



Ponderings - from Carol Deering

WW, Inc., Board Member

“It was a new experience for me.” “The Wyoming writers’ presentation was a wonderful opportunity for teachers to learn about the joy. ... and the need to write, and how that need can be fostered.” “If I had the chance, I would take advantage of such an opportunity again.”



Photo credit: Wyoming Department of Education

Across the state this summer, writers read to teachers of writing, and both felt enriched. ...

Shortly after our conference in June, I was contacted by Kathy Shirley, a consultant with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and a former writing teacher, to organize readings at their weeklong training sites.

At the Central Wyoming College Sinks Canyon Center, at the Beta Coffee House in Cody, at the Night Heron Bookstore in Laramie, at the Natrona County Library in Casper, and at the Campbell County Library in Gillette, a total of 21 writers from around Wyoming spent a Wednesday night reading from their work to teachers attending these sessions. Of the 21 writers, many of them members of Wyoming Writers, Inc., nine read poetry, eight read nonfiction/memoir, three read fiction, and one read a combination of genres. The teachers at every site said the readings were a highlight of their week!

The first reading, for the facilitators of the remaining WDE sessions, was magical. On a gorgeous solstice evening, beneath a canopy and birdsong — and connected to technology (for a piece of music and photographs) by a long and winding extension cord — a small, receptive crowd sat at picnic tables and listened to four writers share their work. Marjane Ambler read from her book manuscript, *Paradise Isn’t for Sissies: Life in the Heart of Yellowstone*; Sara Wiles read and showed photographs from her book, *Arapaho Journeys: Photographs and Stories from the Wind River Reservation*. Echo Klaproth read from her essays, stories, and poetry. And I read poems from my chapbook manuscript. Teachers who seemed hesitant about their own writing got animated by the end. As Echo remarked, “The evening served as a shot in the arm; I can’t explain it any other way than to say it was spiritual.”

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Welcome New Members!

Wyoming Writers, Inc., welcomes new members and those who recently renewed their membership. Say hello to new members **Amy Russian, Lander; Sandra England, Casper; Jane Medved, Sheridan; and Sharon Obert, Casper.**

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At Cody's reading, coordinated by Lynne Bama, one first-grade teacher "absolutely loved the Wednesday night with the poets," and said it "filled her soul." Lynne, Mary Robinson, Jazmyn McDonald, and Rob Stothart enthralled their audience with poetry ... and would each volunteer again.

The reading in Laramie, coordinated by Diane Panozzo, was a great success. The fact that there were two younger and two older readers helped to create a diverse audience including university students, teachers, and the public. Diane and Maggie Mullen read fiction; Aaron Graham read poetry; and Pam Galbreath read a nonfiction piece about her son's drug addiction. Afterwards one teacher remarked, "I was so impressed with the writing ... and am inspired to write more myself. I felt much more connected to the human experience after hearing them read!"

Those who attended the reading in Casper, coordinated by Cindy Bower, interacted positively, both through their attention, laughter and tears during the readings, as well as their personal thank-you greetings at the end. Cindy read the beginning chapters of a middle-grade adventure book; Cindy Grafton read from a poignant memoir about her life as a disabled child mistreated by her family; Vicki Windle read and performed a variety of serious and humorous poems; and Keith Cottam read a nonfiction article concerning a Vietnamese refugee and her heroic efforts to help others in camps as she awaited her release and emigration to the United States.

At the reading in Gillette, coordinated by Darcy Lipp-Acord, five writers read their work and made a huge impression. Darcy and Katie Smith read nonfiction/memoirs; Pat Frolander, Wyoming's Poet Laureate, read poetry; Chris Ellsworth read fiction; and Mikayla Howard read poetry. One teacher wrote: "I was thoroughly impressed with the writers' honesty, vulnerability, and talent. ... Thank you for such a neat and memorable experience."

Overall, comments glowed. "What an awesome experience ... Their writing inspired me to keep writing and to ... go for the jugular." "The experience last night was phenomenal. It is so important to hear not only authors reading their own work, but to listen to the process they go through to produce such works of art." "I would love people like that to come to my room and share. It would be great for someone besides myself to ... talk to [students] about writing." "These authors were passionate as they read their words. Hearing the stories behind their pieces gave a new voice to what they read. I want to have some of these authors visit my classroom, and they expressed an interest in this possibility." "I really think that good things can come out of this burgeoning relationship between the Wyoming Writing Project, the Wyoming Writers, and the Wyoming Department of Education." "A great idea. Let's keep it up — all over Wyoming."

A few comments reflected the need for more coordination between WDE and the writers.

Everyone hopes this summer's experience will be repeated next year, when it will be even better. Meanwhile the Wyoming Writers' board will be considering more regional writing events throughout the year.

I am deeply indebted to the other site coordinators for all their efforts and for some of the wording in this article. And thanks to all the readers for making this series a magnificent success!

Carol Deering

Secretary and Past President

Opportunity:

Do you know Quickbooks? Would you like to help the membership?
We are still seeking a member proficient in QuickBooks who is interested in becoming the WW, Inc., treasurer. Please contact Patricia Frolander at pfrolander@rangeweb.net.

Get a Head Start!

Submissions for the **2013 Wyoming Writers, Inc., Writing Contest** aren't due until March 1, 2013, but you know how those deadlines sneak up! We're making a few changes, adding two categories — flash fiction and limericks — and playing with ideas on how to up the ante for first place winners. A full report on the contest is scheduled for the January 2013 edition of *The Wyo-Writer*, so stay tuned!

Should I Write in Verse?

By Eugene M. Gagliano, WW, Inc., Member

I'm often asked by aspiring picture book authors whether or not they should write their picture book manuscript in prose or verse. I'm going to attempt to answer that question.

First get to know what good poetry looks and sounds like, then you can be your own critic. Read plenty of poetry collections written for children, books like *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein or *The New Kid on the Block* by Jack Prelutsky. Other good children's poets to study include Bruce Lansky, David McCord, and Eve Merriam. Visit your public library and read from the large selection of picture books written in verse, such as *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, *Each Peach, Pear, Plum* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, or *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra.



If you write poetry, first try to sell individual poems to children's magazines. It is a good way to gain much-needed credits you can share in your cover letters.

About one quarter to a third of the thousands of picture book manuscripts editors receive each year are written in verse. The market for such picture books is limited, unless you have an established reputation as a children's poet or your manuscript is truly exceptional. Editors are quick to reject verse that is merely cute or "sing-songy."

After observing the delighted reactions of children to Mother Goose rhymes or a book by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss), it's easy to understand why a writer might wish to choose verse. It appears easy, but writing good poetry in any form is not easy, and writing a complete story in verse is a very difficult task. Rhyme is much more difficult to master than prose.

Stories written in verse for children should observe the same rules as any other picture book text. If it's a story for very young children, it should be no more than two or three double-spaced typewritten manuscript pages; for children five to eight years old, it can be five or six pages.

Write about humorous and serious subjects familiar to children. Stories should have characters the reader cares about, a strong plot with a beginning, middle, and end, and if possible, a final surprise or twist at the end. The beginning text should set up a dramatic situation, generate suspense, and create a vivid scene for the artist to illustrate.

Children of all ages love all kinds of sounds. Writers should be alert to this love for sound, repetition, rhythm, and rhyme. As with any good writing, pay attention not only to sound, but smell, touch, taste, and sight. In verse, every word counts.

There seems to be a general belief that editors prefer unrhymed picture book manuscripts. The objection is not to the use of rhyme itself, but to poorly constructed, awkwardly written verse. You must be able to create rhyme that doesn't sound forced or unnatural. Don't sacrifice meaning for the sake of rhyme, and never use an inferior word just for the sake of rhyming. Avoid obvious, overworked rhymes like *cat* and *hat*. Rhyme, meaning, and rhythm must be integrated. Make sure your rhythm and rhyme are natural and easy, and not singsong. Strive for colorful images with

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GIVE US YOUR BEST ...

we'll give you a byline to add to your "list of publications"!

Want to do an article for *The Wyo-Writer*? While we're considering loose themes for some of the upcoming editions, we are open to suggestions. All articles should be about writing, of course, about "how you do it" or how you avoid some of the pitfalls of this business, what works for you. Articles should run about 500 words. We'll also run your poems, appreciate a good laugh with you, and tell others if you've had a great (or lousy!) experience with an editor or publisher somewhere out there. A brief bio (60 words or fewer), a photo, and any pertinent links to websites where your work might have appeared, will also be a plus. Contact Gayle Irwin, your *Wyo-Writer* editor, at wyowriters@gmail.com.

Verse, continued from page 3

carefully selected words, a lively tempo, and powerful rhythms.

Before you decide to write your picture book manuscript in verse, ask yourself some hard questions. Does rhyme come easily to you? Would rhyme enhance the story? Is there rhythm and meter to back up the rhyme? Could the rhyme make the story sound trivial in any way? Could the same story be told just as well, or better, in prose? Choose to write in verse only if you can write easily in both prose and verse.

If you decide to write your picture book manuscript in verse and you think it's ready, try your story out on the children who will be your readers (not your own children, grandchildren, or students). Kids often tell you what you want to hear, so don't read it yourself. Ask a friend, teacher, or a librarian to read it to a group of children. Don't let the children know you wrote the story, but do sit back and carefully observe their responses.

What are their reactions? Are they bored? Do they laugh when they are supposed to? Do they get excited at the appropriate times? Are they satisfied with the ending?

You can learn valuable information about your story's pacing, conflict, subject matter, and marketability by carefully observing children listening to your story.

If you have tested your story on some children, it's okay to tell an editor in your cover letter that you have done so, but avoid phrases like "My grandchildren loved it," or "I received a great response from my son's class," this carries little weight with an editor.

Then, if you think you're ready, try verse.

About Gene Gagliano:

Known as "the teacher who dances on his desk," Gene Gagliano is a retired elementary teacher with many published children's books to his credit. His author presentations are known to be entertaining, informative, and inspirational. The recipient of the 2001 Arch Coal Teacher Achievement Award, he also received the International Reading Association's (IRA) 2004 Wyoming State Celebrate Literacy Award. Gene has presented at one hundred schools in Wyoming; at IRA, teacher, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and library conferences; and for libraries and other community groups as far away as Hawaii. He is a member of Wyoming Writers, Inc., Wyoming Poets, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Western Writers, and IRA. Learn more about Gene at his website: <http://www.gargene.com/main>.

HAVE WE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!

Are you willing to travel to present, or otherwise assist, in Wyoming Writers, Inc., statewide outreach events? Are you qualified to conduct a workshop, monitor a critique group, or help out otherwise for our annual conference? Let us add your name to the list we're compiling of WW, Inc., members who want to help out. Sometimes there are stipends, sometimes your expenses will be covered, but the personal satisfaction of sharing your expertise and expanding your circle of writing friends will often be payment enough! Whatever your genre, whatever your level of expertise, we want to hear from you! Please send your name and address, a little biographical/professional information, a list of your publications and the genres you consider to be your specialties to: Gayle Irwin, administrative assistant (wyowriters@gmail.com), or Wyoming Writers, Inc., P. O. Box 999, Sundance, WY 82729.

Where are you? Critique groups around the state

Whether you meet for heavy critiquing or those much-needed "you done good" pats on the back, send us the name of your group, where you meet and contact information. Email Gayle Irwin at wyowriters@gmail.com. Help us make your group known to other Wyoming writers!

Range Writers meets at the Fulmer Library in Sheridan, at 1 p.m., on the second Saturday of each month. Visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Rose Hill at arose@bresnan.com.

West Thumb Poets is an exclusive poetry critique group without a real "home place." Members meet twice a year in western Wyoming and once, in summer, at Yellowstone. Contact Carol Deering, Riverton, carold@wyoming.com.

Our Apologies ...

Apologies for typos, misspellings, and any information incorrectly stated in the past edition of *The Wyo-Writer*. As a new "team" we're still learning the ropes and hope the current issue will meet with the approval of all. ~~ Andi Hummel, WW, Inc., board liaison, and Gayle Irwin, editor/administrative assistant.

Market News

by A. M. Hummel

*(The following information has been gathered from several online sources, and from such printed magazines as **The Writer**, **Writer's Digest**, and **Poets & Writers**. Always check the markets mentioned — they're all available online — to make certain, before submitting, they're right for you.)*

A contest for our poets ...

The Howard Nemerov Sonnet Award, for several years sponsored by *The Formalist* and now sponsored by *Measure: A Review of Formal Poetry* (where the winning poem and eleven finalists will be published in a 2013 issue), is currently accepting submissions. Sonnets must be original and unpublished, sequences are acceptable but each sonnet will be considered individually, and poets may enter as many sonnets as they wish. The fee per sonnet is \$3, with checks made payable to *The Formalist*. Include SASE for notification of results and make sure you're postmarked by the November 15 deadline. Final judge for this competition is Rhina P. Espailat, who has published eleven collections and won several prestigious awards. Submissions should be mailed to: **Howard Nemerov Sonnet Award, The Formalist, 320 Hunter Drive, Evansville, IN 47711.**

Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry ... and they pay!

The Antioch Review, a quarterly magazine that publishes and pays for fiction, essays, and poetry, wants submissions by regular mail only. All material should be sent to: **Antioch Review, P.O. Box 148, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.** They do have reading periods, but you're safe between September 1 and May 1 on all bases. Check the guidelines online at www.antiochcollege.org/antioch_review/guidelines.html and read a copy or two before you submit, but this literary market has been around a long time (est. 1941) and has an impressive reputation.

Chicken Soup plans new titles ... and they pay, too!

Chicken Soup for the Soul is planning several compilation books next year! The editors are looking for stories to include in *Lemons to Lemonade*, *Devotional Stories for Wives*, and *Holiday Stories*. Most deadlines are February 2013. Learn more and submit your work online at www.http://www.chickensoup.com/form.asp?cid=possible_books.

Write horror, dark mysteries, suspense? Try this one ...

Cemetery Dance isn't accepting fiction submissions right now, but keep them in mind for later. They are looking for: email queries for interviews or essays and their submission guidelines are online — check www.cemeterydance.com for more information on what this bimonthly wants and contact Richard Chizmar, Editor, at **Cemetery Dance Magazine, P. O. Box 623, Forest Hill, MD 21050.** If you want to make contact via email, send your message to Brian James Freeman at brianfreeman@cemeterydance.com.

Write for other writers ...

Poets & Writers is a favorite of many writers and this bimonthly needs writing news, essays on the writing life, writing advice from and interviews with authors. Submit queries either by regular mail or by email. Submission guidelines are online at www.poetsandwriters.com. (While you're there, let yourself get lost in this website. *Poets & Writers* has, in my opinion, one of the most helpful sites a writer can peruse — do it and see what the newest markets are and what they're hoping to see from you!) To contact the editors via regular mail: **The Editors, Poets & Writers, 90 Broad Street, Ste. 2100, New York, NY 10004.** To contact this magazine online: editor@pw.org.

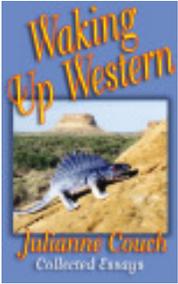
If you're interested in taking a new direction with your writing or immersing yourself in a brush-up course on some specific genre for the New Year, there are many writing courses available online for relatively minimal cost. I hear www.writers.com/classes.html is dependable, but ask questions and check out the teachers before you sign up. What better New Year's resolution could you attempt than to learn to make your writing better, stronger, and more saleable while you're snowed in for the coming Wyoming winter!

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”

~ Maya Angelou

Member News - Think Christmas Gifts!

Gaydell Collier, Sundance, reports *Just Beyond Harmony* was reviewed in the August 2012 edition of *Wyoming Rural Electric News (WREN)*, courtesy of *Wyoming Library Roundup Magazine*. A delightful memoir, this book is the story of the rustic, rural Wyoming lifestyle Gaydell, her husband Roy, their four children, two cats, and a dog experienced in the 1960s in a tiny cabin about 20 miles southwest of Laramie.



Julianne Couch, Bellevue, Iowa, has a new essay collection, *Waking Up Western*, available as an e-book on **Amazon.com**. Follow the author from her Kansas origins, through two decades of life as a Westerner, and back to the Midwest where she has settled along the banks of the Mississippi. In stories that blend humor with reality, honesty with fancy, Julianne shares experiences about how forest fires unite a community, plane crashes, self-inflicted cross-country moves, home renovation, spiritual journeys, and more. Read Julianne's essays on a Kindle device, your computer, even your I-phone! (More good news: Julianne's book, *Traveling the Power Line: From the Mojave Desert to the Bay of Fundy*, is due out in March, 2013 from the **University of Nebraska Press!**)

Carol Deering, Riverton, has three poems published in the recent online *Women Writing Nature* issue of *Sugar Mule*: "Magical Riff," "Daylily Pastoral," and "Down at Troublesome Creek."

Rose Hill, Sheridan, recently named the 2012 Wyoming Senior Poets Laureate by the Amy Kitchener Foundation, reports her winning poem from their **Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition** will be published in the foundation's upcoming *Golden Words: 2012 Anthology*. (Read Rose's winning poem, "Deep Purple," and a bit about the poet on page 12.) Rose also tells us she has had a piece published in the online version of **Smithsonian Magazine's "My Kind of Town"** section. Check www.smithsonianmag.com/mykindoftown and follow your way to the listing of towns featured in Wyoming to read Rose's piece on Sheridan!

Aaron Holst (Sheridan), A. M. Hummel (Hulett), Echo Klaproth (Shoshoni), and Abigail Taylor (Sheridan) each had a poem make it through the first round of judging in the Amy Kitchener Foundation Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition, but not to national-level competition. Their names will be listed, but their poems will not be published, in the upcoming anthology.

Aaron Holst, Sheridan, tells us *Open Window Review's Issue 3, Veteran's Voices* is publishing two pieces of his writing: a poem titled "All In" and a short piece called "Notes on One's Military Experience." Aaron also reports "Swallows," a poem he wrote during M. L. Liebler's workshop at the 2012 WW, Inc., conference in Casper, has taken a second place in the **San Antonio Poetry Fair's (SAPF) National Competition** and will be published in October in SAPF's anthology, *Voices Along the River*.



Gayle Irwin, Casper, has a busy signing schedule with her newly-released book, *Walking in Trust: Lessons Learned with My Blind Dog*. She did two book signings in Casper, in her hometown in Iowa, and in her former state of residence, Montana. She has scheduled another Casper signing, **December 1** at **Wind City Books**, where she will join other Wyoming authors. *Walking in Trust ...* made the top sales list at **Burlington by the Book, Burlington, IA** in September! Gayle will also be at **Whistle-stop Mercantile & Books** in Douglas Nov. **10** and **11** for the store's **Holiday Open House**.

Kim McMahon, Carter Lake, Iowa, says her *Big Horn Storm* was released in August. Available in trade paperback and e-book formats, her book is available through all the major online book retailers. This contemporary Western romantic adventure, set in rugged mountain country, combines a too-close-to-home military crisis, harrowing horseback escapes, and an attempt to reconcile the past in an action-packed thriller.



More Member News - Our Writers are Busy!

Reid Lance Rosenthal, Douglas, who was recently featured in *Wyoming Lifestyle Magazine*, has two books out in his “multi-volume, epic saga of fictional characters moving through America’s history over the course of 170 years.” Number three, *Uncompahgre — Where Water Turns Rock Red*, may be on the shelves when you read this. Award-winning *Threads West, An American Saga*, the first of the series, started a real fan club for Reid. The second, *Maps of Fate* (released April 2012) is adding to the interest in his saga!

Christine Alethea Williams, Rock Springs, has just learned her historical novel, *Willow Grove*, has won the **Wyoming State Historical Society’s Best Fiction Award for 2012**. The book was also a winner at the **2012 WW, Inc., Conference** in Casper where it was recognized with our organization’s **Western Horizons Award**.

Also from the **Wyoming State Historical Society**, **Sundance’s Patricia Frolander** has learned her unstoppable *Married Into It* has been named the **Best Book of Poetry for 2012**. And, *Married Into It* is the featured read in the October 2012 edition of **WREN Magazine**, courtesy of *Wyoming Library Roundup Magazine*, with WW, Inc., member **Darcy Lipp-Acord, (Weston)**, Youth Services Coordinator for Campbell County Public Library, bylining!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Paths to Publication - November 10, 2012

A one-day conference designed to help aspiring writers navigate the next steps toward publication.

Laramie County Library, Cheyenne, 10:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Holiday Open House - November 10 and 11, 2012

Whistle-stop Mercantile & Books, Douglas: 307-358-3663

8 am – 6 pm on Nov. 10 and 10 am – 4 pm on Nov. 11

Visit other Wyoming and regional authors and enjoy some holiday festivities!

Christmas Author Collective – December 1, 2012

Wind City Books, Casper: 307-315-6003

Wyoming authors will be on hand to autograph their plethora of books!



Holiday Greetings!

Your WW, Inc., Board of Directors — Aaron, Andi, Carol, Diane, Bob, Tom, and Pat — wish you Happy Holidays filled with family, friends, laughter, and love.

May 2013 be the best year yet for your writing endeavors!

Wishing you and your families a delightful holiday season and the very best for all of your writing endeavors!

Gayle Irwin, Administrative Assistant

“Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful.”

~ Rita Dove

Writers Need Perseverance and Encouragement: A Conversation with Nina McConigley, Author

By Gayle M. Irwin



“Writers are storytellers. Our craft isn’t just entertaining people, but making connections with others,” says Nina McConigley, a longtime Wyoming resident and author.

McConigley’s roots to Wyoming run as wide and deep as an aspen’s, from her days as a schoolgirl in Casper reading Laura Ingalls Wilder to her years of teaching East Indian literature and English composition at the University of Wyoming. Now living in Austin, Texas, she teaches creative writing classes to youth and an online class through American Short Fiction.

Her own work includes short stories, journalistic pieces, and literary fiction. Her book, a collection of short stories titled *Cowboys and East Indians*, is set for release in 2013. She conducted a book reading at

Casper’s Wind City Books during the summer.

McConigley says she wanted to become a writer at an early age. Through the years, she has learned the lesson of perseverance, a character trait all writers need. Her book deal took years to mature.

She met her agent while attending the prestigious Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference in Vermont, where she has been not only a participant, but has also served as part of the staff. That was in 2009. Revisions and edits began in 2010 and her agent attempted many times to get McConigley a book deal. That finally happened this year.

“It feels every step in the writing process is hard,” she says. “There are always hurdles.”

Those hurdles include rejections, which nearly every writer who submits has experienced. Even kind, thoughtful rejections can make a writer unsure, McConigley says.

During the three years she worked to obtain her MFA, McConigley was part of a writer’s group and found those interactions extremely helpful.

“You get good support and understanding, you receive feedback and critique from fellow writers, and that’s amazing and wonderful,” she says. “You also have accountability when you’re in a writer’s group; they help you meet deadlines, for example, and keep you writing.”

Although not currently part of a writer’s critique group, McConigley says the organizations and conferences with which she has been involved have been helpful to her.

“I’ve met a lot of great writers,” she says. “It’s really cool to be with other writers; it’s like a community.”

That community now extends around the world as McConigley has embraced the social media realm. She has a Facebook page and is an active tweeter through Twitter.

“Social media helps me connect with other people: writers, publishers, bookstore owners. It’s nice to engage with these people,” she says.

McConigley received the Wyoming Arts Council’s Frank Nelson Doubleday Memorial Writing Award in 2010 and was a finalist for the Flannery O’Connor Short Fiction Award in 2011. She is currently working on a novel and continues to freelance.

Within the rungs of her success as a writer, perseverance and encouragement have been mainstays, and those lessons are ones all writers can learn from.

“A huge chunk of the writing life is simply to hang in there!” McConigley advises.

Learn more about her at <http://www.ninamcconigley.com>. Find her on Facebook and follow her on Twitter.

Editor’s Note: WW, Inc., member and administrative assistant Gayle Irwin’s complete interview with author Nina McConigley can be found on the organization’s website: www.wyowriters.org!

“The short story is as diverse and exciting a form as the novel, offering the condensed satisfaction of a good poem.” ~ Sean O’Brien

Do You Have Five Minutes to be Social?

By Julianne Couch, WW, Inc., Member

Take five minutes a day to network with others, and see if it makes a difference for your writing practice. Here's how. If you are an old hat at social media by now, you are probably following Wyoming Writers, Inc., on Twitter and have joined our Facebook group. If you are not yet comfortable with social media and want a friendly place to start, here are two sites where Wyoming Writers organization members and people from potentially anywhere can talk together about writing.

Find us on Twitter! Go to www.twitter.com and set up an account. It is easy and free. Then find and "follow" us at @WyoWriters. See updates from the organization by visiting WyoWriter's "twitter feed" or by following us yourself. While there, check out the others who follow WyoWriters by reading their tweets. See what writers, editors, and publishers have to say about issues of that 24-hour cycle, in 146 characters or less. If you want to see tweets only by WyoWriters, try Tweepchat.com. Search for our group under the "hashtag" as follows: #WyoWriters. You can also post on Twitter using that hashtag as part of your tweet. That way, your comments do not have to be posted by the group administrator (me).

Find us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com and set up an account. It is easy and free. Find us by searching for Wyoming Writers, Inc. It is an open group so you should simply be able to join in. This group has been joined by many writers in Wyoming who are not members of this organization. Let's be a good online community and encourage those folks to become official members through our example. Let us know about your website, your articles, your books, or just your daily walk through the writing life.

The WW, Inc., E-list Gets Speedy Results!

The Wyoming Writers e-list ("listserv" or "discussion list" as they are sometimes called) is a quick way to get your questions answered or your writing news out to the membership of Wyoming Writers, Inc.

Started a couple of years ago by **Nancy Curtis** — with some help from **Linda Vernon** and **Jeanne Rogers** (then president of our organization) — our Yahoo e-list offers easy contact with all who participate in this service. And participating is easy! Individual postings show up in a member's email inbox in digest form on days when at least one WW, Inc., member has posted a message. You don't have to do go to any website or do anything special to get them. Click to open your e-message and the postings are there on your monitor; read and answer them right now, if you're so inclined, or later ... or not at all.

The e-lists do put out the word, at least so according to Nancy, and they make friends of people who might not otherwise get to know one another. "I belong to a couple of other organizations who host Yahoo e-lists and had found that they made me feel more involved. When I went to my first workshop for one of the organizations, it was because of the upbeat chatter on their e-list about what was going to happen there. I joined Randi Platt for breakfast one morning and later someone asked 'How do you and Randi know each other?' And I had to admit that I really didn't 'know' Randi except through the e-list, but it felt like I knew her and others from reading their posts."

Nancy says the best way to get on the list is to email the "administrator" (her) and ask to be placed on the list. "You can sign up yourself online but the process is confusing and makes it sound like you have to have a Yahoo email address, which you do not. The easiest way is to email me at coyote@wyoming.com."

The Holidays are Just Around the Corner! What do You Give a Writer?

Looking for a special Christmas gift for your favorite writer? Or maybe there's a birthday coming up that deserves something more than another book, lunch out, or a gift certificate to the same old place as last year? Give a membership to Wyoming Writers, Inc., the oldest statewide, multi-genre writer's organization in Wyoming! Fill out the form on the next page and mail it, with the appropriate payment (add student ID info if needed) to: Wyoming Writers, Inc., P. O. Box 999, Sundance, WY 82729.



Join Wyoming Writers, Inc.!

Wyoming Writers, Inc., Membership Form

Name: _____
Company Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone (Day): _____ Phone (Evening): _____
Email: _____

Would you like us to link your website and/or blog to the WW, Inc., website? Please list addresses:

Website: _____

Blog: _____

All memberships expire June 30th of each year, regardless of when you join.

Member Status: (please check one)

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

What genre(s) do you write?

_____ Nonfiction
_____ Fiction _____ Poetry

Dues Structure: (please check one)

_____ Student, \$10 annually (please attach a copy of your
Student ID or letter from your school to verify eligibility.)
_____ Regular, \$35 annually
_____ Sustaining, \$75 annually
_____ Patron, \$250 annually

Literary fields in which you write:

Mail this form and payment payable to

**Wyoming Writers, Inc.,
P.O. Box 999
Sundance, WY 82729**

Anything else you'd like us to know:

Wyoming Writers, Inc., is a 501©3 non-profit corporation and your dues are tax deductible. Member benefits include discount when registering for the WW, Inc., annual conference and electronic delivery of the newsletter.

Consider Upping the Ante!

The slate of presenters at the 2013 Wyoming Writers, Inc., conference in Laramie is stacking up to be one of our most exciting yet. Let's keep the mystery and excitement building and just say, well, we've got more planned than the usual diet of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry! Looking for a bigger gift than a regular membership to Wyoming Writers, Inc.? Consider the gift of pre-conference activities (something new here, folks!) or a paid registration for conference weekend in June 2013! For specifics, email Pat Frolander at pfrolander@rangeweb.net.

Remember the Conference Dates: June 7 - 9, 2013! Mark your calendars and look for more information in the January 2013 issue of *The Wyo-Writer!*

"Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass." ~ Anton Chekhov

Wyoming Writers, Inc., Board
Conference Call Minutes - August 29, 2012, 7 to 9 pm

Present: Pat Frolander, President Carol Deering Aaron Holst Andi Hummel
Diane Panozzo Bob Simkins Tom Spence

I. Call to Order: President Pat called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Minutes of June 3, 2012: Tom moved and Diane seconded, to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried. Carol posted the corrected minutes to the flash drive.

III. Treasurer's Report: Bob moved and Tom seconded, to accept the treasurer's report as mailed. Motion carried.

IV. Newsletter Report: Andi reported that she had received some comments on the first newsletter. Gayle Irwin, our admin. assistant, is now working on the website. The October newsletter will include a listing of local writing groups, member-written articles, and other goodies. Andi will work with Carol on her write-up of the summer Dept. of Education regional readings, for the "letter from the board" column. September 30 will be the deadline for the October issue.

V. Regional Writing Events: Tom discussed a plan for a Poetry Weekend, involving Sheridan College and a district high school, to take place in Sheridan possibly the second weekend of November. This will include a workshop and the students' reading their poems. The event will be held, in part, to get the name of Wyoming Writers out in the community. Tom's local writing group will help identify and pull together funding for posters and mailing. Carol mentioned a few topics related to the summer reading events: publicity that doesn't mention WW, Inc., possible need for an informal agreement (who's responsible for what), how to evaluate events, do we need numbers for a report, etc.

VI. Conference Faculty:

Liaison: Aaron moved and Andi seconded, to create a liaison to take over working with the faculty once an initial contact has been successfully made. Tom nominated Diane as liaison, Carol seconded; motion carried. The secretary (yours truly) will type up the contracts.

Number of Agents: Aaron moved and Carol seconded, to have two agents at the 2013 conference. Motion carried.

Vote on Names: After some discussion, the board decided to have three workshop tracks as follows: Track 1 Fiction, Track 2 Nonfiction, and Track 3 divided. Aaron moved and Tom seconded, that we have mystery/suspense as our genre and ask Margaret Coel to be our Track 1 faculty headliner (two workshops, keynote address, and opening and closing panel member); motion carried. Carol volunteered to be initial contact. Aaron moved and Tom seconded Mark Jenkins, journalist and mountain climber, for Track 2 (3 workshops and the panels); motion carried. Diane will be the initial contact. Aaron moved and Carol seconded, that we break Track 3 into three parts: Children's literature (Gene Gagliano), Short fiction (Mike Shay), and Poetry (Rick Kempa); motion carried. Track 3 initial contacts are Tom (Gene), Aaron (Mike), and Pat (Rick). These faculty members will each do one workshop.

VII. Face-to-Face Meeting in Sheridan: We will decide by email what weekend date in late September we will meet to tour the facilities at Sheridan College and the Holiday Inn, looking towards the 2014 conference. Carol will communicate our date choice to the college. We will also meet in Laramie in February, to scope out the facilities for this coming year's conference.

VIII. Topics for Next Meeting, etc.: Two topics for our next meeting: Fundraising Ideas and Sponsorship. For a later meeting: 2014 faculty. Pat will thank Jon Connolly, VP of Academic Affairs, at Sheridan College, for letting us use their phone conferencing system.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Carol Deering
WW, Inc., Secretary

Wyo-Writers' Corner

Deep Purple

by A. Rose Hill

Bound to her wheelchair,
oxygen canula in place,
she cups the purple blossom
in her bony fingers. "The iris
are in bloom," I tell her.



Reverent, she bends to sniff,
touches the velvet petals
to her weathered face.
"I planted lots of iris,
white, blue, dusty pink;
bought new bulbs whenever I could,
loved to watch them bloom-
I remember how they looked,
tall and straight, prettier than orchids.
I wonder what happened after I moved."

Not one for tears, she wipes her cheek.
"I wish I could see this one."

Note from Rose: I wrote this in the spring of 2010 before my mother passed away in August of that year at the age of 100. It is the poem which made me the Amy Kitchener Senior Poets Laureate for Wyoming in 2012.



The Wyo-Writer
Wyoming Writers, Inc.
P.O. Box 999
Sundance, WY 82729



About Rose:

A Missouri farm girl, Rose Hill has lived in Wyoming since 1947, at the same house in Sheridan since 1955. She and her husband of 63 years have three adopted children and six grandchildren and Rose keeps books for her son's business, sings in a church choir, is church historian, does genealogy research, and cares for a two-year-old granddaughter a couple days a week. Most of her poetry arises from family events and personal experience. Rose, published in literary journals across Wyoming and Nebraska, has placed in several contests and is most proud of her poems published in *Leaning into the Wind* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997) and *Woven on the Wind* (Houghton Mifflin, 2001). She is a member of Range Writers, Wyoming Writers, Inc., and WyoPoets.