

## Current News & Views

**Monthly ZOOM WCWF board meeting - Are you happy with everything WCWF? Are you getting your news and info regularly? Send your input to us at [writersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com) Next Meeting is March 11 at 3:30**

**Fischer Prize finalist Ann Kaiser reads on Mar. 2 for the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry series. See p. 3**

## Save the Dates

**APRIL 6 WRITERS NIGHT** will feature Manuel Ramos, award-winning Latino Mystery writer.

**MAY 4 WRITERS NIGHT** will feature Teague Von Bohlen professor of fiction at U.C. Denver

**Wyoming Writers Contest** is open to all. Entry fee \$15, deadline March 12. Includes fiction, non-fiction and poetry. See page 2. Guidelines at <https://wyomingwritersinc.wildapricot.org/>

WCWF survives on dues and grants. Pay your dues, make a donation or find out what you can sponsor at [www.westerncoloradowriters.org](http://www.westerncoloradowriters.org).

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

## The Key Elements of World Building



*Renee Collins* grew up in Hawaii, where stories are told in dance. Sadly, she has no rhythm, so she writes her stories instead. She is the author of novels for teens, and has a special fondness for heart-aching romance. She currently lives in Colorado with her family, dog, and a parakeet named Dr Pepper.

*Middle Earth. Westeros. Oz. Hogwarts.* Sometimes the world that a story takes place in can be one of the most memorable things about it. A character all on its own. An essential part of the plot. Great fantasy and science fiction give us settings that not only capture the imagination, but also feel fully fleshed out and completely real. In this class, we will discuss the key elements every good fantasy and sci fi world needs and the tricks of how to make your setting come fully alive in your reader's mind.



## Writers Night - March 2, 2021 - 6pm MST A ZOOM Meeting

To register and receive log-on information, please go to [westerncoloradowriters.org](http://westerncoloradowriters.org).

Workshop is limited to 20 participants.



More information at  
[wwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com)  
OR  
[westerncoloradowriters.org](http://westerncoloradowriters.org)



## We're Slamming Again!

The long-awaited slam is finally set for April 27. Bobby LeFebre has agreed to the date and WCWF has rounded up the necessary folk to make it happen. This will be a Facebook event, making it possible to record so that viewers can watch the Slam after the actual event has aired. The theme this year is "In This Together."



Now it's time to start thinking about submissions. Deadline for your slam submission is April 15. Each entry must be delivered as a three-minute video to be incorporated in the Facebook event. WCWF will assist anyone needing help to tape their entry.

This year's slam is a showcase only, without the usual judging and rounds, but there will be recognition for excellence in presentation and poetics.

Submission information will be up on our web site asap.

[westerncoloradowriters.org](http://westerncoloradowriters.org)

# Colorado's Neighbor Wyoming Hosts 2021 Writers Conference and Contest

Wyoming Writers is excited to dive into new waters with our upcoming conference June 5th and 6th. This year's 46th conference will be hybrid, allowing us to meet in person as well as reach out to members who are more comfortable participating from their own homes. It will take place at the Lander Community Convention Center.

We will be offering reduced rates and a small zoom fee for the conference as well. We will be following all current health protocols in place to be as safe as possible. **Registration opens March 1st** with options for both in-person and virtual registrations via Zoom.

## MEET THE FACULTY

**Ramón García** is the author of two books of poetry, *The Chronicles* (Red Hen Press, 2015) and *Other Countries* (What Books Press, 2010). His poetry has appeared in *Springhouse Journal*, *Best American Poetry 1996*, *Ambit*, *The Floating Borderlands: Twenty-Five Years of US-Hispanic Literature*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Mandorla: New Writing from the Americas* and *Plume*. Workshops include: *Poetry of Place and Landscape*, *The Persona Poem*, *Poetry: The Solitary Art of Community*

**Susan J. Tweit** has written a dozen non-fiction books ranging from memoir and nature writing to kids and travel, along with hundreds of magazine articles, columns, and essays. Workshops include: *Finding Voice and Grace in the Hard Stuff*, *Field Notes: Writing From Life*, *Take One a Day: Haiku as Writing Practice*

**Caroline George** is a multi-award-winning author of YA fiction. Her background includes nine years of publishing experience, fiction and nonfiction publications, internships with HarperCollins, BookGrabbr, and Associate Literary Agent position at Cyle Young Literary Elite. Workshops include: *Author Apocalypse: How To Survive The End Of The Publishing World*, *#Bookstagram: Secrets To Know To Gram Like A Pro*, *Pitch, Please: An Agent's Guide To Pitches & Querie*

**Bill Sniffin** has spent 50 years writing about Wyoming. His weekly column appears in 20 Wyoming newspapers and digital sites. He has written a weekly column for more than half a century. Workshops include: *How to write for publication + secrets to writing a column*, *How to write about controversial subjects*

**Pamala Fagan Hutchins** is a bestselling mystery/suspense/thriller author of 19 novels. She's won 2020 Top 25 Amazon Charts, 2020 Top 100 Amazon Author, 2018 USA Today Bestseller and 2017 Silver Falchion for Best Adult Mystery WINNER. Workshops include: *How to Sell a Ton of Books in 5 Simple Steps*, and *10 Surefire Ways to Get Reviews*

Literary Agents attending will be **Aaron Linsdau** - Sastrugi Press and **Jessica Kristie** - Wintergoose Publishing

**Get your entries in before March 12th!** Scholarships are available. Learn more about the contest at: [wyomingwritersinc.wildapricot.org/2021-Contest-Rules](http://wyomingwritersinc.wildapricot.org/2021-Contest-Rules)

## RMFW'S COLORADO GOLD CONTEST IS COMING!

Colorado Gold Rush Literary Awards! This is an awesome opportunity to get constructive feedback. This is also your chance to have your work seen by literary agents and editors.

Awards are usually part of the RMFW's upcoming Colorado Gold Conference held in September. Categories & judges include:

Mainstream (Judge Susan Brooks, Publisher, *Literary Wanderlust*)

Mystery, Thriller (Judge Terrie Wolf, Agent, AKA *Literary Management*)

YA, Middle Grade (Judge Jolene Haley, Agent, Marsal Lyon Literary Agency)

Women's Fiction, Romance (Judge Allison Lyons, Editor, *Harlequin*)

Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Spec Fic (Judge TBD)

Submit May 1st to June 30th

Enter: First 4,000 words of your manuscript & 250-word synopsis

Fee: \$35 per entry, or \$60 per entry with critique from a qualified judge

**Increase your chances!** Watch for the contest workshop via Zoom on Saturday, April 17 from 1-3 pm. Check out all the RMFW offerings and more info at [rmfw.org](http://rmfw.org).

## 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/>

“Everything that is tearing us down today will become a memory, and this memory will be shared as an anecdote or a story or a poem or a play or a warning. It will be shared with another human being, who will then understand that he is not alone in his sadness. This is why a number of scholarships are available. We show up for others and tell our tales and listen to others. The great congregation meets daily, and you are someone's angel today.”

—Tennessee Williams/*Interview with James Grissom* #FolliesOfGod

## WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board's next meeting, March 11 at 3:30, will be held at the Center for Independence and/or on line. Meetings are open to members. We are happy to have visitors.

Our last meeting was via ZOOM. We discussed the upcoming Slam Event which will take place on Facebook and will also be available for viewing later. Bobby Lefebre has agreed to April 27. We also made plans for future Writers Nights, now being managed by Erica.

Coming in May and June is a new cooperative venture with the Mesa County Library. We will be following our Slam with an invitation to submit poetry to an anthology being created by the library from submissions by Mesa County poets and artists, deadline June 1. WCWF will offer four workshops in May either live or on-line to supplement the anthology.

### 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](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.

## Fischer Prize finalist Ann Kaiser reads at Mar. 2 Bardic Trails Zoom poetry series

TELLURIDE ... Ann Kaiser, slated as featured reader at March's Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday the Second at 7 p.m., is a translator as well as a poet. She works with Catalan, Georgian, French and Spanish.

Register on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to [telluridelibrary.org/events](http://telluridelibrary.org/events).

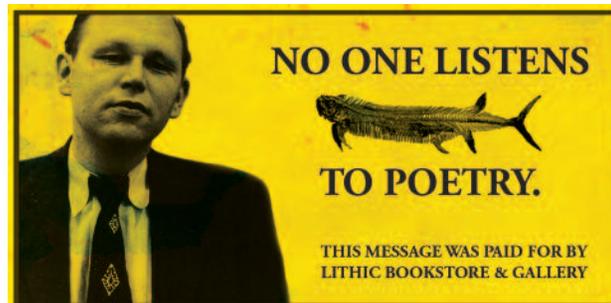
"Kaiser was a finalist in our 2020 Fischer contest," noted Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Talking Gourds co-director. "Her poem "Shape Shift" was honored by Judge Claire Blotter of California."

Kaiser is the Pushcart Prize nominated author of <glint> and co-winner of the inaugural Milk and Cake Book Prize. Her poem, "Shape Shift," was long-listed for the 2020 Fish Publishing Poetry Prize. Her poem, "The Hunt," is included in Sonora Review's issue on gender-based violence. Poems and photos can also be found in Harbor Review, Lavender Review, NewSquare and The Rumpus.

Our future Bardic Trails dates are April 6 with V. Penelope Pelizzon of Connecticut, May 4 with Julie Bloemeke of Georgia, June 1 with Melissa Studdard of Texas, July 6 with Partridge Boswell of Vermont, Aug. 3 with Jane Lunin Perel of Rhode Island, Sept. 7 with Anna Scotti of California, Oct. 5 with Renee Podunovich of Cortez (CO), Nov. 2 with Debbi Brody of New Mexico, and Dec. 7 with Al Zolynas of California.

Talking Gourds is indebted to generous contributions past and present from the Cantor Family of North Carolina, the late Elaine Cantor Fischer and her many friends, the Guttman Foundation, plus special thanks to our Advisory Board members Peter Waldor, Audrey Marnoy, Joan Shapiro, Eduardo Brummel, Daiva Chesonis, Danny Rosen, Kate Jones, Elle Metrick, Lee & Billi Taylor, David Oyster, Michael Olschewsky, Ruth Duffy, Wendy Videlock and our many friends and Club members.

Submitted by Art Goodtimes. For more info, visit [tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds](http://tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds)



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