

# Wyoming Writers, Inc

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Writers' Conference

June 5-7, 2009

Ramada Plaza Riverside

Casper, Wyoming



*Featuring workshops and presentations by:*

*United States Poet Laureate(2004-2006) and Pulitzer Prize-winner*

*Ted Kooser*

*Award-winning Crime Blogger Steve Huff*

*Literary Agent Meredith Kaffel*

*Writer's Digest Editor and Author Chuck Sambuchino*

*Doubleday Award-winning Author and Writing Coach Tina Welling*

## Wyoming Writers, Inc.

*Since 1974, Wyoming Writers, Inc. has educated, inspired, and connected a generation of writers in the American West. Join us in Casper, Wyoming at the Ramada Plaza Riverside for our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, June 5-7, 2009.*

*Rising 3,000 feet above its namesake, Casper Mountain serves as a perfect backdrop for beautiful Casper, Wyoming. Located in the North Platte River Valley in central Wyoming, Casper was settled in the late 1800s. It was a point of convergence for all major westward trails; the Oregon Trail, California Trail, Mormon Trail, Bridger Trail, Bozeman Trail and Pony Express Trails all passed through Casper. The community developed as a crossroads to the West and Northwest.*

*Wyoming's second-largest city, Casper offers diverse terrain, abundant wildlife, and many attractions of local and national historical importance. Casper boasts six museums showcasing art, history, militaria, science, wildlife, and area geology. Visitors are sure to enjoy the Bureau of Land Management's Trails Interpretive Center, as well as the large antique and collector's show. An economic 'hub', Casper is home to a vigorous downtown with plentiful restaurants and shopping.*

**Visit us on the web at: <http://www.wyowriters.org>**

**2009 Wyoming Writers Conference Schedule**  
**Ramada Plaza Riverside, Casper, WY**  
**June 5-7, 2009**

**Friday, June 5**

- 2:00 Registration begins, *Hotel Lobby*
- 3:00 Executive Board Meeting, *Willow Room*
- 7:00 Reading and Book-signing by Panelists, *Pine-Cedar Room*

**Saturday, June 6**

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast buffet, *Pine-Cedar Room*
- 8:15-8:45 Officers' presentation to membership, *Pine-Cedar Room*
- 9:00-9:45 Opening Session, *Pine-Cedar Room*
- 9:45-10:00 Break, *Terrace*

**10:00-11:45 Workshop Session I**

- **Huff: Blogging: Why Bother?** So you're an established writer and you want to start a blog. Or you want to start a blog to get your name out there. Should you even bother? *Aspen Room*
- **Kaffel: One-on-one agent meetings, sign up at registration.** *Cottonwood Room*
- **Kooser: Revision with the Reader in Mind:** How a poet can revise poems to make them more inclusive of a larger audience. *Spruce Room*
- **Sambuchino: Everything You Need to Know About Agents:** A thorough crash course in dealing with agents. After quickly going over what an agent is and what agents do for writers, we will discuss resources for finding agents, how to ID the best agents for you, as well as the most important things to do and not to do when dealing with representatives. Handouts provided. This session targets fiction, children's, and nonfiction writers, both novice and intermediate. *Oak Room*
- **Welling: Follow Your Longing:** Discover your own personal longing and that of your characters, enriching both your life and your creative skills as a writer. *Willow Room*

12:00-1:15 Contest Awards Luncheon, *Pine-Cedar Room*

**1:30-3:00 Workshop Session II**

- **Huff: Research on the Web:** The greatest research tool in the history of writing can also be your worst enemy. A road map for bloggers and non-fiction writers. *Spruce Room*
- **Kaffel: One-on-one agent meetings** *Cottonwood Room*
- **Sambuchino: One-on-one meetings, five slots drawn from interested attendees. Sign up at registration:** I sit down with writers for a short period and answer any questions they have on anything. They can practice pitch me. They can show me a query and I can give some super-quick notes. They can just tell me what they're working on and I can throw out general advice. Being a jack of all trades helps me when sitting down during a one-on-one. *Oak Room*
- **Welling: Writing Wild:** Deepening our awareness to the body guides the writer toward an inner/outer rhythm of attention that creates magnetic language. *Willow Room*

## Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, *continued*

3:00-3:15 Break, Terrace

### **3:15-4:30 Workshop Session III:**

- **Huff: Networking through Blogs and Social Media:** If you want to gain attention for your writing, you sometimes need to have a little Barnum in you. How you network and promote your work via your blog and social media, such as Twitter. *Oak Room*
- **Kaffel: One-on-one agent meetings** *Cottonwood Room*
- **Sambuchino: Building Your Freelance Portfolio:** Study the basics of freelancing—how to write articles for magazines, newspapers and websites. Targeting writers new to this arena, you will learn how to identify markets, how to realize your own specialties, how to structure a magazine query, how to come up with ideas, how to resell ideas, and more. Handouts provided. *Spruce Room*
- **Welling: Surprises in Fiction:** Surprise is an absolute necessity to good writing. This workshop offers tricks that trigger surprise in both writer and reader. *Willow Room*

4:45-5:30 WyoPoets Meeting, *Spruce Room*

5:30 Cash Bar, *Pine-Cedar Room*

6:00 Banquet, *Pine-Cedar Room*

- **Keynote Speaker: Ted Kooser – The Great Surprise: A Few Words On Being Named U. S. Poet Laureate**

7:30 Book Signing, *Birch Room*

8:30-10:00 Open Mic, *Pine-Cedar Room*

## Sunday, June 7

7:00-8:00 Breakfast Buffet, *Pine-Cedar Room*

7:30-8:45 General Membership Meeting, *Pine-Cedar Room*

### **9:00-10:30 Workshop Session IV**

- **Huff: Give Away the Farm to Grow the Crops:** Writing on the Web can feel thankless, and you can sometimes feel as if you're giving away the farm (the goods, your product). A workshop addressing the conundrum of blogging for kicks with an eye toward doing it for pay. *Aspen Room*
- **Kaffel: One-on-one agent meetings** *Cottonwood Room*
- **Kooser: Fine-tuning Metaphors:** How the most can be made of a good metaphor, that is, how, once a metaphor is discovered by a poet, how it can be used to the height of its powers. *Spruce Room*
- **Sambuchino: What Editors Want: Professional Writing Practices:** This is a general presentation examining good writing practices that all editors appreciate—whether writing for books, magazines, newspapers, or online. Handouts provided. This session targets all levels of writers in both fiction and nonfiction. *Oak Room*
- **Welling: Finding Stories:** Writers are offered tools to discovering their own original stories, which hold interest, passion and energy through time. *Willow Room*

10:30 Break, *Pine-Cedar Room*

10:45-noon **Final Session, All presenters Q and A,** *Pine-Cedar Room*

12:30-2:00 **Combined Executive Board Meeting,** *Willow Room*

# Wyoming Writers 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Faculty

June 5-7, 2009; Casper, Wyoming



## *Ted Kooser, US Poet Laureate 2004-2006, Winner of the Pulitzer Prize*

Two-time United States Poet Laureate (2004-2006), the highly regarded Nebraskan poet Ted Kooser was the first poet from the Great Plains to hold the position. A professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln he is the author of eleven full-length collections of poetry, including *Weather Central* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994) and *Delights and Shadows*, which won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize. His book *The Poetry Home Repair Manual* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005), gives beginning poets tips for their writing. Over the years his works have appeared in many periodicals including: The Atlantic Monthly, The New Yorker, Poetry, The Hudson Review, The Nation, The American Poetry Review, The Kenyon Review, Prairie Schooner, and Antioch Review. He has received two NEA fellowships in poetry, the Pushcart Prize, the Stanley Kunitz Prize, The James Boatwright Prize, and a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council.

Kooser's writing is known for its clarity, precision, and accessibility and his poems are included in textbooks and anthologies used in both secondary schools and college classrooms across the country. In addition to poetry, Kooser has written in a variety of forms including plays, fiction, personal essays, and literary criticism. His first book of prose, *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps* (University of Nebraska Press, 2002), won the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction in 2003 and Third Place in the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award in Nonfiction for 2002. The book was chosen as the Best Book Written by a Midwestern Writer for 2002 by Friends of American Writers. It also won the Gold Award for Autobiography in ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Awards.

Born in Ames, Iowa, in 1939, Kooser earned a BS at Iowa State University in 1962 and an MA at the University of Nebraska in 1968. He is a former vice-president of Lincoln Benefit Life, where he worked as an insurance representative for many years. He lives on acreage near the town of Garland, Nebraska, with his wife, Kathleen Rutledge, and dogs, Alice and Howard. He also has a son, Jeff, and a granddaughter, Margaret.

## *Steve Huff, Crime Blogger, Television News Consultant*

Steve Huff has been called the 'best true crime blogger on the English-speaking internet'. In recent years true crime legend Ann Rule acknowledged Steve's work in her own blog and a best-selling book, and authors Paul La Rosa and Michele McPhee have quoted extensively from Steve's online commentary about high-profile cases in the news.

Since 2005 Steve has been a commentator and consultant for MSNBC, HLN and CBS. His original crime blogs were featured in Rolling Stone's 2006 list of "best true crime sites on the 'Net.'" In 2007 Steve was featured in MyCase.com, a half-hour special about "cyber-sleuthing" produced by Optomen Television.

Steve has contributed groundbreaking investigative articles to TruTV's Crime Library and written about politics, crime and pop culture for Radar Magazine ([radaronline.com](http://radaronline.com)).

Currently Steve edits the True Crime Report ([www.truecrimereport.com](http://www.truecrimereport.com)) for Village Voice Media. In addition to his true crime work, Steve helps comedian, author and screenwriter Michael Ian Black manage his website, MichaelIanBlack.net.

Steve Huff is a classically-trained vocalist and has performed tenor roles with the Atlanta and Knoxville Opera Companies. He lives in the Atlanta suburbs with his wife, educator and blogger Dana Huff.



Visit our web pages at <http://www.wyowriters.org> for more information

## *Meredith Kaffel, Literary Agent*



Meredith Kaffel is a literary agent with the Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency, an affiliate agency of Sterling Lord Literistic, in New York. She represents a mix of children's and adult projects, non-fiction and fiction. Some of her young adult and picture book clients include Lisa Ann Sandell, Nina Malkin, and illustrators Magaly Morales and Adam J.B. Lane. Among her adult authors are award-winning journalist Julia Lieblich, screenwriter Crickett Rumley, novelist Josh Barkan, human rights activist Bec Hamilton, and feminist journalist Nona Willis-Aronowitz. Meredith has a strong interest in edgy commercial and literary young adult fiction, narrative non-fiction, history, human rights stories, food and travel narratives, and voice-driven memoir.

### **ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH KAFFEL OR SAMBUCHINO**

#### **Are you ready for representation?**

Bring your book proposals and sign up to pitch your project to Meredith Kaffel, Literary Agent with the Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency (see bio above).

Or, sign up for one of only five opportunities for a one-on-one with Writer's Digest Editor Chuck Sambuchino (see bio below). Read about these sessions in the conference schedule.

**You must be registered for the conference to sign up for the one-on-ones.**

**Pitch sessions are limited**, so be sure to sign up during registration. **Don't miss out!**

## *Chuck Sambuchino, Writer's Digest Editor, Playwright and Author*

By day, Chuck Sambuchino is an editor for Writer's Digest Books (an imprint of F+W Media), editing two annual resource books: *Guide to Literary Agents* and *Screenwriter's & Playwright's Market*. He also assists in editing *Writer's Market* ([www.writersmarket.com](http://www.writersmarket.com)). He is currently preparing the third edition of *Formatting & Submitting Your Manuscript* (a WD trade book) for a 2009 release. Chuck is a former staffer of several newspapers and magazines—most notably *Writer's Digest*. During his tenure as a newspaper staffer, he won awards from both the Kentucky Press Association and the Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists.



By night, Chuck is a writer and freelance editor. He is a produced playwright, with both original and commissioned works produced, and a magazine freelancer, with recent articles appearing in *Watercolor Artist*, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, *The Pastel Journal*, *Cincinnati Magazine* and *New Mexico Magazine*. During the past decade, more than 500 of his articles have appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books. Chuck also teaches online instructional courses through Writers Online Workshops ([www.writersonlineworkshops.com](http://www.writersonlineworkshops.com)). To read his blog, visit [www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog](http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog). The newsletters of the Writer's Digest category reach a combined 160,000 subscribers.



## *Tina Welling, Author and Writing Coach*

Tina Welling is the author of the novels *Fairy Tale Blues* and *Crybaby Ranch*, both published by NAL/Penguin. For 15 years, she has been on the faculty of the Jackson Hole Writers Conference, where she gives talks, workshops and manuscript critiques. She facilitates the Writers in the Park, writing workshops that are held during the summer months in Grand Teton National Park. Tina also conducts Writing Wild Workshops wherever invited and is available as a Writing Coach. Her short fiction has won the Doubleday Award, plus two national first place awards and two writer's residencies at Hedgebrook. Tina's non-fiction has been published in *Body & Soul*, *The Writer*, *The Sun* and other national magazines along with four anthologies. She has lived in Wyoming 30 years and resides in Jackson.

## ~~~Conference Fees

Registration includes Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as Sunday breakfast, and all breaks, workshops, and conference events. Meal tickets for guests not registered for the conference (a spouse or child, for example) can be purchased separately. For those not pre-registered, conference registration will be available at the door, but meals cannot be guaranteed.

## ~~~Conference Bookstore

### Want to buy books?

Find your favorite books by conference faculty or Wyoming writers! The bookstore will be located in the Birch Room and will be open for the duration of the conference.

### Want to sell books in the bookstore?

Contact Tammy Fleetwood, Ralph's Books, [ralphsbooks@juno.com](mailto:ralphsbooks@juno.com) or 1-800-767-9946, if you are registering for the conference and would like your books to be available for purchase in the conference bookstore. Tammy will order books your books for you, or you may arrange with her to bring in your own stock. Her commission is a standard 40% of sales.

**Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> to contact Tammy to order your books.**

Members of Wyoming Writers with published books are invited to sign books at the book signing on Saturday evening, in the Birch Room at 7:30 p.m.; it is open to the public.

## ~~~Accommodations

The Ramada Plaza Riverside, Casper, is the site for this year's conference. A block of rooms has been reserved until May 22, 2009. Special conference rates are \$83.00 (tax included) for up to four persons per room. The toll-free reservation number for the Ramada Plaza Riverside is 1-877-576-8636. Be sure to ask for accommodations in the Wyoming Writers' block to ensure you are granted our special rate.

## ~~~Bringing a Guest or a Pet?

Itinerary for guests is OYO (on your own) and they are certainly welcome to accompany you, although only paid conference registrants may attend the workshops, panels, and one-on-one meetings. Maps and other information for exploring the Casper area will be available at the conference registration desk. The Ramada Plaza Riverside welcomes pets to stay with you in your room; however, except for *working* service animals, all pets are restricted from our conference functions.

## ~~~Conference Scholarships

A limited number of conference scholarships are available. Applications must be postmarked by April 20, 2009. For information, visit the website at [www.wyowriters.org/Scholarship.htm](http://www.wyowriters.org/Scholarship.htm) or contact Scholarship chair Nancy Wall at 208-238-8079 or [scholarship@wyowriters.org](mailto:scholarship@wyowriters.org).

## ~~~Cancellation Policy

To cancel early registration, contact Mary Hein at 307-265-2494 or at [conference@wyowriters.org](mailto:conference@wyowriters.org). **Registrations canceled by May 15, 2009 will receive an 85% refund; no refunds will be given after May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Visit our web pages at <http://www.wyowriters.org> for more information

# Wyoming Writers Conference Registration

Ramada Plaza Riverside, June 5-7, 2009, Casper, WY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTE:

**Conference Registration includes all meals on Saturday, including the Awards Banquet. Sunday Breakfast is also included in your conference registration fees.**

### Early Bird Registration postmarked by MAY 15, 2009:

- Members: \$150 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-members: \$165 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Not a member??? Join below, get member benefits and take the member discount!*

### Registration AFTER May 15, 2009:

- Members \$165 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-members: \$180 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Guest Meal Tickets – for those not registered for the conference:

- Saturday Breakfast \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Saturday Lunch \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Saturday Banquet \$23.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday Breakfast \$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Dues:

For year ending June 30, 2010

Membership types: Regular \$25 for electronic newsletter, \$35 if requesting print copy of newsletter; Sustaining Membership \$75; Patron \$250; Student \$10. Student fee must be accompanied by student ID or other proof of status.

Type of Membership (select one):

Regular (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Print (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$75) \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_ Student (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add all costs you have selected on this page. TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to Wyoming Writers, Inc. and mail with this form to:**

**Mary Hein, 846 South Lincoln Street, Casper, WY**

**82601-3351**



**Wyoming Writers, Inc.  
Conference Registration  
C/O Mary Hein  
846 South Lincoln Street  
Casper, WY 82601-3351**

