



WOMEN Writing the West®

www.womenwritingthewest.org

Volume XI, Issue 2

Summer 2004

2004 WILLA Literary Award Winners and Finalists

Women Writing the West is thrilled to announce the following winners and finalists in the 2004 WILLA Literary Awards, honoring books published in 2003. Notes confirm that our first round judges and final librarian judges alike had exceptionally tough jobs this year choosing the winner and finalist books from such an outstanding array of submissions. These books, listed as winners and finalists below, represent the finest writing published about the Women's West during the past year.

Contemporary Fiction

WINNER:

FINALIST:

FINALIST:

Historical Fiction

WINNER:

FINALIST:

FINALIST:

Nonfiction

WINNER:

FINALIST:

FINALIST:

Memoir/Essay Nonfiction

WINNER:

FINALIST:

FINALIST:

Poetry

WINNER:

FINALIST:

Children's/Young Adult

WINNER:

FINALIST:

FINALIST:

Original Softcover

WINNER:

FINALIST:

FINALIST:

1

In This Issue...

Profile: Sarah Rickman 5

Trade Shows 6-7

Conference Update 10-11

WILLA Entry Form 12

And much more!

*Asterisk By Your Name?

This is your LAST
newsletter unless
you renew NOW!

*Congratulations to all
winners and finalists!*

...Continued on page 3

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
Becky Chavarria-Chairez
Melanie Chrismer
Milt Cunningham
Jennifer Curington (writing as
Morgan J. Blake)
Sandra Dallas
Lynda K. Freeman
B.J. Harris
Gail L. Jenner
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Berneda J. "Bernie" Koller
Bonnie Leon
Suzanne Lyon
Priscilla A. Maine
(B.) Lou Mandler
Cynthia Leal Massey
Jean Henry Mead
Pat Cary Peek
Nell Brown Propst
Dorothy N. "Dottie" Ramsey
Paige Ramsey-Palmer

Sarah Byrn Rickman
Fern Robbins "Eastern Cowgirl Fern"
Janet Robertson
Harriet Rochlin
Peggy Palmore Simons
Sylvia Tomlinson
Mary E. Trimble
Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer
Susan J. Tweit
Ida Mae Ireland Walters
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CATALOG:

Full page \$400
 Half page \$275
 Quarter page \$175
 Contact Alice Trego at
 801-944-8277

NEWSLETTER:

Full page \$250
 Half page \$160
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For all the latest
WWW news:

www.womenwritingthewest.org

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Upper Midwest Booksellers Trade Show — St. Paul MN, October 1-3;
 Dianne Gray, coordinator (degray@beci.com) with Linda Hunt and Ida May Ireland Walters

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2004 WILLA Literary Award Winners and Finalists

...Continued from page 1

The WILLA contest provides for a winner and up to two finalists in each of the categories; however, our judges are not required to choose any books if they feel the entries do not merit a WILLA Literary Award. This directive, along with the winners and finalists being chosen by a panel of professional librarians, makes this award a special honor.

A formal presentation for Finalist winners (yes, our finalists are winners!)

will be held at the conference luncheon on Saturday, October 23. In addition to the official finalist plaque, finalist award winners will receive silver embossed emblems for their books.

WILLA winners will be honored in a special ceremony at a banquet Saturday evening. The beautiful WILLA trophies will be awarded along with gold embossed stickers for the winning books.

We hope you will make plans to join us for these festivities and the conference.

Please see information included in this issue about the programs. A registration form is included for you to attend the 10th annual WWW conference at the La Posada Hotel, Albuquerque, NM, October 22-24, 2003.

Cynthia Leal Massey —
Chair: WILLA Literary
Awards 2004

WILLA Fund Donations 2004

Brenda Atkins – Leakey, TX
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Arletta Dawdy – Santa Rosa, CA
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Gladys Smith – Hamilton, MT
Florence B. Weinberg – San Antonio, TX

THANK YOU to all who have donated to the WWW WILLA Fund in 2004. Due to the generosity of these donations, we are able to present a monetary prize to WILLA Award winners. *Join the list!* Donations of any amount are accepted throughout the year.

Help support the 2005 competition **NOW!**

By Jacque Boyd

It's said that one can never go home again. I was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska, which is 40 miles north of Red Cloud where Willa Cather grew up. All I have to do is open *My Antonia*, *O! Pioneers*, or *Song of the Lark* and I am mentally and emotionally home again.

I recently returned to my hometown and took a little side trip to Red Cloud. I stopped at the Opera House and signed up for a guided tour. I'd come 700 miles and by golly I was going to get my money's worth from it so I chose the seven building tour as opposed to the four building tour. Dorothy Mattsen, a delightful woman in her late 70s, was my guide. As we wound our way through town

on the narrow dirt streets visiting each "site" I was reminded why I am the way I am. There really is a Midwestern mentality, a way of viewing the world when life has few embellishments aside from the constant windblown vastness of the prairie. I had truly come home again.

If you love Willa Cather's writing put a trip to Red Cloud, Nebraska, on your "To Do" list. A day of wandering through this little town and the surrounding rural area will give tremendous insight into the characters in Cather's works and the language she used to paint the plains.

— WWW Treasurer Jacque Boyd grew up 40 miles from Willa Cather's birthplace.

Growing Up With Willa

3

Deadline for 2005 WILLAs, February 1

Think about next year ... 2005 WILLA Literary Awards honoring books published in 2004.

Entry deadline: February 1, 2005

Guidelines and Application can be found on Page 12 of this newsletter, or visit www.womenwritingthewest.org

Or request by writing:

WWW c/o Gail Jenner, 8547 Arapahoe Road, #J-541, Greenwood Village, CO 80112-1436

From the President

Come On: We're Gonna Celebrate and Have a Good Time!!!

Every time I think of the approaching WWW conference in Albuquerque, this old song POPS into my head! I just can't seem to stop singing it.



Gail Jenner

What a year it's been. Stepping into the President's shoes was intimidating. WWW represents a diverse and

dynamic group of talented individuals who expect performance from its board. At the same time, I was inspired. What a great opportunity to take responsibility for moving us forward. What an awesome challenge to serve with others who believe in the purpose of this organization, that of elevating the universal awareness of women's voices and stories about the West.

My role became clear in the weeks following our 2003 conference. The president must incorporate those ideas and changes that augment WWW's presence in the world of writing as well as attract new members who "connect" with our vision. I also had to protect and incorporate many people's points of view while preserving our great mission. Something of a balancing act, to be honest!

My incredible board brought much to the table. With a successful conference behind us, we reviewed the members' evaluations and began to clarify our goals. For 2004, our goals would be: to continue developing a range of marketing, promotion, and networking strategies; to expand our catalog contacts and representa-

tion at trade shows and bookselling conventions; and to bring to the next conference more opportunities for our members to meet with agents and editors and/or learn something that might be radically different or challenging. With the TENTH anniversary of WWW looming, we also decided to turn our 2004 conference into a real celebration, thus our theme: "Celebrating A Decade of Writing, A Century of Willa Cather."

Alice Trego, VP Conference, has selected some great panels and workshops, including: "Meet the Agents"; "Meet the Editors"; "Publicity, Promotion, and Panache: Constructing an Attention-Grabbing Media Kit"; "Writing for the Magazine Market"; "The Challenge of Writing for the Young Adult and Children's Markets"; "The Nuts and Bolts of Basic Scriptwriting"; "The Cultural Roots of the West"; "The Fiction of Willa Cather"; even "Tempting the Palate: Key Ingredients for Writing Cookbooks"; and more. The lineup of presenters is star studded! In addition, four agents and at least two editors will be meeting with individual attendees throughout the day on Saturday as well as be in attendance at the Friday night social and mixer.

The Silent Auction and WWW Author Book Signing will have a new look. WWW member Pam Munoz Ryan is our keynote speaker for the Saturday night Willa Awards' Banquet; WWW member Shirley Raye Redmond will speak at the Willa Finalists' Luncheon. We will be handing out Commemorative Totes with some great goodies at registration. Please check the Web site for more information. We HOPE to see you there!

Moving on to business: we had

to make one tough choice that needs to be addressed — raising the price of ads and listings in the catalog.

Because we are a nonprofit organization, we run a very close race between expenses and "income." With the expanding mailing list and rising cost of production, our catalog was running into problems. We needed to increase the number of catalogs yet we wanted to maintain the publication's professional standards. We knew we had to raise the price of ads and listings in order to cover the cost. It was a bitter pill to swallow.

Money is tight for most of us. As writers, we have little "disposable" income. But risk and investment in any emerging enterprise often forces us to stretch. **Bear with us.** Our goal: provide the very best at a reasonable cost for every published author/editor/publisher in our midst.

We also discovered that our bylaws needed updating. Following a flurry of e-mails and discussions, the board identified several "housekeeping" errors and corrected them. A handful of proposed changes will be presented to the membership in October. None are "earthshaking" and none affect our mission or vision, but in order to accurately reflect WWW's organization and procedures, these changes are important.

In light of this, we hope members WILL attend Sunday morning's GENERAL MEETING after the Friday-Saturday conference in Albuquerque. The meeting is designed to give forum to questions or concerns. Because we only meet "face to face" once a year, we ask that as many members as possible come. Traditionally, only a small percentage attends. So COME! We promise it will not be lengthy! We hope to make it

...Continued on page 14

PROFILE: Flying High With Sarah, Our Incoming President

By Mary E. Trimble

Listen to Sarah Rickman's enthusiasm when talking about her work and you'll be convinced she's a regular flying machine herself. At this particular time in her life, almost everything Sarah tackles has to do with women's role in vintage flying. Her two published books, *The Originals* and *Flight From Fear*, both reflect her dedication to pioneer women flyers, specifically of the World War II era.

An expert on pioneer women in aviation, Sarah has been guest speaker at several engagements across the country, including appearances at the U.S. Air Force Museum, the International Women's Air and Space Museum, the Boeing Museum of Flight in Seattle, Texas Woman's University, the Southern Museum of Flight, the Women in Aviation International Conference and numerous other workshops and panels.

Sarah's educational background — B.A. from Vanderbilt University in English and M.A. from Antioch University McGregor in Creative Writing — shows her special interest in what has become a life-long passion for writing. Her early professional years as a reporter, columnist, stringer, copy editor and editor reflect her expertise as a journalist. Her later writing, in both non-fiction and fiction, a combination often thought to be juxtaposed, shows her great versatility. Her flair for fiction, however, didn't happen without effort. According to Sarah, she had to learn the "immersive creativity required by fiction." The result? Her passion for journalistic facts, her historical knowledge and perception of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) of World War II and her creative writing skills have helped her develop a niche all her own.

Back in the late 1980s, as Sarah's interest in early aviation grew, so did the fledgling International Women's Air and Space Museum in Sarah's hometown, Centerville, Ohio (The museum has since relocated to Cleveland, OH). As editor of the local newspaper, Sarah learned of and wrote about the efforts of a local group of



Sarah Byrn Rickman

women aviators to build a museum. As she reported their efforts to establish a museum, interest in some of these women's wartime tales sparked an idea to tell their stories in book form, to share with others the adventures of the brave women who hold title to a unique and exclusive sorority of flyers. She interviewed and gained the confidence of many wartime women aviators in Ohio and soon branched out to find flyers in other parts of the country.

Her first aviation book, *Flight From Fear*, a novel, won first place in historical fiction at the 1999 Pikes Peak Writers Conference, but did not immediately find a publishing home.

In the meantime, one of the women pilots she had interviewed challenged her to write the true-life story of the first 28 of these women pioneers. With the help and encouragement of the flyers themselves, she wrote *The Originals: The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of World War II*, a work of non-fiction, which was published by Disc-Us Books, Inc. Disc-Us later also published *Flight From Fear*.

Recent awards include Finalist in the 2003 WILLA Literary Awards for *Flight From Fear*. Sarah was also the winner of the Savvy Award for Centerville's *Town Crier*, the #1 newsletter in the country in communities with populations under 27,000. She retired in January after 15 years as editor of this 16-20 page, 4-color bimonthly city newsletter. In addition, Sarah was named a Friend of Education

by the Centerville Classroom Teachers Association, for community service to teachers and schools. *Flight To Destiny*, the second in a series begun with *Flight From Fear*, was awarded first place in Historical Fiction at the 2000 Pikes Peak Writers Conference and is looking for a publishing home.

What else is in the flight plan for this industrious writer? In May 2003, Sarah was awarded a Travel Grant for research at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, in Abilene, KS to write the biography of the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron founder and commander, Nancy Harkness Love. The biography, *In The Name Of Love*, is also looking for a publisher.

In addition, since August 2003, Sarah has been under contract with the Texas Woman's University Library (home of the WASP Archives) to do oral history tape-recorded interviews with surviving WASP members as part of its on-going project to capture the history of the 1,102 women who served in World War II. Her interviews around the country often dovetail with speaking engagements and research projects.

When Sarah "touches down" she does so in her hometown of Centerville, Ohio, with her husband, Richard, a retired fire protection engineer. They have two grown sons, Major

...Continued on page 14

2005 WWW Catalog Another Success!

The new 2005 Women Writing the West Catalog is hot off the press and has proven to be another success for this organization and its authors!

With a new print run of 8,700 copies, the catalog contains 53 new listings and 51 listings that remained the same. Full-page, half-page and quarter-page professionally designed ads numbered 21, and three affiliate member listings rounded out the catalog. Photos of western landscapes are inter-

persed with the listings and ads to give the catalog an overall professional look. And as always, the 2004 WILLA Literary Award winners and finalists plus next year's entry application occupies two pages of the catalog.

One of the many benefits afforded Women Writing the West members is to be mentioned in the annual catalog – helping to achieve a high-profile status for WWW authors. This prestigious document, begun in 1996, is

sent to publishers, libraries, and booksellers throughout the country. Additionally, the catalog is made available at national tradeshow where WWW is showcased.

Look for your latest copy of the catalog in your mailbox, and watch for 2006 WWW Catalog details in future newsletters.

— Alice Trego has served as editor of the 2004 and 2005 WWW Catalogs.

Upcoming Trade Shows

- **September 10-12, Southeast Booksellers Association (SEBA)** Cobb Galleria in Atlanta, GA. Coordinator: Anne Haw Holt — ahholt@ahholt.com; phone 507-454-8489 or 850-576-0721; address, 2636 W. Mission Rd. # 146, Tallahassee, FL 32304. Assisted by Sarah Rickman and Gwyn Ramsey.
- **October 1-3, Upper Midwest Booksellers Association (UMBA)** River Center, downtown St. Paul, MN. Coordinator: Dianne Gray, degray@hbc.com; phone (507) 454-8489; address, 1311 Ridgewood Drive, Winona, MN 55987. Assisted by Linda Hunt and Ida May Ireland Walters.

Coordinators ask for volunteers to commit to at least a 3-hour block of time on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Longer periods of time most welcome. Available for more than one day? Even better. Volunteers pay their own expenses. WWW pays the membership fees, rents the booth, and pays for the shipping of displays.

Note: Coordinators ask that when you e-mail them, please put "trade show volunteer" in the subject line.

The board voted to continue the past policy of participating as an organization in professional book trade shows only. Under the auspices of the American Booksellers Association, there are 9 regional bookseller association shows and we will participate in the regions that are the most compatible with books set in the West.

Many states have book festivals and local or regional writing conferences. These are great opportunities to spread the word about WWW if members will take the initiative and obtain materials for distribution at any book events they attend. If members are involved in a booth it would be very simple to do. If not, perhaps you can find a vendor who would allow the materials to be placed in the store's booth. And don't forget the "Free Table" that most events have. Contact our secretary, Joyce Lohse at joyce@lohseworks.com or 303-773-8349 for materials well in advance and she'll send them to you.

— Peggy Sanders, VP Marketing

Evanovich a PR Role Model

Janet Evanovich has achieved enviable success as author of the Stephanie Plum mystery series. She (or her PR person) sends a newsletter to fans, which should be a marketing role model for all authors. This woman is not only highly successful, but she has fun, too. Her exploits at parties in honor of her fictitious characters are legendary, while she signs hundreds of books for her fans.

In the current issue of her newsletter, an article explains that she purchased two horses for the Trenton, NJ police department. Of course, they are named Ranger and Sgt. Morelli, after the two main men in Stephanie Plum's life. What great PR and public service. What a great tax exemption. What fun! Never mind the books, which are pure fluff and fun for mystery readers. To follow Janet E's exploits, go to: <http://www.evanovich.com>.

— Joyce B. Lohse, WWW Secretary/Administrator

Northwest Meets WWW at Book Fair

By Heidi Thomas

There's nothing headier than a room full of books. Unless it's a room full of book lovers. The March 19 Pacific Northwest Book Association's spring tradeshow provided both.

Meeting other writers, readers, book promoters — even publishers — and telling them about Women Writing the West was a gratifying experience for me. Our display table was chock-full of books written by our members, many of them

award winners, and drew great interest to those who stopped at our booth.

This was my first experience at the PNBA show, where Mary Trimble and I co-chaired the WWW booth. I was thrilled to meet and work with Jane Kirkpatrick and Randi Platt, who volunteered during the daylong event.

We wore colorful buttons with "Ask about Women Writing the West," which prompted many to do just that. We gave out more than 75 catalogs, collected cards and made contacts with booksellers, librarians, publishers, and potential WWW members.

I even renewed acquaintanceship with a fellow journalist from my years at the *Missoulian Daily Newspaper* in Montana.

Turns out he is now a publisher and distributor of mainly non-fiction books about the West, with StoneyDale Press.

It was pleasing to

watch browsers' eyes light upon Jane Kirkpatrick's books, then hear them exclaim how much they liked her writing; to be able to brag about Mary Trimble's EPPIE award; and to share marketing and writing strategies with Randi Platt, another multi-published author.

Thank you to Jane, Randi, and Mary for your hard work in promoting WWW's presence in the book world. I'm proud to have been able to rub elbows with you at this event.

Perhaps one day soon, I'll be able to join you in placing a book of my own upon that display table.

— Heidi Thomas co-chaired the PNBA trade show with Mary Trimble.



Jane Kirkpatrick, Randi Platt, Heidi Thomas and Mary Trimble were the "face" of WWW at the Pacific Northwest Book Association spring tradeshow in Seattle.

Trade Show Neophyte? Here's What to Expect

What will you expect to find at a tradeshow (besides books?) Opportunities! Before and after your shift at the booth, you will be able to browse throughout the show and talk to reps from all sorts of book companies. You may even find that publisher match for your current book. It's an informal setting and perhaps less intimidating than some contact opportunities might be.

Some booths give out complimentary copies of new releases; most are clearly marked as such. If you find a book that would be helpful to you in your genre, you can always inquire about a free copy.

While "wo-maning" the booth, you meet many reps and book buyers as they wend their ways around the show. You will be able to ask them if they know about Women Writing the West, hand them a catalog, and show them the displayed books. You might inquire as to what genre is their best seller, and show them what our authors have done in that area. A sign, "The author is in," and your books beside it will be displayed during your shift. Take the opportunity to shine.

You will also find something more precious than books — new friends. WWW members are a terrific group with a tremendous store of knowledge that each is willing to share.

Since we don't sell books or take orders at tradeshows, we have a little different mission than many other booth workers. We get to relax and enjoy the show, while marketing books.

Enhanced WWW Book Display Returns to Denver Library

This spring, I was invited back to create a new WWW book display in a glass case at Koelbel Library, south of Denver, for the entire month of May. The library's community coordinator was delighted to have the display, and I was pleased when she invited me to give a presentation during the same month. Since my display last year, I have added several books to my personal WWW book collection, and some members sent books to give the collection additional bulk and variety.

For this display, I featured award-winning books, as well as books from Colorado. I printed a list of WILLA winners on fancy paper, mounted it on a piece of matt board,

and placed it in a frame I had in storage, all at no cost. In addition to a bandana scarf and cowboy hat, I added a couple of antique pieces to the decor ... an old Singer sewing machine head, a miner's candle holder, a snaffle horse bit, and a button shoe hook. Signs on bright paper boldly advertised our www.womenwritingthewest.org Web address.

A library display is fun, easy, rewarding, and a great marketing opportunity. Contact the community relation's director at your favorite library to learn if you can arrange a display. I have several books in a manageable shipping box I will be glad to send to anybody on loan, if they need books to help fill a display.

Use your creativity to collect decorations to surround your WWW book display. Workers and patrons at the library are likely to be full of compliments and questions as you set up the display. Remember to take a picture to send to our newsletter editor.

— Joyce B. Lohse is
WWW Secretary &
Administrator



WWW rides high at south Denver's Koelbel Library.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

February 1 – June 30, 2004

- Dorothy Alexander – Sayre, OK –
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WWW Logo Alive With American Indian Symbolism

By *Celinda Reynolds Kaelin*

An eagle, a hand and a star. When I first saw this beautiful logo for Women Writing the West, I was delighted at the powerful American Indian symbols that had been chosen to represent the female voice of the west.

I eagerly shared my insights with a guest at our 1999 convention in Denver when she asked "Can you tell me if there is any meaning behind this symbol?" Later, when I related this incident to members of our board, I was surprised to learn that our logo was the happy accident of a graphics designer. But as Dr. Carl Jung points out, there are no "accidents," and I think that a discussion of this design will validate this point.

Our logo is a composite of traditional symbols filled with native numinous energy. At first glance, we see a gracefully arched, stylized eagle that seems to hover above a left-hand print. American Indians observed that eagles fly higher than any bird, and they therefore considered them to be messengers from the Creator. Most creative people that I know are quick to acknowledge that the inspiration for their work comes from a higher power, much as the eagle is thought to bring wisdom from Great Spirit.

Traditional Elders teach that at the moment of birth, when the first breath is freely drawn into the lungs, the Creator breathes the spirit or soul into each individual. This spirit then resides within the heart until released at death, and therefore the left or "heart hand" carries special significance. When greeting one another, traditional American Indians proffer their left hand for the handshake as it is thought to come from spirit (the heart) and therefore to be more sincere. When attesting to the validity of a thing, the left hand is dipped in red paint and the resulting palm print is affirmation from the very soul. It is the essence of truthfulness.

Winter Count societies (historians) were common to most of America's indigenous people. Buffalo hides were



painted with the symbol of each year's seminal event, and this then evoked the entire story or history of that "winter." The historians recording these events were chosen for this honored duty on the basis of their reputation for being truthful. No individual could petition for membership — instead, one was designated to the Winter Count society by the Elders. And now we have women writing about America's west, past and present, with our WWW logo prominently displaying the left-hand palm print of truthfulness.

Five small white circles adorn each of the fingers on this hand, perhaps reflecting the traditional symbol for hailstones. Hailstones themselves are used to symbolize the Thunder Beings, one of the most powerful spiritual energies. Thunder Beings come from the west, where all spirits reside, and carry precious water — "That which gives life."

This left palm print on our logo is further enhanced at the wrist with the symbol of mountains. American Indian cosmology teaches that "As it is above, so it is below," and the angular forms of mountains are used to represent this teaching. How many of us, when writing, have "pulled" characters and events from the "ethers?" Our storytellers, like the elders in a winter camp, pass along wisdom as they entertain with their myths and legends and tales. This is how the next generation is taught.

In the center of our logo's palm is a circle, referred to as the Sacred Hoop among traditional American Indian peo-

ple. It is considered sacred for the Oneness that it represents — "We are all Related." This essential understanding mandates a respect for all people, not just two-leggeds (humans) but tree people, star people, stone people, four-leggeds etc. And because of this Oneness, and the respect it engenders, it also represents a universe in balance. This is further enhanced by the native cross, the four directions symbol at the center of the circle. This symbol embraces all races of people, the people from all the directions of the earth, and in the center is the point indicating a meeting of the Above and the Below (heaven and earth).

What a wonderful legacy for women's voices. WWW is represented by a symbol that speaks for all the founding principles of our organization. How can anyone presume that its design was purely accidental?

Celinda Reynolds Kaelin, granddaughter of New Mexico pioneer John Allen Reynolds, writes and lectures extensively on the American Indian. She is the author of Journey Song: A Spiritual Legacy of the American Indian and Pikes Peak Backcountry: The Historic Saga of the Peak's West Slope. Celinda's article first appeared in the Spring 2000 issue of the Women Writing the West newsletter.



10th Annual Women Writing the West Conference

Celebrating a Decade of Writing, a Century of Willa Cather

October 22-24, 2004

La Posada de Albuquerque Hotel in Albuquerque, NM

Make checks/money orders payable to Women Writing the West. Send this form (or a photocopy) to:

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

.....
First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Contact Phone # 1 _____ Contact Phone # 2 _____
E-Mail _____

10

- I would like an editor/agent appointment: Yes () No ()

Editor/Agent Appointment Preference:

- Mike Farris, Farris Literary _____
- Sheree Bykofsky, Sheree Bykofsky Assoc. Inc. _____
- Jessica Faust, Bookends, LLC _____
- Amy Schmitt, Central Plains Book Mfg. _____
- Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli, J.E.T. Literary Agency _____
- Please contact me regarding participation in the bookselling: Yes () No ()

Conference Fees:

.....
\$ 190 Women Writing the West Members
\$ 215 Non-members
\$ 125 for non-members registering at the door (Saturday event only; lunch included)
\$ 25 per extra guest to attend the Friday networking buffet
\$ 25 per extra guest to attend the Saturday luncheon
\$ 25 per extra guest to attend the Saturday evening banquet
\$ 50 WWW dues – The "Dues Deal"
(Join WWW now and your dues are paid through 2005, PLUS you are eligible for member conference rates. For New Members Only)

Payment enclosed:

Conference Fee: _____
Guest Banquet Ticket(s) @ \$ 25 _____

WWW "Dues Deal" @ \$ 50 (For New Members Only)

\$ _____ Total enclosed for conference and optional amounts (circle which ones)
\$ _____ Total enclosed for dues

Make Hotel Reservations Directly With:

La Posada de Albuquerque
125-2nd Street Northwest
Albuquerque, NM 87102
1-800-777-5732

*Remember to mention the WWW
Special Conference room rate of
\$99:*

We have a block of rooms (25 rooms for Friday, 25 rooms for Saturday) reserved at La Posada until September 22, 2004. After this date, WWW cannot guarantee any rooms or any rates after this deadline.

La Posada is located 10 minutes from Albuquerque International Airport. Shuttles and taxis are available — Sunport Shuttle is recommended, 866-505-4966, www.sunportshuttle.com

For more information:

La Posada, www.laposada-abq.com
Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau:
1-800-284-2282; www.itsatrip.org

Conference questions:

Alice Trego, VP Conference, at
atreader@aros.net or 801-944-8277.

Conference '04: See YOU There!!!

The 10th Annual Women Writing the West Conference is just around the corner! "Celebrating a Decade of Writing, a Century of Willa Cather."

In a couple of months, members, non-members, publishers, agents, editors, booksellers, esteemed guests and the like, will congregate at the historic La Posada de Albuquerque Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, on October 22-24, 2004, for education, invigoration, motivation and promotion of writing the Women's West.

New to the conference line-up this year: two Friday afternoon sessions will be conducted that everyone can attend. During the Friday evening get-together, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy good food, mingle with fellow members, meet the authors, and network with agents and editors.

This year's invited agents and editors include: Michael Farris (Farris Literary Agency, Inc.), Sheree Bykofsky (Sheree Bykofsky Assoc.), Jessica Faust (BookEnds, LLC), Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli (J.E.T Literary Agency), Amy Schmitt, Marketing & Acquisitions Mgr., (Central Plains Book Mfg.), and Evelyn Schlatter (tentative from UNM Press).

Everyone will be afforded the opportunity to hear these outstanding professionals in consecutive workshops on Saturday morning. Additionally, they have all agreed to give appointments

throughout the day, so be sure you sign up to meet them when you register.

Saturday's workshops range from writing biographies to writing for magazines; writing for young adults and children to writing cookbooks; writing memoirs to scriptwriting and many others.

During our annual WILLA Literary Awards luncheon on Saturday, the 2004 finalists will be recognized. Our very own Shirley Raye Redmond will be the featured WILLA luncheon speaker.

More workshops will complement Saturday afternoon before it's time for the author book signing. We are fortunate this year to have a local bookstore, Bookworks, and its personnel handle the in's and out's of our book signing for us. And our conference would not be complete without its silent auction, taking place before dinner.

During the WILLA Literary Awards Banquet, we will be honoring the 2004 winners from this prestigious competition. And Pam Muñoz Ryan, a former WILLA winner, has graciously consented to be our WILLA banquet speaker.

Sunday morning will see members enjoying a breakfast meeting, titled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Women Writing the West, But Were Afraid to Ask." PLEASE plan to attend.

I'll be updating the Web site — www.women-writingthe-west.org — as well as the WWW listserv with last-minute details as I receive them. I hope to see everyone in Albuquerque!

— Alice Trego,
VP Conference
2004

FYI: Introduction of New Members

Wonder what happens when you join WWW?

Joyce Lohse, our Administrator, enters the member information on the database — our Professional List — with contact info, membership data, type of membership, pseudonyms, expiration date, Web site, etc. She adds that person on any lists she has going, such as "New Members" for the newsletter, and an addendum for the directory. She turns the checks in to Anne Nelson, accountant, at the end of the month.

She then sends a new member packet containing publication samples, by-laws, directory, "Who We Are" brochure with mission statement, any current information such as conference registration, catalog ad sheet, WILLA post card, New Member info sheet with return envelope, general letter of welcome and PERSONAL LETTER OF WELCOME on formal stationery.

Once her part is finished, she sends an e-mail to Priscilla Maine for Listserv, Doris Eraldi for the Web site, Pam Cosel for membership announcement on Listserv, and to the President, who sends an e-mail welcome to all new members and/or an e-mail or note of thanks to sustaining members and WILLA Fund donors.

Help Joyce keep our roster up to date by promptly sending any address or status changes and corrections to WWWAdmin@lohseworks.com



Photo by Sarah Rickman

A snapshot from the 2003 conference in Tucson: WWW Secretary Joyce Lohse, WILLA Awards mistress of ceremonies Rosemerry Trommer and 2003 conference chair Sherry Monahan toast the conclusion of a successful banquet.

2005 WILLA Literary Awards

Capturing the Diversity of the Women's West

Entry deadline is February 1, 2005. The application fee is \$50 per entry.

The WILLA Literary Award is a nationally recognized award given to writers annually for books featuring women's stories set in the West. Women Writing the West, a non-profit association of writers and other professionals writing and promoting the Women's West, underwrites and presents the award. Only books **initially** published in 2004 (in any form) are eligible for the WILLA Literary Awards. Books previously released/published in ANY format (hardcover, softcover, e-books, CD, Internet downloads, POD, etc.) prior to 2004 are not eligible. All submissions must be made in bound hard copy form. Professional librarians select winners and finalists. Awards will be presented at the WWW annual conference in October 2005.

Please obtain guidelines before entering. Complete award information and guidelines (including information for books published in electronic formats) are posted for downloading on the WWW Web site: www.womenwritingthewest.org, or may be obtained by writing **Women Writing the West**, 8547 E. Arapahoe Rd., #J-541, Greenwood Village, CO 80112-1436.

Contact Gail Jenner preferably by e-mail at gfiorini@sisqtel.net, or by telephone at (530) 468-5331.

Application for the 2005 WILLA Literary Awards

Honoring Books Published in 2004

12

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Title of Submission Published in 2004: _____

Author: _____ E-mail: _____

ISBN: _____ Publisher: _____

Publisher's Address: _____

Editor: _____ E-mail: _____

Please provide as much contact information as possible so that we may make appropriate notifications and/or request further information for promoting our award winners.

Category (Please choose one):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Contemporary Fiction | <input type="radio"/> Historical fiction | <input type="radio"/> Original softcover (trade or paperback) |
| <input type="radio"/> Memoir/Essay Nonfiction | <input type="radio"/> Poetry | <input type="radio"/> Young Adult/Children |
| <input type="radio"/> Other Nonfiction | | Fiction & Nonfiction |

* WWW reserves the right to add or delete categories or to move entries to other categories, as needed.

Local newspaper/book page editor: _____ E-mail: _____

Please include the following entry form for a submission to be judged:

- A check payable to Women Writing the West of \$50 per entry.
- THREE non-returnable copies of each book entry, postmarked no later than Feb. 1, 2005, to:
 - Contemporary Fiction: Pamela Cosel 18930 Augusta Drive Monument, CO 80132.
 - Historical Fiction: Vella Munn 1223 Poppy Ridge Dr. Eagle Point, OR 97524.
 - Memoir/Essay Nonfiction: Anne Holt 2636 Mission Rd. #146 Tallahassee, FL 32304.
 - Other Nonfiction: Carolyn Niethammer 604 E. 1st Street Tucson, AZ 85705.
 - Poetry: Dawn Wink 19 Mimosa Road Santa Fe, NM 87508.
 - Original Softcover: Sherry Monahan P.O. Box 357 Willow Spring, NC 27592-0357.
 - Young Adult/Children's Fiction & Nonfiction: Kathleen A. Ernst 7307 Vista Court Middleton, WI 53562.

Each book may be entered in only one category.

Please complete one entry form per book entered. THIS APPLICATION MAY BE PHOTOCOPIED.

'Crazy Woman Creek' Contributors Toast Mari

By Sarah Byrn Rickman

Forty western women writers officially launched the anthology *Crazy Woman Creek* at the Mari Sandoz Heritage Center in Chadron, Nebraska, May 14 and 15.

Why Chadron? May 15 would have been renowned western writer Mari's 108th birthday. We sang Happy Birthday in her memory and enjoyed the birthday cake dedicated to her.

Crazy Woman Creek: Women Rewrite the American West is a new collection of writings by western women. Editors of this exciting new anthology are WWW members Linda Hasselstrom, Gaydell Collier and Nancy Curtis. Stories told by 13 WWW members are included!

A month later, June 12, twenty more contributors gathered at Denver's Tattered Cover in Cherry Creek for a second launch at one of the west's biggest bookstores.

The women gathered in Chadron and Denver to celebrate, to read their pieces publicly, sign each others' Presentation copies, swap writerly stories, and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded others — good ol' Western style.

"These are my people," WWW member Sureva Towler — one of the 153 contributors — writes of the women portrayed in the stories and poems that make up the anthology. "They are rugged, resourceful and compassionate. They have lived long, worked hard and buried parents, husbands, children and dreams. They can change diapers and mill levies

with equal aplomb. They can cope with the baler and the bond issue. They can run parts or the city council. They have lost homes to lightning, lost friends to cancer, lost cattle to downed fences, lost jobs to technology. They have weathered marriage, children, careers, housework, church and volunteer responsibilities and they translate those experiences into smashing poetry and prose.

"Some are professional writers, many are teachers, a handful still work the land. All have taken time to share 'the rhythms of our female lives.'"

Sureva's article appeared in *The Denver Post*, Sunday June 27.

I had the privilege of reading in Denver. My piece — "Fifty Years of Potluck" — was about my high school friends. We were gathered that weekend in Denver for our 50th reunion and several of "the girls" came to the Tattered

Cover to listen to me read and shed a couple of "happy" tears over our enduring friendships — the subject matter of the essay.

Editors Hasselstrom, Curtis and Collier already are well known to the American literary world for their first and second anthologies of western women's writings:

Leaning Into the Wind: Women Write from the

Heart of the West (1997) and *Woven on the Wind: Women Write About Friendship in the Sagebrush West* (2001), both from Houghton Mifflin. *Crazy Woman Creek*, a Houghton Mifflin Mariner Books trade paperback original, ISBN 0-618-24933-8, now joins the others. It is priced at \$14 and will be available for purchase at the WWW conference.

— Sarah Byrn Rickman is one of the 13 WWW members whose work is included in the anthology and, by a stroke of luck, was present in both Chadron and Denver.

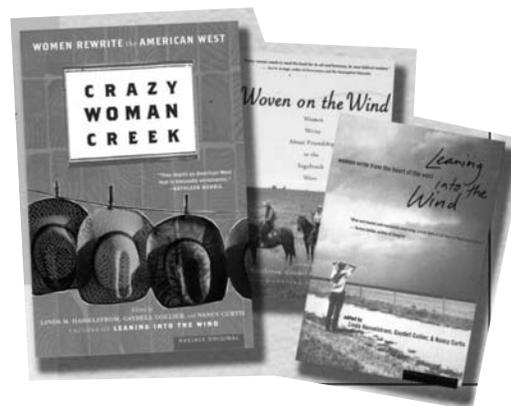


WWW members in Chadron: Donna Druchunas, Bernie Koller and Peggy Sanders with Thomas Jefferson.



Statue of Mari Sandoz with Gaydell Collier (left), Linda Hasselstrom and Nancy Curtis.

Photos by Sarah Rickman



Gail's Message...

...Continued from page 4

entertaining! We want to make it relevant!

WWW is what WE make of it. It is an organization that strives to serve its membership faithfully and responsibly. Those who volunteer to take positions on the board and act as representatives do so because they believe in the unique and awesome vision of WWW. Who else will forward the stories and voices of women in the West and of the West better than us?

So, to my board: Cynthia Massey, Past President and Willa Chair; Sarah Rickman, President Elect and Newsletter Editor; Jacque Boyd, Treasurer; Joyce Lohse, Secretary and Administrator; Peggy Sanders, VP of Marketing; and Alice Trego, VP of Conference and Catalog

Editor; and to Priscilla Maine, Pamela Cosel, Doris Eraldi, Melanie Chrismer, Mary Trimble, and all the Willa Coordinators, et al, for your 2004 work, THANK YOU! Also, a big THANK YOU to everyone who organized or helped with Trade Shows or volunteered to help at our Albuquerque conference as panelists or workers this year. Each of you has made my job easier and rewarding.

We sincerely pray that members continue to volunteer to take on jobs and/or board positions and/or committee positions, so that WWW's dynamic FIRST decade will move assertively into the next decade and beyond. With the 2005 Conference site slated for Ft. Worth/Dallas, we need enthusiastic support, so don't be shy.

Tap your toes and clap your hands: we're gettin' ready to CELEBRATE! And we're gonna have a good time.

— Gail Jenner, WWW President

PROFILE: Sarah...

...Continued from page 5

James E. Rickman, USAF, United States Air Force Academy, and Charles Byrn Rickman who lives in Georgia with his family. Professional organizations include Women Writing the West, for which she is currently President Elect; The Association for Women in Communications; and Women in Aviation International.

For the last two years Sarah also has been editor of the WWW Newsletter, a responsibility she will pass to Alice Trego. As Sarah moves up to pilot our organization as President, let's fasten our seatbelts and enjoy the ride as we soar to new heights.

— Mary E. Trimble is the author of the award-winning young adult novel McClellan's Bluff and its prequel, Rosemount. She also has had more than 370 articles published in magazines and newspapers on travel and issues of importance to homeowners.

14

POETS' CORNER

Dragons Don't Die of Old Age

*They don't get cancer or lose their mind
Their hearts don't fail, they're not deaf or blind*

*They never get tired though they stay up late
They get up early and rarely wait*

*For an opportune time to spew and blow
Their sulfur smoke and fiery show.*

*And I who sense when a dragon's near
Unknowingly feed him his favorite food — fear.*

*My reflexes, habit, have grown through the years
To appease the dragons on old and new fears.*

*It's hard to believe it but dragons can die
And behind them stand folks I know wondering why*

*I seem so defensive, so nervous or shy
They couldn't see dragons, but, Oh man! can I!*

*If I notice I'm fearful of what I must do
Then I "batten my hatches" to see the job through.*

*I starve that old dragon who feeds on my fear
He loses his power and dreadful career.*

*So it's worth it to notice a dragon's rampage
You must starve 'em to death — they won't die of old age.*

— Peggy Godfrey, October 2002

Ladies, our very own Cowboy Poet Peggy Godfrey has been good enough to offer us poems for our WWW newsletters. We are quite willing to print poems by others of you — but we haven't received any!!!

Consider sending us some poetry. Preferably not the really long kind — due to space constraints — but something of a shorter nature would be fine. We'd like to continue to have a poetry corner. Deadline for the Fall issue, which is mailed in late November, is September 15. Please e-mail to Assistant Editor Mary Trimble at: trimble@camano.net

What Does It Take to Edit the WWW Newsletter?

By Sarah Byrn Rickman

Two non-board positions in our organization — Newsletter Editor and Catalog Editor — require a certain amount of expertise. In this article, I will address the job of newsletter editor. In the next issue, Alice Trego — currently catalog editor and incoming newsletter editor — will explain the position of catalog editor.

The Newsletter Editor coordinates the various elements involved in producing our tri-annual newsletters. Some journalism experience is preferable. The editor writes a few articles in each issue but, whenever possible, articles should be assigned so that the workload is shared. The editor also collects photographs, when available and appropriate, to illustrate some stories. **The editor is NOT responsible for computer formatting and layout.**

I have spread the process out over 3 months because we are all volunteers who make our living elsewhere, not staff writers on salary. Three months before the projected mailing date of each issue, I make out a story list based on previous issues of the same time frame (i.e. the Summer issue every year will contain many of the same subjects, but updated). Assistant editor Mary Trimble and I decide what feature articles are timely based on what members have offered to write or have suggested. I **strongly** recommend that the incoming newsletter editor pass a paper around at the annual conference and ask members for their suggestions and to volunteer to write an article. Get their e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

If you need to find a writer for the article, do so **early** so she can have a month to gather and write the material. — Again, we're volunteers. — Mary normally handles the feature assignments and works with the writers unless her Red Cross volunteer schedule has taken her out of town. She always keeps the editor informed about this.

Two months before mailing, remind board members to prepare their articles

or materials and submit them. Send all copy to Mary to be edited. The editor should read the copy as well. Get a word count and an approximate length of each story in column inches. (I would be glad to help you with the latter.) Decide on which page each story should be placed. Write the headline for each piece according to the headline style provided.

Decide what photos to use and on what pages they should appear and write captions for those.

A month before the mailing date, get the material to our graphic designer, Jenny Hancey. Actual photographs should be snail mailed to Jenny. Allow time for them to reach her in Colorado. E-mail to her any electronic photo files you have.

When ALL the copy is ready, put together for Jenny a running list of the stories page by page, include the text files of the articles, headlines and captions. Do this in order — starting with page 1 and ending with your final page. Add any detailed instructions.

Clearly mark each story with a name (for you journalists, it's an old-fashioned "slug") and the page for which it is intended. These are all standard word processing files — **no graphics and NO formatting** other than paragraph indents. I will gladly share a printout copy of how I send the material to her in an e-mail attachment.

Jenny is VERY GOOD at reading all this stuff and will ask if she doesn't understand something.

When she has formatted the newsletter she sends the editor a PDF file to proof. The editor reads and makes corrections, then the assistant editor and the president read for corrections. When all three are satisfied, the newsletter can go to the printer.

Jenny will send a CD of the final newsletter to the printer. She will need to know how many copies to print so she can inform the printer.

Alert Administrator Joyce Lohse that the newsletter is going to press so that she can send mailing labels to the mailing

house. For now, I am the liaison with the printer. I will explain to the incoming newsletter editor about the printing process — which is quite simple.

That's probably enough for now. It's not as difficult as it sounds — TRUST ME!!! But familiarity with doing publications is, I think, a necessity.

Mailing dates are (approximately): April 1, August 10 and December 1. Alice, good luck in 2005!

— Sarah Byrn Rickman is the current WWW newsletter editor and president elect.

15

Silent Auction Will Return

The annual Silent Auction is a feature at our WILLA Awards banquet — you all know that! And you know, as well, that proceeds from this auction go toward the WILLA Awards fund!

In recent years, the Silent Auction has grown in popularity, helping WWW to make cash awards to WILLA winners in 2003 — for the first time.

The "new" Silent Auction will debut at the 2004 WWW conference. Plan to attend and participate! Information will be forthcoming on the Yahoo list-serv.

GOOD READS: We've Got Your Favorites!

Thank you all for your responses. Our tastes certainly are varied. And keep them coming. We are making this a standing feature in the newsletter.

Pam Muñoz Ryan: *The Midnight Disease: The Drive to Write, Writer's Block and the Creative Brain* by Alice W. Flaherty. "A fascinating look at how the brain works in relation to why we write and, sometimes, why we can't. Interesting for anyone who is obsessed with writing and the writing life."

Jane Kirkpatrick: *Above The Clearwater, Living on Stolen Land* by Bette Lynch Husted. "Crisp, deep, honest and real writing that cracks your heart open then fills it with the balm of memory, family, story. A terrific read about growing up on land once belonging to the Nez Perce and the relationships of family, especially women in isolation. Beautiful writer!"

Joyce Lohse: *The Chili Queen* by WWW member Sandra Dallas. "Keep in mind I love everything she writes. This was a departure for her in that the topic is edgy — the Chili Queen is a house of ill repute and the historical Western genre leans toward mystery with a complex ending pulling many threads together. It was a stretch for Sandra and she met the challenge with her signature skill and grace, and her oh, so wonderful characterization."

Donna Druchunas: *Ada Blackjack* by Jennifer Niven and *Under the Arctic Sun* by Frances Ann Degan. "Two vastly different stories, both about Alaskan Eskimo women. Reading both simultaneously you see and feel the difference in spirit between the two books — one written by a Native Alaskan author and the other by a

white author from 'Outside.'"

Susan Morgan: *Never Change* by Elizabeth Berg. "Her books are very emotional, and I think accessible/enjoyable to people who aren't looking for a heavy or literary read. Nonetheless, I found her character in *Never Change* to be thoroughly engaging and humorous, despite the heavier nature of the subject matter. It is a worthwhile read."

Mary Trimble: *Grace at Bender Springs*, by Vinita Hampton Wright. "... a story of ordinary people in a small Midwestern town, their struggle for acceptance with each other and with God's unending grace. The beginning of each section reverts to the same area in the 1880s while the majority of the book is contemporary. I found this a delightful vacation read."

Betty A. Bauer: *Lewis & Clark Legacies, Memories, and New Perspectives*, edited by Kris Fresonke and Mark Spence. "Being enthusiastic about the Lewis and Clark story, I have enjoyed a recent collection of essays that puts the commemoration into perspective for today's emphases on environment and Native American rights. It has been such a privilege to be in the Heartland and to participate as the reenactors journey westward on the Missouri."

Gail Jenner: *True Vine: A Young Black Man's Journey of Faith, Hope, and Clarity*, by John W. Fountain. "A beautifully written memoir — writing that is so poetic and enlightening and lyrical, yet riveting, it's hard to put down. John writes of his life in K-Town, one of the poorest sections of Chicago, through to his life as a renowned journalist."

Judith Keeling: "Three by Sandra Scofield: her truly riveting memoir of growing up in West Texas, *Occasions of Sin*; her West Texas coming-of-age

novel *Walking Dunes*, whose VP character is male, a high school senior. Scofield captures him perfectly. I got a separate copy for my son and am currently on a mission to see it taught in WT high schools; and *Gringa*."

And some classics:

Ann Parker: *By the Shores of Silver Lake*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. "Yes, by THE Ms. Wilder herself. It's been many years since I picked up one of the Little House books, but I instantly fell under the spell of her writing and her world. I sought this particular book out because someone recommended it for the scenes about life on a railroad crew in 1880 — something I'd been searching for, for quite some time. I am finding it has new depths and resonances for me. As a mother, I now can empathize with Ma's attitudes and actions a whole lot more than when I first read this when I was 10 or so!"

Peggy Sanders: *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, by Willa Cather. "Set in Santa Fe, this marvelous work from our WILLA Award namesake's point of view will give insight on New Mexico. It is a must-read before you come to Albuquerque."

Sarah Byrn Rickman: *Song of the Lark* by Willa Cather. "I read it in 1995 while working on my Masters. I enjoyed it even more the second time this past spring as preparation for our conference in Albuquerque. Cather's concept — the mature artist still retains, within, the heart and soul of a child — rings true for writers today. And I, too, just finished *Death Comes for the Archbishop* — a beautiful story told with such simplicity."

Editor's note: *In the interest of space, we had to trim some recommended books. We will hold them for the next issue. Send your recommendations to Srick18153@aol.com.*

Compiled by Sherry Monahan

In 1810, Hannah Cole's husband was killed by Indians on the Missouri frontier. Hannah was left with nine children. She went on to found the city of Boonville and become the area's first female entrepreneur. Her extraordinary story is the subject of **Suzanne Lyon's** next historical novel. On June 6, in Boonville, Suzanne was a featured speaker at the dedication of a statue of Hannah Cole who happens to be her great-great-great-grandmother. The author was also interviewed for a documentary being filmed about her ancestor.

BlackstoneAudio.com released *Angels Unaware*, a historical novel by **Priscilla Maine**, in audio book format July 1, 2004. It's available at their Web site www.blackstoneaudio.com.

Gail Jenner, sold 11 entries (from 750-1500 words each) to East River Books for *Colonial America: An Encyclopedia Of Social, Political, Cultural, And Economic History*, to be released 2004-2005. She also sold a story, "Rain is a Promise," to The IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, The Netherlands, for inclusion in *Water Stories*, an anthology of water stories, released internationally in 2004. In addition, she sold "Wielding the Word Axe," an article on writing, to *Word Muse*, an ezine for writers, published June 2004.

Debbie Brockett's *Our Darling* was nominated for the 2005 Mountains and Plains Regional Book Award, which highlights the best books in an 11 state region. Recently, she met Christopher Trumbo, the son of blacklisted Hollywood playwright Dalton Trumbo (a Grand Junction citizen 1908-1924), who is one of the "stars" of *Our Darling*. He now has a copy of her book, and plans to send her a blurb.

Pam Muñoz Ryan's new novel, *Becoming Naomi León*, will be published in September with Scholastic. Her inspira-

tion for this book began while reading about Oaxacan woodcarving. She says, "In a book, I came across a one-line reference to the Night of the Radishes, the festival where the local woodworkers carve elaborate scenes from hybrid radishes. The event sounded so magical I knew I had to see it. In 1997, on the 100th Anniversary of *La Noche de los Rabanos*, I visited the romantic and mysterious Oaxaca City, a feast of colors, tastes, pageantry, and festivals. A few years later, when I began writing Naomi's story and she evolved into a soap carver, my imagination took me back to Oaxaca. Or was it Oaxaca's spell that first mesmerized me, and inspired the lioness, Naomi León?" The quiet life of Naomi Outlaw and her little brother, Owen, becomes a runaway journey from San Diego County to Oaxaca, Mexico.

With a June release of *No Other Place and Reap The South Wind*, **Irene Bennett Brown's** Women Of Paragon Springs four-book saga is now complete on audio from Books In Motion. Book Two, *Blue Horizons*, is scheduled for trade paper reprint in November from Five Star.

Kathleen Ernst's *The Ghosts of Vicksburg* was recently awarded the Arthur Tofté Award for Juvenile Fiction from the Council for Wisconsin Writers; and her middle grade historical mystery, *Betrayal at Cross Creek*, was named to the "Children's Book Sense Picks List."

Louise Freeman-Toole has won a \$20,000 creative writing fellowship from the Howard Foundation at Brown University. She also won a nine-month Steinbeck Fellowship at the Center for Steinbeck Studies at

San Jose State University She served as writer-in-residence at the Klondike National Historical Park for the month of April. From there, she traveled further north to the bush village of Eagle on the Yukon River, where she got a taste of what life was like for her grandmother 50 years ago — a month in a cabin without running water. Now, while Louise's husband is getting ready to move to Alaska to accept a teaching job in a remote rural area of the Interior, she is heading for California. She plans to join him in Alaska next summer in the spectacularly beautiful Copper River Basin. Life is good, she says, and she expects to have her book, "Smokey and Johnny," finished by next spring.

...Continued on page 18



WWW members kick up their heels at the Western Writers of America (WWA) convention in Mequite, Nevada, outside of Las Vegas. From left to right: Lori van Pelt, Irene Bennett Brown, Ginger Wadsworth, Kay McDonald, Randi Platt, and Ann Parker. Candy Moulton, another WWWer, attended the conference, but left early.

...Continued from page 17

Donna Druchunas' first book, *The Knitted Rug: 21 Fantastic Designs* (Lark Books), is coming out in September. She will also have four articles related to the book appearing in different knitting magazines after the book is out. ("Thanks to previous WWW conference panels for great marketing ideas!") She is also about to sign a contract with Nomad Press (Fort Collins, CO) for her second book, "Arctic Lace: The Story and Techniques of Eskimo Knitters" (tentative title) for a 2005 release.

Jane Kirkpatrick reports to us that she will be joining nearly two thousand descendants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition when they gather in Astoria, OR, for the first reunion this August. No, Jane's not a descendant (but WWW member **Rita Cleary** is) but she's been invited to participate as a vendor making her *Tender Ties* Historical Series available to

visitors from across the country. That series is built in part on the meeting between Sacagawea and Marie Dorion, the only woman in the Astor Expedition, the first big expedition heading overland after Lewis and Clark returned.

Sherry Monahan's third book, *Tombstone's Riches: Silver Mines & Saloons*, will be released by JoNa Books this summer, and her fourth book, *Wild West Vices: Drinking, Gambling & Other Rough Stuff* by Rio Nuevo Publishers, will be released in June 2005. In April, Sherry attended the Single Action Shooter's Society End of Trail Event in Norco, Ca. She was also featured on the History Channel and on her local CBS affiliate.

Francell Lee Schrader has completed writing her first opera. In a private performance it was very well received and praised. She is extremely pleased, has ideas for several other operas, and anticipates a very creative summer!

While on vacation, **Mary E. Trimble** and her husband Bruce rode mule-back to the Kalaupapa Peninsula on the tip of Molokai, Hawaii, where hundreds of people suffering from leprosy were essentially imprisoned between 1865 and 1969. *The Liguorian*, a Catholic magazine, published Mary's account of the history of Kalaupapa — "Blessed Damien, The Martyr of Molokai." It's in the July-August issue.

Susie Kelly Flatau, upon invitation by the International Hospitality Council of Austin, Texas (in conjunction with the Office of International Visitors and Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs), was one of seven Austin-area writers/journalists who met individually with 3 sen-

ior administrators of university-level journalism education programs from the Republic of Kazakhstan. Under the auspices of the Freedom Support Act, the U.S. Department of State sponsored the Russian educator's International Visitor Program/Project, "Teaching Journalism (Freedom Support): An International Visitor

SILENT PEN

Alice Marsh Yelken



WWW members were saddened to receive the news that member Alice Marsh Yelken died in Colorado Springs. Her husband notified us that she passed away on her birthday this past spring. WWW sent a sympathy card to her family.

Alice had been a member of WWW since July 11, 2001. To read a sample of her spiritual poetry, go to http://www.faitifulhope.com/readingroom/item.cfm?doc_id=7199 on the Internet.

— Joyce B. Lohse, WWW
Secretary/Administrator

Photo by Cindy Massey



Children's author WWW member **Melanie Chrimer** in action at a book program in San Antonio!

Send your Member News

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Electronic files preferred
But send photos by regular
mail please. Thanks!

MEMBER NEWS

Project for Kazakhstan." The three women journalists — Ms. Tatyana Golubtsova, Ms. Meiramkhan Zhapek, Mrs. Vera Kislenskova — and Ms. Flatau discussed and shared writing experiences, ideas, techniques and visions. Mr. Dmitri Zolotov, an interpreter from the Department of State's Office of Language Services, accompanied the Russian-speaking group.

New member **Linda Dockery** has five new books due for release this year. Her two non-fiction releases are: *Cowboys and Cowgirls of Film and TV* from Avant Garde Publishing, due out August 25, 2004, and *Trusty Steeds of Film and TV* also from Avant Garde Publishing, August 1, 2004. Her three fiction entries include: *Cowgirl Up*, a contemporary western adventure, from Bedside Books, division of American Book Publishing, released June 1, 2004; *Trail of No Return*, historical romance, from Avant Garde Publishing, released June 14, 2004; and *Dream Chasers*, western adventure, from Avant Garde Publishing, release date July 22, 2004.

Sarah Rickman is making headway in what she terms her "new day job." Since last fall, she has been working under contract with Texas Woman's University (TWU) collecting oral histories of the WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots) — the women who flew airplanes for the U.S. Army in World War II. TWU is the home of the WASP Archives. So far Sarah has done 14 interviews. Both of Sarah's published books — *The Originals* and *Flight From Fear* — are based on the WASPs and she has just completed the biography of Nancy Harkness Love, the founder and commander of the women ferry pilots who served as WASPs.

— Sherry Monahan is the Member News Editor for the WWW newsletter.

The View From Here — Feeling Small at BEA

By Scott Flora, SPAN Executive Director

Editor's note: The following — insights from the SPAN booth at BEA (BookExpo America) in Chicago in June — should interest our WWW trade show participants from a marketing standpoint and also those wishing to learn more about SPAN and BEA.

Standing in the SPAN booth at BookExpo America (BEA), I felt small and important at the same time.

Small, because there were 2,000 exhibits and probably 4,000 exhibitors in the 700,000 square foot McCormick Place in Chicago. Small, because we are the Small Publishers Association of North America in a world where the large publishers have the fancy displays, big press, and logo shirts. Important, because we spent three days at BEA talking to hundreds of small publishers and realize what SPAN does is important and needed.

We earned every inch of ground and every new member through articulate expression of SPAN's many benefits, discussion of the differences between SPAN and the Publishers Marketing Association. What we do is important and what you publishers do is very important. Our relationship is a cooperative partnership.

Being at BEA and working our booth reminded me we are engaged in commerce, not literature. Certainly literature is being created today by authors represented by big and small publishers. What goes on at BEA and through SPAN is the commerce of the book business. People at BEA were "selling stuff." They were selling fiction, nonfiction, kids' books, graphic novels, remainders, maps, and everything else between two covers.

There we were as well, selling SPAN memberships. Our pitch: We provide benefits to our members to help them sell more books, save money, and run better publishing businesses. To ourselves we would mumble, "Anyone planning to support themselves full-time through their publishing business, would find it

pretty difficult to not gain back their \$75 (BEA special price) SPAN membership." We weren't promising overnight success; we were promising they would get \$75 or more worth of benefit over the next year from membership.

Our commerce also extended to promoting our members. More than 80 small publishers had paid to place ads in SPAN's 2004 Independent Publishers' Showcase, a 71-page catalog of books and publishing companies. Additionally, eight publishers paid extra to be "Poster People" and display a poster, copies of their book, and literature. We handed the Showcase catalog out to reviewers, distributors, buyers of books, and other industry professionals. This was a great way for them "to be at BEA and not spend thousands of dollars."

Next year, we will again hit the aisles to promote SPAN and small publishing. I look forward to being in New York City for another week of commerce, conversation, and celebration of books.

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