

Eastern Idaho Writer's Ink

Newsletter for Eastern Idaho Writers League, Inc.

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Get Connected!

If you are not a member on the Facebook member's only page—send us a request. Members can share links and events as well as access the newsletter.



President's Message

By Terri Robinson

Hi Writers!

Welcome writers to the Eastern Idaho Writers League. Our membership is growing and we have some fun projects in store for the rest of the year. Our first event - Publishing Choices seminar with author Becky Cook - was amazing. We linked up sites in Idaho Falls and Pocatello to extend the event to as many people as possible and the tech actually worked! That's a bit of a first for me.

I want to extend my thanks to board officers Amy and Bret for all their hard work on setting the event up. Also a humongous thanks to Becky Cook who told us how she got into self-publishing, shared her journey and some fantastic marketing ideas. Check out her series, *Bigfoot Lives ...* online and at area stores.

I am continually amazed at the generosity among writers. There are so many writers like Becky Cook willing to help others hone their craft and become successful. If you have questions, problems or are stuck somewhere between the beginning and The End, give a shout out and watch how the community shares its wealth of knowledge.

One of the great ways we share is at our reading circles where members get together and take turns reading their work in progress and receiving meaningful and helpful suggestions from the others in the circle. Meetings can be in person or by zoom, or a combination (I'm really loving the tech!) We can set up a circle wherever you live in Eastern Idaho!

We are excited to announce another event coming soon. We want to hear from our poets and we'll have the details of our sponsored poetry slam soon.

Poetry slam information will be available as threat of covid is reduced. If you are interested in competing please contact Amy at cowpirancher@aol.com to receive updates. Our goal is to hold it during National Poetry Month in April.

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Special points of interest

- Join us on Facebook : Eastern Idaho Writers League
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/218530393745052>



Winnie and Mo's Bookshop

Winnie and Mo's Bookshop is a dream come true for Whitney and Amanda who wanted a space to making reading and writing fun for all ages. The store recently held its grand opening with a variety of activities. The community-driven book store has extended a greeting to readers and writers:

"If you are interested in selling your work in the store, let us know! We are looking to stock local authors and books of local interest. We are also planning events for the winter and spring. Want to host a book club? Do a poetry reading? Book signing or lecture? We want to talk to you! "

Check out their website for writing contests and other activities or stop in and introduce yourself. They are located at 343 A. St. in Idaho Falls.

"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words."

Robert Frost

Must-Read List

If you like to write poetry—John Drury's *Creating Poetry* is on my must-read list. I was inspired to try some of the lesser known poetry forms including the ghazal.

The 10th century Persian verse form connects unrelated descriptions of the theme word in strict rhyme and meter couplets. The last couplet featuring the authors personal feelings.

Strings Ghazal by A. McClellan

On kites that have flown on days clear, they have sailed and soared.
Attached in the small print on what appeared— I once could afford.

Made from flour, eggs, and oil, topped with a saucy sear, that I have adored.
Italian cheesemaker handcraft with sales geared for tots that are bored.

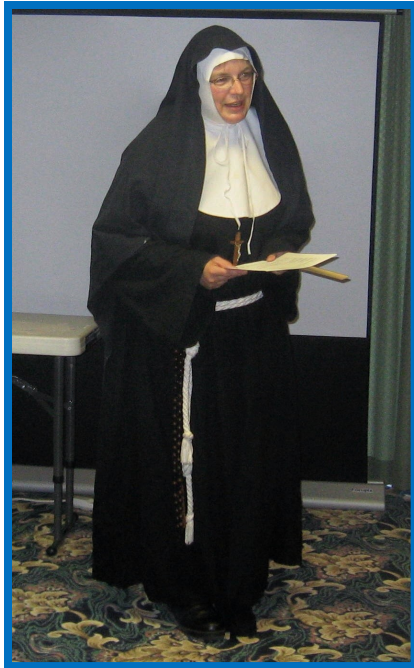
Cat loving knitter's peril with tangle of dears that cannot be ignored.
A kindergartener's tied shoes with cheers for new skill on board.

The ache of the heart when lost-love fears strike melancholy chord.
The violin, cello, and bass pray tears to broken heart's Lord.

Black strands of the amazon beauty, with leers wields a wonderous sword.
Courtesans plight, taught and tied, many years of bondage by cloth 'n cord.

Ageless children's toy skillfully engineered ups 'n downs for rich or poor.
Mules or horses tacked to carry loaded gear to forest, field or fiord.

I fear the waves, circles and streams that stay near with theories outpoured,
Keeping sleep at a distance until web is cleared and rest comes once more.



Sherrri George was a longtime member of Twin Falls IWL Chapter and frequent conference speaker. She had a keen sense of humor which she incorporated into her workshops. Sister Victoria frequently entertained conference attendees with her strict grammar lessons. Sadly, Sherrri lost her battle with cancer on April 30, 2019.

Sister Victoria's Deadly Grammar Sins

Excerpts from 2008 IWL Conference Workshop

The Formation of Possessives

Apostrophes allowed, nay, required! (you may use all those apostrophe's which you rescued from sins of the wrong plural formation)

To form a possessive of a singular noun, use -'s, no matter how the word ends. The waiter's helper spilled wine on Demi's dress hem, much to Bruce's friend's chagrin.

To form a possessive of a plural noun which does not end in s, use 's. They shopped for men's women's and children's clothing.

To form a positive of a plural noun which ends in s, use -'
The Willuses' maids' cars disappeared from the cow's corral, despite the cops' vigilance.

The commonest deadly sin: it's showing its shame!!

Possessive pronouns do not take the apostrophe.

His not hi's

Hers not her's

Theirs not their's

Its not it's

It's is a contraction of it is or it has. If the word can be replaced by "it is" use "it's."

Sherrri's words shared 2/10/14 still ring true for many of our Eastern Idaho Writers:

"Yesterday one of my writing friends, Kirby Jonas, and his wife Debbie came to speak at the Idaho Writers League meeting here in Twin Falls, and several of us writers went to lunch with them afterward. Kirby and I were reminiscing about when we had first met, when we still had car seats in the vehicles. Now I'm awaiting my third grandchild and his daughter is getting married. I thought of the line from Stevie Nicks' "Landslide": "Children get older, I'm getting older, too."

Kirby has been much bolder about publication than I have. He set up his own publishing company when commercial publication was still the standard. (He never quit his day job, though!) He has moved into electronic publishing, with a resultant increase in sales. Who would have thought that Kindle readers would like Westerns?"

With the electronic revolution, anyone can upload a first draft and call it a published book — and it shows. I maintain that there are no bad books, just ones which need editing, but the editing isn't getting done. It's easy, and everyone's doing it, and readers must wade through the piles of horse pebbles in search of a pony.

I'm in my second half-century, and have begun to ask for the senior discount when I'm able. But though I'm getting older, and still prefer dead tree books, I'll embrace electronic publication when the time comes."

Back Story: Eastern Idaho Writers—Meet Kirby Jonas

By Amy McClellan

Kirby Jonas is one of Eastern Idaho's most prolific authors. Although Kirby was born in Bozeman, Montana and moved around a lot in his youth, he has spent much of his life in Idaho. Kirby attended school in Shelley, Idaho, where he penned his first novel, *The Tumbleweed*, in the sixth grade. Motivated by the inspiration of Louis L'Amour, Kirby continued to write and published his first western novel, titled *Season of the Vigilante*, in 1994, which he had written as a senior in high school. He admitted in a recent interview with the *Shelley Pioneer Reporter* that he can't keep track of how many novels he has published since then. (Goodread.com lists 46 books available from the author.) Kirby's latest novel, *Windfall*, will be released soon and is available to preorder. His list of published novels, short stories and even poetry is impressive, but Kirby has accomplished much in addition to his writing.

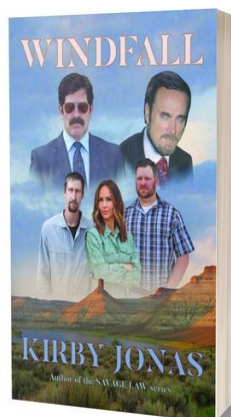
Kirby retired from the Pocatello Fire Department in 2017, but his resume includes a long list of jobs including moving irrigation pipe, sorting potatoes and running a pet store. He has also worked for Pocatello Police Department, the Bureau of Land Management, and Idaho Fish and Game. One of his more interesting jobs placed him behind the wheel of a Wells Fargo Armored Truck. He joked that the job would be the closest he would come to being a stagecoach guard in the Old West.

In addition to his novel-writing career, Kirby has written Western songs and works in oil paints. He has painted his own novel covers which often feature his own likeness. For the author who is very much a real-life western character himself, he has had to clarify that very western name of Kirby Jonas is his actual name and not a "fake" name. He has also earned the nickname of "The Renaissance Cowboy".

Some of Kirby's more recent activities carved into his multi-faceted life would include his collecting of classic cars which he incorporated into his SAVAGE LAW series of novels, which is set in the 1970'S. The author acknowledges that being a devoted family man is his greatest accomplishment. In recent years, Kirby and his wife Debbie have been delving into new adventures with the addition of grandchildren to their family. Could these precious additions lead Kirby down the path of children's picture books? The talented writer and painter is certainly capable and no doubt has the inspiration for some great stories. With all his accomplishments and plans for the future, Kirby noted in an interview for STORYTELLERS: (<https://tomrizzo.com/storytellers-7-kirby-jonas>)

" In short, I have sadly found that there is not enough time in the world to do all the things you want to do."

Kirby invites feedback from his readers and fans. He tries to respond to all emails and can be reached at pocatello-cowboy@gmail.com. He still tries to reach out to his fans in Eastern Idaho by doing occasional book signings and is also available on Facebook. His books are available on Kindle and in paperback, as well as seven of them on audio books.



Submissions Welcome:

If you have a suggestion for our Back Story Page please send it to Amy at cowpirancher@aol.com.

We also appreciate information on book signings, writing contests and writer related topics.