

# LEAGAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IDAHO WRITERS' LEAGUE

VOL. 71 No. 2

APRIL 2011



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## April is National Poetry Month

Here are some ways to celebrate what's left of National Poetry Month:

- Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day — select a poem you love, carry it with you, then share it with co-workers, family and friends.
- Read a book of poetry. Billy Collins has a new collection called "Horoscopes of the Dead" and Caroline Kennedy has edited a collection called "She Walks in Beauty."
- Ask the Post Office for more poet stamps — to be eligible, suggested poets must have been deceased for at least 10 years and must be American or of American descent.
- The Idaho Falls Chapter contributed to the (Pocatello) Marshall Public Library's "Poetry Wall" and participated in Idaho Museum of Art's poetry slam (April 16).
- Begin crafting a poem to enter in the 2011 IWL Bill Studebaker Poetry Contest (details below).

## Seeking entries for IWL Bill Studebaker poetry contest

The 2011 IWL Bill Studebaker Poetry Contest sponsored by IDAHO Magazine and endorsed by the Studebaker Family

Poems are to have an Idaho flavor. They may be any form including free verse. Line limit is 100 lines

The poet's name must not be on the entries. Instead, put a six digit number on the entry. Include a separate sheet of paper with your entry. Put your name, address, phone number, the IWL chapter you belong to, and the same six digit number on it.

There is a \$10 entry fee for the first entry and \$5 entry fee for each additional entry. Use a different six digit number for each entry. Put the six digit numbers on the envelope as well. Winners will receive a plaque and \$100 award, and will be announced at the IWL Conference in September.

Direct any questions to Kitty Fleischman at 208-336-0853, or [kfleisch@idahomagazine.com](mailto:kfleisch@idahomagazine.com) For email questions, please use IWL poetry contest question in the subject line. Submission deadline is July 31, 2011.

Mail your entries to:

IWL Poetry Contest Entry  
IDAHO magazine,  
PO Box 586, Boise, ID 83701

# A FEW WORDS FROM THE IWL PRESIDENT



As we welcome warmer temperatures across our state I can truly see why this season is called spring: After a long winter it's great to be able to spring into action again, bouncing from one project to another. It seems that our Idaho Writers' League begins to blossom about this time of year as well. Our contest entries generally begin to trickle in, conference plans take shape, and the new Board is established and ready for new business.

One of the items the Board will be discussing this spring is the addition of a Novel Excerpt category to the Book contests. The idea was suggested several years ago, and thanks to Gary Townsend it has been formally submitted as a Board proposal. This will give our members one more chance to have their work critiqued and recognized. If this category is approved, we will have 21 categories (18 of them without an entry fee) to enter and win cash prizes.

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Pocatello Chapter and get a peek at the prospective lineup of speakers at our 2011 Conference. Chapter members had sprung into action and already compiled a list of confirmed speakers, including Don Aslett. Sadly, the chapter has since experienced a great loss with the death of

member Ronalee Symons. Ronalee was an active League and chapter member, and had designed the 2011 "Flights of Imagination" conference logo featured in the 2010 October Leagazette. She had served as a Contest Receiver in 2009, and was a vital part of the 2011 conference planning committee. Pocatello's loss of a dear friend is like a late spring blizzard; they are recovering, redistributing the tasks and continuing to prepare for our 2011 conference.

Another change has occurred since the January *Leagazette* issue. Wally Swenson has now agreed to be the new webmaster; and you may have noticed the web site has a new format. The new format is geared to be more user friendly for the designer, as well as for members and prospective members searching for information. As the site continues to bloom, we will be collecting information to make chapter and conference updates.

In closing, I urge all of our members to carefully tend to those little ideas that often sprout into great stories—so that, come this fall, you can reap those rewards in Pocatello. Plan now to attend the "Flights of Imagination" conference in September.

*Amy McClellan*

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## A message from your webmaster

The IWL website has undergone a complete renovation and I invite all of you to take a look at the end result. With a change this drastic there will no doubt be errors, omissions and oversights so if you see something wrong, sing out. I have been conservative with personal information about any of you. If you see a reference you don't want published on the site, please e-mail me and I'll fix it. The flip-side of that is also true; if you want more information about yourself, tell me.

You will notice I'm altering any e-mail address posted by changing the ampersand to "at". This is to frustrate the spammers a little. As they adapt to that, we'll make other changes.

The website is our public face and it's important that visitors as well as our members find navigation as easy as possible. Again, if you see something amiss, tell me. We will also investigate making the home page a little less staid if the membership thinks it offers some benefit to our organization.

I'll do my best to make changes you suggest within 24 hours of receipt. The software I chose makes changing a page fairly easy, "fairly" being a relative term, of course.

*Wally Swenson*  
Webmaster  
whiteclouder@cableone.net

## *Contest notes from the Testy First V.P.*

For friendly competition, critical feedback, testing out entries for local, regional, and national markets, and opportunity for monetary and certificate awards—get into the IWL 2011 Contests!

For the Assigned and Open Contests (nine categories each) there are no fees, and a target-rich environment: Adult Genre Fiction, Teen Fiction, Children's Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Article, Short Humor, Personal Essay, Light Verse and Serious Verse.

And in the Book Contests (\$30 reading fee per entry) we hope to add "Novel Excerpt" to the existing "First Chapter of a Novel" and "First Chapter of a Nonfiction Book."

The idea of "Novel Excerpt" is, in part, to "get old manuscripts off the shelf"—ones with great scenes and passages but difficulties getting started. "Excerpt" promises to get feedback for manuscripts in this situation, and perhaps give them new life—and their authors new interest in facing and overcoming structure problems.

If approved by the Board and Delegates, "Excerpt" submissions will be subject to the same synopsis and manuscript format requirements as the other two Book Contests with only minor modifications: "Novel Excerpt," of course, should appear on cover sheets; pagination can follow actual manuscript page numbers; and, as stated in the January Leagazette, no cross-entries between "Excerpt" and "First Chapter" Contests, or past winners (including Honorable Mentions) in IWL Book Contests.

It was great to see 205 entries last year; and Twin Falls made a tremendous run at (an overconfident) Idaho Falls for most chapter entries. This is where I'm tempted to say something incendiary to spur chapter productivity ... like, fourteen individual entries again this year, Twin Falls' Loy Ann? Vaughn? And I hear Sandpoint's Jim Cherry has a workshop productivity uprising going on, challenging IF. Of course, we potato heads have speculated for years that Cd'A critique groups are probably just wine and cheese parties. And Caldwell's cozy-mystery writers are quiet but deadly, so better not to stir them up. And with the conference coming up, Pokey's probably too busy. See? Nothing incendiary. I've learned. Good luck and good writing to all!

*Gary Townsend*

## **Contest and award information**

Postmark deadlines for all contests (or award nominations) are Feb. 1 through July 1, 2011

Assigned Contest. You may write using either a title or a theme.

### **Assigned titles:**

"The Scent of Summer" and  
"No Good Deed Goes Unpunished"

### **Assigned themes:**

"Footprints on the Ceiling" and  
"Eye of the Beholder"

### **Assigned Contest Receiver:**

Sandpoint Chapter  
Jois Child  
P.O. Box 963  
Sandpoint, ID 83864-0851  
(208) 304-9366  
telegrandma@gmail.com

### **Open Contest Receiver:**

Caldwell Chapter  
Eileen Davidson  
22724 Old Highway 30  
Caldwell, ID 83607  
(208) 859-4206  
Ambermoon1121@cableone.net

### **Book Contests Receiver:**

Gary Townsend  
3136 John Adams Parkway  
Ammon, ID 83406-4553  
(208) 552-9421  
gtownsend@cableone.net

### **Poet of the Year, Writer of the Year, and Lifetime Service Awards\* Receiver:**

Cindy Snyder  
3199 N. 3800 E.  
Hansen, ID 83334-5249  
(208) 423-4351  
csnyder@northrim.net

*\*See the January Leagazette for criteria.*

# CHAPTER NEWS

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## Caldwell News

**by Eileen Davidson**

Last year Caldwell focused on the things we need to know to write a great story and self-edit. Every member agreed they learned something either from the research they did for the session they led or from the material presented by others.

This year our goal is to learn how to get an agent, if we need one, how to submit to publishers and which type of publishing would be best for each of us. Our goals run from memoirs for the family only to epic fantasy to inspirational self-help books needing a very special publisher.

We are hard at work on the conference for 2012. It will be at the Owyhee Hotel in downtown Boise on the last weekend in September 2012. Our format is quite different and we hope, when the session schedule and speakers are ready, it will inspire many people to attend and join the Idaho Writers League.

## Coeur d'Alene

**by Larry Telles**

“Stories on the Mountain,” a free and open to the public was held on the snowy Sunday afternoon of November 21st. Early on, jacketed and muffled B.J. Campbell and others were seen peering into both stoves. But soon their doubts gave way to comfortable warmth of the two rooms and the company. Faye Higbee exhibited her suspense novel, *Night Games*, and original mounted photos. She shared a table with Rosalie Stormont, who showed her works, *Walking On With Jesus*, *A Walk With Jesus*, *When God Speaks To My Heart* and *The Psalms in Music* (her recording). John Thamm showed his non-fiction book, *Vets: 50 Portraits of Veterans and Their Stories*. CK Crigger brought four of her many western novels, *One Foot on the Edge*, *Letter of the Law*, *The Winning Hand* and *Black Crossing*. Rebecca Bray revealed her hand crafted *Walking Sticks*. Michael Marsden exhibited his *Sam d’Bear* and *A Walk in the Rain*. Gary Edwards, also in the auditorium, displayed some of his six released CDs, two music videos, and eight books including *Troubleclef*. There

also Nancy Scofield provided her book, *Running High*, while BJ Campbell offered her book, *CLOSE CALLS: True Tales of Cougar Bob*.

Gary A. Edwards started teaching a class on songwriting at the North Idaho College Stateline campus February 5, 2011, and every Saturday morning from 10 to 12 noon for eight weeks. The class will cover songwriting from start to finish, including writing lyrics and music to burning a music CD to marketing your song. There will be coverage of music in film and video. The class will cover business aspect of songwriting including contracts, copyrights and collaborating.

Want to expand your ability to build suspense? How about perfecting the skill of showing your story rather than telling it? We have the perfect solution! The Mystery Workshop! Every Tuesday evening in April (5,12,19,26), from 6:30pm-9pm, we will gather at a lovely manison to learn the craft of mystery writing. But wait! Romance novelists need suspense and a little “mystery” in their writing too! And don’t forget paranormal, sci-fi, and other genres—all need tools to make an exciting story as well! The speakers have promised that the tools they teach will be beneficial for all who write novels! Frank Zafiro, well known crime novelist and real-life police officer, and T. Dawn Richard, a well known “Cozy” Mystery novelist, will lead us through an intensive workshop with hands-on, mind-engaged instruction. There will be actual writing and “home-work,” which will be a valuable experience for all!

The Coeur d’Alene Press is looking for submissions by writers for a new column called the “Writer’s Corner.” They were inundated immediately with a plethora of submissions, but that doesn’t mean they won’t use more later on. They are accepting essays, poems, short stories, prose, short humor, all LESS THAN 1500 words please. No political, religious, or obnoxious items. Email to Maureen Dolan: mdolan@cdapress.com

Idaho Genealogical Society is looking for articles for their quarterly magazine. They would like historical pieces about North Idaho, special how-to articles, even memorial pieces about someone interesting to North Idaho. Please send

*Chapter news, continued on page 5*

*Chapter news, continued from page 4*

your pieces to Juvanne Martin: juvanne@earthlink.net Her email is often full, so you just need to keep trying if it bounces back.

## **Idaho Falls**

*by Meighan Perry*

Whether they are engaged or married to writing, Idaho Falls members are showing their love of the craft. Many are in the process of getting published; others, such as Ed Marohn, Connie Otteson, Jean Schwieder, and Wally Swenson have books recently in print.

Ed Marohn's IWL Contest Honorable Mention crime story *Retirement* will be published in the mystery magazine *Hardboiled*. His story *Almost American* will appear in *IDAHO Magazine* in May. But that's not all! His novel *The Phoenix Legacy* is now an e-book. The story is a psychological thriller about a man who returns to Viet Nam to solve a crime—and do some soul searching. This Nookbook can be purchased for \$3.99 through Borders, Amazon, Barnes and Noble or Kobos.

Connie Otteson, twice IWL Writer of the Year, contributes a series for Idaho Falls magazine. The latest issue features *Down Memory Lane: The History, Legacy, and Bright Future of Memorial Drive in Idaho Falls*. Her young adult novel *George Brunt: Young Pioneer of Eagle Rock* has been recognized nationally with a Moonbeam Children's Book Award, and is receiving much local notice during the Bonneville County Centennial. Her latest (nonfiction) book is *Mountains of Majesty: The Story of Darby Girls' Camp*.

Also being featured during Centennial lecture series and observances is Jean Schwieder's illustrated history of a ridgeline community, *Dehlin*.

*Morgan's Pasture* will keep Wally Swenson busy this spring and summer. He has readings and signings for his novel in Idaho Falls at Lincoln Court, and at Gateway Mall's Barnes and Noble in Salt Lake in April. The Nye Beach Writers Series has invited him to be the featured speaker in May at the Newport Visual Arts Center in Newport, Oregon. In June he'll speak at the Central Oregon Writers Guild in Bend. Wally recently attended Karen Fowler's presentation at ISU, Pocatello, on "The Historical Novel—a New

Perspective." (Fowler is a Pen Faulkner Award nominee, and author of, among others, *The Jane Austen Book Club*.) Other League members enjoying the panel: Gary Townsend and Pocatello Chapter's Alice Dunn.

2010 Vardis Fisher Award winner Rachel McClellan has now published *Simon Says* (a first place, Teen Fiction in the 2010 open contest) in an anthology called *After Dark: A Collection of Haunting Tales*. The anthology will be available on Amazon April 15. Rachel, in the practice of sending out more work, says "This process [publication] is teaching me patience." She's also learned efficiency: her electronic queries, she says, "take at least fifteen minutes, including research and writing."

Congratulations to *IDAHO Magazine* contest winners Amy McClellan and Earline Reid: Amy for *Ricardo's Wish*, Winner's Circle second place (and Judge's Choice); Earline for *Polly's Girls*, Honorable Mention (and Judge's Choice).

Lynn Mickelsen's, Cynthia Deatherage's, Brian Cornett's, and Gary Townsend's workshops continue to meet. The readings include ghost stories, urban fantasy, romance, humor, poetry, and mysteries, bringing listeners and "critiquers" back for more. Even Gary's mini-lesson on "Syntagmatic and Paradigmatic Axes of Language" failed to depress attendance.

## **Pocatello**

*by Alice H. Dunn*

In Remembrance — A few days after our January meeting, Pocatello Chapter Secretary Rona Lee Symons was taken suddenly ill. She passed away in a local health care facility on February 3rd. Taken too soon at only 57, this budding writer of considerable talent was also adept in computer skills, an avid photographer, and blessed with artistic skills. She designed the poster to announce the 2011 IWL conference. Part owner of an art gallery/frame shop, she also worked as a part-time schoolteacher. Her husband, Greg Symons, survives her along with her parents, Dale and Ronell Breckenridge of Driggs, six siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews. Pocatello Chapter will miss her.

*Chapter news, continued on page 6*

### *Chapter news, continued from page 5*

Plans are progressing for the “Up, Up, and Away” IWL conference that Pocatello Chapter will host September 22-24 at the Clarion Hotel (until recently, Holiday Inn) 1399 Bench Road in Pocatello. You’ll find it easily just east of the Pocatello Creek exit from I-15. (This is the same location where the conference was held in 2005.)

Registration will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Garden Room and continue both Friday and Saturday mornings in the lobby. General meetings will be held in the Carnelian/Madeira room. It divides into two rooms for workshops. A small, adjoining room will provide secure space for book sales, so get yours ready and bring them for all to see—and purchase.

Registration fees are yet to be established, but we hope to present an excellent conference that many members can afford. Those wishing to reserve accommodations may telephone 800-200-1400 or fax 208-238-0225. Be sure to mention the IWL conference to get a reasonable special conference room rate. Or you might choose to stay at one of the economy hotels such as Super 8 just down the hill (ph. 208-234-0888) or Motel 6 which is close to I-86 about 5 miles away (ph. 208-237-7800.)

Chapter members are busily contacting and lining up conference presenters. Some have not responded, some have disappointed due to previous engagements, and some we cannot afford. So far, Don Aslett has agreed to be keynote speaker, Alan Davidson will instruct on Internet publishing, and a perennial favorite at our conferences, Rod Miller, will bring us something new. Incidentally, he has recently published a book of his latest poetry.

We are enthusiastic about this conference and hope you are making plans to “Up, Up, and Away” with us the last full weekend of September.

### **Twin Falls**

*by Bernice Richardson*

Since our members are scattered throughout Magic Valley, each month the club meetings are held alternatively between Twin Falls and Jerome, with Critique meetings held on the first and last Saturdays. Wednesday morning work-

shops are conducted by Loyd Bakewell and well attended. at Valley Vista Retirement Village.

Members are encouraged to tell of their success with published items.

Guest speakers on a variety of subjects have been invited to present at the regular business meetings:

January 2011 — LoyAnn Bell presented a program "How to build dynamic characters" along with exercises and handouts.

February — The guest speaker from Jerome was Diana Obenauer. As a Colonel in the Army, Diana served in the Persian Gulf War and met Colin Powell and other dignitaries during that time. She has seen many foreign countries and observed their political problems. Her subject at our meeting was "Women in the Military", then she fielded questions from the group.

March — The guest speaker was the ever-popular Kirby Jonas from Pocatello who is a Western/mystery author who had the No. 1 Western novel in America at least one year. He shared his experiences as to how he writes his books, why he began self-publishing, and other insights related to the publishing world.

The April guest speaker will be Sherry McAllister. Sherry has published her book with Public Relations PersonAmazon.com and will share insights about her publishing experience.

Member Vaughn Phelps is working on a project for a revolving display featuring books of local authors at the public libraries.

### **IWL Calendar**

**April 30** — Deadline to submit Bylaw amendments for Board of Directors review.

**May 30** — Deadline to submit League officer nomination proposals to Nominating Committee.

**June 30** — Deadline for submissions to July Leagazette, including changes to the Bylaws proposed by the Board of Directors.

**July 1** — Postmark deadline for writing contest and League award nominations.

# A night with the Wednesday nighters

by Gary Townsend

We're lucky here in Idaho Falls to have four active critique groups, one of them the workshop begun by the late Merle Kearsley, IWL's 2005 Writer of the Year. Recently, this group began doing mini-lessons (before readings) on such old standbys as paragraph division and query letters; and also on such exotica as "Deconstruction—Get Over It" and "Three (Skeleton) Keys to The Gothic." Following are the handout notes to one such ten-minute lesson—in a humble spirit of sharing with all IWL critique groups, which it's easy to believe are the heart of the League.

## Settings and Sensory Resources

In the discussion of imagery we touched on developing greater awareness of sensory resources in fully engaging a reader—using the visual, auditory, gustatory, olfactory, tactile, or kinesthetic to show (not tell) what something is like, or feels like, or perhaps—might mean. Yet in a few meetings we've still heard readers launch into scenes without context—no sense of place, or time of day, or walls, or topography, or (you can hear Papa Hemingway saying) "how the weather was."

In modern scene-setting you prevent this (it is said by the gurus listed following) with deft selection of exact, vivid, original sensory detail: a particular type of tree here, a distinct architectural feature there, how the light strikes the slope of a mountain while the valley sinks into deeper shadow, how the fish and fuel oil smells assail you as the sun rises over Tokyo Bay. And you integrate such detail into the actions and perceptions of characters and the rising action of the plot (defined here only as "what happens next,") sometimes even evoking theme.

Let's recall, again, Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, extolled for its vivid scenery, and "moors as a separate character," and atmo-

sphere—which, on examination, leaves searchers in despair of finding so much as a single paragraph of natural description. The settings and atmospherics are integrated; and rest assured, deft.

Well—if a picture's still worth a thousand words, then maybe reading a thousand words from these well-known writers (picked solely for how the scenes endure in memory) will show you more than I could ever tell:

DASHIELL HAMMETT — opening scene from *The Thin Man*. Also note, as you listen, how Hammett's mastery of indirect discourse speeds us through the whirlwind scene.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY — opening scene, *The Garden of Eden*. Description of the Grau du Rois in France, and the young couple discovering it and each other; and last scene, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. The Spanish Civil War--the injured Robert Jordan stays behind, after blowing up the bridge, to delay pursuing fascists and allow the escape of the loyalist partisans and his lover, Maria.

SARA PARETSKY — from chapter 19, *Ghost Country*. An attractive, well-heeled lady lawyer, whose homely younger sister is now living on the streets of Chicago, has an unaccustomed moment of self-doubt and takes a long walk to clear her head.

And a final note (from Lindsley Rinard of Caldwell Chapter): contemporary mystery writer P.D. James says she uses vividly imagined and/or deeply researched settings to generate her characters; they "walk out of the background"—and hand her the plots. "Setting-as-method:" Who knew?

References: John Gardner, *The Art of Fiction*; Natalie Goldberg, *Writing Down the Bones*; William Zinsser, *On Writing Well*.

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"If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold that no fire can ever warm me, I know that is poetry."

— Emily Dickinson

"A poem...begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness."

— Robert Frost

# Non-fiction contest for IWL members

IDAHO Magazine is sponsoring a Non-Fiction writing contest for IWL members.

First Prize is \$100, a certificate, and possible publication in IDAHO magazine.

Second Prize is \$25 and a certificate.

Third prize is a certificate.

Entries must be nonfiction, written by the submitter, and previously unpublished. IDAHO magazine takes only first rights of any item published. The non-fiction topic must be an Idaho theme and people must be the focus of the manuscript. Photos should be available, but not submitted with the entry. The maximum word count is 2500. The entry deadline is August 1, 2011.

The entries must be typed, double spaced, manuscript format. The author's name must not be on the entries. Instead, put a six digit number on the manuscript pages. On a separate sheet of paper, type your name, address, phone number,

the IWL chapter you belong to, and the same six digit number. Include a photo of yourself and a 50-word biography with the entry. There is a \$10 entry fee for the first entry and \$5 entry fee for each additional entry. Use a different six digit number for each entry. Put the six digit numbers on the envelope as well. Winners will be announced at the IWL Conference in September.

Direct any questions to:

Kitty Fleischman at 208-336-0853, (800-655-0653) or [kfleisch@idahomagazine.com](mailto:kfleisch@idahomagazine.com) For email questions, please use IWL nonfiction contest question in the subject line.

Mail your entries to:

IWL Non-Fiction Contest Entry  
IDAHO magazine,  
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LEAGAZETTE

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