

*Happy Holidays to All! Consider
a Christmas donation to WCWF.
We bring you our best all year.*

Current News & Views

Monthly WCWF board meeting

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

Next Meeting is Jan. 10, 6:30, at CFI

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Save the Date

No Writers Night in January due to New Years. We will continue on February 1 as we welcome Jim Van Pelt back, and poet Beth Paulson for March. Our new team of program developers is hard at work securing a new round of presenters. Look for announcements here and check our web site for details.

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

TAKE THE MIC!



You're the Star of the Show

*Every December our Writers Night becomes an opportunity to showcase
the writing we have been doing all year.*

Bring your poems and short pieces to read, or have others read if you wish.

Sign up to read at [wwritersforum@gmail.com](mailto:writersforum@gmail.com) or at the event

*Timing: We will distribute the reading according to the
number reading within the time available.*

*Check your time: a 30-line poem takes about 2 minutes
to read; a 700-word story takes about 5 minutes.*

WCWF Writers Night • Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, 6-7:30

New location: Main Library, Monument Room

Fifth & Grand, Grand Junction, CO

Registration appreciated, please go to westerncoloradowriters.org.

Library's "In This Together" Anthology Culminates with Event

The Central Library's Anthology, which has been cosponsored by WCWF, will be available in January. To celebrate, the library is hosting an event. Thirty-five local writers and artists are featured in

the anthology. These artists' works will be shown and writers will be invited to read, or have their works read, at the event. Plan not to miss this community-wide response to Covid.

Friday, January 7, 6:30 - 7:30, Central Library Community Rooms

THE STATE OF 2021: PRESIDENT'S WRAP-UP

The Western Colorado Writers' Forum was able to provide successful programming in 2020 in spite of Covid restrictions thanks to your support and flexibility. We funded most of the programming with two grants, one from Arts in Society (AIS) and the other from the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture. These grants were used for the following projects:

- **Funding of Writers' Nights:** Covid restrictions forced us to offer Zoom experiences for part of the year. This was fortunate in that we could utilize writers from other places to present and WCWF participants from outside Grand Junction could

Covid restrictions forced us to offer Zoom experiences for part of the year.

“attend.” Check out some of the recordings of these workshops on our web site. A total of 145 attended these events. Presenters included: T.L. Christianson, Tori Minor, Renee

Collins, Manual Ramos, Teague Von Bolin, Avery Brooks, Coleen Story, Wendy Videlock, Carrie Schaffer, Annette Ferriole, Laura Tohe, culminating with the Open Mic for you in December.

- **“In This Together”** an art and writing anthology produced in conjunction with the Mesa County Library. WCWF provided three workshops to inspire writers to submit. Four hundred copies of the book are being printed now and will be available in January. There are 19 writings and 18 pieces of art featured. WCWF Board member, Virginia Jensen, co-edited the anthology along with Michelle Boisvenois-Fox from the library.

- **Slamming Bricks Poetry Slam and Anthology:** This event in September attracted a live audience of 150 and an on-line audience of 350+. Caleb Ferganchick, WCWF Board member, coordinated this third annual slam and recruited the amazing presenters from around the region. Avery Brooks, WCWF Board member and author, edited and produced an anthology collection of poetry for the event, which was part of Pride Week. The book

sold out. There are plans in this coming year for another slam and anthology.

- **Cyber-Strong Magazine** – WCWF had originally planned writing workshops for teens, vets, and caregivers but was forced to cancel them because of Covid restrictions. We took the funds from that effort and partnered with Postvention Alliance on the production of two editions of Cyber-Strong magazine. These essays, poems, photos and artwork were created primarily by students from Fruit Middle School. Our funds went to pay teacher stipends for those working with the writers and hard copies of the magazine which addressed what resiliency skills teens use to cope with life.

- **Laura Tohe visit:** This Navajo nation poet and author led a writing workshop for 37 participants in November and was also a keynote speaker for the Upper Colorado River Water Conference at CMU. She presented the Dine view about nature and water to 98 virtual participants. The recording was accessed by over 45 more people from across the country. Laura presented a program on Code Talkers to Fruita MS and at the Career Center that was viewed by over 550 students. Students from 18 other D51 schools were able to access the recording of this presentation.

Writing does not have to be a solitary art. Writing together as a community is a great way to stay inspired and pursue what you need as an artist. Our activities reached a huge audience for a group of all volunteers with no paid staff. It is almost impossible to obtain grant money for administrative expenses. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help us to continue to operate in the coming year and offer our programming free of charge so everyone can participate.

– Linda Skinner, Retiring Board President

Meet the Board

The WCWF welcomes **Melody Jones** as the new president of the board. She's a published writer and poet, crafter, coffee enthusiast, lover of beagles, and Colorado native. A Palisade girl, she recently returned to the western slope after 30 years in the Denver area.



After completing a 20-year career in social work working with at-risk teens in foster care, Melody got involved in writer and author groups on the eastern slope. An accidental entrepreneur was born in 2011 when she realized there was a (desperate) need for social media help in the writer world.

Known as Social Media Melody, she provided consultations, management, workshops, retreats, and conference presentations – including the Colorado Gold Writers Conference hosted by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers – on all things social media. She founded the now-complete Colorado Women in Social Media and still works in the field on a limited basis.

Melody currently hosts Writer Chicks Coffee Club Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at Main Street Bagels and is founder of the virtual Butt in Seat Writing Group for Women. Learn more at MelodyJonesAuthor.com.

Melody served as Vice President and Communications Chair for the Denver Woman's Press Club from 2019-2021.

She looks forward to working with the WCWF board and getting to know the writing community on the western slope!

WCWF Wrap-Up

The Board's next meeting is Monday, January 10, 6:30, in the Solarium at CFI, 740 Gunnison, GJ. We are happy to have visitors.

Western Colorado Writers Forum board meeting occurred on November 18, 2021. It was refreshing to see new faces and enthusiasm.

December Writers' Night location has been changed to the Morrison Room at the Central Library. This will be an open mic with sign up at the event.

Guests for 2022 Writers Night were discussed, with several presenters already in place.

The Board still needs some positions filled. If you have something to offer the writing community, please contact us or attend the next board meeting.

WCWF Board Members

Melody Jones, Pres.

Virginia Jensen, Vice Pres.

Caleb Ferganchick, Sec.

Erica Kitzman, Treas.

Jane Miller • Linda Skinner

Annette Ferriole

John Lanci • Avery Brooks

Christie Matherne

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 (no meeting Dec. 22 or 29). 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 Connors

Poetry Night has resumed their regular gathering on the second Wednesdays at 6pm. No reservations needed.

Check the library site for schedule and content at mesacountylibraries.com and search events. For more info: email Lisa.a.connors@gmail.com

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

—Maya Angelou

Free Christmas Story

Hi, all, here's a link to my website and a free Christmas read from my book, *A Christmas Tale and Other Stories*, which is available in paperback and ebook form. Enjoy the story! Jan Weeks

<https://weeksliterary.com/read-a-chapter/>

Bardic Trails Zoom poetry

December's featured poet is Al Zolynas of California. Zolynas is author of the collections *Near and Far* (2019), *The Same Air* (1997), *Under Ideal Conditions* (1994), and *The New Physics* (1979), at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar, Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm (Mountain Time). A production of the Talking Gourds Poetry Program, Bardic Trails is a free event. Register online at the Wilkinson Public Library to get Zoom Link.

Go to telluridelibrary.org/events.

Check out the RMFW Podcast



Interviews with fiction writers, teachers, and members of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers (RMFW). For courses, events, workshops, tips and the latest Colorado writing news, go to <http://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.imconfluencestudios.com or facebook.com/imconfluencestudios/