

## Current News & Views

Next open WCWF board meeting -  
**July 9, 3:30 at CFI. See p.2.**

## Upcoming Events

**NO WRITERS NIGHT IN JULY  
DUE TO FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY**

## Save the Date

**AUGUST 4 WRITERS NIGHT**, will feature Allison Snyder Kingsley, who will talk about turning failures into art. This will be held at The Art Center.

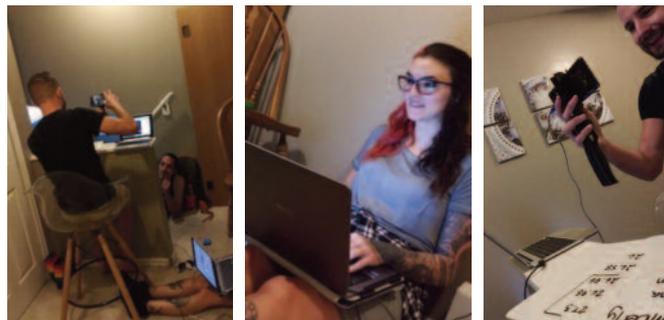
**JULY 30 PROMPT & CIRCUMSTANCE**, will be held at Confluence Studios,

WCWF was the recipient of a creative micro grant from the Downtown Creative District. It will fund a workshop in bibliotherapy for teens this fall using the theme, "Re-Building Community" The workshop will be led by a team consisting of a writing facilitator, therapist, and coordinator. The workshop will use works of literature and visual arts to contemplate and provoke responses creating works to share with the community. If you wish to be involved in this effort, please contact Linda Skinner at [wcwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto:wcwritersforum@gmail.com)

Send email, news and contributions to [virg@leafmedia.com](mailto:virg@leafmedia.com)

# Slammin' Bricks Goes Electronic

Caleb Ferganchick takes the second annual Slammin' Bricks poetry slam into new realms as he hosts the event on Facebook.



*Working out of a tiny space, Caleb and friends manage seven slam poetry contestants and five judges on line.*

The 2nd Annual Slamming Bricks poetry slam competition, sponsored by the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture, Lithic Press, and Charlie Dwellington's occurred on June 27th via Facebook Live. 7 poets from Colorado, Arizona, and California competed in four rounds of poetry exploring resistance and liberation. The live stream reached over 2,300 people.

Poets were judged by Dr. Jennifer Hancock of CMU, Grand Junction City Council Member Anna Stout, US Bank President Randall Cupp, owner of Charlie Dwellington's Liz Sinclair, and CO Poet Laureate Bobby Lefebre.

Denver poet Charles Telschow received 3rd place. Boulder poet Kimberly Jarchow won 2nd. Irina Bogomoova from Denver won 1st.

View the recorded event NOW; click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/103335944770709/videos/3123147751064186/>

*(Please be patient or scroll forward, as the opening still shot lasts a while before action begins.)*

## WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board is beginning to hold live meetings with the necessary precautions. Our last meeting was hosted by president Linda Skinner at her home. The next meeting, July 9 at 3:30, will be live also either at the Skinner home or at the Solarium at the Center for Independence.

In June, we discussed details about upcoming events. Jane Miller was elected secretary.

Because of the indeterminate length of the quarantine, many events are pending. We are holding onto the possibility of as many as we can becoming live. Much is dependant on conditions. If you have questions or you wish to attend the open meeting, contact the board at [writersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)

Please be safe and well and keep writing!

### WCWF Board Members

Linda Skinner, Pres.

Virginia Jensen, Vice Pres.

Jane Miller, Sec.

Erica Kitzman, Treas.

Sunny Ramsey • Carly Smith

Caleb Ferganchick

To contact a board member email to:

[writersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)

### General Information

Pay your dues or make a donation at [www.westerncoloradowriters.org](http://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.

## Prompt & Circumstance Expands the Imagination

Jim Van Pelt, award-winning Grand Junction Sci-Fi author, shares how he casts a spell on readers with his deep exploration of setting, character and more.

Presenter, James Van Pelt did a yeoman's job presenting to both live and Zoom audiences. The biggest problem was trying to share prompt responses as people without the computers at Confluence could not be heard by those at home. Jim challenged us with prompts setting up dialogue, setting and characters with a sci-fi bent.

Van Pelt has been writing for 30 years and his publisher has honored him with a hard-bound anthology of his best 62 stories. **This special limited edition is available for pre-order from [fairwoodpress.com](http://fairwoodpress.com).**

From his handout: *"Science Fiction stories are about change. Here are a ton of possible changes.*

*"To make a story, think about how the change might effect children, families, students, working people, the aged, the poor, the very rich, young couples, the world of work, the world of leisure, how people live their lives.*

*"Think about what curses might accompany blessings...and what blessings accompany curses...."*

*"Remember that your characters will have motivations: they probably want to be happy, to*

*avoid being hurt, to protect their loved ones, to make a living at the things they enjoy, to love and be loved, to be valued by their friends and society, to be successful, to be better.... Who are the people in your story? What do they want, what stands in the way, and what of value is to be gained or lost?"*

Van Pelt is known for detailed handouts. The complete handout is available by request from WCWF [writersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)

Read it for yourself and try his prompts for an imaginative exploration !



Pictured are all the other books that Van Pelt has authored on display at Confluence Studios.



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NO ONE LISTENS  
TO POETRY.



THIS MESSAGE WAS PAID FOR BY  
LITHIC BOOKSTORE & GALLERY

She Tai Chi - BEFORE

*Lets be tigresses,  
a slinking streak on the prowl.  
Donning our stripes.  
Stretching, stalking,  
crouching, balking,  
growing agility, strengthened to fight.*

*Or graceful cranes,  
a balletic balancing sedge.  
Expanding our wings.  
Flowing, rising,  
swooping, flying,  
a mounting migration, rhythmic ring.*

*We're silken threads,  
together a circle of chi.  
Weaving our strands.  
Pulling, turning,  
shifting, learning,  
mending our bodies, our foremost decree.*

*Tied to the moon,  
we draw down the heavens.  
Rooting to ground.  
Reaching, dreaming,  
planting, gleaning,  
Embracing each other, sensing our worth.*



# Messages from Isolation

by Grand Valley Authors

## Poetry Critique Groups Help Refine Poems

A rough draft poem entitled She Tai Chi appeared in last month's newsletter. This month, the final version of the poem appears in order to illustrate the benefits of joining a poetry critique group. Participation in critique groups resulted in the refinement of She Tai Chi which was performed at the 2019 Write Out Loud event sponsored by WCWF.

Pre Covid-19, two Grand Junction poetry groups were open to the community. A monthly group facilitated by Jennifer Hancock and other accomplished poets met at the central library. WCWF also hosted a monthly critique group. Both groups welcomed individuals who were interested in writing and honing skills in poetry.

Novice to seasoned poets attended these groups to benefit from others' perspectives and experiences. Everyone had an opportunity to participate at their comfort level. Poems were read aloud, (a skill in itself) and participants received constructive critiques and suggestions for improving pieces.

Such groups provide an opportunity to learn more about rhyme, punctuation, meter, poetry styles, techniques and work by other poets. Participants receive encouragement, inspiration, and information on resources such as contests, workshops and publication opportunities/how to's.

People are welcoming and generous in sharing their knowledge of the craft of writing poetry.

These groups also offer a sense of community and fellowship.

That said, join a critique group. Be encouraged to continue striving to find those precise words and phrases that truly express what you hope to convey.

In light of Coronavirus, some critique groups have taken a hiatus. Look for online poetry critique groups or check with the local library and WCWF for active or upcoming critique groups.

– Annette Ferriole

She Tai Chi - AFTER

*Let us be tigresses,  
a slinking streak on the prowl.  
Donning our stripes we'll  
crouch, balk,  
grow in agility  
stretch, stalk,  
strengthen to fight.*

*We're fine silken threads,  
a destined circle of chi.  
Weaving our strands to  
pull, turn,  
spiral our bodies  
shift, learn,  
inhale through our hands.*

*We're tied to the moon,  
reaching to pull down the sky.  
Rooted to earth we'll  
plant, glean,  
encompass each other  
stand, dream,  
perceive our worth.*

*Let us be graceful cranes,  
a posing balletic sedge.  
Extending our wings to  
swoop, dive,  
a collective migration  
drift, rise,  
en route to Beijing.*