



Coeur d'Alene Chapter Idaho Writers League

Lakegazette



Celebrating our 66th Anniversary 1943-2009

April 2009

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

COEUR d'ALENE IWL MEETINGS:

April 8

Jewett House

9:00 AM – Noon

Speaker: B. J. Campbell

Program: Technical Writing

April 11

Marianne Love Memoir Workshop

Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(Registration form inside)

April 16

Lutheran Church

6:30 – 9:30 PM

Speaker: Russ Davis, Publisher

Program: Gray Dog Press

May 13

Jewett House

9:00 AM – Noon

Speaker: Susan Nipp

Program: An Author's Story

April Birthdays

Peggy Lee Chapman 4/20

Linda Fletcher 4/28

Anna Goodwin 4/18

If your name has NOT appeared here during the year, and you would like it to, get your birth date (month and day) to Jennifer Rova or David Hibberd.

Let's Give 'Em Something to Write About

A quick guide to finding your topic

Have you ever had a hankering to write but were stuck with a blank page, trying to figure out what to write *about*? Those of you with a project in progress, or those blessed with a zillion ideas flying through your heads at warp speed, might not know what I'm talking about. How could anyone not know what to write about? Well, it happens.

I learned my lesson about topic choice the hard way, in fifth grade. The assignment was my First Major Research Paper EVER—outline, bibliography, the whole shebang. The teacher gave us leeway to write about any topic we wanted. Anything at all.

Giddy with unaccustomed freedom, I chose Tropical Fish as my topic, because there were beautiful shiny full-color photographs of them in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (remember the pre-Internet *Encyclopedia Britannica*? With pages and a spine and everything?). I thought that anything so brilliantly, shimmeringly colorful as those fish had to be interesting to write about.

Big mistake. With apologies to any ichthyologists in the crowd, I spent several miserable weeks learning that tropical fish are lovely to look at, not so lovely as a fifth-grade writing project.

The point is, writing projects go a lot more smoothly when we're interested in what we're writing about. Of course, we don't always have a choice. If our favorite editor assigns us to write about the local hog-calling contest, we clothespin our noses and get to work. But when we can, we want to write about things that appeal to us. If you're truly interested in something, then even if you never show the final written piece to another living soul, you will still have enjoyed writing it. Here are some things to consider when choosing a topic:

- What are your most cherished dreams, wishes, fantasies? What have you always wanted to see or do, visit or experience?
- What do you feel passionate about? When you watch the news or read a magazine, which stories capture your attention? Which ones make your blood pressure spike?



Jennifer Leo

Continued page 2

- What do you feel qualified to write about based on education, job, or life experience?
- What are you *not* qualified to write about, but would love to learn about?
- What do you think is most important to tell the world?

Somewhere in there is the topic you've been waiting for. And if yours happens to be tropical fish, well—*Tropical Fish Hobbyist* just called, and they're waiting to hear from you.

Happy writing!

Jenny

NEEDED

All 2009 speaker slots for IWL meetings have been filled except for the following evening IWL meetings: May 21, June 18, August 20, September 17, and October 15.

If you would like to present a program yourself, or know of someone who may like to present a program, please email me at nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

**Reader currently needed for
APRIL 16 evening meeting.**

Two-Minute Reads



We want YOU

for our Two-Minute Reads.

To sign up for a Two-Minute Read, please email Nancy Barnes at nancyowensbarnes@yahoo.com

IWL Lending Library



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

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

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

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

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED AT NIGHT MEETINGS

The cadre of folks willing to bring treats to our meetings has filled the bill more than adequately so far this year and I thank each of you. However, April and May night meetings each need another helper.

Two servers are adequate, three is more than plenty, but it's not fair to place the full burden on one individual.

If you can take a turn bringing refreshments to the night meetings in the next couple months, please contact Hospitality Chair **Barbara Rostad, 777-1030**, to volunteer.

What to bring? It's easy! Our group is happy with most anything edible. It need not be a feast. Some members enjoy making and sharing a special treat with us; others stop at the market on the way to the meeting. We eat it all!

We love sampling your favorite recipe and we gladly consume store-bought donuts, cookies or crackers. You should see the glee where I attend church when someone brings: (drum roll, please)—Ding Dongs!

So don't worry about what will please our palates. Take a deep breath—and take your turn!

Most slots at both meetings are open for the second half of the year so if now is too soon, pick a later month.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the Monday before the Wednesday meeting each month. The April 6th meeting will be at Perkins Restaurant in Coeur d'Alene at 10:00AM.

All members are welcome to attend.

Chapter Highlights

Wednesday Morning Meeting

With the last minute cancellation of the speaker for the Wednesday morning meeting, chapter President Jenny Leo turned lemons into lemonade by hosting a roundtable discussion with the 28 attending members.

After opening the meeting with Kathy Dobbs reading her poem, “Bend in the Road” Jenny called for questions from the floor.

The question “When do you get started?” opened the forum. Responses came in a couple different ways. First was the physical aspect of the question. We talked about setting a time to write every day, making sure that you are consistent in order to make it a habit. Nikki Arana reminded us to “Write when the muse hits! When you get an idea, write it down. You can develop it later but don’t lose the thought!”

The discussion evolved into working out the details of your story. We heard that getting started is often a process that happens in the alpha part of the brain some refer as “the back burner.” So, much of the writing is done before you put pen to paper. After that, it is a matter of writing down what your brain has worked out. Then you apply the finer points of the craft of writing to polish your story.

If you are stuck, another way of getting the juices flowing is to practice “Free Writing.” Simply write what ever comes into your mind. It does not have to be connected to your story or anything you are working on. Some call it stream of consciousness writing.

The discussion led to other ways of getting your thoughts out. One was to dictate your ideas into a recorder. David Alard pointed out that most cell phones have a feature that allows you to dictate notes directly into your phone.

The question of query letters arose and the group discussed the various reasons for querying. Sometimes we query directly to publications to pitch ideas for freelance work. Other times we query to present our work to an agent. A lengthy discussion followed on the topics of agents.

Time flew by as we discussed blogging and on-line freelance writing. The conversation was still effervescent when we ran out of time. The consensus of the members was that round table meetings were quite informative and that we should hold them more often.

Jim Turner

Thursday Evening Meeting

Jennifer opened the meeting, and introduced our guests for the evening. Dot Clark read a whimsical poem, and then read a selection from Jupiter’s Looking Glass, entitled ‘Dark & Dreary Dinner’.

Our speaker for the evening was Ted Parvin, President of the NW Film Institute. Ted has been involved in 20 movies, including *Romancing the Stone* and *Around the world in 80 Days*. One thing he suggests for all of us is to become pared down writers. He highly recommends the book *Manuscript Makeover* by Elizabeth Lyon.

He told us that in Hollywood it’s necessary to get a Business Manager, because this person will get you an Agent, a Must-Have for this industry to find someone to produce your film, or take a serious look at your script.

He also suggests entering the Don and G. Nichols Screen Writing Contest. If you are a winner in this contest, he says that everyone will want your script. In a cover letter, if you are marketing your script yourself, you can say, “I won such n’ such contest,” and that will get a lot of attention, so by all means – do enter the screen writing contests.

He says to remember that complexity sells. He explained the difference between a submission script and a shooting script, and had a lot of great stories to tell us! Whatever you do, if you’re putting together a script, do not include stage directions, camera directions, or numbers on the scenes. He left us with these final words of wisdom: ***“In Hollywood, there is no such thing as a normal way of doing business!”***

For those interested in screen writing, be sure to check out the web site for KNIFVES.

Ruth Andrew, CDA IWL Evening Reporter

**Winter still comes
then the spring;
Flowers bloom
Birds take wing
Where is hope**

**and joy in the morning ?
In my heart overflowing**



Kathy Dobbs

Eileen Duggan

Famous New Zealand Poet

“The difficult-to-grasp” poem

Liz Mastin

I have been more aware lately of the great diversity of poems; how some are simple to understand, like John Masefield’s **Sea Fever**, which seems to be a straightforward poem about the longing to return to the sea. The poem’s descriptions of sky, ship, and topsails are most enjoyable.

Also enjoyable (to me) is the wonderful rhythm of this poem’s interesting use of breathy double-ionics. I love the poem for its honest simplicity. In fact, this poem is so well liked that it has the reputation of being the world’s *most* famous sea poem. Its lyrical quality with its clever rhyming makes it possible to memorize. Many other poems are perhaps only deceptively easy to understand, having layers of meaning hidden or layered within them. But to my mind, there are definitely poems that take more thought to understand. Poet Eileen Duggan could easily write the difficult-to-understand poem. She was a gifted poet and seemed to be endowed with intuitive genius.

Eileen Duggan was born in 1894 in Tuamarina, Marlborough. She received her education at Marlborough College and Wellington Teacher’s Training College. Upon graduating, she began a fifty-year writing career. According to an article entitled *New Zealand Writers*, Eileen Duggan published her first volume of poetry in 1921 entitled *Poems*. She would publish several more important volumes that would propel her into great prominence among New Zealand poets for a time. She was well received abroad as well: lauded for her unusual *gift of words*. Famous New Zealand author and journalist, Mr. Pat Lawlor was one of her literary proponents and friends. Pat Lawlor’s son, Peter Lawlor (who presently lives on Whidbey Island and is Whidbey Island’s Poet Laureate), told me that he had met her as a child, as



many notable New Zealand writers would frequently visit the Lawlor family home in Wellington to visit Pat Lawlor. Pat even started a literary club called “The Bookmen” who would regularly meet in his den. Peter remembers Eileen Duggan as a “very delicate woman, very intelligent.”

Her first poems focused much attention on the New Zealand landscape and its indigenous Maoris. They were written in more of a romantic Celtic light, with religion sometimes playing a role. She was a devoted Roman Catholic. During this time, she called many of her poems just *pleasant ballads*. But her poems soon increased in complexity and it wasn’t long before she became the best-known and most widely admired of the New Zealand poets.

World War II had a lot to do with transformation in her poems. She was alarmed and shocked at the threat of atomic warfare and at the state of the world and reacted by intermingling in her later poems, a spirit of hope for such fallen humanity. Her writing at this time became much more spare and very reminiscent of metaphysical poetry. Eileen Duggan was well loved and died in 1972 at the age of seventy-eight.

I would like to submit now, one of her (to me) more *difficult-to-grasp* poems and then attempt to convince you *why* it is worth the time figuring it out. After understanding this poem better, I feel I have exercised both my brain and increased my desire for imaginative poetry. Here goes!!

Orbit

By Eileen Duggan

Your soul came close to my earthly eyes,
A spirit strong and stable;
I glimpsed what I of you before
Had never yet been able.

For ‘twas as if in that glance I saw
The earth serenely, surely,
Appear not as our human world
But as a planet purely;

O purely and with the grace of rank
Take up its place in heaven!
To see its blaze of silver fire
To man hath not been given.

And suddenly, in that point of time,
I knew why you shone clearly.
When that you clove so hard to life,
You never lived so dearly.

The world is teeming to its poles
And, close, not singular;
Only a great detachment can
Reveal it as a star.

Did you understand this poem at first reading it?

It took me awhile to grasp, but here is how I interpreted this poem. I must say it was rewarding. You may have a different interpretation. I feel that Eileen Duggan still left us with mystery.

1st stanza: A person is addressing— a dying friend: someone she knows. The dying friend’s soul came close to her. It assumes the soul came from a great distance (heaven): it was a part of her friend that she had not been able to see before.

2nd stanza: Now in the second stanza, she begins to think or relate her friend’s soul to the way earth would look if viewed as a distant planet. Once-distant-soul – distant-planet comparison.

3rd stanza: She is saying that the elemental earth “purely earth” is just an orbiting planet when viewed from a distance. Like the other planets at night it would shine “blaze of silver fire”.

However, we cannot get far enough away from the earth to see it shine like a star. “To man hath not been given.” Note how Venus and mars shine at night like stars.

4th stanza: Then suddenly she sees why her dying friend shines clearly. It is because in those last moments as her friend clings to life, her friend’s elemental soul is in the room. It shines like the earth would at a great distance.

5th stanza: In this last stanza Eileen seems to be saying that unless the teeming earth is viewed from a great distance can one cannot see it as a star. Unless the distant soul comes close, one cannot see it shining. Then too, as the dying friends’ body gains distance from life, the shining soul arrives like the elemental star it is. One might also think how the soul of the dying friend had itself, always easily been able to view the earth as a shining star from its usual heavenly home and after it returned could resume viewing the earth as a star.

A COG is Forming for You

“COG” stands for “Critique-Outside Group”. It came to the officers attention that some IWL members are looking for critique groups that meet outside our semi-monthly general meetings. Jennifer Rova has volunteered to coordinate this endeavor. COGs can be of any format: gentle, hard core, genre specific or any other format. Please let her know what you are looking for and she will connect you with others with similar requirements.

Make note -- that is ALL Jennifer will do: connect people. She will not coordinate meetings or assuage hurt feelings. The removal of alien beings, misfits or cranky members for whatever reason is to be handled by the people in the COG. The parameters are individually COG specific. Guidelines and tips for successful critique groups are available.

Contact Jennifer with your requirements and email address or phone number. When she has someone with a like request, she will give you the name(s). The board would also like to know success stories and any particulars of your group... what you have learned about critiquing, do’s and don’ts, or what format your group uses.

Please contact JENNIFER ROVA
jrovacop@roadrunner.com if you are interested in a COG.



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Deadline:
the 25th of each month.

Vo kab u lere

Norm de Ploom

Nerb. Even the word sounds funny. A nerb is a noun used as a verb. “Google” is a fine example. “I googled and learned about firefighting.” Nerbing (I just did it... used a noun as a verb) is considered hip and cool by some and auditorially chalk board grating by others. Grammar guru William Safire is slapping his forehead as I type.

Let’s dialogue about it for a bit. Can you actually dialogue? Why not talk about or discuss it? We can have a dialogue about nerbs but we cannot dialogue about nerbs.

A nerb is not a recent addition to our lexicon. Such words as shouldered, chaired, hosted, eyed, leveraged, hammered, handed, nosed, penned, hospitalized and outlined are all nouns in common use as verbs.

Verbification is linguistic alchemy. (While looking up alchemy to make sure I was using the word correctly, my eyes spotted the word Balkanize meaning to break into small regions... a nerb!) We have become verbal contortionists pounding square pegs into round holes. “To the western world, verbs are active-doers while nouns are sedentary couch potatoes,” wrote Nancy Tracey in the Purdue University OWL. We are putting skateboards on those potatoes figuratively.

Many nerbs spring from an incident or occupation of people. LEWINSKYED, meaning to ignore because attention is elsewhere; KEVORKIANED, meaning to have assisted in a suicide; or BORKED, meaning to treat someone in the way Robert Bork’s nomination to the Supreme Court was handled.

ALARM—to equip with an alarm. “Do not use this door to exit as it is alarmed.”

BOBBITIZE—to shorten by cutting. “Jim this article is too long. We’re going to have to bobbitize it.”

CALENDAR—to mark on a calendar. “I calendared our meeting and plan to attend. We can dialogue about your concerns then.”

“To the western world, verbs are active-doers while nouns are sedentary couch potatoes.”

COFFEE TALK—to talk to someone over coffee. “The mayor coffee talked with citizens.”

COMPUTER—to translate into machine readable form. “Please English this up for me and I’ll give it to someone to computer.”

CUL-DE-SAC—to turn a through street into a dead end. “The newspaper announced the city will cul-de-sac Third Street.”

DISHWASHER—to wash in the dishwasher. “Jennifer, please dishwasher when you finish eating dinner.”

DOOR—to injure someone by opening a vehicle door in his path. “Bicycle messengers say their worst fear is of being doored.”

EFFORT—to try hard. “ABC News is efforting to get that information to you.”

FAREWELL—to say goodbye. “Hollywood farewellled Heath Leger.”

GARBAGE—to discard rather than recycle. “Do you want this filed or should I garbage it?”

GUEST—to appear as a guest on radio or television. “Phil guests on national radio and television programs.”

HEIRLOOM—to preserve in good condition. “Heirloom your wedding dress.”

INPUT—to fill out a form. “The patient’s last name should be inputted on the first line.”

KETTLED—cooked on the stove top. “Our stew is kettled then baked in the old-fashioned way.”

LAWYER OUT or UP—to avoid being jailed by using the services of a lawyer. “The detectives were worried that the child molester would be lawyered out. He was lawyer upped before the sergeant was able to paper him.”

OFFICE—to occupy an office. “The new executive is being officed on the second floor.”

MOUSING—using a computer mouse. “This pad distributes pressure from the hand and wrist more evenly when mousing.”

PODIUM—to place first, second or third in an Olympic event. “My goal was to podium last year, not to win.

PRAIRIE-FIRE—to spread rapidly. “The news of the World Trade tower disaster prairie-fired to the Net, radio and TV.”

SCHOLARSHIP—to give money to for education. “My son was scholarshipped by Dartmouth.”

SOMINEX—to bore. “John’s speech Sominexed me after 5 minutes.”

SUNSET—to lapse or expire at a preset time. “Don’t forget. This offer sunsets at 5:00pm.”

TASKED WITH—to be assigned a job. “We were tasked with buying replacement computers.”
TRANSPLANT—to perform an organ transplant on. “Dr. Adams will talk with the family after he has transplanted the patient.”
WORDSMITH—to write. “We’ve tasked Todd with wordsmithing the Pensky report.”
YES—to agree to. “My daughter yessed a marriage proposal from John.”
([www.http://webs.anokaramsey.edu/raygor/dverbs](http://webs.anokaramsey.edu/raygor/dverbs))

The list goes on. Any noun can be nerbed. Language changes. When these nouns turned into verbs appear in Webster’s dictionary, you realize they have become accepted parts of Western speech. **ADDENDUM: SPELLCHECKER COMPUTER PROGRAMS DO NOT LIKE NERBS!**

A Cure for Writer’s Block

Larry Godwin

Writer’s block, a.k.a. writer’s curse, visits us all at some point. Like a disease that might prove fatal, it prompts us to search for remedies, including leisurely walks, fast jogs, and an extra glass of port or a pot of strong coffee. Experts admonish us to sit down and push ourselves to produce at least one sentence; they assure us the rest will follow. This counsel makes sense if the cause of the blockage is laziness, fear of failure, or procrastination in the face of a deadline. In these cases we need a jolt to spark the creative process.

But at other times, such advice may treat the symptoms rather than the illness. Writer’s block may intrude because the brain simply isn’t ready to fill the page with more words. It can parallel, in agriculture, a fallow period between harvests and, like insomnia, forcing ourselves to overcome it may result in defeat. In fact, pushing can lead to heightened stress reaction and burnout, which could delay recovery even longer.

When the words won’t fall onto the page as we would like, I believe the first step is to ask ourselves why. If we’re afraid to launch a project or to



Opportunity

Cirque

Cirque, published in Anchorage, Alaska, is a new regional journal created to share the best writing of the region with the rest of the world.

This regional literary journal invites emerging and established writers living in the North Pacific Rim—Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Yukon Territory, Alberta, and British Columbia—to submit short stories, poems, creative nonfiction, translations, plays, reviews of first books, interviews, black & white photographs, and artwork for its inaugural June 2009 issue.

Submission Guidelines:

Prose, no more than 10 pages; 2-4 poems; artwork & photos in high-resolution JPEG. Please attach a Word document to email; use 12pt font in a common, easy to read typeface (Times, Arial, etc.). Title your email “poetry submission,” “play submission,” “non-fiction submission,” etc. otherwise it will go into SPAM. Replies average two months. Payment in copies. Also, please send a brief bio. Submissions will be recycled. Please Send Inquiries and Electronic Submissions Only: cirquejournal@yahoo.com

initiate the next step toward its completion, some heavy-handed leverage from willpower may be the best plan. But if the barrier comes from fatigue or overstimulation, the right course may be to ease up on the pressure for now and give our labor a rest. Don’t let guilt make the call or, as Barry Stevens suggested in her philosophy book of the same title, *Don’t Push the River*. If she’d been a writer, she might have said to keep faith—the muse will return when she’s ready, when we’re ready.

When the words won’t come, we can calmly ask ourselves, how important is it that we write today, at this particular moment? If stubbornness or the conviction we can’t let ourselves down rules our thoughts, the prudent response may be “not very.” But set a limit for the fallow period, a marker that will signal a time to plant again.

Consider that in some cases, the cure for writer’s block is to simply remain patient and let it run its course.

Spoken Word Revival - Introduction

The Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Idaho Writers' League, the Coeur d'Alene Arts & Culture Alliance, the Coeur d'Alene Friends of the Library, the Kootenai – Shoshone Libraries, a few North Idaho College teachers and several local poets and writers are exploring the concept of launching the “Spoken Word Revival” for Coeur d'Alene and region.

The first step on this path will be to put out a “Call for Writers & Readers” to come and share their work or another’s work at a venue in CdA. The medium is poetry, prose, fiction and “other” to be inclusive rather than exclusive. Just about “anything goes”, as long as it is in good taste (not to be translated as politically correct, for heaven’s sake). The first event is to be immediately followed by a discussion of the potential to create a dynamic and active performance based writers sector in the arts and culture of CdA. The request will be made for individuals and organizations to work towards this goal.

At this moment we are still in the organizational phase. There seems to be good support for this project thus far. We need to gather a “core group” and meet in the last part of April to put this initial event together. If the core group finds an ability to go forward, we will organize a date and place and more detail on the structure of the event. We will also, if the word is “go”, put some energy into “front loading” the event by calling up people we know who have talent and would likely perform at such an event.

Please contact me, Jim Doran, to get involved in this and we will get together to work out the details.

Jim Doran
(208) 667-0463
cell (509) 293-1535
jimdor@communityforestryresources.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.

Photographs should be submitted as a JPEG file. (DO NOT EMBED PHOTOS IN A WORD DOCUMENT!)

Please title your piece and include your by-line.

Submit to jimturner1@juno.com.

SUCCESS STORIES



Something is
missing
HERE....

Could it be
YOUR
success
story?

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

Marketing



From Janie Hansen...

The March 28 book signing at Margie's Book Nook, our local book store, went very well. Also, the signing on 3-17 at the senior living facility, the scene of the action in the book, went well too!

See the attached photo. That's me in the light pink top and Nana Margaret, Pete's babysitter, in the dark pink.



My new book "Pete's Fan Club" is now available on www.amazon.com. It's a love story about a Yorkie named Pete who enriches the lives of his fans when he visits his babysitter, 83 year old Nana Margaret, who lives in a senior living facility. Hoots and giggles echo off the walls at Wildwood Village, as the residents recall fond memories of their long gone pets. Doggie kisses and tail waggles delight even the most somber. This true story will warm the hearts of children, grandparents, and dog lovers around the world. Enjoy!
Janie Hansen

Notes, News, Announcements and other unpaid political incursions

2009 POD Publishers Boomlet

In a recent New York Times article, it was stated that, “In 2008, nearly 480,000 books were published or distributed in the United States, up from close to 375,000 in 2007, according to the industry tracker Bowker. The company attributed a significant proportion of that rise to an increase in the number of print-on-demand books.”

What’s interesting about this comment is you cannot tell whether the Times is talking about self-publishing, or the process by which books are printed, which is print on demand.

In this economy, it makes sense for traditional and non-traditional publishers to print their books on demand versus printing books in large print runs of 5-10,000 because publishers may be left with a lot of leftover inventory. However, when printing books on demand, you only print as many books as you need: less waste and less books ending up on the sales shelf. So, it makes sense that more books are being printed on demand.

However, we think that the article was actually talking about self-published titles. As we all know self-publishing a book is completely different from publishing a book. In the latter example the publisher pays for the costs, but in the former example, an author pays for all of the costs.

Over the years we have seen an influx in self-published books, but as the recession deepens, publishers are publishing less books. While it may seem that any aspiring writer will have to wait for the recession to end before they can see their book in print, that is far from the case.

Some authors turn to self-publishing to establish their sales, to show a publisher that their book can make money, and that you are willing to do some of the marketing yourself.

It is much better to present a formatted book, with some sales history, along with a marketing plan with contacts to a publisher in this economy than to send in a manuscript with a cover letter.

Even if you just print an ARC, create some interest in the title and then present that interest to a publisher, you are putting yourself steps ahead of the competition. Many writers need to connect the stepping-stones: in

today’s economic landscape the road to being published is very different from the one we have been used to for the past ten years.

Whether the article was referring to books that are printed on demand, or self-published books, we are seeing a marked increase in both in the current market, and for good reason.

(From www.bookhitch.com newsletter.)



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.

May 1

Wendy Carroll - Screenwriting

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.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Part of our charge as League members is to promote literacy and help develop writing skills of people in the area. The Kootenai Shoshone Area Library (KSAL) system's summer program is "Fine Arts". What a marriage!

Karen Yother, KSAL program development; Jennifer Rova, IWL member; and the Friends of KSAL are organizing opportunities for IWL members to participate. Five IWL members have already signed up to facilitate:

- workshop for teens on turning childhood memories into memoirs (Joan Hust)
- workshop for teens on writing and getting published (Jennifer Rova)
- "Author's Spotlight", showcasing published authors speaking about their books and their writing; their books will be available for sale (Nancy Owens Barnes, Michael Marsden)
- program on writing aimed at adults (Susan Francis)
- your name can be here (topics can be repeated)

Please consider how you can contribute. Some suggestions:

- workshop/ presentation on how to write poetry or light verse
- tips on developing plots or writing dialogue
- workshop/presentation on how to write mysteries, fantasies, romance, sci fi
- workshop/presentation on how to write for magazines and newspapers
- individual, mini consultations providing expert critique of a person's writing
- how your adult novel, children's book or nonfiction book came into being
- why and how to enter writing contests
- ???

Contact JENNIFER ROVA at jrovacop@roadrunner.com if you want to participate in this exciting outreach program. You can schedule your program with Karen to take place at any of the six branch libraries at a time of your convenience between early summer and late fall. The programs or workshops can be of any length from 20 minutes to half a day. Your reward will be in sharing your talents with the public and a "Golden Pencil" award.

IQ #4

Larry Telles

How many of the following "great first lines" from literature can you identify. Give yourself a point for the book title and the author of the five following examples. The year the book was published is provided as a hint. Ten points is a perfect score. Give it a try!

1. The mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring cleaning his little home. (1908).
2. Robert Cohn was once the middle weight champion of Princeton. (1926).
3. The bench on which Dobbs was sitting was not so good. (1927).
4. In the town there were two mules, and they were always together. (1940).
5. A squat grey building of only thirty-four stories. (1932).

What's your score?

10 – 09 points: Genius!

08 – 07 points: Very good, you've done your homework.

06 – 05 points: Your just average. You'll do better next time.

04 – 03 points: Get a library card.

02 – 01 points: Can you read?

ANSWERS:

1. Wind in the Willows. Kenneth Grahame.
2. The Sun Also Rises. Ernest Hemingway.
3. Treasure of the Sierra Madre. B. Traven.
4. The Heart is a Loney Hunter. Carson McCullers.
5. Brave New World. Aldous Huxley.

Paintball Lime

By Barbara Rostad

Paintball lime
And stun gun green
Land direct hits,
Not mortal,
But brutal,
Visual assault
From elm and willow,
Locust and oak,
Bull's eye to my heart,
Pierced by Spring

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Position OPEN Sunshine Committee

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.