

Current News & Views

Attend the next open WCWF board meeting - Wed. Feb. 13, 11am, 740 Gunnison, GJ.

The Board is happy to announce the admittance of two new Board members: Carly Smith and Linda Evans However - we still need about four or five more members. Join us!

Upcoming Events

March 16, WCWF joins with the Old Broads of the Wilderness to present writing to convince and advocate. Author and activist Stephen Trimble will speak followed by break-out sessions and Q&A. If you want to write a letter, editorial, poetry, essay or social commentary fiction as an advocater for a social issue, this is your event! 9-12 at CMU Ballroom

TED Talks comes to GJ - March 9, Avalon Theater, 645 Main, GJ. Sell your book or ideas. Further info at www.ted.com/tedx/events/32623

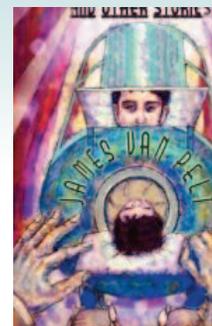
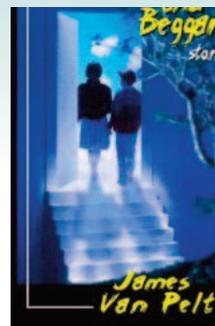
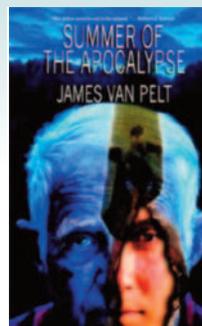
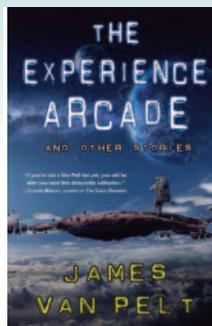
WCWF survives on dues and grants. Pay your dues, make a donation or find out what you can sponsor at www.westerncoloradowriters.org.

Send news and contributions to virg@leafmedia.com

Top Ten Writing Tips No Matter Where You are in Your Career

A totally new presentation by Jim Van Pelt who has given workshops for WCWF for several years and always gives 110% with experience, lucidity and humor.

James Van Pelt has published two novels and sold over 150 short stories to major science fiction, fantasy and horror magazines. His work has been reprinted in numerous year's best anthologies. He's won the Colorado Book Award and been a finalist for other awards, including the Nebula. His latest collection, *The Experience Arcade and Other Stories* came out at the World Fantasy Convention in 2017. He can be found on FaceBook and at jamesvanpelt.com.



Writers Night Returns - Mar. 5 New Venue: The Art Center

7th and Orchard, Grand Junction, CO • 5:30-7:30

How to Write a Great (and Not Schmaltsy) Love Scene

One of the hardest scenes to successfully write is the love scene. In your mind you may picture a moving, romantic interlude, but down on paper, you find it reads like melodrama—or worse. This can spell disaster for your novel.

Establish believable reasons for your characters to fall in love

Many amateur love stories fail because the author expects us to automatically understand why two individuals care about each other more than mere animal instinct.

Give the characters something other than themselves to talk about together

One way to avoid the pitfall of writing schmaltsy dialogue is to give your lovers something important to discuss—a problem unrelated to their relationship that they must solve.

Limit the dialogue—the power is in what they DON'T say

In real life, people rarely say exactly what they feel, particularly when they feel vulnerable. Your story should reflect this human behavior. Actions arise from thought and feeling.

Delay the kiss...and the sex

Romance happens in the space between attraction and fulfillment. The longer you spread out that space, the more romantic your scene or your story becomes.

– Adapted from an on-line article by editor Jessi Rita Hoffman. Read the entire article at <https://www.janefriedman.com/write-love-scene/>

Writing A Love Scene

The Ten Essentials

1. Know your characters.
2. Keep the plot in mind.
3. Remember you're writing love, not sex.
4. Avoid purple prose.
5. Throw in lots of sexual tension.
6. Know your audience.
7. Don't forget the setting.
8. Avoid clichés like the plague.
9. Make sure the theme is expressed.
10. Incorporate the background.

Try several versions of a scene until you find something that flows. But remember rules are made to be broken.

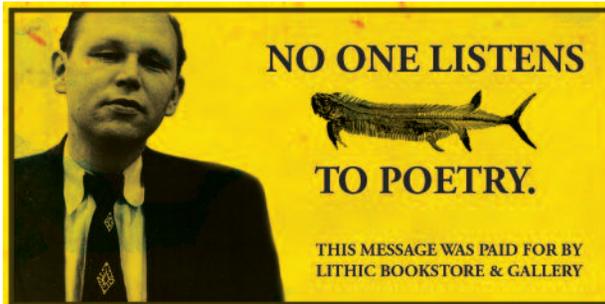
– Adapted from an article by Anne Marble

Read the article at <http://www.writing-world.com/romance/essentials.shtml>

BEACON

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AROUND THE REGION

Grand Junction

Mesa County Library

Poetry Night - Wed., Feb. 13, 6pm. With Lisa Connors and Jennifer Hancock, assistant professor of English at CMU. Find other events at mesacountylibraries.org.

Poets & Writers of CMU

CMU Poetry Reading Feb 21. 7pm, 560 Salon, 354 Main St. GJ. Readings by CMU poets.

Copeka Coffee, 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



Join RMFW to keep up with the latest activities in writing on the western slope. Take advantage of their on-line services, blogs, classes and the annual Colorado Gold Conference and contests.

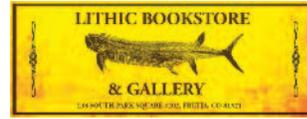
Contact Terri Benson: tbenson@gjincubator.org

Check out all their offerings at:

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

WCWF wants to be part of your outreach to local and regional authors. Do you have a local or regional writers' event you want to promote here, please send information to virg@leafmedia.com

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

Feb. 11 at Meadowlark House in Norwood, 6:30pm. Informal Talking gourds gathering. Info call 970-729-1618

Feb. 12 at Telluride Arts Building, 6pm. Valentine theme is "first Kiss." Read several of your own original works on any subject or read from Rosemerry Wahtol-Trommer's trove of love poems.

<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, usually the first Thursday, promptly at 6:30 at the Sherbino Theater. Check for current info here.

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

Fischer Prize and Colorado Cantor Awards for Poetry

The Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program is proud to announce its annual Fischer Prize national contest with over \$3000 in awards and travel stipends. And for Colorado poets, that includes a special \$500 Cantor Award for the best poem by a Colorado writer who enters the Fischer Prize contest. Deadline for the contest is May 1, 2019.

The Judge for 2019 will be Berkeley (CA) Poet Laureate Rafael Jesús González.

The Fischer Prize includes a \$1000 first prize award, plus a \$500 travel stipend to attend the May 17-19 Telluride Literary Arts Festival, where the awards will be made. Five finalists receive \$200 each for their winning poems, plus \$100 stipend each to attend the May event. In addition, a \$500 Cantor Award winner will be selected from any Colorado poet among the finalists, or one whose poem is selected as the best among the Colorado entrants.

For contest rules visit Fischer Prize. Contest deadline is May 1, 2019.

WCWF Member Accomplishments

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

The Board met Jan. 9, 2019, in the CFI Solarium with members Virginia Jensen, Joe Skinner and Linda Skinner.

The board studied the financial report given by Joe S. 2018 was a successful year financially in which we paid our way with the help of grants, donations and dues.

Plans were made to locate the Writers Night in the Art Center. Joe S. and Virginia will meet with them.

Linda will make a presentation to the Arts Commission on how we spent their grant money this year.

We discussed upcoming events.

The Board needs new members. Attend the Feb. 13 meeting. Get everything FREE if you join.

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

Western Slope Writers' Calendar - February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>LOVE "It's a very dangerous state. You are inclined to recklessness and kind of tune out ... everything that's been important to you. It's actually not all that pleasurable. I don't know who the hell wants to get in a situation where you can't bear an hour without somebody's company."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>— Colin Firth</i></p>					1	2
3	4	5 Poetry Reading, Copeka Coffee, 6:30pm, p.3 Every Tuesday	6	7 Prose Critique, 1:30-3:30	8	9
10	11 Talking Gourds Poetry Reading, Norwood, p 3	12 Talking Gourds Poetry Reading, Telluride, p 3	13 Board Meeting 11am, CFI, p.1 Poetry Night, GJ Library, 6pm, p.3	14 Valentines Day	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Prose Critique Groups, 1:30-3:30; 6-8pm CMU Poets Read, 7pm , p.3	22	23
24 Poets Read, 6:30pm, Aspen, p.3	25	26 Poetry Reading at the Kiln, 7pm. p.3	27	28 COMING Mar. 5 Writers Night at the Art Center, 5:30- 7:30pm, p.1	<p><i>"Literature—creative literature—unconcerned with sex, is inconceivable."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>— Gertrude Stein</i></p>	