

Current News & Views

Attend the next open WCWF board meeting - to be determined, 740 Gunnison, GJ.

A veterans writing group is continuing and the Alzheimer program is being run remotely.

WCWF is looking for sponsors for our Slam and Write Out Loud events. Good advertising in return. Contact Caleb at 970-985-8175. WE hope to be up and running by June.

Upcoming Events

Slamming Bricks, an invitational slam organized by Caleb Fergan-chick, is scheduled for June 27. Already 10 performers are signed up. CO Poet Laureate Bobby LeFebre will be a judge. More info to come.

LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP, JUNE 5-19, 2020 features Garth Greenwell, Francesca Sloane, Jane Hirschfield and more. Apply for advanced workshops by March 15, tickets available in early April. Info at lighthousewriters.org/content/lit-fest
Send email, news and contributions to virg@leafmedia.com

Writing in Isolation

Neal Pollock, best selling author writes: *"Times of disease create great literature. William Shakespeare wrote "King Lear," a good but somewhat overwrought play, during a bubonic plague outbreak. Geoffrey Chaucer penned "The Canterbury Tales" even though he was stricken with leprosy. Mary Shelley produced "Frankenstein" while encased in an iron lung, James Joyce manifested "Ulysses" when 75 percent of Dubliners were going mad from syphilis, and William Kennedy and Sylvia Plath wrote "Ironweed" and "The Bell Jar," respectively, from the polio ward."* More at thefederalist.com/2020/03/17/how-the-greatest-living-american-writer-endures-his-quarantine/

"The Guardian" takes up Shakespeare in detail: *"Pestilence was rife in the Bard's time, closing theatres and ravaging life. Did he write his bleak, desperate drama while self-isolating? We sift the evidence."* More here: theguardian.com/stage/2020/mar/22/shakespeare-in-lock-down-did-he-write-king-lear-in-plague-quarantine

It's time to use your e-magination! Check out all the writing resources on line, including the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers for their on-line offers and podcasts. Sign up for Coleen Story's Writing and Wellness blog.

Try holding your writers groups as a phone or Skype conference. Keep in touch with old friends who write. Hang out in writers chat rooms. Search out one of the many prompt on line sites such as thinkwritten.com, writersrelief.com, Poets&Writers at pw.org/tags/writing_prompts or creative-writing-now.com/creative-writing-prompts.html

And don't forget to share your results with fellow writers. Be an inspiration!

**WCWF supports the
Coronavirus quarantine.
Please be safe.
Take precautions you feel
are necessary to protect
yourself and others who
are vulnerable.**

All events in April are cancelled. Future events are pending. If restrictions continue the May Writers Night may be on line. Other meetings are pending. We will be sending out emails during the quarantine period to keep you informed. Check the website for information as events unfold. Contact a board member for information. wcwritersforum@gmail.com

Write Out Loud: A Writer's Challenge

Would you like to see your work performed on stage live and played on air? WCWF invites you to enter your one-act plays, poetry or readings to be chosen by a panel of judges for live performances at

**KAFM Radio Room
To be Rescheduled.**

WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board is doing business by email and phone. Events are cancelled until further notice. Please be safe and well and keep writing!

WCWF Board Members

Linda Skinner, Pres.

Virginia Jensen, Vice Pres.

Erica Kitzman, Treas.

Sunny Ramsey • Carly Smith

Caleb Ferganchick • Jane Miller

To contact a board member email to:

writersforum@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.

Read. Read. Read. Read some more.

"Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window."

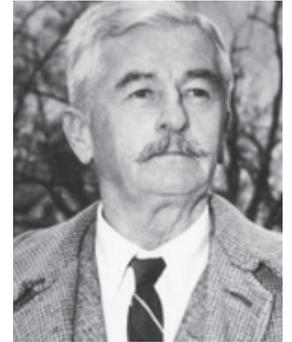
William Faulkner's advice seems more appropriate than ever in this time of isolation and quarantine. More than simply passing time, reading is an education about life. James Baldwin suggests:

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive or who had ever been alive."

Henry Miller suggests that reading is even more precious and spiritual: *"We should read to give our souls a chance to luxuriate."*

Kurt Vonnegut agrees: *"I believe that reading and writing are the most nourishing forms of meditation anyone has so far found. By reading the writings of the most interesting minds in history, we meditate with our own minds and theirs as well. This to me is a miracle."*

With the library closed, we are left with e-readers and mail order. Dig into the books on your shelves and rediscover old favorites and books you need to read again. If you don't have books yourself talk to your friends who may share their library. Read. Any way you can.



- Local Interest
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