

Idaho Writers' Update - Vol. II, Issue I

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January 1, 2008

Greetings.

Welcome to 2008 and the good writing and reading, listening and learning it holds for us. You are a part of Idaho's solid literary community, and I look forward to including your news in the year ahead. You are welcome to pass this email on to others, and I always appreciate feedback.

Deadlines are the fifteenth and 30th of every month.

(I generally do not edit submissions, and do not guarantee accuracy of content.)

Thank you, keep writing, and stay in touch.

Betty Rodgers

*A novel is like a bow, and the violin that produces the sound is the reader's soul. --
Stendhal*

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Open Mic Night - Jan. 4 & 18

In an effort to continue to foster the arts in the local area, the first and third Friday night of every month, the microphone will be open in the main meeting space of **Rembrandt's** in Eagle. This gives an opportunity for musicians, poets, orators, comedians, writers, and any others to practice their craft and present their art. We ask that those who contribute to the evening would remember that Rembrandt's is a family environment, and so please refrain from using profanity and adult content. For more information or to reserve a time slot, please call Aaron at (208) 841-9588.

DROP-IN WRITING WORKSHOP AT THE CABIN--With Norman Weinstein. All are welcome to attend this informal community workshop for writers at all levels. Mr. Weinstein is a poet and critic writing about poetry, music, architecture and design. He is the author of a book about jazz, another on Gertrude Stein's writing, and six books of poetry. He currently reviews jazz for *The Christian Science Monitor* and the literature of architecture and design for *Architectural Record*. **Wednesday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.** at The Cabin. Free.

January Boise Poetry Slam

Monday, January 21

The Spoken Word Reading and Workshop Series presents Kat Deitrich! Bring your own poetry to workshop at 5:00 at BSU, then come to the slam to see the full feature.

-- Workshop with Kat Deitrich!

BSU Student Union Building (Cataldo room)

5 PM, free

-- BOISE POETRY SLAM with Kat Deitrich!

The slams will now be held at the Neurolux on 11th street. It will still be the third Monday of every month and still at 8 pm, but the Funny Bone is going into bankruptcy, so we found ourselves a new location! It will be an adventure, so come adventure with us!

Signups 7:30, Show at 8, \$5

-- Feature by Kat Deitrich and open slam

At Boise State University, January 30, MLK Bilingual Poetry Slam--Location: SUB Hatch Ballroom****Featured poets Joaquin Zihuatanejo and Natasha Carrizosa*****6:00pm: Sign Ups Begin (limited to 15)*****6:30 pm: Slam starts*****8-9:30 pm: Featured Poets: Joaquin Zihuatanejo is a poet, spoken word artist, and award-winning English teacher. He is also an HBO Def Poet and a National Poetry Slam Finalist, and he has even shared the stage with Maya Angelou. Known as "one of the most dynamic performance poets in the country," his art depicts his life-subjects that include a youth plagued by gang violence.*****Poet/writer and slam artist Natasha Carrizosa celebrates her dual heritage of African and Mexican-American by weaving an intoxicating blend of cultures, languages and impressions into her writing. In addition to her work appearing in *Rhapsody* and *Our Texas* magazines, she is also the author of the spoken word CD "Mejiafricana".

January 31, 2008 Submission deadline:

IDAHO Magazine's 2008 Fiction Writing Contest is their annual fiction contest which deadlines January 31, 2008. Go to www.idahomagazine.com and scroll down to the "Call for entries!" Teachers please call regarding class projects. Cash prizes. From Kitty Fleishman, the publisher, "We have five or six judges each year. Each story is given a 1-100 score by each judge, and winners are determined by having the highest cumulative scores. Something that is always very interesting to me is that judges always think the other judges viewed the stories pretty much as they did, but nothing could be further from the truth. We've had the same story get a zero from one judge and 100s from others. There are not many contests where stories are judged by so many different judges, and while we won't tell you which judge gave what score, if anyone is curious, we'd be happy to let you know what each judge gave your story. Only ONCE out of the 700 or so stories we've judged over the years has there been a unanimous winner. She was a very young girl who won the youth division when she was 17, and won the adult division when she was 18. It's on our website with the fiction stories, and it's called "The Boyfriend Test." The male judges loved it, the female judges loved it, and, with judges from 18-79, *EVERYONE* loved it. Write on!"

Poet Jimmy Santiago Baca, Feb 5, College of Idaho, Langroise Recital Hall 7 pm, free and open to the public. www.jimmysantiagobaca.com

BOISE NONFICTION WRITERS. Susan Stacy, contract historian and author of *Tom and Julia Davis: Some Good Place*, will give tips for aspiring writers at the introductory meeting of **Boise Nonfiction Writers**. Wednesday, **February 6th**, 2008, 6:30 pm, **Rediscovered Bookshop**, 7079 Overland Rd., www.rdbooks.org, 208.376.4229. For more information on Boise Nonfiction Writers, contact Cindy Salo, csalo11@hotmail.com, 208.850.3313.

Debra Dixon, Going the Distance: *Deadline extended to January 25th.* This intensive Book-in-a-Day workshop with BelleBooks co-founder Debra Dixon provides the tools every writer needs to shape a story and create a road map to writing it. We'll cover the three most important elements of popular fiction - goal, motivation, and conflict - and explore how those elements work with the mythic structure of Joseph Campbell's "Hero's Journey" to give dimension to your characters and direction to your plot. **February 9, 2008** at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel 8 - 4pm. Breakfast and Lunch are included \$65.00. For more information visit www.cbcrrwa.com or email infocbc@yahoo.com.

Fiction Workshop in Eagle, Starting Monday, Feb. 11:
Innovations in Fiction, a ten-week series with Ken Rodgers, MFA. Monday nights at 7 p.m. Cost: \$185. True North Creative Learning Center, www.truenorthclc.com, **939-0385**.

--Does your fiction seem too predictable? Does your plot arc and die before the climax? Are your characters predictable, stale? Does the story's energy wane before you want--or worse, never start? Then come learn what the innovative authors Kundera and Bartheleme and Beckett and Barth and Puig and Alfau and Marquez and Stein, among others, have to reveal about the art of composing fiction.

--Learn about multiple points of view. Alternate strategies for plotting. Different ways to characterize. Unusual settings. Different takes on conflict. Unusual ways to camouflage your theme.

--We will read the masters and we will write, write, write. Participants need to begin reading Milan Kundera's novel, *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting* prior to the first night of class.

February - Well known Idaho native, poet, and writer **Richard Shelton** will give readings at **The College of Idaho** in Caldwell and **The Cabin** in Boise. Free and open to the public. (Tentative dates and locations are **February 12** at College of Idaho, **February 13** at the Log Cabin.)

Boise Poetry Slam February

Monday, February 18

The Spoken Word Reading and Workshop Series presents D Silence! Bring your own poetry to workshop at 5:00 at BSU, then come to the slam to see the full feature.

-- Workshop with D Silence!

BSU Student Union Building (Cataldo room)

5 PM, free

-- BOISE POETRY SLAM with D Silence!

Neurolux on 11th Street

Signups 7:30, Show at 8, \$5

-- Feature by D Silence and open slam!

Upcoming Readings and Conversations at The Cabin:

The Egyptian Theatre:

Luis Alberto Urrea February 19

Marjane Satrapi April 15

Mary Oliver moved to September 23, 2008

Tickets at The Cabin 331-8000

Call for Submission: March 1, 2008 - The 2008 Murder In The Grove Contest sponsored by the Popular Fiction Association of Idaho. All participants will receive *detailed* scoring sheets on aspects of their submission such as characterization, dialogue, setting, plot and synopsis. **Details at:** <http://www.murderinthegrove.com/contest>.

Boise Poetry Slam March

Monday, March 17

The Spoken Word Reading and Workshop Series presents Iyeoka! Bring your own poetry to workshop at 5:00 at BSU, then come to the slam to see the full feature.

-- Workshop with Iyeoka!

BSU Student Union Building (Alexander room)

5 PM, free

-- BOISE POETRY SLAM with Iyeoka!

Neurolux on 11th Street

Show at 8, \$8

-- Feature by Iyeoka and open slam!

April

Monday, April 21

The Spoken Word Reading and Workshop Series presents Jason Bayani! Bring your own poetry to workshop at 5:00 at BSU, then come to the slam to see the full feature.

-- Workshop with Jason Bayani!

BSU Student Union Building (Alexander room)

5 PM, free

-- BOISE POETRY SLAM with Jason Bayani!

Neurolux on 11th St.

Show at 8, \$8

-- Feature by Jason Bayani and open slam

Lost Horse Press is now taking submissions for **The Idaho Prize for Poetry 2008**, a national competition offering \$1000 plus publication by Lost Horse Press for a book-length poetry manuscript. All U.S. poets are eligible. Entries must be postmarked by **15 May 2008**. The winner and finalists will be announced on 15 August 2008. The final judge for the fifth annual poetry book contest sponsored by Lost Horse Press will be announced at a later date. A reading fee of \$25-check or money order only, please-and a SASE (for notification of winners only; manuscripts will be recycled) must be included with the manuscript. For guidelines or additional information about the Idaho Prize for poetry, please contact Lost Horse Press at 208.255.4410, email losthorsepress@mindspring.com or check online at www.losthorsepress.org

Call for Manuscripts--Anthologies: Winterhawk Press (formerly Calypso) has titled the anthology *Zeus Seduces the Wicked Stepmother in the Saloon of the Gingerbread House: Myth, Fairy Tale, and Legend Dragged, Kicking and Screaming, Into the 21st Century*. They're looking for contemporary poetry and fiction, unrhymed poetry, articles and plays, but no children's stories or poems. They are especially interested in works that suggest solutions to today's problems. Send manuscripts with SASE to Susan Richardson, Winterhawk Press, PO Box 44810, Boise, Idaho, 83711.

IDAHO Magazine www.idahomagazine.com is interested in your non-fiction stories on Idaho topics. They offer one-time rights to buy those stories. Send queries with specific details in the "Subject" line to Kitty Fleischman, publisher/editor at kfleisch@idahomagazine.com. Then be sure to let me know when your story is published so we can announce it here.

Boise Public Library invites avid readers to sign up for their e-mail book review service at www.boisepubliclibrary.org This free monthly newsletter reviews the latest books in a variety of categories.

Across the Border- A welcome to our friends in Eastern Oregon who have sent the following message: Please don't forget to add <http://www.wgeo.org> to your list of literary links. I think as the year goes forward, we are going to have more opportunities and venues for readings in eastern Oregon, and with your organization, IWL, and others right across the border, there is good reason to share the information and options. - Clair Button, President, Writers Guild of Eastern Oregon