

Toast the Best at the WILLA Awards Reunion

By Sarah Byrn Rickman

“Not all great women’s stories remain untold,” our president Jane Kirkpatrick proudly proclaims. To toast the best writing about women in the American West being produced today, Women Writing the West is planning a grand event and **YOU ARE INVITED!**

“The WILLA Awards: Honoring a Literary Legacy,” will serve as WWW’s pre-conference kickoff, 4pm-7pm, Thursday, October 19, 2006, at the Tattered Cover Bookstore in downtown Denver. The public is invited. All former WILLA winners and finalists are invited. All interested WWW members are invited. The event is free of charge.

Our literary celebration will feature award-winning novelist Paulette Jiles and WWW’s own Sandra Dallas. Jiles was the 2003 WILLA winner for *Historical Fiction* with her Civil War novel, **Enemy Women**. Dallas has been a WILLA finalist three times, most recently last year in *Other Nonfiction* with **The Quilt That Walked to Golden**.

Jiles will speak to the gathering about the literary tradition as seen in the classic quest tale, but told, uncharacteristically, from the viewpoint of a woman rather than a man. Dallas, a best-selling novelist and Denver resident, will talk about her life and her writing.

To have this reunion and celebrate seven years of WILLA honorees, the 2005-2006 WWW boards of directors felt it was important to return to Colorado where the

organization was founded in 1994 and where the WILLAs were launched in 1999.

The Tattered Cover will feature Jiles’ and Dallas’ WILLA winner/finalist books at the event as well as the winning titles by past WILLA winners attending. Come at 4pm to meet and mingle with the WILLA honorees, and peruse featured books that represent the finest writing about Western women. The program will begin at 5pm, offering writers and readers some insights into the writing life and how these two talented women pursue their muse via their Western roots and experiences.

Out-of-town WWW members planning to attend the conference in Colorado Springs are urged to come a day early. We are working on possible round-trip travel arrangements from the Wyndham Hotel in Colorado Springs to Denver on October 19 for the WILLA celebration, chaired by Suzanne Lyon. Watch for more information in a WWW mailing and in the next newsletter.

– Sarah Byrn Rickman is the immediate past president of WWW and the author of **Flight From Fear**, a 2003 WILLA finalist in the *Original Softcover* category.

WOMEN® Writing the West

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 2006 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

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.

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Advertising Policy and Rates

Catalog:

Full page \$400
 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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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:

Writing Foot Soldiers Keep Going With Class

By Jane Kirkpatrick
2006 WWW President/2007 WILLA
Chair

The word *pioneer* arrives from a root word meaning foot soldier, someone going before, a way-maker. In part, that's what the founders of Women Writing the West hoped to be, a way-maker for the publication and promotion of unique stories about women in the American West that weren't being seen in the marketplace. There were female characters in western stories but often they were minor-characters or whose relationships with the people and landscape lacked the same depth and

intensity of their male counterparts. "The purpose of Women Writing the West," wrote the founders, "is to become the internationally recognized association

of women writers and other professionals engaged in writing and promoting writing about the American West with emphasis on the experiences and sensibilities of women in that region." Those are pioneering words.

This year at our conference October 20-22, we're celebrating another pioneer in the 150th anniversary of Zebulon Pike's arrival on the landscape near what is now Colorado Springs. Like all pioneers, there was a risk involved, a bit of uncertainty, but that's where the edge is.

Many WWW members are stepping up and working diligently on that conference with the theme **WWW: A Peak Experience**. It promises to be an energizing time with fine agents and publishers from

around the country to pitch your ideas to, a fabulous place to stay, and tours of an unforgettable landscape. All this, plus the promise of good information, great networking opportunities and good memories to take away. (See the conference flyer/article for exciting details.) Plan to register early, call a friend to share a great room rate, and mark your calendars for a truly grand time. Cynthia Becker is our conference VP. Thanks already to those Colorado members (and others) who are putting things together for this Peak Experience conference. Award-winning writers Paulette Jiles and Jann Arrington Wolcott will be our featured speakers. There'll be panels and workshops with WWW members on a wide range of subjects designed to help us writing foot soldiers keep going with class.

This year WWW is set to participate in tradeshows and book fairs. If you haven't been contacted by our active marketing VP Melanie Chrimer and you can help at tradeshow or book fair in your area, please contact Melanie at phoebe5@bellsouth.net or check your member directory to give her a call. It takes lots of hands but the camaraderie is a perk of these events where we expose our works and ideas to book buyers, publishers and to buying readers.

For those of you celebrating new releases or continuing to promote your backlist, please note the new deadline for the catalog entries (June 1). WILLA Literary Award coordinators are winding down their part of this year's WILLA competition and the library judges are gearing up. We'll be honoring the winners and finalists at our banquets during the conference in Colorado Springs.

Mark your calendars, too, for a

pre-conference special event to celebrate our first seven years sponsoring the WILLA Literary Awards on Thursday evening, October 19, 4pm-7pm, at the Tattered Cover Bookstore in downtown Denver. Details are in a separate column by WILLA Chair Sarah Rickman. We're hoping you'll tell everyone you know to join us for an evening connected by our common interest in stories about women set in the American West.

We hope to do more with our Web site as well (see a separate article soliciting your words) and don't forget the listserv. It's a place for reasoned discussion, research queries and to celebrate our writing successes. With the tradeshows, conference, catalog, listserv, newsletter, Web site and special WILLA events, we hope to spread the word about the organization, but also about the successful writers both published and not-yet-published who make it run.

It's spring in my part of the West with wildflowers already pushing their heads out to see if they'll be nipped by one more frost; taking the risk anyway. That's what writing pioneers do: they push ahead; they take the risks, exposing their stories to publishers and agents, keep polishing their skills and discovering what it takes, not just to be published, but to be a professional writer.

I hope that by interacting with the bright, committed and engaging writers of WWW (men and women) you find experiences to feed your pioneering hearts. By the way, the word "experience" means "to be present." We hope you'll all be present as participants in WWW activities and especially in Colorado Springs this October.

Write on.

— Jane Kirkpatrick, named Distinguished Northwest Writer of 2005, is the award-winning author of 12 historical novels.

Photo by Jeff King Photography



2006 Call for Book Donations

Dear WWW:

We need book donations for the tradeshows and other future events. As members, you are our most valuable marketing resource and your books are the best visual we can use. Your book(s) can be very valuable to the promotion and credibility of our organization, but we do have qualified preferences for displays at the tradeshows. These qualifications are implemented for consistency and professional standards. They are:

- Current membership
- Newest releases (copyright April 2004-now) – this is updated continually
- Listing or advertisement in our current catalog (2006 WWW Catalog of Authors' Books Vol. 15)
- WILLA Winner/Finalist
- Volunteer in the tradeshow booth
- Regional book or author link to tradeshow location

These are the criteria by which each donated book is judged. The books that meet the membership criteria are then lined up against the others. Those that match up the best will be the ones we display. The others will be gratefully used at other events. We can use two of every title that qualifies. There are two tradeshow trunks and if you

want your book seen to the maximum, two books will help. Please feel free to autograph the books with just a signature.

If you are motivated to send a book, please do so at anytime. Other events are being arranged now but will take place in the fall. Please send new books (we can use a fresh supply) to:

WWW Tradeshow Book Donation
c/o Melanie Chrimer
9402 Logan Ln.
Douglasville, GA 30135

I will take the donations and make sure that they are distributed to the different event locations. Since the fall events are not finalized, please watch for updates in our newsletter, mailings, Web site, and the listserv. Our tentative events are another tradeshow, a book festival, and a reading association conference. The states that are uppermost in our plans this year are Colorado, South Dakota, and Texas. Your interest in an event or suggestion can help us and could be a deciding factor in the direction we take. If you have any questions about the book donations, tradeshows, volunteering, or marketing, send them my way.

– Melanie Chrimer
VP Marketing
phoebe5@bellsouth.net

Women's History Month: Ideas for Now and the Future

By Melanie Chrimer
VP Marketing

In like a lion, out like a lamb – could be inspiration for promoting your book.

March was Women's History Month. Our organization is tailor-made for using this remembrance and memorial to get the word out. Our targets are bookstores, libraries, book clubs and more. The key is planning.

Surfing the Web can be a great way to start. It lets you find many locations and groups that you may never have heard of before. It allows you to locate the ones you were barely familiar with and gives you contact information that can often be copied and saved in your contact information by just a few clicks and toggles. The Internet also lets you choose close events or investigate destinations that would require travel. Those can be turned into adventures or research trips for future books, too. And those trips can be tax deductible.

Seek out the historical societies, libraries, bookstores, and schools in your area. Make contact in person with business card and book in hand. If you are researching by phone, be sure to have your contact information handy. Also, always have paper and pen available to note the proper name for the institution or event, the contact's name, a referral name, phone, mailing address, E-mail, Web site, and possibly, the fax number. Whatever contact information you get can be useful in the future. No matter how you contact people, do not forget to be patient, polite and say thank you. Courtesy is a promotional must.

Research the impact of each institution and align your work and your-

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WWW participated in the PNBA Tradeshow held March 16-18, 2006, in Seattle, WA. Members who wo-manned the WWW booth included Mary Trimble, Diane Goeres-Gardner, Heidi Thomas and Vella Munn.

"Milt Twain" On Writing

By Milt Cunningham

How did I come to be a writer? I don't know for sure where to start because it's a little like driving out of a fog that gradually gets thinner and thinner. When very young I played with words, tortured and twisted them, attacked and alliterated them, racked and rimed them. (It is too correct. It's the original. The fancy one with the h's and y's is from confusion with the word, rhythm.) I wrote the most horrible drivel imaginable, much of it maudlin allegory. I think those early, juvenile attempts were to me what the first badly-played scales are to a musician. I have always liked parodies and have written a number of them.

I guess my writing began in earnest in the 60s and 70s. Remember all those westerns on TV, "Gunsmoke," "The Rifleman," "Bonanza," "Rawhide," and the others? Besides the many historic goofs and anachronisms, I felt they often ended wrong.

The ideas piled up for several years until finally my laziness dam leaked, and I wrote one of my own without the errors and anachronisms and with the proper ending. I'm not sure when, but I joined a critique group and had fun reading and improving my stories and hearing the others' stories. I even got called "Milt Twain."

Not all my short stories are westerns, and none of them are conventional. I even wrote a true confession about a young girl who tried to be a prostitute and failed. Several have been published in anthologies, one of which was *Scent of Cedars*, ably edited by Anne Schroeder. I think westerns are the most fun to write.

Without realizing it, as I corrected the errors of the movies, I wrote stories with non-heroic heroes. The weak, the aged, the losers remedied their own problems, took care of their own bad guys, and came out on top.

One story that had lain in the back of my mind for years until it was starting to rot was of a Quaker on the frontier forced into a showdown with a professional killer. I started writing it in longhand while on vacation in the Wallowa Mountains. But it swelled, and was soon as long as *Of Mice and Men*. Problem was, my name not being Steinbeck, the story was unpublishable. So it was either cut it back pretty drastically, or keep writing it into a novel. Since it was going well, I decided to keep going, and cut later if I needed to. So was born - rather evolved - my first novel, *The Killer and the Quaker*. It's still looking for a home.

With that one done, I decided to write another, only this time it would be more substantial, not so close to a formula western. I started on *Where Trails Cross*, a story with two protagonists and no arch antagonist. The goal of a young Crow Indian warrior, Runs at Dawn, is to avenge the massacre of his parents and their entire small village by white mountain men. The goal of Eck, a poverty-stricken white farmer is to start afresh in California. Of course, the two trails cross. It is a complex story with subplots. And you think you can see where it will go, but not how it gets there. About 15 years ago, I was invited to write regularly for the local newspaper. Now I am a weekly editorial page columnist, and have had the honor of receiving responses from both irate and appreciative readers.

For a year I was contracted to write articles for Dr. C. Everett Koop's Web site.

Over the years I've written about 50 short stories, same number of limericks, and several poems. I've written several ballads, three of them true, the rest silly, comic stuff. My best ballad is about a hobo dog I knew as a kid. One is about my cancer. I've written a lot of different kinds of things.

I still get a kick out of seeing my name on the by-line and even getting paid for it. I suspect God likes westerns. After I die I'll let you know if I'm right.

- Milt Cunningham is WWW's esteemed member known as "el Viejo" on our listserv.

Small Publisher's List on Website

WWW member Fern J. Hill had a great idea and several WWW members helped her make it happen. She proposed that we list some of the smaller presses that have shown an interest in publishing stories about women set in the American West. Several of our publisher members submitted their work as did members who were aware of small publishers.

This information is now available (and being added to) on our Web site at www.womenwritingthewest.org in the **Member's Only** section. We hope this will help members take that next step in being published by finding publishers who already publish our unique kinds of stories. Check out the list then check out the publisher with your query or proposal.

Writing Expectations: Taking Your Work Seriously

By Susan J. Tweit

Writing is my business and also my passion - it's how I make my living, how I process life, figure out what I'm thinking and feeling, how I make a difference in the world. It's both art and craft, and something I value and take seriously.

I've learned to establish ground rules and expectations for myself, and also for the workshops I teach and writing groups I work with. For example, I describe my workshops as "writing-intensive." That means I expect my students to write in the workshop, not just talk about writing. I forestall the inevitable questions on publishing - "How can I get published?" "Do I need an agent?" - by setting aside time near the end of the workshop to talk about the business of writing, including publication. But the writing comes first. We work on the craft: we do writing exercises, read our work aloud, and we critique each other's work. I simply won't talk with my students about the business of writing until we've spent plenty of time with the craft. That's why we're there.

I use the same basic set of ground rules at all my workshops and critique groups, whether I'm working with the 25 national semi-

finalists for the Presidents' Scholars Medal in the Arts, (kids who at age 18 are such fabulous writers that they are winning scholarships and slots at creative writing programs in major universities and will be awarded medals at a ceremony in the Kennedy Center this May), or with writers at my local senior center.

I think of these as the writing Golden Rule:

1. Respect other writers' work. Give your full attention when someone else is speaking or reading.
2. Make constructive comments. (This is not the same as being nice. It's being courteous, which is much more useful.) If you don't like a piece, say so. But focus on what you would do to improve it, not the fact that you don't like it.
3. Make specific comments. If you loved a piece, explain why.
4. Keep writing read in the workshop private. Don't talk about it outside the group without the writer's specific permission.

If you're shopping around for a critique group, one good way to see if they're serious is to ask what the ground rules are, and if they have a facilitator. If there aren't some basic rules, you probably don't want to join the group. If at any time a

group doesn't feel supportive or constructive, don't hesitate to walk away. It's your work. If you don't honor it, who will?

Expect yourself to succeed. It works. Last year I challenged myself to find new markets in places I wouldn't have considered. (I write creative non-fiction about people and our relationship to place and to other species). I ended up assigned a feature on a fascinating dam removal project for *Popular Mechanics*, of all places. (Check out page 64 of the February 2006 issue for my article, "Can't We Just Blow It Up?") It's a tool-guy magazine, for heaven's sake. But it has a huge circulation, it gets my message out to an audience I wouldn't normally reach, and it pays quite well, thank you. We all tend to get ourselves in a track and get comfortable there. But if we look around, we may see opportunities we've missed. I certainly did!

Happy writing, y'all.

- Susan J. Tweit is the author of 10 books that explore the boundary dividing "human" from "nature," including **THE SAN LUIS VALLEY: Sand Dunes and Sandhill Cranes**. Look for her columns in *Writers on the Range*, the *LA Times*, *The Denver Post*, *The Mountain Mail*, and on her Web site: susanjtweit.com. (Editor's note: a version of this piece first appeared on the February 2, 2006, WWWW listserv and is used here with permission).

2007 WWWW Catalog of Authors' Books deadline approaching fast!

New Deadline: June 1, 2006

Don't miss your chance to have your book acknowledged in Women Writing the West's prestigious publication that circulates to bookstores, librarians, publishers and targeted companies throughout the United States.

Applications are included in this newsletter. E-mailed listings are accepted, and any other inquiries you may have, please contact:

Heidi Thomas
Catalog Editor

Ph: 360-336-5803
E-mail: suncat@ispwest.com

1314 Harrison St., • Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Be sure to include your Web site URL, too!

Getting Ready for a TV Interview

By Diane L. Goeres-Gardner

My first thought after hanging up the phone was, "Shopping. I have to go shopping!" Not that this was my first appearance on television. I'd only had an hour to prepare for that interview, which was barely enough time to comb my hair, apply some lipstick and go for it. This time I had a month to contemplate disaster.

My book, *Necktie Parties*, had only been released four months earlier, but already I was an old hand at public speaking, giving presentations and surviving interviews. Hopefully, this live television interview would be as easy. Watching the interviewer in action over two weeks relieved some of my worries. She was professional, knowledgeable and, best of all, kind. I felt fairly confident she was not going to ask me any trick questions or use me as a foil in her own agenda.

Since I felt confident I could answer any possible queries about my book, I didn't have to study my subject. The day before the interview I would review the dates and names I wanted to mention to refresh my short-term memory. The only worry I had left was appearance.

This is a sticky point for me. I'm short, plump and "grandmotherly." I've never worried too much about my looks as I was brought up to believe being vain was a sin right up there with sloth and gluttony. Suddenly I was wishing for a lot more vanity and a lot less sloth and gluttony. I wish I would have stuck to one of those past diets and actually used some of that moisturizer I bought and never quite found time to open. It was too late now; I would just have to wing it.

I did question my friends, asking their advice on hair, makeup,

and clothing. One friend volunteered to do my makeup the morning of the interview and we scheduled two practice sessions beforehand. Another friend recommended a chic hairdresser recently arrived from the big city. With a little color magic and a great cut she managed to work an amazing transformation.

That left the final question. What to wear? Everyone had ideas about that. Don't wear anything that sparkles. Don't wear stripes, plaids, zigzags, or bright prints. Don't wear whites, blues or greens. Since I don't wear yellow or pink, the only thing left in my closet was a black suit and a Christmas red jacket, neither of which seemed suitable.

It was time to go shopping.

A friend and I piled into the car and headed to Portland. Surely we could find something there that would improve my appearance. I assure you, we looked and looked and looked. If it did look okay on me, the store only had it in blue or yellow, and everything seemed to have sparkles on it. I found all kinds of outfits I wanted to buy, just nothing I could wear on television.

The next day while thumbing through a catalogue, I found the perfect outfit. It was a tailored lavender suede jacket with a matching shell layered over black slacks. We all know how chancy it is to order from catalogues, but by now I was desperate. I decided to try it.

The package arrived a week before the interview and I was shaking as I ripped open the box. The color was fabulous and the fit perfect. Wearing that soft suede jacket boosted my self-confidence. During the interview I didn't cross my legs, slump in the chair or mumble my replies. Instead, I remembered what a pretty color the lavender was,

what a great hairstyle I had, and concentrated on the importance of describing my book.

One of these days I may find the courage to actually watch the show myself. Until then, I'll believe what everyone tells me.

— Diane L. Goeres-Gardner is the author of *Necktie Parties - A History of Legal Executions in Oregon, 1851-1905*. She has published several articles on Oregon history, won the 2001 Southern Oregon University Walden Fellowship, and also captured first place in the Oregon State Poetry Association's 2002 narrative division Oregon State Poetry Contest.

Radio and TV Interviews: Live vs Taped Preparations

By Sherry Monahan

It's not hard to figure out that preparing for a radio interview versus a TV interview is quite different. Preparing for a *live* interview versus a *taped* one is also different. Yet they are all very similar.

I've had the privilege to have done them all.

There is one common theme to remember when preparing for any interview - have confidence in yourself! You are the expert on the subject you're about to discuss - that's why you're being interviewed.

I've found that doing a taped interview is less stressful than a live one. When taping, you get a second chance. That's not to say that doing a taped interview is any easier. The first taped interview I did was for the History Channel. Wow - was I scared. A production crew, lights, cameras, sound people, and producers, all added to my nerves. They barely used any footage from the first part of shooting because I talked too dang fast. The final interviewer said, "If you don't stop answering so fast, I'm going to start asking the questions fast." We all

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2007 WWW Catalog Listing Application

Please use one form for each book listing. Must be received by June 1, 2006.

Return completed applications and appropriate payments to:

Women Writing the West
 c/o Heidi Thomas, Catalog Editor
 1314 Harrison St.
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Inquiries: 360-336-5803

* SAME or NEW listings may be submitted by E-mail: suncat@ispwest.com

IMPORTANT: Authors renewing same listing as current catalog must supply category, name, title and first copyright year. The term, **SAME LISTING** means there are **NO CHANGES** from the 2006 catalog! Otherwise it is a **NEW LISTING**.

CIRCLE ONE: NEW Listing--\$40 SAME Listing--\$30 ___YES, I am a current WWW member

CATEGORY (Circle One)	Anthology, Fiction (General, Mystery, Romance), Juvenile (Picture Book, Middle Grade, Nonfiction, Young Adult), Nonfiction (General, Biography, Specialty Nonfiction), Poetry, Other _____
AUTHOR'S NAME (as it will appear) last name first	
TITLE	
ISBN # (include dashes)	
PUBLISHER (imprint/ publisher if applicable)	
FIRST COPYRIGHT YEAR	
DESCRIPTION <i>Maximum of 30 Words</i> (Please print clearly. No clarification calls will be made.)	
HOME STATE (required)	

Fee for *this* title listing \$_____ is included in my check # _____ which totals \$_____.

Total number of listings and/or ads paid with this check: _____.

E-Mail Address: _____

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

Keep a copy of this information for your records.

2007 WWW Catalog

Affiliate Member Focus

The Affiliate Member Focus is a listing of contact and applicable information. It 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).

- WWW Members only
- Affiliate members are featured on special page
- Personal listing cannot exceed **140 characters including spaces**. Should include, name, your choice and type of genre or speaking specialty and contact information.
- (example: count is 117 characters)
Your X. Name, western cookbooks, Imagine Press, 7 My St., Our City, State 00000,
555/555-5555, yourxname@yourxname.com (see WWW Affiliate Member Focus in last year's catalog at www.womenwritingthewest.org)

***Affiliate Listing Form must be received by June 1, 2006**

Return completed form and fees to:

Women Writing the West
c/o Heidi Thomas, Catalog Editor
1314 Harrison St.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Inquiries: 360-336-5803

* Affiliate Member Focus Listings may be submitted by E-mail: suncat@ispwest.com

AFFILIATE LISTING – \$25

Are you a current WWW member? _____ YES, I am a current WWW member

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

E-mail Address _____

Keep a copy of this information for your records

Working Both Sides of the Bookstore Fence

By Melanie Chrimer

Fourteen books ago I was a newspaper stringer, teacher's aid, public library staffer, chain bookstore assistant manager/children's specialist, and an employee of an independent bookstore (not all at the same time, but almost). I have worked both sides of the fence, you might say – selling the finished product and writing the product. Believe me, we need bookstores and they need us.

Independent bookstores are unique critters. Independents sometimes order books on a short, almost trial basis. This isn't shortsighted or uncaring. It's survival of the saleable. The foundation and infrastructure of the independent bookseller's business is based on sure sales to repeat customers. These loyal customers are held to the bookseller's bosom because they keep the store afloat. So the books that are found in the store are ones that will please the bookseller and their customers. The other unique aspect of the indy is their unwavering personal love of books.

I find that the savviest hand-sellers (or good book "recommenders" and sellers) are the independents. They know what they like, what their customers like, and try not to leave anything on the shelf that doesn't fit those two categories. They are in the business of selling books, but they are also in the business of *staying in business*. If a book is not selling, it gets sent back. But returns mean paying shipping – a payment to be avoided. Books from publishers who don't take returns *must sell* or they are a white elephant for keeps! There are other hardships for the indy that come with the small business vs. big

business battles.

It is a blood, sweat, and tears life for the independent bookseller who is in direct competition daily with the multi-million dollar-backed chain bookstore, amply stocked and staffed with the ability to discount books. Every month is a gamble for the small business bookstore.

On the other side of the fence, chain bookstores can be wonderful. For the author, too. They can bring your book to folks all over the country, spreading the title far and wide. After all, they do have the money or at least the illusion of it. Like all big businesses, they are gambling, as well. The difference with this gamble is that they are gambling that the paying customer will like what the chain bookstores choose for *all* their stores. The chain bookstore is different from the indy, by being the same with its other stores.

For example, the corporate office chooses 90% of the books for all the stores. Managers do some of the reordering but these are "re-orders." They also get to send in special orders for individual customers (if corporate allows) and they sometimes contribute the outer fringes of regional requests, but far too few to mention. The store has little control of the stock.

The chain bookstore orders are mostly based on publishing speculations, next season's projections, and what the wholesalers and distributors have purchased in the 100,000s so that the *New York Times* and other Best Seller Lists will be covered. The best seller lists are not "you and me" purchases. They are really corporate purchases. This guarantees that the chain will have

the books that are designated "must haves." Four months down the line, the chain bookstore employees will be stripping hundreds of mass-market copies of a "best seller." This often literally fills 55-gallon trash-cans with book carcasses so the torn cover (with the barcode) can be returned (at a fraction of the returned book shipping cost) to the publisher for partial credit. Now the indy can do this too, but not to the monetary degree of the chain store and not with the overall benefit.

So where's the wonderful? Besides the widespread of your title, there can be, like the independent, a member of the staff who has a personal love of books. The CRM (community relations manager) or assistant manager or children's specialist or unique counter staff that goes the extra mile and really wants to help people, can be found. They are the independent bookseller who just happens to work in a chain bookstore. They will do everything they can for you until they hit the corporate wall. Then that is as far as they can go.

My point is there are pitfalls for authors in both venues but benefits also. You may have to shove your toe in the door but if it is the right store, you will find a partner. I highly recommend the independent booksellers as they are more likely to give you a listen even if it is a short one and by appointment. The right bookstore will give you an opportunity or might even come looking for you. Just remember, as similar as the chain stores are to each other, each independent is a little different. Never assume and always use your best and most understanding manners. Most small businesses consider it a sign of a good gamble.

I have two favorite bookstores; one is a chain and the other an

Continued on page 19

12th Annual Women Writing the West Conference

"WWW: A Peak Experience"

REGISTRATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

- I would like an editor appointment: Yes () No ()
- Editor / Agent Appointment Preference:
- Please contact me regarding participation in the bookselling: Yes () No ()

Make hotel reservations directly with the Wyndham Colorado Springs Hotel. The WWW room rate is \$92/single or double. Reservations are quick and easy with the WWW conference link: <http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents/997WWW/main.wnt>. If you call the hotel reservation line, (817) 335-7000, be sure to request the WWW rate. Sign up for *Wyndham By Request* (www.wyndham.com) before you register and receive special benefits.


- **Conference Fees: (Conference registration includes networking, luncheon and banquet)**
 - \$190 – WWW Members (\$165 early registration by June 1, 2006)
 - \$215 – All others (\$190 early registration by June 1, 2006)
 - \$165 – Non-members registering at door (Saturday only; no meals included)
- **Extras:**
 - \$ 20 – Friday Tour (minimum 20 participants required)
 - \$ 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:

Priscilla Maine
498 E North Hills Drive
Atoka, OK 74525

 No refunds after September 15, 2006

Conference questions: Cynthia Becker, VP Conference, at cynipid@comcast.net or 719-543-4145

2007 WWW Catalog Advertisement Policy and Rates

Complete Advertisement Request Form. Must be received by June 1, 2006.

Return completed applications, submitted items and fees to:

Women Writing the West
c/o Heidi Thomas, Catalog Editor
1314 Harrison St.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Inquiries: 360-336-5803
E-mail: suncat@ispwest.com

POLICY – Advertisements must be submitted as follows: Author or Publisher must be current member of WWW. If publishing company is the member they may submit any book by one or more of their authors.

- Advertisements must be submitted by mail.
- Submit advertising copy as an electronic file in **GREYSCALE ONLY: NO RGB OR PMS COLORS**. Book covers, photographs, etc. may be included in the camera-ready ads if the entire file is submitted properly.
- Use a ZIP disk (100) or CD-R/CD-RW/DVD. NO FLOPPIES. Ad must be in high-resolution electronic format (300 dpi). Fonts must be Mac compatible; use Mac POSTSCRIPT fonts only. Do not use TRUE TYPE fonts, they can cause printing problems. NO PC fonts - the catalog is built on a Mac and those fonts do not transfer. Embed ALL fonts. If not, then default substitution may occur. NO faux bold or italic fonts. If a PC file is sent, the file must be a .tif, or .eps AND the fonts MUST be converted to paths or imbedded in the file for the Mac to read it.
- Do not use gifs or pdfs. If a .jpg is used, make SURE it is high resolution (300 dpi). Web site jpg files ARE NOT high resolution and are not suitable for print. The designer will be using Quark 6 to design the catalog.
- Must also submit a Black & White paper printed version (proof) of the ad (for comparison).
- It is the sole responsibility of the sender to check ad copy for 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.
- Include a self-addressed, stamped CD mailer if you wish your disk to be returned.

Note: No magazine or newspaper clips. Ads will be placed in the catalog as space allows. We will try to place ads in the requested category section in the catalog. However this is dependent upon the number of ads received and layout requirements.

RATES (CIRCLE CORRECT RATE):

	Size (Width x Height)	Cost
FULL PAGE	(7.5" x 9.75").....	\$400
HALF PAGE	(7.5" x 4.75").....	\$275
QUARTER PAGE	(3.625" X 4.75")	\$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



WWW Gears Up For A Peak Experience Conference

By Cynthia Becker
2006 VP Conference

Join WWW members for “A Peak Experience” in spectacular Colorado Springs for our annual conference, October 20-22! This year the city celebrates the bicentennial of Zebulon Pike’s western exploration and the 14,100-foot landmark that bears his name.

A Hotel That Treats You Like A Queen, or a King

Our conference hotel, the Wyndham, is located on the north side of Colorado Springs, about 20 minutes from the airport, with convenient access to Interstate 25. Relax in the spacious lounge to view the famous peak. Bring your camera! You might even spot deer grazing on the hillside behind the hotel.

Your beautifully furnished room will include a multi-line telephone with data port and high-speed internet access. Wireless Internet is available in the lobby and lounge areas. Refresh your spirit in the complimentary health club, indoor/outdoor pools and Jacuzzi. If you enjoy shopping or visiting local attractions, the Wyndham offers complimentary shuttle service within a 10-mile radius.

Guest Benefits and Reservations Made Easy

Joining the Wyndham By Request guest recognition program offers Wyndham or frequent flyer reward points and other benefits. (Go to <http://www.wyndham.com> and follow the links to enroll in the By

Request program.) By Request perks include a beverage and snack of your choice waiting in your room on arrival, free local and domestic long distance calls from your room, and free high-speed Internet access.

*** Reservations are easy. Our custom Wyndham Web site, www.wyndham.com/groupevents/ 997WWW/main.wnt, takes you directly to WWW conference rates and reserved rooms.**

Friday Pre-Conference Tour

WWW member and Colorado Springs tour guide, Doris McCraw, will lead our Friday morning (8:30am-1:30pm) tour to three special places.

- **The Garden of the Gods** - driving tour through a magnificent natural museum of red sandstone rock formations. Featured in the Visitor and Nature Center is an exact replica of a 19th Century U.S. Army Pack filled with reproductions of items Zebulon Pike carried in his pack, as documented in his 1806 journal.
- **Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum** - the beautifully restored 1903 El Paso County Courthouse. Two special exhibits celebrate the Pike Bicentennial. *Looming Large: The Artistic Legacy of Pikes Peak* is a collection of artworks featuring the Peak. *Marketing the Mountain: Pikes Peak in the Popular Imagination* is a collection of promotional and tourist items associated with the man

and the mountain.

- **Old Colorado City** - the first capitol of Colorado Territory. You’ll have time to shop the unique boutiques and galleries and have lunch on your own before the conference opens.

Expand Your Peak Experience

Order a free visitor’s guide: www.experiencecoloradosprings.com
Learn more about the Pike Bicentennial: <http://www.zebulon-pike.org>

– Cynthia Becker, an on-call disaster worker for FEMA, is the author of the biography *Chipeta: Queen of the Utes* and four non-fiction books for the school library market. She is currently working on a children’s book set in Leadville, Colorado, during the 1880 silver boom. Cynthia also designed this year’s conference logo for WWW.

WILLA Fund Donations Spring 2006

Thank you to the following members who have graciously contributed to the WILLA Fund:

Sybil Barnes - Estes Park, CO
Mari Grana - Santa Fe, NM
Laurel Anne Hill - Orinda, CA
Bette Lynch Husted - Pendleton, OR
Jane Kirkpatrick - Moro, OR
Jean Lohse - Colorado Springs, CO
Jan Falke Olsen - Haslett, MI
Sarah Byrn Rickman - Centerville, OH
Meghan Nuttal Sayres - Valleyford, WA
Gladys Smith - Hamilton, MT
Ida Mae Walters - Roscomman, MI

12th Annual Women Writing the West Conference

"WWW: A Peak Experience"

October 20-22, 2006

Wyndham Colorado Springs Hotel

5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919



From the windows of our beautiful conference hotel you will enjoy breathtaking views of Pikes Peak. Join WWW in Colorado Springs where the bicentennial of Zebulon Pike's western expedition is a year-long celebration.

Before the conference begins, a special event toasting the WILLA Literary Award winners and finalists from the past seven years will be presented in Denver on October 19 from 4-7 pm at the Tattered Cover bookstore. Paulette Jiles and Sandra Dallas will be the featured speakers at this event celebrating the literary legacy of Willa Cather for whom the award is named.

The pre-conference tour on Friday morning will take you to the beautiful red sandstone Garden of the Gods (bring your camera), the Pioneer Museum, and lunch on your own in Old Colorado City.

The conference begins on Friday afternoon. The evening networking buffet will set the stage for a peak experience with other writers passionate about women's stories of the American West. Program offerings currently include (subject to change):

- **History Alive! For Children!** - Panel: WWW members Mary Peace Finley, Vickie Leigh Krudwig, and Joyce B. Lohse; moderator: Sheila Foard
 - **Meet the Editors and Agents** - Editors: Judith Keeling, Texas Tech University Press; Doris Baker, Filter Press; Clark Whitehorn, University of New Mexico Press; Johnson Books; Fulcrum Press; Dudley Delffs, WaterBrookPress/Random House. Agents: WWW member Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli, JET Literary Associates; Don Pape, Alive Communications; Danielle Egan-Miller, Browne & Miller Literary Associates; Anne Depue, Anne Depue Literary Agency
 - **Memoir/Creative Non Fiction: Telling Our Stories with Truth** - Panel: Shannon Applegate, Liz Duckworth
 - **What's Fair? Copyright and Intellectual Property** - Attorney Susan Brushaber of Quark Inc. (producer of publishing software) offers insights to help us understand fair use, copyright and intellectual property pitfalls with the hope to keep us out of legal trouble. Bring your questions
 - **Free-lance Editors: What they do, How they help you polish your manuscript and ready it for submission** - Moderator/ Editor Carol Craig; WWW members/editors Heidi Thomas, Laurie Wagner Buyer, and Louise Ladd
 - **So You Want to Write for Film? Screenwriting and the Industry** - Expect some Emmy-winning screenwriters to talk about writing, pitching and filming, and expect to be encouraged if this is your area of interest
 - **Polishing Your Writing Skills: (1) Villains, Victims and Vixens** - award-winning author and WWW member Jann Arrington Wolcott offers this workshop fresh from her presentation at the 2005 Tony Hillerman Writing Conference; **(2) Finding Authentic Voice in Western Fiction and Memoir** - WWW member Anne Schroeder promises to share her skills - and enlightened mistakes - to help you create your most professional writing; **(3) Poetry** - a workshop co-led by award-winning poets Jane Morton and Peggy Godfrey. Come be seduced by words
 - **A Peak Experience Panel: Women's Roots in the West** - This panel will explore both cross cultural and cross-genre writing of women in the American West, what we can learn from our ancestors and the legacy we hope to leave behind as professional writers
-
- ☛ Luncheon honoring 2006 WILLA Finalists, Speaker: best-selling author Jann Arrington Wolcott
 - ☛ Banquet honoring 2006 WILLA Winners, Speaker: Paulette Jiles, 2003 WILLA Literary Award winner in *Historical Fiction* for her Civil War novel, **Enemy Women**.

TV Tips Learned the Hard Way

By Nancy E. Turner

Have you done TV? In case it's new, I've got some tips I learned - as usual - the hard way. Here are some things I wish to goodness someone had told me:

Even if you don't wear makeup, buy and wear copious amounts of skin-toned, well-patted, LOOSE cosmetic powder. TV lights tend to make your face glisten as if you'd been greased, no matter how clean and spiffy you are. If you do wear makeup, use eyeliner and mascara and eyebrow pencil, and pat makeup and powder on eyelids before applying shadow. (That's what a local news anchor told me.) Use blush gently. After applying lipstick, put your thumb in your mouth and make an 'O.' Act like you are going to suck your thumb, then pull it out. This removes any [lipstick] on that bit of inner lip that will smear on your teeth.

Do not get comfortable in their comfy seat. Do not cross legs. Sit up straight. If the two of you are on adjustable office stools behind a counter, be sure your chair seat is not markedly higher than the interviewer's and that your face is relatively at the same height. (My disaster chair was a foot higher than the interviewer's. My stomach was even with her chest and looked three feet wide on the tape.) Kindly insist that it be lowered. Otherwise you may be tempted to slump, feeling gigantic.

Speak to the interviewer, not the camera.

Practice a one-sentence summation and be ready for empty questions such as, "Well? Tell me about it." (First thought that came to my mind - well, it's blue, and 9" tall. Luckily I didn't say that. I said nothing, just stammered, open

mouthed in shock.)

Wear something comfortable that you've worn before. It's great to show your own style, but played down is better than over the top. Your clothes shouldn't steal the show from your face, your voice, and your book. Notice how most TV news anchors wear blazers or jackets? A straight tailored look, thrown back shoulders, makes you look confident, but if you're more at home in a flowing shawl or a soft layered look, that doesn't matter. Just wear the kind of thing you'd wear to a book signing.

Don't wear blue in any shade or any green lighter than a shamrock. Blue and pale greens literally disappear under TV lights and you'll look like a dancing head. Don't wear stripes or bold, busy florals. Stripes cause gaussian shifts in modern film cameras, some florals do, too. Don't wear shiny satins or glossy silks. Same reason as the face powder.

Wear comfortable shoes. Ballet slippers or even those dressy house shoes, even if you have to put them on in the hall and wear some Keds to get to and from. The reason [being] that if your feet feel at home and warm and familiar, you will speak more naturally. Even if you're sitting up straight as a Marine, scared and frantic, your tootsies will reassure you that all is well. Try it. On the off chance you'll be seated in an armchair and your feet might show, get some in black. They'll look just like pumps on the air.

Lastly, before the camera starts, relive for an instant the moment you first heard your book was going to be published. Capture that thrill, that validation, that spark of excitement and confidence. Even if you stammer through something you thought you were prepared to say,

your face will project something warm and wonderful about your book.

Break a leg.

- Nancy E. Turner is the author of *These Is My Words*, *Sarah's Quilt* and *The Water and the Blood*. Visit her Web site at <http://nancyeturner.tripod.com> (Editor's note: this article first appeared as an e-mail on the January 13, 2006, WWW listserv, and used here with permission).

WWW congratulates the following 2006 Spur Awards recipients:

Novel of the West

Finalists: *People of the Moon* by W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O'Neal Gear (Forge Books)

A Land of Sheltered Promise by Jane Kirkpatrick (WaterBrook/Random House)

Best First Novel

Finalist: *Hombrecito's War* by W. Michael Farmer (Llumina Press)

Short Fiction

Spur Winner: "Pecker's Revenge" by Lori Van Pelt in *Pecker's Revenge and Other Stories from the Frontier's Edge* (University of New Mexico Press)

Biography

Spur Winner: *Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People* by Candy Moulton (Forge Books)

Storyteller

Finalist: *Nacho and Lolita* written by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Claudia Rueda (Scholastic Press)

WWW on the WWW

By Donna Druchunas
WWW Web site Manager

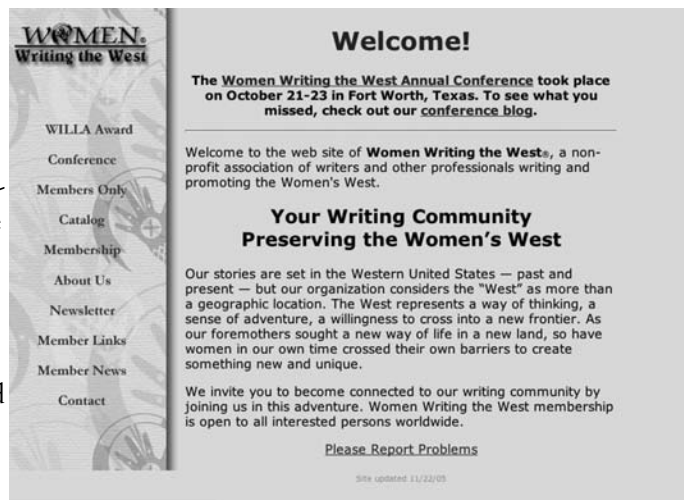
If you've visited the Women Writing the West Web site (www.womenwritingthewest.org) this year, you've probably noticed that the site has a new look. This is just the start of what we have planned for 2006.

For the past several years, our Web site has been used effectively to recruit members and to entice people to attend our conference. But we need to expand the purpose of the site to help promote our members' books. We also want to find ways to use our site to reach younger, urban writers who so far are a minority in our membership. Here are a few things planned for 2006 toward those goals:

- **New Home Page.** We will be updating the WWW home page to make it look more contemporary and to include photos and information that will draw people to the site. One suggestion is to post blurbs from members about why we are members, what we enjoy about WWW, what we've gained from WWW, and mention our titles and genres. We could also feature individual stories about, and perspectives on, writing and the West.
- **Reading Group Guide.** This spring, I will be developing a Reading Group Guide that will include information for people wanting to start a reading group and for existing groups. The guide will include information about the various genres in which our members write, as

well as tips for running a successful reading group, and links to readers' guides for our members' books. So if you have a reader's guide for your books on your Web site, please send me a link along with a brief description of your book.

- **PodCast.** PodCasts are internet radio shows that you can listen to on your computer or download to play on your iPod or MP3 player. They are the hottest thing on the net this year, and WWW is going to have one! In our PodCast, we will interview WWW members, agents and editors, as well as other professionals in the book publishing business. I am going to work to get this set up by September, so we can have someone broadcasting from the conference in Colorado Springs this October.



- **Member Links.** I plan to update the member links page with a brief bio (approx 50 words) for each author, as well as a list of their book titles. If you want to update your listing with this information, send your bio and the titles of your books to me in the body of an email. Don't forget to mention your genre(s) in your bio, because not everyone

will know what your writing is about from your book titles.

- **Catalog Links.** Next year, when you sign up for your listing or ad for the WWW catalog, you'll find an option to include a link from the online PDF catalog to your Web site or to your publisher's Web site (your choice). We just started talking about this idea, so I don't know yet whether there will be an additional cost for this option, but it would definitely be worth it.
- **Blog.** Blogs are almost as hot as PodCasts, and there are more of them on the web. Last October, I posted blog entries on our Web site from our conference. Many members who weren't able to attend, got a chance to see what was going on from home. I am going to change our Member News page into a blog so every member can post announcements about new books and events. I plan to have this set up sometime during the summer. If you'd like to help me test it out, please contact me by email. I have lots of other ideas for the site, but only so much time. If you have other suggestions for the Women Writing the West Web site, or would like to write, take photos, or help with the site in any way (everything that goes on the Web site is approved by the board before it is posted), please contact me by email at web@womenwritingthewest.org.

Thank you!

— Donna Druchunas is WWW's
Web site guru.

MEMBER NEWS:

Accolades & Accomplishments

Compiled by Sarah Rickman
and Alice Trego

Sherry Monahan is living proof that perseverance will win in the end. The University of New Mexico Press will publish her book, *Tombstone's Treasure: Silver Mines & Saloons*, in the spring of 2007. She wrote the book more than six years ago, lived through an 18-month contract that went nowhere, and when the contract was finally released, it took her another year to find a new publisher. Other good news for **Sherry**, she appeared on the History Channel in March in their "Wild West Tech" series, hosted by Keith Carradine, and she's received notice that she's to be included in the 2007 Marquis's *Who's Who of American Women*.

Jane Kirkpatrick spoke at the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Breakfast about her newest book, *A Clearing in the Wild* that will be released in April. It's her 12th novel, 14th book and is the first in a "Change and Cherish Historical Series" about the only woman with nine men who headed from Missouri in 1853 to found a new utopian colony in the Northwest. Best-selling authors and WWW members **Molly Gloss, Nancy E. Turner, Randi Platt** and **Linda Crew** were some of those who offered pre-release endorsements.

Gretchen Craig's first novel *Always and Forever* - a Kensington Zebra historical romance - will be released April 4. The book is set in the 1830s on the WEST side of the

Mississippi in New Orleans and upriver on a cane plantation. The blurb and the first chapter are on her Web site: <http://www.gretchen-craig.com>

Susan J. Tweit is excited to be exploring new audiences. Her article "Can't We Just Blow It Up?" - a look at the world's largest dam removal project to date and its promise to renew both a river and local communities - appeared in the February issue of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. And an excerpt of her new book, *The San Luis Valley*, aired on "Martha Stewart Living" radio on Valentine's Day. On April 1, *The San Luis Valley* debuts at Denver's Tattered Cover Bookstore in a reading and booksigning for the Rocky Mountain Land Series. Susan also gave the keynote talk for the Monte Vista, Colorado, Crane Festival on March 10.

Sarah Byrn Rickman has been offered a contract from the University of Alabama Press for her biography of Nancy Batson Crews - one of the 28 original WAFS (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron), the first women to fly for the US Army in WWII. Working title: "Nancy: Alabama's First Lady of Flight." Says Sarah; "The book sold based on six chapters, an outline of the rest of the book, the proposal, and my assessment of the potential audience and how to reach them. Nancy is a four-generation native of Alabama, a graduate of the University, and well known in the state's aviation circles. She was my mentor and inspiration for writing *THE ORIGINALS* - my history of the WAFS published in 2001."

Peggy Sanders says she's had "a busy few months." In March, she presented a digital photo program at the South Dakota State Historical Society Annual meeting on the educational and recreational aspects afforded to the men of the Civilian

Conservation Corps. As a board member on the Fall River County Historical Society (SD), **Peggy** organized and produced the first annual "Focus on Fall River History Conference" in January, which boasted 135 attendees. Her fourth book, *Custer County*, from Arcadia Publishing, was a December release, and this time of year also found her as a guest signer at the 1881 Custer County (SD) Museum during its Christmas open house.

Melanie Chrismer was presented the Golden Spur Award from the Texas State Reading Association last November for her children's book, *Phoebe Clappsaddle and the Tumbleweed Gang*. She was a guest speaker during February's Southwest Regional International Reading Association Conference in Albuquerque, NM, and her 13th book, *Math Tools*, a "Read-About-Math Rookie Reader" from Children's Press Scholastic, was just released.

Founding WWW member **Page Lambert**, whose River Writing Journeys with Sheri Griffith Expeditions were featured in the January, 2006 issue of Oprah Winfrey's *O Magazine* as one of the "Top Six Great Getaways of the Year," joins director and renowned poet James Navé, and screenwriter/editor Allegra Huston (of the Hollywood Huston clan), at the 2006 Taos Writing Salon in Taos, NM, July 15-20. For more information on this six-day writing adventure, visit www.thewritingsalon.net or Page's Web site at www.pagelambert.com.

In addition to her regular trips, the Aspen Writers Foundation has asked **Page** to host two "workshops on the river" in conjunction with their June, 2006, "Voices of the West" Aspen Summer Words Festival. For trip dates, etc., go to her Web site at www.aspenwriters.org/summer.

Continued on page 18

MEMBER NEWS: Accolades & Accomplishments

Continued from page 17

Priscilla Maine's new historical romance is a July release from Cambridge Books. *Journey of the Eagle* is about a woman's struggle to deal with the unexpected changes of her future, the discovery that an old Chickasaw shaman's plans have altered many of her own. She also learns about the *Journey of the Eagle* - life and love are viewed as much with the heart as the eyes. To read more, visit **Priscilla's** Web site at <http://priscillamaine.com>.

LaVerne Harrell Clark's biographies once again appear in the current editions of Marquis's *Who's Who of America* and *Who's Who of American Women*. **LaVerne** says a distinctive feature of both tomes is the biographical data they now include about ancestors who participated in historical events. Among her ancestors, they comprise members of Stephen F. Austin's "Original 300," who made up the first Anglo colonists to settle Texas while it belonged to Mexico.

In other news, **LaVerne** proudly announces that her award-winning, revised edition of *They Sang for Horses* (U of Colorado Press and a Smithsonian recommended title) serves as the basis for the Pendleton Blanket Company's new blanket design, patterned on the Navajo and Apache myths and legends she writes about in her narrative, and the blanket takes the same name from her book. Lastly, **LaVerne's** WWA Spur award-winner, *Keepers*

of the Earth, along with her husband L.D.'s Civil War novel, *A Bright Tragic Thing*, have been recorded for the Texas Department of the Blind in a series of tapes they offer the visually-handicapped.

Lenore McKelvey Puhk says she's just "completed the dance of joy" at the release of her iUniverse historical novel, *The River's Edge: Libby Townsend Meagher and Thomas Francis Meagher, Their Love Story*. **Lenore** also says she's proud that her book is already selling in Ireland, and she is preparing for upcoming booksignings - wearing an 1867 traveling suit and speaking in the persona of Libby Meagher.

HAVEN, Irene Bennett Brown's novel set in 1890's Oregon, is a December audiobook release from Books In Motion in CD and cassette. In **HAVEN**, Laila Mitchell sets out with little money, a medicine kit, and not much more than the clothes on her back in the hopes of finding her last living relatives. What she finds instead is soul-satisfying work and a chance at love in a wild, enchanted canyon. Reviewers recommend the book for readers intrigued by women's roles in development of the West, citing Brown's strong portrayals of Laila and Tansy, a wild child. **HAVEN** was originally published in a hardcover library edition by Five Star/Thomson Gale.

AMELIA EARHART: The Sky's No Limit (Forge, 2005) by **Lori Van Pelt**, a premier title in the "American Heroes" series, has been selected for inclusion in the New York Public Library's "Best Books for the Teen Age" 2006 list. This list, now in its 77th year of publication, selects the best of the previous year's publishing for teenagers, 12 to 18 years old. All the titles chosen have been read and reviewed by

young adult librarians and recommended for this special publication. Additionally, **Lori's** novel has been reviewed in the "bookshelf" section of the Winter 2006 issue of *Wyoming Library Roundup* magazine. The book is scheduled for paperback release this summer.

Susan Morgan, author of *Confluence*, is happy to report that she's had two stories accepted for publication, one in an anthology and one in a new writer's magazine. "Crushing Plums" was published in February in *Masthead Magazine*, and "Shipwrecked" will appear in an anthology, "Montana Voices," due out late spring. **Susan's** mantra, "Keep on submitting...work hard to find places for our stories to live."

Velda Brotherton spoke in April on "The Mystery of Powerful Characters" at the Murder in Spa City Mystery Writers of America SW Chapter (AR) Novel Writers Workshop. **Velda** also would like to share that while signing books at the Ft. Smith, AR, main library last December, the Mayor "burst through the doorway carrying an armful of things and a single red rose." He presented her with a certificate, declaring December 9 as "**Velda Brotherton Day**," a casting of the original key that opened Judge Parker's jail and a book on the history of Ft. Smith. Lastly, he gave her "a pardon (she) could use should (she) be caught acting up in the city following (her) booksigning."

- Sarah Rickman is the chair of the 2006 WILLA Literary Awards and a former WWW newsletter editor; Alice Trego is the current editor of the WWW newsletter.



Women's History Month

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self with those that you like. Then contact these and propose a speaking opportunity. This can be either informal or formal, but with communication and planning, you can often turn the event into a presentation format that makes *you* comfortable. Show flexibility and it usually reflects back to you.

Whether it is a book club talk at a Barnes & Noble or someone's home, or a PTA meeting about women in our literature, or a speech at the city historical monument - all will give you a little time to "roar" about your books and often let you be remembered as "such a lamb" for giving your time to speak to their group.

Women's History Month - it's yours for the making.

Bookstore Fence

Continued from page 13

indy. They are about three miles from each other. It is my recommendation to connect with both kinds. If you get to know a good bookseller it can be a long and wonderful relationship over many books and turn into a real friendship. I am fortunate to have a few such friends and they are the salt of the earth.

Bookstores: Don't sell them short. They sell our work and we provide the books they sell. Put your best foot forward, take a chance, hold no grudge, and never assume. We're in an unspoken partnership with the folks on the other side of the fence.

– Melanie Chrismer is the current WWW VP Marketing. She is a children's book author whose 14 books range from the tall tale **Phoebe Clappsaddle** picture books series to her solar system and Hubble Space Telescope nonfiction books. (Editor's note: this is a revised version of an e-mail posted on the WWW listserv last October and used here with permission).

Radio and TV Interviews:

Continued from page 14

laughed - it really calmed me down.

When I finished, I asked my observant husband how I did. He said, "Hon, you did great, and [you] sure do like the word 'actually'." I used it a million times. I was a little embarrassed, but I knew hearing this would make my interviews better in the future. The producer told me that everyone has a word they overuse. The trick is to identify yours and watch out for it - it **actually** seems to have a mind of its own! My subsequent interviews get better. **Actually** still tries to get in there, but I've learned how to corral it.

My most recent live radio interview was done remotely from my home in NC. The radio show was in Tucson. I called in on a number my publisher gave me. You should have seen me, in my office, comfy pants, and a glass of wine (okay, it was 9 p.m. my time). I thought, "if only they could see me!" I had my book in hand, tabbed with interesting points to share. The interview was supposed to last 5-7 minutes - it lasted 40. The DJs were great. I actually (yes, I said it again) took live calls from the listeners.

If someone asked me for advice for an interview, here's what I'd tell them:

For Radio:

- Have confidence in YOU.
- If doing a phone interview - make sure you won't be interrupted by noise or people.
- Have material you might be asked about or want to discuss easily accessible. (If it's live, don't rustle the papers.)
- Talk slowly and not over others.
- Have water in case your mouth gets dry.
- Make sure the listener can picture/grasp what you're telling them about - don't assume they've read your book.
- Breathe and talk slowly.

For TV:

- Have confidence in YOU.
- Go over the material you will discuss before being taped.

- If wearing a microphone - know that it usually stays on all the time - even if you think it isn't.
- Breathe and talk slowly.
- Ask which camera or person you should look at when talking.

That was all the serious stuff. My last piece of advice for any interview - HAVE FUN! This is something you love, and if you relax and enjoy it, the audience will too.

– Sherry Monihan is the author of **The Wicked West: Boozers, Cruisers, Gamblers and More**, award-winning author of **Taste of Tombstone** and **Pikes Peak: Adventurers, Communities & Lifestyles**. She is also a contributing editor for *True West* magazine, and has appeared on the History Channel. Visit her Web site at www.wildwestinfo.com

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