



WINSTON SALEM  
WRITERS

Annual Report  
2013

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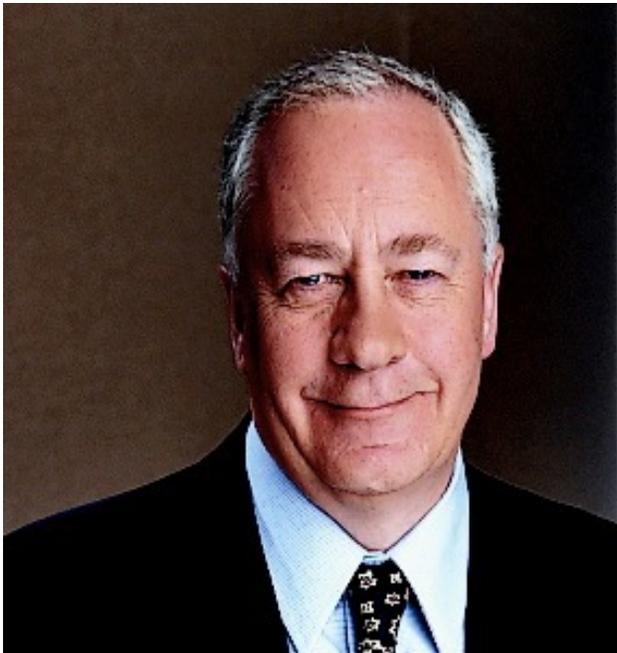
Your 2014 Board Members

Looking Forward . . .

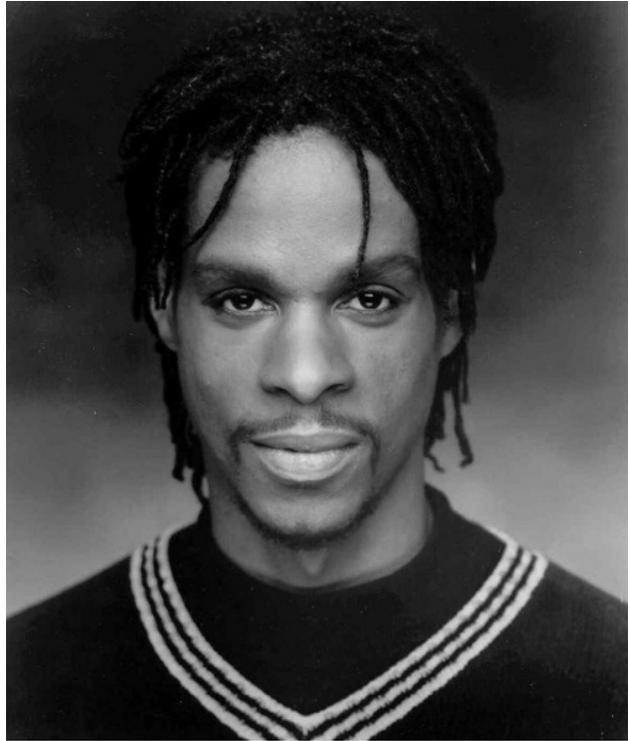
**Winston-Salem Writers Mission Statement**

Helping writers interact with other writers, improve their craft, and realize their goals.

In 2013, all members of Winston-Salem Writers lost two dedicated Board Members. We humbly dedicate this report to their memory. . . .



Geoff Penney



Rodney Holman

### *Message from the President . . .*

In June 2013, my term as President of The Winston-Salem Writers began after serving on the Board for two years. First under Geoff Penney, and 2012-13 under Carol Roan's leadership. I was familiar with the organization's core agenda and much of this year's programming was already in motion. The 2013 -2014 Board just had to build on the solid foundation Carol, and all previous presidents, had laid.

These core programs included monthly presentations by experts in the field of writing, publishing and marketing; members' critique groups; *Open-Mic*; *Writer's Night Out* potluck dinners; *Ten Minute Play Contest*; and *Taking Flight Anthology* contest; and our standalone poetry project *Poetry in Plain Sight*.

All were thriving and would have been quite enough to manage and promote in themselves. But, at the Member's Meeting in June, I challenged the Board, the members, even our Past Presidents (who all attended), "What will be our next *Big Idea*"? What will make Winston-Salem Writers an organization that the entire

community of writers in Winston-Salem will recognize as a group they want to join and support?

This quest had already begun last spring when Carol graciously asked me to collaborate with her on several projects . . .

WSW would apply for an Innovative Artists' Arts Council Grant for the *Poetry in Plain Sight* project that would involve placing poetry posters on every bus in the Winston-Salem Transit Authority fleet. **Steve Mitchell**, a WSW board member, agreed to write the grant, and **Julie Kolischak**, an intern from Salem College, agreed to coordinate this project. Steve and I met with the Arts Council in the summer to present the idea. In October, WSW was awarded \$2,500 matching grant to implement this project.

In April, when the Forsyth County Public Library was the monthly sponsor for *Poetry in Plain Sight*, they invited Carol and me to discuss the possibility of storing WSW archives in the library's North Carolina room. WSW jumped at this chance. **Eileen Donovan**, also a board member, has now spent the past nine months compiling information from the past presidents, and all other sources, coordinating this project with the library personnel. This spring, WSW will pass everything over for their safe keeping and for the community to access.

In addition to the above programs, WSW continued with established programs and will be committed to them in the year ahead:

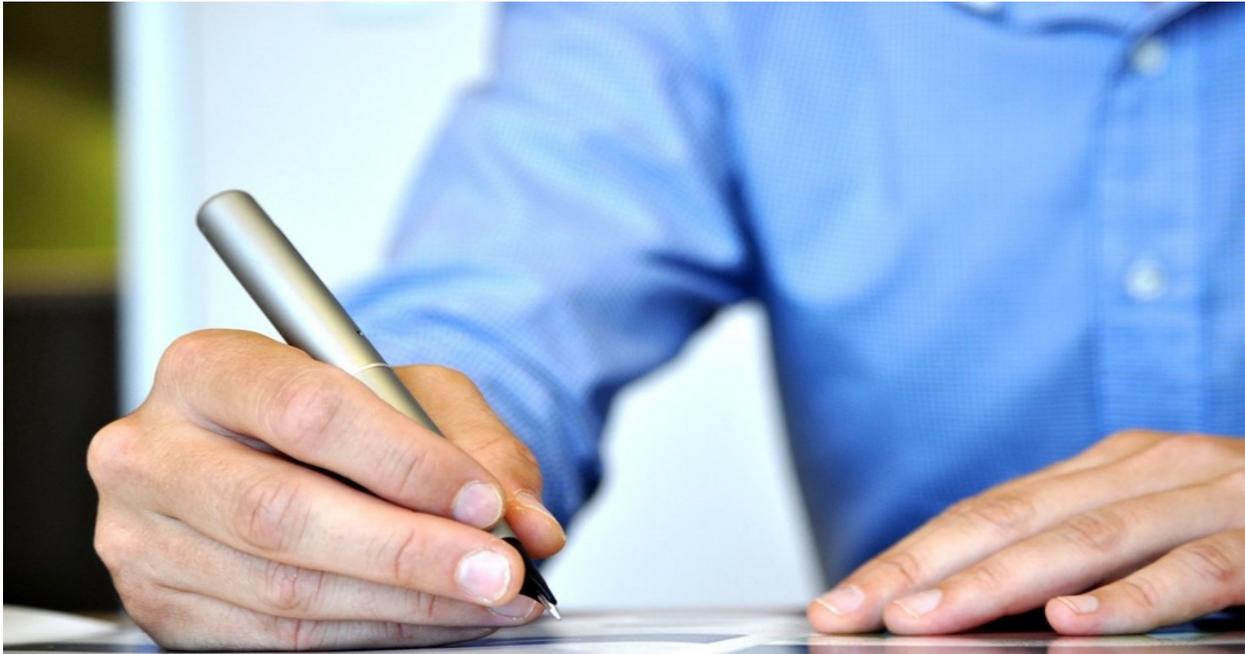
- WSW continued to maintain working partnership with The Arts Council, Barnhill's, Bookmarks, Press 53, and Winston Salem Downtown Partnership. In June, WSW enhanced its partnership with Community Arts Café (CAC) that led to leasing their attractive space for WSW meetings, workshops and special events at discounted rates. We are very grateful to CAC for this arrangement.
  
- The Critique Groups grew to include *Screen Adaptation and Playwriting* (led by **Grace Winn-Ellis**), and *Children's Literature* (led by Eileen Donovan). The *Poetry*, *Short Story* and *Long Fiction* critique groups continue to meet regularly.

- **Robin Chalkley**, Vice President of Communications, put enormous time and energy to manage WSW website and prepared informative and attractive newsletters for biweekly circulation. The decision to reduce the newsletters frequency from weekly to biweekly neither interrupted timely communication nor reduced our members' satisfaction.
- **Christy Vance**, Vice President of Programs, established a *Marketing Group* that met monthly to explore new ways for writers to market and promote their published works in a rapidly changing environment. The members of this group were instrumental in developing some popular and fiscally successful Saturday Programs. They are listed in the pages that follow.

These are just a few examples of what WSW accomplished in the year 2013. Please take time to read the individual Board members' reports for more details. We hope to break new ground in 2014 to fulfill WSW's mission to help writers interact with other writers, improve their craft, and realize their goals.

In closing, I want to express my thanks to all WSW members for allowing me to serve as your President. Also my appreciation goes to our Board. At the June meeting, I emphasized that we are a "Working Board" and that description is faint praise for the dedication and commitment that these individuals demonstrate on a regular basis. The next time you attend an event, thank them for their service to the organization. They deserve it.

**Sam Barbee . . . President**



### *Communications . . .*

During 2013, we sent out 32 newsletters and 16 "e-blasts". During the second half of the year, the newsletter publication schedule was changed from weekly to bi-weekly.

The currently mailing list has 818 people on it, up from 704 at the end of 2012. That's a 16% increase in one year.

In addition to the regular updates made to keep our website current, we added a much more user-friendly calendar which is visible on all pages - an archived history of some of our past programs - and a Volunteer Opportunities page.

### ***TOP TEN UPGRADES MADE TO THE WEBSITE in 2013***

1. Added all newsletters to the Newsletter Archives.
2. Added a link to past programs on the home page, and created a new page under Programs tab listing all programs since 2009.
3. Added a box at the top of The Writing Life page: “The Winter Series” of The Writing Life is now complete.
4. Added a box at the top of the Anthology page: Winners to be announced in June.
5. Added a box at the top of the 10-Minute Plays page.
6. Removed completed programs from Upcoming Events, keeping events current.
7. Added this year's 10-Minute Play winners to the Contests page.
8. Updated Writing with Anne page with all entries since 2-23-13.
9. Added links to Winston-Salem Arts Council, Community Arts Café, Delta Arts Center, NC Writers Network, and NC Poetry Society under WSW Friends.
10. Added a YouTube link on the Open Mic page.

**Robin Chalkley . . .** Vice President of Communications

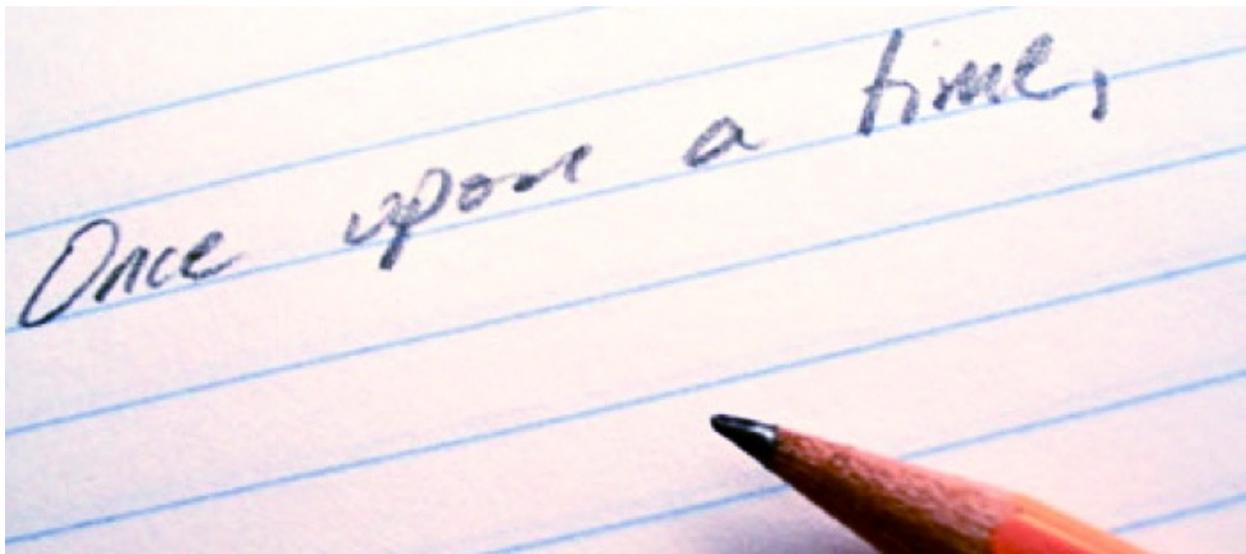
### ***Membership . . .***

Since June 2013, WSW re-instated 39 members and gained 30 new members! The strongest month by far was September with 7 renewals and 10 **new** memberships. Requests for our bi-monthly newsletters in the month of September peaked at nearly 62! We can attribute the month’s inquiries primarily to our exposure with Bookmarks. WSW also gained a lot of publicity that month with a program by Pat Schneider. She has always stimulated a crowd. We must give a nod to Christy Vance and her assistants who manage to incorporate special programs and appealing workshops. Several new members have joined due to these workshops.

A reminder for 2014: it brings an increase in membership fees: \$30.00 for renewals, \$35.00 for any first-time or lapsed members. Student membership fees will remain the same at \$15 to renew and new memberships at \$20.00 yearly with the request that the student inform us regarding what school they attend.

Feedback from previous membership directors indicates that this was a high growth year! That's a good thing. WSW is striving to learn what writers in our area are looking for. Our goal, then, is to get the word out that WSW has what they want and will continue to expand while meeting the needs of our current members.

**Nancy Jewell** . . . Director, Membership Services Committee



### ***Programs . . .***

Winston-Salem Writers' 2013 programming showed our growing maturity as an organization and as an up-and-coming player in the City of the Arts. We achieved higher visibility in the community and reached higher than ever for our writing dreams. We dubbed our programming theme, "The Year of Getting Published."

Our special Saturday series on publishing started when **Dena Harris** and **Chris Laney** taught us how to build our author brand in a seminar in January at Downtown Sushi Thai restaurant. **Chris Roerden**, author of *Don't Sabotage Your Submission*, taught us "How to Survive the Traditional Publishing Route" in March at Barnhill's Books. **Kim Wright**, author of *Your Path to Publication, A Guide to Navigating the World of Publishing*, taught a master class, "Finding and Working with a Literary Agent" in April at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. In October, **Peggy**

**Dekay**, author of *Self-Publishing for Virgins*, led back-to-back Saturday workshops on self-publishing and book marketing.

But members were ready to go beyond publishing and get our books outside our circles of family and friends. In January, we launched the Marketing Group for members who had published or soon would publish a book. Group members collaborated to generate ideas, share experiences, build skills, and help each other get their books into the hands of readers. The group met monthly at Community Arts Cafe in a variety of formats – brainstorming sessions, small group collaborations, and programs. Board members **Robin Chalkley** and **Dan Coulter**, respectively, taught us the basics of blogging and marketing on the internet. Former member **Carrie Graves** shared her expertise in selling books on Amazon.com. Member **Barbara Mellin** presented “Magazine Writing” to teach us how to expand and add dimension to our book-marketing efforts.

Our monthly weeknight meetings featured an array of original programming developed by our members. Former Winston-Salem Writers president **Jennifer Stevenson Vincent** led a dynamic workshop in January focused on turning dreams into creative goals and a can-do plan. In February, **Susannah Cecil** created an innovative workshop, “Writing with Breath: Unleashing Silenced Voices through Yoga.”

In March, **Steve Mitchell** brought us “Sandbox Game: Writing as Discovery.” At the April monthly meeting, we learned about writing “Fiction from Reality” with **Ray Morrison**. In May, **Nancy Bruce** brought art supplies and taught us how to play with words and pictures to discover a fresh topic, surprising first sentence, or an entire storyline.

Also in May, three members represented Winston-Salem Writers at our first-ever reading at Edward McKay. **Colleen Lanier** read from her nonfiction book *Miles from Home*. **Carol Roan** read poetry from the book she edited, *When Last on the Mountain: The View from Writers Over 50*, and **Tony Lindsay** read from *Tattletale Roadhouse and Social Club*, his book of short stories.

After our traditional summer break, beloved author and teacher **Pat Schneider** read from her newest book and shared her philosophy, “Of course you can write!” in September at Reynolda Manor branch library. In the fall, we partnered with old friends and new ones to bring programs to the community. With Forsyth County Public Library, we co-hosted best-selling author **Wilton Barnhardt** in October. A Winston-Salem native, Barnhardt read from his novel set in Charlotte, *Lookaway*,

*Lookaway*. In November, we partnered with New Winston Museum to host a presentation (and Sixties trivia contest) by WSW member **Randell Jones** on *The Daniel Boone Wagon Train: A Journey through the Sixties*.

WSW member and NaNoWriMo local coordinator **Jennifer Flanagan** organized a series of events to encourage writers to complete a novel in one month. Events included a kick-off event on Oct. 29, write-ins each Tuesday at various locations in Winston-Salem, and a TGIO (thank goodness it's over) party at Barnhill's Books on Dec. 3.

"*The Little Free Library*" concept came to Winston-Salem, thanks to the efforts of **Sarah Maxey**. WSW collected books for these "libraries" which will be in public spaces around town.

### **College Interns**

In 2013 we hosted our first-ever college intern, WSW member **Julie Kolischak**, of Salem College. Julie played a pivotal role in launching and sustaining *Poetry in Plain Sight* – from keeping records of submitted poems to delivering posters to businesses to photographing the posters in storefronts and hosting *4 Poems & A Party* each month. Inspired by Julie, we developed an intern program and hosted a fall intern from Winston-Salem State University, **Dominique Johnson**. Dominique assisted with publicity, participated in the Marketing Group, and developed a program that will be presented in spring 2014.

### **Community Collaborations**

In January, board members **Tony Lindsay** and **Cheryl Davis** worked a table at Silver Arts featuring our programs and displaying books published by our members. Silver Arts is part of the Piedmont Plus Senior Games, sponsored by the City of Winston-Salem.

In July, we joined the Community Arts Café and expanded the number programs we held there, after enjoying Open Mic in the Underground Theater the previous year. We also joined the Downtown Arts District Association.

**Christy Vance . . . Vice-President of Programs**



## **Critique Groups**

Sam Barbee transferred the Critique Group Coordinator duties to me in May, the new Board year. Sam not only provided me with a helpful spreadsheet of members and others who had inquired about joining critique groups, but he had started a new Short Story critique group that continues to meet monthly.

After contacting everyone else on the list and receiving many new requests during the spring/early summer, WSW started a new traditional critique group in August/September. They continue with five active, enthusiastic members. At the same time, Eileen Donovan began a group for those writing Children's Literature (board books through YA) which has four members and growing. Grace Winn Ellis

organized and launched a popular Script Development Group that meets at the Reynolda Public Library.

I am currently taking names for another traditional critique group as well as trying to work out the logistics of a literary fiction group designed to benefit experienced members who write literary fiction and want to make longer submissions.

**Anne Civitano** . . . Director, Critique Group Coordinator

### *Contests*

**Ten Minute Play Contest:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Winston-Salem Writers 10 Minute Play 2013 contest opened on Friday, November 9, 2012. The next day, all participants who could attend were challenged with a dynamic and spirited program on “How to Write a 10 Minute Play” by Board Member **Nathan Ross Freeman**, scriptwriter, filmmaker, dramaturge, creative writing & spoken word educator. Entry fees were charged & collected for each entry at the rate \$15 for WSW members (up from \$10 in 2012), \$20 for non-members. After receiving 15 entries, the contest closed on January 31, 2013.

**Judges:** Our judges for the 2013 10-Minute Play Contest were **Dr. Woody Hood**, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance at Wake Forest University, and **Michael Huie**, actor, writer and teacher, and Outreach & Education director for NC Shakespeare Festival.

**Awards:** The judges selected three winners, who were notified of their award on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> via email from the Contest Coordinator. Entrants who had not placed were notified via email from the Contest Coordinator on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The public was notified on Monday, March 11 via Facebook and the WSW website. Winners were given the option to have their play published in the 2013 Winston-Salem Writers Anthology, as well as to receive one free copy, and discounts on subsequent copies.

**Staged Reading Award:** The 3 winning plays were presented in a staged reading on April 27 in Wingate Hall, on the campus of Wake Forest University, with 2 of the 3 playwrights in attendance. Each 10-minute play had been developed for the stage by a director, actors, and readers. The presentations were followed by a 15-minute discussion led by **Nathan Ross Freeman**, with feedback from the audience. Food and beverages were served. Attendance for this event was lower than in past years, prompting a discussion among Board Members about the need for more intentional publicity and/or more involvement from WSW members. Consideration was given to narrowing the geographical scope of this contest, thereby encouraging higher attendance in the future.

**Anthology Contest:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Winston-Salem Writers Anthology Contest opened on March 1, 2013. Entry fees were charged & collected for each entry at the rate \$5 for WSW members, \$10 for non-members. The contest closed on March 31<sup>st</sup>, after receiving the following number of entries in each category:

- **Poetry:** 15
- **Flash Fiction:** 6
- **Short Story:** 5
- **Memoir/Essay/Creative Nonfiction:** 7

Some discussion among Board members commenced regarding a decline in entries from the 2012 contest. Our conclusion, based on participants who had not re-entered, was that Board member participation (which had been discouraged) accounted for the decline.

**Judges:** Each of our final judges was distinguished in their genres.

- **Poetry:** North Carolina native **Terri Kirby Erickson** is author of three collections of poetry, winner of a Nautilus Silver Award for Poetry and a Gold Medal for Poetry was the 2013 Leidig Keynote Poet for Emory & Henry College in Virginia.
- **Flash Fiction:** **Curtis Smith**'s novels, stories and essays have appeared in over seventy-five literary journals. His work has been cited by *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Mystery Stories*, and *The Best American Spiritual Writing*.
- **Short Story:** **Susan Woodring** is a writing instructor at Salem College's Courses for the Community, the author of a novel *Goliath*, and a short story collection, *Springtime on Mars*. Her work has twice been nominated for a

Pushcart Prize and her short fiction was shortlisted for *Best American Non-Required Reading 2008* and *Best American Short Stories 2010*.

- **Memoir/Essay/Creative Nonfiction:** *Tara L. Masih* has published fiction, poetry, and essays in numerous anthologies and literary magazines. She is editor of *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction*, *The Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays*, and author of *Where the Dog Star Never Glows*. She also judges the intercultural essay contest for the annual Soul-Making Keats Literary Awards.

The judges' decisions were announced at the Winston-Salem Writers annual meeting in June, 2013. Winners were previously notified by phone or email. **Awards:** The judges selected 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category. The poetry category had two Honorable Mentions, and the Creative Non-Fiction had one Honorable Mention. The winners were notified of their award on May 26<sup>th</sup> via email from the Contest Coordinator. The public was notified the same day via Facebook and the WSW website. Winners were invited to read from their winning work at the WSW Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Their winning work was published in the 2013 Winston-Salem Writers Anthology, of which they received a free copy and discounts on subsequent copies.

**Susannah Cecil** . . . Director, Contest Coordinator

### ***External Publicity***

During 2013, Winston-Salem Writers issued monthly press releases concerning programs, contests and projects. We also made calendar entries in several online calendars with radio stations, online magazines and the North Carolina Writers Network. Some of our members were featured in the Relish features section of the *Winston-Salem Journal*. In addition, emails were sent to English professors at various colleges and universities.

Poetry in Plain Sight received a full-length feature in the *Winston-Salem Journal* Living section on July 21, 2013. The article is located [here](#). Open Mic was featured

in the Journal's [Scene & Heard](#) column on Jan. 20, 2013. President Sam Barbee was a guest on radio station 980 AM The Eagle in November.

**Susan Williamson** . . . Director

## ***OPEN MIC***

The Winston Salem Writers Open Mic is a monthly event held on every third Tuesday, and has been a local institution for most of eight years. Held at many fine establishments throughout those wonderful years, we now meet at The Community Arts Cafe on Fourth Street and Spruce. In the growing arts district of downtown Winston Salem, the poetry is only the beginning of the many fine readings we've enjoyed. Excerpts from ongoing works of fiction, songs rising from the page on youthful melody and passionate voice have filled the air and stirred our souls.

Jim and Cathy Tedder have hosted our beautiful noises for many months offering a wondrous collection of wines, beers and caffeine for the designated among us. Truly an open setting, the room is just the beginning of the warmth and acceptance each reader receives in this opportunity to read from their hearts to an attentive and enthusiastic group of fellow scribblers.

From the newest reader to the old hand the emphasis is on the effort, and the courage of those baring their souls does not go unnoticed. The option of posting readings on YouTube has been available at times in the past year and we look to offer this opportunity again soon. For me this is a great chance to hear my words out loud and to receive much appreciated feedback on my own work. I am grateful for the kinship of my fellow writers demonstrated at our open mic.

**Dan O'Sullivan** . . . Director, Open Mic, Event Services and Venues

## ***The Writing Life***

The Writing Life began in September 2012 and was conceived as a series of informal conversations with writers led by author Steve Mitchell. The series was

held in the meeting room of the Community Arts Café. Seating was limited to 22 and each ticket included a glass of wine, craft beer, or beverage of choice.

The evenings began with a short reading by the author followed by a casual conversation on the intricacies of writing with Steve. The last ten minutes of the evening was dedicated to questions from the audience.

The second half of The Writing Life began in January 2013 with Jill McCorkle. Her new novel, *Life After Life* was about to be published in March and we hosted her before *The New York Times* and Good Morning, America. Here's a little about Jill . . .

Jill McCorkle made publishing history at age twenty-six, in 1984, when her first two novels were published simultaneously. She is the author of *The Cheer Leader*, *July 7th*, *Tending to Virginia*, *Ferris Beach*, and *Carolina Moon*, as well as three story collections, most recently *Creatures of Habit*. Among her many prizes are the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize, and the North Carolina Award for Literature.

In February, John McNally was our guest. John is the author of three novels, *After the Workshop*, *America's Report Card*, and *The Book of Ralph*; and two story collections, *Ghosts of Chicago* and *Troublemakers*. He is also author of *The Creative Writer's Survival Guide: Advice from an Unrepentant Novelist*. His short stories have been cited three times as an outstanding story of the year in the Best American Short Stories series. His new book, to be published in 2013, is *Vivid and Continuous: Essays and Exercises for Writing Fiction*.

We closed the series in March with debut novelist, Holly Goddard Jones, whose novel *The Next Time You See Me* had just been released a few weeks earlier. Holly is the author of a collection of short stories, *Girl Trouble* (Harper Perennial 2009), and her fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Tin House*, *Epoch*, *Best American Mystery Stories*, *New Stories from the South*, and various journals. She was a 2007 recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, which honors six emerging women fiction writers annually.

The Writing Life was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by authors and audience. The Writing Life was co-sponsored by Press 53 and Barnhill's.

**Steve Mitchell** . . . Director

## ***BOOKMARKS***

On Saturday, September 7, 2013, WSW took part in the all-day annual *Bookmarks Book Festival* in the Theater Arts District in Winston-Salem, an event WSW has participated in since its inception nine years ago.

This year, Bookmarks, Inc. provided twice the table space. Yet, all of it was used fully to inform the public about WSW programs, foster membership, display a growing list of books published by members, debut WSW's 2013 Anthology *Taking Flight*, and promote *Poetry in Plain Sight* posters. The abundance of resources was a clear testimony of how well the organization has evolved over the years.

Nine newly published WSW authors also marketed their books at the booth. They were Martha Brown, Lynn Byrd, Sheila Englehart, Will Farrell, Smith Hagaman, Steve McCutchan, Steve Mitchell, Danny Roberts, along with well-known author and friend of WSW, Pat Schneider.

At the end of the day, WSW enrolled three new members, signed up sixty-two for newsletters, sold two anthologies and six PIPS posters. These goals would not have been achieved without the impressive voluntary help from Sam Barbee, Lynn Byrd, Vijya Campagne, Susannah Cecil, Robin Chalkley, Dan Coulter, Bill Donahue, Sheila Englehart, Julia Kolischak, Tony Lindsay, Steve Mitchell, Dan O'Sullivan, Al Perry, Carol Roan, Christy Vance, Peter Venable and Susan Williamson.

WSW members, along with Kevin Watson of Press 53, also provided a reading by September's *Poetry In Plain Sight* featured poets to festival attendees, giving WSW the opportunity to celebrate the monthly *Four Poems and A Party* during the festival rather than at Barnhill's Books.

**Vijya Campagne . . . WSW / Bookmarks Festival Coordinator**



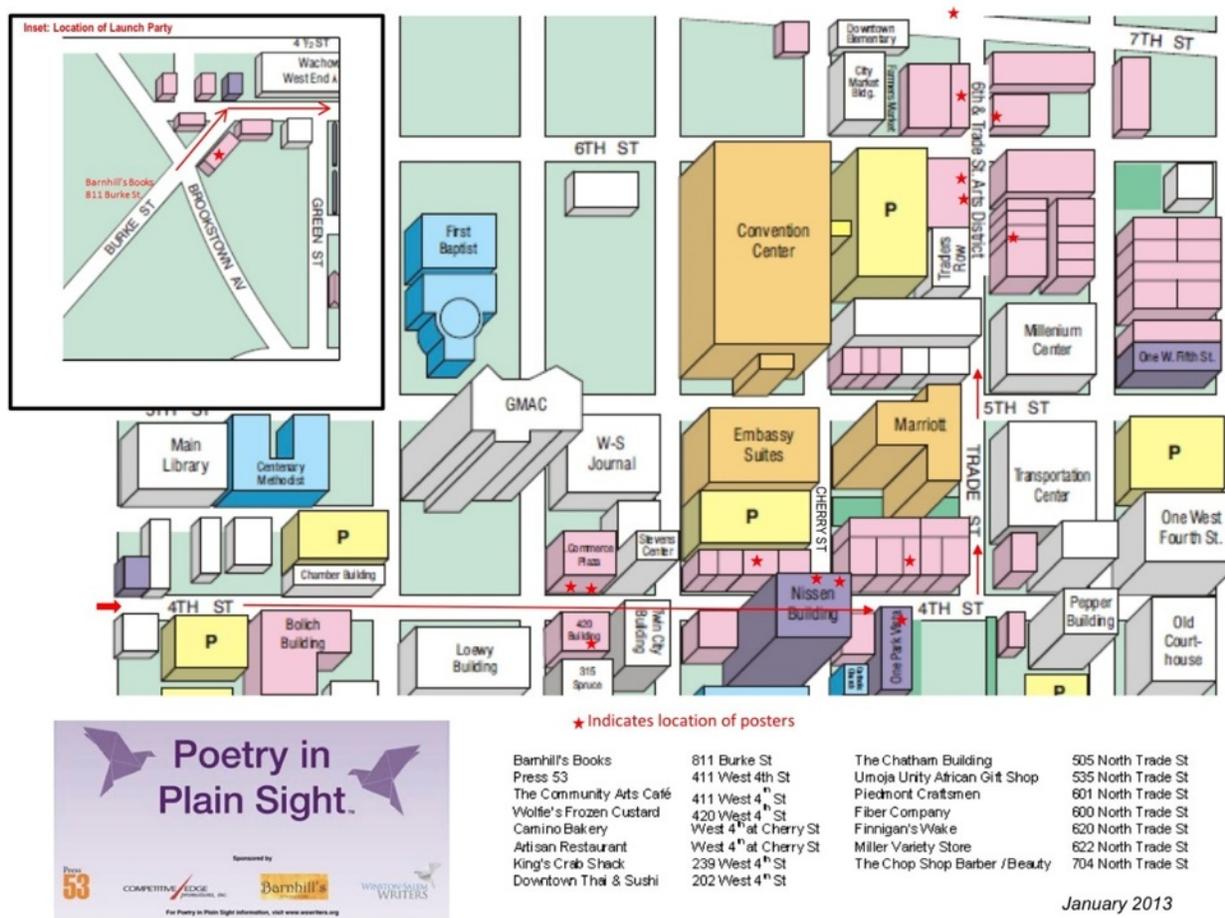
### ***Poetry in Plain Sight***

*Poetry in Plain Sight*, Winston-Salem Writers' premier community initiative puts poetry in plain sight everyday on the streets of Winston-Salem. The program had a successful and exciting first year. Submissions from across North Carolina brought writers into Winston-Salem and gave local poets a stage for their work. Artfully designed posters place four new poems every month in twenty locations in downtown Winston-Salem. The goal of this initiative, the concept originally by late board member Rodney Holman, is to expose people to poetry who might not be otherwise be inclined to engage in this genre.

*Poetry in Plain Sight* has drawn attention statewide, receiving recognition from the North Carolina Writers' Network, and The Governors' School Foundation, among others, as sponsors of the program. For the first time, Winston-Salem Writers had a stage at Bookmarks, which featured the September poets for *Poetry in Plain Sight*. *Four Poems & a Party*, the monthly PIPS event at Barnhill's books, brings the poems to life as each poet attends and reads his or her work. This event is well-attended and supported by the community.

*Poetry in Plain Sight* also attracted the attention of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, which awarded Winston-Salem Writers an Innovative Projects Grant. The purpose of this grant was to design and install poems in all 58 busses of the Winston-Salem Transit Authority in 2014. This effort will run parallel to the monthly posters, with the bus posters changing poems every quarter. Sixteen poems will be used during the year for the bus project. The potential for *Poetry in Plain Sight* to grow seems unbounded, as program administrators are currently looking for ways to connect actual PIPS posters statewide. This is in response to participating poets' inquiries as to how this program might be expanded to their area.

**Julie Kolischak . . . *Poetry in Plain Sight*, Project Coordinator**



- the first *Poetry In Plain Sight* poster location map -

(map design by Christy Vance)

## *Writers Night Out*

*Writer's Night Out* began as a meeting of WSW members to share common conversation, and get to know each other in a more social setting, at the home of a WSW member. This was also offered as an incentive to prospective members as well as a benefit to existing members. Initially, and due to space limitations, attendance was limited to 12, but, when the word got out, there was increasing demand.

Everyone could just not be accommodated in a single location. To make WNO available to the increased number of inquiries, a second meeting place was offered so everyone who was interested could have the opportunity to attend.

At the second location, nonmembers and members' spouses were welcomed, which made for a more social atmosphere, which was well-received. Although some attendees preferred the single conversation format, some preferred the other.

When the first meeting of the month location only had 4-5 people signing up, and at times a couple last minute cancelations, the host decided to cancel that meeting altogether. After this reoccurred three times in the last quarter of 2013, the original host decided to stop having meetings at that location, hoping that the balance would attend the second meeting, making that group larger. WSW thanks her for opening her home to us all.

In the fall, second WNO host also needed to pass the torch, another member agreed to pick it up. Initially, the holidays, inclement weather, and change of location made the turn out low, but now it seems back on track. Ten attendees made the second meeting in January 2014 – the first one for the new host. In fact, a new member joined as a result of coming to this WNO! She saw it on our website and signed up to attend.

One member suggested that having two meetings changed the initial dynamic. It probably did. Yet we had at least three new members attend in the fall, emailing afterward how much they enjoyed it. We hope they will become members too.

Currently, WNO is being held once a month until attendance stabilizes. Some of the observations and suggestions the Board is now debating to improve it for 2014:

- Why did **attendance drop** so drastically last year?
- Should we only meet **once** a month?
- Should it stick to **a single conversation** or be **more social**?
- Should it be open to **nonmembers** more than once?
- Should it be offered **quarterly** instead of once a month?
- If we schedule a second WNO, what is a **convenient location**?

Going forward, WSW would appreciate your input and ideas.

**Shelia Englehart . . .** *Writer's Night Out* Coordinator

## ***Taking Flight, the 2013 Anthology***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual anthology of Winston-Salem Writers was comprised of 10 Minute Play Contest winners, Anthology Contest winners and Honorable Mentions. After the announcement of winners of both contests, the winning work was sent to the Anthology Editor, Dr. Robert Vorsteg. Dr. Vorsteg then edited the work, while consulting with various members of the WSW Board. Once edited, the work was delivered to Kevin Watson of Press 53 for publication. The hard copy of "*Taking Flight 2013*" premiered at the 2013 Bookmarks Festival on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The official launch of the book was celebrated the following Saturday, September 14, at a party held at Community Arts Café. Several of the Anthology Contest winners were present, and read from their winning work.

*"As for my role as editor,*

*I enjoyed reading the marvelous work of our poets and writers."*

**Robert Vorsteg . . .** 2014 *Taking Flight*, Anthology Coordinator

## **2013 Contests Award Winners**

### **POETRY**

First Place **Waves** Barbara Mellin

Second Place **Fissure** Peter Venable

Third Place **Not Yet** Cheryl Davis

Honorable Mention **Silent Partner** Edward Robson

Honorable Mention **Farmhouse by The River** David Ponyboy Hill

### **SHORT STORY**

First Place **The Homestead** Susan Williamson

Second Place **Preston Manor** Ray Morrison

Third Place **Destiny** Sheila Englehart

### **FLASH FICTION**

First Place **Lost** Ray Morrison

Second Place **The Mate** Susan Williamson

Third Place **The Advantage of Being Married to a Know-it-all** Ray Morrison

#### **10-MINUTE PLAY**

First Place **First Rodeo** L. B. Londagin

Second Place **The Hello** Tina L. Bubonovich

Third Place **First Kiss** Robert Wallace

#### **CREATIVE NONFICTION**

First Place **The Embrace** Barbara E. Buskirk

Second Place **Ironing Board** Barbara Mellin

Third Place **The First Name In My Gradebook** Barbara Mellin

Honorable Mention **Migrating Penguins** Susan Williamson



**120 copies of the 2013 Anthology were printed by our partners at Press 53 at a cost of \$750, which worked out to \$6.25 per copy.**

**There are 56 copies still available for sale.**

**There are 28 copies of the 2012 edition and 16 copies of 2011 edition still available for sale.**

**Copies are currently available at Barnhill's Books and New Winston Museum.**

## *Financial . . .*

### *Income/Expense by Category*

*1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013*

<i>Category</i>	<i>OVERALL TOTAL</i>
<u>INCOME</u>	
General Income	4,603.30
Program Income	7,192.74
TOTAL INCOME	11,796.04
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Community	254.00
Membership Cultivation	550.00
Office Administration	3,426.65
Program Expense	5,853.81
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,084.46
OVERALL TOTAL	+ 1,711.58

The **Total Income** figure includes the \$2,500. Arts Council Grant which **must** be applied to the *Poetry in Plain Sight* Program. So the organization actually absorbed a **\$788.42** deficit in our Operating Budget.

Respectfully Submitted by Sam Barbee, Interim Treasurer

***Your 2013-2014 Board Members . . .***

***Officers***

Sam Barbee	President - Holiday Party; Bookmarks
Robin Chalkley	Vice President - Communications & Media: Web, Newsletter
Barbara Mellin	Vice President - Member Services; Members' Books
Christy Vance	Vice President - Programs
Sam Barbee	Treasurer (Interim)
Nilla Childs	Secretary

***Directors***

Susannah Cecil	Contest Coordinator, Judges
Anne Civitano	Critique Group Coordinator
Dan Coulter	Audio-Video Services
Eileen Donovan	Archives; Event Services
Nathan Ross Freeman	Staged Readings (10 Minute Play)
Nancy Jewel	Membership Support
Steve Mitchell	"The Writing Life"; Grants; Social Media
Dan O'Sullivan	Open Mic; Event Services - Venues
Susan Williamson	Public Relations; Event services; Anthology

***Committee Chairs***

Sheila Englehart	Writers Night Out
Julie Kolischak	"Poetry in Plain Sight"; Social Media
Robert Vorsteg	Anthology Editor
Vijya Campagne	Bookmarks Festival

( vacant )	Quarterly Meetings
( vacant )	Saturday Programs
( vacant )	Event Services

***Board Member Tenure***

2014 - 5

2015 - 4

2016 - 4

2017 - 1

***Looking Forward . . .***

It is early in the year, but The Winston-Salem Writers are looking forward to building on the positive developments of 2013.

- Already Christy Vance has conducted a well-attended Program in January, Hope Clark’s “*Funding Streams For Writers*”
- We have a schedule full of equally exciting and beneficial programs in the upcoming months.
- The Ten Minute Play contest had sixteen plays submitted – up from last year!
- The 2014 Anthology Contest deadline has been established. Plus, this year, for the first time - the Anthology will be offered electronically! That enables more members to access our organization’s most anticipated publication at any time.
- We have reserved our spot at the Bookmarks Festival this fall.
- Standing programs such as Critique Groups, *Open Mic*, *Writer’s Night Out*, the *Saturday Seminars*, and, hopefully *The Writer’s Life*, will continue. Plus we say goodbye to some old friends like the AKA Festival and First Wednesday Programs.
- Special thanks go to Board members, Vijya Campagne, Cheryl Davis, and Tony Lindsay whose terms ended in June of 2013. We welcome Barbara

Mellin as our new Vice-President of Membership, and she is already making headway on upgrading our active membership list and new marketing ideas.

2014 will also have its challenges. Already we have seen our membership renewal rate dip somewhat in the first half of the fiscal year, but our New Memberships have almost reached our annual goal since June. A big expense that we faced in 2013 was our increase in website maintenance. Previously, Geoff Penney was instrumental in keeping those costs low by utilizing his technical prowess, but we have not been able to replace his expertise so far. To better absorb such variables, we will conduct a Fundraising Campaign beginning in the spring. More details will be introduced in March.

We also will increase our efforts in recruiting volunteers. We need help to staff events and programs. So when contacted, please check your availability - plus you will enjoy the benefit of socializing with your fellow members!

In June we could potentially lose five Board Members and I am still serving as the Interim Treasurer at this point. Please contact me, or any Board member, if you have interest in taking on the responsibilities of a Board member or Committee Chairman.

Please feel free to contact your Board about any concerns or issues about the organization. And always remember, there is a standing Board meeting the first Monday of every month. You are invited!

We look forward to seeing you in 2014.

