

Current News & Views

**Next open WCWF board meeting -
Bring your input for 2020; RSVP please
January 14, 3:30 at CFI. See p.3.**

Save the Date

SLAM "Why We Have Hope" Has been postponed due to continued COVID concerns. If you are interested in participating or working with WCWF to produce this event, please contact us at www.westerncoloradowriters.org.

Input your ideas for WCWF in 2021:

We are building the year to come at our Board meetings. Share your ideas with us. Click [here](#) to take our survey.

New Bardic Trails Poetry Club's first Zoom meeting takes place Tuesday, Jan. 5th, at 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson to get URL & password. Go to telluridelibrary.org/events See p. 2 for more information.

PITCH YOUR BOOK CONCEPT at Pitchfest Jan 30. Sign up now. See p. 2

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

Marketing Your Story: Avoiding the Pitfalls



T.L. Christianson is the author of the Shades of Red vampire series and the Dragon Born Academy series. T.L.'s blend of real-world science and fantasy makes her novels come alive. Learn more about her at tlchristianson.com

Grand Valley author T.L. Christianson focuses on her current #1 novel on Amazon, her publication and marketing expertise, and her upcoming work. Explore some basic aspects of the business that translate across genres, and some common pitfalls which could save time and money for authors.

Writers Night on ZOOM Jan. 5, 2020, 6pm MST

To receive log-on information, go to

www.westerncoloradowriters.org

Workshop limited to 20 participants



Murakami on Enduring the Storm

"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't ever be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain: when you come out of the storm you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm is all about"

— Haruki Murakami

This quote was sent to me as a New Year message by a dear friend—a perfect quote for emerging from the COVID storm. I share it with you all.

Murakami is one of my favorite authors for his ability to turn seemingly mundane, down-to-earth situations into magic realism. His books may leave you changed.

I encourage you to invest in reading *Kafka on the Shore*, awarded among "The 10 Best Books of 2005" from *The New York Times* and the World Fantasy Award for 2006.

—The Editor

Need a place to pitch your Fabulous Book?

Pitchfest 2021 UPDATE

Reminder! Pitchfest 2021 will be held on January 30 from 1-4:30 PM (MST). Registration is open to members. If you're unable to log in, it may mean that your membership has lapsed—please send an email to membership@rmfw.org to renew. Once renewed, you'll get access and the discounted rate (\$25). Non-member access (\$40) will open on January 5, 2021. If anyone wants two pitch sessions, we'll announce when/if these are available on January 15th.



Please note, pitch sessions are going fast! Brenna English-Loeb is full as is her waitlist. Amy Collins, Jolene Haley, and Erin McClary are almost full, so if one of these agents/editors is your first pick, register quickly! Pitch appointment times and the zoom link will be sent out mid-January. If you have any questions, please email: pitchfest@rmfw.org and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. Have a wonderful holiday season!"

Check out the RMFW Podcast

Interviews with fiction writers, teachers, and members of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers (RMFW).

Don't miss out on these fascinating interviews done by Mark Stevens with great members from our community and beyond! This week's podcast features Wendy Howard & Paul Martz on First Encounters.

Go to <https://rmfw.org/its-a-podcast/>

POETRY CONTEST

Over \$1,000 in prize money to be awarded and an invitation to read either live at the Dancing Poetry Festival at the Palace of the Legion of Honor or virtually on Zoom. Must be received by April 15, 2021. Details at:

www.dancingpoetry.com/dpfpoetrycontestrules.html

Cantor Prize winner Mark Oreskovich to kick off new Bardic Trails poetry club Zoom series

TELLURIDE ... At the urging of Joanna Spindler of the Wilkinson Public Library, the Telluride Institute's Talking Gourds poetry program has joined with the library, Between the Covers Bookstore and the Telluride Arts District to host a new virtual poetry club gathering on the first Tuesday of each month this winter and spring.

A Covid-sensitive continuation of the popular Talking Gourds Poetry Club meetings, we've decided to call the online series, Bardic Trails, to distinguish it from our face-to-face gatherings, which we hope eventually to resume, post-Covid.

The first Zoom meeting takes place Tuesday, Jan. 5th, at 7 p.m. Register on-line at the Wilkinson to get URL & password. Go to telluridelibrary.org/events

This year's Cantor Prize winner, Mark Oreskovich of Pueblo, will be the featured reader for the first half-hour or so, to be followed by a virtual Gourd Circle "open mic." Club members will get preference for the pre-event sign-up sheet. For those who like writing prompts, Rosemerry suggests Adjust.

While some writers feel compelled to be self-promoting and competitive in our materialist society, making their bios long lists of publications, awards and previous jobs, Oreskovich is a bit humbler. Calls himself, "A walker of dogs, a watcher of birds, a singer, a tamburitza player, a lover of poetry and all things guitar."

This will be our first Talking Gourds Poetry Club Zoom gathering as Bardic Trails.

Joanna Spindler will run the Zoom meeting from the library, muting folks while Mark performs for 20 minutes or so from Pueblo. Participants can propose questions on the Chat function that can be enabled on the Zoom screen. For 10 minutes or so after Mark's reading, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and Art Goodtimes in Placerville will ask those questions of Mark. Finally, we'll move to unmuting each signed-up Gourd Circle reader in order. Each will then get to read a piece of three minutes or less.

We're hoping to keep Bardic Trails to an hour or just over to start, so we'd like to discourage time hogs. "I always like to say," notes Goodtimes, "to keep the audience wanting more, do less."

We're initiating membership changes this year. A one-time donation of \$25 or more gets one on our mailing list permanently and makes one current for one year, with an annual \$10 renewal fee – payable online, as we are trying to minimize physical handlings during the pandemic.

—Submitted by Art Goodtimes, shroompa@gmail.com

WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board's next meeting, Jan. 14 at 3:30, will be held at the Center for Independence and/or on line. Meetings are open to members. We are looking for input; take our 2021 survey [here](#).

In December, we discussed how and whether to continue the twelve bibliotherapy workshops - whether these events are viable in the current climate.

Writers Nights will continue on the first Tuesday of the month as a zoom meeting, but Prompt and Circumstance events are discontinued until further notice.

We are holding as many meetings as we can live or live with Zoom. Much is dependent on conditions. If you have questions or you wish to attend the open meeting, contact the board at 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 • Annette Ferriole

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.

Poeming into the New Year

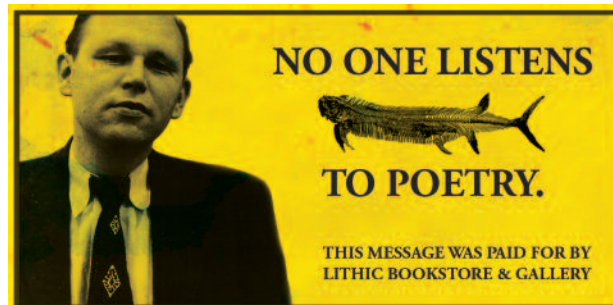
...An on line event hosted by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, www.wordwoman.com

The start of a new year is a natural chance to recalibrate—to get curious and let everything come into question. What a time to be amazed and astonished, to open ourselves to transformation. Poetry, both reading and writing it, can guide us into deeper wonder and help us meet our own hearts and the hearts of others.

In this 40-minute thoughtshop, poet Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer read poems from diverse voices about showing up, new beginnings and transformation, poems that invite spaciousness into constricted places, poems that help us awaken to the moment and to our lives. And with each poem, she offers prompts—ways for you to leap into your own writing practice.

This event was hosted on December 29, 2020, by SHYFT at Mile High, whose mission is to provide all people, regardless of ability to pay, with classes and programs proven to reduce stress, heal trauma, and create connection.

Watch the event RIGHT NOW on line at <https://youtu.be/QixGbyqylsI>



Poetry resources cited:

What the Heart Cannot Forget—Joyce Sutphen from *Coming Back to the Body*

Sweetness—Stephen Dunn from *New and Selected Poems*

Burning the Old Year—Naomi Shihab Nye from *Words Under the Words: Selected Poems*

Praise the Rain—Joy Harjo from *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*

Aubade for the Whole Hood—Nate Marshall from *FINNA*

Advice—Bill Holm from *Playing the Black Piano*

Let us gather in a flourishing way

—Juan Felipe Herrera from *Half the World in Light: New and Selected Poems*

More Ways to Play

- Rosemerry's Website: *Wordwoman* (featuring books, free recordings of readings and writing playshops, zillions of links to poems, prompts, and more)

- Rosemerry's Podcast: *Emerging Form: A podcast on creative process*

- Rosemerry's Daily Poems: *A Hundred Falling Veils: There's a poem in every day*

- *Secret Agents of Change: A surreptitious kindness cabal*



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