

Current News & Views

WCWF board meetings - now on line.
Contact a board member for info.

WRITE OUT LOUD, our annual performance event for local writers has been cancelled to be rescheduled in 2021. Begin writing now to enter.

Upcoming Events

STORYFEST in Paonia, June 26-27. North Fork will celebrate the written word through workshops, speakers, readings, and performances. Visit our website <https://bluesage.org/storyfest-2020/>. Register by May 22 for discount.

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 LIT-FEST IS CHANGING TO A MONTH-LONG ZOOM EVENT. Featured are Garth Greenwell, Francesca Sloane, Jane Hirschfield, Jenny Offill and more. Sign up for advanced workshops. Info at lighthousewriters.org
Send email, news and contributions to virg@leafmedia.com

Prompt Night Moves to Zoom

The second prompt night was held as a password protected Zoom meeting on April 30. The event was led by Mindy Rice, a retired teacher who has enjoyed playing with words all her life. She has a chapbook, *Seafever*, published by Finishing Line Press, and a self-published book of illustrated poetry for children, *Animal Limericks ABC*.

Future prompt night meetings are expected to be on Zoom until further notice. Prompt night happens on the last Thursday of the month. Upcoming prompters include Wendy Videlock, local award winning Palisade poet.

Want to be in print? Share your writing here!

The WCWF Newsletter is opening up a page or two to make space for your writing.

If you have short poems, essays, scenes, thoughts, or just what you are writing or thinking about, please feel free to share them with us.

Of course space is limited so short is better.

During this time of isolation, many of the critique groups, workshops and gatherings have been postponed. But we don't want you to stop writing and if sharing helps, then please do.

See our selection, page 4 in this issue for examples.

Send your text in an email to the editor,
virg@leafmedia.com

Write What You Don't Know: A workshop for flexing curiosity

Most writing advice is meant to be dismantled, and in this workshop, we take on the adage "Write what you know." Really? If we are to serve the writing, we must let it know more than we do. Join poet Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer in letting curiosity and uncertainty drive our writing into fresh, resonant new regions—places we couldn't possibly predict. How fun!

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer is well known to WCWF and has been a presenter, teacher and performer of her poetry on many occasions. See more about her at her web and blog site:
www.wordwoman.com.



Writers Night May 5, 2020 - 6pm MST A ZOOM Meeting

To register and receive log on information, please send your name and email address to writersforum@gmail.com.
Workshop is limited to 20 participants.

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers offers Zoom Classes

Date: May 9, 2020, Time: 2–4PM

To get the zoom link, send an email to:
denverprograms@rmfw.org

Title: World-Building From the Fatal Flaw
Speculative worlds need grit and flaws feel real. This workshop will help you find your world's darker side, and define the fatal flaw that your heroes might not be able to resolve. We'll look at some historical examples and societal issues that can help deepen your world's reality as well as analyze some classics of Science Fiction and Fantasy to show how the fatal flaw, the issue at the book's core drive the conflict.

Presenter: David R. Slayton grew up in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where finding fantasy novels was pretty challenging and finding fantasy novels with diverse characters was downright impossible. Now he lives in Denver, Colorado and writes the books he always wanted to read. His debut novel, *WHITE TRASH WARLOCK*, will be released on October 13th, 2020 from Blackstone Publishing. You can sign up for his newsletter at <http://www.davidrslyton.com> or find him on social media as David R. Slayton. He is represented by Lesley Sabga of the Seymour Agency.

Date: May 30, Time: 1–3PM

To get the zoom link, send an email to:
denverprograms@rmfw.org

Title: How to Become a Better Writer in Quarantine: even if you don't feel like writing
Tiffany will teach you how to analyze and dissect the art you're taking in, the way professional editors do with manuscripts, to see how it accomplishes (or doesn't) major storytelling techniques. Using specific suggestions and questions, you'll gain a deeper knowledge of storycraft, and hone the often-elusive skill of self-editing and effective revision to help you get your story onto the page with all the depth and richness and impact it has in your head.

Presenter: Tiffany Yates Martin has spent nearly thirty years as an editor in the publishing industry, working with major publishers and bestselling authors as well as newer writers, and is the author of *Intuitive Editing: A Creative and Practical Guide to Revising Your Writing*. She's led workshops and seminars for conferences and writers' groups across the country and is a frequent contributor to writers' sites and publications. Visit her at www.foxprinteditorial.com, and connect on Facebook and Twitter

Accomplishments

Elizabeth Wheeler, a WCWF member and participant in one of our critique groups, has written and published a cozy mystery. She submitted her work to the critique group before publishing and expressed thanks to all the members for their helpful suggestions.



In her novel, Ellen Lane finds a man's body in her driveway. Ellen and her cousin are worried people won't come now to the Pink Blossoms and Neighborhood Tour they had prepared in honor of former First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, who loved the color pink and grew up in the area. Thanks to her and her cousin's efforts, the murderer confesses, and the tour takes place amongst the blossoms and Colorado sunshine. Her novel, *Murder and Pink Blossoms*, is now available on Amazon.

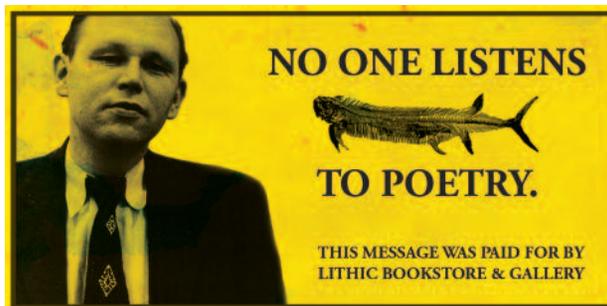
Elizabeth also writes a blog entitled "Ladies of a Certain Age," which she describes as being for "those invisible, powerful, dynamic, vital women." This blog covers such topics and issues such as legal and financial matters, dealing with older children and elderly parents, health, herbs, massage, astrology, fashion, finding new interests. Check out her site at:

<http://ladiesofacertainage.com/>

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WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board is doing business by email and phone. Our last meeting was on Zoom, hosted by Erica Kitzman.

Because of the indeterminate length of the quarantine, many events are pending. We are holding onto the possibility of as many as we can. However, we had to postpone the Write Out Loud performance at The Radio Room until next year. We are still hoping to host the poetry slam, but much is dependant on conditions 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.

Does writing ever really become easier? A former poet laureate answers.

“The fantasy exists that once certain hurdles have been gotten through, this art turns much simpler, that inspiration never falters, and public opinion is always affirmative, and there’s no struggle, there’s no torment, there’s no sense that the thing you’ve embarked on is a catastrophe. I’ve been seriously writing since I was in my earliest teens, and I suffer the same torments that I did then. And the only difference is that now I know they’re never going to go away.” —Louise Glück



Louise Glück, a former Poet Laureate of the United States, is the author of over a dozen books of poetry including Faithful and Virtuous Night (winner of the National Book Award for Poetry) and her recent anthology, Poems: 1962-2012. Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Hass has called her “one of the purest and most accomplished lyric poets now writing.”

Glück taught at Williams College for 20 years and is currently Rosenkranz writer-in-residence at Yale University. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and in 1999 was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Her numerous books of poetry include A Village Life (2009), The Seven Ages (2001), and The Wild Iris (1992), for which she received the Pulitzer Prize. Louise Glück says of writing, “[It] is not decanting of personality. The truth, on the page, need not have been lived. It is, instead, all that can be envisioned.”



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The Critical Question
A Four Piece Cut Up Poem

Real world experience is a big beautiful resource that goes a long way in providing a reality check. Like nuns protecting religious masterpieces, goals are aligned like bottles in a whiskey distillery or magnificent rows of town homes in coastal towns.

Experience, paired with wisdom results in silent confidence. It's a hands-on resource, a refuge among the ruins of "buy more", "size matters", "spend a fortune".

There have been warnings to the careless whose insecurities are loud, who have to show it off. They inventory their hidden gems and highly decorative shrines.

It's plain they have not begun to comprehend even dimly, or contemplate the critical question. To consider what matters would be a barefoot walk over the continental divide.

Annette Ferriole

(A cut-up poem is made by taking words and phrases, seemingly at random, from existing pieces of writing and reassembling them to create a new piece. From this mash-up of words and phrases, you hope to produce original and exciting work.)

Messages from Isolation

by Grand Valley Authors

It started out

on poetry night,
Clorox wipes and keeping our distance.
It started out in a parking lot plugged with cars,
a woman at the check-out buying flats of canned tomatoes.
It started out with a, should-I?- shouldn't-I? –
hurrying home and shutting the door.

It continued on with Facebook and phones, news clips, rumors, deniers, believers, pathetic puns, and clever cartoons. It continued on with body counts, photos of empty highways.

It felt like an FAC without friends, the wrong kind of beer. It felt like nothing but red lights and I'm already late, guidelines no better than picture-directions for assembling a bar-b-que.

I continued with my morning coffee, had ice cream almost every day. I continued writing, reading, mailing greeting cards to friends. Rural isolation wasn't novel. Novel Corona had no face.

Two weeks rambled into five. Easter came, we painted rocks, painted pictures, ignored the dust, and made masks.

I made ours from worn-out sheets and bias tape. Chunky pleats. John fumbled with the strings behind his head, ripped it off. Said I should have used elastic. I fumed. Left the room.

By evening, routine resumed: books, foot rubs, afghans and ice cream.

Never too much ice cream.

– Melinda Rice

...of the situation

deep in the well of it
you can't get shed of it
that's where we fit

slip the bonds of its suction
and you lose all traction
and a lot of action

the enemy of flight;
they constantly fight
for airy rights

and I want to know
where did heaven go
above or below?

it loves to cling
it's amalgamating
it wants everything

the gravity...

— A circular poem,
by Virginia Jensen

Corona Spring Day

Mask on, my eyes inhale
great gulps of vibrant crabapple
blossoms dancing in ambivalent breezes.
Ears capture tiny sparrows' cheeps
issuing from a hidden nest.

I give thanks that a quarantine
cannot limit my senses' ability
to bring life to a cloistered soul.

– Linda Skinner

A Realization

For years a rufous hummingbird insistently
nested above the carport door.
She did not return this year.
But then, you are not here to greet her.
Did she suffer the same fate?

The peeps of baby sparrows in the eaves
interrupt my grieving. I search them out,
embrace the diversion.

– Linda Skinner

