

Whatcom Writers & Publishers Newsletter November 2012



Meeting Place: Windows on the Bay

2625 S. Harbor Loop (Bellingham Yacht Club Building), Squalicum Harbor
Wednesday, November 14 ~ Social Hour starts at 5:45 p.m.

** see www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org **

— click on Meetings then click on Dinner Reservation Form —

RSVP by Friday, Nov. 9 ... For more info, contact Carolyn at: 714-8901 or cdleeper@hotmail.com

Dinner: \$18.00 Members / \$20.00 Non-Members (Includes tax & gratuity)

Buffet Menu: TBA

Assorted Homestyle Cookies

Speaker: Marilyn McClellan

Writing for the Non-Fiction Youth Market

“I will share my experience of writing and publishing non-fiction for children and young adults. I will discuss my own process of choosing writing ideas, signing contracts, researching materials, the complex revision and editing process, and coming into the home stretch with a published manuscript, book reviews, and residuals, with hope that sharing my story of writing for a particular market might give listeners some insight into a unique publishing opportunity.”

Marilyn McClellan is an educator, mental health counselor, and writer.

Her articles have appeared in educational journals and the Los Angeles Times.

The Bellingham Herald ran her teenage parenting column for thirteen years.

In 2001, Marilyn wrote *Organ and Tissue Transplants: Medical Miracles and Challenges*, which was selected as one of the National Science Teacher's Association/Children's Book Council Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children for 2004. To date, she has written three books for Enslow Publishing, Inc., a New Jersey firm that publishes nonfiction library books for teens and young adults.



Christmas Party / Holiday Gala

Sudden Valley Women's Club invites Whatcom Writers to join in for an elegant holiday luncheon at the Bellingham Golf & Country Club

— **Thursday, December 6, at 11:00 a.m.** —

\$25.00 pp — rsvp required by Thurs., Nov. 29.

Music by Mary Michaelson. Gift Exchange.

Raffles / Door Prizes / Toys for Tots collection

Call: Carolyn Leeper — 714-8901

Whatcom Writers and Publishers

serves the local writing and literary community in Bellingham, Washington, and the surrounding area. WWP is professional association of writers, freelance professionals, book authors, self-publishers, publishers, editors, proofreaders, book designers, booksellers, web designers, and others, all of whom are dedicated to promoting the written word, whether through fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.

Whatcom Writers and Publishers

Kathryn Brown: President
Diane Wood: Program Director
Carolyn Leeper: Membership Chair
Carol Schultz: Treasurer
Amanda Hagarty: Webmaster
Carolyn Leeper: Newsletter Editor
(submit items to: cdleeper@hotmail.com)

Calendar

December — No Meeting —

January 16 — Peggy Watt
Copyright in the Age of Internet

February

March

2013 Membership Dues \$25.00

You can pay the dues at the meeting or mail your check to:
Whatcom Writers and Publishers, P.O. Box 2342, Bellingham, WA 98227.

WWP Membership Form:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website(s): _____

Briefly describe your writing interests and activities: _____

Poetry

For the Love of Poetry ... Betty Scott

Join others to explore and celebrate poetry's rhythms and sounds, images and ideas, forms and writers' choices. On Saturday, participants will read and discuss favorite poems from a variety of poetic styles and write from evocative prompts.

On Sunday, we'll read and respond to each others' poems.

**Time: Sat., Nov. 17, 9:00 am-3 p.m.
and Sun., Nov.18, 1:00-4:00 pm.**

Location: Whatcom Community College - Foundation 201C

To register for the weekend retreat visit:

<https://register.whatcomcommunityed.com/CourseStatus.awp?&course=12F8183057OA>

I am also offering an Info Session at Village Books

**Time: Thurs., Nov. 8, 5:30-6:30pm
Location: Village Books Reading Gallery**

Come to an info-session led by Betty Scott to introduce you to her For the Love of Poetry Workshop and to explore ways poetry connects us to personal awareness, to readers, and to the creative spirit. Learn how to tap into memories and bring forth images to share within a community, designed to appreciate poetry's rich landscape and history.

We'll play with words, sounds and thoughts and a writing exercise. Please bring paper and a pencil.

Betty Scott's writings have appeared in a dozen regional magazines.

Before moving to Bellingham she worked at *The Wenatchee World*, a daily newspaper, and for five years wrote a column called *Musings by Betty Scott*. In May of 2012, she was presented an Empowered Poet Award by World Poetry International of Richmond, Canada, and was featured on their website in August. Recently she co-judged the Sue Boynton Poetry Contest and was a featured writer and workshop presenter at the Chuckanut Writers Conference.

Poetry

Words in Silence Speak

In recognition of The Poetry Pole, (1995 to present).

When westerly zephyrs tease roses, and
hummingbirds hesitate their nectar search
to hear silent voices on the wind;

when the south wind moistens
earth's vagrancies in fog and mist,
these voices travel beyond;

when east wind rustles leaves,
golden tinder sparks the air,
passersby read the posted words;

when north wind blows men and treasure
to the depths of the sea,
I listen for these voices;

when the rhythms of wind and sun
are in moments of harmony and peace,
slips of paper—words—silent voices,

old, new, experienced and being, are
pinned to weathered faces of a cedar stylus
with heart and spirit in an aura of love.

*Yakima, Washington
2012*

The Poetry Pole was planted in a rose garden by the sidewalk in residential Yakima in 1995. There it stood until last winter when Jim Bodeen, its caretaker, moved to Selah, and planted it by the sidewalk of his new residence.

According to Jim—poet, English teacher, Viet Nam veteran, advocate for young Latinos, and founder of Blue Begonia Press—the idea of a poetry pole came to him in a vision. Encouraged by friends, he planted a four-sided cedar post “along the path of the mailman and the butterflies.”

Egalitarian and democratic, *The Poetry Pole* is accessible to all ages, life-styles, races and cultures.

Poems may be personally pinned to the post, or sent to Bodeen by mail or e-mail.

I first learned about *The Poetry Pole* last spring, when Terry Martin, co-editor of *Weathered Pages: The Poetry Pole Anthology*, read her own work here in Bellingham. Last summer, Helen and I visited the original site, unaware the pole had moved. That was OK; I still felt its presence and was inspired to write "Words in Silence Speak."

For additional information go to <http://bluebegoniapress.com>.

Poetry

Vacation Diner: News Bulletin

Markets in free fall
a news headline;
forget spending at the mall.

Remember the April hurricanes
couldn't plan ahead;
no politicians to blame.

People lost their homes
tree-lined streets gone;
months following they roam.

Don't get on the media bus
they kill people with chaos;
the FLDS pastor gets life, no fuss.

World troubles, violent protests—
money fix, can't have it all;
create your peace, sober mix.

© Sandra F. Lucke

Winning poem for SpeakEasy No. 9, reading by 24 poets on Sunday,
November 11, 7-9pm at The Amadeus Project, 1209 Cornwall Avenue,
Bellingham, WA

Tiny Libraries for Neighborhood Literacy

Sue Parsons

Three years ago this month, British Telephone sold a no-longer-needed public phone booth to the town that housed it for one pound on the stipulation that it be converted into something useful for the community. A contest was held to find the best idea for the box, and the winning concept was a tiny library to replace the mobile one that was lost in a funding crunch. This miniature library is one of many world-wide which fill a need in pocket neighborhoods far and wide.

These little libraries mostly operate on the honor system — take a book, leave a book — and often appear on people's lawns, in public parks, or near bus stops. They at first appear to be simply part of the décor, a piece of yard art, but upon closer inspection are not a bird or bat house or mail receptacle at all. A couple of rows or short stacks of books, both hard and soft cover, occupy the interior, out of the cold and wet. The exterior often resembles a small house or building, perhaps brightly painted to attract book lovers.

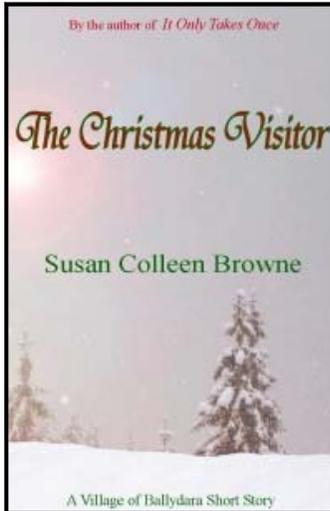
There is no need for a library card, there is no checkout procedure, and no fines if the book is never returned. Donated books are placed within, and often are recycled quickly.

Children's books, biographies, classics and cookbooks share space with mysteries and chick-lit. In Wisconsin a non-profit has sprung up which offers box kits, a membership in Little Free Libraries which operate in half of the United States and eight other countries, and even a GPS spot on an interactive map.

But for every member-built box, it is estimated that there are three more that quietly sit in a front yard supplying free books to folks passing up and down the street. This is predominantly a low-tech movement in a high-tech world, and it is catching on fast. Perhaps your little neck of the woods is in need of a bright spot of free literature. And who could blame an author for occasionally slipping in one of his or her works to share?



Announcements



Susan Colleen Browne

has released "The Christmas Visitor," an Irish short story e-book.
A lonely cottage in the Irish countryside . . . a rare snowstorm
the night before Christmas Eve . . .

Recent widow Maeve O'Donoghue hasn't the heart to celebrate
Christmas this year, even though she's taking care of her
young granddaughters. All that changes when a mysterious
stranger, a young woman, arrives at her home, seeking shelter
for the night. In this tender, magical tale, an unexpected
blessing, a mystical encounter and a bit of fairy lore
helps a grieving family heal, and rediscover
the true meaning of Christmas.

Find more at Susan's web site, at www.susancolleenbrowne.com,
or visit the Amazon details page at:

[http://www.amazon.com/The-Christmas-Visitor-ebook/
dp/B006MQ9WO6/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1335815757&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/The-Christmas-Visitor-ebook/dp/B006MQ9WO6/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1335815757&sr=1-1)

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Nancy Canyon,

the WWP website blog editor, is looking for writers willing
to write blog articles on the subject of writing or of interest to writers
contact: nancy@nancycanyon.com, mark subject "WWP Blog."

Amanda Hagarty,

the WWP Website Editor, is looking for items
for the following WWP webpages: "Member Spotlight"
(any works published in the last 6 months or any awards won in the last 6 months)
<http://whatcomwritersandpublishers.org/member-spotlight/>

Events and Contests (events or contests of interest to members)
<http://whatcomwritersandpublishers.org/contests-and-events/>

"Any other page on the WWP site" <http://whatcomwritersandpublishers.org/>

Please send them to amandahagarty@gmail.com,
mark subject "A WWP Website item."

Announcements

SpeakEasy 9: Road Trip

Sunday, November 11, 2012 - 7:00pm - at The Amadeus Project
1209 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham

The community poetryseries SpeakEasy presents 24 local poets reading work related to the theme of *Road Trip*. Most pieces are based on actual experience, but some are imaginary, metaphoric, and, well, unclassifiable!

This event is free, with donations to The Amadeus Project appreciated.

Here's the big scoop:

Title: The Ferndale Sector

Author: Lawrence Kadow (AKA Larry Goolsby)

Publisher: Createspace (self-publishing) Pages: 291

Genre: Post-apocalyptic fiction

This is book three of The Button Boy trilogy.

Book one is being written at this time and is a pre-apocalyptic story.

Gary Paul Bryant

Writer and Composer

has been busy the last few months

culminating in the completion of several new releases.

Amazon has just digitally published a quirky short story on

Amazon- Awkward: The First Resurrection of Robert Levenplatter.

"When a prominent Massachusetts chemist Robert Levenplatter finally succumbs to lung cancer, his adult children Nina and Luke, along with his favorite nephew RPL setup a makeshift operating room in Levenplatter's garage.

His wife had other ideas." You can find the story on Amazon

by searching with the keywords Awkward +Bryant.

On the music front, two new music videos have also been released in support of the 2013 CD release of 'Damned Yankee.'

In October Gary also received his eighth ASCAP award for popuar music. In July he was nominated for best Acoustic folk recording for 'Damned Yankee' by Hollywood Music in Media. Finally, the song 'BigWorld' from the CD of the same name was selected to be included in a video campaign by The North Face.

You can learn more at Gary's website <http://www.garypaulbryant.com>

Announcements

Dave Michaelson

Back in the late 1970's when a broken foot sidelined me up for weeks, my wife handed me a legal pad and a pencil. "Here, write something and quit complaining."

So, I wrote about a horrible nightmare. I dreamt my four year-old son was threatened by a giant alien monster. Of course I bolted awake in a cold sweat and began to record the images with that pencil.

Thirty years later the nightmare ballooned into a Science Fiction trilogy. In addition to the story of the alien attack, it became necessary to describe the difficulties of actually traveling for 20,000 years on a spaceship just to reach the nearest star from our own solar system.

Once on the new planet, the tale of how the humans survived on a hostile world and eventually aligned themselves with an intelligent alien race had to be written.

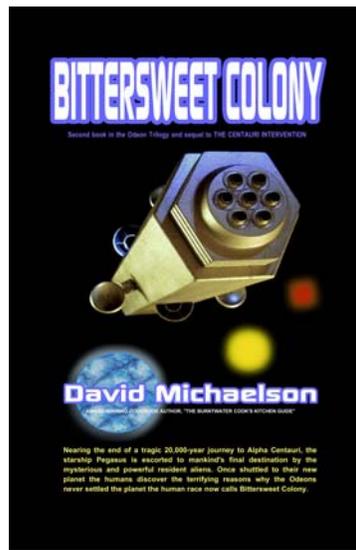
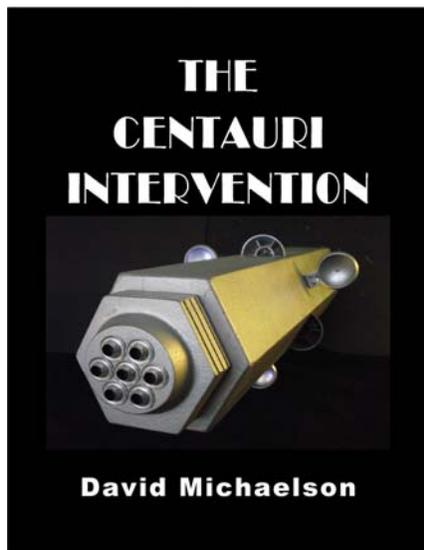
All three books have been reviewed. The first two have received notable awards. The third book was well received but failed to make the 2012 review deadline, so if it also nominated, it won't be listed until 2013.

The **CENTAURI INTERVENTION** is the story of life aboard a starship and the problems encountered along the way to their new planet. This first book of the trilogy received an Honorable Mention.

BITTERSWEET COLONY portrays the triumphs and tragedies the first humans face when they settle the new planet the call, "Bittersweet." This second book of the trilogy received 1st Runner Up.

All ten of David's books are available through various online booksellers including Barnes & Noble, Amazon and Virtualbookworm.com.

Visit David's website at www.emjayspublishing.com



Announcement

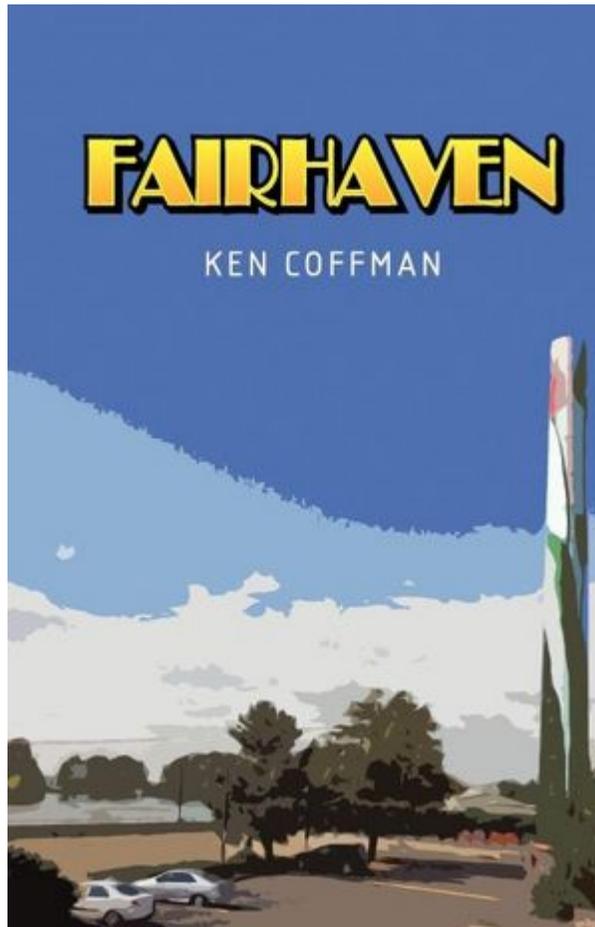
Stairway Press — Free Review Copies

Stairway Press—Free Review Copies

Stairway Press is offering free review copies of current fiction titles to reviewers and bloggers. These titles include *Last Will* by Bryn Greenwood and *Fairhaven* by Ken Coffman. Both titles are in stock at Village Books.

Bryn Greenwood is so good it hurts. Her writing is lean, precise, elegant and dripping with the telling detail – the understated bit of dialogue that reveals everything.
– Robert Ferrigno, New York Times bestselling author of *Mosley Boy*, *Horse Latitudes*, the *Paper for the Assassin* trilogy and other novels.

– Last Will –



To request review copies,
please send an email request to
Chris Benson, chris@StairwayPress.com

Book Review

by Nanette J. Davis, Ph.D.

Parkinson's Dreams About Me: My Dance with the Shaking Palsy by Rick Hermann, 2012, 188 pages.

Rick Herman's book on living with Parkinson's disease, like Michael J. Fox's, *Lucky Man*, which revealed his own battle with the illness, joins a new genre of literature. This can best be described as the *experience* of illness. Medical descriptions abound, of course, clarifying Parkinson's as a neurological disorder characterized by rhythmic tremor, muscle rigidity, impairment of the brain's executive functioning, depression, insomnia, dementia, loss of libido and a host of other symptoms. Eventually, the disease can lead to total immobility.

To communicate what it is like to actually live inside this disease, or at least to be wholly cognizant of its many challenges, takes enormous courage, an incredibly lucid and lively writing style, and in Hermann's case, a broad acquaintance with musical, literary and medical knowledge. Not that Hermann flaunts his wide-ranging background. Instead, his expansive approach comes naturally to a professional book and magazine editor. At the same time, the book is not a compendium like Andrew Solomon's book, *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*. Rather, it's more similar to storytelling, with each brief chapter exploring his deeply lived experience with illness, one slow step at a time.

"Who am I?" asks the introspective author, confronting his existential crisis.

Although I don't believe I do well with chronic angst, I have experienced times when all seemed futile. I don't know where this journey with Parkinson's disease is taking me, but as I travel the road—both believing and not believing in the goodness of the world, seeing and not seeing the suffering experienced by myself as well as others, feeling and not feeling the joy of being alive—my 'self' gets smaller and smaller, taking up less space and becoming less likely to indulge in distractions such as regret, self-pity, and blame.

Hermann doesn't sit still for long in this negative state, though. He remains a decision maker determined to stay one step ahead of the disease. He chooses deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery, which involves the implantation of a medical device that works as a brain pacemaker.

He also elects to keep his muscles as intact as possible with tai chi, walking and more surprising—modern dance. Dance opens his brain, muscles and heart, and for entire moments at a time, he is free of symptoms; fully alive again.

To assist him in his disabled state, he seeks a service dog. Alas, big Finn, at 85 pounds of sprawling mutt, simply was a bad fit for their compact condo. He and his cherished wife, Lee Willis, agreed: The four-legged companion sadly had to be returned.

More adventures and misadventures follow, and the author delights in their telling: the misbegotten activity of buying and selling guitars, the joy of riding horseback, the confusion of being lost on mountain trails, the launch into book writing with a collection of short stories and the new found strength through support groups and male friends.

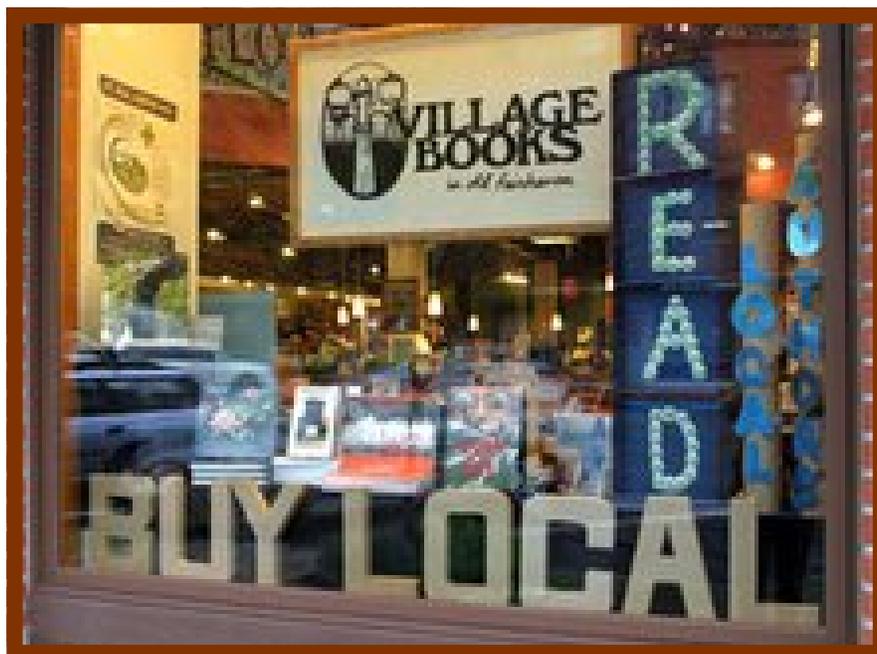
Parkinson's Dreams About Me features essays, autobiographical material and poems. Hermann writes with heart and soul. He reaches out to touch the world and to be touched by the world. He never shrinks from the truth of his disease, but reaches beyond it. His credo is simple and complete and allows him to live a whole life, admittedly with limitations, but never with defeat.

Hermann writes:

Know thyself. Tell no lies. Do no harm. Speak no evil. Hope for the best. Have faith in the universe.

Village Books

Village Books Welcomes W.W.P. Members!



- Drive on down to Village Books in Historic Fairhaven to receive a 10% discount off all of your purchases (may not be combined with any other offer).
- Ready to publish your book? W.W.P members receive a 10% discount on our Printing Packages for the Espresso Book Machine (does not include the \$0.04/page cost). Contact Lindsey McGuirk for more info: lindsey@villagebooks.com
- Need a nudge with your writing? Join one of our open writing groups or poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Newcomers welcome! Contact Paul Hanson for details: paul@villagebooks.com

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