

# Governor's Arts Award Presented to Gaydell Collier

By Alice D. Trego



Gaydell Collier with Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal

Longtime WWW member Gaydell Collier is the latest recipient of the 2004 Wyoming Governor's Arts Award for Literature.

Wyoming Governor Dave

Freudenthal presented the prestigious literature award to Collier during a legislative session on February 4, 2005, in Cheyenne.

Collier was nominated by the Bearlodge Writers, a group she's belonged to for more than three decades. She learned last November that she would be presented with the award, one of four given each year by the state. "I was very surprised," she said.

The Bearlodge Writers, based in Sundance, WY, began in the '70s and consists of a group of professional writers living within a 100-mile radius of Sundance. Collier said that in its 30-plus years of existence, the group boasts 20 different publishers and about 60 publications.

"In Wyoming, we're known to be a model writing group," the retired librarian said, adding that writers can "find a nurturing atmosphere" amongst the group, and beginners can learn about the writing process. "Mostly (writers) learn by the fact of lis-

tening to critiques."

No stranger to the written word, Collier

wrote her first novel when she was 8 years old. At the time, her mother recognized her daughter's talent, and when Collier graduated 6<sup>th</sup> grade, her mother, having saved money for a whole year, gave Collier her first typewriter.

"It's always terrific when your mother supports you in your writing," she said.

Through the years, she has written several poems, essays and articles. One of those articles, published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, represents her experience traveling cross-country in a Model A Tudor Ford with two babies.

Although Collier grew up in Garden City (Long Island), NY, she says that since she was 12 years old, she knew she'd be living in Wyoming. She'd decided to save her money, and by the time she was 16, hoped to contribute enough money to the family vacation funds, especially when her father began discussing the idea of taking a family trip.

"We can go to Wyoming," she told her father.

Willing to share in the travel expenses, she ran to retrieve

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## WOMEN Writing the West

[www.womenwritingthewest.org](http://www.womenwritingthewest.org)

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### \*Asterisk By Your Name?

### Time to Renew!

Please note the label on the back page of this newsletter. Is there an asterisk (\*) by your name?

If so, you have NOT yet paid your WWW dues for 2005 and renewed your membership. If your check crossed in the mail with this newsletter, please forgive us, but we're trying to remind ALL members to renew NOW!

For all the latest WWW news:  
[www.womenwritingthewest.org](http://www.womenwritingthewest.org)

## Sustaining Members

These members have chosen to contribute dues beyond the regular annual dues to help WWW sustain its activities for the benefit of all members. We thank them for their generosity.

Jacque Boyd  
 V. June Collins  
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 Sybil Downing  
 Sophie Dominik Echeverria  
 Kathleen O'Neal Gear  
 Cecilia "C.C." Guthrie  
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 and Jane Kirkpatrick

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 Assistant Editor — Position not filled

### Web Coordinator — www.womenwritingthewest.org

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### Yahoo Groups Coordinator

Priscilla Maine — e-mail: maine@priscillamaine.com

### Administrator & Inquiries

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## Advertising Policy and Rates

### Catalog:

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 Half page \$275  
 Quarter page \$175  
 Contact Melanie Chrismer at 678-715-2835

### Newsletter:

Full page \$250  
 Half page \$160  
 Quarter page \$90  
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	7.5"	x	9.75"
	7.5"	x	4.75"
	3.625"	x	4.75"

All copy will be accepted only as a CAMERA-READY document. (No paste-ups, please)  
 Electronic files preferred – 300 dpi resolution, and black and white or greyscale only.

# From the President:

## Honor Our Diversity, Concentrate on Growth

We're headed into a busy time! Preparations are underway for the BEA trade show in New York City in early June. Our team will be there representing us and they are working on some innovative ways to do just that. The 2005 WILLA



Literary Awards competition entries are in the first readers' hands. Ads can now be placed in the 2006 WWWW Catalog of Authors' Books. Conference planning is ongoing.

Please look for articles on each of these subjects in this newsletter.

I'd like to call particular attention to the article written by VP Marketing Donna Druchunas. She reminds us that, as writers, "we need to be more than tolerant, we need to embrace diversity. As writers, we must be willing to hear others' viewpoints."

We in WWWW have such a legacy, and - as writers - such a responsibility. Are we up to that daunting challenge? I think so. I see it in the books that are coming out of the minds and hearts, the pens and keyboards of our members like Pam Muñoz Ryan, Gladys Smith, Dorothy Allred Solomon, Linda Lawrence Hunt, JoAnn Levy, Nancy Turner, Harriet Rochlin, Jane Kirkpatrick, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, and the writer/editor troika *extraordinaire* of Gaydell Collier, Nancy Curtis and Linda Hasselstrom. They allow so many of our voices to be heard in their marvelous WindBook anthologies of Western women's voices.

And I feel it in the rest of you who toil daily with less recognition and bear those frustrations with

which all writers must live.

As your president, I ask you please to read and follow the new guidelines for the Yahoo Groups Listserv - to which many, but not all, of us belong. Paige Ramsey-Palmer has written a short article on these guidelines and it, too, can be found elsewhere in this issue.

We have had some misunderstandings and some ruffled feathers in the past few months. Personally, I think a little controversy is good for us IF - and that's a BIG IF - we have the opportunity to engage in an honest-to-goodness, face-to-face, intelligent discussion. Sadly, on the Listserv, we don't have this opportunity. Without the benefit of human contact, the eyes, the smile, the voice inflections, words on a computer screen can take on inflammatory meanings unintended by the writer or misinterpreted by the reader. One misunderstanding and suddenly we have a hail of angry, upset e-mails flying back and forth. We have lost a couple of disillusioned members because of this.

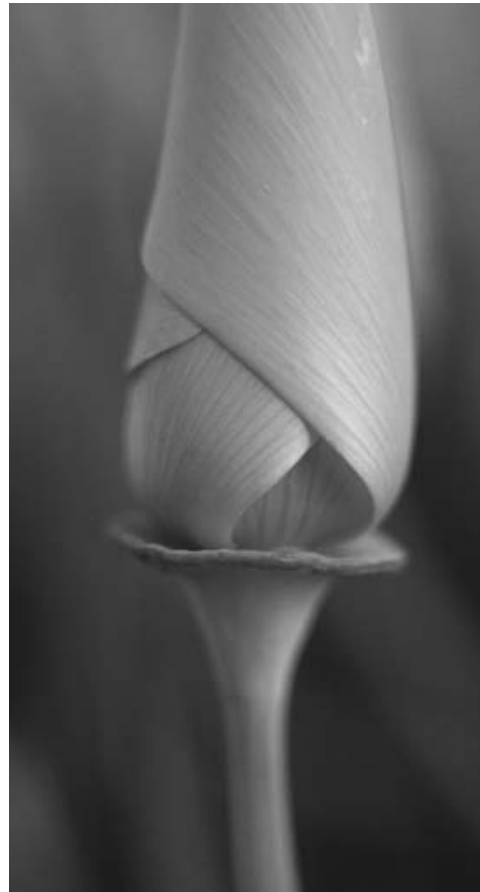
So, I ask your help in keeping our close-knit but greatly distanced and diverse organization together and on track. First, please keep an open mind as to the postings of others. But MORE important, please think not twice but THRICE before sending off what might be construed as a contentious e-mail. You have my heartfelt thanks in advance!

And speaking of the marvelous, close-knit though greatly separated group that we are, one of our goals in our 2005 Marketing Plan - a brief explanation of which also can be found in this issue - is to increase our membership. You, our members, can help us do that.

Another organization I belong to has an "Every member bring a member" campaign going. I'm going to challenge ALL WWWW members to do just that. Bring in a new member this year. Spread the word about the fascinating and yet friendly individuals who come to our conferences and what fun we have - even while we are learning and networking and growing professionally.

We're on the brink of doing some really great stuff within this organization. I urge you all to be an active part of it. And tell your friends!

- Sarah Byrn Rickman, WWWW 2005 President, is the author of WILLA Finalist Flight From Fear - a WASP WWII novel, and the author of The Originals - the story of the first women pilots to fly for the Army in WWII.



# BookExpo America Trade Show Update

by Cynthia Leal Massey

The WWW trade show team is busy preparing for BookExpo America to be held in New York City, June 3-5, at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in mid-town Manhattan.

This is WWW's only trade show this year and we want to make sure we do everything possible to promote WWW and its members. From our newly revamped booth display with members' books, we will hand out our 2005 Catalog of Authors' Books and other promotional material, including heavy plastic book bags with our logo. This year, the board is considering allowing our members who have books in the 2005 catalog to donate complimentary copies to hand out. (See the sidebar if you'd like to donate books). At this point we are gauging interest.

The last time BEA was held in New York, more than 30,000 book industry professionals attended, and this year organizers expect even more. This year's exhibition hall will feature more than 2,000 exhibits covering over 300,000 square feet as well as special pavilion areas highlighting major publishers, small presses, university presses, professional writing organizations, marketing and promotion professionals, and booksellers from the U.S. and across the world. Book buyers from Barnes and Noble, Borders, Books-A-Million, as well as top independent bookstores, Wal-Mart, Target, Costco, and K-Mart, and other non-traditional book sellers will be there in force.

The Women Writing the West Exhibit (Booth #1733) is on Level

One (downstairs). This floor features autographing (more than 500 authors are expected to be featured), children's, educational, religious, small press, and African American pavilion areas, as well as a variety of non-publisher exhibits. Western Writers of America is in Booth #1708. Trade show exhibit hours are:

Friday, June 3: 9:00am - 6:00 pm

Saturday, June 4: 9:00am - 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 5: 9:00am - 4:00 pm

Women Writing the West, along with other BEA exhibitors, will be featured in Publisher's Weekly (first week of May 2005) promoting BEA. For more information on BEA and WWW's role in it, go to [BookExpoAmerica.com](http://BookExpoAmerica.com) and click on Exhibitor Search. Type in Women Writing the West.

This year's BEA trade show team is: Cindy Leal Massey, coordinator; Suzanne Lyon, co-coordinator; and representatives Irma "Ned" Bailey, Laurel Hill, Jane Kirkpatrick, Sherry Monahan, and Harriet Rochlin.

— *Cynthia Leal Massey, former WWW president (2003) and WILLA Chair (2004), is the author of 2003 WILLA Original Softcover Finalist The Caballeros of Ruby, Texas and 2002 Independent E-book Romance Winner Fire Lilies.*



## BEA Book Giveaway

If you are a WWW member whose book(s) is listed or advertised in the 2005 Catalog of Authors' Books and you are interested in donating books to be handed out at BookExpo America, please contact Cindy Massey at [cmassey2@satx.rr.com](mailto:cmassey2@satx.rr.com) or 210-695-5328 by April 25. Tell her how many books you're willing to donate. If you have already notified Cindy about donating books, you don't need to do it again. Also contact Cindy if you would be willing to provide promotional materials such as postcards or bookmarks, up to 100 pieces.



## 2005 WWW Trade Show Display

Members whose books are in the 2005 catalog and who want them in the display should contact Donna Druchunas by May 1 at [donna@sheeptoshawl.com](mailto:donna@sheeptoshawl.com) to make sure they are eligible, and then send them to her at 2501 Lanyon Drive, Longmont, CO 80503.

# 11th Annual Women Writing the West Conference "Forward! Fort Worth"

October 21-23, 2005

Fort Worth Plaza Hotel

1701 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102



Join WWW as we embark on a new decade! As we look forward to future adventures in writing and celebrating the contributions of women in the Western experience, let's put ourselves forward by trying new marketing techniques, stepping up to new ideas, increasing our writing skills, and stepping out but always forward.

Highlighted by the banquets celebrating the **WILLA Literary Awards'** Winners and Finalists, this year's conference will offer the chance to meet and mingle with writers, editors, and agents from across the United States. **Fort Worth** is the perfect location to celebrate women in the West with a **TOUR** of the **National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center** and the **Fort Worth Stockyards** area, and the opportunity to observe a longhorn cattle drive. Come with us and step back to a colorful page in Western history!

We are in the process of outlining our conference program. Among the many panels to be offered:

**Researching Women and the West** (Mary Jo Harrod, editor/freelancer, presenter on women's history; Dawn Letson, The Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's University; and WWW member Linda L. Hunt, retired English professor and WILLA winner for *Bold Spirit*)

**Publishing Picture Books** (WWW member Donna Druchunas, whose books employ heavy photo usage; publisher/editor Deborah Robson, Nomad Press – also on editor's panel; and WWW member and children's author Melanie Chrismer)

**From Fiction and Fact to Film** (WWW members Linda Dockery, author and veteran of two books to film, and Cindy Sandell, author and video filmmaker; and Clay Reynolds, WWA member, University of Texas, Dallas, instructor of "Literature into Film")

**Marketing and Promotion** (George Arnold, promotional book author)

**Polishing Your Writing Techniques** (Jann Arrington Wolcott, a workshop on writing, "Fresh from her presentation at the Tony Hillerman Writing Conference;" Donna Gimarc, writer and critique group specialist)

**Meet the Editors and Agents** (Agents Susan and Mike Farris, Farris Literary Agency; David Hale Smith, David Hale Smith Literary; WWW member/agent Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli, J.E.T. Literary; Dudley Delffs, editor, WaterBrook Press, a division of Random House; Carol Wood, editor, Timberwolf Press; Deborah Robson, editor, Nomad Press; Bryce Milligan, publisher/author, Wings Press)

**WILLA Luncheon Speaker – Jann Arrington Wolcott**

**WILLA Banquet Speaker – Rosemary Rumbly**

NOTE: These panels and speakers are subject to change

# 11th Annual Women Writing the West Conference "Forward! Fort Worth"

## REGISTRATION



First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like an Editor / Agent appointment:      Yes (  )      No (  )
- Editor / Agent Appointment Preference: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please contact me regarding participation in the bookselling:      Yes (  )      No (  )
- Accommodations should be made directly with Fort Worth Plaza Hotel, 1701 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. (817) 335-7000. Remember to mention the WWW Special Conference room rate of \$89/sgl; \$99/dbl (2 or more per room)
  
- Conference Fees:      \$190 — WWW Members (\$165 early registration by June 1, 2005)  
                                    \$215 — All others (\$190 early registration by June 1, 2005)  
                                    \$165 — Non-members registering at the door  
                                    (Saturday event only; no meals included)  
                                    \$ 50 — Friday Tour  
                                    \$ 25 each **GUEST** attending the Friday evening Networking event  
                                    \$ 25 each **GUEST** attending the Saturday WILLA luncheon  
                                    \$ 25 each **GUEST** attending the Saturday evening WILLA banquet  
                                    \$ 50 — WWW dues – The "Dues Deal"  
                                    (Join WWW and you are eligible for member conference rates)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed for conference and optional amounts (please circle all that apply)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed for dues

Make checks/money orders payable to Women Writing the West. Copy and send this form to:

Jacque Boyd  
P.O. Box 94  
Angel Fire, NM 87710

∂(No refunds after September 15, 2005 – absolute deadline to guarantee guest room)

Conference questions: Cindy Sandell, VP Conference, at [cisand@earthlink.net](mailto:cisand@earthlink.net) or 972-867-4160

# Road to the River:

## Research and Rescue in the Library of Congress

By Laurel Anne Hill

I stared at the computer screen in the James Madison Memorial Building. The Library of Congress – housing 128 million items on 530 miles of bookshelves – had no information about California’s Stanislaus River. Well, that’s what the monitor indicated. But the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had constructed a dam on the Stanislaus 25 years ago. What had happened to their feasibility report? Had someone stashed it in a government warehouse – the one from “Raiders of the Lost Ark?”

“I must have messed up,” I whispered to David. In the hushed Current Periodical Reading Room, my voice seemed louder than the roar of mountain waterfalls.

“Try again,” my husband replied.

I searched using different parameters. Still no luck. At least information on file about the Stanislaus – if I found any – would be valid. LOC was the research arm of Congress, not like Yahoo or Google.

This was my first Library of Congress sojourn in over five years. Would this trip, short and spontaneous, bear fruit or yield a harvest of frustration?

The 2004 Women Writing the West Conference had inspired me to come to terms with certain aspects of my past through writing. I now planned a personal essay set in California’s Stanislaus River country in 1970. This work would compare my failed first marriage to eroded river access roads and the turbulence of rapids.

But construction of the New Melones Dam had mutilated the

wild Stanislaus I had known.

Passing years had dimmed my memories of whitewater thrills and dangers. I had to find a way to describe what I could no longer see or remember.

I performed another computer search. Several pictures appeared available in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room. Yet the photos were of Knight’s Ferry, downstream from my location of interest. I glanced around the reading room, crammed with books and files. What if some older items had not yet been listed in the LOC database? I would seek assistance.

“Check the rivers section of the card catalogs,” a middle-aged librarian advised, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. “You’ll have to read every card or you could miss something useful. Their order isn’t always logical.”

I thumbed through drawers of typed index cards. They smelled old, invoking childhood memories of my neighborhood library. I checked my watch. My progress was like a turtle’s in low gear. And this card catalog revealed nothing I sought.

David and I took the elevator to the Prints and Photographs Reading Room where I had hit the jackpot on my previous visit.

I entered the reading room. Only LOC pencils and paper were allowed. I handed in a photo request form.

The desired file arrived. I put on a pair of examination gloves and viewed the photos. No rapids or wilderness. Only a lazy Stanislaus curling by homes and farmland. What the computer had shown was what I now held in my hand. Yet,

when touching these historic pictures, my own past flowed into memory like some ancient river carving canyons.

“Did the photos help at all?” a librarian said.

“Yes,” I said. “Next, I need to find a report by the Army Corps of Engineers.”



“You could check the Science Reading Room in the Adams Building,” she said. “But you really ought to go to the Corps of Engineers facility at College Park.” She wrote an email address on a slip of paper and wished me good luck.

College Park – there wouldn’t be time for such a side trip. Still, the John Adams Building was worth a try. We would need to navigate the underground tunnel system to get there. David consulted a brochure.

I hit the Science Reading room and cornered a young librarian hunkered behind his computer screen. He wore glasses – certainly they projected professional expertise. I explained my project and time limitations.

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# 2004 WILLA Literary Award Winners and Finalists

## Contemporary Fiction

Winner: All Over Creation by Ruth Ozeki (Penguin Group USA)  
Finalist: Desert Wives by Betty Webb (Poisoned Pen Press)  
Finalist: Unpaid Dues by Barbara Seranella (Scribner)

## Historical Fiction

Winner: Silver Lies by Ann Parker (Poisoned Pen Press)  
Finalist: Fireweed: A Woman's Saga in Gold Rush America by Carolyn Evans Campbell (Georgetown Editions)  
Finalist: Matchless by Jane Candia Coleman (Five Star/Gale Publishing)

## Memoir/Essay

Winner: Predators, Prey and Other Kinfolk by Dorothy Allred Solomon (W.W. Norton)  
Finalist: Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan by Ellen Baumler, editor (Montana Historical Society Press)  
Finalist: Then There Was No Mountain by Ellen Waterston (Roberts Rinehart Books)

## Other Nonfiction

Winner: Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America by Linda Lawrence Hunt (University of Idaho Press)  
Finalist: A Widow's Tale: The 1884-1896 Diary of Helen Mar Kimball Whitney, Charles M. Hatch and Todd M. Compton, editors (Utah State University Press)  
Finalist: One Woman's Political Journey by Lynn Musslewhite and Suzanne Jones Crawford (University of Oklahoma Press)

## Original Softcover

Winner: Deliverance Valley by Gladys Smith (Stoneydale Press)  
Finalist: The Scout by Lynna Banning (Harlequin Historicals)

## Poetry

Winner: Original Fire by Louise Erdrich (HarperCollins)  
Finalist: Time Not Measured By A Clock by Carole Jarvis (Cowboy Miner Productions)

## Children's Young Adult

Winner: Rodzina by Karen Cushman (Clarion Books)  
Finalist: Meadow Lark by Mary Peace Finley (Filter Press)  
Finalist: Words West: Voices of Young Pioneers by Ginger Wadsworth (Clarion Books)

## WILLA Awards - Standing the Test of Time

By Gail L. Jenner

The WILLA Award is one of Women Writing the West's greatest accomplishments as an organization. The WILLA, in its mission statement, "honors the best in literature featuring women's stories set in the West published each year. WILLA winners "must be of sufficient quality to stand the test of time."

As we all know, the WILLA was named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather, one of the country's most famous authors, a woman whose writing brought to light raw human themes and little-known characters and settings.

According to Carolyn Bauer, one of WWW's founders, past presidents and creators of the WILLA, "We held off for many years on organizing the WILLA because we wanted legs under the organization as a whole first. Lots of members wanted an award early on, but we knew

that a WWW literary award would only be taken seriously if the sponsoring organization was first taken seriously by the writing community. When we felt the time was right, we all knew it should be called 'The WILLA' in honor of Willa Cather and her unflinching, realistic writing about women in the American West. Naming the award had to be the quickest discussion the board ever took!"

Initially, the awards were given out in only five categories, but after two years, the categories were split to "accommodate the varying titles." Sybil Downing, another of WWW's founders, ran the WILLA competition in the beginning, followed by Carolyn Bauer.

Carolyn adds, "From the outset we didn't want these awards judged by our members. They HAD to be evaluated by outside sources to keep any sense of clique-ishness from entering, as it does with so many "literary" awards out there. We went to outside librarians, historians and academics for judging. I think this is one of the reasons the WILLA is such an outstanding award today."

For those entering the WILLA competition and for those who are finalists or win a WILLA, it is a prestigious award.

According to Cindy Massey, the 2004 WILLA Chair and Past President, "The WILLAs have grown in stature over the years because of the layers of impartial judging, and I see these literary awards as becoming even more prestigious in years to come."

There are many benefits to winning or placing in any literary contest. Paige Ramsey-Palmer, another Past President and WILLA Chair, said, "Because we (WWW) select books that have been recently published, we are often one of the first awards to recognize the value of the writing."

Indeed, as Carolyn also pointed out, "The WILLA went from being a "new" award, one where we solicited publishers for appropriate entries, to an award to which publishers want to submit their top work."

— Gail L. Jenner's first novel, *Across The Sweet Grass Hills*, won the 2002 WILLA Award for Original Softback Fiction. Her second book, *Western Siskiyou County: Gold And Dreams* (co-authored with Monica Hall), was released in December 2002.



# 2005 Marketing Plan

## To Promote Women Writing the West

By Donna Druchunas

This year, Women Writing the West has developed a comprehensive marketing plan to help promote our organization. To be successful, a marketing plan must have measurable goals and key messages that are communicated consistently and clearly. The Board of Directors has identified these five focus areas for 2005:

### 1. Provide visibility for members and their books.

Our members are professional and their work is high-quality. Our catalog can help you locate superior books about women in the West for your bookstore or other retail outlet.

2. Improve visibility and awareness of Women Writing the West among writers, editors, publishers, and booksellers.

Our organization is professional, but also fun, encouraging, and supportive. We are a community of writers.

### 3. Increase conference attendance.

Our conference is a superior networking venue, and also provides education to writers of all levels, along with a chance to socialize with writers, editors, agents, and publishers.

4. Continue to improve awareness and prestige regarding

WILLA Awards.

The WILLA Awards are judged by professionals who are not affiliated with Women Writing the West. Past WILLA winners have also been honored by various other regional and national awards.

### 5. Increase membership.

Members of all levels of writing enjoy and benefit from membership. Membership benefits are helpful to both fledgling writers and experienced professionals.

If you would like more information about our plan, please contact VP Marketing, Donna Druchunas at [donna@sheeptoshawl.com](mailto:donna@sheeptoshawl.com).

– Donna Druchunas is a freelance writer and knitwear designer. She was born in New York City, but today she lives at the foothills of the Colorado Rocky Mountains with her husband and three cats. Her Web site is [www.sheeptoshawl.com](http://www.sheeptoshawl.com)

## Listserv: Pipeline of Communication Revisited

By Paige Ramsey-Palmer

Our WWW Listserv - the Internet discussion forum conducted through YahooGroups - is one of the best-kept secrets in the writing community! As a benefit of WWW membership, it is available to EVERY WWW member.

When we established this forum some six years ago, we believed it would become a pipeline of communication for members, even those who suffered from computer phobia. Today, more than 75% of our members are signed up, as self-described "lurkers" (those who watch, read and rarely post), "participants" (those who comment on items of interest), and "mainstays" (those who post regularly and keep the Listserv lively).

In the beginning, the WWW membership discussed the use of the Listserv but did not reiterate the protocols on a regular basis. Realizing that the Listserv today has grown into

an important method of member contact, your WWW Board approved a set of Listserv Guidelines, which reflects the original intent of the WWW Listserv as it was established in 1999. To standardize the use of our valuable resource, we want to REVISIT and re-establish those original intentions and also provide to our newest members our mission/purpose statement.

We have posted the introductory paragraph of the Guidelines, as shown below, on the YahooGroups Home Page, and everyone should have received a copy in their Dues Renewal Package in January. Every new member will receive a copy of the complete guidelines in their Membership Packet. Please read and follow these guidelines:

For WWW members only, this Listserv is a nonpartisan, nonpolitical forum for members to share writing

and publishing information, research, marketing ideas, advice and support. No posts about politics or politically motivated opinions, religion or ethnic issues are allowed. Board members and volunteers may relay information or questions to members. It is the duty of all members to respect the points of view of others and thoughtfully post their information and responses. Complete guidelines are included in membership information. If you have problems or questions about WWW Listserv posts or policy, please contact the Moderator, Gail Jenner, PRIVATELY at [gforini@sisqtel.net](mailto:gforini@sisqtel.net).

Gail Jenner, Past President and moderator of the Listserv, says, "I welcome anyone to email me with those concerns and questions. We are all here to promote women's voices and a unique perspective on women in the

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# MEMBER NEWS: Accolades & Accomplishments

Compiled by Sarah Byrn Rickman  
& Alice Trego

**Velda Brotherton** has been contracted to do an entry for the new online Arkansas Encyclopedia that will eventually be published in hard copy as well. The entry is the "History of Springdale, Arkansas." She says it's only a 1500-word entry, but the undertaking is tough because "everything has to be foot-noted, which I didn't have to do for the original book." The deadline was January 31.

**Pam Munoz Ryan's** latest book, **BECOMING NAOMI LEON**, has been named a finalist for Booksense Children's Book of the Year, by American Booksellers. Recently at the American Library Association Conference in Boston, her novel received the Schneider Award – "with a cash prize that practically made me faint" – for a book that portrays in an artistic and literary way, children with disabilities.

**Sarah Byrn Rickman** has placed biographical articles on members of the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) in two prestigious aviation magazines. *Aviation History*, a popular magazine for aviation enthusiasts, has accepted her article on Helen Richards Prosser, and *Air Power History*, published by the Air Force Historical Foundation, has accepted her article on Barbara "B.J." Erickson London. London, 84, was inducted into the Women in Aviation, International, Pioneer Hall of Fame March 12, 2005, in Dallas. Both she and Prosser ferried the Army's fastest

airplanes - the pursuits that today are known as fighters - during World War II. Sarah first wrote about both in her book, **THE ORIGINALS**, the story of the first women to fly for the Army in WWII.

**Barbara Wright's** novel **PLAIN LANGUAGE** won the William Rockhill Nelson Award in the fiction category. The award, named for the founder of *The Kansas City Star*, is given annually to recognize literary excellence by authors living in Kansas and Missouri. **PLAIN LANGUAGE** (Touchstone/Simon & Schuster) is about a Quaker woman rancher on the Colorado plains during the Dust Bowl. The novel also won a 2004 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.



Spur Award-winning author Richard S. Wheeler said of **SIDE CANYONS**: "Laurie Wagner Buyer is on a great bridal journey, wedding the songs in her heart to the music she finds in the mountains and prairies and deserts of the American West. The result is lyrical poetry and prose that captures a woman's life in the West, and lifts the reader into realms of beauty and kinship."

**Donna Druchunas** just found out that her first book, **THE KNITTED RUG**, is being reprinted. The book came out in September 2004, is being reprinted in hardcover now, and will come out in paperback next fall. And Donna recently completed the manuscript for her second book, **ARCTIC LACE**, which is due to be released next winter. "This is a huge milestone for me. I had a really hard time getting it finished," says Donna, who says she drove herself crazy looking up details that didn't even make it into the book.

For **Linda Dockery**, 2004 was like a writing whirlwind. She had four book releases, one book opted for a movie and another under consideration by the Hallmark Movie Channel. Several of her articles appeared in magazines and some of her poetry won some nice awards, she relates. "In between all this, I was on the road traveling from coast to coast on the lecture circuit. This year seems to be shaping up much the same way. I have already signed contracts for three new books for 2005, my lecture calendar is filling fast and hopefully production will start on the movie from my book, **TRAIL OF NO RETURN**. "Additionally, one of her short stories, "A Christmas Memory," will be included in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series under the Christmas Treasures for the Soul.

**Linda Lawrence Hunt's** award-winning novel, **BOLD SPIRIT: HELGA ESTBY'S FORGOTTEN WALK**, has been selected as an exclusive hardback edition for the Book of the Month Club. The Random House/Anchor Books novel was also included in the Book Forum section of the Winter 2004 edition of *Points West*, the magazine of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY.

Continued on page 18

# 2006 Women Writing the West Catalog

Don't miss out on the opportunity to list and advertise in the Women Writing the West 2006 Catalog of Authors' Books!  
Deadline: June 15, 2005

## Dear WWW Members,

It's that time again. The 2006 Women Writing the West Catalog will be available in August. Then it will go to bookstores, agents, publishers, librarians, tradeshow, conferences, and individuals. It will hit the trail on a journey of promotion for our member authors/publishers, and their books.

The price for a listing and/or an ad is the same as last year. So now is the time to take advantage of this successful tool and spread the word about your work.

The 2006 Catalog:

- Rates for book listings and display ads are bargains
- Marketing and visibility for members - include your Web site for customers to contact you and so that WWW can list it on our Web site links page.
- Trade show face value - the catalogs go to the trade shows and they become a hands-on view of the authors and publishers in our organization and the books they produce.

The catalog application forms are self-explanatory. Please note the following five important items for listing or advertising in our organization's catalog:

- Author's home state - Booksellers request this infor-

mation for possible scheduling of local events with authors. This is information we definitely want booksellers to have!

- Author's E-mail address - If the need should arise, E-mail is the most efficient way to contact catalog participants. Please consider your E-mail and possibly your Web site as your best help for the catalog editor working on your behalf.
- Date of book's first copyright year - This is new to the listing application but is necessary to identify the books that qualify for the trade show according to our trade show rules (see WWW Web site).
- Pen names - Also new to the application this year, if your pen name is different from your real name please indicate this on the form by writing PEN NAME after the name you wish to appear in the catalog. Then please put your real name in parenthesis.
- Membership - All catalog participants must be current members of the Women Writing the West organization.

Please fill in one application form for each book, even when renewing a list-

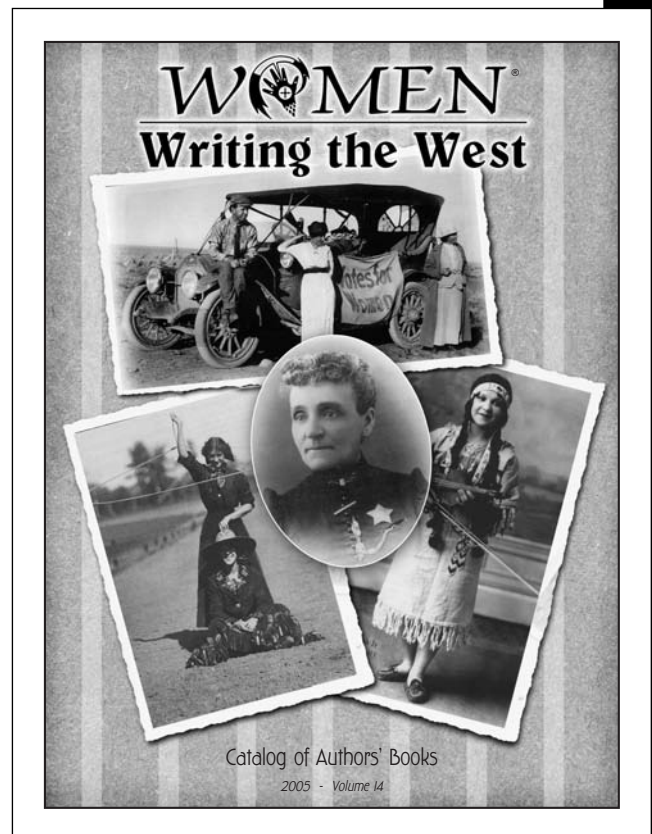
ing or an ad. Please type the information to assist us in getting the correct information copy-ready for the designer and the printer. Be sure to include book category, book name and author for each renewal listing. The WWW catalog ad, a proven sales tool for WWW members, can be even more effective when formatted by a professional designer. Please consider this.

All of the applications and fees must be in the editor's hands by June 15, 2005. Any listings received after that date will be held over for our 2007 issue.

Thank you for your support of our organization, our books, and our West.

— *Melanie Chrismer, editor, WWW  
2006 Catalog of Authors' Books*

The 2005 Catalog Cover



# 2006 Catalog Listing Application

Please use one form for each book listing. Must be received by June 15, 2005.

Return completed applications and appropriate payments to:

Women Writing the West  
 c/o Melanie Chrimer, Catalog Editor  
 9402 Logan Lane  
 Douglasville, GA 30135

Inquiries: 678-715-2835  
 E-mail: phoebe5@bellsouth.net

**Note:** Authors renewing same listing as in the latest catalog must supply category, name and title. **SAME LISTING means a listing with no changes from the latest catalog!** If it was not listed in the latest catalog (2005), it is a new listing, even if it has been in a previous catalog.

**CIRCLE ONE:**                      NEW Listing--\$40                      SAME Listing as 2005--\$35

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Web site: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CATEGORY</b> (Circle One)	Anthology, Fiction (General, Mystery, Romance), Juvenile (Picture Book, Middle Grade, Nonfiction, Young Adult), Nonfiction (General, Biography, Specialty Nonfiction, Poetry, Other_____
<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b> (as it will appear) last name first	
<b>TITLE</b>	
<b>ISBN #</b>	
<b>PUBLISHER</b>	
<b>FIRST COPYRIGHT YEAR</b>	
<b>DESCRIPTION 30 Words Maximum</b>  (Please print clearly. No clarification calls will be made.)	
<b>HOME STATE</b> (booksellers requested this for event scheduling)	

Fee for this listing is \$\_\_\_\_\_ and is included in my check # \_\_\_\_\_ which totals \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Total number of listings paid for with this check: \_\_\_\_\_.

**COPY FORM AS NEEDED FOR A MAX OF 5 TOTAL CATALOG LISTINGS.**

**Keep a copy of this information for your records.**

# 2006 Catalog WWW Affiliate Member Listing

The Affiliate Member Listing is available to members who write for periodical/media genre or members who have out-of-print books or writer members who are not currently published (especially recommended for members who speak publicly).

- Features WWW Affiliate members on special page
- Members only, who are not listing their books
- Personal listing is one line, no more than 140 characters including spaces. Line would include, name, contact information or your choice and type of genre or speaking specialty.
- (example: count is 93 characters)  
Your X. Name, Imagine Press, 7 My St., Our City, State 00000,  
555/555-5555, western cookbooks)

**Affiliate Listing Form must be received by June 15, 2005**

**Return completed form and fees to:**

Women Writing the West

c/o Melanie Chrismer, Catalog Editor

9402 Logan Lane

Douglasville, GA 30135

Inquiries: 678-715-2835

E-mail: phoebe5@bellsouth.net

AFFILIATE LISTING – \$25

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Are you a current WWW member? \_\_\_\_\_

Fee for this listing is \$25. and is included in my check # \_\_\_\_\_

Keep a copy of this form for your records

# 2006 Catalog Advertisement Policy and Rates

## Complete Advertisement Request Form. Must be received by June 15, 2005.

Return completed applications and appropriate payments to:

Women Writing the West  
c/o Melanie Chrimer, Catalog Editor  
9402 Logan Lane  
Douglasville, GA 30135

Inquiries: 678-715-2835  
E-mail: phoebe5@bellsouth.net

### POLICY – Advertisements must be submitted as follows:

- \* Submit advertising copy as an electronic file in **BLACK AND WHITE OR GREYSCALE ONLY**.
- \* Use a disk (standard or ZIP) or CD with ad in high-resolution electronic format (300 dpi)  
Fonts must be Mac compatible, or if PC generated, converted to paths). **Files downloaded off of the Internet ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE – they generally do not print well.**
- \* File must be either **.tif, .jpg or .eps**.
- \* Include a black and white or greyscale paper printed version of the ad (for comparison)
- \* Include a self-addressed, stamped CD or disk mailer if you wish your disk returned.

Note: The designer prefers the ad to be submitted as an electronic file. However, if this is not possible a hard copy of the ad must be printed in either the highest resolution laser print or velox print (no magazine or newspaper clips). The designer works on a PowerMac and will be using **Quark 6** to design the catalog. A Mac Zip disk or CD is preferred. **If a PC disk is sent, the file must be a .tif, .jpg, or .eps AND the fonts MUST be converted to paths or imbedded in the file for the Mac to read it.**

**Ads will be placed in the catalog as space allows.** We will try to place ads within the requested category where possible. However this is solely dependent upon the number of ads received and layout requirements.

Book cover, photographs, etc. may be included in the camera-ready ads. It is the sole responsibility of the sender to check ad copy of correctness of information. WWW reserves the right to refuse any ad. Ads must be in good taste and in keeping with the mission of the organization, which is to promote the Writing of the Women's West

### RATES (CIRCLE CORRECT RATE):

	Size (Width x Height)	Cost
FULL PAGE	(7-1/2" x 9-3/4") .....	\$400
HALF PAGE	(7-1/2" x 4-3/4") .....	\$275
QUARTER PAGE	(3-5/8" X 4-3/4") .....	\$175

Category Anthology, Fiction (General, Mystery, Romance), Juvenile (Picture book, Middle grade, Nonfiction, Young Adult), Nonfiction (General, Biography, Specialty Nonfiction), Poetry,  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fee for this ad \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is included in my check # \_\_\_\_\_ which totals \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Total number of listings also purchased but paid with check # \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Keep a copy of this information for your records**

# Seize the Courage to Express Opinions in Writing

By Donna Druchunas

*E Pluribus Unum*: Out of Many, One In speaking of women and fiction, Virginia Woolf said in 1928 that to answer certain questions, "Truth is only to be had by laying together many varieties of error." This is a way of learning we need to bring into the 21st century.

Over the past few years our country has become more polarized than ever before in my lifetime. One-sided arguments fill the airways, the newsstands, and the bookstore shelves. Some people claim the liberal media is slanting the news. Other people claim the conservatives, through corporate ownership, are hijacking the news. Unscrupulous program directors on various TV channels and radio stations are making sure that you can choose the viewpoint you like, tune into a friendly station, and rarely hear or see a story that contradicts it.

I overheard a TV program my husband was watching a couple of weeks ago. A group of teenagers were discussing their education. "Don't go for a master's degree," one student advised another. "Getting a bachelor's is okay; but if you get too much of an education, you will lose your faith." What a sad state of affairs. Are our beliefs and ideas so fragile that learning about different points of view will destroy them?

Are we so sure of ourselves and our opinions that we do not feel the need to learn anything else? As writers, we need open minds and open hearts. Tolerance is not enough. When we tolerate something, we "put up with it." Instead, we should embrace diversity. We

must be willing to hear other viewpoints, to share them, and to let our writing become fuller and more substantial through this knowledge. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to our readers.

In 1991, during the first Gulf War, I worked as a civilian contractor for TOPGUN, Navy Fighter Weapons School at NAS Miramar in San Diego. Our department created the training materials for the fighter pilots teaching at the school. A favorite training slide at the time depicted cartoon Iraqi "ragheads" wearing turbans and plotting all kinds of evils. I'm sure this stereotype helped the pilots live with themselves as they dropped bombs over Iraq. When I think of Iraq, I don't think of nameless, faceless "ragheads," but of my high school friends, Fiama and Jennifer el Kadiri, who moved to Baghdad in the 1980s to live with their father. I often wonder if they are still there, if they are safe and healthy, if, perhaps, their sons are now Iraqi soldiers.

Virginia Woolf despaired of the stereotyping in her time as she said, "all this pitting of sex against sex, quality against quality"-today we might also say faith against faith, party against party-"all this claiming of superiority and imputing of inferiority, belong to the private school age of human existence where there are 'sides,' and it is necessary for one side to beat another side, and of the utmost importance to walk up to a platform and receive from the hands of a Headmaster himself a highly ornamental pot. As people mature they cease to believe in sides or in Headmasters or in highly ornamental pots."

It is time to move beyond partisan politics. To throw away the narrow viewpoints that politicians would use to capture our votes. It's time to talk to our neighbors and to each other, without fear and with all candor. Only by having open and honest conversations with real people can we ever hope to find the common ground that exists among us. And it is there. Don't we all want food, shelter and safety? Don't we all want to protect the beauty and dignity of our nation? Don't we all dream of a better future for our children?

In response to pervasive polarization, many of us seem to be willing to censor our writing and our conversations in the hopes that we will "not offend anyone." This is an impossible goal.

Mathematicians are fond of saying, "If an infinite number of monkeys are given typewriters for an infinite amount of time, they will eventually produce the complete works of Shakespeare." This may be a mathematical fact; but if we close our eyes, ears, and mouths in a "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" posture, we will not produce anything worth reading. Wearing blinders, limiting our conversation, or reading only that with which we already agree will cripple our writing.

As writers, our responsibility is toward humanity and truth. We must tell the stories, not only of the victors, the powerful, and the vociferous, but also of the downtrodden, the oppressed, and the silent. As members of Women Writing the West, we are well practiced in this. Our mission is to tell the stories of women in the West, to restore a voice to those whose stories have not been told. Let us join with Virginia Woolf and continue in "the habit of freedom and the courage to write exactly what we think."

– All quotes from Virginia Woolf are from *A Room of One's Own*.

# Poet's Corner

The following poems are excerpts from Laurie Wagner Buyer's new novel **SIDE CANYONS**, which includes poetry.

## Coyote Pup

Half hidden in sedges  
his carcass melts  
back into the earth  
    leaving beige bones  
remnants of fur  
and a skull smaller  
than my closed fist.

The tiniest teeth peek  
from his yawning mouth  
and open eye sockets  
show nothing of why  
he died on the bank  
of the shallow river  
shy of mid-summer

## Flint Chip

I might have missed  
its berry-red brightness  
except that fresh elk tracks sliding  
on a surface of dawn fallen snow  
uncovered the carmine remnant  
of another life embedded  
like a raw wound  
on the frozen face  
of the road.

## Anasazi Site

Here in the bright noonday sun  
red ruins made of flat rocks  
shine like old dried blood  
against the heart of a high cliff.

The walls speak to the  
    water far below:  
I have not forgotten how you felt  
rubbing against my rough skin,  
how we made another world  
by being washed and worn together.



## Georgia O'Keeffe Paints

Georgia O'Keeffe paints  
late morning's face  
with clouds  
gunmetal gray  
over layers of baby blue  
and virgin white  
a violent softness in the sky  
that highlights the bones beneath:  
dark eyebrow of the ridge  
an aquiline nose of trees  
curved ear of the river  
broad grassy cheeks  
sharp jaw line of lichen rock  
the open mouth of my adoration.

## *Silent Pen - Lucile Bogue*

On January 25, 2005, WWW member Lucile Bogue passed away at age 94 in El Cerrito, CA. Lucy had been a WWW member since 1995. WWW sent a card to her family extending our collective sympathy.

A teacher and writer of poetry and prose, Lucy's published work included *Miracle on the Mountain*, *Dancers on Horseback*; *The Perry-Mansfield Story*, *Blood on the Wind*, and others. She was awarded Colorado Poet of the Year in 1942, among other awards for writing excellence. Born to a Colorado pioneer family, Lucy is best known for founding Yampa Valley College in Steamboat Springs, CO in 1962. In 1993, she was awarded Steamboat's HAZIE WERNER Award for Excellence in achievement.

A celebration of Lucile Bogue's life will take place on April 9 at the Unitarian Church in Kensington, CA at 10:30 a.m. A family gathering will also take place on July 2 at 2 p.m. in Steamboat Springs, CO. Contributions to the Lucile Bogue Scholarship Fund can be sent to the Colorado Mountain College Foundation, Robert Ritschel, Dean of Alpine Campus, Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487.



– Joyce B. Lohse, WWW Administrator



# Armchair Retreat:

## Journeys Through Good Reads

**Arletta Dawdy:** *The Sparrow*, by Mary Doria Russell. “Anthropologist, Jewish convert and raconteur Russell, created a new world for the exploration of age-old human questions about love, God, science and relationships. The ending chills and startles. In *Children of God*, by Russell, Father Emilio Sandoz, makes his reluctant return to Rakhat. A story of “first contact” and its effects on would-be colonizers and their targets, the writing is intense, often lyrical, as the author moves between times and worlds. Two captivating reads for someone who doesn’t “do” science fiction. Try her, you might like her!”

**Nancy E. Turner:** “Don’t miss Sandra Dallas’ *Diary of Mattie Spenser*. The poignant story of a young woman’s love for a man she only barely knows, stretched to the breaking point. The story is couched in another tale of two modern-day friends. Told in perfectly crafted, timely language, the “found” grandmother’s (Mattie’s) life is hard but her resolve is iron.”

**Marj Casswell:** *After The Empire—The Breakdown Of The American Order*, by Emmanuel Todd. “If you want to know what the French historian/anthropologist, who predicted the breakup of the USSR 10 years before it happened, thinks of the current America, read this book. Be prepared for an understandable account of world conditions that will lead you to experience fear and sadness for the future

of your country.” *The Jane Austen Book Club*, by Karen Joy Fowler. “Austen’s novels serve as the backdrop for the unfolding of the lives of the six members of the book club. With each novel discussed, the reader is lead in counterpoint into the secrets of past and present of individuals in the group, until each becomes like an intimate friend. One does not have to have read Austen to find this a good read.”

**Mary E. Trimble:** *El Desconocido: Butch Cassidy* by Suzanne Lyon. “Suzanne Lyon has become an authority on Butch Cassidy as she so capably shows us in both this book and its sequel, *Butch Cassidy: Bandit Invincible*. In *El Desconocido: Butch Cassidy*, she tells us the story of his later years. Although he’s an outlaw many times over, the reader feels compassion, even admiration, for this intelligent, often sensitive, legend of the Old West. The book makes a fascinating read as the author brings this colorful period to life. Loved it!”

**Irene Bennett Brown:** “For contemporary novels set in the West, I like Janice Graham’s *Fireweed*, and *Sarah’s Window*. The fact that the setting is the Kansas prairie where I was born may have something to do with how much I enjoyed these books. Graham’s screenwriting credits include the feature film, *Until September*. She divides her time between Paris and Wichita, Kansas.”

**Velda Brotherton:** “*These Is My*

*Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901* by Nancy E. Turner, “is taken from the journal of Sarah Prine, who settled with her family in Arizona Territory. The author is deft in splicing together the events from that journal to tell a poignant story of the brave women who faced uncountable hardships to raise their families under the most dire conditions. This book will leave the reader in tears – the woven subplots are all seen through Sarah’s eyes as she relates the story through her journal. This is an exquisite book with a powerful voice, and I understand there is a sequel which I can’t wait to read.”

**Penny Sidoli:** “Recently I read *Souls Belated* by Edith Wharton three times. It’s a powerful short story about whether or not to marry and all those philosophical-sociological conundrums bound within that great “To Do Or Not To Do.” Actually, I went looking once again for a master to teach me short story structure and Wharton was instructive. Also, I am in the middle of reading *Bear In Mind, The California Grizzly*, an extensive compilation of library-collection information about bears dug up by the author, Susan Snyder, a librarian at UC Berkeley. It is full of pictures and excerpts and letters and quotes – and provides quite an insight both into how and why the California grizzly bear is disappearing, and how and why humans have made great efforts to extinguish this creature.”

– If you are currently on an Armchair Retreat, please share your find with members. Send them to Alice Trego, [alicetrego@comcast.net](mailto:alicetrego@comcast.net).

# Road to the River

*Continued from page 7*

"I've already tried subject searches," I said.

"You won't find your document by subject," he said. "You need the number associated with the Corps of Engineers report."

His fingers tapped the keyboard, like those of a pianist playing an erratic tune. His printer spit out sheet after sheet of references.

"We don't have most of these here," he said. "When you get back to California, go to your local library and request an interlibrary loan from the Corps of Engineers. And you might check museums near the Stanislaus." He smiled. "By the way, have you tried searching the web?"

"You mean, Googling it?"

David said.

The librarian nodded.

The material I had Googled

had been too recent to be relevant. I needed to hold old original photographs to connect with history. To inhale the aroma of typeset-printed documents or finger the brittle edges of precomputer-age reports. How would I separate fact from fiction on the web?

I slipped the results of his WorldCat Advanced Search into my bag and thanked him. His assistance – everyone's – really had been helpful. The road to information, like the river, had certainly changed.

– *Laurel Anne Hill is the author of several published short stories and creative nonfiction pieces. Currently, Laurel's agent seeks a publisher for her "back to the future/foward to the past" western novel, A Light from the Mountain.*

## Listserv: Pipeline of Communication Revisited

*Continued from page 9*

West. As such, we have strong opinions and diverse ones. I applaud each and every member in this outstanding organization. Let each of us aspire one another to pursue our individual dreams."

If you have not taken advantage of our Listserv, an outstanding benefit of WWW membership, please go to [www.womenwritingthewest.org](http://www.womenwritingthewest.org) and click on Members Only. Then click on the link to YahooGroups Listserv. This will allow you to join our Listserv and get involved with our unique online forum. You'll never be a lonely writer behind your solitary computer again, with our dynamic group available at the click of your

mouse! If you have problems, Priscilla Maine, our YahooGroups Guru, is available for assistance by email at [pamaine@brightok.net](mailto:pamaine@brightok.net). You'll also find a hand link to her email on the WWW site.

Join us online and then meet your new friends at our annual conference, scheduled this year, October 21-23, in Fort Worth, Texas. Beware – WWW is addictive! Once you've attended our conference and met our wonderful group, you'll never be able to resist coming again!

– *Paige Ramsey-Palmer, WWW Past President (2002) is the author of Young Troopers: Stories of Army Children on the Frontier, Western National Parks Assn.*

## MEMBER NEWS

*Continued from page 10*

**Jane Kirkpatrick's** first novel, **A SWEETNESS TO THE SOUL**, which won the Wrangler in 1995, has just been named by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission to "Literary Oregon – 100 Books – 1800-2000," as one of 100 titles published in the past 200 years that best tells the Oregon story. A reception at the state library with Governor Kulongowski was held January 27 to honor the authors of those 100 titles.

**Susan Morgan** reports that she was interviewed twice in February on two radio stations in the Seattle/Tacoma area – the first, The Donna Seebo Show, KKNW 1150 AM radio, and the second on KLAY 1180 AM radio. She said she "listened in to a show...and her (Donna Seebo's) guest was fascinating. The station seems very holistic, lots about health and natural healing and taking care of the whole person. Also, some of you looking for interviews may want to search Donna's website and send in a book to her. I sent mine in last winter and it paid off now."

<http://stream.newschannel1150.com:8000> or [www.1150kknw.com](http://www.1150kknw.com).

– *Send your member news, accolades and accomplishments to Sarah Byrn Rickman, [SRick18153@aol.com](mailto:SRick18153@aol.com)*

# WELCOME New Members

November 10, 2004 - March 12, 2005

Eileen Benjamin – Telluride, CO  
Eileen@eileenbenjamin.com  
Susan Brewer – Adrian, MO  
perwords@aol.com  
Carol J. Bryant – Laramie, WY  
bryantcj@uwyo.edu  
\* V. June Collins – Yreka, CA  
v-junebucks@cot.net  
Jill D. Davis – Shoreline, WA  
jdavis115@mindspring.com  
\* Sybil Downing – Boulder, CO  
sybilsd@earthlink.net  
Liz Duckworth – Colorado Springs, CO  
Duckworths@earthlink.net  
\* Kathleen O’Neal Gear – Thermopolis,  
WY (no e-mail listed)  
Carolyn Harris – Mt. Shasta, CA  
lynharris@snowcrest.net  
Janet Muirhead Hill – Norris, MT  
author@janetmuirheadhill.com  
\* Jerrie Hurd – Boulder, CO  
jerrie@jerriehurd.com  
\* Jeffe Kennedy – Laramie, WY  
jeffe@jeffekennedy.com  
Diana Lo’pez – San Antonio, TX  
dianalop@swbell.net  
Jayne Peace – Payson, AZ  
jaynepeace@hotmail.com  
June Willson Read – Greensboro, NC  
jwrnc@aol.com  
Linda Shuler – San Antonio, TX  
lshuler@stic.net  
\*Nanette K. Simonds – Denver, CO  
Georgeornan@aol.com  
\* Lauraine Snelling – Tehachapi, CA  
tlnsnelling@yahoo.com  
\*Lucinda Stein – Grand Junction, CO  
Lucinda@Lucindastein.com  
Rene’e Thompson – Folsom, CA  
renee@reneethompson.com  
Lori Van Pelt – Saratoga, WY  
Lvanpeltwriter@aol.com  
Patricia Werner – Englewood, CO  
pat@wernerwriter.com  
\*Jann Arrlington Wolcott – Santa Fe, NM  
Jannawolcott@aol.com

\* = joined at sustaining member level

## Governor’s Arts Award

Continued from page 1

her box of savings – she had collected \$200 — and offered the money to her father. He declined her offer and, instead, he mortgaged their home so they could take their trip West. “We visited Wyoming via Canada and the Grand Canyon,” she said. “Wyoming had to be last because of my expectations,” she said.

After a two-year stint at Middlebury College in Vermont, she transferred to the University of Wyoming in Laramie and “fell in love with Wyoming,” she said. Over the course of the years, she and her husband Roy, whom she married in 1955, settled into the ranching life and raised four children. They also raised a myriad of ranch animals, including Morgan horses, Rambouillet sheep, Herefords and hand-milked Jersey cows.

And established the Backpocket Ranch Bookshop on their ranch, a small mail-order/special-order bookshop promoting Wyoming and Western Americana books.

By the ’70s, Collier’s list of writing credits expanded. She co-authored three books on horses, edited another and in 2000 became a consultant/advisor to *Encyclopaedia Britannica on Horses and Horsemanship*. She has also contributed to many anthologies and poetry chapbooks, and has had works published in *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife*, *Wyoming Magazine* and others. When she joined Bearlodge Writers, she and Nancy Curtis, a founding member of the group and a current WWW member, became fast friends. Nancy and other authors have written about Collier in different periodicals, as well.

In the early ’90s, Collier said she

began to seriously think about establishing a publishing company. “How many women living on ranches in Wyoming begin a publishing company?” she asked.

By 1994, she’d answered her own question. Teaming up with Nancy Curtis and another WWW member, Linda Hasselstrom, the three have had much success with their award-winning anthologies. Collier co-edited *Leaning Into the Wind; Women Write from the Heart of the West*, a collection of writings by High Plains women in 1997; *Woven on the Wind: Women Write about Friendship in the Sagebrush West*, a nonfiction anthology in 2001; and *Crazy Woman Creek: Women Rewrite the American West*, a nonfiction anthology of writings on women and community in 2004.

For all of Gaydell Collier’s accomplishments, her recent Governor’s Award, a large, gold-framed award, imprinted in proclamation form, containing the governor’s seal and signature, represents another milestone in her long writing career – and a place on her already impressive resume.

Cover photo courtesy Richard Collier, WY State Parks & Cultural Resources.



Gaydell Collier and Pat Frolander on the way to the reception at the Governor’s Residence, Cheyenne, Feb. 4, 2005. Pat represented the Bearlodge Writers. Photo by Katie Smith.

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