

Current News & Views

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

Next Meeting is June 17 at 3:30

Save the Date

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

SPECIAL EVENT : JULY 20, 6-8, at the Art Cent, 7th & Orchard, GJ; Colleen Story returns! More later.

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

THIRD ANNUAL SLAMMING BRICKS POETRY EVENT, Saturday, Sept. 11, 6:30, Charlie Dwellington's, 1st and main. Event Anthology upcoming; details to be announced.

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 LGBTQ + Characters and Story Lines

Avery Brooks will discuss terminology, tips for writing strong LGBTQ + characters and story lines, and resources to help writers interested in this genre.

EVERY BROOKS is a published author of LGBTQ + fiction. Her debut novel, *Other Girls*, was a finalist for the GCLS Goldie Award in Contemporary Romance. She has a PhD in evolutionary biology and has served as a copy editor for multiple award-winning LGBTQ + authors. Learn more about her at: averybrooksauthor.com



Writers Night - June 1, 2021 - 6pm MST

To register and receive log-on information, please go to www.eventbrite.com/e/150236452273

Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Resumes Live Workshops

Saturday, June 12, 9-noon, at the Business Incubator, 2591 Legacy Way, GJ, CO
Coffee Tea and snacks available. RSVP appreciated at rmfw.westslope@gmail.com

Christine T. Jorgenson will present "Why Plot?" Learn the elements of plot which will help you construct a strong story line and make it easier to complete your novel. Regardless of genre, a strong plot helps you get where you are going. Plotting means less plodding!

Christine has published seven crime novels, is a former Writer of the Year, a Colorado Gold Contest judge, and finalist in the Colorado Book Awards. For more information, go to rmfw.org.

Note: This will be a mask friendly event, but there will not be a mask mandate in place unless something in Mesa County changes by that date.

**Library Anthology!!!
Last chance to submit**

To submit go to:

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

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/>

RMFW ANTHOLOGY SUBMISSIONS!

For all the short story writers in the Grand Valley, RMFW is excited to announce the working theme of the 2022 RMFW Anthology, "Re/New."

Their requests for fulfilling the theme:

"We seek stories of recreation and renewal, old tales refreshed, worlds and cultures reimagined.

"Give us creatures and characters who confound our commonly held beliefs and mythologies at once familiar and foreign.

"Ask and answer the question what-if in ways we've never encountered, spoken in voices we're eager to meet again for the first time."

For information go to rmfw.org or email anthology@rmfw.org.

WCWF wants to be part of your outreach to local and regional authors.

Do you have a local or regional writers' event you want to promote here, please send information to:

virg@leafmedia.com

"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart, is an artist."

— St. Francis of Assisi

An Unexpected Benefit of Critique Groups

by Kelley J. P. Lindberg

We humans aren't good at seeing our own flaws, especially in our writing. When we look at something we wrote, we know exactly what we intended to say. So when we read the words back to ourselves—get this—it makes perfect sense to us! Our brain automatically fills in any gaps, ignores the hiccups, even glosses over the misspelled words, because it already knows what it expects to see. So our brain happily skips along, telling us everything is fine.

Thanks to our traitorous brains, that kind of self-editing doesn't help us grow as writers. If anything, it reinforces bad habits and keeps us plateaued. So while self-editing is important, it's not enough to elevate our skills. That's where critique groups (or critique partners if you prefer a more one-on-one situation) can help.

The most important benefit is this:

Critiquing other people's writing will improve your own overall writing skills beyond anything you can do on your own....

Read the rest at: rmfw.org/2021/05/14/an-unexpected-benefit-of-critique-groups/

WCWF critique groups are beginning to reorganize after the long CO-VID isolation. These may be the most valuable resource a writer can have. If you are interested in belonging to a group, contact Jane Miller, WCWF critique organizer, at cjmiller@gobrainstorm.net

WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board's next meeting, June 17, 3:30, at CFI. Meetings are open to members. We are happy to have visitors.

The Board discussed Writers Night which is set with presenters up to the end of the year. The library Anthology is ongoing; three out of four workshops for the Anthology were held. Attendance was fair. Judges have been selected for all categories and we are awaiting submissions by June 1. We discussed repurposing the Arts in Society Grant. Laura Tohe, former Navajo Poet Laureate has agreed to come to GJ in November; budget and plans were discussed. WCWF is scheduled to participate in GJ's Take Part in Art presentation June 19 at Lincoln Park. Prompt night has been temporarily discontinued; we are discussing a cooperative venture with Confluence Studio.

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)

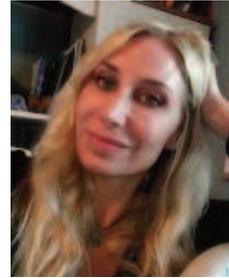
General Information

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.

Fischer Prize finalist Melissa Studdard to read at June 1st Bardic Trails Zoom poetry series

TELLURIDE ... Prizewinning poet and author Melissa Studdard of Texas will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar **Tuesday, June 1st at 7 p.m.** Bardic Trails is an a free event open to any who pre-register. To get URL and password, go to:

telluridelibrary.org/events.



Studdard was selected as the First Outstanding Finalist in the 2020 Fischer Prize contest for her poem "Migration Patterns." She is the author of five books, including the poetry collection *I Ate the Cosmos for Breakfast* and the poetry chapbook *Like a Bird with a Thousand Wings*. Her latest book, *Dear Selection Committee*, is forthcoming.

Studdard's work has been featured by PBS, NPR, The New York Times, The Guardian, and the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day series, and has also appeared in periodicals such as POETRY, Kenyon Review, Psychology Today, New Ohio Review, Harvard Review, Missouri Review, and New England Review. Her work has won or placed in The Penn Review Poetry Prize, and more.

Submitted by Art Goodtimes. For more info, visit tellurideinstitute.org/talking-gourds

On-Line Opportunities

The International Women's Writing Guild offers on line courses for a fee, free writes, and Open Mics. Find out more at www.iwwg.org

Zoom Workshops

Breaking Rules Publishing is inviting you to a series of scheduled Zoom meetings.

PLOT Workshop; JUNE 30, 5pm MST

SETTING Workshop; JULY 28, 5pm MST

CHARACTER Workshop; AUG. 25, 5pm MST

September will be on Prose Poetry, with other poetry classes to follow in the fall. You can join the series anytime.

All workshops are free, on the last Wednesday of the month and are presented by Katherine (Kit) West and Breaking Rules Publishing. Kit is a former teacher of poetry and creative writing at Aims Community College, and she owned Green Fuse Press in Loveland, publisher of poetry chapbooks and books. She now lives in New Mexico, and has published several novels and at least 3 books of poetry. You can sign up by emailing her at: tiakata_99@yahoo.com

Poetry Reading Opportunity

The Regional Poets invite you to our Quarterly Seasonal Poetry Reading, Sunday, June 27 – from 1-3pm, featuring 15 invited poets and musicians, plus an open mic.

Theme for the event is Joni Mitchell's iconic song, "Both Sides Now", hoping for poems about clouds as well as the summer solstice.

Register to attend the event in advance; sign up starts for the 30-minute open mic in advance on Friday, June 25. (only 10 spots available, each reading for 2 minutes.)

Registration: lorrie.e.wolfe@gmail.com