

Our mission is to foster a dynamic literary and writing community that advances the cultural life of Western Colorado.

westerncoloradowriters'forum

WCWF, 740 Gunnison Ave., Suite 205, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Volume 4:10

October 2018

Current News & Views

Attend the open WCWF board meeting - Wed., Oct 10, 11am, 740 Gunnison, GJ.

Donate some time and energy to increasing writing awareness on the Western Slope - Join the Board!

CHECK OUT WCWF'S NEW WEB SITE - <https://westerncoloradowriters.org/>

Opportunities to Read: In case you haven't noticed, there are new and interesting opportunities for poets and authors to read to an audience. This is a wonderful way to gain confidence in your work and learn to incorporate audience feed back. Check out the events on page 4.

Upcoming Happenings

November 6 Writers Night at the Library is "Memoir - Creator, Crafter or Editor" with Rebecca Mullen.

December Writers Night is an Open Mic night. More info or sign up at writersforum@gmail.com

WCWF survives on dues and grants. Pay your dues, make a donation or find out what you can sponsor at www.westerncoloradowriters.org.

Send news and contributions to virg@leafmedia.com



Rabbit Holes: Conversations with Artists

"The Art of Uncertainty"

Open mic - bring a poem or song to share!



Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer has published countless collections of poetry and taught for meditation retreats, 12-step programs, hospice and other organizations. She earned her MA in English and Linguistics at UW-Madison.



Alya Howe has won numerous awards for dance, poetry and performance art, and has performed solo and with dance companies throughout the US and Europe. She runs three performing arts series in Carbondale.



Uche Ogbuji's chapbook *Ndewo* is a Colorado Book Award Winner and a Westword 2015 Award Winner. His poems fuse Igbo culture, European classicism, the American Mountain West and Hip-Hop influences.

Wednesday, Oct. 17, KAFM Radio Room

KAFM or WCWF members \$5; non-members/\$10;
Doors open at 6:30pm • Reservations at kafmradio.org

Supported by the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture

Making the Invisible Visible

Writers Night, GJ Library • Oct. 2 • 5:30-7:30 • FREE

This is a short master class in voice & desire, directing the line, discovering characters at vulnerable moments and borrowing language to hone fiction, nonfiction or poetry. Open to all levels of writers. Sandra Dorr has won 21 literary awards, taught at seven major universities, directed a writing program at WSU-Vancouver, and founded the Western Colorado Writers' Forum. www.sandradorr.com



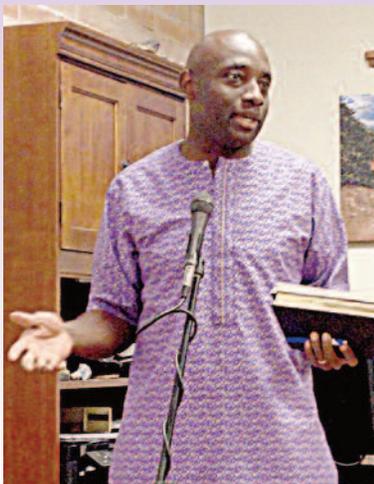
More Upcoming Events - See Page 2

WORKSHOP

Stretch your Language Creativity

We are multicultural. Our friends have different first languages. We express ourselves by code switching—formal/casual/jargon—sometimes mid sentence, pura vida! Such diversity is everywhere, in media, Hip-Hop and song lyrics. All energy to be poured into artistic creativity. Page poets, slam poets, even prose and drama writers will enjoy these fun examples and practices to help stretch participants with language play.

Uche Ogbuji, more properly *Úchènnà Ogbújí*, was born in Calabar, Nigeria. He lived in Egypt, England and elsewhere before settling near Boulder, Colorado. His poetry chapbook, *Ndewo*, is a Colorado Book Award Winner, and a Westword Award Winner. His poems fuse Igbo culture, European classicism, American Mountain West setting, and Hip-Hop. He co-hosts the Poetry Voice podcast and is featured in the Best New African Poets anthology.



October 18
5:30-7:30pm
Copeka
Coffee House
1012 No. 5th,
Grand Junction
Colorado
\$5 Members,
\$15 Non-Members

*Uche at a recent
poetry reading in
Grand Junction*

WCWF Poetry Slam with WordHorde

Friday, November 16 • 6:30pm • CMU, Houston Room, GJ

Performance by Western Colorado University's WordHorde who will also run the contest

- \$5 donation at the door -

 Get Your Entries Written 

Prize money provided by
Lithic Press

Don't know about Slam Poetry? It can be raucous, funny, tearful, social and personal. Some samples:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Youth+Poetry+Slam&&view=detail&mid=2E1FAA7C2CEED2AC18052E1FAA7C2CEED2AC1805&&FORM=VRDGAR>

- Original work only • Three minute time limit
 - No props • Prepare three pieces
 - Appropriate language
- Complete rules at westerncoloradowriters.org

For info and registration email
writersforum@gmail.com
or call Linda Skinner 261-1820



Guest hosts WordHorde perform at the 2017 Slam.



Who is WordHorde?

This traveling troupe of slam poets from Western Colorado University in Gunnison performs all across the state. They are under the advisement of WCU professor Douglas Jones. The membership of WordHorde changes as students graduate, but their challenge remains: slam poetry. Word Horde both performed and hosted WCWF's 2017 Slam Poetry Event. We welcome them back.



Bobby LeFebre congratulates 2015 winners.

WHAT YOU MISSED!

Sept. 4, Writer's Night at the Grand Junction Main Library - Grand Junction Daily Sentinel Editor, Jay Seaton said newsprint is their second largest expense and the main reason they "reluctantly" made the decision to print two papers a week digitally. The price of newsprint soared when President Trump imposed tariffs on newsprint. Newspapers like the Sentinel hold two editorial meetings a day to discuss content and make decisions about what news will run and to determine the size of the coverage. They are the first publishers in the country to be given permission from the FCC to purchase KISS 94.3, Juan (Spanish language station), Red Rock, and Canyon Country. One of his goals is to help create an "informed electorate" rather than an "inflamed electorate." He also recommended we read *What is Happening to News* by Jack Fuller.

The September 19 Rabbit Holes was a stunning success with musical artists Shawnee Rayne and July Hunter harmonizing with keyboard to open and close the event.



Kiersten Bridger and Colorado Poet Laureate Joseph Hutchinson kept the audience enthralled with a wide range of poetry from historical to spiritual to political.

Put the last RH on Oct. 17 on your calendar now - this is one you don't want to miss!!!

August 30 - More than 60 people came to hear the freshest poetry in town at the Slam at Copeka Coffee. First place was Caleb Ferganchick; second, Avenessa Rose; and third, Ascher Nikolas. Kudos to Corey Spurlock for organizing a night of great poetry. Start writing now for the next Slam on November 16th.

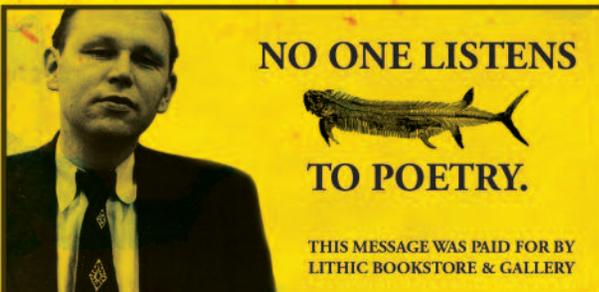
Critique Groups Offer Transition to Publishing

Two prose critique groups are currently meeting, sponsored by WCWF and held at CFI, 740 Gunnison, in the Atrium, on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Other groups may be available privately, at the library and GJ book stores. To find out more about these groups, email Jane Miller at cjmiller@gobrainstorm.net.



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NO ONE LISTENS
TO POETRY.

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BEACON

Do you love meeting new people and recording their stories? The BEACON Senior Newspaper is looking for fresh voices to join their freelance writing staff. Send a cover letter and writing samples to

<mailto:beacon@pendantpublishing.com>

WEEKSLITERARY.COM

WHERE WRITING IS A PASSION

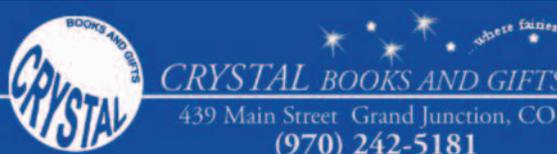
Jan Weeks' prompt service, reasonable rates, and extensive knowledge base can help you get started on the road to publication.

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AROUND THE REGION

Grand Junction

Mesa County Library

Poetry Night - Wed., Oct. 10, 6pm. Check out other events at mesacountylibraries.org.

Crystal Books, 439 Main, GJ

Oct. 5 & 6 Downtown Art Fest featuring WCWF member Virginia Jensen's work in beadweaving and bead embroidery.

More information at crystalbooksandgifts.com

Poets & Writers of CMU

October 18 - CMU Poetry Reading. 7pm, 560 Salon, 354 Main St. GJ. Readings by Anne Bledsoe, Michele Hanson, Carrie Kellerby

Copeka Cofee, 1012 No. 5th, GJ, sponsors a poetry reading every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8pm. 628-0878 for information.

Poetry Reading at The Kiln Coffee Bar, 326 Main, 7pm, last Tuesdays, open to the public, free coffee and tea. To participate, sign up with Tammy at dragonflysummer@gmail.com.

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers

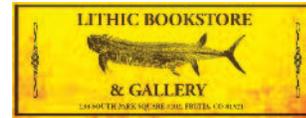


Saturday, October 13, Shannon Baker. Business Incubator Center, 2591 Legacy Way, GJ. FREE. 9-Noon. With **deep point of view**, readers dive into the story and lose track of themselves to see the world through your character's eyes. What are the tricks, tips, and craft to create this magical experience for your readers?

Check out all their offerings at:

<http://rmfw.org/events/free-programs/ws/>

Fruita



At the Lithic

138 South Park Sq., #202, Fruita, CO - Th-Sat, 12-8. Check out Lithic Book Store's New Calendar of Events at

<https://lithicbookstore.com/western-slope-literary-calendar/2018-01/>

Talking Gourds Tour

Featured artist for October 23-24 - Claudia Putnam. For events in Norwood, Telluride, and Montrose, check their website <https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds/>.

For other locations and times, contact Art Goodtimes, shroompa@gmail.com

Aspen

Aspen Poets Society reading and open mic is usually on the last Sunday of the month.

For more information Contact Lisa Zimet at (970)379-2136 or lisamaxz@aol.com

Ridgway

Ridgway's Open Bard Series, first *Wednesday*, Oct. 3, promptly at 6:30 at the Sherbino Theater. Selections from Literary Burlesque directed by Kiersten Bridger.

<https://www.facebook.com/RidgwayPoetry-Series/>

Do you have a local or regional writers' event you want to promote here, please send information to virg@leafmedia.com

WCWF Member Accomplishments

Jane Miller, member and recent board member at WCWF was selected to be in the RMFW Anthology this year. Her story "Thresholds" is written under the pen name Rose Kite.

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers (RMFW) is pleased to announce the publication of its latest anthology, *False Faces: Twenty Stories About the Masks We Wear*. Edited by Denver author Warren Hammond and his wife, Angie Hodapp of Nelson Literary Agency, *False Faces* explores what happens when we conceal ourselves behind carefully constructed identities. Why do we hide? What are we afraid to confront? And what happens when at last the masks come off?

Each author interpreted the theme in a unique and surprising way; therefore, in the pages of *False Faces*, you'll find tales of fantasy, humor, crime fiction, realism (magical and otherwise), horror, and coming-of-age. You might even find a superhero and a fairy tale or two.

Editors for the next anthology, which will most likely be published in 2020, are Natasha Christensen and Rachel Craft. Please keep an eye on RMFW's website, www.rmfw.org, in the coming months for more information about the theme, and how and when to submit.

To purchase a copy of *False Faces*, search the name at amazon.com

What have you accomplished?

As a WCWF member, you can reach our newsletter audience of hundreds waiting to hear about your writing successes. Be an inspiration. Tell us what you've done! Send accomplishments to: virg@leafmedia.com

WCWF Wrap-Up

Report from the Board

An open Board meeting convened on September 5, 2018, in the CFI Solarium with members Joe Skinner, Virginia Jensen and Linda Skinner present.

Cory Spurlock, local slam poet and writer, attended to discuss interfacing with WCWF on local slams and other writing and performing events. Cory won the 2017 WCWF Slam event.

The board offered its support for poetry and other local and regional writing events as an umbrella organization who can help small groups of writers succeed and grow.

Plans were firmed up regarding upcoming events, in particular final decisions were made regarding the Poetry Slam on November 16 at CMU's Houston Hall.

WCWF Board Members

Chairman - Joe Wilcox

Secretary/Treasurer - Joe Skinner

Program Director - Linda Skinner

PR/Newsletter - Virginia Jensen

To contact a board member email to:

wcwritersforum@gmail.com

General Information

Pay your dues or make a donation at www.westerncoloradowriters.org, or send a check to WCWF, 740 Gunnison Ave., Suite 205, GJ, CO 81501. Check out and like our Facebook page so that you'll be even more up to date. And! If you're a Twitter-er, follow the Forum on Twitter @westCOWriters.

Volunteers who can help with PR, set up events, and liaison with community groups are welcome. You *are* WCWF.

Western Slope Writers' Calendar - October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Poetry Slam Coming Nov. 16	1	2 Writers Night, GJ Library; 5:30pm, p.1	3 Ridgway Poets, 6:30pm, p.4	4 Prose Critique, 1:30-3:30; p.3 Crystal Books, 6pm, free, p.4	5	6
7	8 11-1am, Poetrix Critique Group, CFI	9	10 Board Meeting 11am, CFI, p.1 Poetry Night, GJ Library, 6pm, p.4	11	12	13 RMFW Workshop, 9-12, p.4
14	15	16 Poetry Reading, Copeka Coffee, 6:30pm, p.4 Every Tuesday	17 Rabbit Holes, 7pm, KAFM, p.1	18 Prose Critique Groups, 1:30-3:30; 6-8pm, p.3 Cretivity Workshop with Uche, Copeka, 5:30, p.2	19	20
21	22 11-1am, Poetrix Critique Group, Solarium, 740 Gunnison	23 Talking Gourds Poetry Readings Norwood, Telluride, etc, p.4	24	25	26	27
28 Poets Read, 6:30pm, Aspen, p.4	29	30 Poetry Reading at the Kiln, 7pm. p.4	31	<p><i>"I try to create sympathy for my characters, then turn the monsters loose."</i></p> <p><i>– Stephen King</i></p>		