

Current News & Views

Monthly ZOOM WCWF board meeting
- Are you happy with everything
WCWF? Send your input to us at writersforum@gmail.com

Next Meeting is May 13 at 3:30

SEEKING WRITERS: Garrett Gross, of Grand Junction Lifestyle, is seeking writers over 50 in age to do freelance work for his publication. Contact Garrett at 970-549-2302 or garrett.gross@lifestylepubs.com

RMFW RETREAT: Aug. 5-8 Write, network, and critique at Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. Lodging and meals included. Rooms going fast. Contact Bernadette at retreat@rmfw.org

Save the Date

JUNE 1 WRITERS NIGHT will feature author and activist Avery Brooks

NO WRITERS NIGHT IN JULY DUE TO ADJACENCY OF 4TH OF JULY

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

Writing Memoir as Fiction

Is it possible to write fiction totally devoid of memoir? Or memoir devoid of fiction? How do time, circumstance and other factors erode the "truth" of memoir? See how borrowing from one genre can enrich and enliven another with Teague Von Bolen, an award winning author from Denver.



The Pull of the Earth won the Colorado Book Award for fiction in 2007. It was published by Ghost Road Press, a defunct but sorely-missed small literary press

Flatland was a project born from the love of place—specifically, Central Illinois, but more broadly the small-town experience. The stories and photos in this collection were brought together to celebrate that life and the people that live and work within it.



Teague von Bolen is an Associate Professor of Fiction at the University of Colorado Denver, where he runs the student newspaper *The Sentry* and serves as one of the Fiction Editors of the literary magazine *Copper Nickel*.

He works the literary, pop-culture, and commentary beats for the alt-weekly *Westword*, and his short fiction has been seen nationwide. His first novel, *The Pull of the Earth*, won the Colorado Book Award.

Flatland is his first collection of stories; he's currently at work on a second novel, also set in the Midwest heartland.

Writers Night - May 4, 2021 - 6pm MST A ZOOM Meeting

To register and receive log-on information, please go to westerncoloradowriters.org.

Workshop is limited to 20 participants.

"In This Together"

WCWF joins the Mesa County Library in their production of an anthology of local poets, writers and artists.

WCWF will be participating with the library in the publication of their first anthology. Submission is open to Mesa County residents and is due by June 1.

Detailed requirements at <https://mesacountylibraries.org/2021/04/contributions-sought-for-anthology-about-pandemic-experience/>

The Forum's portion will be the editing of text submissions and the production of four workshops to help members of the community who want to submit written works to the anthology.

WORKSHOPS

Saturday, May 1, 10-12

Saturday, May 8, 3-5

Saturday, May 15, 3-5

Thursday May 20, 6-8

DETAILS ON PAGE 2.

Look for more info here and on line at our web site westerncoloradowriters.org

Write for the Library's Anthology

Submit your original works for our Public Library's upcoming Anthology "In This Together" being published this summer. These FREE writing workshops can help you develop your poem, short story or essay.

"Why We Have Hope"

May 1st, Saturday, 10-12

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1425 N 5th St., Grand Junction, CO

What gives you hope? Where do you find it?
What are your hopes for yourself, your friends
and family, your community?

Create alongside others in our community!

- Jump start your creative piece (poetry, non-fiction, fiction). Spend the morning writing to prompts with **Annette Ferriole**.
- Fine tune and finish your piece at home.
- Submit your poetry, fiction, or non-fiction piece by June 1 to be considered for publication in the "In This Together" anthology!

"A Bouquet Full of Memories"

A class for the whole family

May 8, Saturday, 3-5

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1425 N 5th St., Grand Junction, CO

- Let flowers inspire you to write a poem as fresh as a bouquet with **Mindy Rice**.
- Think how nice it feels to come together again.
- Write a poem that might be selected to go in the anthology.
- Maybe you'll think of Mom and want to make her a card for Mother's Day.
- Submit your poetry, fiction, or non-fiction piece by June 1 to be considered for the "In This Together" anthology!

The Writer's Edge

May 15, Saturday, 3-5

Discovery Garden, Main Library,
5th and Grand, Grand Junction, CO

Join poet **Wendy Videlock** to discuss techniques that activate the imagination. Wendy will provide prompts that will get your creative juices flowing.

Writing Short Pieces with Punch

May 20, Thursday, 6-8pm

The Art Center
7th and Orchard, Grand Junction, CO
Author **Jim VanPelt** leads a workshop on writing prose submissions that tie experience, emotion, senses and language into 700-word masterpieces.

The "In This Together" Anthology is a project of the Mesa County Library inviting all Mesa County residents to submit
Call for Entries! June 1st deadline!

Detailed requirements at

<https://mesacountylibraries.org/2021/04/contributions-sought-for-anthology-about-pandemic-experience/>

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE LIVE AND FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Space is limited. Due to COVID 19, workshop participants and facilitators will be required to wear facemasks and practice social distancing.

Register now at westerncoloradowriters.org.



Mesa County
LIBRARIES

RMFW'S COLORADO GOLD CONTEST IS COMING!



SUBMISSION MAY 1 TO JUNE 30

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 Mystery, Thriller YA, Middle Grade Women's Fiction, Romance Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Spec Fic

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

RMFW offerings and more info at 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! Go to <https://rmfw.org/its-a-podcast/>

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers News

Survey Results • Restart

Thank you to the forty-six of you who responded to the survey. There is plenty of interest in beginning to meet in-person again, so I've already contacted a few people and am setting things up. More on that when dates are finalized.

In case you're interested: The three top genres were Mystery, Spec Fiction and Romance (in that order and it's almost a tie between Craft and Self Publishing/Marketing/Promotion. Since being able to sell a book begins with writing a good one, I'll focus on craft for the first few classes.

The survey results were anonymous, so this is my response to a few comments:

For the person who wants to get back on the RMFW newsletter list (I recommend it to all of you), you can find the sign up on the home page at RMFW.org. It's on the right about two-thirds of the way down the page

Pam Chiaro, RMFW Grand Junction Rep

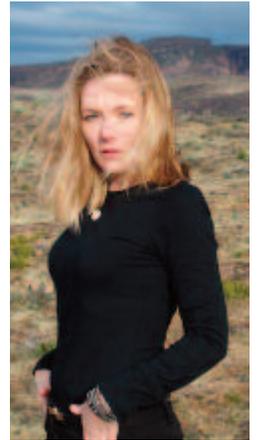
“Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are princesses who are only waiting to see us act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its deepest essence, something helpless that wants our love.”

**— Rainer Maria Rilke,
Letters to a Young Poet**

Fischer Prize finalist Julie E. Bloemeke Reads

May 4th Bardic Trails Zoom poetry series

One of five outstanding finalists for the Fischer Prize in 2020, Julie E. Bloemeke of Georgia will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, May 4th at 7 p.m. Register by May 3rd online at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to here.



A production of the Talking Gourds Poetry Program, Bardic Trails is an a free event open to any who pre-register. Art Goodtimes, co-director of Talking Gourds, said that Bloemeke's poem, "After Rousseau's The Dream," was honored as a finalist by judge Claire Blotter in the 2020 Fischer Prize poetry contest.

Bloemeke's first full-length poetry collection, Slide to Unlock, debuted in 2020. A Bennington Writing Seminars graduate and a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, her poems have been widely anthologized, most recently in Mother Mary Comes to Me: A Popculture Poetry Anthology (2020).

Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals including Gulf Coast, Prairie Schooner, Poet Lore, Cortland Review and others. A freelance writer and editor, her interviews have been featured in AWP Writer's Chronicle and Poetry International. Her essay on poetry and spirituality is forthcoming in EcoTheo Review. Her website is here: <https://www.jebloemeke.com/>

WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board's next meeting, May 13 at 3:30, asat CFI. Meetings are open to members. We are happy to have visitors.

Our last meeting was via ZOOM. Coming in May and June is a new cooperative venture with the Mesa County Library. The anthology is being created from submissions by Mesa County writers and artists, deadline June 1. WCWF will offer four workshops in May to supplement the anthology. All four workshops are now scheduled with presenters and topics, and locations are forthcoming.

We worked on the use of a grant from Arts In Society, previously scheduled for a series of classes for teens, veterans and caregivers that failed to materialize as planned and has to be redesigned. Erica will make the board a proposal on a new series.

WCWF Board Members

Linda Skinner, Pres.

Virginia Jensen, Vice Pres.

Jane Miller, Sec.

Erica Kitzman, Treas.

Carly Smith

Caleb Ferganchick • Annette Ferriole

To contact a board member email to:

[wwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Best Poetry and Literary Blog An Editor's Choice



I don't remember how I found Maria Popova's blog. One of those chance encounters on the internet, I'm guessing. But I have been receiving her blog-weekly for many years now and it never fails to inspire me. Her knowledge of the depths of the most famous and creative writers and the philosophy of creativity, heart, and life that flows from her each week keeps me aware and open with new and unexpected thoughts.

With titles like "the resilience of the human spirit," "relationship between body and soul," "the radical act of letting things hurt," "the creative benefits of melancholy," and authors like Rilke, Thoreau, Lamott, Cummings and so many more I could not count, she inspires consistently.

She is also the host of "A Universe in Verse," a live and online poetry event. brainpickings.org/the-universe-in-verse/

Her blog is free, but donations are accepted. I encourage you to sign up at:

brainpickings.org/newsletter/?mc_cid=825ff85b58&mc_eid=59f7b19340

– Virginia Jensen, editor

WCWF Member Accomplishments

WCWF member Elizabeth Wheeler has been igniting the world for decades. Her parents called her Reddy Kilowatt, after the famous utility company mascot, who also had red hair. She was one of a few women who graduated from the University of Colorado School of Business in 1973 with a graduate degree in marketing. She headed up marketing/public relations for two large healthcare nonprofit organizations, a pharmaceutical company, and a hospital.



Elizabeth is the featured writer on Colleen Story's blog "Writing and Wellness," April 14, as an example of someone who has succeeded after retirement. This blog "Is Writing After Retirement Right for You?" is a good read on taking up the pen late in life.

writingandwellness.com/2021/04/14/is-writing-after-retirement-right-for-you/

The May issue of Beacon newspaper has featured her in an article "Writing in Isolation." Elizabeth and two other Grand Junction authors used their COVID isolation to write and all published books in 2020.

beaconseniornews.com/2021/04/26/354284/writing-in-isolation

She has authored numerous books, including *Murder and Pink Blossoms*, the first in the series of ladies-of-a-certain-age mysteries, and *Murder and a Victory Garden*, the second in the series. *Paths – A Primer for Ladies-of-a-Certain-Age*, is due out the spring of 2021.

Her blog, "Ladies-of-a-Certain-Age," is read by women throughout the United States and several foreign countries. Learn more about Elizabeth here: ladiesofacertainage.com/