

MORE..... NEWS FROM MEMBERS



Ginny Odenbach

Ginny Odenbach (photo by Gigi Ruskowsky) at the WWI Conference book signing June 2009. Ginny's book shown in the photo is *Driving The Inland Sea*.

Driving the Inland Sea sells for \$7.00 plus \$1.50 S&H. It can be ordered from: Feathermoon Press, 1603 East I Street McCook, NE 69001

Ginny says. "It finally warmed up here the last few days. The ice along the curb melted quickly yesterday with temps in the high 50's. More, more!

From Cindy Bower: One cold wintry day found me writing a series of four snow poems. I didn't intend to write more than one but ideas kept coming. The first was inspired by the fresh beauty of new snowfall fading into the pastels of a dusky winter horizon.

Something difficult to capture in words. The second points out disturbances in snowy beauty, by a predator and his kill. A third was based on the childish fun and frivolousness of a snowy day. In the last I am trying to capture the scary tension of driving on a lonely rural highway in the whiteout of high wind ground blizzards.

I am often reminded of Barbara Smith's great poetry workshop last April. She encouraged us to capture memoir in our poetry. I've started a poem which chronicles some of the people and events I remember from my grandmother's kitchen and breakfast room. It has turned out that the memories are coming from the perspective of the African Violets who stood sentinel on her window sill for decades.

I made an antelope shepherd pie this week with a Cindy Bower twist. Yum! The food wasn't the highlight of the evening though. With Nancy Gerlock at the table, as well as our young adult son and his friend, we took turns reading the poetry of Ted Kooser's "Delights and Shadows." I think this new generation felt the amazing power of words, which they will hopefully keep long after the memory of shepherd pie disappears.

Happy New Year everyone. I look forward to seeing you when we gather in the spring. Cindy Bower

From Susan Dewey: Happy New Year from England to all WyoPoets! The snow is steadily falling in my region of Southern England. I know that you will find this hard to believe, but snowy winters are highly unusual in our part of England. Chaos has ensued, not enough grit on the roads and people falling all over the place - well it can only get better.

If you are snowbound, this is probably a good time for reflection on your past year and thoughts on this new decade. My year was one of sunshine and rain. I sadly lost both of my parents within 10 months of each other, but a new grandchild was born during that time. It seems that no matter how tragic the circumstances, the circle of life continues to bring us new hope. Also for some of us, adversity can encourage creativity. Putting our thoughts down on paper in a poetic form can be therapeutic and soothing.

Because I have a great love for the Northern Plains and its history, I am always inspired to write poems on your beautiful area. I have been inspired by English poets such as Robert Service and Rudyard Kipling, both of whom tend to write poetic ballads. Then there are the pleasing words of Sir John Betjeman and the drama of the war poets. This is why I like a rhyming story. Cowboy poetry and the poetic songs of Dave Stamey always inspire my writing. Well, Best wishes and here's to a great year for you all. I'm always happy to hear from anyone out there.

Email me on Deweymail1@ntlworld.com

Sue Dewey, Hampshire, England

From William Stocks: Hi everybody - Just the usual reminder there is some new content on my blog:

<http://wyomingpoetry.net/blog>

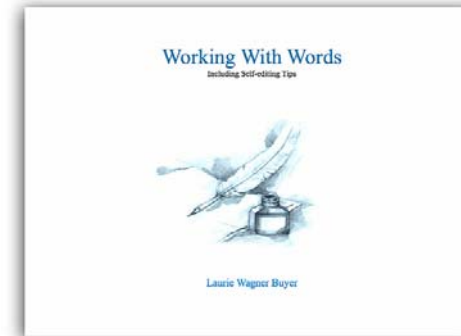
From Linda Ruhle: My first Honorable Mention for Glitter (In our National Contest) is the only bit of news I have to share

As a poem comes to me, in the process of saying and writing it, the lines themselves establish a basic measure, even a sort of rhythmic phrase for the whole poem. I let it settle down for quite a while and do a lot of fine-tuning as part of the revision..... Gary Snyder

Laurie B. Jameson continued

And desire comes from deep within and can only be mined by the individual. No one can give you desire and no one can teach you desire. Attending to your desire is the same as saying, "practice." Keep doing what your heart bids you to do, no matter how unaccomplished you may feel in the moment. With time and dedication the work will reveal itself as worthy.

Here is Thomas Merton's advice to a young aspiring writer: "Never write down to anyone. Never write simply what you think they want. Write rather what is deepest in your own heart ... Write only after you have thoroughly learned what you want to say. ... By all means, practice."



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January Chill

It's hunker down time once again in old Wyoming
When the bitter wind comes roaring 'cross the plains;
Cattle standing, tail to wind, against the blizzard;
Schoolbound children, mackinawed, through freezing rains.

Knee deep snow across the foot path to the horse barn
Drifted high where cold winds pack it to the eaves;
Sheep-skin coats full warmly buttoned to the collar
Homebound housewives wearing blankets that have sleeves.

Winter time comes harsh and bitter in Wyoming
Where the land lies high and reaches to the sky.
Winds, unhampered by rich forests, furrow freely
Through bare tunnels formed by mountains looming nigh.

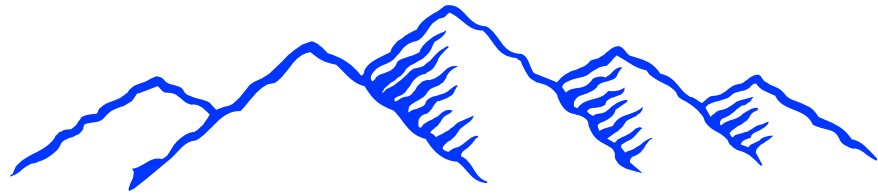
Sun baked ranchers cut a path to the outbuildings
Weathered hats curved to the furrow of each brow
Cowboys leaning toward the wind as they move forward
Searching blindly for a lost unsheltered cow.

From the high plains to the bare unyielding desert
Mountain folks long learned to bear the wind and snow.
Despite the cold of cruel Wyoming winters
It's the nearest place to Heaven that they know.

by Jim Rolf



FROM THE PEAK



WyoPoets' President, Myra Peak
with her daughter Emily

Do you have new material for poetry now that most of our winter holidays are over? Did the goose end up in the chili? Did the mistletoe (with fireworks sprinkled over it) end up in the crackling fire? Have you ever tried to mix holiday traditions, serve a summer food at Christmas, or break out the Christmas candles and tablecloth at Easter?

Emily, my 5 year old, buys cards for people based solely on the picture. Grandmas get cards for sisters, a birthday becomes get well, and Easter shows up earlier simply because she thinks we need spring sooner. The recipients suddenly think of the event with fresh eyes and a new twist. A strong part of some poems is the element of surprise.

How about mixing the words and smells of various holidays and events to see how a poem might change? Even if the poem doesn't stay "mixed" it might give you some new ideas about a theme, a topic, or the poem's language.

Our April workshop (See front page) is shaping up to give us a chance to try out our poetry writing that may have been dormant during the cold snaps. The companionship of old and new friends should give us some motivation to form poetry reflective of the past snowstorms and hopeful of new skills, phrases, and poems to share. We will be holding the workshop in a different motel than the past two years, which will give us a new perspective. We are looking forward to our workshop presenter, Sophia Puccini as she brings her creativity and artistic skills to us. One outcome which I expect is that we will learn more about how we can each turn on our creative "switch" after the workshop.

During the past few months, several of our members have had successes for which they've worked a lifetime - haven't we all. No matter how small or large our audiences may be, we each look forward to those achievements to spur us on. Congratulations to our Eugene V. Shea National Contest winners and to all of you who've had successes whether reported or not. One of WyoPoets' strengths is our mutual support during both drier and flowing times of poetry writing.

This year we especially need volunteers for our committees. Our organization needs your help and your energy. If you have time (or even if you don't think you do), please contact one of the people listed on page 2 to learn more about what WyoPoets' needs are for the upcoming year. We will have our business meeting during lunch at the April workshop. Please let me know of any business which you think should be addressed.

Keep on writing - a little or a lot. You can't write a poem without having material with which to work. Bring yourself and your poetry to our April workshop and share your ideas and writing needs with us.

.....Myra

Poetry is the art of understanding what it is to be alive.

- Archibald MacLeish

BOOKS TO INSPIRE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR

- The Poet's Market 2010* - Writers Digest Books
- The Handbook of Poetic Forms* - Ron Padgett
- The Trouble With Poetry* - Billy Collins
- The I Ching For Writers* - Sarah Jane Sloane

GOOD READING FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY:

The Writer magazine

January issue

1. How To Get out Of A Creative Rut - Peggy Simpson Curry (Archived article by the first Wyoming Poet Laureate)
2. Markets for environmental writing
3. Great websites for writers including www.poetrymachine.com markets for poetry
4. Take care of your body and spirit to ease stress

February Issue

1. Poet to Poet ...3 fun forms for experimenting
2. Take a Productive Break From Writing

Writer's Digest Magazine...January

(90th Anniversary Issue)

1. Interview with Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti
2. P.15... Poetic Asides

Writer's Digest magazine...February

1. DIY Writing retreats
2. Poetic Asides P.16
3. Stretch Your Creativity
4. Get Creative With Your Marketing P.45
5. Why Inspiration matters

Poets and Writers Jan/Feb

1. Fifth Annual Debut Poets Roundup
2. Classifieds - markets and contests for poetry

MORE NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Thomas Glasgo: My first poetry performance was at the Atrium of Grand Valley in Grand Junction. When I am ready to retire, this will be a consideration, quite lovely indeed.

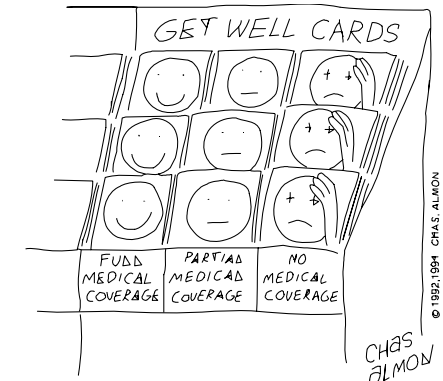
In September I read poetry at Maywood, NE where I taught school forty years ago. I reunited with a fellow teacher who stayed 40 plus years to his retirement.

Next I stopped at the Neligh Library and read to people of the community plus the freshman English class. Students participated, reading my work, and were inspired to return to their class and write a poem. They sent individual thank-you notes along with their original poetry. I was greatly impressed with these youngsters and their teacher.

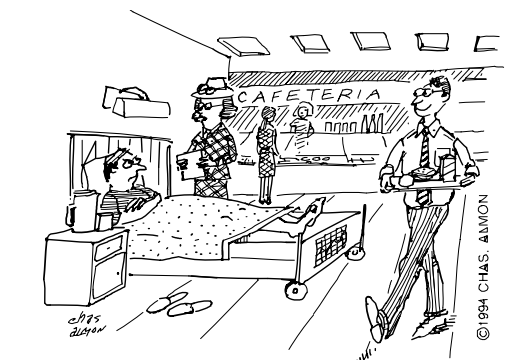
We finished with a well attended reading at the Library in Sydney, NE. Always a delight to spend time with lovers of poetry.

Thomas J. Glasgo, Ft. Morgan, CO

& ABOUT HEALTHCARE.....



"I don't use anesthetics anymore. I just give them an estimate of their hospital bill."



"Your policy simply states, 'A semi-private room'."