

# The WIM News

## President's Message

by Ann Epner

It's been a while since the last newsletter. My apologies. We've been so busy with plans and projects that it's been hard to stop and find the time to write. However, in this issue you'll see that there is a lot of news and some exciting events coming up that we want to share with you.

The acquisition of our 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status has precipitated some serious discussions about our future. We are now at a crossroads when we have to give formal thought to our mission and our message. Although we are developing new classes that are more often than not taught by professional published writers and those classes are fully enrolled for the most part, we haven't been as successful as we'd like in attracting new writers to the classes. We need to be clear on how big we'd like to grow, how wide a net we want to cast, how much fundraising we need to do if we should consider being a formal membership organization, etc. To that end, The Board is convening a strategic planning meeting in early May to begin the process. I'm sure that one of the outcomes of that meeting will be a decision to find a way

to have you, our "members," weigh in with your opinions and suggestions as to how we can serve you better. We hope that you will always be quick to let us know what we're doing right; what we're doing wrong; and what we could be doing that we're not.

As you read through this issue, keep your calendars handy to mark the many upcoming events. We have made plans to revive our Sunday Seminar series with some book signings and some speakers. Our second annual gala on July 6 will be an opportunity to hear the best of writings from recent classes and to meet the writers and partake of fabulous food and good drink. There will be a pot luck picnic at the Fairbairn farm in July – an opportunity to show off your writing and your potluck dish skills. One of the most exciting opportunities to come along is the chance to spend some days (and nights) at The Platte Clove artists' residency program in Tannersville. I believe this is the first time that a group, rather than an individual artist, has been awarded a residency grant. And, oh yes, there are many exciting classes and workshops scheduled through the fall as well as fully staged productions of plays coming out of this year's Ten Minute Playwriting classes.

We always have more ideas than we can make happen, but we hope to initiate a regular monthly evening of readings at the new performance space in Stamford; a possible project to help the students at Roxbury Central School start a student newspaper and other hopeful projects. Stay tuned.

*Ann Epner*



Photo by Catskill Images

## Calendar of Workshops & Events

**MAY 18: Poets on the Psalms**  
A reading by Lynn Domina  
Walt Meade Gallery of The Roxbury Arts Group.  
Sunday at 2 pm.

**MAY 21—JUNE 25**  
**Poetry with Lynn Domina**  
Wednesdays, 6—8 pm  
Andes Library  
Six sessions for \$15

**JULY 1—AUG. 5**  
**Journaling with Ev Ellsworth**  
Tuesdays, 10 am to noon  
Roxbury Arts Group  
6 sessions for \$60

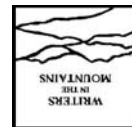
**JULY 6**  
**Gala Reading Fundraiser**  
Readings of works written in WIM classes.  
Walt Meade Gallery at RAG  
Sunday 2—4 pm  
\$10 Admission

**AUG. 14—SEPT. 18**  
**Critic's Corner with Barbara Apoian**  
Thursdays 6—8 pm  
Roxbury Run village Office  
Six sessions for \$65

**AUG. 17—SEPT. 14**  
**10 Minute Plays with Frank Canavan**  
Sundays 10 am to 1 pm  
Walt Meade Gallery, RAG.  
Four workshops, one reading and the full production \$75.

Complete details on WIM workshops can be found at  
[www.writersinthemountains.org](http://www.writersinthemountains.org)

WRITERS IN THE MOUNTAINS  
PO BOX 474  
ROXBURY, NY 12474



## Ten Minute Play Writing Workshop Offered

Anyone interested in dramatic creative writing will find this year's Playwright's Workshop an exciting and rewarding experience. Only new works will be accepted so come to the first workshop with a blank page and an open mind. As in prior years, the goal of the first three sessions of the series will be writing 10-minute plays. The focus of these three sessions will also be on enhancing skills in:

- Dealing with writer's block
- Exploring plot and exposition
- Conflict and character
- Practical exercises for staging the action

\$75-



**Frank Canavan** has taught the Ten Minute Play Writing workshop for WIM for the past four years. His workshops have resulted in the performance of several plays that have entertained and delighted audiences in Roxbury, Stamford and Margaretville.

The four workshops, taught by Frank Canavan, will be followed by a public reading to afford the playwrights the opportunity of hearing their scripts presented to an audience and gain feedback from them. The reading is followed by a fourth workshop to discuss audience reaction and editing suggestions to prepare a final draft of the plays.

Over the following four weeks the plays will be prepared for a fully staged production to be held at The Roxbury Arts Group auditorium. The Playwrights will have hands-on involvement in all aspects of theater from directing, casting, lighting and sound to stage management, costume and set design.

**Sundays Aug. 17— 31: Writing Workshops at The Roxbury Arts Group Office in Roxbury, 10 am—1 pm**  
**Sunday Sept. 7: Public reading at 76 Main (formerly Stamford Performing Arts Center) in Stamford, 2 pm**  
**Sunday Sept. 14: Workshop for rewriting at RAG, 10 am—1 pm**  
**Sunday Sept. 21: Finished Play Scripts turned in to Frank Canavan and discussed, 10 am—1 pm**  
**Oct. 24, 25, 26: The plays will be fully staged and presented at The Roxbury Arts Group Auditorium!**

Register on line at [www.writersinthemountains.org](http://www.writersinthemountains.org) or call 607-326-7908.

## WIM Receives NYSCA Grant for Workshops

WIM has received a \$1,600 Community Arts Funding grant to offer four workshops by professional writers at sharply reduced fees. This was matched by a \$2,040 grant from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation. The grant monies will pay the professional fees for the four workshops.

"We wanted to expand the base of writers who enroll in our workshops, says Board President Ann Epner. "Our hope is that, by offering four very different workshops in four different venues for \$15 each instead of our usual \$75, we will attract new writers. The workshops chosen for the grants are "Connecting the Dots," taught by Dorothy Kubik in Delhi, a class in writing memoir targeted to seniors wishing to create a family legacy of stories; "Personal Narrative: A Sense of Place", an intensive workshop led by Melora Wolff at The Roxbury Arts Group; a poetry workshop by Lynn Domina at The Andes Library; and a fiction workshop by Jennifer Kabat. All four workshop leaders are well established and published writers, and what is perhaps more important, inspiring and practiced teachers.

Epner says, "Our new not-for-profit status allows us to do some serious grant-seeking and fundraising that we hope will result in more effective marketing practices and lower fees for our class offerings.



Ev Ellsworth accepted the DEC Grant on behalf of WIM



Photo by Kim MacLoed

## Lynn Domina Reads from *Poets on The Psalms*

Writers in the Mountains will present Delhi poet Lynn Domina, who has taught several classes on writing poetry for WIM, at a reading and book signing at the Walt Meade Gallery of The Roxbury Arts Group on Sunday, May 18th at 2 pm. She will be reading from *Poets on the Psalms*, a remarkable and thought provoking new collection of essays published by Trinity University Press in San Antonio, Texas.

Lynn edited the volume and is one of the fourteen contributing poets. She will also share with the audience her experiences of putting this collection together. The event is one of an ongoing series of Sunday Seminars sponsored by WIM. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, Call (607) 326-7908.

## Lenny Mintz

Longtime WIM writer Lenny Mintz of Delhi has published his book, "Open Windows", an intimate account of his life sharing with his readers his experiences of childhood memories in Brooklyn, his career as a coach, the love for his family and his connections to his rural community.

WIM instructor Carol Little writes, "In sharing his memories Lenny gives us humorous and poignant glimpses of his personal quirks and

vulnerabilities. He also reveals his tenderness toward those fortunate enough to be included in this intimate portrayal of life and love."

Radio host Sam Goodyear interviewed Lenny for Art a La Carte, a program which airs on Sundays at noon on WZOZ 103.1.

Copies of Lenny's book of short stories and essays can be purchased at the RAG office on Main Street in Roxbury. A reception and book signing will be held for Lenny in the summer.

## Gala Reading and Fundraiser

On Sunday, July 6th Writers In The Mountains holds a gala to raise funds for the organization. The celebration will include readings from recent works, and a sumptuous buffet with wine will be provided. There will be a booklet of the pieces that are read available for sale. Last year the house was packed and everyone enjoyed the program and refreshments.

If you have a written piece from a recent WIM class you would like considered for the performance, please e-mail it to Barbara Apoian at apo-barb@aol.com. There will be a full rehearsal of selected pieces before the event.

Make sure to put this very special afternoon on your summer calendar and come and hear some sad, funny, personal essays, memoirs and poems from recent WIM workshops, while enjoying great food and wine. **July 6, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Hilt Kelly Hall, RAG. Admission is \$10.**

**Register on Line!**  
To register for a WIM workshop or for more information on our workshops, biographies of our instructors as well as current articles, and additions visit our website at [www.writersinthemountains.org](http://www.writersinthemountains.org)

## WIM Receives a Platte Clove Artist-in-Residency Grant from The Erpf Center

Imagine a rustic little red cabin in the mountains of the northern Catskills where you may well do some of the best writing of your life. Writers in the Mountains applied for and received a Platte Clove Artists in Residency Grant that will allow you to realize that dream.

The residency, offered through the Erpf Center of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development in Arkville, is the only one in the country situated in the historic area where the first American school of landscape was initiated in 1825 (The Hudson River School of Painting) by Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, Thomas Doughty, Frederic Edwin Church and others who searched the Hudson Valley and surroundings looking for the untainted wilderness. The Platte Clove cabin sits where mountain and valley meet, providing a tranquil and rustic workplace and retreat for artists working in a variety of disciplines in the living landscape where American art began. Here artists can refine their artistry amidst the solitude and grandeur of na-

ture on 208 acres of pristine wilderness with multi-tiered waterfalls (including 60' tall Plattekill Falls) and old growth forest.

This wonderful opportunity is open to anyone who has taken a WIM class. All the work either written or inspired by your time here should have some reference to nature and will be collected, and displayed and read at the Erpf Center's annual Artists-in-Residence reception.

The cabin is in the Tannersville area on the Platte Clove Road. It has a fully equipped kitchen (but no running water), a living room, two bedrooms accommodating four people. There is a porch, a tree shaded yard, and hiking trails and waterfalls. Available time slots include daytimes and/or overnights on Monday, July 7; Tuesday, July 8; Wednesday, July 9; Thursday, July 10; Wednesday, September 3; Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> or Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited so call to make your reservation for the Platte Clove experience. For more information call Debby Wilkie at 845-586-2363.



Photo by Catskill Images

## Barbara Apoian to Perform

Barbara Apoian has performed her "Among My Souvenirs" dramatized reading at the Foothills Performing Art Center in Oneonta, as well as the Renaissance Club of Somerset, New Jersey, and will be appearing in Annapolis, Maryland on May 7, and she will present a new version called "People and Places" at Foothills on Wednesday, August 17 at 2 pm. Ms. Apoian is one of the founders of Writers in The Mountains and instructs The Critic's Corner workshop.

## Writers Circle

A Supportive, On-Going Group, The Writers' Circle, meets the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday evening of each month at 6:00 PM at the Catskill Center in Arkville. The purpose of this workshop is to give suggestions to both new and experienced writers who seek editorial advice, and new and original perspectives. Writers are both critiqued and encouraged. If you feel up to the challenge join the workshop. You are welcome to drop in for some constructive feedback on your work in progress. Attend as often as you like. No registration required.

Free will donation is appreciated. For more information please call 845-586-2363