

Coeur d'Alene Chapter Idaho Writers League

Lakegazette



Celebrating our 65th Anniversary 1943-2008

February 2008

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

COEUR d'ALENE IWL MEETINGS:

February 13

Jewett House

9:00 A.M. to Noon

Program: **Michael Marsden**

Editing: The Good, the Bad,
and the Ugly.

February 21

Lutheran Church

Kathleen & Ramsey Road

6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

Program: **Larry Telles**

Writing for Children

March 12

Jewett House

9:00 AM to Noon

Program: **Nikki Arana**

The Inciting Incident

March 20

Lutheran Church

Kathleen & Ramsey Road

6:30 to 9:30 PM

Program: **Kitty Fleischman**

Editor, *Idaho Magazine*

Pitching Freelance Articles

**No known
February Birthdays**

IWL Chases Away the Winter Blues

President – Mary Jane Honegger

If there were “dog days of winter,” we would be in them. We would be in those cold, goose-bumpy days, when we watch the thermometer plummet and our heat bills soar. Those days when some of us start thinking about purchasing a Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.) lamp, hoping the bright light therapy will dispel the cloud of depression caused by the shorter, colder, darker days of winter.



But, there is no need to turn to artificial light for members of IWL. We have a little bright light therapy of our own with great speakers, lots of writing ideas and opportunities and even a challenge to keep you from suffering from the winter blues whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow on February 2 or not.

It was exciting to see so many members, including some we haven't seen in awhile, at our January meetings. It was especially exciting to watch Susan Garver arrive as she slid (literally) into a parking spot at the Jewett House. It made me glad she had arrived early – so there was no one else near the place her car decided it wanted to park.

During the first meetings of the year, we enjoyed listening to and learning from two interesting speakers, and felt a contagious spirit of fellowship during our social time. Many made an effort to welcome our new guests and members seemed to enjoy productive critique sessions using facilitators for the first time. Some enjoyed it so much (Ann's evening group) that we had to close the doors so the rest of us could hear ourselves think.

The board has held two planning meetings, spending many hours renewing our commitment to IWL and brainstorming new ideas and activities. With a special focus on the needs of our members in 2008, we are hoping to add some helpful and fun additions to the already great meeting and speaker format of our chapter. We plan to:

- ◆ Welcome members and guests with a greeter at every meeting
- ◆ Provide name tags at each meeting
- ◆ Facilitate critique sessions
- ◆ Complete an updated IWL pamphlet

(continued on page 2)

(Blues from page 1)

- ◆ Create new member packets
- ◆ Form an IWL borrowing library
- ◆ Network and coordinate projects with other entities like local libraries
- ◆ Host a tea, reception or book signing event for IWL authors or writers

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership now stands at 53. Although it continues to grow, we are still down about 20 members from last year. If you are one of those members, we hope you will think again about renewing your membership, and we look forward to seeing you again!

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE

I believe there is a little poet in each of us. One Easter I asked each of those gathered at my house, (who only came to share a great ham dinner and an enjoyable time watching the little ones hunt Easter eggs), to write a 6 to 8 line poem about Easter. We read them and made the others guess who wrote which one. There were grandparents, young adults and teenagers. The results were incredibly funny, touching and memorable. Even those who groaned the loudest (the men) seemed proud of their accomplishments.

Your challenge is to write a 6 to 8 line poem about Valentine's Day. Please send your poems to the newsletter for inclusion in our March issue. There will be an opportunity to share them at our February meetings as well.

I hope each of you will take the time to think about IWL and let us know what we can do to make it better for you. Contact any of your officers with your ideas and suggestions.

*If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.
~Author Unknown*

Contributors

Liz Mastin	Sherry Ramsey
Joan Hust	Larry Telles
Susan Garver	Chuck Lyons
Nancy Owens Barnes	Mary Jane Honegger
Ann Washington	

ATTENTION IWL MEMBER AUTHORS & WRITERS

IWL needs to update our list of published authors for our website and other publicity. If you are a member and have published a book, self published included, please let us know. Send your book title(s), brief synopsis, and website or e-mail information. We will set up links to your websites from the IWL website.

If you have freelance articles, poetry, short stories, or other types of writing that have been published, we would also like to begin listing these accomplishments as well. Please send us information on your work. If you have online content or a website, we will be happy to link to your information.

Mary Jane Honegger - 687-2900
honegger2@verizon.net

Suggested Speaker Topics

Nancy Owens Barnes

Hi All...

We have had a great response to our requests for suggested speaker topics collected during the January day and evening meetings, as well as through email. I received suggestions from nearly half of our members, who noted a broad range of topics across several genres. When combined and categorized, some of the areas that received the most requests include specific writing techniques (dialogue, point of view, show don't tell, story organization & structure) and marketing, including internet marketing. There is also a good deal of interest in self-publishing, editing topics, queries, and time organization. All of these, as well as others I have not listed here, serve as a guide for our 2008 programs.

So...feel free to keep 'em coming! If you think of others to add, or if you haven't had a chance to comment thus far, your ideas are welcome and will be added to the list.

Thanks for your input!



Millennia ago, cats were worshipped as Gods. They (the cats) have never forgotten this.

SAVE THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 25 & 26 IWL WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Our February Writer's Workshop with award winning author Randy Ingermanson has been rescheduled. It is now our April Workshop with award winning author Randy Ingermanson. It will be held at the Ameritel Inn in Coeur d'Alene on April 25 & 26. Cost will be \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members. Ingermanson is also offering private consultations on Sunday, April 27.

Ingermanson is the author of six novels and is publisher of the largest electronic magazine on the craft of writing fiction in the world – the Advanced Fiction Writing E-zine. The goal of this self-described class clown and class nerd rolled into one, is to turn “wanna be” writers into “gonna be” writers through his down to earth style and humorous approach to the often intimidating world of writing and publication.

A physicist with a PhD, Ingermanson has applied his knowledge as a scientist to the craft of writing and come up with formulas for organizing your writing, creating your story and marketing your work. His Fiction 101 and Fiction 201 classes are geared to provide clear and concise advice on writing fiction to both the novice and more experienced writer. He will also share his tips on internet marketing, something he says every writer should consider *before* they begin writing a book.



To get to know a little more about Ingermanson, check out his website at www.ingermanson.com, and make plans now to attend the Randy Ingermanson Writer's Workshop in April. Watch for complete registration information in the March issue of our newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Mary Jane at 687-2900.

POET'S CORNER

Bus

Liz Mastin

Crazy drivers,
Macho drivers,
Wild trip in
The twilight zone.
Life and death,
A celebration,
Just to make it
Alive home.

Psycho drivers,
Underworldly,
Offer you
Uncertain change,
Start out slowly,
All seems well,
Transmutes soon to
Something strange.

Leave the ground,
At speed of lightening,
Bump and lurch,
This tail gate ride,
They often leave
The doors wide open,
Victims race to
Leap inside.

In heat of day,
Or rains of nighttime,
Seems there are no traffic
cops,
Going seventy
Miles an hour,
Lock the brakes
To skid to stops.

Crazy drivers,
Macho drivers,
Wild trip in
The twilight zone,
Life and death,
A celebration,
Just to make it,
Alive home.

Chapter Highlights

January 9 & 17

Secretary - Ann Washington

Once-in-a-while members have to miss a chapter meeting.

2008 marks the beginning of a new idea; "chapter highlights" via our newsletter to help everyone stay in the loop.

Nancy Owens Barnes, author of *South to Alaska*, was our presenter Wednesday morning the 9th. Michael Kincaid, author of *Alaska Justice* was the presenter Thursday evening the 17th. Both are newly published members of our chapter and each presented informative helpful insights about the writing and publishing of creative non-fiction and fiction.

Michael Marsden will be speaking about his experience with editors at the upcoming, February 13th day meeting

New guests were introduced at each meeting. Larry and Sherry were again recognized for all their hard work on the board this past year.

New officers were re-introduced; Nancy Owens Barnes, 1st VP; Jim Turner, 2nd VP (also in charge of our newsletter); and Ann Washington, secretary; Anna Goodwin, our treasurer was unable to attend this month, but will return mid-February. She is sunning in Mexico, but using her own funds, not IWL chapter funds as several teased she might.

Mary Jane promised to open each meeting with a joke. If you missed this months joke, ask to hear it the next time you see her.

Nancy Barnes requested input from members for future speaker topics.

The February Randy Ingermanson Workshop is rescheduled for the week end of April 25th.

A show of hands indicated more members would attend at that time. Dates are confirmed at the Ameritel Inn and with speaker, Randy Ingermanson.

Larry Telles and Ann Washington have agreed to be CdA chapter delegate representatives as needed for IWL state issues.

The board will call people who've not yet renewed membership to see if they have special concerns to share. You don't need to wait for a call. All members are encouraged to share concerns or ideas to benefit the chapter.

See you at the next meeting?

NOTE:

We would like supportive friends and sponsors for our workshop. Do you know a possible sponsor, i.e. owners of book stores, computer centers, printing companies, or other such suppliers who would benefit from writers being in town? Names of supportive friends and sponsors donating \$20 or more will be acknowledged in workshop materials.

Remember, we are a non-profit organization. Sponsor support is tax deductible and our gratitude long lasting.

The Poets and Their Poems

Liz Mastin

Dylan Thomas

One of the most influential lyrical poets of the twentieth century according to wikipedia.



When you first read Dylan Thomas's poems (if you are like me) you may find them perplexing, but if you listen to him; his eloquent reading of his poems on CD, the light breaks through and he is most enjoyable. That's

the way it worked for me.

According to Julian Tabor, poet and leader of the Whidbey Island Poets critiquing group, Dylan Thomas is to be understood *“as a language poet. Much of his work is dedicated just to the sound and impact of words, all of which carry strong if subliminal emotional messages. Thomas is a master of the English language and a powerful reader of his own works.”* Taber continues: *“His play ‘for voices :Under Milkwood’ is often performed in the United States.”*

In order to write this column, and to find out more about Dylan Thomas, I purchased the complete collection of his poems entitled *“The Poems of DYLAN THOMAS,”* edited by his close friend Daniel Jones. I do not regret the purchase and it includes a CD with him reading eight of his best-known poems. Now that I've listened to the recordings several times, I understand much better what to look for in his intricate poetry. He is quickly becoming one of my favorite poets: interesting thing is - he wrote two thirds of his poetry when he was in his late teens.

According to Thomas in his *“Notes on the Art of Poetry,”* he was always a voracious reader and he was completely enamored with words. He studied many great poets, including James Joyce, William Blake, Marlowe, Poe, Keats, Shakespeare and the imagists and more. He also enjoyed the rhythms and words of the bible. He would draw from all these

influences in his poetry. Even as a young child, Thomas says in his notes: *“Words would burst upon me, unencumbered by trivial or portentous association. The non-sense of children's nursery rhymes was another influence in his writing. It mattered not, what the words meant. The sounds of the words or word combinations were what mattered. He was influenced as well by the Scottish ballads. Of his images and ideas, which some people compare to the surrealists, Thomas says: “One of the great main uses of the intellect is to select, from the amorphous mass of subconscious images, those which best further the imaginative purpose, which is to write the best poem I can.”* Thus, he strongly denied that he was a surrealist.

Dylan Marlais Thomas was born in 1914 in Swansea, Wales. His father was an English professor who (though he and his wife, a seamstress, spoke Welsh) insisted Thomas speak only English at home. Thomas was a sickly child suffering from bronchitis and asthma. He lived in an affluent neighborhood and attended Mrs. Hole's Dame School, a private school. In the summers, Thomas would visit his Aunt's dairy farm in Carmarthenshire. It was there that he found inspiration for much of his work including his poem "Fern Hill."



In 1931, at the age of sixteen, he left school to become a junior reporter for the South Wales daily Post. In 1932 he joined Swansea's Little Theater Company. As a young man he loved to visit with other literary people in the many pubs in his town. He joined a group of literary contemporaries that called themselves "The Kardomah gang" after a favorite pub where they would gather to discuss their poetry and literary matters and drink beer. Another of his favorite pubs was "The White Horse Tavern": now a Dylan Thomas landmark.

In 1934 Thomas put his first eighteen poems into a *notebook* publication.

In 1935, Dylan performed his work in the first of many radio broadcasts. He later became well known for his remarkable reading and eloquent voice. In 1936, Dylan moved to London and married dancer,

(continued on page 6)

(Thomas - from page 5)

Caitlin McNamara. They lived with other writer friends and at times with her family and later moved back to Wales to live in a cottage, provided by a lady patron, in Carmarthenshire in southwest Wales. They had three children, Llewely Edward, daughter Aeronwy and Colm Gara hart.

Dylan continued writing, and after publishing "*Twenty Five Poems*," in 1946 he published "*Deaths and Entrances*." In 1952, he published "*Collected Poems*" and he also wrote some short stories, film scripts, broadcast stories and he gave a series of lectures and talks, touring the United States.

He had several love affairs (some serious) but stayed married to Caitlin. In 1953, at the young age of thirty-nine, he collapsed and died in a New York Apt., the heavy drinking contributing to his early death. His body was brought back to Wales and is marked by a simple wooden cross. Caitlin, who died some years later, was buried beside him.

Dylan Thomas is an interesting read.

I suggest reading his poetry aloud, kind of like a whimsical song!

Liz

AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION

(One of Dylan Thomas's famous poems)

And death shall have no dominion.
Dead men naked they shall be one
With the man in the wind and the west moon;
When their bones are picked clean and the clean bones gone,
They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
Under the windings of the sea
They lying long shall not die windily;
Twisting on racks when the sinews give way,
Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break;
Faith in their hands shall snap in two,
And the unicorn evils run them through;
Split ends up they shan't crack;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
No more may gulls cry at their ears
Or waves break loud on the seashores;
Where blew a flower may a flower no more
Lift its head to the blows of the rain;
Though they be mad and dead as nails,
Hammers of the characters hammer through daisies;
break in the sun till the sun breaks down,
And death shall have no dominion.



Book Review

The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide to Staying Out of the Rejection Pile.

Noah Lukeman. New York: Fireside, ©2000. 208pp. ISBN 0-684-85743-X, Trade paperback, \$13.00

Reviewed by Susan Garver

I judge a book's success by whether or not I view the world in a different light after reading it.

The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide to Staying Out of the Rejection Pile by Noah Lukeman, a New York City-based literary agent, passed my test. While most advice was familiar to me, the exercises at the end of each chapter prompted me to view my writing through altered eyes.

Each chapter is composed of four sections: an explanation of the issue; possible solutions; before and after examples; and exercises. While the examples blared obvious errors, the exercises guided me to uncover issues in my writing to which I could apply key concepts from the solutions.

The chapters are grouped into three parts. Lukeman describes each part as the subsequent filter layer an editor or agent uses in evaluating a manuscript. He believes while the art of writing can not be taught, the craft of writing, which also includes rewriting, can be taught. This massaging, refining, and placement of the written word, regardless of genre, is the focus of the book.

Part I, Preliminary Problems, consists of five chapters describing the primary reasons manuscripts are rejected. They include physical presentation, adjectives and adverbs, style, sound, and comparison. If one does not meet these guidelines, page six may never be read by an agent.

I purchased the book last June after writing the initial draft of my first-ever short story. I quickly realized the value of my purchase as I gazed at the sea of blue and orange highlights on my paper. The book does not advocate defacing one's writing in this manner. The author recommends removing words rather than highlighting them, but I was not brave enough to do that.

The removal advice is part of the second chapter,



I highlighted my entire document. Adjectives glowed orange while adverbs glistened blue.

“Adjectives and Adverbs.” Lukeman, advises removing every adjective and adverb from the first page of the manuscript and then reading the revised document. How strong are the remaining nouns and verbs? Can they be changed so adjectives and or adverbs can be removed? How many are clichés or overused words?

I didn't stop at the first page; I highlighted my entire document. Adjectives glowed orange while adverbs glistened blue. The sparkling light blinded me, so I removed words, I used more descriptive nouns and verbs, and I pondered what I really wanted to convey to my reader. I printed a new sheet with my revisions and again wielded my orange and blue highlighters. Less color this time. And even less on the third attempt. After cutting 500 of my original 3000 words, I stopped editing and began reading chapter three in the book.

The next set of reasons for rejection, Part II, are five chapters of dialogue related concepts, such as being commonplace, not informative, too melodramatic, too obtuse, and hard to follow.

My next big ah-hah moment came in chapter six of the book, where dialogue identifiers are discussed. I included some in my text, but after reading this chapter, I realized I needed more. I knew when Anne was speaking and when someone else was speaking, because I heard their voices change in my head. Others reading my story wouldn't have the benefit of my head, so I needed to put a bit more of what was in my head on the paper.

Last in the rejection hierarchy are nine chapters of bigger picture items such as tone, focus, hooks, subtlety, setting, pacing, viewpoint, characterization, and the ever-popular telling instead of showing. According to Lukeman, these are the items evaluated after the first five pages are read.

Heeding the advice in chapter 11, “Showing versus Telling,” I tweaked my description of the living room where a key scene occurs in my story. I also gave myself a pat on the back as most my descriptions did avoid telling my reader what I wanted to convey. I believe my orange and blue highlighters helped guide my efforts in that direction.

An introduction and 19 chapters spread across 208 pages means this book can be read in short easy bites. At \$13.00, it's also not a big bite to your pocketbook.

Don't Give Up!!!

By Larry Telles

While archiving some material on my hard disk, I ran across some old memories. It was my original email query to Kitty Fleischman of Idaho Magazine on 10-23-03 when I asked if she would like to see my story about “*The Hoxie Brothers: From Idaho to the Silver Screen?*” At the time I told her that I could have it completed in a couple of months.

She returned with, yes I would like to see it, send it to Adam Park. I sent it on 12-16-03 attached to an email. A few days before the end of the year I got an email from Adam saying that Kitty liked it, but could I make a few corrections, and listed them. I did make the corrections and sent it back to him on 01-02-04. A couple of days later I sent a hard copy along with a bio and 12 photographs on a disk.

Between that date and our last conference, Kitty has told me that I should contact her managing editor to find out where the story went. Well, six months ago I sent an email to Dene her latest managing editor, and told him the story. Two weeks later his email said that they have no record of my story anywhere. So, last Friday I sent Dene an email saying, would you like to read a story about the Hoxie brothers?

The story of Jack and Al Hoxie were motion picture actors. Their careers were most prominent in the silent film era of the 1910s through the 1930s. Jack was born in Kingfisher Creek in Indian Territory (now the state of Oklahoma). He was the son of a veterinarian who was killed in an accident weeks before Jack's birth. His mother was a half Nez Perce Indian named Matilda. After his father's death, she moved to Northern Idaho, where at an early age, Jack became a working cowboy and ranch hand. Matilda Hoxie married a rancher and horse trader named Scott Stone and the family relocated to the Boise area where Jack worked as a packer for a U.S. Army Fort. He also worked to hone his skills competing in rodeos. Shortly after moving to Idaho, Jack's younger half-brother Al Stone was born. Jack Hoxie began to appear in films and Al followed soon after. Little brother changed his name to Al Hoxie appearing in a series of western films. They both had long careers on and off the silver screen. Jack and Al's lives were intertwined in both the movie and rodeo business.

Within the hour Dene's email said, “Sure. I will take a look at it. Happy to oblige.” So, I sent the old “corrected” copy in Word along with two photographs attached. We shall see!!!

Sherry told me sometime ago that there have been three managing editors at Idaho Magazine since Adam Park left. At this point, I don't care. This all started when I mentioned the story to Kitty in Burley, September 6, 2003 at the Idaho Writer's League Conference and it is now February, 2008. It's been 52 long months since then. During all that time the story was still waiting on my hard drive. I'll let you know what happens.

Mexican Shadowbox From my Balcony

Liz Mastin

Here in my shadowbox
Midst Mexican murals,
Oozing honey and various
Stiff vines and flowers
On red - yellow- gold;
This, my enclosure,
Where brown Mayan faces
Arching just so
With opaque eyes,
Seem to be standing
Or languidly floating
Where cathedrals snow
prayerful white flowers.
They gaze at my movements;
Their eyes follow doggedly.
They go where I go,
As I watch different sea birds
Float over the wild waves:
The flash and the shimmer
Of sardines below.
With arrow precision
Birds torque and touch down,
piercing the surface
With bills aimed sharp.
But pity the flashers:
What had been a fine day,
Now a finned frenzy
Mid currents, spewed eggs:
The sparkle of the sea
And dance of the day:
A change in their plans:
Many eyes — would know.



Celebrations



Toot Toot

Jamie Leigh Hansen signed 71 books at the Borders in Spokane Jan 5th at her book launch party!

Jamie hopes that Idaho members will stop by to meet her and browse through her book at Walden Books at the Spokane Valley mall on Feb. 9 from 1-3.



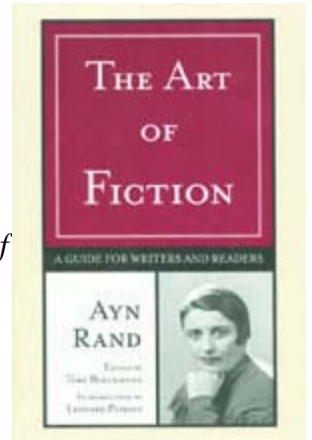
Book Review

The Art of Fiction: A Guide for Writers & Readers

By: Ayn Rand, Edited by Tore Boeckmann
Published by Plume/Penguin Books, 2000
ISBN: 0-452-28154-7

Reviewed by Chuck Lyons

In 1958 Ayn Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead* (#1 and #2 on the *Modern Library's Readers List of 100 Best Books* of all time) presented an informal course titled *The Art of Fiction* to a group of friends and close acquaintances. Her notes for that course, unpublished until recently, are now available, augmented by elaboration and organization by the editor.



Rand's approach in these lectures was to present not only the how-to of writing great fiction, but also to ground that advice with explanations as to why these methods work. Her knowledge of epistemology (the study of knowledge and how we learn) allowed her to present the concepts as well as concretes backing up these 'good fiction methods,' and thereby move them beyond the cookbook 'do this, do that' we see in so many writer's books. For me, understanding the 'why' greatly improved my ability to integrate universally accepted 'how-to' knowledge into my specific writing efforts. This book has done more than any other to help me apply the 'show, don't tell' rule.

Rand used *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead* as well as *We the Living* and *Anthem* (her other long fiction works) as source material for many of her examples, so one must be familiar with these to benefit fully from her advice.

Topic high-points:

Plot structure and the mental requirements to achieve it

Characterization/motives

Style:

Romantic v/s Naturalistic

Depictions of love

Descriptions

Narrative v/s dramatization (Tell v/s Show)

Exposition

Flashbacks

Transitions

Metaphors

Dialogue

Use of obscenities, foreign words, slang

Because Rand's information is based on 1950s reading audiences, a few of her minor details are outdated. However, human nature being mostly constant, the book is by far a winner, and for me \$14 well spent.

*I go every year. It is so inspiring that I easily come home on a high.
I say that everyone that writes a letter can turn their letter writing into a book or article
that will be a blessing to others to know Him better, and make Him known.
I encourage you to attend the 2008 Northwest Christian Writers Renewal.*

Joan Hust

2008 Northwest Christian Writers Renewal

(formerly Seattle Pacific University Writers Renewal)

May 2-3, Northshore Baptist Church, Bothell, Washington

With author and speaker Cec Murphey

Writing is a lonely business. Whether you're just starting out or have been pounding the computer keys for years, you have questions. Are you any good? What does the market want now? Does anyone even care? Is this what God has called you to do or are you just dreaming?

At the Northwest Christian Writers Renewal you can find answers and meet others who not only love the Lord but share the same passions in an environment that is small enough to make you feel at home, yet large enough to bring in editors from major publishing houses. You will even find hugs.

This year's keynote speaker Cec Murphey will inspire you with his charm and wit. He's the author of more than a hundred books that have sold more than 100 millions copies in 20 countries. They include *Touchdown Alexander* with famed NFL running back Sean Alexander of the Seattle Seahawk's, and the bestselling *90 Minutes in Heaven* with Don Piper, now optioned for a feature film.

You will sharpen your craft through classes taught by authors such as Colleen Reece, who has sold more than 5 million copies of her books; Grace Fox, an award-winning freelancer whose articles have appeared in *Focus on the Family* and *Power for Living* and the author of four books; and Kathy Tyers, sci-fi novelist and Christian Writer's Guild Mentor, to name just a few.

Appointments with editors and agent are available on Friday afternoon. Editors include:

- Jesse Florea, author/editor, Clubhouse Magazine, from *Focus on the Family*
- Joyce Hart, agent, Hartline Literary Agency
- Andrea Mullins, publisher, New Hope Publishers
- Don Pape, publisher, David C. Cook Publisher
- Mick Silva, acquisitions editor, WaterBrook Press

This year's conference has moved to Northshore Baptist Church, on the eastside of Seattle in beautiful Bothell, Washington. It's easy to find, right off the I-405 with ample free parking. Other added benefits, we'll be under one roof and all meals on Saturday are included in your registration fee.

Fees: early registration (before March 15) for NCWA members \$129, nonmembers \$139.

After March 15: NCWA members \$139, nonmembers \$149

Scholarships available. For more details go to www.nwchristianwriters.org.

Interested in more information or need a brochure? Go to www.nwchristianwriters.org or call Judy Bodmer at 425-488-2900.

According to Terry Glaspey, director of acquisitions at Harvest House Publishing, the Northwest Writers Renewal is "among the very best I've been involved with."

Notes, News, Announcements and other unpaid political incursions

“It’s Not Easy Being E”

Grab your umbrella and favorite electronic reading device (a laptop or PDA will do) and head to the great Pacific Northwest for the 8th annual EPIC conference, “It’s Not Easy Being E,” in Portland, Oregon, March 6-9, 2008, at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Inn. This national conference addresses the emerging electronic publishing industry, and attracts publishers, writers and readers of this new medium.

Headlining the conference is luncheon keynote speaker is Michael Powell, owner of Powell’s Books, which lays claims to being the largest independent bookstore in the world. Powell’s is a noted retailer of e-books, as well as new and hard-to-find used books. The Portland conference will feature e-publisher panel discussions and workshops pertaining to publishing and promoting electronic books, new technologies, and genre and publisher specific topics. There will be an EPPIE book awards ceremony honoring excellence in electronic publishing, and opportunities for social and professional networking.

EPIC, the Electronically Published Internet Connection, is a professional organization for published and contracted e-book and print authors. Established in 1997, EPIC was one of the first advocates of electronic publishing, and has been a strong voice for the industry ever since. Its members write and publish in all literary and non-fiction genres.

For more information on the conference and how to register go to the EPIC website, www.epicauthors.org. If you would like to present a workshop at the EPIC conference or participate in a panel, please contact Joy Clarke at by November 1, 2007, at: JoySC1@aol.com.



Prize for poetry

Lost Horse Press is now accepting submissions for The Idaho Prize for Poetry 2008, a national competition offering \$1000 plus publication by Lost Horse Press for a book-length poetry manuscript. All U.S. poets are eligible. Entries must be postmarked by 15 May 2008.

The winner and finalists will be announced on 15 August 2008. The final judge for the fifth annual poetry book contest sponsored by Lost Horse Press will be announced at a later date. A reading fee of \$25— check or money order only, please—and a SASE (for notification of winners only; manuscripts will be recycled) must be included with the manuscript.

For guidelines or additional information about the Idaho Prize for poetry, please contact- Lost Horse Press at 208.255.4410, email losthorsepress@mindspring.com or check online at www.losthorsepress.org

NEW ONLINE CHILDREN’S MAGAZINE

The Washington State Historical Society is proud to announce a new online children’s magazine called *ColumbiaKids*, due to launch in August 2008. Thanks to a grant from the Verizon Foundation, this new e-publication will bring a whole new twist to exploring Pacific Northwest history.

Written especially for kids up to age 12, *ColumbiaKids* will feature amazing people, places, and objects from the Pacific Northwest’s past. With exciting stories and special departments such as “One Day in History,” “Homework Helper,” and “Northwest Hotspot,” *ColumbiaKids* will not only be a great read for children, it will be a fabulous resource for teachers who want to integrate reading, writing, and Pacific Northwest history.

Writers and illustrators interested in receiving submission guidelines should email columbiakids@wshs.wa.gov.

From Sherry Ramsey

Here is a great writing opportunity for any who would like to take a shot. Remember, you'll never know if your story could get published if you aren't brave enough to write it and then have the nerve, the sheer audacity to mail it off!

Good luck! Sherry

Would you kindly share the following call for submissions with your members. Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen Sell

Cup of Comfort editor

Salute to Military Families:

A Paid Publishing Opportunity for Uplifting Personal Stories

It has been said that military life is "not for the faint of heart." But neither is it without its benefits and blessings. The editor of the bestselling book series A Cup of Comfort seeks powerful and positive stories about how military life affects the personal lives of service men and women, how family affects soldiers' on the job, and how military life affects families. The stories in this collection will cover a wide range of topics and reveal a variety of perspectives, experiences, and emotions specific to military personnel and/or their loved ones.

Stories must be true, original, inspiring and/or comforting, and 1000-2000 words.

Submission Deadline: March 15, 2008

Writer's Guidelines: <http://www.cupofcomfort.com/share.htm>

Questions/submissions: <mailto:cupofcomfort@adamsmedia.com>

\$500 grand prize / \$100 each, all other stories published in book; plus copy of book. No entry or reading fees.

Mail to: wordsinger@aol.com (direct)

Mail to: cupofcomfort@adamsmedia.com

(via publisher)

THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP REVIEW

An online literary magazine, is looking for the best in creative nonfiction and fiction from established and emerging writers for our inaugural 2008 issue. We love strong narratives, compelling characters, and stories told with style, verve and wit.

Send us narrative nonfiction, personal essays, short stories, short shorts, as well as travel, food and wine writing with a strong narrative element. We prefer submissions of 1000 to 2500 words, with the exception of short shorts, and occasionally will consider something longer. We also publish one interview per issue on the art and craft of writing.

We pay \$25 per story and \$50 per interview. We accept only online submissions. Do not send hard copy. Send stories to Nick O'Connell at nick@thewritersworkshop.net.

SUBMISSION REQUEST

Do you have a true story that leaves people wanting more? Do you have a true story that gives people the chills or goose bumps? Do you have a true story that shows God is present in your life? I am currently writing a book of TRUE unexplainable stories. If you have an amazing story that you would like to share please contact me. Interviews start January 15th. Please contact Diana at info@kirklandsba.com

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

Deadline:
the 25th of each month.

Pondering Valentines Day

Ann Washington

As a memoirist and poet, Valentines Day has me pondering 3 years of dating and almost 43 years of marriage to the same man. Northwest winter usually brings out our grumpier side when March rolls around. It happens with such regularity that we have a standing agreement... If one of us brings up the "D" word in winter, we will table the idea until spring. With the same regularity as winter glum, our love seems to re-blossom just as spring sunshine rejuvenates flowers. I came across two poems in my archives each written in March. The sunshine must have been beaming earlier each of those years. I share them with my husband's permission in celebration of love this Valentines Day.

REACH OUT TO ME

Reach out to me
Invite me into your arms
Hold me close, gentle in your embrace
Touch my cheek in the palm of your hand
Lift my chin, look upon my face
Let your eyes meet mine and linger there
Open your heart. Let me feel your soul
Kiss my forehead then my lips
Guide my head to rest upon your chest
Hold me quietly, still and again
let me linger to feel secure and safe
assured, still quiet let me know...
you feel you hold a treasure there.
Let *me feel* your arms,
the beating of your heart,
the touching *soul to soul* not wanting to part.
Make love to me, body to body, heart to heart,
soul to soul
And when the time comes we know we must leave
Let *me feel* you do not want to go
Let *me feel* you still reaching out to me
Let the warmth of your embrace linger
With the sense of love still on my face,
from the palm of your hand, and your first embrace
Please do not hurry off
Hold me gently
Still in *your* heart where we both feel our love
merged,
still treasured,
soul to soul
I love you
Please hold me close in your heart quiet and still
If you let me, I will meet you there.

Anna McClain Washington
©March 25, 2003 5:55 am

Places to Promote Your Book Online

Looking for a place to promote your book and gain added exposure? There are many sites out there on the 'Net that offer a place to add your books and even get a link back to your own site. This is known as a back link - a link from someone else's site to yours is one of the best ways to organically optimize your site and increase your PageRank (Internet visibility). The question is, how do you get people to link to you? The good news is: there are many ways. As you look for sites to link back to you, choose sites with a PageRank of 2 or higher (you can find a site's PageRank at www.blogflux.com).

Here are two sites where you can list your book and get added exposure:

1. AuthorNation.com, <http://www.authornation.com> - this social networking site is a great place to network with other authors and get added exposure as well as a backlink to your own site - their PageRank is 3 and they only recently launched this new service.
2. AuthorArcs, <http://www.authorarcs.com/> - this is a brand new site that has yet to launch, consequently their PageRank is 0, but I have a feeling this will increase very soon. The creator of AuthorArc is offering a place for new and traditionally published authors to upload FREE e-book versions of their books; the listing also includes a link to buy the book, a short bio and author photo, summary of the book and a link to the author's site. Why would you give your book away for free? Added exposure!!! Plus, you gain new readers who may buy your physical book, potential viral marketing, you tap into a new audience that wouldn't otherwise know to read your work and you get that backlink on a site that will very likely gain in popularity very quickly!!

Reprinted from "The Book Marketing Expert newsletter," a free ezine offering book promotion and publicity tips and techniques. <http://www.amarketingexpert.com>

Jonathan Bell - Interview

Joan S. Hust

What made you decide to write a book?

I honestly believe the Lord asked me to write this book. I know that sounds presumptuous, but though I had occasionally thought of writing at some later time I had not actually intended to write a book. I was looking for a job and took myself out of the job market to write the thing.



Are you gifted at writing?

I guess that would be up to others to judge. I've tried to write in a manner which is engaging and enjoyable for the reader.

Do you have a sense of humor?

Yes. Definitely. I love humor, though it is obvious that different people find different things humorous. It's a bit weird that what some of us find traumatic at one time can be humorous later.

What is the book about?

Basically the book is about my conversations with God and others and the context of those conversations. The book is intended to be more experiential rather than explanatory. That is, though I attempt to explain the dialogues and events, I do not regard my explanations as final or necessarily correct.

It is an unusual title. How did you come up with the title?

The word came to my mind as I began the book. *Unbridled* to me represents something which has been set free from some restraints. I believe the title correctly describes my intent to relate my experiences accurately with little regard for how others might interpret those experiences. I decided to relate my experiences without judging or gauging their acceptability.

Do you think it is all right to just say anything without regard for others?

No. Regard for others is essential. I have tried to be sensitive to peoples' lives and situations. I've just tried to say things without too much concern for what people might think of me. That's not totally possible, but when I was concerned about what people might think of my saying something, I tried not to make that a reason not to say it.

You are a musician. Do you perform locally?

Not much really. I play keyboards occasionally in convalescent homes with a small group. I learned the standard old hymns as a child and enjoy playing and singing them.

Tell me about your background.

I grew up north of Baltimore, earned a degree in mechanical engineering and worked on and off as a corporate engineer. I moved to Idaho in 1973 and was a logging and log hauling contractor for about ten years. I tried to develop a fabrication business but was broke by 1986. I went back to Maryland and worked again as a corporate engineer until 1990 when I returned to the Grangeville area. I bought half of a machining and fabricating job shop which I operated until 2002. I sold out after my divorce and bounced around a bit. I've done some machine design, sold and serviced manufacturing machines. Right now I back into engineering with a company in Washington.

What is your favorite book?

The one I read most is the Bible, which is the correct answer. However, my favorite is probably the *1st Treasury of Herman*. For depth, Reinhold Niebuhr's *Beyond Tragedy* is hard to beat, though *The Ultimate Intention* by DeVern Fromke is probably equal.

Do you have a favorite movie?

The Princess Bride.

You are an eligible single Christian man. Do you prefer this lifestyle?

Absolutely not.

When did you decide to become a Christian?

November 12, 1977. I was talked into repeating a prayer I did not understand. I'll do anything, I thought, to get this guy to quit nagging me.

Was your conversion literal? That is, did you notice anything different?

Absolutely. I honestly began to see life and people in a completely different way. It was remarkable. I'm not saying I was a better person, but I definitely had my eyes opened to a different world.

Are you active in a local church?

I attend RLM and am trying to find a useful function there.

What do you do for fun?

Recreation? I like to ride high-performance dirt bikes, play music, and I like to travel, see new

(continued on page 15)

(Bell -from page 14)

places. I think thinking is fun when I have fun things to think about. Sometimes when life goes in a bad direction too much thinking can be dangerous.

What is your favorite food?

Cheese, very sharp cheddar cheese. Caesar salad is next.

How long have you lived in the great Inland Northwest?

I moved to Idaho from Baltimore in 1973.

Where did you grow up?

North of Baltimore.

Were you in the service?

Army from 1969 to 1971. I was on my way to Vietnam but got sent at the last minute to Korea.

What was your major in college?

Mechanical Engineering.

What do you admire most in a person?

Honesty and integrity. I appreciate it when people try to do what they say they will do. We have become a society in which people will say most anything for effect or result. Words are cheap. It seems like the people who have the most real character often have the least to say. They realize how seldom people really listen.

Do you listen?

Excellent question. Not as much as I should, certainly. Written or spoken words come at us from all directions. Too often we hear what we want to hear. There is no shortage of words available to justify and assure us of whatever we want to believe. Few of us truly seek what we need to hear - words of reproof and correction. We would rather have people assure us that we are okay, that what we are doing is acceptable.

Who was the greatest influence in your life?

Cathie, the mother of my children. She loved me, encouraged me, stuck with me, revealed the worst in me and left me. What else can I say?

If you could start over what would you do different?

Try to be less concerned about what others think and try to take a longer view of life.

Who would you like to read your book? That is, suppose it were written by someone else. Who would you recommend it to?

Well, it would be nice if people who have had fairly linear lives would read it. Hopefully they would gain some insight into the lives of those whose lives sort of

fly out of control. But, since I was once one of those people, and I doubt I would have appreciated the book at that time, I have no reason to assume they would appreciate it now. So I guess I would recommend it to those whose lives have gone out of their control.

Why would you want them to read it?

For encouragement, hope, and maybe some understanding and to know that they aren't alone. To realize that their sometimes poor responses are not shameful or unacceptable, that God as often portrayed by our churches is infinitely more encompassing and unfathomable.

One of my favorite paragraphs:

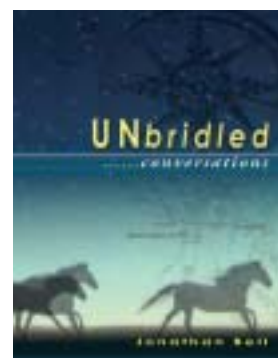
THEN I SAID it. I'm sure it was one prayer He heard. It must have been that. It must have started with this prayer, this simple prayer, "Lord, I don't want to sacrifice an ounce of eternity for a ton of the present. I mean it. Help me!"

Bingo. Within less than two years I lost, chronologically, our motorcycling friends, my wife, my ability to sleep without drugs, our home, my business, a job, several trusted friends, and contact with my children. I ended up alone in Denver with nothing to do. I had heard the worst things said to me by friends, business associates and others. I had been insulted and felt betrayed by those I trusted the most. And though God hung around at first, He too seemed to have had enough of me and disappeared. I know the Bible says that He will never leave or forsake us, but from my perspective, He seemed strangely absent. People told me to cheer up, that things couldn't get much worse. They did.

I was going to learn to walk with Him in a new way, but there are some details to fill in.

I encourage you to stop what you are doing and read

Unbridled



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

2008 Officers

Mary Jane Honegger: President

687-2900 honegger2@verizon.net

Nancy Barnes: 1st VP & Co-Program Director

208-448-0833 nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com

Jim Turner: 2nd Vice President - Newsletter Editor

208-664-9244 jimturner1@juno.com

Ann Washington: Secretary

777-9787 washingtonhouse@earthlink.net

Anna Goodwin: Treasurer

623-3153 jargoodwin@msn.com

David E. Hibberd: Webmaster

509-928-5528 dehibberdwrites@comcast.net

Linda Juergensen: Historian

683-2792 hljuergensen@gmail.com

Barbara Rostad: Hospitality Chair

208 777-1030 BKR9950@aol.com

Kathy Dobbs: Sunshine Committee

208-765-4606 kathleendobbs@verizon.net

Mary L. Smith: Special Projects

762-4081 marynl@verizon.net

Publicity Position Open

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.