

Coeur d'Alene Chapter Idaho Writers' League

Celebrating our 60th Anniversary - 1943-2003

Lakegazette



August 2004

P.O. BOX 1113, Hayden, Idaho 83835

COEUR d'ALENE IWL MEETINGS:

Jewett House

9 A.M. till noon
Refreshments: None
Refreshments: None
Program: None

August 19 Lutheran Church

4800 Ramsey Road
6:30 to 9:30 P.M.
Refreshments: Liz Mastin
Refreshments: Noah Buntain
Program: The Writer's Eye:
Beyond the Five Senses.

August Birthdays:

02 - Marion Lillie
16 - Janet See
17 - Robin Clayton
20 - Barbara Rostad
28 - Dottie Maley

September Refreshments:

Sept 08 - Cassie Kelley
Sept 08 - Linda Juergensen
Sept 16 - Judith Farrey
Sept 16 - Anna Goodwin

August - No day meeting
September - Back to normal

The President's Corner

By David E. Hibberd

"It was a dark and stormy night;..." For years, Snoopy plagiarized these words as he made numerous attempts at writing. Few people know where these words came from. It was Edward George Bulwer-Lytton who used these words to open his novel, "Paul Clifford" (1830).

These words have inspired the English Department at San Jose State University to sponsor the annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest. This is one of the few times where it pays to be bad. I was browsing the website (see <http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/>) and found one enlightening section called Sticks and Stones. This is where readers can submit examples of poor writing from writers, famous and not so famous. The first submission comes from Danielle Steel's novel *Star*. "She wore a dress the same color as her eyes her father brought her from San Francisco."



Wasn't it nice of her father to bring her eyes all the way from San Francisco? It helps writers to have a second pair of eyes (perhaps the character was a writer). Fresh eyes can spot errors before they make it into print. That is why Karen Dunlap taught us that you need someone else for the different aspects of editing.

You also need to learn to keep the creative process of writing separate from the editing process. For a simple illustration of how our left-brain tends to interfere in the creative right-brain process, try out the color test at the end of the article. If you have internet access you can find the test at <http://www.johnpratt.com/items/puzzles/colors.html>. Trying to say the color of the letters and not the word itself is difficult, because our left-brain wants to edit the information the right-brain is sending it.

The writing process reminds me of the movie *Somewhere in Time* with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. In the movie, Christopher's character uses hypnosis to transport him into the past. He has to be careful to avoid anything that would remind him of the time he lives in or it will bring him back to the present. A modern penny tucked away in a suit pocket does that.

The creative mode is the past; the editing mode is the present. Our left-brain is like the penny. It seizes on anything that will snatch us out of our creative mode and into the editing mode.

(Continued on page 2)

The President's Corner (cont)

We are fortunate to have many talented authors in our chapter. They show us their willingness to help our less experienced writers.

You often find experienced, published authors mentoring those newer, less experienced writers. With Coeur d'Alene the largest chapter in the League, I think that we can help mentor struggling chapters such as Bear Lake and Mountain Home.

Our experience has taught us that publicity helps others learn about us. We are checking with Bear Lake about the possibility of IWL authors donating copies of their books for the library in Montpelier, Idaho, which is the largest town in the Bear Lake chapter area. Newspaper coverage of the event and a follow-up informational meeting at the library could help them attract others in the area with an interest in writing.

If you have a published book and would be interested in donating a copy to help the Bear Lake chapter, email me at dehibberdwrites@comcast.net or phone me at 509 928-5528.

BOOK REVIEW

"The Kite Runner," a novel by Khaled Hosseini

By Jenni Hearne

For those who are curious about Afghanistan because of our war on terrorism, "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini gives an insight into the lives of Afghans before their homeland was ruined by over 25 years of warfare, of how Afghans became victims in their own homeland. It is initially set in happier times in early 1970s Kabul, continues through to the initial coup d'etats which led to the Russian-Afghan War and the rise of the Taliban.

This is the first Afghan literary work to be completed in English, but Hosseini is a master of the language. The writing is beautiful, and the plot unfolds with surprising twists, skillfully planted. The characters are complex, providing a nuanced view of the Afghan plight from various viewpoints. Throughout the novel, Hosseini juxtaposes the personal story with the larger story of what is happening in Afghanistan at the time. It is a story of friendship, father/son bonds, honor, betrayal, and love.

The narrator and protagonist is Amir, a pre-teen boy full of imperfections and insecurities. He lives with his father, his Baba, a man of athletic prowess who commands the respect of the community, giving tirelessly to causes such as building an orphanage, helping people in need. Yet, there is constant tension between father and son: Amir feels he can never live up to his father's high standards; Baba wonders why his bookish son is so different from him.

In the servants' quarters live Ali and his son Hassan, members of the Hazara cast of Afghans. They are Shi'a Muslims, treated as outcasts by the predominant Sunni Muslims of Kabul. Ali, an orphan, was adopted by Baba's father and the two were raised together. In the same way, Hassan and Amir are raised together, both motherless, by the two men. Hassan is Amir's opposite: brave, generous, loyal. As the boys grow, Hosseini achieves a steady moral tension between the two.

Repeated encounters with a bully, Assef, lead to moral challenges for Amir and Hassan, and ultimately lead to the main conflict in the story. The conflict plays out over several years, influencing the direction of each character's life, and ultimately giving Amir an opportunity to redeem himself.

The novel also portrays life in America for the Afghan refugee, pointing up the differences in culture, often with humor. For example, Baba is swatting flies in their apartment in San Francisco and comments to Amir, "even the flies are in a hurry here." Hosseini weaves societal taboos, religion, and the moral challenges which rise with war and invasion into a story which is ultimately of hope for the future.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Janet See - Co-Editor

Larry Telles - Co-Editor

Tomia Browning - Editor at Large

If you have any stories, poems, articles, or just bits of information, send it to:

Jan19522@hotmail.com

Deadline: the 25th of each month.

HAVE YOU READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY?

Why not share a book review with us! It doesn't matter if it is a "how to book" on writing, or a book you just couldn't put down. This is a writing group who likes to be made aware of good writing.

MEMBER PROFILE

Joan Hust

I am a *buckeye* born in the state of Ohio in a shack across the tracks in the outskirts of the city of Cleveland, Ohio the home of the Cleveland Brown football team, and the Cleveland Indians Baseball team. The rundown shack was without water and electricity. There was a makeshift outdoor toilet, and a table with a bucket of water to wash and clean up. My brother was born in that same shack two years after me. My Mother's Uncle Bob and Aunt Sigrid rescued us, and the three of us moved in with them on the 14th floor of an apartment building on Hough Avenue in the city.

My Uncle and Aunt worked, but my Mother stayed home with my brother and I. Soon my Aunt's brother, Helmer, kept dropping by to visit. He married my Mother. Leonard, my brother went with them to live, and my Uncle Bob, and Aunt Sigrid adopted me. I was Rose Marie then, but when the adoption papers went through all of a sudden I was Joan Susan. My Dad was from a family of sixteen, and my Mother from a family of twelve.

The three of us traveled a lot. My new Dad was a Chef, and we went where he could get work. My new Mother read from a one-volume encyclopedia every day for many hours in the car. My Dad and I loved it. She could read every section but the math and science. I was in twenty-five grammar schools by the time I reached fifth grade, and I have lived in a dozen states. The relatives criticized my folks for not staying put as they thought I would never graduate from school. I had MANY cousins. I graduated from High School, College, University summa cum laude, and received the Alumni Achievement Award from one of them. I still take courses every year.

My teen years and early twenties I had a swimming pool, and softball accident. It ended up that I had twenty plus major surgeries, and was flown to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor two or three times a year. I was tutored, and kept up with my studies.

I have taught Kindergarten through Grade twelve, Vocational Technical Institute, Junior College, Bible Institutes in five states, English to the Foreign Born, TV large classrooms in Social Studies, Science, Reading, Art, and the Theological College of Central Africa in Ndola, Zambia. I have a Washington State Principal Credential, English to the Foreign Born certification, and degrees in elementary, secondary, business administration, and library science.

I produced and directed weekly children's, and ladies TV, radio programs, wrote a wildlife manual, and led safaris in the Kafue National Park in Zambia for nine years. I ran a printing press called *Printing for Jesus*, and supplied stationary, and brochures to the entire country with the off cuts, and left over ink from the presses at a local mission in the area.

I am married to William P. Hust, an Engineer from upstate New York. We have three children. Segred lives in Alaska. Pepper lives in the state of Washington. Jacob lives in New York.

I now work as a Librarian at the DeArmond Consumer Health Library at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I go to Guatemala, China, Africa and Cuba on Mission trips. My goal has been to build or add to the libraries in the villages. I feel blessed that I was born on the other side of the tracks, adopted by Uncle Bob and Aunt Sigrid, coal miner's granddaughter, and above all I know HIM, and I want to make HIM known. Thank you, Mrs. Billy Sunday, for making HIM known to me when I was a sophomore in High School.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

In April 2002, the Coeur d'Alene chapter newsletter contained one of the first IWL History Moments that I am aware of. Each month afterward, Dorothea "Dottie" Maley brought us back to our roots with her recaps of past chapter happenings and glimpses into the lives and works of former members.

This exploration of the past led to a desire to share with her IWL friends more than those snippets. 2003 marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter and Dottie saw a unique opportunity. What better tribute to the chapter members, then and now, than to chronicle the history of our chapter from its formation down to our day?

With a wealth of information to work from, Dottie began a project that took nearly two years to complete. Taking aged newspaper clippings, letters, programs, meeting minutes, newsletters, and photographs from the chapter's history scrapbooks she began the long process of scanning each item into her computer. Hundreds of files were compiled and organized by year.

Dottie continued in her position of Chapter Historian to provide us with her History Moments in our newsletters and at our chapter meetings. She also chronicled the current happenings of our chapter for future histories.

With help from Yvonne Dietz and photos from Barbara Rostad and Larry Telles, Dottie completed the compilation of material, converted it to a single Adobe pdf file, and had CDs created in time for our 2004 IWL State Conference in May. This work is truly a "labor of love," because Dottie is donating all proceeds from the sale of the CDs to the Coeur d'Alene chapter. Dottie also provided all manufacturing costs.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING (cont)

With the completion of this project, Dottie is still hard at work. She is currently working on getting all of the original minutes, chapbooks, and other pertinent information to the binders so they can be archived at the Coeur d'Alene Library.

After nearly four years of serving as the Chapter Historian, Dottie feels that it is time to step down and allow someone new to maintain our history for us. Thanks to her dedication, we have caught up to our past. Our history is complete and now we can focus on the future. It is important for us to maintain our history and to do that we need someone to step forward. Many of you enjoy scrap booking and keeping personal and family histories. You are the kind of person we need to chronicle our unfolding history. Let me know if you are interested in helping us as our Chapter Historian.

It took me about two hours longer than necessary for me to write this because I was caught up in reading more from Dottie's history CD. This is available to anyone for only \$5.00. For those of you who have been around for a while, you can recall fond memories. If you are new to the chapter, what better way to learn about us than to read 60 year's worth of history?

Thank you, Dottie, for your outstanding service to our chapter. Thank you for the wonderful look into our past. Thank you for your quiet strength. Thank you for your friendship.

David E. Hibberd, Chapter President

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

What a fantastic project! Dottie must have spent a tremendous number of hours producing that CD. Bob and I went through it year by year and enjoyed every bit and byte. You did a really professional producing job. Bob had not even dreamed that a record of this magnitude could be produced on a home computer. He thinks that now that you have shown him the way, he may do something similar for the Marine Corps League detachment.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

You have really taken the Historian position seriously and made a shining example of how an otherwise mundane assignment can be made into a "silk Purse".

HISTORY MOMENT

By Dottie Mallie, Historian

I wish to thank the following people for the help and support given so freely that allowed me to complete the history CD.

To Yvonne Dietz who spent end-less hours reading and correcting any copy that I wrote and my apologies to her for any mistakes that occurred in my re-typing the corrected copy. (It wasn't her fault folks.)

To Larry Telles who provided me with countless pictures which he had transferred to CD's. These were of every event the club participated in.

To Barbara Rostad for the many photographs that helped make up the last few years of the scrapbooks.

I couldn't have done the program without the generosity of these three people.

I will be eternally grateful to Mary Smith for her hands off approach to letting me "do my own thing."

Last but not least, a big "Thank you," to the membership who offered support and encouragement over the months, for what must have seemed like an inanimate figment of my imagination.

Sincerely, Dottie Maley



In Search of the Perfect Agent

By Susan Lohrer

You're at your desk, writing, and you hear a knock at the door. You open it, and there on your front step are hundreds of agents waving contracts at you. Some request to represent your work, showing you long lists of their satisfied, published authors; others have their caps on backward and sneer, "About my reading fee . . ."

That would never happen, but if it did, would you choose the greedy, disrespectful agent? Probably not. Finding the right agent is like finding the right spouse. The first agent who

expresses an interest in you is often not your ideal partner. And a partner you can trust is exactly what you should be looking for.

Laurie Alice Eakes, an inspirational romance novelist, had two bad agents—both were recommended to her—before she found a good one. She signed with an agent who, for a year, never sent any of her work out. Before that, as a new writer, she hired an agent who charged reading fees. That agent called to ask why he hadn't received his payment; the check had been enclosed with the manuscript. Eakes was smart enough to stop payment on the check and run. Now she has an open and friendly relationship with another agent. Her first novel is out, and she feels confident about a three-book proposal she just completed. The difference? Integrity and compatibility.

Nikki Arana, whose agent negotiated a three-book contract for her with Bethany House, offers her opinion on what makes a good agent: "They have a good working relationship with the acquisitions editors who represent the market you are writing for. They are experienced and can put things in perspective for you. They are honest. Ideally, they love your writing. That is not necessary, but for an unknown, emerging writer, it really helps because it can be a lot of work for the agent." There are some bad agents who manage to slide under the radar, but Arana advises writers to "Always get references."

Even the most market-savvy author can benefit from having a good agent. Janet Kobobel Grant, a literary agent with Books and Such, says, "All one has to do is look at the best-seller list. The author who isn't represented by an agent is an anomaly." You can find a publisher on your own, and many authors do. But a good agent will help the author develop a long-term career plan, take care of each book for that book's life, and act as an intermediary between author and publisher, advocating for the author so the author is free to create books.

There are some red flags to watch for when considering an agent: "Never pay reading fees," says Kobobel Grant. "An agent who requires reading fees is making a living from reading manuscripts, not from placing manuscripts with publishers." Be wary of the agent who doesn't return your correspondence. That agent is either too busy to handle another client, or just plain doesn't care to take the time to get back to you. Some agents will recommend that you use an editor to clean your manuscript up, and that's perfectly acceptable, but avoid the agent who refers you to a specific editor—there could be something fishy going on.

So, how do you find an agent you can trust? Although there are no ironclad guaranties, the best way to find an agent is to ask other authors to recommend one. A good place to meet both authors and agents is at writing conferences. An agent's membership in the Association of Authors Representatives is an indication of a legitimate agency. "The Literary Marketplace," available in many libraries (you don't want to

know how much this book costs), is an excellent resource, and lists only those agencies that have proven track records. Writer's Digest's "Guide to Literary Agents" is affordable, widely available, and indexes its entries by geography and openness to submissions. On the Internet, check out the Internet Directory of Literary Agents, at www.writers.net/agents.html, and Preditors and Editors at www.anotherealm.com/preditors/pubagent.htm Don't just type "literary agents" into your browser and hope for the best; anyone can get a spiffy website and accept reading fees, and that's the agent you want to avoid. The saying goes, a bad agent is worse than no agent at all.

Once you've signed with an agent, you need to monitor your manuscript's progress. An agent who's submitting your work to publishers should cheerfully keep you up to date with written reports of the manuscript's activities.

Still trying to decide if you even need an agent? Read *So You Are Wondering About Getting an Agent? Questions to Consider and Ask (With a Few Proposed Answers)* by Stan Gundry, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of Zondervan. The web address is www.ecpa.org/gettingagent.htm.

You probably won't have agents beating down your door to represent you, but if your writing is marketable, then a good query letter will attract an agent's attention. And a good agent can unlock doors for you in the publishing world.

MEMBER PROFILE

Sharon Ostrom

What was I thinking when I agreed to write something for the gazette. A biography, no less. I'm not a writer. At least, not a writer of stories, oh I am pretty good at just the facts writing, so that is what you are going to get, just the facts.

I was born in Kenmare, ND in 19censored. My parents and I moved to Hayden Lake in 1949. I met and married the love of my life in 1951 and have lived in Coeur d'Alene ever since. My husband died in 2003 after a lengthy illness. He and I had 4 children and 6 grand children with one on the way.

I worked for many years at an auto parts house. After my mother showed symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, I became involved with the Alzheimer's Assn. and worked for them for 15 years. Part of my responsibilities with that organization were publishing and writing a quarterly newsletter, developing programs, fundraising and writing grants.

I am now writing a quarterly newsletter for caregivers of dementia patients on my own and also writing family history.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

My personal goals for the future are to develop a writing program and support group for dementia patients and also continue my newsletter. I hope to finish the family history in the next couple of years. I plan to submit some caregiving articles to magazines.

My goals for the chapter are to help write successful grants that will enable us to become a force in the writing community. I would like to see us become a destination spot for writers. This chapter has done an outstanding job of providing us with speakers and information already and I know we can do whatever we set out to do. The conferences and writing contests are excellent.

I am overwhelmed by the talent in this group. How wonderful to be able to tell a story or write a poem and to take an ordinary everyday occurrence and turn it into an event.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

by Cathy Neet

These warm summer nights feel so very familiar. As a young girl in Chicago the evenings included thunder, lightening and fireflies. Dallas summers during my junior high years were filled with swimming parties and Girl Scout campouts. Los Angeles nights and days in the 1960's were sheer heaven for a high school teenager. We lived near beaches and tide pools and Disneyland. The Beach Boys were "boss" and the times were excitedly complex.

A deep desire to continue exploring places and people has driven my choices since my nomadic youth. Each new address included new adventures. I was fearless and optimistic. I body surfed during college in San Diego and took a lunch break at Caesar's Palace while working for a company in Las Vegas. My week in Hawaii turned into six months. During a leave from my Junior High teaching position, I became Mrs. Santa at the downtown Bon Marché in Seattle. The Northern U.S. unfolded outside my train car window as I vacationed from Spokane to Washington, DC.

These and more memories of my life experiences are technicolor vivid. The people they include are the precious characters - parents, brothers, sister, nieces, nephews, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, husbands, in-laws, stepchildren, grandchildren. My photo albums overflow with a life well lived.

Early retirement, a cozy home and my life characters settled in their own places of peace have combined to release my writing muse. I have stories to tell and the time to tell them. Remarkably to me, I also have new stories to live and the wisdom of age to edit them.

1. Creativity is the natural order of life. Life is energy: pure creative energy.
2. There is an underlying, in-dwelling cre-ative force infusing all of life-including ourselves.
3. When we open ourselves to our creativity, we open ourselves to the creator's creativity within us and our lives.
4. We are, ourselves, creations. And we, in turn, are meant to continue creativity by being creative ourselves.
5. Creativity is God's gift to us. Using our creativity is our gift back to God.
6. The refusal to be creative is self-will and is counter to our true nature.
7. When we open ourselves to exploring our creativity, we open ourselves to God: good orderly direction.
8. As we open our creative channel to the cre-ator, many gentle but powerful changes are to be expected.
9. It is safe to open ourselves up to greater and greater creativity.
10. Our creative dreams and yearnings come from a divine source. As we move toward our dreams, we move toward our divinity.

Article submitted by Barbara Rostad.

Source: *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron w/Mark Bryan. Page 3, chapter title - Spiritual Electricity: The Basic Principles.

If you have any articles along this line, please submit them. Most of us need a little inspiration from time to time.

You can email them to Janet See, Larry Telles, or Tomia Browning. If we get several, we will use one a month.

Thank you in advance. Editor

The 2004 Idaho Writer's League Conference and CdA Writer's Fair

By Shirley Ellis

From the silent movies with popcorn and visiting, to the free "goodie" bags, to the book store selling books written by our speakers and writers, to the free make-overs by Merle Norman, to the performance at Lake City Playhouse, to the awards banquet, "Write from the Heart," the IWL Conference and CdA Writers Fair was fast paced, fun, vibrant and informative.

I can't say which I enjoyed more, the speakers and workshops, or the opportunity to sit and talk to other writers, many from out of town, many published. Writers are wonderful, special people and it was a huge pleasure to question them and to share my hopes and dreams.

The following are a few highlights from the various speakers.

Sunni Jeffers: "Never doubt the fact that every person has something to share." "Writers must open up to share in spite of the pain." "Most romance authors have absolutely no control over the title of their book." She talked about the eight elements of romance novels and mentioned the new sub-genres such as "Chick Lit" and "Mommy Lit."

Ken Rand, a fast-talking, animated speaker: "Science Fiction is the only genre where an idea can be the main character." Ken suggests that for each writer, their genre is who they are and the writer needs to study everything about that genre. "Sci Fi has voracious readers who gobble up books creating a huge market looking for stories."

Speaking on self-editing, Ken tells writers to print a copy of their writing, reduce it by 10% and compare that with the original, then decide which to use. Writers need to be able to write using the "right-side" and edit using the "left-side" of their brain. Ken claims, "If a writer can master dialogue, they will sell more;" and "Remember dialogue slows down action."

Robin Heflin speaking about interviews: "Ask open-ended questions like, 'Tell me why you did that,'" and she says it's best to interview in-person rather than on the phone, so can see "body language." "The purpose of questions is to get the facts and emotions (how and why are the most important questions)." She gave us a list of sample questions to ask and a page full of abbreviations to aid in quick note taking.

Kitty Fleischman enlightened us speaking from an "Editor's Perspective." She receives about 60 stories a month for her 64 page Idaho Magazine and buys "one-time rights." She wants stories about people in Idaho and the magazine has a "spotlight" city in every issue.

Marcia Preston of Byline Magazine advises writers to only send out their best work and to "Refuse to let rejections hurt because many are the result of circumstances having nothing to do with the ms submitted." She also advises, "Edit your work, study the writing market, read . read . read and hunt for a niche to fill."

Kirby Jonas, a western writer with seven books out, urges writers to "Research, but leave a lot to the readers imagination."

Jane Kirkpatrick: "Writers are generous and courageous, and write about passion and betrayal." "Story-telling is healing." She wants a story to give her information and connection while supporting her spiritually.

Larry Telles used his computer to show Control Codes, various methods to Save and several "quick tricks" to make Windows do what writers need.

Anna Goodwin brainstormed her audience for self-defeating behaviors for not writing. The list included checking email, talking on phone, playing solitaire, doing research, fulfill others needs, cleaning or organizing, housework and TV. She claims, "It's the past that triggers these behaviors and sometimes we don't have conscious recall of the past."

"Write what you love to write, not what you think you 'should write.'" "Use inner silence, prayers, meditation, relaxation exercises, breath work, or yoga to clear mind and release your creativity."

"Think about only what to write, forbidding 'negative' thoughts. Over and over again, tell the mind what you intend to do, then imagine doing it well, because this focuses the mind to achieve your goals." She handed out Tips to Keep You Writing and Reasons for Self-Defeating Behaviors in Writing.

Editors Panel advised outside editing, disclosing 3 kinds of Editors (Concept Edit for beginning, Line Edit to help with "voice" and Proofreading for single error catching), telling us not to use an expensive Line Editor to do proofreading. Inform an editor of exact needs and wants, making sure that particular editor does that kind of editing.

"When you know who your readers are, query the Publisher and always obtain and use the publishers guidelines."

"Learn, know and master rules before breaking them." "When an editor gives numerous comments it's because they think the writer has potential."

Dear PNBA members,

On Sunday morning, July 25th, Cindy Heidemann's apartment building was completely gutted by fire. Cindy lost everything and barely escaped with her life. She's fine, staying with friends and recovering from the shock of her loss. Cindy Heidemann is the PGW rep for Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Before becoming a sales rep, she was the Book Department buyer and manager at the University of Oregon Bookstore in Eugene for more than fifteen years.

The multiple alarm blaze started in a construction site next to her complex and quickly spread to neighboring buildings. Awoken by the blaze at 3:45 am, she was met by a wall of flames when trying to escape. Cindy soaked a blanket and hid in a small storage room adjacent to her first floor office. She stayed there for over an hour while fire fighters fought to control the blaze. She emerged when things had quieted down somewhat and was rushed to nearby hospital where she was treated for smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. She was released to the care of a friend, Marilyn Dahl, late yesterday morning.

Cindy's most urgent need is for an apartment. PNBA is coordinating a drive to raise \$5,000.00 to help her get back on her feet, and to get into an apartment. We are asking our members to consider sending \$50.00 to the Cindy Heidemann Fund at PNBA by Friday, July 30. PNBA will keep track of all donations and forward a check to Cindy early next week.

Cindy lost everything except her car in the blaze. Marilyn has graciously taken her shopping for some basic clothes, but the next month will definitely be a stressful one for Cindy, just trying to get her life back together. We do not know yet what address Cindy will be using, so at this time, cards, letters or emails may be sent to PNBA, and we will forward them to Cindy.

Thank you all for your consideration. Special thanks to Harry Kirchner at PGW for providing most of the descriptive text for this message. A link to an article in the Seattle Post Intelligencer about the fire is included here:

<http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/183572_fire26.html>

Sincerely,

Thom

Thom Chambliss, Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association
317 West Broadway, Ste 214
Eugene, OR 97401-2890

T: 541-683-4363
F: 541-683-3910
E: thom@pnba.org
W: www.pnba.org

Editors note: A donation was sent in the name of the Idaho Writer's League, Coeur d'Alene Chapter.

The Writer's Eye

By Noah Buntain

Shakespeare was a great writer.

Whether or not you read his plays in your free time, you should recognize that the man had an amazing insight into human personality and perhaps the finest ability to illuminate the same.



In the movie *Shakespeare In Love* a running joke is how famous lines from Shakespeare's plays keep cropping up in random dialogue: from the preacher haranguing the crowds to the Queen. At each sound bite, we watch Shakespeare make a mental note, recording the material for later use. The exact source of the ideas is unimportant; what matters is the method.

The source material for stories, characters, figurative language, and descriptions lies all around. A good writer tunes his or her senses so that the little gems of life pop out, crying, "use me!" This is the Writer's Eye: the ability to notice what others miss and store these gleanings in the memory bank—the artistic reservoir.

Of course, storing these gems is only half the story. Utilizing these nonfiction bits in fiction or poetry separates the writer from the chronicler, and using them effectively distinguishes the great writer from the adequate one.

For our next meeting, we will be discussing the characteristics of the Writer's Eye (it's not just the five senses) and how best to take advantage of it. From overheard conversations to running commentaries to sketching sessions, we will look at ways to take bits of real life and transform them into short stories, poems, character sketches, etc.

Be ready to write; this will be a workshop, and everyone will be practicing these techniques from provided examples. While this will be repeat of our July day meeting, I encourage everyone to attend as there will be some added information. And, of course, more opportunities to write!

I received this article from an email request. This person isn't a member of the IWL, but since he is a writer I gave him space to express his opinion. -- Editor.

How A First Time Author Got His Book on Managing Fear Published

© Stan Popovich – All Rights Reserved

Wondering how to get your writing ideas published? I am a first time author who recently got his self help book on managing fear published. The title of the book is “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods” and is available at <http://www.trebleheartbooks.com/mvStanPopovich.html>

I was able to get my book published even though I didn’t have any experience in the publishing field. Let me explain:

Over the years, I collected much information on how to manage fear and anxiety. Although I didn’t have a background in the religious or psychology fields, I did a lot of research including discussions with various professionals - in both fields - on how to manage fear and anxiety. One day I was wondering if I could develop a small book from these notes. I went to the bookstores to read various books on how to submit a book idea to some of the publishing companies. I learned that a writer must first develop a query letter to send to the various publishers and then submit a manuscript. After a good deal of research, I organized my notes into a small manuscript and did much editing to get my manuscript ready to send to the various publishers. I then wrote up a query letter and explained the benefits of how my book was unique to what was on the market. I mentioned that my book would be complete and cover all the ways to manage fear, unlike a lot of other books in the market today. My book would also be easy to read and results oriented, and it would be non technical. I explained that my book provided an important need to people who needed to manage their fear and anxiety.

I then went to some of the writing sites on the Internet that contained a listing of various publishers; publishers that might be interested in my self help book. I then submitted a query letter to these publishers and was eventually asked to submit my manuscript. I followed this process for a little less than a year.

During this time, I talked to various writers on the Internet and asked them how I could increase my chances of getting published. A writer told me that if I focused on the small niche publishing companies, that I would increase my chances of getting my book published. He was right. It took a lot of work and persistence; however I found it much easier to market my book idea to the small Print On Demand Publishing companies. I eventually found a small publishing company who really liked my book idea. I then briefly worked with the publisher to turn my manuscript into a small easy to read book.

I was able to get my book published by explaining the need, and the importance of my book in my query letter, developing a well written manuscript, and focusing on small publishing companies. It is not easy to get your work published, however with a lot of research, persistence and a willingness to continuously improve it is possible.

BIOGRAPHY:

Stanley Popovich endured his share of fear and anxiety over the years. Unable to find the help he needed, the author decided to undertake his own research. The result is “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods” - an easy to read book based on a combination of research and personal experience. For additional information go to: <http://www.trebleheartbooks.com/mvStanPopovich.html>

WRITING CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

Join your fellow writers in two new writing classes sponsored by the Citizens' Council for the Arts. This is one of the projects on which the CCA spends the Art on the Green proceeds. We need your support and input in order to keep these subsidized classes available. Sign up for either the Poetry Class with Scott Poole as instructor or the First-Person Narrative Prose with Ron McFarland as instructor. Both instructors are well qualified and will teach an informative, fun class.

Take a look at Scott Poole's books of poetry: *The Cheap Seats*, and *Hiding from Salesmen* or listen to him read a poem every Monday morning at 7:50 am on KPBX 91.1 FM. He was the past coordinator of Spokane's Literary Festival Get Lit! And past director of the EWU Press. He is currently the Director of Wordstock, Portland, Oregon's annual book festival. Scott, who has been called the People's Poet, will give you a new take on creative thought and poetry writing. Check out the website: www.slowtrains.com/theten.html and click on "Scott Poole" to read a very funny interview he did about topics I'm sure you'll find familiar.

Ron McFarland is the Director of Creative Writing at the University of Idaho. He has been teaching English and Writing classes there since 1970. Look up *Catching the First Light*, a book of stories and essays he wrote in 2000 to get a sample of his own writing. Ron has written many books of poetry including *Composting at Forty* and *The Haunting Familiarity of Things*. He writes fiction, non-fiction, essays, critiques and more. His class on the first person narrative is applicable to both fiction and non-fiction writers. Check out his entertaining resume at: www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~ronmcf/.

This year the classes require no writing submittals prior to class. Just register and show up (but do so soon as class size is limited). You'll get a chance to write in class, using the tips and tricks you learn. Call Theresa Colwes evenings at 667-3393 or Sharon Southerland at 666-9676 to get on the list and a registration form. Or email Sharon at mcsoutherland@msn.com. Classes will be held Aug. 9-Aug 12; First Person Narrative at 9:30am-12:30pm, and Poetry at 1:30 pm-4:30pm. The cost per class is \$70.

HANDMADE BOOKS EXHIBIT

This summer the Citizens' Council for the Arts has chosen Handmade Books as the subject for both their Exhibition at North Idaho College's Corner Gallery and for a workshop at the College.

The Gallery Show will feature two exhibits side by side. One is a collection of contemporary, exquisite, books handmade by students at Arizona State University. The other will be a sampling of the huge legacy of handmade books left to Idaho by James Castle. James Castle (b. 1899, d. 1977) was deaf and unable to communicate. Some think that today he would have been diagnosed as autistic. Despite his disabilities and the remote location of his Idaho home, he devoted his life to making books from the meager resources of found materials. The collection is a fascinating look into his mind and the time and place he lived. This is the first time the citizens of North Idaho will have a chance to see his works and hear his story.

Tom Trusky, English Professor at Boise State University and Director of the Idaho Center for the Book will give an informal lecture at the Gallery Opening August 12 at 6pm and a more formal talk on the provenance of this very valuable collection, September 9th at 1pm. Tom's new book *James Castle: His Life and Art* will be out this month and on sale at the gallery. The gallery will be open during theater performances, in the daytime the weekend of Aug. 28 and 29, and from 10am to 4pm weekdays, Aug. 30 through Sept. 9.

We are very grateful to the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Idaho Humanities Council for funding the James Castle Exhibit and Mr. Trusky's lectures.

HANDMADE BOOKS WORKSHOP

You can learn to make books yourself at our workshop led by Bobbie Benson. Bobbie has taught art for many years, including the past six at the University of Colorado. She teaches bookmaking workshops in Colorado and California. In her class, you'll learn to make a variety of books including fold-out, radial, pyramid, accordion, twig books and books in a box. You'll also learn to make paste paper and marbled paper. These books will make a good home for your poetry, memories and musings.

Classes are at NIC August 9 - 12th, from 9am to noon. Cost is \$50 and \$25 for students. Again, call Theresa Colwes at 667-3393 or Sharon Southerland at 666-9676 to get on the class list and get a registration form.

POET'S CORNER

LOVE STORY AT MARVIN GARDENS

by Scott Poole
from
HIDING FROM SALESMEN

I love watching her gentle tresses hang
over the Monopoly squares.
She has just purchased a house at Marvin Gardens <
not the most exciting property, true,
but certainly a step up from my apartment on Baltic.

When I turn the block and tap at the window to say
I owe you rent, and I love what you've done with these
flowers,
she says, "Save it,
Join me for this roast. I'm celebrating. I just won
second prize in a beauty contest."

Even though she's a beautiful second
and as we eat the roast no one is winning,
it seems that this moment is the elusive prize,
Some things don't need to be owned.

SCBWI

(Society of Children's Book Writer's and Illustrators)

SPOKANE NETWORK

Each meeting consists of a panel of local
authors, etc. 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

If you are interested in meeting once a quarter (on
a Saturday), with this children's writing group,
you can contact the person listed below for
further information:

Deborah Fredericks, 509 482-5288
or email debyf@dc4pc.net
"Tell Deb, Larry sent you!"

INSPIRATIONAL CORNER

Ghost Writer Goes to the Big City

by Michael Andrew Marsden

July 15 to 18, I attended the Pacific Northwest Writers Association 2004 Conference in Seattle. My estimate is that well over 300 people were at the conference. It was held in the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center. This made it easy for those flying in to attend. I drove from Idaho and got lost in Seattle. Fortunately I was able to read my road map and determine how to get to the hotel when all the cars on I-5 came to a complete stop. The conference was a four-day affair. Thursday was registration and four sessions for newcomers on what to do and how to do it. One such session was PITCHING WITHOUT PANIC or how to talk to an agent or editor. That night the keynote speaker was Keith Ablow, MD. His best-selling psychiatric thrillers include **Denial**, **Projection**, **Compulsion**, and **Psychopath**. After his presentation I went back to my hotel room and locked the doors and windows. Friday was the first complete day of the conference. It started with the PNWA annual meeting, followed by the editors' forum and last the agents' forum. There were six editors and sixteen agents. The forums were intended to help the writers select individuals with whom to schedule meeting. It appeared to me that all the editors and agents were kept busy. There were two marketing consultants who also scheduled private meetings with writers. There were still other marketing consultants, editors, and publicists included in the sixty presenters at the conference. I and six other writers had a fifteen-minute meeting with Benjamin Sevier, an editor with St Martian's Press. I pitched my novel **Sam d'Bear**. The next morning I met with Anna Cottle, an agent with Cline Literary and she gave me advice on how to pitch my novel to an editor. That afternoon I met with Alice Acheson, a publicist, who gave me some advice on the way to approach an agent with my work. Scheduling is the prime problem with a large conference in more ways than one. There are often as many as nine sessions going on at one time. Usually there will be seven general sessions and two masters sessions. There is something for every need. I met Elizabeth Lyon at the conference. She is looking forward to coming to Coeur d'Alene next year. She also asked about

some of the IWL members she met on her last visit. Marlene Howard was there with free copies **Writers NW**. It carried a review I had written about Clint Walker and Kirby Jonas' western novel, **Yaqui Gold**. Friday night was the awards banquet. PNWA lists in their newsletter the ten finalists in each of their writing contests but does not announce the winners until the banquet. The next day the winning entries are displayed in the lobby outside the conference rooms. Saturday noon was the autograph party. I had a table next to Elizabeth Lyons. That night the keynote speaker was Ann Rule - one of the foremost 'true crime' writers in the world. Her presentation was funny, informative and scary. She personally knew Ted Bundy whose story she wrote as **The Stranger Beside Me**. She is putting the finishing touches on her latest novel about Gary Ridgway - the Green River killer. That night I again checked to see that the windows and doors to my room were safely locked. On Sunday morning there were special sessions. At these sessions the works of the participants were critiqued. I did not attend any of these, but left Seattle early in the morning. Was the conference worth \$350 plus \$125 per night at the hotel? Yes, but I believed I tried to do too much. I suggest that a writer plan on attending two such conferences. Just relax and experience the first; make up and follow a must-do list for the second.

Poems by IWL Members Written During Workshop at State Conference, 2004 (PART 2)

WRITER'S FAIR HAIKU

Last issue featured the cinquains written in the poetry workshop at our Writer's Fair/State Conference. The following haiku were written during that same session.

Writers were given the option of writing a haiku with or without a prompt or a cinquain with or without a prompt.

A standard American haiku format is 5-7-5. For the haiku, a first line was provided: yellow jubilee. Some did one of each.

All writers take note: production under pressure brought results. It gave each one something to polish later.

Today and always
I will wait for tomorrow
but will live today
Marian Bogert, Caldwell

Yellow jubilee
Tender ears growing high
Juicy garden corn
Connie Otteson, Idaho Falls

Yellow jubilee
Brilliant announcement of Spring
Forsythia blooms
LaDean Messenger, Pocatello

Heavenly fragrance
A Natural Therapy
Roses' emissions
LaDean Messenger Pocatello

Yellow jubilee
The new puppy leaves pools
of puddles on white tiles.
Haiku not signed

Yellow jubilee
Corn is high with *yellow silk*
Sun is bright in the sky.
Laila Gohn, Caldwell

Yellow jubilee
Bevy of beauties, jonquils
Dancing in the breeze
Marilyn Cork, Sandpoint

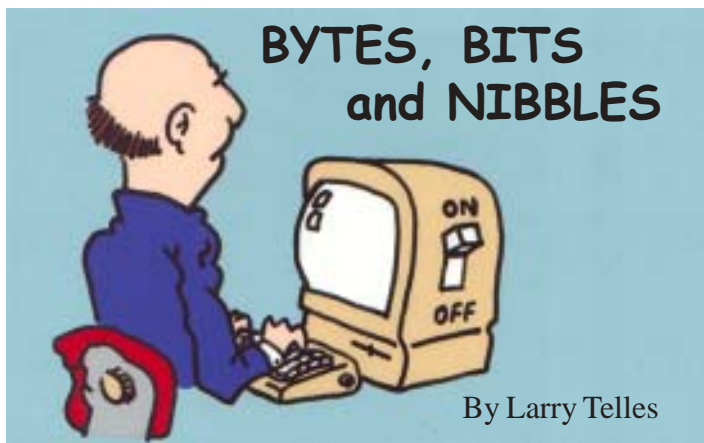
Morning mists hide trees
A moist blanket for landscape
And squirrels and owls
Christine Jorgensen, Missoula

Yellow jubilee
Daffodils trumpet
Announce coming Spring
Jim Turner, CDA

This newsletter tries to create a balance between prose and poetry. If you have any poems, haiku, etc. please submit them. Most of us need some word pictures from time to time.

You can email them to Janet See, Larry Telles, or Tomia Browning. If we get several, we will use one or two a month.

Thank you in advance. Editor



It's a joy to be sitting in my basement office working on the newsletter with the temperature outside in the 90's. Let's see what I've got on all these tiny scraps of paper next to my computer.

Honorable Mention Department:

Janet See got an honorable mention in *ByLine Magazine* for a How-To-Article "Three Secrets to Weightloss." The next step is first place Jan!

Missed Birthday:

When you have a combined June-July newsletter, sometimes things get overlooked. That's what happened in the last issue. The front page, left column should have read: July 7 Jenni Hearne. Hope you had a nice birthday.

A Second Introduction:

In the May 2004 issue of this newsletter I wrote about The Lakegazette Creativity Writing Challenge. After checking the activity calendar I decide to postpone that challenge until after the Writer's Conference in May. Since that function is over, that means I'm going to introduce the rules at the September 8th and 16th meetings.

It is not for the faint at heart. It doesn't matter if you write fiction or non-fiction prose, poetry, children or adult, or one act plays. The only category that won't work is haiku.

You're in competition with yourself and there is no time limit. You only need a pencil, paper and some imagination. The rules are not complicated, but must be followed to work.

This challenge doesn't have a deadline, but you should have something to read at our October, November or December meeting. In one of my writing classes and several of my cartooning classes I used it as an exercise. The students loved it. I dare you to try it!

You've Been Out in The Sun Too Long Department:

Each morning my wife Margaret and I sit and read the Spokesman Review and the Coeur d'Alene Press. We are both news junkies, who can't get through the day without that fix. She came across an article with cause her to laugh out loud. As she read it to me, the little wheels in my head began to turn at a rapid speed. I reached for a pair of scissors as she read some dreaded words, "...and the contest ends on Thursday, July 29, 2004." My watch indicated that it was the morning of Wednesday, July 28, 2004.

Upon leaving the breakfast table I placed the newspaper clipping in my pocket. Several times during the day I accepted and rejected certain portions of a plan of chosen words. This discussion with my right brain continued until 11:30 P.M. when I typed it in Word. I wanted it in cold storage for at least eight hours. If it still looked good on the morning on Thursday morning, it would be my entry to the contest.

Below is the article:

Oh I Wish...I could drive the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile? This summer, Oscar Mayer is offering a chance for 50 people to win the use of one of its famous Wienermobiles for a day and up to \$5000 cash.

To enter, tell Oscar Mayer (in 50 words or less) what you would do with the Wienermobile for a day if you had \$5000 to spend on the wish. Entry forms are available at oscardmayer.com. Or send your entry to: Oh I Wish Contest, P.O. Box 4377, Blair, NE 68009-4377.

Winners will be chosen based on originality, creativity, the use of the Wienermobile in the wish and the willingness to help others. All entries must be received by Thursday, July 29, 2004.

My entry for the CDA Chapter of the IWL:

The Idaho Writer's League wrote a book of children's short stories, Kaleidoscope," turning all profits to Coeur d'Alene's Children's Village. I would buy 312 books with the \$5000, load Wienermobile with the authors, drive to local schools, read, autograph and distribute the books to the children.

Conclusion:

I also see us handing out flyers for the "Children's Writing Contest" at each of the schools on our journey. The contest winners will be announced after August 31, 2004. I'll keep you posted.

Empty:

I just ran out of scraps of paper. I guess I'll just gather more for next month.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

2004 Officers

David E. Hibberd: President
509 928-5528

Noah Buntain: 1st VP & Co-Program Director
667-8912

Larry Telles: 2nd VP & Newsletter Co-Editor
762-2548

Jenni Hearne: Treasurer
772-1766

Dottie Maley: Historian
762-2247

Char Wyatt-Thompson: Hospitality Chair
509 922-2826

Publicity Committe

Position Open

Liz Mastin: Secretary
664-2785

Jan See: Newsletter Co-Editor
772-7646

Judith A. Farrey: Special Events Treasurer
623-2123

Mary L. Smith: 2004 Writers Fair Co-Chair
762-4081

Patti Dickinson: 2004 Writers Fair Co-Chair
667-8912

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.