



WYO-Writer

Official newsletter of Wyoming Writers, Inc.

February 2017

Vol. 43 No. 4



43rd Annual
CONFERENCE
Gillette
June 2-4, 2017

Have We Got a Conference for You! From the Board of Directors

In this newsletter you'll find articles from members who have been working on Wyoming Writers, Inc.'s 2017 Conference headed for Gillette June 2, 3, 4. We have the venue, the hotel, and a Conference Committee on the ground in Gillette doing a fantastic job on the details. And Vice President Cindy Jackelen, heading up the program committee, has assembled a faculty that will make it impossible for you to stay away.

KEYNOTE:
Nina McConigley

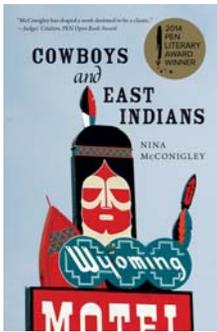


The Keynote Speaker will be **Nina McConigley**. Her story collection, *Cowboys and East Indians*, won the PEN Open Book Award and the High Plains Award, and is recognized widely. She's been a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and invited to the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She has way too many credits for this article. She'll

Continued on page 2

Meet the Presenters3	For more conference news, visit:
WW, Inc. Contest.....5	www.wyowriters.org/conference
Award Nominations.....7	<i>Online registration opens in March.</i>
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!	<i>Watch your mail for the conference brochure!</i>

Continued from page 2



be leading workshops in “Autobiography as Fiction,” “The New American West” and “From Rejection to Publishing.” Look her up at <http://ninamcconigley.com>. She lives in Laramie and teaches at the University of Wyoming.

POETRY:

Kristin Abraham

Kristin Abraham, author of *The Disappearing Cowboy Trick*, *Little Red Riding Hood Missed the School Bus* among others, is a poet and lyric essayist from Michigan who came to Wyoming via the West Virginia University (MFA), and teaches at Laramie County Community College. She will be leading workshops in poetry.



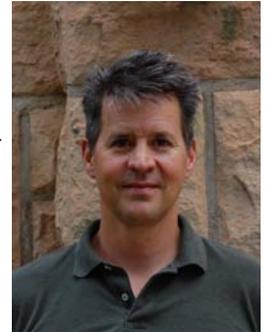
RESEARCH & NONFICTION: Clay Landry

Clay Landry, researcher, essayist, and author of articles focusing on the material culture of the early mountain men in the Rocky Mountain fur trade, is an associate with the Fur Trade Research Center in Teton, Idaho. He will be presenting workshops in putting research to paper and getting it right and readable. He consulted on the Oscar winning movie, *The Revenant*, training actors and extras in all topics pertaining to guns, tools, accoutrements, without which the authenticity of the film could not have been sustained. In between times, Clay and his wife Jamie run the Historical Leather Works, specializing in hand crafted, fur trade era boots, saddles, and tack.



NONFICTION: Dr. Caskey Russell

Dr. Caskey Russell (PhD, University of Oregon), a member of the Tlingit tribe of Alaska, teaches literature and American Indian Studies at the University of Wyoming. He will lead sessions on non-fiction and the creative shaping of it; edits and final touches; and finding the hook for fiction in your own life.



MEMBER VOLUNTEERS



A large menu—but there’s more. For the first time volunteers from our own members will facilitate discussion in an attractive panel with **Abbie Taylor**, focusing on the poetry of our everyday experience; novelists **Chris Williams** and



Laurie Marr Wasmund delving into the historical novel, the supporting research, and breathing life into the genre; **Linda Crowder**, who writes mysteries,



will fill out the panel, discussing plot and setting. **Keri DeDeo** and publisher



Patricia Landy will discuss rescuing and revivifying old manuscripts into finished, published works. Wyoming’s current Poet Laureate, **Gene Gagliano**, prolific with children’s books, from adventure to abecedarian, will round out the slate of volunteers.

Hold it; we’re not done! The monster has fled the laboratory for good or for ill. So, **Susan Vittitow Mark**, librarian, poet, and “co-blogger” with WW, Inc. member, Lynn Carlson at www.writingwyoming.com, will offer advice



Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

and help to make social media work for you—so come prepared.

AGENTS & EDITORS

Finally: agents and editors? We got 'em! **Aaron Lindsdau** of Sastrugi Press in Jackson which publishes a wide range of material but focuses on Wyoming and the outdoors. **Nancy Curtis** who never misses a WW conference anyway is the dynamo at High Plains Press on all matters and dotes on historical non-fiction and Western poetry. Finally, **Patricia Landy**, long an educator and editor, owns Crystal Publishing which focuses on children, young adult, and fantasy manuscripts.

AND MORE!

Enough for a 3 day conference? Just enough space to mention the Writing Contest, awards and a business meeting, a bookstore and book signing, and a banquet. Be there and get the most out of this great line up!

Next stop for 2018 conference?

Would you like to see Wyoming Writers, Inc. hold its 2018 conference in your neighborhood?

Interested? Contact WW Inc. President Chris Ellsworth at president@wyowriters.org.

President's Message: The Bunkhouse Just Got an Upgrade

Hi Folks,

Last fall while gathering cattle on the mountain, I spent five straight nights sleeping in a snowbank—literally! While such digs might look romantic on a Christmas card, the distinct lack of creature comforts soon catches up to you. The good news is that we are all going to get a major upgrade in accommodations at the 2017 Wyoming Writers, Inc. Annual Conference. The Arbuckle Lodge, rated the number one hotel in Gillette by Trip Advisor, will be our base of operations for this year's event. Even better? You can stay in this luxury bunkhouse on a ranch hand's budget.

Not only has the Arbuckle slashed their rates for conference goers (double queen and single king rooms are only \$89/night instead of the usual \$129-139), they are also offering suites that sleep 4 for \$119/night, 6 for \$169/night and 8 for \$169/night. Team up with a friend or friends and that's only \$30, \$28 or \$21 per night! And, folks, this is a beautiful lodge. I know—I checked it out myself first and then did a full walk-through with WW, Inc.'s Board of Directors and the local conference committee. The amenities are outstanding. Take a look for yourself at www.gillette.arbucklelodge.com. **Discounted block rooms will be held through May 8.** After that the tourist season rates apply. Don't dilly-dally. Get your

crew and get your reservations!

The working sessions, meetings, banquets and the bookstore will all be held at CAM-PLEX, the premier event facility in northeast Wyoming. These folks know what they're doing when it comes to putting on a program. It's right across the road from the lodge and the two entities often team up to host events such as ours. Shuttles will be available for those who'd like transportation.

Of course, the point of the conference will always be writing: how to write better, how others write and how to publish your work. To that end we have a great faculty. See the article above from the Board of Directors. Please give that article your attention and go to the website for all the details on the conference and contest. The Conference brochure will be in the mail soon.

So plan to come to this year's conference and immerse yourself in writing all day long then enjoy a little luxury at the end of it. Grab a friend or the whole crew and do it on a budget or seek a little solitude if that's what you'd prefer. **Just do it quickly because these lodging rates are only good until May 8!**

See you there,

Chris Ellsworth, President

What Next?

by Keri DeDeo, Board Member

So it happened...finally. I have a book coming out in 2017. It will be my first novel, and it's not the one I thought would be published, but it's publishable all the same.

Someone asked me recently, "So how does that feel?" And my response was "Scary."

And, although it's exciting, I am terrified. First of all, the draft is rough. It's in the editor's hands right now. I have an inkling about what comments she'll have and what changes are needed, but still, I'm afraid she'll come back and want me to rewrite all of it. Or worse yet, what if she changes her mind and decides not to publish it at all?

I think that's my biggest fear: having my dreams crushed. What if I'm not cut out to be a writer? What if all my effort and struggle turns out to be a waste of time?



I'm overstating. After all, any writing is never a waste of time because writing is learning —about the world, about myself, about the craft. Good for a pastime, but publication? That's a whole other matter. Still, my lifelong dream has been to have a published novel, and now on the brink of

that dream coming true, I'm scared I'll wake up...or that it will turn into a nightmare.

I tell myself it will be fine, that by March I'll be promoting my book. The pain of editing will be done, and the proofing, and the cover design, and at long last, I'll be a published author—me, Keri DeDeo!

The novel, for young adults, is titled: "*Nothing but a Song.*" Watch for it.

Editors note: Keri DeDeo joined Wyoming Writers, Inc. in 2014. Last year she was elected to the Board of Directors. If you think you're too busy, consider that we heard about the good news of Keri's first published novel at a Board Meeting in Gillette, which she had to leave early to join the string section of the orchestra with her viola!

Get Ready for the 43rd Conference!

A Welcome from the Conference Committee

We in Gillette, Wyoming want to welcome all to the 2017 Wyoming Writers, Inc. Conference, being held June 2,3,4 at CAM-PLEX Multi-Event Facilities, in the Energy Hall. The flexible use of this facility will allow us to organize our conference in a useful cluster of adjacent spaces. CAM-PLEX's staff is ready and eager to accommodate Wyoming Writers, Inc. needs.

Just across the way is the Arbuckle Lodge where confer-ees may stay. Arbuckle Lodge is an experience above that of a standard hotel, offering six different oversized room types with many complimentary amenities. Take a

tour online at www.arbucklelodge.com. To make reservations call 307-685-6363.

Gillette, Wyoming, calls itself the Energy Capitol of the Nation, but for energy nothing will exceed Wyoming Writers Inc.'s conference, with a top notch faculty, and a membership of great enthusiasm in attendance.

The site committee and the Wyoming Writers Board of Directors are working hard to make this year's conference an experience to educate, invigorate, inspire, but mostly, to enjoy!



Wyoming Writers Contest

Postmark Deadline: March 10, 2017

Winners will be notified by early May 2017 and will be announced at our 43rd Annual Conference in Gillette, WY, June 2nd-4th.

Five categories:

- Adult Fiction
- Fiction for Children & Young Adults
- Non-Fiction
- Traditional Poetry
- Free Verse Poetry

Fee: \$15 per entry

About the contest

The Wyoming Writers, Inc. contest is not about how many words you can make; rather it is all about how well you can create with 3000 words...or in 40 lines of poetry.

Entry fees: \$15 per entry; up to 3 entries allowed in prose genres; one entry of up to 5 poems per poetry category, traditional or free verse. First prize winners for the five genres will be awarded \$50; second place prize, \$30; third place prizes, \$20.

See www.wyowriters.org/contest/ for complete rules.

You don't need to live in Wyoming or be a member of Wyoming Writers Inc. Add \$20 to your entry fee if you want an introductory, one-year membership. No refunds for disqualified or withdrawn entries. No entries will be returned.

Apply Now: Emmie Mygatt Memorial Scholarship

Wyoming Writers, Inc. offers various ways for its members to be recognized for their work and to attend the annual conference. Through the Emmie Mygatt Memorial Scholarship, writers can receive financial help in order to attend the conference and pay for membership dues.

Deadline to receive letters of application:

April 30, 2017

Email Emmie Mygatt Scholarship applications and questions to scholarship@wyowriters.org.

For more conference info, visit www.wyowriters.org/conference

Help WW, Inc. Recruit New Members

By Marjane Ambler, Board Member
& Conference Publicity Chair

Do you know other writers?

Chances are that you do. Perhaps some people in your social circles are closet writers, people who would blush and demur when asked about it.

You can help these people find their voice by encouraging them to come to Wyoming Writers, Inc.'s 43rd Annual Conference, June 2-4 at the CAM-PLEX in Gillette. The Board of Directors strives to keep costs low and affordable. **This year's "early bird" fee—until May 15th—is \$235. The Arbuckle Hotel, across the road from to the CAM-PLEX, is holding a block of rooms at reduced prices up until May 8th.** Wyoming Writers, Inc. is proud to be the statewide writing organization which offers affordable membership and conferences. One member called us more of a "beer conference,"

compared to the more expensive "champagne" conferences.

Affordable, yes; but with top notch faculty and agents. Many of our members are published authors, but they return year after year to see old friends and because our conferences help them focus again on craft and inspiration. In addition to the break-out sessions with great faculty, Friday round tables provide immediate peer feedback, and Sunday morning "paddle panels" allow for feedback and discussion of opening pages, keeping the authorship anonymous.

Can you help spread the word via your own social media or print the poster and post it at your local library, book retailer, coffee shop, and other places where writers gather?

If you are sending a group email, don't forget Wyoming ex-pats and wannabes. Wyoming Writers already includes members from surrounding states such as Colorado, Montana, and South Dakota. There is lots more information in the accompanying articles in this newsletter.

Be Brave: Submit Your Work for the Paddle Panel

By Susan Vittitow Mark, WW, Inc. Member

Ever dropped a book like a bad transmission before making it to page two? I certainly have. So at the 2014 Wyoming Writers Conference, I decided to find out if my opening would keep someone reading, and submitted it for the Paddle Panel.

Paddle Panel panelists (say that five times fast) each have a YES and NO paddle. Writers submit just their first page. As it is read aloud, panelists hold up YES if that first page would keep them reading and NO if they would set it aside. Then they discuss their decisions.

Lest you think this is a lesson in public humiliation like the "Gong Show," pieces were submitted anonymously, the panelists were kind and not cutting in their remarks, and there were no boos from the audience. Still, it takes bravery to put out your work for an up-down vote.

As the session went on, I found myself holding up my own mental paddles. One piece might start strong and

then plunge into too much backstory. Others were just gripping, and I wanted to know more.

The latter half of the session, I found it hard to pay attention as I was scribbling notes to myself for a piece of fiction I've been playing with. The light had come on: I knew where to start it and where to go with it. I may still fall flat, but I had some better ideas of how to make it work.

Every session I attended at the conference was great, but I would have to say I learned the most from that one. I gave it a go again last year, and I might try in 2017 with the latest revision. I highly recommend you be brave and submit your work for the Paddle Panel, too.

Revised from the Writing Wyoming blog (www.writingwyoming.com). Writing Wyoming is a project of Lynn G. Carlson and Susan Vittitow Mark.

(Editor's note: If you want your first pages read and critiqued by the paddle panel at the 2017 Conference, submit them in a #10 envelope marked in the corner, "Paddle," to Tom Spence, Box 98, Buffalo, WY 82834.)

Call for 2017 Award Nominations

Wyoming Writers, Inc. Honors Achievement and Contribution

by Judy Matheny, Wyoming Writers, Inc. Awards Chairperson

Nominations are now open for the four major awards of WW, Inc. and will be accepted through **April 30, 2017**. All nominations must come *from* current WW, Inc. members.

Nominate someone you know to recognize and honor contribution and service:

- If you know a current WW, Inc. member who has provided outstanding service to WW, Inc., consider nominating him or her for the **Emmie Mygatt Award**. This award, to honor the memory of one of WW, Inc. founders, requires a nomination letter explaining why the nominee deserves the award. Note: Past recipients and the outgoing president of WW, Inc. are ineligible for this award.
- If you know an adult, organization, business, or other entity that has provided special encouragement and motivation to writers, consider nominating them for the **Arizola Magnenat Award**. This nominee need not be a WW, Inc. member. This award also requires a nomination letter explaining why the nominee deserves the award.

Nominate yourself to recognize and honor individual achievement:

- If you are a current WW, Inc. member who has published a first major work between May 2016 and May 2017, consider nominating yourself for The **Western Horizon Award**. Multiple winners may be honored with this award. This award requires a nomination letter setting forth: If a book, include the title, ISBN (required), publisher and publication date; If a first article, story, essay, and/or poem in a major publication, include the title of the work, the name of the periodical and the date of publication. The periodical must be national or literary and have a subscriber base.
- If you are a current WW, Inc member and published writer able to demonstrate ongoing achievements of personal significance in your writing career, consider nominating yourself for The **Milestone Award**. Like the **Western Horizon Award**, multiple winners may be honored with this award. Submissions should succinctly express the breadth and depth of your writing career and include an explanation of what specific events took place that launched the milestone.

Submit your nominations via email to Awards Chairperson Judy Matheny at: awards@wyowriters.org or via snail mail to Mike Carlson, 7914 Surrey Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009. Nominations by mail must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2017. Any questions, please call Judy at 303-842-5855.

*Awards will be presented at the 43rd Annual WW, Inc. Conference
Saturday, June 3, 2017 in Gillette, WY.*

Don't Forget to take advantage of Early Bird Rates Before Time Runs Out!

*****Arbuckle Lodge Discounted Block Rates: May 8th*****

*****WW, Inc. Conference Early Bird Registration Deadline: May 15th*****

(Watch for WW, Inc. Conference Registration Information on the website: www.wyowriters.org/conference)

Remember Johnny Unitas or Roberto Clemente?

By John Gutiérrez, WW, Inc. Member

Remember Johnny Unitas or Roberto Clemente? As a kid I would run over to my grandmothers' house about two blocks from where I lived after we moved into town every Saturday or Sunday afternoon to watch TV since we didn't have one at our home until much later.

Johnny Unitas played football for the Baltimore Colts and Roberto Clemente played baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Each time Johnny threw a pass I knew it would somehow be a touchdown. It seemed as if he'd hit his receivers for six each time he passed the football. I was just as good as he was when I scored a direct hit with my slingshot on a cottontail's head when we still lived on the farm.

And likewise, when Roberto came to bat, I knew he would get on base. Actually I wanted him to get on with a hit instead of a homerun because I loved to watch him steal a base. I associated myself with him because I ran exactly like he did. We were fast. Running down the country road, imagining hitting that ball and stealing those bases was a pastime that I will never forget though it was just a dream. That dream never came close to becoming a reality since I never achieved a professional athlete status. Well, really never even a good athlete.

But dang it, I finally hit a homerun in something I've always dreamed of. While at the Wyoming Writers Conference in Riverton, I was given an opportunity to "pitch" a collection of short stories and as some of my fellow writers in Prairie Pen Writers told me... maybe you'll "hit a homerun" and that's what happened.

After years of writing and a whole lot of hard work, I hit a "homerun." I spoke to one of the publishers who participated in the Writers Conference and she handed me that "bat" and I went for it. I got lucky. My feeling after hitting that homerun was indescribable. Thanks to all of my fellow writers for all their help and guidance, today I feel the way I'm sure

Johnny Unitas and Roberto Clemente did after that first professional TD or Homerun.

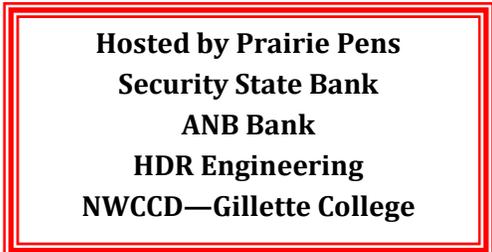
Wow...what a feeling it is to be on top of the world if only for those 2-3 minutes!



The WW, Inc. 2017 Conference is supported in part by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council.



First Northern Bank
of WYOMING



Why Should I Go to WW, Inc.'s Conference?

By Shanna Ferguson, Conference Chairperson

I'm guessing some of you will be asking yourselves this. Why take the time, spend the money, make the effort? Good questions. I asked similar ones myself as I considered attending my very first writer's conference in Riverton last year. I had good excuses, too: "I'm not really a writer, I have no idea what I'm doing. And, who are these people? Must be *real* writers, which I'm not."

Fortunately, I am a member of a local writing group. A friend and mentor in that group, Katie Smith, encouraged everyone there to go. She said it was a great opportunity and that we'd regret missing it, and to me personally she said, "If you want to step up as a writer, hone your craft, then take this chance." That did it.

I ponied up the registration fee and made my hotel reservation. I was all in! But this was just the beginning.

In Riverton, Echo Klaproth and her crew had things well organized, and I immediately felt included. I moved from fear to awe and excitement. I was in the midst of some very hefty talent, but recognized right away that these were kindred spirits willing to share and to teach. And there were some who were a lot like me—new, deer in the headlights look, feeling we might be over our heads.

What a powerful conference. I couldn't have absorbed another thought! Joseph Marshall III, the keynote speaker, offered much, but one thing which rang especially true to me was the near sacred trust we have to share. According to Marshall: "If you have benefitted from the life around you, then you owe it to give back," That is the writer's obligation.

I spent a bundle in the bookstore on lots of books. I had met the authors, sat and talked with them. Now I wanted their words and more contemplative thoughts. Money well spent, because I came home, excited and invigorated, eager to get on to the next step of being a writer, working on my craft. Katie Smith was right!

So, I am giving back in another way. I agreed to co-chair the 2017 Wyoming Writers, Inc. Conference Committee in Gillette. This is a first for Gillette. The venue is at CAMPLEX, a beautiful multi-events facility. Housing is just across the street at the Arbuckle Hotel. (See the additional article from the Conference Committee for more details, and the Board's article on the faculty, agents, and editors who will attend.)

I had no idea the amount of work that goes into a conference like this. My local writing group is working hard; the

Board is engaged up to their necks. Once or twice I've asked myself why I'm doing this. The answer isn't long in coming. Someone on the Board, or from my writing group is right there to remind me. And, truth be told, it's also a lot of fun. And, it's going to be GREAT!

So, now's the time. Mark it on the calendar (I repeat myself: **June 2, 3, 4, 2017**). Writers at all levels and genres welcome. Register, make your reservations. The Conference is a two-way street. It will be good for you, and you will be good for the Conference. Everybody wins!

Collier Scholarship Available

A founding member of both Wyoming Writers, Inc., (WW, Inc.) and Bearlodge Writers (BLW), Gaydell Collier was dedicated to the craft of writing and her encouragement of writers of all ages buoyed many people for many years. BLW, with the gracious approval of the Collier family, is honored to remember Gaydell by again offering a scholarship in her name for the upcoming WW, Inc. conference. Keeping Gaydell's generosity in mind, we hope this scholarship will prove an encouragement, help its winner to grow, and become the best writer he, or she, can be.

The Gaydell Collier Memorial Scholarship (GCMS) will be awarded at the 2017 WW, Inc., conference. The GCMS is open to any writer wishing to apply (BLW members ineligible) and will include a full conference fee, a one-year membership to WW, Inc., and a \$200 stipend. BLW will pay the registration and membership fee directly to WW, Inc., and award the stipend to the recipient at the conference. The recipient's name will be publicized.

To apply for this scholarship, applicants answer in 250 words this question: "How will attending the Wyoming Writers, Inc., Conference propel you forward as a writer?" The author's response must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in Times New Roman font, size 12, on one side of one sheet of 8.5" X 11" white paper. Name, address, email address, and phone number should appear at the top of the page. Submissions should be mailed to Bearlodge Writers, P. O. Box 204, Sundance, WY 82729-0204, and **postmarked no later than March 1, 2017**. Should no appropriately formatted and postmarked application be received, the GCMS will be withheld and awarded at a later conference. The GCMS recipient will be noti-



MARKETS

Compiled by Abbie Johnson Taylor, Board Member

Wyoming Writers, Inc. does not endorse any opportunities mentioned here. Please read all guidelines carefully before submitting.

First and foremost, **the Wyoming Writers** annual contest is now open. **The deadline is March 10, 2017.** The entry fee is \$15.00, and you could win as much as \$50.00. Winners will be announced during the 2017 conference, and first place winners will be encouraged to read their work during an open mic session. Winning authors will also receive an opportunity to meet with an editor or agent during the conference. Guidelines can be downloaded from <http://www.wyowriters.org/contest/>.

Here's something for the guys. **Heart of a Man**, an anthology of work by men to help women better understand them, will be published by Vineyards Press in 2017. It will feature work by John Updike, Philip Roth, and others, but they need a few more stories, poems, lyrics, or cartoons. In order to submit, you must be a man, and your work should

show who men are. There's no reading fee, and if your work is accepted, you'll be paid five cents per published word. To learn more, visit <http://www.vineyardspress.com/submissions>.

World Enough Writers is seeking poems for an anthology about beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages that will be published in 2018. You can submit the first poem for free and pay \$5.00 for two or more poems. If your work is accepted, you'll get a pdf copy of the anthology and a discount on print issues. For more information, visit <http://www.worldenoughwriters.com/BeerWineAndSpirits.htm>.

WyoPoets' Members-Only Contest 2017 is open. **The deadline is March 10, 2017.** Eligibility: All WyoPoets members in good standing are eligible to enter. (Poets may join WyoPoets at the time of submission by including \$20.00 dues with their contest fees.) Prizes: \$50, \$35, \$20 plus certificates. Certificates for honorable mention. See the WyoPoets website for details: <http://www.wyopoets.org/contests.html>.

WW, Inc. Membership Illuminated

By Chris Williams, Membership Chairperson

This is the edited text of an email I sent to a board member in answer to a question about membership. May the clouds part and the sun shine on some of the murkier aspects of membership in Wyoming Writers!

Confusing issue #1: Because we have always been on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 - June 30 each year, dues to Wyoming Writers become payable as of July 1. The website online membership form specifies this, but we still get a few newbies each year signing up in January. I have only had one person become extremely upset when he signed up in January and I asked him to renew by July 1; he insisted that our website says dues are good for one year no matter when you pay. The website Join/Renew page clearly states at the top: *Please note that dues are in effect from July 1 to June 30 of each year, no matter when dues are paid.* However, I have been giving new members who sign up in January the benefit of an extended membership instead of causing such hurt feelings that they leave the organization. This previously informal practice of the treasurer was presented to the board and passed on an email vote on February 9, 2017. In the last couple of years a reduced-rate trial membership is offered

with writing contest entry with a March deadline as well, and the same solution applies.

Confusing issue #2: A one-year membership being included in conference registration is fairly new. The 43rd Annual Conference in Gillette would make this only the third year we have offered that convenience. But as conference dates and the membership renewal date coincide, and as the treasurer spends a lot of time chasing people to pay up near the due date (I keep two sets of member rolls starting in March since the contest offers a reduced-fee membership, of those current and those past due. I send out three email reminders, and have even gone so far as to contact people on Facebook). Combining seemed the easiest and most logical course.

Old-timers like me are aware that dues are payable July 1, but even some of us forget. I've had lapsed members tell me no one ever tried to contact them when it was time to pay, which I happen to know is not true. But even sending out triple reminders hasn't worked in some cases; I'm not sure if the emails go in their spam folders or what. But I am a persistent nag, and I won't just let you go without at least a few attempts to keep you as one of our valued members.

MEMBER NEWS

Have news to share?

Send it to us at writers@gmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter and website.

In Memoriam:

The members below will be missed.

Ed Bryant

August 27, 1945 – February 10, 2017

Ann Gorzalka

1929 – June 13, 2015

Mary Hein

April 30, 1933 - February 4, 2017

Ester Johansson Murray

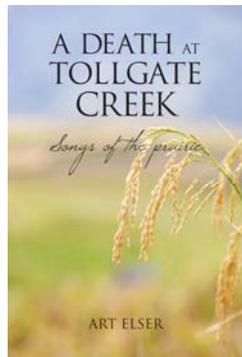
May 15, 1919 – July 1, 2016

Charlie Popovich

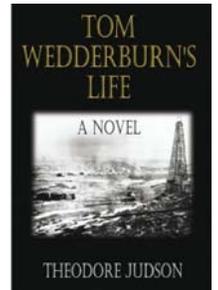
August 11, 1923 – January 12, 2017

Pat Frolander had the privilege of an invitation to once again perform at the 33rd National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. Surrounded by poets and musicians from across the United States, this indeed is an awesome experience. This event shares the cowboy/cowgirl stories in rhyme and meter and free verse. Many poems are memorized but several read from their work. Pat encourages anyone who might be interested in performing or attending to go to <http://www.nationalcowboypoetrygathering.org/>. She promises you an experience you will never forget!

Art Elser published a book of poems, *A Death at Tollgate Creek: Songs of the Prairie* in January. It is available in print from local bookstores and Amazon and B&N and in Kindle, iBook, Nook, and Kobo formats. Art also had poetry accepted for publication in *Vietnam War Poetry*, *The Avocet*, and *Clerestory*.



Theodore Judson sold the rights to his book *Tom Wedderburn's Life* to Rathole Books of Michigan in early 2017. The first edition of the book was published in 2000; the second edition, from Rathole Books, will be published later in 2017.



Treva Lannan published a memoir called *Never Say Never* in 2016 in time to give to her children for Christmas.

Abbie Taylor just received word that her poem, "Winter Desserts," will appear in *Weekly Avocet* Issue #220. It was originally published in *Serendipity Poets Journal* in 2005 under the title "Winter Food." The editor of *Weekly Avocet* suggested changing the title to fit the context of the poem, and Abbie agreed.

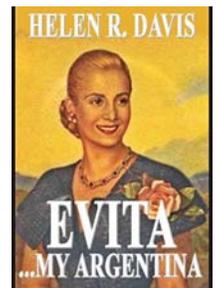


Wyoming poet laureate, Gene Gagliano, had the opportunity to read to the Wyoming legislators in Cheyenne. He also read some of his poetry at the Governor's Arts Awards banquet. Later he spoke at a fundraising luncheon for the governor's wife. Gene is compiling a new book of his poetry for future publication.

Lyndi Bell O'Laughlin (Kaycee), has poems published or forthcoming in *Blood, Water, Wind, and Stone: An Anthology of Wyoming Writers* (Sastrugi Press, 2016), *Gyroscope Review*, *New Verse News*, and *Unbound Journal*.

Helen Davis has two new novels coming out: *Evita My Argentina* and *Athena the Warrior Queen of Yavdolo*.

Corinna German's poem "A Woman Can" has been accepted in the anthology *Manifest West #6: Women of the West*, published by Western Press Books. Also, her poem "Body on the Rimrocks" was accepted to *Clerestory Poetry Journal* for publication in April 2017.



Continued on page 12

Ann Stebner Steele and her husband Rob Steele welcomed their first child, Stebner Jasper Steele, on November 18, 2016. The baby is healthy, and the parents are thrilled and exhausted.

Cork Kelly had a poem published on December 18th on the website *YDP: Your Daily Poem*, which sends out a daily poem to all who subscribe. A review of his book, *Selected Poems*, was featured on the Wyoming State Library's website in February 2017: <http://library.wyo.gov/february-2017-wyoming-book-reviews>.



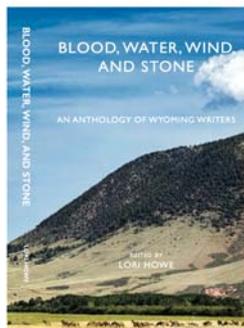
Rebecca M. Sweet's play, *There is a Season: Christmas* was performed at the Homestead Baptist Church in Cheyenne on Christmas Day. Rebecca wrote, directed, and produced the production.

Debbie Neuenschwander's application for a picture book mentorship through Beckytara-books.com has been accepted. Paul Czajak, author of the *Monster and Me* series, will be mentoring her for the next three months.

Anthology of Wyoming Authors Speaks of the West

By **Abbie Johnson Taylor**,
Board Member

Blood, Water, Wind, and Stone: An Anthology of Wyoming Writers
Edited by **Lori Howe**
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This is a collection of stories, poems, and essays that touch mostly on aspects of western life. Some pieces talk about nature and dealing with the elements, such as Patricia Frolander's poem, "Wyoming 1949," in which she describes cutting open a dead horse and crawling inside to stay warm while in the middle of nowhere during a snowstorm. Then there's Aaron Holst's poem, "Fire and Water," inspired by one of the author's firefighting experiences, that depicts an incident that can happen anywhere, not just in the west.

Other works discuss wildlife, such as Susan Marsh's essay, "A Heart in the Shape of a Bear," about the plight of this creature in the wild and in civilization. Still others deal with history and culture, like Cindy Jackelen's poem, "Whose Land," which depicts the brutality of the Indian War through several voices.

Not all pieces are set in Wyoming. There's Patti Sherlock's short story, "Mother George, Midwife," a fictionalized account of a Negro midwife in Idaho

during the 19th century who turned out to be a man disguised as a woman. Julianne Couch's short story, "Reintroduction," is set in the Nebraska wilderness. Then there's Alyson Hagy's short story, "The Saddlemaker," in which a young girl from South Dakota is sent to live with her grandparents near Riverton, Wyoming, before her mother's shady past catches up with her.

I'd love to tell you about each poem, story, and essay in this book, but there are so many of them. Like most anthologies, *Blood, Water, Wind, and Stone* can be read either cover to cover or in bits and pieces, depending on what strikes your fancy. Poems, essays, and short stories are bunched together, each in their own section.

That's one thing I don't like. In many anthologies and literary journals, stories, poems, and essays are together, not each in their own section. You might see a poem sandwiched between two short stories or two essays or one short story and an essay. For example, in *Magnets and Ladders*, an online journal I help edit, poems, stories, and essays are grouped into sections by topic. It creates less monotony that way.

Otherwise, I enjoyed reading many of the works in *Blood, Water, Wind, and Stone*. I know some of the writers whose works appear in this anthology, and it's always fun to read what they have to say. Even if you don't live in Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, or Idaho, this book will give you great insights on western life.

WyoPoets Spring Workshop coming up April 28-29



WyoPoets will hold its annual spring workshop on Saturday, April 29 in Buffalo, Wyo. Presenter will be poet David Mason, a former Colorado Poet Laureate, whose books of poems include *The Buried Houses* (winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize), *The Country I Remember* (winner of the Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award), and *Arrivals*. He will present two sessions: "Muses and Masters" on uncovering sources of inspiration, and "Killer Openings" on hooking a reader with that first line. Workshop participants registering by April 1 will have the opportunity to have one poem critiqued by David.

The workshop will be preceded by a public poetry reading the evening of April 28. The reading and workshop will both be held at the Johnson County Library. The Occidental Hotel is offering off-season rates for workshop participants -- Contact Jacki Stewart at (307) 684-0451 or jackie@occidentalwyoming.com to make a reservation.

Registration and brochure are coming soon -- to be put on the list to receive a brochure, contact Susan Mark at wypoets@gmail.com. More information available at <http://www.wypoets.org/spring-workshop.html>.

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Upcoming Member Events

Page Lambert, a proud member of WW, Inc. for twenty years, offers many opportunities for writers to explore their craft. Upcoming events include:

- **River Writing & Sculpting Journey:** This special 20th anniversary river trip explores writing and sculpting as complementary forms of creative expression, and celebrates the return to the river of renowned sculptor, Roxanne Swentzell as Page's featured guest. Details: <http://www.pagelambert.com/river2017.html>.
- **Literature & Landscape of the Horse Retreat:** Page's 10th anniversary horseback writing retreat at the Vee Bar Guest Ranch (west of Laramie, WY) is sold out. Contact Page if you'd like to get on the Wait List for 2018. http://www.pagelambert.com/horse_literature.html.

Pamela Fagan Hutchins, WW, Inc. Member and 2016 WW, Inc. Conference presenter, is working with [SkipJack Publishing](#) to provide online video courses on the art and business of Writing and Indie Publishing. For details, visit Pamela's website: [www/pamelafaganhutchins.com](http://www.pamelafaganhutchins.com).

Want to sell your titles in the conference bookstore?

If you are sending books, or having your books sent, to **Laren's Books and Gifts, 5 South Lobban Ave., Buffalo, WY 82834**, they must arrive no later than **May 26**. Include a signed copy of this form. If you are bringing your books to the conference bookstore, fill out this form and deliver the books and form to the bookstore.

Head to the WW, Inc. website to download the consignment form: <https://www.wyowriters.org/conference/>

Watch your mail for the conference brochure!

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HAVE NEWS TO SHARE? SEND IT TO wyowriters@gmail.com.

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Please note: All memberships expire June 30 of each year, regardless of the date you join.