

WOMEN[®] Writing the West

www.womenwritingthewest.org

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Snapshot: WWW 2005 Conference

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For all the latest WWW news:
www.womenwritingthewest.org

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

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Full page \$250
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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.



Suzanne Lyon, Laurel Anne Hill, Sharon Niederman and Jane Candia Coleman enjoy themselves at the Friday Night Networking.



Carolyn Wing Greenlee, Ellen Waterston, Laurie Wagner Buyer and Carol Morrison pose after The Poetry of Memoir workshop on Saturday, which Ellen moderated.



WILLA Finalists Helen Foster James, Joyce Litz and Claudia Harper participate in the book signing.

Conference Filled with Texas Flavor

By Alice Trego
WWW Newsletter Editor

Lots of excitement, camaraderie and anticipation lent to the flavor of Texas at the 11th Annual Women Writing the West Conference in Ft. Worth, October 21-23, 2005.

Deemed a success, this year's conference was the time "...where many of us reaffirmed our commitment to writing, to the organization and to our own journey in the women's West," said Jane Kirkpatrick, our 2006 President. "Together, we stepped forward in Ft. Worth."

Each conference broadens the scope of members' writing techniques and abilities, be it self-serving or pertaining to WWW. This year, in addition to all the great workshops comprised of a variety of topics, our web coordinator, Donna Druchunas, developed a blog to keep people abreast of the happenings in Ft. Worth, sending posts and photos to the WWW Web site.

This was also a new year for an expanded book signing event – 530 books ordered! According to Melanie Chrimer, the conference bookstore liaison who worked with Ann Wren Logan and Glen Logan, owners of The Book Rack, a total of 36 authors participated. Of these, five were WILLA Winners, six were WILLA Finalists, 13 were speakers and 12 author members joined in the signing. There were 29 titles con-signed for the day by attending members, Melanie said. "Both bookstore and conference benefited and...books were sold!" she said.

Although Conference VP Irene (Cindy) Sandell admitted to having "...NO idea what putting on a conference entailed," she said she had the "...chance to work with a wonderful group of women for a whole year. It was a wonderful experience."

One of her conference "jobs" involved planning a Friday tour that included the Amon Carter Museum, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame and a visit to the

Stockyards area. "The tour of Ft. Worth was a crashing success," Cindy said. "And Poetry Gathering, or no, I'm taking credit for the LONGHORNS and all those cowboys from central casting we found at the Stockyards!"

All in all, Cindy summed up the conference by saying, "The main thing, as always, such a wonderful, interesting, friendly group of writers. And what a great experience for us all. Can't wait until next year and Colorado Springs."



The 'hind end' of the longhorn cattle portion of the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering parade.

The 2005 WILLA Literary Awards – Winners And Finalists

By Gail L. Jenner,
WILLA Chair and Past President

This year's WILLA Literary Awards was, as always, a rewarding, albeit tough, competition. Several books were "eked" out of the top lineup and if more places could have been awarded, these would have received due recognition, too. To those authors whose books were not chosen, I applaud you and want to



Nancy Oswald, Ellen Waterston, Erin Grady, Jane Candia Coleman, Lucy Moore and Mary Sharratt proudly show off their 2005 WILLA Winners' trophies.

voice what the judges said several times over: Wonderful stories! Wonderful competition! Thank you for giving me the honor of reading the entries!

But this level of competition is what makes the WILLA a great award; it represents the best in writing today, from deep characters to a strong sense of place and/or history to the lyrical or reverent written word. Eeee-hah!

The list of Winners and Finalists follows here, and along with each title, I am including at least one comment made by our Finalist-Librarian judges. For those who were unable to attend the WILLA banquets and awards' ceremonies, I hope this reveals the diversity and strength of the 2005 honorees. For each of seven cate-

gories, there was one winner and two finalists, but five books were sent on to the teams of finalist judges, which means that many great books did not make the final cut.

In **Memoir/Essay Nonfiction**, the Winner was *INTO THE CANYON: SEVEN YEARS IN NAVAJO COUNTRY*, by Lucy Moore (UNM Press). Said one judge, "This book evokes SUCH a sense of place ... richly textured and conjures up the dryness of the desert as well as the insulation of a sparsely populated Navajo community." The Finalists for Memoir/Essay included *ABOVE THE CLEARWATER: LIVING ON STOLEN LAND*, by Bette Lynch Husted (OSU Press). Wrote one judge, "This life study of growing up on the bench-land above the Clearwater River in Idaho por-

trays a sense of longing to belong: to a land, to a family...a quiet, courageous contemplation of pain and reconciliation that is possible, though not promised, by the land we inhabit." The second Finalist was *GRACE STONE COATES: HER LIFE IN LETTERS*, by Lee Rostad (Riverbend). Characterized by one judge, "Rostad has crafted a fine biography using Coates' personal correspondence to tell her unique story. Her letters honestly relate the ups and downs of her personal and professional life."

In **Other NonFiction**, the Winner was *ISABELLA GREENWAY: AN ENTERPRISING WOMAN*, by Kristie Miller (U of AZ Press). "Beginning with a fascinating subject, Miller deftly and artfully explores the life of a woman whose activities influenced the life

and politics of a generation of women," said one judge. The first Finalist was *THE QUILT THAT WALKED TO GOLDEN*, by Sandra Dallas (Breckling Press). Commented a judge, "Wonderful stories of the women who came to settle the West and the Native women already there. The author weaves not only the stories of the women and their families but also their needlework, into a crazy quilt of texture and color." The second Finalist was *THE MONTANA FRONTIER: ONE WOMAN'S WEST*, by Joyce Litz (UNM Press). Related one judge, "This is the biography of Lillian Weston who wrote a column about New York and the social life and mating habits of New Yorkers as a single young woman living in the city during the late 1800s. At 30, a shockingly old age, she marries and with her husband and two small children, moves to Montana. Her struggles over marriage and living in the West make a fascinating story."

In **Contemporary Fiction**, the Winner was *THE REAL MINERVA: A NOVEL*, by Mary Sharratt (Houghton Mifflin). "Dramatic, gripping, insightful: recreates brilliantly 1920s rural Midwest town mores and hypocrisy. Sharratt deals sensitively with abusive relationships within the context of a coming-of-age story." The first Finalist was *LAST LULLABY*, by Denise Hamilton (Scribner). Said one judge, "Hamilton takes on a contemporary topic of mid-air terror attacks and provides a sensitive insight into the multi-national makeup of modern society in and around Los Angeles." The second Finalist was *USEFUL GIRL*, by Marcus Stevens (Algonquin Books). According to one judge, this was a

“well-crafted story and thoughtful; Stevens presents parallels between past Native American life and the contemporary world and intersects these stories in the life of the protagonist.”

In **Historical Fiction**, the Winner was **TOMBSTONE TRAVESTY: ALLIE EARP REMEMBERS**, by Jane Candia Coleman (Five-Star). Said one judge, “Allie Earp was a tough woman and married to one tough man. The story lets the reader decide if the Earps are to be remembered as saints or as tainted heroes.” The first Finalist was **WHERE HEAVEN BEGINS**, by Rosanne Bittner (Harlequin/Steeple Hill). “It gave me an appreciation of what women especially had to endure. Bittner made the reader appreciate the rough life that early pioneers endured,” commented one of the judges. The second Finalist was **FOUR SOULS**, by Louise Erdrich (HarperCollins). Related one of the judges, “This was a powerful Native American tale of revenge and redemption that holds the reader spellbound...woven together into a strong ending.”

In the **Children’s/Young Adult Fiction and Nonfiction** category, the Winner was **NOTHING HERE BUT STONES**, by Nancy Oswald (Holt & CO.). One judge wrote, “A beautiful and heart-rendering story of a Jewish girl’s coming-of-age in the rugged Colorado wilderness in the 1880s. This title will be highly recommended in my library.” The first Finalist was **‘E’ IS FOR ENCHANTMENT: A NEW MEXICO ALPHABET**, by Helen Foster James and illustrated by Necy Twinem (Sleeping Bear Press). According to one judge, this book was “beautifully crafted, showing the highlights of New Mexico in an interesting and colorful manner.” The second Finalist was **JUSTINA FORD: MEDICAL PIONEER**, by

Joyce B. Lohse (Filter Press). The story, said one judge, was “a fascinating biography of a strong African-American woman’s life as a doctor in Denver in the early 1900s. Well-researched and illustrated.”

In the **Original Softcover Fiction** category, competition was especially fierce, but the Winner was **ECHOES**, by Erin Grady (Berkley). Commented one judge, “The book that requires of its reader the most leap of imagination and faith is my first choice. I like the creative liberty that the author takes in bringing the reader from the present to the past and then back again.” The first Finalist was **HIGHER GROUND**, by Gladys Smith (Llumina Press). One judge wrote, “This was a heartwarming tale. Hattie is well-drawn as a strong and feisty peace advocate who stands firmly for her beliefs and family.” The second Finalist was **MOON IN THE WATER**, by Elizabeth Grayson (Bantam). One of the judges said, “This was a page turner, a fine historical romance with great descriptive narrative of life along the Missouri.”

In **Poetry**, the Winner was **I AM MADAGASCAR**, by Ellen Waterston (Wordcraft of Oregon). The poems spoke to the judges, and one wrote, “Over the days, weeks, months, these poems draw me back for yet another reading: ‘Spun Sugar,’ ‘Cropped Short,’ ‘Hollow Heart,’ like visiting friends who have a special way of knowing and speaking what I know, but cannot say.” The first Finalist was **THE NORTHWEST RAINFOREST PIONEERS**, by Claudia Harper (Frank Amato Pub.). “Vivid word

pictures of pioneer women, their work, their families, and their lives are combined with historical photographs tinted with muted colors in this outstanding collection of narrative poetry,” remarked one judge. The second Finalist was Jane Ambrose Morton’s **COWBOY POETRY: TURNING TO FACE THE WIND** (Cowboy Miner Productions). Said one judge, “Life was hard for the men pursuing their dreams on a ranch, but it was harder still for women whose dreams were deferred...Cows and land came first, women and children second or third...Yet, women were tough, their emotions resistant.”

With such wonderful feedback from our Finalist-Librarian Judges, it’s no small wonder that the WILLAs are becoming a prestigious and exciting Literary Award. It recognizes both new and established writers and writing that is personal and reflective as well as literary and/or academic. Once more, I applaud all the Winners and Finalists as well as everyone who participated in the competition. I hope the tradition only continues to grow.



The 2005 WILLA Finalists include Claudia Harper, Helen Foster James, Joyce Lohse, Marcus Stevens, Joyce Litz and Lee Rostad.

Ft. Worth Conference Rated a Success!

By Jane Kirkpatrick

WWW 2006 President/2007 WILLA Chair

First of all, thanks. Twenty-four people returned evaluation forms or sent e-mail responses related to this year's Ft. Worth Conference, which is nearly 25% of our registration! A full tally is available through our administrator, Joyce B. Lohse.

Twenty-three of 24 reported that the conference met their needs. People set goals for what they wanted from the conference including finding an agent, meeting with an editor, gaining marketing skills and developing networking contacts. They accomplished these goals through the panels offered, editors and agents, The Poetry of Memoir and Ellie Waterston's poetry workshop. Our marketing panel, ably re-organized by Cindy Sandell when the speaker became ill, received high ratings, as did Researching the Women's West and Donna Gimarc's workshop on writing skills. Even the business meeting was named as a favorite event that helped members meet their goals.

People were pleased with the tour, the Friday Networking banquet and the accessibility of the agents and editors. They liked seeing more than 14 WILLA Finalists and six WILLA Winners attending the banquets and enjoyed hearing brief comments by the WILLA Winners Saturday evening. Our speakers for both events and our panelists received consistently positive remarks such as "life-changing" and "knowledgeable." The raffle, which is our WILLA fundraiser and benefits the WILLA fund, was a great success.

The conference facility took the biggest hits with more than half the respondents suggesting "better luck next time." People commented

on the good food and diligent service but the facility itself was deemed more "fair" and "poor" than "good."

The best part about the evaluations is the creative suggestions for panels for next year or recommended changes. Include bigger-ticket raffle items so we'd have fewer tickets to call out is one idea, and have them at the beginning of events so we can maintain the formality of the WILLA Awards events. One member suggested thinking now of possible WILLA raffle donations for Colorado Springs.

"Fruit and bagels for breakfast." "Have a microphone at each table Friday night so people could introduce themselves and all could hear." "Set people at interest tables: Fiction, poetry, etc." "Get a better sound system."

Most want more agents and editors and some suggested "larger and more literary" publishers. While some suggested we not include "hometown" professionals, my editorial comment is that an advantage of having the conference in a metropolitan area is to invite writing professionals living there as a way to expand the strength of the conference and to keep costs down. WWW pays travel and conference expenses for agents and editors. It's our largest expenditure after site expense. Having good agents and editors attend from the area can be a great plus.

A legal expert to discuss copyright and contract issues was suggested. A panel about big-versus-little publishing houses earned interest. How to appeal to the 18-35 age groups and using the internet for marketing were also mentioned more than once as potential workshops or panels. Best of all, people reported that, overall, WWW gives them more than they offer to the organization. As a result, new peo-

ple volunteered for a variety of activities, including writing newsletter articles, helping at tradeshows and more.

This is a generous group and your board intends to listen carefully to the wisdom shared in the evaluations. Look for some of those changes in Colorado Springs in 2006!

Promoting WWW in 2006

By Melanie Chrismer,
VP Marketing

Many 2006 Women Writing the West promotional prospects are now in view and the officers are considering the venues carefully. Center stage is the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association trade show, (March 16-18, 2006). If we are able to attend this event, it will kick off the year at a bookseller's convention geared toward five+ states in the northwest, independent booksellers, distributors, librarians, authors, publicist, and more.

Later in the year, we are looking at a national library association conference, another trade show, a reading association conference, book festivals and a publisher's association conference. While we will not attend them all we are looking at a cross-section of ideas to expand public interest in Women Writing the West and our WILLA Literary Award competition.

If you live or will be in the Seattle area in mid-March, 2006, please contact me. Also please contact me if you'll be attending any of these types of events. We may be at the same event. Even if not, you can request WWW catalogs and take them with you. You have the potential of being one of our best marketing tools. Please help us forward awareness of Women Writing the West.

Contact Melanie at:
melaniechrismer@melaniechrismer.com
or 281-450-0146

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

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):

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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

Guidelines for 2006 WILLA Literary Awards

Honoring Books First Published in 2005

Entry Deadline FEBRUARY 1, 2006

The WILLA Literary Award honors the best in literature featuring women's stories set in the West published each year. Women Writing the West (WWW), a non-profit association of writers and other professionals writing and promoting the Women's West, underwrites and presents the nationally recognized award annually.

The award is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather, one of the country's foremost novelists. The awards are presented at the WWW Fall Conference.

- Entries for the WILLA Literary Awards are open to all persons worldwide and are not limited to WWW members or women specifically.
- All authors or publishers of books featuring women's stories set in the West in any time period may enter.
- Professional librarians not affiliated with WWW select winners and finalists.
- Books initially published in 2005 (in any form) are eligible for the WILLA Literary Awards. ONLY books FIRST published in 2005 are eligible – no exceptions.
EXAMPLE: A book originally published as a hardcover and released later as a trade or mass-market paperback is eligible only if the original copyright date is 2005. The book may not be entered in the Original Softcover category if it was originally published as a hardcover. Books previously released/published in ANY format (hardcover, softcover, e-books, CD, Internet downloads, POD, etc.) prior to 2005 are not eligible.
- E-books should be submitted in the appropriate category. Provide a copy of the actual product and THREE bound, printed forms of the book. Spiral or trade paperback bindings are acceptable. Loose manuscript pages or three-ring binders are NOT acceptable and will neither be acknowledged nor returned.
- A title may only be entered in **one** category.
EXAMPLE: A contemporary mass-market mystery may be entered in either Contemporary Fiction or Original Softcover, but not both. We strongly suggest that authors of softcover originals (mass market and trade) consider entering the Original Softcover category.
- WWW reserves the right to add or delete categories according to the entries received and to move books to another category as appropriate.
- WWW reserves the right not to name a winner or finalist in a category should the librarian judges feel that no book entered in that category merits a WILLA award.
- Entries received with incomplete submission packages will not be acknowledged nor will the package be returned.

Categories for the 2006 WILLA Literary Awards

Please review previous winners and finalists in each category to get a feel for the types of books that have been honored in past years. A list of previous winners can be found at www.womenwritingthewest.org.

Historical Fiction: Books featuring women's stories set in the West before contemporary times. Softcover originals may be entered in this category but the majority of entries are hardbound.

Contemporary Fiction: Books featuring women's stories set in the West in contemporary times. Softcover originals may be entered in this category but the majority of entries are hardbound.

Original Softcover Fiction: This category is specifically for fiction novels originally published in a softcover format, trade or mass market. Books previously published in any other format are not eligible for this category. This category draws a variety of genre books, primarily romance and mystery, as well as more mainstream historical and fiction novels.

Other Nonfiction: Entries in the category are typically academic or educational in nature. Scholarship, research, organization and presentation are some of the judging criteria. Includes edited diaries, also anthologies.

Memoir/Essay Nonfiction: Self-explanatory. Includes autobiographical works.

Poetry: Self-explanatory.

Children's/Young Adult Fiction & Nonfiction: The divisions in these categories are somewhat blurred and open to interpretation, so this year we are considering this as a single category. Depending upon entries received, the addition of a separate category may be warranted as determined by our panel of preliminary judges. Categories may also be combined as determined by the judges.

If you have questions, please contact **Sarah Rickman** at SRick18153@aol.com or by telephone at (937) 434-5979.

2006 WILLA Literary Awards

Capturing the Diversity of the Women's West

Entry deadline is February 1, 2006. 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 2005 (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 2005 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 2006.

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 WILLA chair: Sarah Rickman at SRick18153@aol.com or by telephone at (937) 434-5979

Application for the 2006 WILLA Literary Awards *Honoring Books Published in 2005*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Title of Submission Published in 2005: _____

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

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

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, sent **directly** to category coordinator.
- THREE** non-returnable copies of each book entry, postmarked **no later than Feb. 1, 2006**, to:
 - Contemporary Fiction: Nancy Curtis, High Plains Press, P.O. Box 123, Glendo, WY 82213.
 - Historical Fiction: Vella Munn, 1223 Poppy Ridge Drive, Eagle Point, OR 97524.
 - Memoir/Essay Nonfiction: Dianne Gray, 1311 Ridgewood Drive, Winona, MN 55987.
 - Other Nonfiction: Peggy Sanders, HC 56, Box 86, Oral, SD 57766.
 - Poetry: Gail Jenner, 6131 Island Road, Etna, CA 96027.
 - Original Softcover Fiction: Sherry Monahan, P.O. Box 357, Willow Spring, NC 27592-0357.
 - Children's/Young Adult Fiction & Nonfiction: Mary E. Trimble, 155 Woodgrove Lane, Camano Island, WA 98282.

Each book may be entered in only one category.

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

Archival Adventures In Spain

By Florence Byham Weinberg

My novel writing began when I decided to concentrate on mission history in my native Southwest.

I had published two historical mysteries and was planning a third, using an actual Jesuit missionary as my detective: Father Ignaz Pfefferkorn, S.J. (1725-179-). In the course of researching the third novel, my saga of Spanish archives began.

Father Ignaz served in the Sonora Desert region of northern Mexico and southern Arizona for 11 years before he and his fellow Jesuit missionaries were arrested, expelled, imprisoned and interrogated about the whereabouts of Sonora gold, for a total of 10 years.

Ignaz' last eight years of imprisonment were in Spain, but where, precisely? T. E. Treutlein, the translator of Ignaz' book, *Sonora: a Description of the Province*, quoted from a letter by Ignaz' sister: "Bernard Middendorf [S. J.]...has already been freed, has returned home, and has had me informed that he saw my brother in the abbtry of St. Norbert and left him there ill." Since Middendorf had been "lodged near Ciudad Rodrigo," I deduced that I must visit this 'abbtry' to find more precise information about Ignaz' fate, and thus I must go to Ciudad Rodrigo.

With this slim bit of evidence, I traveled to Spain in summer, 2002, rented a car in Madrid, and drove north through Segovia, Avila, Salamanca and on to Ciudad Rodrigo, enjoying the beauty of the landscape and the charm of the ancient cities. On arriving at Ciudad Rodrigo, I asked the hotel clerk, "Where is the Monastery of Saint Norbert?"

"There's no such monastery here."

I groaned. All that time, all that money wasted.

The clerk threw me a sop. "But if you like monasteries, there is one outside the city. It's called Nuestra Senora de la Caridad, Our Lady of Charity."

"How can I find out more about it? Is it active? Does it have an archive?"

"The archivist at the Episcopal Palace may be able to help you."

Next morning, the archivist arrived around 11:00, after spending the morning at the local seminary teaching class and drinking coffee afterward with his students. I told him what I needed.

He thrust out his lower lip. "Hmmm. We have here the *Becerro* of La Caridad Monastery. The abbot foresaw the death of his monastery and had one of the monks summarize everything important from its foundation in 1165 to 1800. La Caridad was abandoned and secularized in 1814."

The *Becerro* was a huge, calf-bound, hand-written, folio volume. I didn't have much hope of finding anything, but began reading the monk's excellent handwriting from 1769, the year Ignaz landed in Spain. Nothing. I continued to scan, copied out an essay dictated by the abbot in 1774 about the suppression of the Society of Jesus, and then, turning a few more pages, I read, "On the 24th of May of 1775, the Royal Council sent a letter to our Father Abbot announcing their resolution that the ex-Jesuit don Ygnacio Pferkon [sic!] be imprisoned here..."

On succeeding pages were four further entries that summarized the correspondence between Madrid and La Caridad regarding Ignaz' conditions of imprisonment. I now had the material I needed to write the third book of the trilogy, but I still didn't know the whereabouts of Ignaz between 1769 and 1775.

Summer 2003:

Treutlein had mentioned St. Norbert's monastery. He'd been correct about Ciudad Rodrigo, so he was probably (I reasoned) correct about the name of the monastery where Ignaz was previously imprisoned. The only St. Norbert's I knew about had been in Madrid. Before leaving for Spain, I sent out a broadside e-mail to all Norbertine monasteries in the U.S. Wonderful help arrived: a bibliography of surviving Norbertine documents in Spain, mainly housed in the Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid. I was warned that these were in no particular order, since they had been salvaged helter-skelter after the general secularization of all Spanish monasteries in 1835 by order of the king.

Access to the Archivo was granted with my passport and a description of my research project. I was assigned table space in the general reading room, and with the Norbertine bibliography I'd brought, I was able to request bundles of documents, brought to me from the bowels of the archive. Service was rapid and efficient, lighting good, and if I'd brought a laptop, I could have used it, although I made do with pencil and paper (pens not allowed). But, after scanning nine boxes of documents (several thousand items), I'd found nothing. Oddly, almost no documents from the decade 1769-1779 had survived.

Earlier, I had contacted the Jesuit Archivist at the Vatican, asking if that collection had any information on Ignaz. Father Mark A. Lewis, S. J., told me I would certainly find something on the Sonora Jesuits in the Archivo de las Indias in Sevilla. I rented a car, drove down, and found a hotel in the oldest part of the city. In the magnificent central square with its vast cathedral and adjacent archive building, I was met with shock and

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'Storyteller' is a Sacred Word

By Carolyn Niethammer

All of us in WWW are in the broadest sense storytellers, but Waynetta Ausmus lists her profession as "storyteller." She shares her stories orally on her radio programs, CDs and at festivals, and in written form in a weekly newspaper column.

Waynetta and her husband, Marvin Brown, also a storyteller, live on the Lucky Me Ranch, 50 acres near the Red River and Lake Texoma in Texas, not far from the Oklahoma border.



Waynetta Ausmus is nuzzled by her paint horse, "Lucky Me Merry Go Girl" - Merry for short - on the Lucky Me Ranch. (Photo courtesy Waynetta Ausmus)

Like most ranches, the Lucky Me has barns and corrals for the various animals, which in Waynetta's case are not only cattle, horses and dogs, but also llamas, goats, guinea hens, and ducks. What's more unusual is that the Lucky Me also has a recording studio where Waynetta, a former teacher and school principal, puts together her programs, *Waynetta's Western Round-up*, an hour-long compilation of western music, cow-

boy poetry and interviews, and *Hide and Horn*, a two-minute story. The programs are then sent to the radio stations on CDs.

Where writers can and usually do work alone, storytellers need an audience, so the Lucky Me Ranch also includes a stage for the frequent storyteller gatherings. Waynetta and Marvin host audiences at the Lucky Me to listen to stories and music, go on trail rides, and enjoy cowboy cooking.

According to Waynetta, storytelling was the first performance art, probably starting back when humans first began to talk.

"Stories are powerful," she says. "They connect you with other people. Storyteller is a sacred word. We all have stories and nobody else can tell your story but you. Your story will affect someone; you don't know who, you just have to tell them."

Waynetta grew up hearing her parents and grandparents tell stories about people they knew. It was so much fun, she started telling stories herself when she was a child.

What makes a good story?

"Something you care deeply about," Waynetta says. "A story has to be told from the heart and simply. I lean toward characters a lot. I let my characters build the plot."

But, she says, telling a story is not the same as writing it. "You never tell a story the same way twice. The audience lets you know how to tell the story. You have to be open to that. Your stories also change over time; as you go along, your life changes."

As an example, Waynetta tells how she put together a story about a young horse that she had to put down. Waynetta feels very close to her horses and the death was a traumatic event for her. Even though writing the story was healing, it was

too difficult for her to tell it to others and she put the story away. After seven years, she was far enough emotionally from the event that she looked at the story again, changed it to third person and was able to add it to her repertoire.

For Waynetta, storytelling is not confined to the spoken word. "There are so many ways to tell your story," she says. "Music, dance, and movies are all ways to tell stories. Body language, facial expression, and the spirit you bring to it are all part of the telling."

And of course there is writing. Waynetta is working on a book of her stories that will be called *Tales from the Trails of the Lucky Me Ranch*.

“ A story has to be
told from the heart
and simply. ”

— Waynetta Ausmus

All of Waynetta's radio programs are posted on her Web site www.waynettaausmus.com and all of us who live out of the broadcast range of her radio shows can enjoy them through the miracle of modern Web technology.

— Carolyn Niethammer writes about Native Americans and edible wild plants. Her work, *The Prickly Pear Cookbook*, shares recipes from great professional chefs for the bright pink prickly pear fruit and the nutritious pads. Carolyn's newest, *The New Southwest Cookbook*, is out in bookstores now.

Brides for Brethren

Arizona Territory—1854-1883

By Harriet Rochlin

(Editor's Note: Harriet Rochlin writes of the Jewish women who pioneered in the Arizona Territory when it was dubbed "the rough-house of the nation." Her research on these little-known settlers—those who stayed and those who fled—inspired her lauded fictional series, *The Desert Dwellers* trilogy: *The Reformer's Apprentice*, *The First Lady of Dos Cacahuates*, and *On Her Way Home*.)

MARRIED

Mr. Drachman has received a letter from California which brings the gay tidings of the sudden and unexpected marriage of I. Goldberg – the everlasting *Lomo de Oro*. [A playful rendition of Goldberg in Spanish.] A few of his friends at the time of his departure for California some three months ago had a sneaking idea that his "pleasure trip" would result in some such tragedy.

Tucson Weekly Arizonan,
November 11, 1870.

Altar-shy frontier humor aside, to marry or not to marry, was a painful question for Arizona frontier busters like Goldberg. These men—the majority, young, broke and single—had chased opportunity into newly-acquired and embattled Arizona when it was still part of the New Mexico Territory. After the occupying American army left to fight in the Civil War, the settlers had to defend themselves. Those who escaped both assaulting Apaches and American and Mexican criminals, faced new trials: an untamed landscape, harsh elements, and the vicissitudes of nascent enterprises and cutthroat frontier politics.

In the mid-1860s and 1870s, frontier army posts were reactivated and American women trickled into new settlements. But until railroads linked the Arizona Territory to 19th century American civilization, an American woman of marriageable age was as noteworthy in that region as an unclaimed gold nugget.



Married in 1868, Rosa Katzenstein and Phil Drachman was the first Jewish couple to settle permanently in Tucson. (Photo courtesy Harriet Rochlin)

For Arizona's early Jewish pioneers, the scarcity of Jewish women posed a painful dilemma. Most were born in traditional Jewish communities and were emotionally tied to a heritage that saw a bachelor as no man at all, and those who took a spouse of another faith as dead. Far from home, each Jewish pioneer solved the *woman problem* in his own way. The few who were already married tended to leave their wives and children in settled communities, some temporarily, some permanently.

Hyman and Augusta (Drachman) Goldberg, both of Petrokov, Poland, married in Los Angeles in 1852. Ten years later, Hyman struck out for La Paz, a

rough gold mining settlement on the east bank of the Colorado River. Augusta and their four children waited in California for him to establish a home base. In La Paz, Ehrenburg, Prescott, Yuma, also later in Harshaw, Goldberg saw initial gains swept off by frontier calamities—fires, flash floods, bankruptcies. He finally rooted in Phoenix with Goldberg and Son, a clothing store. Augusta and the children joined him, and the Goldbergs became one of that city's earliest ongoing families.

Indigenous women proved irresistible to some Jewish first-comers. A non-Catholic who succumbed to their charms was likely to find himself the father of Catholic children, and, if not before, then on his death bed, a Catholic himself. Among the earliest and most enduring of these Jewish-Mexican unions were Alexander Levin and Xenona Molina, and Nathan Benjamin Appel and Victoria Torres.

Lacking the *con que*, with what, as well as the *con quien*, with whom, most of the early Jewish pioneers extended their bachelorhood for years, some, forever.

The first known Jewish bride, Rosa Katzenstein Drachman, arrived in Tucson in 1868. Her recollections of the perilous wagon journey across the desert explains why no woman had preceded her and why, for the next dozen years, only a smattering of most dutiful, love-struck or desperate Jewish women joined her.

The first Jewish wedding in Tucson was celebrated on June 26, 1879, with the fanfare due a frontier first. According to the *Arizona Daily Star*, July 1, 1879, the groom was Joseph Goldtree, of Berlin, Germany, a veteran of nine grueling years in the Arizona Territory. The bride was Lillie Marks of Sutter Creek, California, and the niece of Mrs. H. Solomen at whose home

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From the President: WWW Values at the Forefront of Our Efforts

By Jane Kirkpatrick,
WWW 2006 President/2007 WILLA
Chair

My first message as President brings to mind the word commitment. It comes from an old banking term meaning “to make a deposit” against which one could later draw. When we writers commit to telling a story, sending out an article, research for authenticity, attend a trade-show, volunteer to help at a WWW event or answer a question on the listserv,



we are making a deposit for ourselves and for others who love writing. Each writer I've met through WWW brings me back to the strength of storytellers and the deposits

they've made. When I read that 70,000 books a year are published I'm apt to say, “Why should I bother?” Then I remember that deposit. I didn't commit to writing the great American novel or to get Oprah to know my name. I committed to telling the stories I've been given the best way I know how and to trust that I'm not alone in that telling.

I belong to a number of writing organizations and they're all great. I discover new writers through them, hone my skills, find tidbits of juicy research facts. But WWW is the only organization whose board I agreed to serve on. I thought long and hard before committing because my writing time, like yours, is precious. I have a family and life and books to promote in addition to deadlines to meet.

I committed to this group because WWW is composed of people passionate about stories of the Women's West. These are stories where women are more than backdrops or hitching posts for men. I chose the group because as Virginia Wolfe noted, “Women's history must be invented...both uncovered and made up,” and our members excel in that unveiling with authenticity and professionalism. Our membership represents the versatility of Willa Cather who edited, wrote poetry, essays, short stories, novels and even had a book made

“ I committed to this group because WWW is composed of people passionate about stories of the Women's West.”

— Jane Kirkpatrick

into a film, whose adaptation it's said she didn't like.

I look to WWW as a place where these stories can best enter the mainstream because our members care so deeply about them and write them despite the publishing and marketing stories that say they won't sell.

WWW is also a group open to those not yet published and it's a place where my experience might help someone else through the maze to their accomplishing their dreams. Every published author remembers

approaching an agent with sweaty palms or pitching an editor with cotton stuck in her throat. Being around women (and men) who persisted, inspires.

Within this dynamic group I celebrate with every new publication, each member kudos or recognition received, every contribution made on the listserv, newsletter, catalog or conference because I know that people are keeping their commitments and when they do they discover what Johann Von Goethe did writing centuries ago: “...that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred.”

I've never met a finer group of storytellers and I'm both humbled and challenged to be asked to serve as president. My commitment is to keep the values of this organization at the forefront of our efforts and to do what I can in concert with each of you to promote the grand and powerful stories of the Women's West. I invite you to make similar deposits.

— Jane Kirkpatrick, named Distinguished Northwest Writer of 2005, is the award-winning author of 11 historical novels, including *A Name of Her Own*, and the *Wrangler Award*-winning novel, *A Sweetness to the Soul*.

Correction

In the Summer 2005 issue of the WWW newsletter, author Peggy Sanders' titles were incorrectly stated. The Book Expo America Report should have stated the books as, “The Civilian Conservation Corps In and Around the Black Hills,” and “Wind Cave National Park: The First 100 Years.”

Archival Adventures In Spain

Continued from page 12

disappointment: the building, erected by Carlos V around 1540, was being gutted for renovation.

However, I soon discovered where the offices were temporarily housed and applied to enter the collection next day. Red tape at the provincial level was more snarled than in Madrid. I needed a photograph. I needed a letter of introduction from my 'superior.' I offered my passport photo to copy, and told them that, as my own superior, I could write a letter for myself if they insisted.

After lengthy consultation, they admitted me to the general reading room where the computers are housed. There, the archivist, with studied condescension, showed me their program and how to work it, and brought up some general documents about Jesuit missionaries in New Spain. I scanned these, generally from the 17th century, then explored further on my own. I found a catalog entry for a series of documents about Sonora Jesuits in the 18th century, but the archivist informed me, "Sorry, you can't see those. They're in the other building."

I opened my mouth to protest.

He cut me off. "Sorry, Senora, but it's now past closing time. You'll need to come back tomorrow to consult the documents available on computer. Good day."

I left steaming, but the next day at 8:30 a.m. I went directly to the head archivist and explained to him that I had been told the documents I needed were in the building under renovation. "Is this correct?"

"Yes, Senora, I fear so."

"This is my situation, Senor. I've come 10,000 kilometers from the U.S. to get to Sevilla. I've been in touch with the Jesuit Archivist at the Vatican, who sent me here to consult those documents. If you'd like to confirm this with him, here's

his telephone number."

The archivist took two steps backward. "Well... Of course, you may see the documents, Senora...."

I consulted them under armed guard in a dusty antechamber of the old building. The documents were inventories of goods and passengers being loaded at the Port of Cádiz. Passengers—in this case the Jesuit missionaries—were described in minute physical detail, including birthplace, college, year of graduation and ordination, and of course destination. Every Jesuit who went to Sonora was described *except* for Ignaz and the three other Jesuits who embarked on his ship.

Summer 2004:

Still determined to find out where Ignaz was imprisoned between 1769-1775, I returned to the chase the next year, starting in the Archivo Nacional in Madrid. I continued searching Norbertine documents, then drove to Ciudad Rodrigo, returning to the Episcopal Archive, and touring the monastery once again. I also tried to find documents in the library of the University of Salamanca, all to no avail.

Feeling nearly hopeless by now, I returned to Madrid, three days before my flight home. I went back to the Archivo. There had been a Norbertine monastery in Valladolid by the name of St. Norbert, and I searched those documents, finding nothing. On the last day, I decided to look at correspondence relating to La Caridad Monastery and the Royal Treasury, since Ignaz' room and board had been paid by His Majesty. Eureka! In the last minute, I found the actual letters from the Royal Council to Abbot Gregorio Canada y Lobato at La Caridad, where it was revealed that Ignaz had been imprisoned at the Port of Santa María near Cádiz for the

entire six years prior to being moved to La Caridad. I was able to obtain copies of the letters, and the saga was over.

The next step? Perhaps a biography....

— Florence Byham Weinberg has devoted herself to writing fiction since retiring from academia. She has written eight novels in several genres, and includes scholarly works, contributions to literary dictionaries and Festschriften among her other credits.

Brides for Brethren

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the event took place. A large number of friends were present when the bride and groom took their places beneath a canopy supported by four unmarried gentlemen.

The next year, the Southern Pacific had spanned the territory from Yuma to Tucson and construction was continuing eastward. Settlers began arriving in families. A number were Jewish; some had marriageable daughters. With an 1883 diary entry, bachelor Mannie Lowenstein noted their advent as follows:

The young ladies here are two Miss Cohns, Miss Czerwinsky, three Miss Gotthelms, two Miss Goldtrees, two Miss Browns, two Miss Shuyers, Miss Wolf, Miss Elliot, Miss Ezekiel, Miss Kauffman, and Miss Laventhal.

Of these Miss Shuyer got married to Ch. Kirschbaum, Miss Laventhal to Mr. Kauffman, Miss Gotthelf to Mr. Abe Marks, Miss Brown to Herman Welisch, Miss Gotthelf to Mr. Wittshoefer, Miss Goldtree to Mr. Herman Shoenholtz.

— ©1980 Harriet Rochlin. For an unabridged version visit www.rochlin-roots-west.com Author's Corner. See also *Desert Dwellers* trilogy in Reading Group Choices 2006 on her Web site.

MEMBER NEWS: Accolades & Accomplishments

Compiled by Sarah Rickman

Lewis & Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President by Shirley Raye Redmond has topped \$126,000 in sales. Her **Patriots in Petticoats: Heroines of the American Revolution** was named one of the best children's books of 2005 by the Bank Street College of Education in NYC and her first historical novel for grown ups, **The Shepherd King** (set in New Mexico in 1891), will be released in trade paperback in the spring, 2006.

LaVerne Harrell Clark appeared on the Langdon Week-End of Readings by Authors/Photographers at the Langdon Center in Granbury, Texas, in celebration of the 2005 issue of *The Langdon Review*, the new literary magazine, published by Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas. The new issue spotlights LaVerne's and her husband's (novelist L.D. Clark) work as fiction writers. She read "Their Eyes Were On the Chickadee," a chapter from her novel-in-progress, tentatively titled **The Restoration**. Her essay on writing appears in the same issue. And, **LaVerne's** fourteenth article related to Mari Sandoz appears with four of her black and white photos in the Summer issue (V.35, No.1) of *Whispering Wind*, a popular magazine focusing on the American Indian: Past & Present. Titled "Mari Sandoz & Her Legacy," the article details the contributions Sandoz made in her writ-

ings about Plains Indians, especially in connection with the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and also provides information about the Indian accounts and records of the event. A review of her pictorial biography of Sandoz, **Mari Sandoz's Native Nebraska**, appears in the same issue of the magazine.

Linda Shuler's short-story manuscript, "The Fair Maiden and the Dragon Slayer," has been awarded Honorable Mention in the Mainstream/Literary Short Story category of the 74th Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition. Her story placed among 18,000 entries.

Helena, the story of Emperor Constantine's mother and the fourth book by **Francell Lee Schrader**, was recently published by iUniverse (www.iuniverse.com or 1-800-AUTHORS). Although the setting of this novel is 3rd.4th century and "...a far cry from my first book about a lady of early Colorado," **Francell**, a best-selling author (*Denver Post* Best-Seller List) says the stories are similar.

Apache Lance, Franciscan Cross, the latest historical novel and originally an e-book by **Florence Byham Weinberg**, is officially out in print (Twilight Times Books, www.twilighttimesbooks.com). Half the profits from this book are being donated to the Las Misiones Capital Campaign in San Antonio, TX, for the restoration and maintenance of the five historic missions founded between 1718 and 1731 along a nine-mile strip of the San Antonio River. In addition to many booksignings, Florence says promotion of the book has begun in print media, including a piece in the monthly magazine, *Scene in SA*, and an interview in *Today's Catholic*, a weekly Archdiocesan newspaper. Upcoming promos will be TV and

radio events.

Irene Bennett Brown's cousin, who is a dollmaker, presented her with a character doll at a summer family reunion. The doll, named Aurelia after the same character in the novel **No Other Place**, wears the matching print skirt that **Irene's** artist daughter designed as part of the book's cover and, for the background image, used pioneer-era fabric from her other daughter's quilt shop. The doll can be seen on Irene's Web site, www.irenebennettbrown.com, under the Books section.

Diane L. Goeres-Gardner's novel, **Necktie Parties: Legal Executions in Oregon 1851-1905**, has garnered recent accolades in both the *Oregonian* newspaper and in the *Statesman Journal* (Salem, OR) Northwest Roundup Section. "My best newspaper review yet," she says of the *Statesman's* review. A portion of the review reads that **Diane's** "...book is written smoothly and includes great detail. The voice of the author is dispassionate, but learned. **Necktie Parties** is an instant addition to 'must-have' Oregon history."

An original short story titled "Patches" by **Carolyn Harris**, has been published in the newly-released **Chicken Soup for the Cat Lover's Soul**, the most recent book in the #1 NY Times best-selling **Chicken Soup for the Soul** series. This book contains all new *real* stories about *real* cats—and the special people who love them. **Carolyn's** story, about a long-haired calico who thinks she's been abandoned for the second time, was selected from thousands of other potential stories to be included in this latest release.

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MEMBER NEWS: Accolades & Accomplishments

Continued from page 17

Melanie Chrimer's children's book, *Phoebe Clappsaddle and the Tumbleweed Gang* (Pelican Publishing Co., illustrated by Virginia Marsh Roeder) won the 2005 Golden Spur award, presented recently by the Texas State Reading Association (TSRA).

While Pamela Cosel pursues her "usual writing opportunities," she is now an independent bookseller with Books Are Fun, a Reader's Digest company, in its business division.

Renee Thompson has acquired agent Karen Rudnicki of the Gernert Company. Karen is representing Renee's historical novel, *Sheepman's Daughter*, for which she's received blurbs from Larry McMurtry and WWW's own Jane Kirkpatrick.

"Allison's Composition," a new short story by Lori Van Pelt, can be viewed at online magazine, www.readwest.com, which features authors and books of Western literature.

Celeb Sightings

√At the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO, Jerrie Hurd was one of six artists and the only photographer invited to the prestigious photo show and

sale. "It's an honor," she said, adding that the event showcased her non-writing talents.

√At the Highlands Ranch (CO) location of the Tattered Cover Bookstore, Joyce Lohse appeared for a presentation and booksigning about her award-winning novel, *Justina Ford, Medical Pioneer*, as well as her forthcoming book, *Emily Griffith, Opportunity's Teacher*, part of a new series called "Now You Know Bios" from Filter Press. She also appeared at the Colorado History Museum in Denver along with WWW author Mary Peace Finley, and author John Stansfield.

√At the Mountains and Plains Booksellers Conference, WWW members from up north in Wyoming, Nancy Curtis of High Plains Press, and Echo Klapproth with the Wyoming Writers along with Colorado native Joyce Lohse.

√At Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, LaVerne Harrell Clark and hubby L.D. participated in the Visiting Writers' Series, a part of ATU's M.F.A. and undergraduate creative writing programs. LaVerne and L.D. were also sighted at the Texas Books Festival in Austin, "Christmas on the Square" in Fayetteville, and the University of Mary Hardin Baylor Writers' Conference, held in Belton, TX.

√At the California Writers Club (CWC), Berkeley Chapter, Ginger Wadsworth, Laurel Hill and Ann Parker presented a panel discussion about organizations they belong to and recommend.

√At the King's English Bookstore in Salt Lake City, UT, Nancy E. Turner discussed and signed her latest novel, *Sarah's Quilt*.

√At radio station KJLL AM in Tucson, AZ, Sherry Monihan was interviewed about her newest release, *The Wicked West: Boozers,*

Cruisers, Gamblers, and More.

At the Tattered Cover LoDo (downtown Denver, CO), Suzanne Lyon launched her latest release. *A Heart for Any Fate*, which is based on the true story of her great-great-great-great-grandmother.

— Send your member news, accolades and accomplishments to Sarah Byrn Rickman, SRick18153@aol.com.

An Invitation – Post a Message

In our organization, the value of the West and the women associated with it is identified by the land itself and expressed with love through our writing. Western folks sometimes look at things, past and present, a little differently than those from other parts. We embrace that, too. For if you take the grace of the wind they call Mariah, the power of the Colorado River that reveals millenniums before man, the admired beauty of the golden eagle, the traditions and courage of the Texican "Come and Get It" spirit, and link all of this (and everything in between) with the intangible female heart—look out! *This* is who we are.

The flavor we wish to recognize and perpetuate is found between the pages of our books. Join us in the adventure of rich conversations and exchanges; information on writing today, western history, and marketing for the future. Our listserv is designed to expand these and other aspects of the subject we celebrate—the Women's West. Come join the conversation, post a message at WomenWritingtheWest@yahoo.com

"Let me never become"

(Editor's Note: This poem was written as an exercise during **Calisthenics: Poetry Exercises To Wake Up the Muse**, a conference workshop presented by WILLA Winner/Finalist Ellen Waterston.)

Let me never become
old in my ways of
thinking, acting or being.

Let me ever become
open and loving,
accepting and forgiving.

Let me never become
stingy with love or forgiveness,
truth or desire.

Let me ever become
friend not foe,
giver not taker,
rudder not sinker.

Let me never become
the fears of my youth,
the regrets of my aging,
the confusions of my middleness.

Arletta Dawdy
10/22/05

Membership Renewals

Please remember that renewal month for WWW memberships is January. Renewal forms will be sent to all current members around January 1, with renewals due on January 31.

For those of you who itemize your tax deductions, consider sending in your renewal check EARLY so you can deduct your 2006 membership fee on your 2005 tax return. Simply send in your check with the application form from the web site or copied from the back of the newsletter or catalog. Fill in the information as you wish it to appear in the member directory. Mark the form as a RENEWAL form.

Thank you,
Joyce Lohse, WWW Administrator

WELCOME New Members

July 15 – November 15, 2005

J. Emerita Anderson – San Luis, CO –
emerkent@fone.net

Shannon Applegate – Yoncalla, OR –
applero@rosenet.net

Jane Archer – Richardson, TX –
archer8@airmail.net

Patricia Berry – The Colony, TX –
pberry@perriergroup.com

Jo Brew – Eugene, OR –
jbrew@teleport.com

Elizabeth Bruce – Washington, D.C. –
elizabethbruce@hotmail.com

Betty Jo Cardona – Colorado Springs, CO –
beej@rmi.net

Stacy Gillett Coyle – Parker, CO –
scoyle@du.edu

Linda Crew – Corvallis, OR –
LJC1@earthlink.net

Gretchen Craig – Denton, TX –
glcraig@verizon.net

Katharine Curry – Colorado Springs, CO –
kronkate@adelphia

*W. Michael Farmer – Suffolk, VA –
westernfiction@aol.com

Debra Faulkner – Thornton, CO –
Dfaulkner@JLFaulkner.com

Charlene Finn – Seattle, WA –
finscrib@speakeasy.net

Karen Casey Fitzjerrell – San Marcos, TX –
kcfitz@ev1.net

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