

Current News & Views

Attend the next open WCWF board meeting - **Thursday, Dec. 12, at 3:30pm, 740 Gunnison, GJ.**

YOUR INPUT TO WCWF FOR 2020

We'd love your suggestions. Would you like more workshops, lectures, prompts, reading opportunities or performances? More Wings? What topics do you need to explore? Tell us what you want in 2020! Send your ideas to: [wwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)

FREE U. of Iowa online course: Hidden Meanings: Creative Fiction, Non-fiction & Facts. Through Dec. 31 - See page 3

The 2020 Colorado Book Awards are open to submissions through Jan. 6: <https://coloradohumanities.org/programs/colorado-book-awards/>

Upcoming Events

No First Tuesday Writers Night in January due to New Year's Holiday

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

Send email, news and contributions to virg@leafmedia.com

Writers Read

It's finally *your* night!

All year long in our Writers Nights we've been talking about writing. Now's your chance to share some of what you've written. *This is for enjoyment and sharing - not a critique group.* Bring your poems, chapters or segments to share at our open mic night. Plan on a 3- to 5-minute reading. If we have time, we'll do another round. **Don't be shy!**

Writers Night • Tuesday, Dec. 3, 5:30-7:30 FREE at The Art Center

The WCWF board is working on our 2020 Writers Night presentations. If you have ideas for a workshop, or if you feel a need to hear about a certain topic on writing, email your suggestions to: [wwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)



7th and Orchard,
Grand Junction, CO
Registration at the door
info: [wwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)
or westerncoloradowriters.org

WHAT YOU MISSED!

THE ART OF THE SLAM

Hosted by past winner Corey Spurlock, the slam poetry event on Nov. 7 brought over 50 into the Art Center for an evening of exciting and meaningful performances. Once again ages ranged wide and topics were both familiar and surprising. And as always, a treat!

PHOTOS: Left - audience with Corey; center - the judges; right - the winners Elisa Dickinson-First Place winner, with second and third place winners Christopher Goldthwaite and Sunny Rawlins.



Writing and Publishing Non-Fiction an evening with published experts



*Rebecca Mullen
Memoir and
coaching*



*Linda Armstrong
Non-fiction
education*



*Virginia Jensen
Craft & jewelry
instruction*

This trio of authors kept everyone engaged as they told November workshop attendees how they became published non-fiction authors. From divergent fields, each had a story of failure and success, with the emphasis on what made their work a success. Rebecca talked of her work with beginning writers and how she helped them organize their work into a publishable book. Linda spoke of working with major education publishers and the many types of writing that go into such pieces. Virginia spoke of her four beadwork books, their editing and illustration, and the need to work within the requirements of the publisher for success.

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>

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AROUND THE REGION

Grand Junction Mesa County Library

Poetry Night - Wed., Dec. 11, 6pm. With Lisa Connors and Jennifer Hancock. Find other events at mesacountylibraries.org.

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers



Dec 14 Saturday, 9-Noon, 2591 Legacy Way, GJ, CO. How to Write Authentic African-American Characters Diversity is a buzz word right now. But how do writers accurately and authentically represent African-American characters in their novels without resorting to stereotypes—well-meaning or otherwise?

Contact Terri Benson: tbenson@gjincubator.org
Keep up with RMFW's latest activities at <http://rmfw.org/events/free-programs/ws/>



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Ridgway

Ridgway's Open Bard Series returns 6:30,
December 10 with Nick Arvin. Info here.

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

Talking Gourds Tour

Dec. 17th Poet Laureate Emerita Elissa Dickson will give a holiday show. Theme prompt will be "Time." Telluride Arts Gallery is 135 W. Pacific Ave. – across the street from the entrance to the Wilkinson Public Library.

Contact Art Goodtimes, shroompa@gmail.com
More about Talking Gourds at www.telluride-

Aspen

Aspen Poets Society reading, last Sunday of the month. For more information Contact Lisa Zimet at (970)379-2136 or lisamaxz@aol.com

Pitkin County Library Open Mic, first Thursdays, 5-8pm. To sign up in advance email: monique.rodriquez@pitkincounty.com

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FREE U. of Iowa Online Workshop

Hidden Meanings: **Creative Fiction, Non-Fiction & Facts**

This course will be given as a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) FREE of charge and can be taken on your own schedule 15 November - 31 December, 2019.

In November 2019, the world will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. At the same time, there is a continually growing global spread of misinformation and disinformation campaigns. This course takes a creative fiction and non-fiction approach to understanding and recognizing information, misinformation, and disinformation.

You as participants will work with iconic pieces such as The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells and Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius by Jorge Luis Borges as well as more recent fiction and non-fiction texts, technically exploring how elements of information are used, and experimenting with these elements in your own creative fiction and non-fiction responses, contributing to the identification and strengthening of the roles of mythbusters, debunkers, and individuals in countering disinformation.

Register Here:

<https://iowa.novoed.com/#!/courses/hidden-meanings/flyer>

Of course you can also access the past MOOC course materials here: <http://www.distance-learningiwp.org/>

No experience is necessary. These online courses are open to all writers at all levels and open to anyone, anywhere in the world.

And the course is entirely free!

WCWF Wrap-Up

Report from the Board

The board met on Nov. 14 with Virginia Jensen, Caleb Ferganchick, Linda Skinner and Jane Miller attending.

Assessment of the November 7 poetry slam was positive with some with some exceptions for the lighting and sound. Overall the venue was successful and the event went very well.

Plans for 2020 are slowly emerging as new board members give their input. Members are invited to make suggestions for topics and events for next year.

The board welcomes Sunny Rawlins as a member of our team.

The December 12, 3:30, at CFI board meeting is open. Feel free to attend.

The Board needs new members. Get everything WCWF charges FREE if you join.

WCWF Board Members

Linda Skinner • Jane Miller
PR/Newsletter - Virginia Jensen
Sunny Rawlins • Carly Smith
Caleb Ferganchick

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 - December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Writers Night at the Art Center, 5:30-7:30pm, p.1	4	5 Prose Critique, 1:30-3:30	6	7
8	9	10	11 Poetry Night, GJ Library, 6pm, p.3	12 Board Meeting 3:30pm, CFI, p.1	13	14 RMFW Writers Workshop, 3 9-noon, p.3
15	16	17 Talking Gourds Poetry Reading, Telluride, p.3	18	19 Prose Critique, 1:30-3:30	20	21
22	23	24	25 Joyous Holidays and Meaningful Holy Days	26	27	28
29 Poets Read, 6:30pm, Aspen, p.3	30	31 Happy New Year - Welcome 2020	"Christmas renews our youth by stirring our wonder. The capacity for wonder has been called our most pregnant human faculty, for in it are born our art, our science, our religion." — Ralph Sockman			