



The League Link

Newsletter of Idaho Writers' League
Sandpoint Chapter

Editor, Bette Poss

July/August 2003

If you want a place
in the sun, you've got
to expect a few blis-
ters.

- Anonymous

Nothing is so simple
that it cannot be mis-
understood.

- Jr. Teague

I carry my ideas
about me for a long
time, often a very long
time, before I commit
them to writing.

Ludwig van
Beethoven



SANDPOINT CHAPTER CALENDAR

AUGUST 2 & 16 — Regular meetings at noon at East
Bonner County Library in Sandpoint

AUGUST 18-23 — Bonner County Fair — Save
time to work a shift in the IWL Booth.

SEPTEMBER 6 & 20 — Regular meetings at noon at
East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27 — 2003 Idaho Writers' League
Conference "There is Magic in Writing"
at Burley, Idaho.

CHAPTER NEWS

We now have 23 members in our chapter. The two newest
members are K.L. Brookings and George Redinger.

Each member is asked to provide six stamped envelopes for
mailing out the newsletter. If you haven't provided these yet
this year, please send to IWL, P.O. Box 492, Kootenai, ID
83840. Just six stamps without envelopes would be fine, ac-
tually.

Many comments have been made about what a good job
Joanne Fuchs is doing on the *Leagazette*, the statewide paper
for the Idaho Writers' League. Thanks, Joanne!

WHY DO WE WRITE?

There are probably as many reasons for writing as there are people who write. Here are some reasons I came up with while making observations of writers at our IWL meetings. What would you add to the list?

1. Some like to just tell a story.
2. Some feel the need to tell a story.
3. Some like to put words together.
4. Some want to explain something, to take something complex and make it simpler.
5. Some want to educate.
6. Some like to feel the cadence or rhythm of words.
7. Some want to tell a new version of an old story.
8. Some like to make other people think.
9. Some want to bring history to life.
10. Some want to add humor to life.
11. Some are fascinated by words.
12. Some want to analyze the quirks of life.
13. Some like to create new worlds beyond most people's comprehension.
14. Some want to share a life shattering experience.
15. Some like to write a story about someone they know.
16. Some minds are so full of words that they just seem to fall out onto the paper.

— Bette Poss

But words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces that which make thousands, perhaps millions think.

— Lord Byron

Recommended Websites



Odd or unusual web sites that can spark writer's imaginations:

<http://www.startspot.com/network/>

<http://www.museumspot.com/offbeat/>,

<http://www.museumspot.com/categories/offbeat.htm>,

<http://museumspot.com/offbeat/button.htm>.

<http://www.buttonarium.com/homepage.html>

Small print zines info:

<http://saucyvox.com/may.html>

<http://www.proseax.com>

<http://www.circlemagazine.com>

<http://www.pearlmag.com>

Translation:

Type in words or phrases in English and it will translate into French, Italian, German, etc. or vice versus.

<http://www.freetranslation.com>

Flathead Writers Conference

<http://writing.shawguides.com/FlatheadRiverWritersConference/>

MEMBER NEWS

Several members of our group have good news to report:

Irene Dunn I have sold a story to a magazine. It will not be published for some time, but I am happy with the sale.

Kathryn Hamshar I have a new poetry book out, entitled *Winter Solstice*, and have sold (and given away) over 100 copies so far. Have had good feedback, which makes me happy!

Mona Vanek I'm ecstatic that "Syncope: A Simple Faint or a Serious Situation?", an article I wrote with assistance from Juli Fung, MD, appeared online in the June 2003 (Vol 8 No. 6) issue of *Merginet.News*: <http://www.merginet.com/emsnewstocs/current.shtml/>.

I'm especially pleased because Emergency Medical Technicians (and lay persons) need to know the difference between the a simple faint and a serious medical problem, and this article explains them and gives details on how to assess and care for syncope victims. As a result, when someone "faints" they may receive the proper care ~~ care that can save lives!

I donated 60 oral history tape recordings, plus several large boxes full of the original research material I gathered to write my three volumes of regional history, *Behind These Mountains*.

Dianna Winget My e-book, *Pipe Down, Pringles*, is now illustrated and available in both English and French at Storyplus.com. For those not familiar with it, Story Plus is an organization dedicated to fostering literacy, especially in developing nations, by making quality children's stories available for a very small sum.

Also, I'm excited to report that the editor at Little, Brown and Company has requested some revision of my middle-grade novel, *True As Steel*, so I've been busy with that.



DIANNA WINGET IN HER OWN WORDS

Writing has been a part of me for as long as I can remember. I think I was the only one who silently cheered when my 7th grade English teacher assigned us to keep class journals. I was blessed with a happy, secure childhood, plenty of time to explore my creative musings, and parents who always, and still do, support my writing. I was twenty when I enrolled in a writing course offered by the Institute of Children's Literature. I credit the Institute for giving me the knowledge I needed to become serious about writing publishable work.

After selling about twenty short stories and articles, I got married and took on two step-children, so my writing took a backseat for several years. But in 2000, I decided to do an article on two local Sandpoint veterinarians who were doing great things for the dogs and cats of Mexico. The article was purchased by ASPCA Animal Watch and really gave my confidence a boost. In the mean time, I completed a middle grade novel that had been begging to be written, and decided to pursue novels over shorter work. I found a terrific, hard-working agent who agreed to represent the book. Right now I'm excited that an editor at Little, Brown has shown real interest and given me some suggestions for revision. While I wait for the agonizingly slow wheels of publishing to turn, I keep busy with my family and my activities as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, feeling one step closer to achieving my dream.

— Dianna Winget



PURPOSE OF IDAHO WRITERS' LEAGUE

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.