections played by Jim Turner and one of our newest members, Debra Ann Bishop, who wrote both tune and lyrics of her number.

Most of those at open mike night were in addition to the 11 authors at the book sale.

We have an abundance of talent in our chapter and a group of members launching a publishing company.

Which leads to an obvious conclusion: a new anthology from the Coeur d' Alene IWL should soon be in the works.

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

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## 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.