



WOMEN[®]

Writing the West

www.womenwritingthewest.org

Winter 2002

The Assignment - Inspire Us

By Jane Kirkpatrick

"Inspire us," conference chairman Sybil Downing said. "Help us remember why we write." Inspire, Latin, inspirare, "to stimulate" and "the act of breathing in."

Let the geese lead. They inhale air. It permeates their porous bones so they can draw upon the inspiration, later. It permits endurance, perseverance, the capacity to overcome the barriers that would keep them grounded when they would choose to fly.

So I asked the conferees two questions. First, what experience did you want to have by showing up in Denver? Why are you here instead of in a dozen other places you could choose to be? It's the question we must ask our characters, and it's the question of intention for a writer.

Some came for connection. Some for nurture – let another cook and clean a day or two. A few sought facts and data, ways to craft a scene, pub-

lish and promote. Some came to celebrate their nomination for a Willa, as well they should. Many came for inspiration, to find the fuel that would let them recommit to a story that, as author Margaret Coel noted, has chosen them to tell. I ask the question of every group to whom I speak, whether they are a state's mayors, foster parents or farmers. Asking what experience I

want to have when I sit down to write – or in any given moment -- increases the chance that I will let myself receive that experience.

Then I assigned part two: what barriers will you use to keep yourself from having the experience you want? Ah, here we writers truly create.

Instead of allowing myself to have connection – to my story, to other writers, to myself – I feel unworthy. "Who am I to be here with these incredible women? What would they think if they knew I'd had manuscripts rejected and yet call myself a writer? I couldn't ask a question. They'd think I was foolish." So I give no eye contact, introduce myself to no one new. I leave telling others later, "That wasn't a very friendly group. I won't go back." I do that to my stories too, leave them by saying I'm not worthy for the telling. Their voices go unheard.

I write for nurture, to be lost inside a place and time as though I lived there now. To be comforted, by words, or as in Denver, to share conversation and eat fine food served in an ambience of elegance instead of crusted jam. But guilt shows up instead. "I shouldn't spend this kind of money on myself. I don't deserve this intensity and passion." Better to feel guilty than to fill up with joy. It makes me more like others.

Some came to Denver for wisdom, to find that perfect piece of information. Who among us hasn't marveled at the discovery of a tidbit that makes a whole scene work? But our critical side kicks in. Instead of celebrating (a word that means "to fill,

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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 \$225
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NEWSLETTER:

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 Half page \$160
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www.womenwritingthewest.org

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2001 WWW Conference Wrap-Up

By Sybil Downing

The 7th annual WWW conference held in Denver the weekend of October 19th seemed in many ways almost like a shelter from the storm. Following the September Eleventh tragedies, the numbers were fewer but the spirit was strong. Somehow everyone was looking for – and seemed to find – a connection with others that might not have been as available in past years.



Laurie Buyer, award-winning poet, opens conference.

Speaker after speaker shared her inspirational thoughts on why, now more than ever, writing is important. Why we must keep “pushing the envelope” and think in new ways. Why we must write from the heart, no matter the risks and possibilities of disappointment.

One Word – Inspiration

One word summed up the entire weekend – *inspiration*. Friday’s program with Laurie Wagner Buyer, award-winning Colorado poet, started the weekend, speaking of the power of creativity through poetry.

“What a bounteous, beautiful, exceptional experience creativity is,” she said. “How can we not yearn to share our poems, our stories, our thoughts, when they come to us

begging for expression. We may occasionally cuss the creative process when it isn’t going well or when we are frustrated or disappointed. Mostly we celebrate creativity for the incomparable gift it is, a gift given to us by powers unseen and mostly unknown, a gift that we are required by moral and spiritual duty to give back.”

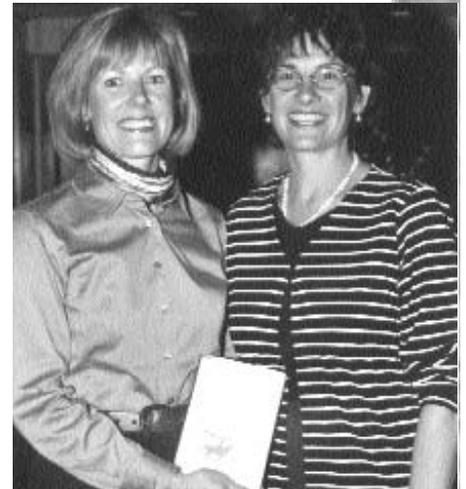
Buoyed by Laurie’s words and thoughts, we hopped the Sixteenth Street shuttle to Tattered Cover Bookstore in historic lower downtown (LoDo) for another celebration. Along with our own **Paige Ramsey-Palmer** and **Laurie Buyer**, six local celebrities ranging from **Stephanie Riggs**, Emmy-award winning CBS TV anchor and author, to **Tom Noel**, raconteur and history professor, to **Irene Rawlings**, Clear Channel Broadcasting interviewer, to **Stephen Topping**, editor of Johnson Books, to **Tom Walker**, *The Denver Post* book review editor, read selections from each category of 2001 WILLA finalists’ books.

Saturday Line Up

Saturday started with keynote speaker **Jane Kirkpatrick**, whose latest book is sixteenth on the national best-selling list for the Christian market. Her theme, *Why We Write*, was a perfect kickoff for the day. A writer must



Jane Kirkpatrick, best-selling author, inspires with “why we write.”



“How Writing Your Passion Can Become a Bestseller.” Author Mary Midkiff and Literary agent Jody Rein.

ask herself: *What experience do I want to have from this work, and what are the barriers out there to keep me from having it?* Most important, the writer must be able to make a commitment to something beyond herself, and she must know what she has control over and not waste time with disclaimers. (*See the synopsis of her motivational speech on page 1 of this issue.*)

And what better segue than **Jody Rein**, former New York editor and now successful literary agent, and her client, **Mary Midkiff**, as they showed how a writer’s passion could become a bestseller. Walking us through every step—from their meeting to publication—they took us from a germ of an idea, based on Mary’s passion for horses, to draft after draft that followed. Building the “platform”

2001 WWW Conference Wrap-Up



Margaret Coel, 2001 Willa winner, says "the stories find you."

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that would showcase their wares from writing through the publishing process, booksellers placed *She Flies without Wings: How Horses Touch a Woman's Soul* on their store shelves.

They agreed that timing, that all-important and uncontrollable element, played a part. But more important was their mutual commitment to the project and the intelligence and hard work they brought to it.

And speaking of best sellers – luncheon speaker and WWW founding member **Margaret Coel** believes stories find you. They almost beg you to write them. So you must listen to that Siren call. She gave the example of her award-winning nonfiction book on the life of Chief Left Hand which led to her successful Father John mystery series, set on Wyoming's Wind River reservation. (The sixth book of the series, *Spirit Woman*, was the 2001 WILLA winner for contemporary fiction.)

Next up were three writers/publishers: **Evelyn Kaye**, owner of

Blue Panda Publications and travel writer, including *Amazing Traveler: Isabella Bird* in which she retraced Bird's travels in the West and in Japan, **Karen Foulk**, who writes and publishes her highly successful Into Fun Books, and **Paula Boyd**, at the time WWW's president. Kaye saw the appeal of not depending on New York, and Foulk was intrigued with the possibilities of offering the public *101 Fun Things to Do in Houston*. But while they both admitted the freedom of publishing your own work has its pluses, they pulled no punches as they spelled out the hazards and the enormous work self-publishing involves.

Boyd said she had had her fill of rejects from New York. She believed in her mystery, *Dead Man Falls* (this year's WILLA winner for original paperback) and wasn't about to give up on it. So she created Diomo Press (*Did It On My Own*).

Is self-publishing worth the work and the frustrations? Maybe, maybe not. At least one member of the audience admitted that she'd come to the conference ready to take the plunge and changed her mind.

The final panel of the day was focused on how projects can find you and not the other way around, in "Sell Everything You Write – Writing in Multiple Genres." Veteran magazine writer **Lisa Turner's** penchant for seeing the humorous side of life has influenced so much of what she has written and sold. **Suzanne Lianson** started out writing articles for business journals that gradually turned

into projects for the Internet that spun off into work for sports magazines. And, lastly, **Sybil Downing** started with a scholarly biography, footnotes and all, and from it came three novels, each using some piece of the research she'd done for the biography.

Awards, Awards, and More

Saturday evening, to set the stage for the WILLA awards, nationally-known **Dr. Patricia Nelson Limerick**, MacArthur Foundation fellow and chair for the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, used liberal doses of humor in her informative presentation. She discussed of what happens when anyone tampers with the myth of the American West, as she did with her *Legacy of Conflict*. Her advice? Go forward but, at the same time, don't be surprised by the wide range of reaction you and your writing may stir.

After Dr. Limerick set the stage for excellence, President Paula Boyd announced that before the Willa



"Pros and Cons of Starting Your Own Publishing Company". From left to right; Michelle Black, Paula Boyd, Evelyn Kaye and Karen Foulk.

awards, we had special presentations of a newly created tribute for "service beyond the call of duty," the *Sybil Downing Meritorious Service Award*. Founder Sybil Downing received the first award, and Founders **Jerrie Hurd**, **Jane**

2001 WWW Conference Wrap-Up



"Sell Everything You Write" From left to right; Lisa Turner, Suzanne Lianson and Sybil Downing.

Valentine Barker, and Carol Bauer also were honored with beautiful plaques for their long-time service to the organization. Outgoing President **Paula Boyd** was also honored with a special award for her dedication and hard work as a board member, catalog and newsletter editor, and finally, president.

Paige Ramsey-Palmer and **Cindy Leal Massey** presented the 2001 Willa Literary Awards to finalists who were present, reading comments from the librarian/historian judges who undertook the tough job of choosing a winner from the excellent books entered. (See related photos included in this issue.)

Many Faces of Creativity

Sunday morning, over morning pastries and coffee, the focus shifted to the visualization of the West, beginning with **Joan Markowitz**, art curator and consultant to the Women of the West Museum. Markowitz provided a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the most recent work of four much-acclaimed artists of different ethnic backgrounds—**Hung Liu, Anita Rodriguez, Alison Saar, and Emmi Whitehorse**. The Women of the West Museum commissioned their prints and displayed them at the International Print Center's "New Prints 2001" exhibition in New York in Summer 2001.

Kathleen Jo Ryan, winner of the 1999 WILLA for her memoir *Writing Down the River*, who took us through her personal journey that allowed her to visualize the West through photography. Aided by **Page Lambert**, who read from her essay included in the memoir, Ryan explained how she came to link her passion with the written word.

The 7th annual WWW conference was special, due as much to the participants as the speakers. Without question, the greatest kudos and my personal thanks, must go to **Jerrie Hurd**, WWW co-founder, former president, visionary,



Keynote speaker Patricia Nelson Limerick, McArthur Foundation Fellow and history chair at University of Colorado.

Women of the West Museum board member, fine writer and valued friend. Her amazing ability to see past the obvious and focus on what truly matters came through again. The 2001 conference could have happened without her able assistance.

Sybil Downing, conference chair and WWW co-founder, is an award-winning author of three acclaimed historical novels, 13 Young Adult and children's books, and a biography.

*Thank you
to all who
participated
in the 2001
conference!*



Joan Markowitz, art curator, and Kathleen Jo Ryan (not shown) presented "visualizing the West" through art.

Willa Literary Award Winners and Finalists!

Honoring books
published in 2000.



• Best Contemporary Fiction:
Christine Andreae, Finalist and
Margaret Coel, Winner.

• Best Memoir/Essay:
Caroline Marwitz,
Co-Finalist.



Best Memoir/Essay: Juliene Bair,
Winner and Iris Keltz, Co-Finalist.

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Best Historical Fiction:
Sandra Dallas, Finalist.



Best Original Paperback: Christine
Goff, Finalist and Paula Boyd, Winner.



Best Young Adult:
Dianne Gray,
Co-Winner.



Best Poetry: Veronica Patterson, Winner.



Best Non-Fiction: Sherry
Robinson, Finalist.

BEST CONTEMPORARY FICTION:

Margaret Coel for *Spirit Woman*
Finalists: **Christine Andreae** for *Smoke
Eaters* and **Sands Hall** for *Catching
Heaven*

BEST HISTORICAL FICTION:

JoAnn Levy for *For California's Gold*
Finalists: **Sandra Dallas** for *Alice's Tulips*
and **Vella Munn** for *Soul of the Earth*

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK:

Paula Boyd for *Dead Man Falls*
Finalists: **Elizabeth Grayson** for *Painted
by the Sun* and **Christine Goff** for *A Rant
of Ravens*

BEST YOUNG ADULT:

Pam Muñoz Ryan for *Esperanza Rising*
and **Dianne E. Gray** for *Holding Up the
Earth*
Finalist: **Randall Beth Platt** for *The Likes
of Me*

BEST CHILDREN'S:

Jackie Mims Hopkins for *Horned Toad
Prince*
Finalists: **Joan Lowery Nixon** for *Ghost
Town: Seven Ghostly Stories*

BEST NON-FICTION:

Louise S. Robbins for *The Dismissal of
Miss Ruth Brown*
Finalists: **Sherry Robinson** for *Apache
Voices* and **Shirley Leckie** for *Angie Debo*

BEST POETRY:

Veronica Patterson for *Swan, What
Shores?*
Finalists: **Linda Hasselstrom** for *Bitter
Creek Junction* and **Rosemerry Wahtola
Trommer** for *if you listen: poems & pho-
tographs*

BEST MEMOIR/ESSAY:

Julene Bair for *One Degree West:
Reflections of a Plainsdaughter*
Finalists: **Iris Keltz** for *Scrapbook of a
Taos Hippie* and **Caroline Marwitz** for
*Naming the Winds: A High Plains
Apprenticeship*

The Assignment - Inspire Us

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frequently") that discovery through writing of something I didn't know I knew until I wrote it, I say instead: "I must have read that somewhere else. How could I know that?" Or worse, I question the wisdom of my source. "What does she really know about the Arikara Indians? Does she have a Ph.D.? Has she published a hardcover book? Better keep asking. Can't finish that story. No wisdom here."

Then there's inspiration. It's why I speak to groups, to find a way to help them hurdle barriers to seek what will see them through, to trust the power of their story and that all they need to tell it, lies within them. But I'm not always available to inspire. Lettuce stuck in my tooth or new panty hose keeps me from being inspirational. When I write, I easily ground inspiration. "Why do I bother? Fifty thousands books a year are published. This is drivel. How can I expect others to read this while their toilets need cleaning?" Then I leave to clean my own.

Anne Lamont in her book *Bird* by *Bird* tells the story of shopping with her friend who is dying of cancer. Anne looks great in her new outfit and leaves the dressing room for confirmation. "How do I look?" "Terrific," says her friend. But instead of taking it in, allowing it to inspire her, to fill her up, Anne discounts and distracts. "You don't think it makes me look too fat?" Her friend, sitting in her wheelchair with her wig on crooked; her friend who will be dead in two weeks says,

"Oh Anne. You don't have time for that."

That phrase is over my computer. And when I feel guilty, distract myself, discount my passion or my story, feel disconnected, suppress the joy of doing something I so love to do, I read that phrase: You don't have time for that. September 11 just confirmed it.

*"Then there's inspiration.
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it, lies within them."*

And then the biggest barrier of all: to not be present, to be living instead with morbid memory or in the future filled with toxic worry. "If there when grace dances, I should dance," wrote W.H. Auden. To dance with grace, we have to be present. In fact, the word experience means "to be present."

Margaret Coel in her grand luncheon address said one of her prayers when she writes is, "Please don't let this be dull." My prayer is this: "Please help me enter and live inside my story." I think they go together. It's difficult to be dull if we're present. One more Master quote hangs in my office. It keeps me flying when I think I

can't. Goethe wrote that what people don't realize is "once you make a commitment to something then Providence moves. Things begin to happen you otherwise couldn't imagine." So I commit. Not to write the great American novel, not to have Oprah know my name or not even to win a Willa. My commitment is to be present, to assume the position of a writer each day, to allow myself the intensity and pleasure of doing what I love, believing I am not alone there. And when I feel unworthy or I see a barrier ahead, I remind myself: My only task is to tell the story, the best way I know how. If we do that, we will enrich our lives and touch the lives of others in the process. Any Willa or Wrangler will be just whipped cream on the dessert we give ourselves.

Jane Kirkpatrick is the author of seven novels and two non-fiction books. Her latest novel is a bestseller and her first earned a Wrangler. Showing up to write is still her best reward.

Welcome from the President's Corner

It is with pleasure that I send a hearty New Year's welcome to you as President of Women Writing the West. With the advent of 2002 came a host of new, exciting opportunities for us all. Most important, we welcome three members into board positions: Cindy Leal Massey as President Elect, Joyce Lohse as Secretary, and Gail Weaver Mello as Treasurer.

Because of personal obligations, Michelle Black resigned as President, and I will now serve my presidential year in 2002. Also, because of personal obligations, Cindy Bonner resigned as Treasurer.

Cindy Leal Massey moved into President Elect from Secretary, and we know she will do a wonderful job. WWW will be in good hands with her at the helm next year.

We are very pleased to welcome Joyce Lohse as Secretary and Gail Weaver Mello as Treasurer to our board for 2002. Both of these members are highly qualified, and we know they bring a tremendous amount of expertise and enthusiasm to the WWW Board.

My goal this year as President is to get more members involved in leadership, with manageable jobs to keep the organization going and growing. This is your organization – and we want you to be as

involved as you would like to be.

Please watch for leadership opportunities that interest you in the next few months. With our newsletter and catalog publications, Willa Literary Award contest and annual conference presentations with Good Books Lately Literary Consulting Company, there will be many ways that you can become involved. Coordinators in every area are listed in this newsletter and on the Web site. Just drop anyone a line and share your ideas or interests.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2002!

Paige Ramsey-Palmer – President

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The Rocky Mountain Book Festival

April 13-14, 2002

Univ. of Denver's Ritchie Center

Laurie Wagner Buyer, assisted by Page Lambert, is coordinating WWW's participation. Hear our members in special panels. Among the programs featured are:

Lit From Within: Passion's Poetic Voice: Moderator Gaydell Collier, with Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Nancy Curtis, and Laurie Wagner Buyer as they read their work and talk about why we write and publish poetry.

Memoir: The Art of Remembering, the Craft of Recreating: Moderator Laurie Wagner Buyer with Julene Bair, Gaydell Collier, Caroline Marwitz, and Mary Midkiff, all writers who have traversed the landscape of memories in their work.

WILLA Literary Award finalists and winners read and discuss their books: Paula Boyd, moderator, with Carol Bauer, Julene Bair, Christine Goff, Caroline Marwitz, and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, showcase the diversity of women's stories set in the West.

Sponsored by the Colorado Center for the Book, this event draws an audience from the entire Rocky Mountain area.

WILLA ENTRY DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING!

Willa Literary Awards entries honoring books published during 2001 are due by March 1, 2002

Willa Literary Award is a nationally recognized award given to writers annually for books featuring women's stories set in the West. Be sure to enter your special book published during 2001. Professional librarians select winners and finalists.

Complete information and forms are available:

- on the Web site, www.womenwritingthewest.org
- by writing Women Writing the West, 8547 E. Arapahoe Rd., #J-541, Greenwood Village, CO 80112-1436
- by contacting Paula Boyd at (303) 838-7564 or by e-mail at paulab@macconnect.com.
- by download for members at YahooGroups, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WomenWritingtheWest/files/2002%20WILLA%20Application.rtf>

2002 CONFERENCE - CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

WWW OPENS THE RANGE!

This year we are taking our message public
Oct. 25-27, 2002 at the Brown Palace in Denver!
Great Books Lately (GBL) and WWW will feature WWW Talent
Member Proposal Submission Deadline
March 1, 2002

We invite our WWW members to submit a proposal for a program, panel discussion, or individual presentation, to be presented Saturday, Oct. 26, 2002.

GBL, a literary consulting company, will market our members and our organization by offering a series of panels that will be irresistible, exciting and valuable to the reading and writing public. That's where the diversity of our members comes in, to design our program elements.

**See the sidebar information for submission or questions
about the proposals or conference.**

From its inception, WWW has been on the cutting edge of writers' organizations, finding new ways to promote and reward excellence in writing about the women's West. Join us as we continue this tradition of innovation.

Create a panel on any topic, in any format, so long as it relates to women in the West and/or women writing about the West. Deadline March 1, 2002.

- Create an individual panel, or with a fellow member or members.
- Design a panel that helps an aspiring writer find her voice.
- Have a panel that mixes poetry recitation and creative inspiration.
- Lead a panel on how to best research historical topics.
- Discuss how to go about finding a publisher.
- Lead a cooking class if you're a cookbook writer.
- Plan a group discussion of women's stories on today's ranch if you're a rancher.

For panel submissions to GBL: Deadline March 1, 2002.

By e-mail: ellen@goodbookslately.com or kira@goodbookslately.com

By regular mail:

Good Books Lately
Attn: Conference and Event Team,
PO Box 12259
Denver, CO 80212-0259

Call Ellen or Kira at GBL (303) 744-8000 with questions about proposals.

Call [REDACTED] with questions about the conference in general.

Research Round Up

CIVIL WAR AND RELATED SITES

Douglass, Frederick — 1817?-1895

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/dough.html/doughome.html>

Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress collects 2,000 items about "Douglass's life as an escaped slave, abolitionist, editor, orator, and public servant." From the American Memory Project of the Library of Congress.

Arkansas History and Heritage

http://arkansas.com/history_heritage/

Information about the state's history, heritage, people, geography, name, natural resources, climate, industry, and agriculture, with sections on the Civil War, Native Americans, and African Americans.

Weapons of the Civil War

<http://militaryhistory.about.com/cs/weapons/>

The American Civil War had so many casualties due to increased weapons technology. The firearms were far more accurate and powerful than in previous wars, yet the battlefield tactics of massing large forces together were still utilized. Read about the devastating effects these weapons had.

Black Dispatches: Black American Contributions to Union Intelligence in the Civil War

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/dispatches/>

"Black Dispatches" highlights the contributions made by African Americans to the intelligence efforts of the Union during the Civil War, describing the work of several slaves, both male and female, who acted as intelligence agents.

ABOUT THE WEST, INCLUDING CANADA:

The Canadian West: Anticipation, Contact, Accommodation

http://www.archives.ca/05/0529/052901_e.html

About Canada's westward expansion, from the 18th century search for a Northwest Passage to the social protest movements of the early 1900s. More than 200 artifacts and primary sources relating to such topics as the fur trade, immigration, railroads, and the First Nations (aboriginal peoples). Sponsored by the Canadian National Archives, the site is also available in French.

News from Native California

<http://www.heydaybooks.com/news/>

A California Indian events calendar and a page of links to museums and cultural centers, tribes, and other resources about the state's native populations.

The Muwekma Ohlone

<http://www.muwekma.org/>

Official site of the Muwekma Ohlone Indians, "the original inhabitants of San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area," contains news, history, a photo gallery, and links to other Native American sites. Much of the site documents their legal struggle for federal recognition, for which there is an online petition.

JEWISH-RELATED SITES:

Virtual Chanukah 2001

<http://www.virtualchanukah.com/>
Includes a Chanukah how-to section, the story of Chanukah, Olive Drops (a thought for each night), a place to share a Mitzvah, Tales of Light, Chanukah insights, games, audio and video files, public lightings, and recipes. There is also an Ask the Rabbi link where one can ask about Jewish ritual and spirituality.

Jewish Short Stories From Eastern Europe and Beyond

<http://www.kcrw.org/b/jss.html>
This collection of 32 short stories from all over the world explores what it means to be Jewish in the modern world. Actors such as Leonard Nimoy, Rhea Pearlman, Lauren

Bacall, and Jerry Stiller read stories by Sholom Aleichem, I.B. Singer, I.L. Peretz, Isaac Babel, Grace Paley, Cynthia Ozick, and other well-known authors.

SOME WRITING-RELATED SITES:

Fiction Critiquing 101

Tips on how to benefit from a critique group, and how to become an effective critiquer.

<http://www.cyberus.ca/~alette/Critique.htm>

Internet Publishing

Piers Anthony's extensive list of electronic publishers, with a review of each (find out who doesn't pay, etc.).

<http://www.hipers.com/publishing.html>

Journals

Links to the Web sites of a wide range of professional, scientific, and academic journals.

<http://www.msu.edu/user/pod/celj/links.htm>

American University Presses

Links to an extensive list of university presses. <http://aap.uchicago.edu>

The Writer's Lounge

This site is on writing essays, essay markets, and personal journaling.

<http://writerslounge.com/>

The Internet Public Library

Collections of articles, e-zines, and links to magazines and periodicals, electronic texts, and more.

<http://www.ipl.org>

Find Almost Anything

This is an interesting site to locate information about just about anything on the Web. Priscilla Maine reported that she was stymied in finding contact information for a company, but she did a search on this site and found everything she needed. Check it out. <http://www.whois.net/>

Marketing WWW in 2002

By Sherry Monahan, VP-Marketing

Question: "What do you get for working a couple of hours at a WWW trade booth?"

Answer: How does an article assignment for *Arizona Highways*, a contract with Arcadia Publishing to publish a book about Pikes Peak, Colorado, and a printer for my next book sound? All of this happened when I attended the Book Expo America in Chicago last year. That was my first experience with a trade show. I'm not the only one who has had this experience – just ask Paige Ramsey-Palmer. Paige attended the Mid-South Trade Show in Oklahoma this year, and while on break, she visited other booths. A sales rep from a publishing company took her book back to their home office and an editor contacted her about how to use her children's book to create another non-fiction book using a similar theme.

These situations are not unique. So many of our members have benefited from volunteer situations and giving their time. Many of our marketing efforts do entail our members' giving their time so that WWW, a non-profit organization, can have a presence at an event. What we gain is usually much greater than what we give, so to give a lot means to get a lot in return.

Share WWW Anywhere You Go

Since its inception, Women Writing the West continues to gain credibility throughout the publishing industry. Librarians, booksellers, publishers, and newspapers, as well as many others now know who we are.

To continue making our presence known, we need to attend trade shows, visit public libraries and book stores, and let the wide world of the Internet know who we are. We need to take our

catalogs and 2001 Willa Award brochures to all these places and more. For those who do book signing events, take them along. Book stores love to have an angle when they're promoting an author. Carry WWW membership brochures with you and give one to any writer you meet who shares our interests. (Contact Anne Nelson for the materials.)

Our organization consists of a wonderful group of people – our membership and its diversity are what make us so great. Also, our continued growth depends on every one of us. At this year's conference, numerous people stepped up and offered to take on responsibility. If everyone of us could pitch in and do a little something, like hand out catalogs, contribute stories to our newsletter, attend a trade show, or serve on a sub-committee, we can achieve even greater success.

Trade Show Workers Needed for 2002

As Marketing VP, I need to recruit coordinators for the coming year to handle our trade shows, and these coordinators need workers at the shows. We must have workers if we are going to underwrite these events. Working at a trade show can be beneficial in so many ways:

- First, it promotes a wonderful organization and gets the WWW catalog, which lists many of our books, in the right people's hands.
- Second, during your breaks from the WWW booth, you get to wander around, meet people, and network..
- If you have a book to promote, you will take a turn at "The Author is in" where you prominently display your book.
- If you are an unpublished writer, you will have exposure to all sides

of the publishing and book marketing world. Much to learn from book publishers and sellers!

For those of you who have never attended, watch for our trade show schedule and consider representing WWW. You'll be scheduled for only a few hours over the weekend, and you may just find your next publisher or agent! Contact sherry@wildwestinfo.com to sign up for this great opportunity.

Internet Sites for Women

On the other front, I have found several Internet sites, which list women's organizations, and I am going to list WWW with a link to our homepage. If anyone has any site suggestions, please email me and I'll register WWW with them as well. Watch for the April newsletter where I'll go more in depth about linking WWW around the World Wide Web.

I look forward to being your 2002 VP of Marketing, and if you have any ideas or suggestions on how WWW can gain more publicity – just drop me an e-mail at sherry@wildwestinfo.com or call Sherry Monahan at (919) 577-6399.

A Call for Manuscripts • Deadline October 1, 2002 Tell Your Story about Women and Community

The editors of *Leaning into the Wind and Woven on the Wind* – Linda Hasselstrom, Gaydell Collier, and Nancy Curtis – want to continue providing an opportunity for Western women to be heard. All three editors are writers, rural westerners, and experienced researchers with interests in the history and culture of the West. In the grassroots tradition of their two previous collections, we invite Western women to write about the roles of women in a variety of communities.

Women have always been mainstays of life in the West. Women in Native American tribes often owned the horses and the family lodge; they could become shamans, and their voices were often respected in council. Since other folks began building Western communities, the role of women has remained vital, but has rarely been fully acknowledged.

Editors will prepare a selected collection of writings about the role of women in community in the West.

If you intend to submit a piece by the October 1, 2002 deadline, please be sure to obtain complete guidelines, including writing tips, story starter ideas and submission requirements by writing or e-mailing our request to the locations in the sidebar at right.

Please help make this book better by sending copies of these guidelines to women who might submit work or who might know someone who would; by sending copies to local and specialized newspapers, newsletters, and magazines; by sending copies to writing classes and groups; to libraries; to e-mail lists – and anywhere it might reach western women who will write about women's roles in community, any kind of community.

For more information about the editors and previous publications, go to the web site at www.windbreakhouse.com.

**Please write or complete guidelines or print from the Web site before submitting:
Women Writing About Community
P.O. Box 169
Hermosa, SD 57744
e-mail: info@windbreakhouse.com
web site: www.windbreakhouse.com**

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WWW Shines at Fall Trade Shows

By Suzanne Lyon

For three out of the four 2001 fall trade shows at which WWW made an appearance, the motto was "the show must go on."

The Mountains & Plains show in Denver and the Pacific Northwest show in Portland took place the weekend immediately following the terrorist attacks, and both were drastically affected. Quite a few participants were unable to be there, and many of those who did make it had no books to display. Women Writing the West was there in force, however, and our familiar presence was welcomed by show organizers.

Those of us staffing the booths wondered if people would even be interested in hearing about our organization in the midst of such tumultuous events. But, though crowds were smaller, they were no less engaged, and we once again managed to spread the word about WWW through our marvelous catalog and eye-catching displays. This year, we made a special effort to dis-

play our members' more recent titles as well as the Willa-nominated works. Booksellers seemed more inclined to stop, chat and pick up a catalog when greeted with a friendly, "Here are some of our recent offerings."

New this year was WWW's participation in the Mid-South trade show, held in Oklahoma City September 7-8. Coordinator **Cynthia Massey** reported great success in introducing our organization to the Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas markets. "Many booksellers in this region had the wrong impression that Women Writing the West is an organization that promotes books geared toward adults only about the 'historical' west," said Massey. She and her staff were able to point out that our members write in every genre and in every time frame.

Doris Eraldi, coordinator for the Northern California show, reported decreased attendance there as well, but nevertheless believes "the trade shows are valuable to WWW, and especially to authors with new books published." This comment illustrates another benefit to our par-

ticipation in these events – the WWW booth provides a platform for individual authors to promote their books while bringing focus to the organization.

In general, the trend this year seemed to be decreased attendance, though given the events of September 11, it is difficult to draw inferences about the state of the publishing industry as a whole.

WWW plans to skip next year's Mid-South show (to be held in New Orleans) and return in 2003 when it will be in Austin, Texas, a more appropriate market for us. We hope to exhibit at the other three shows in 2002, but this is dependent on YOU! Booksellers not only like to see new material on display; they also like to see new faces! Please consider giving a couple hours of your time to help staff one of our booths next year.

Many thanks to coordinators **Cynthia Massey**, **Doris Eraldi**, and **Jane Kirkpatrick**, and all those members who volunteered to help. As is always the case with this organization, the fellowship is as worthwhile as the work we are there to do!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A hearty WWW welcome to our new members who have joined in the past few months. Seasoned members, please take time to drop a note of welcome to any new members, particularly in your region. Do encourage them to join our WWW YahooGroups and "get networked" with all our other email-active members.

Dianne Gray
Dgray@hbc.com
Winona, MN

Caroline Marwitz
Cmarwitz@regis.edu
Ft. Collins, CO

Margaret Benshoof-Holler
Marbh@earthlink.net
San Francisco, CA

Terra Stone
Terraoutwest@yahoo.com
Austin, TX

Ginger Wadsworth
Plumepal@aol.com
Orinda, CA

Kathleen Stoechlin-Finch
Jcfinch@trib.com
Kinnear, WY

Brooke Bigelow
Bbigelow@upress.usu.edu
Logan, UT

Louise Freeman-Toole
Freemant@turbonet.com
Pullman, WA

Katie Willmarth Green
Greengal@psyber.com
Lincoln, CA

B J Harris
Colorado Springs, CO

Jennifer Sidoli
Psidoli@yahoo.com
Santa Barbara, CA

Wendy Beth Baker
Wbbaker@earthlink.net
Burbank, CA

Paula Blais Gorgas
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Sande DeSalles
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Ellensburg, WA

Veronica Patterson
Vpatterson@win2000mag.com
Loveland, CO

Judith R. Parker
Judith@inlandnet.com
Ronald, WA

Marilyn Mitchell
Denver, CO

Sunday Kristine Larson
KristineLarson@msn.com
Sedona, AZ



WWW Celebrates Publication of 2001-2002 Annual Catalog Issue

The 2001-2002 WWW Catalog of Authors' Books was featured at the WWW 7th Annual Conference in Denver in October.

This catalog is widely respected in the book publishing world. It literally jumps off tables into the hands of book lovers. WWW also distributes the catalog copies to all members and targeted companies, librarians and people in the publishing industry.

The new publishing schedule of August each year allows the newest edition to be available for distribution at the all important fall Bookseller Trade Shows.

What are the benefits of being listed?

- Approximately 8,000 copies are available to publicize your book for a full year.
- Advertising and listing rates are low, being one of the true marketing bargains in the book publishing industry.
- Any member's book, listed or advertised in the current catalog, is eligible to join the traveling book display at WWW-sponsored trade show booths and events.
- The catalog is posted on the WWW Web site, www.women-writingthewest.org.
- The new Member Focus listing allows a member to feature herself, rather than her books, for contact.

Deadline for entries in the 2002-2003 catalog will be June 15, 2002. Watch for entry forms in a spring mailing and also in the Spring 2002 Newsletter.
Cindy Massey - Catalog Editor for 2002.
Cmass22@aol.com

Catalog Note: New Publishers for WWW Authors

The following titles listed in the 2001 WWW catalog as CrossroadsPub.com books have new publishing information:

Angels Unaware by Priscilla Maine. Novel Books, Inc. (www.novelbooksinc.com). ISBN 1-59105-017-0 ebook, 1-59105-042-1 paperback.

Journey of the Eagle by Priscilla Maine. Novel Books, Inc. ISBN 1-59105-018-9 ebook, ISBN 1-59105-043-X paperback.

Fire Lilies by Cynthia Leal Massey. Imprintbooks.com (www.Booksurge.com). ISBN 1-59109-250-7 paperback \$15.00, ebook \$8.00.

Redemption by Morgan J. Blake. Atlantic Bridge Publishing (www.atlanticbridge.net). ISBN 1-931761-26-4 ebook \$4.95, CD ROM \$7.45.

Rosemount by Mary E. Trimble. Atlantic Bridge Publishing. ISBN 1-931761-21-3 ebook \$4.95, CD ROM \$7.45.

By Vella Munn

Colleen Fliedner had a feature article published on the AOL/American Airlines travel Web site, 'IgoUgo.' The subject of the article was "Haunted Park City, Utah." Rather than being simply lumped with the other travel features, the spooky story was given its own special feature page, as well as the editor's highest compliments for her writing.

The first book of **Patricia Lucas White's** fantasy trilogy was published September 28, 2001 by Atlantic Bridge www.atlanticbridge.net and was contracted for both electronic and print publication by a German publisher, Kripgrans Books. Patricia's two westerns and a mystery, formerly published by the defunct CrossroadsPub.com, have been contracted by an Australian publisher, Writers-Exchange, and will be re-edited and have a new cover before they are re-released. The three books have also been contracted by the German publisher.

Jennifer Curington's first novel, *Redemption* (being published under the name Morgan J. Blake), won first place in the Clara Awards for the Western Category. *Redemption* has been contracted with Atlantic Bridge, and will be released in electronic format before the end of 2001. *Redemption* was formerly contracted at Crossroadspub.com and The Fiction Works, but never came to publication either place. In addition, Jennifer received word from Penny Hussey at Novel Books Inc, that her second novel, a romantic

western, has been accepted for publication. Publication date is August 12, 2002.

Members **Laurie Wagner Buyer, Sophie Dominik Echeverria, Mary Peace Finley, Janet E. Graebner, Page Lambert, Peggy Sanders, Sureva Towler, and Ellen Waterson** all have essays or poems included in *Woven on the Wind: Women Write About Sagebrush in the Sagebrush West* (Houghton Mifflin 2001). Editors **Linda Hasselstrom, Gaydell Collier, and Nancy Curtis** are also members. **Susan Canavan**, the Houghton Mifflin editor of the book in Boston, is a new member of WWW.

Diana Rowe Martinez's article, "Behind the Chutes at Cheyenne Frontier Days," appeared in the Summer 2001 issue of *The Ketchpen* (a Cowboy Hall of Fame Magazine). In addition, Diana is proud to announce that she has an inspirational article appearing in a compilation, *Crumbs in the Keyboard: Courageous Women Juggling Life and Writing*. Avid Press will release the book in April 2002. All royalties from this project will be donated to one of the women's shelters.

Velda Brotherton has a contract with Arcadia Publishing to write a book for their Making of America Series on the history of Springdale, Arkansas. The manuscript is due May 1, but she doesn't yet have a release date. This will be the second book she has done for this publisher. The first was a pictorial essay on the history of Washington County, Arkansas.

Sherry Monahan, VP Marketing, will have her second book, *Images of America, Pikes Peak, Colorado*, published by Arcadia Publishing. This

photographic history book will be released in the summer and features about 180 photos of beautiful scenery, vintage pioneer mountain fashion, and other historical memories. She obtained the photos from her Great Aunt Ivah's collection, which has survived for over 100 years.

Women Writing the West was well represented at the First Wyoming Bookfest held in Cheyenne in October. **Jane Valentine Barker, Tuda Libby Crews, Nancy Curtis, Linda Hasselstrom, Suzanne Lyon, Candy Moulton, Virginia Wakefield, and Patricia Werner** gathered with other writers from the Wyoming/Colorado area for a day of music, readings, and panel presentations. Several attendees took home WWW catalogs and brochures! Organizers hope to make this an annual event.

Jane Kirkpatrick's *What Once We Loved*, the third and final book in her Oregon Trail Kinship and Courage trilogy, is on the CBA national bestseller list. The series is also her publisher's best-selling fictional series right now. Who says historical fiction isn't alive and well and living in the west?

Ann Schroeder's historical memoir, *Branches on Cuelo: Leaving the Soil After Five Generations*, is being published by Russell Dean & Company. An excerpt was awarded the William Saroyan Persie Award for non-fiction and received Honorable Mention in the Writer's Digest Competition for personal essay. She received Honorable Mention for a short story, "Nymph Tale," in the same competition. (The notification letter stated that the contest had 19,000 entries this year.)

Lucile Bogue has read from her newly released historical novel, *Blood on the Wind, Memoirs of Flying Horse Mollie, A Yampa Ute*, based upon the notorious Meeker Massacre of early Colorado history. Her reading was entertainment for the Art Show exhibited by the Diablo-Alamoda Branch of the National League of American Pen Women on Nov. 11 at the Lindsay Dirky Brown Art Gallery in San Ramon, California. This was the first "coming out" of Flying Horse Mollie in California, although she has had two in Colorado already.

Northwest Arid Lands by nature writer **Georganne O'Connor** and **Karen Wieda**, who manages the Partnership for Arid Land Stewardship project at Pacific Northwest National, explores the rich variety of life in shrub-steppe lands of the Columbia River Basin. The area, a significant but long overshadowed region of the interior West is the site of one of the country's most recent national monuments. This book - which weaves descriptions of shrub-steppe plants, animals, and geology - is for everyone who loves natural history and features color photos and maps of shrub-steppe plants and animals, lists and illustrations of common plants, mammal, reptiles, and amphibians, birds, fish, and species of conservation concern.

Spotted Lower and the Ponokomita (www.kaios.com/BOOKS) by **Karyn Cheatham** is back in print. Based on historic fact and legends, the adventure takes place among the Blackfeet Nation over 250 years ago and is intended for middle grade readers. The first edition received positive reviews from *Library Journal*, *Children's Book Review*, and the *Great Falls Tribune*.

WWW member **Beverly Froehlich** has written a story, which will be included in a new Simon & Schuster book in the

Chocolate for a Woman's Soul series coming next spring. Entitled "A New Dawn," the touching story tells of her experience of gaining a granddaughter who was named after her youngest daughter, Dawn, who died ten years ago at age 17, following an auto accident.

Susan Cummins Miller's first Frankie MacFarlane mystery novel, *Death Assemblage*, set in Nevada, will be published by Texas Tech University Press in March 2002 (<http://www.ttup.ttu.edu/books/deathassemblage.htm>). Susan's previous book, *A Sweet, Separate Intimacy: Women Writers of the American Frontier, 1800-1922* (University of Utah Press), a finalist for the 2000 Longan Award, is in its second printing. Susan also has been awarded a one-month writer's residency next spring at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside, CA.

Mary E. Trimble's young adult novel, *Rosemount*, has been re-released with a new e-publisher, Atlantic Bridge and is available in PDF and HTML, MS LIT or PalmOS by download or CD Rom. A sequel, *McClellan's Bluff*, will be released within a few months.

On another front, one of our members has been "making a difference" in our world. **Mary Trimble** has responded to two American Red Cross assignments resulting from the September 11 tragic events. At the first, a three-week assignment in Washington D.C., Mary supervised a huge phone bank of over 100 phone operators where people from all over the U.S. called in for information. They handled such calls as how to file a missing person's report, to how individuals could donate blood. Mental health, spiritual guidance and family services were on hand.

Cynthia Leal Massey's fiction book, *Fire Lilies*, a saga of the Mexican Revolution, has received Very Highly Recommended ratings by reviewers for the online sites, Wordweaving and Sime-Gen Historical Reviews. The novel is available at www.Booksurge.com and can also be ordered through Cynthia's Web site at www.cynthialeal-massey.com/fiction.



Send your Member News to:

Vella at vmunn@att.global.net OR
Vella Munn
P.O. Box 98
Jacksonville, OR 97530
(541) 899-7403

Send your Newsletter ideas to:

Mary at trimble@camano.net
OR
Mary Trimble
155 So. Woodgrove Lane
Camano Island, WA 98282
(360) 387-0757

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

Send your Research Tips to:

Gail at gflorini@sisqtel.net
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Published Writer

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Agent

Screenwriter

Editor

Reviewer/Critic

Publicist

Other