

Happy New Year to All! Consider a 2022 donation to WCWF. Our best is yet to come!

Current News & Views

Monthly WCWF board meetings;
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

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 artistic response to Covid.

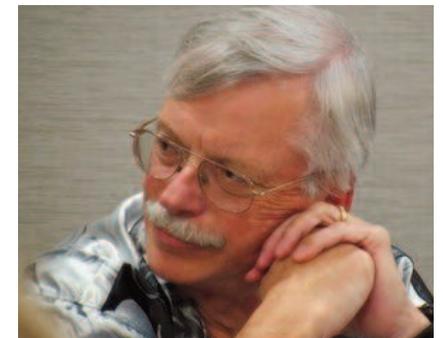
Friday, January 7, 6:30 - 7:30, Central Library Community Rooms

Avoiding Pointless Fiction

We talk at length about the technical aspects of fiction, like setting, dialogue, character and plot, but they all serve the greater purpose of creating stories that move our readers emotionally or intellectually. Whether we intentionally mean to do it or not, almost all successful fiction has a point or multiple points. In English class, teachers call those points "themes." Join long-time short story author and creative writing teacher James Van Pelt in a discussion of how to write with a point.

Long-time High School English teacher, James Van Pelt, has been selling short fiction to many of the major venues since 1989. He was a finalist for the Nebula, the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award, Locus Awards, and Analog and Asimov's reader's choice awards (his 2020 Analog novella, "Minerva Girls," won this year's Anlab Award for best in its category). Fairwood Press recently released a signed and numbered collection of his work, THE BEST OF JAMES VAN PELT.

The worst response anyone can have to your fiction isn't "I hate it," or "That was clumsily done," it's "What's the point?"



**WCWF Writers Night • Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, 6-7:30
The Art Centr, 7th and Orchard, GJ**

Registration appreciated, at westerncoloradowriters.org

What is a “Story Bible?” What divine purpose does it serve?

with local author and RMFW advocate Terri Benson

January 15, 2022, 9:00am - noon

Location: The Incubator, 2591 Legacy Way, Grand Junction, CO

In this workshop we will discuss how to use a Story Bible either when planning a story, or while you are in progress. The Story Bible and Timeline can help you not only keep track of important information, but can help with world building, catching continuity issues, finding where you’ve had your characters having lunch twice in one day, or when you’ve forgotten an important character from early in the story, etc.

This workshop will help new writers, or published authors, no matter if you’re writing a stand-alone novel or series.

- Flesh out your characters and find out why they do what they do (and not always what you want them to)

- Track characters you introduce, and be able to find them later if you need them to play a larger/smaller part in the story

- Determine what research you might need to get started, and be able to find your research sources later if you need them (and I know this because...)

- Have the information to make your scenes, settings and characters come to life, and not be one-dimensional

- Keep track of how much time has elapsed, what the weather is/should be, and if you have multiple POVs in a single chapter

- Things like how you spell a name (Renni, Renny, Rennie or T-shirt, tee-shirt, etc.)

You’ll want to take notes, and you’ll be provided with examples of the Story Bible and Timeline Terri uses and why, and other format options.

A life-long writer, Terri is traditionally and self-published in novel length, with nearly 100 articles and short stories

published – many award winning. She was on the RMFW

Board/Education Chair for several years, is an irregular blogger (in more ways than one), a member of Sisters in

Crime, presents workshops at writer’s conferences, and teaches night classes at Western Colorado Community College. Terri spends her non-writing time working at a Business Incubator and hanging out with her husband of 40+ years and an annoying Brittany spaniel. You can find more information on her at www.terri



“Writers Read” Well Attended

Around 25 attendees braved the pandemic and the cold weather on Dec. 7 to hear our local writers read, mostly their own and sometimes others’ works of poetry and prose. The audience was responsive and the main library venue offered a welcoming atmosphere. Readers are shown right.



Meet the Board

2022 will see a major turnover of board members and officers as a young, vigorous and talented group take their place on the WCWF Board. We introduce you to one of the latest members, our newly elected secretary.

Caleb Ferganchick is a rural, queer, slam poet-activist and author of *The Secret of Sunflowers* (2021) and *Poetry Heels* (2018). His work has been featured and published by Western Colorado Writer’s Forum (2021), South Broadway Ghost Society (2021, 2020), “Slam Ur Ex ((the podcast))” (2020), and the *Colorado Mesa University Literary Review*.

Caleb organizes the annual Slamming Bricks poetry slam competition in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots and serves as a board member for Western Colorado Writer’s Form and Mutual Aid Partners.

A SUP river guide and speech and debate coach, Caleb also dreams of establishing a queer commune with a river otter rescue and falconry. He lives in Grand Junction, Colorado. To learn more, visit calebferganchick.com.



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 for December, 2021, was cancelled due to Holiday activities.

The first Tuesday Writers' Night location has returned to its usual location in the Art Center at 7th and Orchard.

We welcome a number of new faces onto the board along with a few old-timers, who are helping with the transition.

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 • 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, beginning 2022 on Jan. 5. 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

"The artist is always beginning. Any work of art which is not a beginning, an invention, a discovery is of little worth."

—Ezra Pound

*"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true."
— Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

Bardic Trails Zoom poetry

January's featured poet is Bianca Darby-Matteoda at the Bardic Trails Zoom poetry webinar, Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 7:00 pm (Mountain Time). Bianca lives between Los Angeles and Telluride. She recently completed her MFA in poetry at NYU. 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 <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.imconfluencestudios.com or
facebook.com/imconfluencestudios/