

Current News & Views

Monthly WCWF board meeting

Send your helpful input to us at
writersforum@gmail.com

Next Meeting is Oct. 14 at 6:15

SLAMMING BRICKS was viewed on line by 400 + viewers. All the printed anthologies are sold; more available on line through Amazon. This year's live audience of 150 was double 2019's. More story and the winners on page 2.

Oct. 9 - St. George Literary Arts Fest, 3-7pm, only \$10, Eccles Fine Arts Building, St. George UT - Features Best-selling author Tara Westover and poets Lance Larsen and Susan Foster. For a complete schedule and to register:
<https://www.stgeorgelitartsfest.org>

Save the Date

December 7 Writers Night - This is our annual reading! Bring your short works and poetry and take the mic! Reading out loud is one of the best ways to hear how your writing hits the inner ear. Or come hear what your fellow writers have been up to! Register/sign up to read at: westerncoloradowriters.org

Send email, news and contributions to virg@leafmedia.com

Crafting a Heartfelt Apology with Annette Ferriole

This past year and a half offered chaos, conflict and confusion, leaving relationships ruffled or broken. If apology-making is on your mind but you're not sure where to start, join us as we learn how to script an effective apology.



**WCWF Writers Night • OCT. 5, 2021, 6pm
LIVE!! at The Art Center
7th and Orchard, Grand Junction, CO**

Registration appreciated, please go to westerncoloradowriters.org.

Writing Toward Healing and Transformation

Laura Tohe will use various poet's work as examples as we write poems or stories about healing and transformation. Language, song, prayer, and thinking can be healing for ourselves, our community, and for the earth.

Laura Tohe is the Navajo Nation Poet Laureate. An award-winning poet, she was twice nominated for the Pushcart Award. She is Professor Emerita with Distinction from Arizona State University.



**WCWF Writers Night • Nov. 1, 2021 • 6pm at The Art Center
7th and Orchard, Grand Junction, CO • Registration appreciated, please go to
westerncoloradowriters.org.**

WCWF Will Continue!

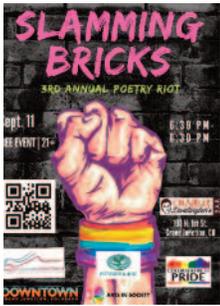
Many thanks to the 12 people who showed up on September 14 and let their voices be heard. At least three people have volunteered to be on the board. Attendees were amazed at the scope of programs and activities of the forum.

Those who came to the meeting have exciting ideas and much-needed skills. They also came with the intent of putting in the work to allow the Writers' Forum to thrive and continue. We are grateful for you!

If you wish to be involved in our future, please let us know at writersforum@gmail.com or come to the Board meeting, Oct. 14, 6:15, Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Ave., GJ.

Linda Skinner – Retiring
(Finally) Board President

SLAMMING SUCCESS



The 3rd Annual Slamming Bricks poetry slam competition occurred September 11, 2021. Eight slam poets from the Grand Valley, the Front Range, Arizona, and Oregon competed in four rounds with poems exploring resistance and liberation in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

Poets were judged by a diverse panel, including Brice Maiurro (founding editor of the South Broadway Ghost Society), Xavie Saenz (founder of Delta Pride), and Avery Brooks (LGBTQ+ author). Poets not competing also presented between rounds, including RuPaul's Drag Race and We're Here star Euerka O'hara. Cory Spurlock donated his artistic talents to make the awards.

Slammings Bricks included a pop up bookstore featuring the works of the competitors and authors, a live-stream for those who couldn't attend, and ASL interpretation.

Nico Wilkinson from Colorado Springs took 3rd, Aerik Francis from Denver took 2nd, and Lydia Gates from Flagstaff, AZ took first.

An accompanying anthology, edited by Avery Brooks, was published featuring 19 LGBTQ + , BIPOC, and AAPI poets from across the U.S. along with three international submissions. The anthology included over 80 pages of poetry addressing the themes of liberation and resistance.

Access to the Anthology is on Amazon, at: amazon.com/Avery-Brooks/e/B08174BSD1

The Slam can be viewed on Facebook at:

facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=152079803759814



Write a Book in a Month (With NaNoWriMo)

Completing the NaNoWriMo challenge is no small feat—it can take years to complete a novel, and yet those who step up for NaNoWriMo each year complete an entire first draft in just a month. This averages out to 1,667 words each day.

The official rules for NaNoWriMo state that writers are not permitted to start writing until November 1. But that doesn't mean you have to just sit and wait. You can prepare for it!

Before the month of November, take advantage of the free time you have for some NaNoWriMo prep work. Here are four ways to prepare for NaNoWriMo.

1. **Get to know your characters.** They are what drive plots forward. Especially main characters, whose decisions drive the plot.
2. **Explore your world.** An entire fantasy universe or just a small Midwestern town, the setting of your story can be powerful.
3. **Plan your plot.** Plot represents the conflicts and events your main characters will face.
4. **Clear your schedule.** Once November hits, getting those 50,000 words in is going to keep you busy, so find times and places that work.

Read this entire article for detailed tips at thewritepractice.com/prepare-for-nanowrimo/

Accomplishments

Thanks to WCWF Board member Erica Kitzman, who has been responsible for a most successful collaboration between WCWF and the community. She works with *West Slope Youth Voice's* health and welfare goals for K-12 students across the Western Slope.



During 2021 Erica enjoyed connecting the Western Colorado Writers' Forum, local and state funders, teachers, and young artists together, to produce the Youth Vision PSA project, centered around Sources of Strength, a radically strength-based, upstream suicide prevention program.

About \$3000 in WCWF grant money went to help produce and pay for two editions of a youth-produced magazine, "Cyber Strong Youth." More than 100 students, primarily from Fruita Middle School, contributed original writing, photos, and artwork to the first magazine published last spring with the intent of encouraging their peers through difficult times using things that helped make them strong and resilient. Eleven local youth wrote the original music and script for "All I Need" which premiered Sept 30th. The entire project will soon be housed on the cyberstrong.org/ website.

On behalf of WCWF, Erica coordinated with Caleb Ferganchick on the 3rd Annual Slamming Bricks poetry slam and with Avery Brooks on her stunning accompanying anthology.

WCWF has been praised for its ability to collaborate with other GJ groups. Erica has led this cooperative venture for WCWF, helping youth to express themselves in writing and other art modalities.

WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board's next meeting, October 14, 6:15, at CFI. 740 Gunnison, GJ. The time has changed in order to accommodate new members. We are happy to have visitors.

The Board met on September 9 at CFI.

The library's "In This Together" anthology is at the graphic artist for composition, and soon to be printed. An event to showcase the work is planned at the library in December.

Plans for hosting Laura Tohe in November for Writers Night and other community events are progressing.

A special meeting to discuss the future of WCWF is scheduled for Sept. 14 at First Congregational Church. The Board is still needs some positions to be filled. If you have something to offer the writing community, please contact us or attend the next board meeting.

WCWF Board Members

Linda Skinner, Pres.

Virginia Jensen, Vice Pres.

Jane Miller, Sec.

Erica Kitzman, Treas.

Melody Jones • Annette Ferriole

Caleb Ferganchick

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.

Writer Chicks Coffee Club

New location! Want a chance to connect with fellow writers? Join us every Wednesday morning from 9-10 a.m. in the Vault Room at Main Street Bagels for coffee, community, and camaraderie. Join our Facebook group of the same name. Ladies only. RSVP to MelodyJones@MelodyJonesAuthor.com



Poetry Night at the GJ main library resumes live meetings with host Lisa Connor

Poetry Night has resumed their regular gathering on the second Wednesdays at 6pm, upstairs, SE side of library. No reservations needed but must wear mask.

Check the library site for schedule and content at mesacountylibraries.com and search events. For more info: email

Lisa.a.connors@gmail.com

“Don't bend; don't water it down; don't try to make it logical; don't edit your own soul according to the fashion. Rather, follow your most intense obsessions mercilessly.”

—Franz Kafka

Bardic Trails Zoom poetry

Acclaimed poet and fiction author Anna Scotti will be the featured reader at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar Tuesday, October 5th at 7 pm (Mountain Time). Following her reading, there will be a short Question and Answer session with Anna. A free event open to any who pre-register. Register by Oct. 4th on-line at the Wilkinson Public Library to get URL & password. Go to telluridelibrary.org/events.

Future Bardic Trails

Nov. 2 with Debbi Brody of N. M. (“The New”), and Dec. 7 with Al Zolynas of CA. (“Flesh”).

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! For courses, events and the latest Colorado writing news, go to <https://rmfw.org/its-a-podcast/>

Confluence Studios

634 Main in GJ is dedicated to bringing art and community together to build a more vibrant, creative, and sustainable home for all of us in the Grand Valley.

Check out their many classes and opportunities for creating a variety of craft, art and writing, and receive their newsletter:

www.imconflucencestudios.com or facebook.com/imconflucencestudios/