WHO in the Colorado Authors' League 2014 and 2015
A Thumbnail Biography of “CAL”  
As Told by Arthur Carhart

This sketchy outline of how CAL came into existence—growing out of somewhat groping beginnings into a lively and useful craft organization—is quoted from reminiscences of Arthur Carhart going back to 1919 and culminating in a 1968 interview.

The Colorado Authors’ League is no Johnny-come-lately organization. In 1919, Willard Hawkins was publishing a little vest-pocket magazine, The Student Writer, predecessor of The Author and Journalist. A dozen or so men, calling themselves “The Loafers,” met nights in Willard’s office on Champa Street. They talked technics, plots, and markets. Ray Humphreys was a Loafer, as were Chauncey Thomas and Bill Raine.

A group of women interested in writing, who were known as “The Nuts of the Roundtable,” also began meeting in about 1919 to help each other with criticism. Among the Nuts were Lenora Weber, Helen Anderson, Ann Warner, Marian Castle, and Marguerite Ratcliffe.

In the mid-1920s, several writing men, mostly ex-Loafers, began lunching together at the old Dutch Mill Cafeteria on Champa Street across from the Post. There was no organization; they just ate together and talked.

Two major forces were at work developing writers—the A & J headquarters, with its allied writing incentives, and the courses in writing given by Blanche Young McNeal and her associates. Without this nucleus of a writers’ community, much of the stimuli resulting in the League would have been lacking.

Some two years before the League was formed, these writing men and women, including such people as Steve Payne, Harry Adler, Tom Ferril, Herb White, and Loduska Yont, began meeting noons in the Daniels and Fisher tea room. They had a private room, talked shop, made a lot of racket, and had fun. There was still no formal organization, just a companionable association of writers.

One day someone said, “Let’s organize.” Debate boiled. Why organize? The arguments generated feeling that there was something valuable in the association that might wither without formal organization. In 1931, the Colorado Authors’ League came into existence, with Arthur Carhart as president. Forbes Parkhill missed that meeting but missed few others. On January 14, 1932, the League was incorporated as a nonprofit organization to “foster the art and craft of authorship and particularly to promote the interest of Colorado writers in whatever manner and along such lines as may from time to time appear advisable.”

The Colorado Authors’ League today is a true fellowship of craftsmen. Its members are generous in their exchange of ideas and writing know-how. They seek fresh perspectives through frequent meetings featuring speakers of special interest. They welcome qualified new writers to their ranks.

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P.O. Box 24905, Welshire Postal Station
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pilgrimage@fairpoint.net
Poetry, Teaching

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colorado.pa@msn.com ................................................................. Cell: 303.770.1645
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julenebair@gmail.com www.julenebair.com
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dianne@dianneblomberg.com www.dianneblomberg.com ... Fax: 303.926.4354
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jbock@gmail.com www.janehbock.org ....................................... Fax: 970.593.0347

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melanie@boock.com
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boucherp@comcast.net www.pbnboucher.com
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Books, Magazines, Non Fiction .................................................. Cell: 303.885.2207
Brody, David, 2209 Green Oaks Lane, Greenwood Village, CO 80121 .................. 303.703.6500
dbroyd@pattonboggs.com
Non Fiction, Science, Law

Brown, Julie, 300 W 11th Ave., #6 H, Denver, CO, 80204 ......................... 303.596.0580
jbroman@altitude.tv
Sports Writing

Brown, Carrie, PO Box 23973, Silverthorne, CO 80498 .......................... 970.262.7631
carrie@soulsonday.org www.carriebrownwolf.com www.soulsonday.org
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Burkhard, Daryl R., 6635 McCallum St., Philadelphia, PA 19119 ..................... 706.248.7158
burkhard3dr@gmail.com www.darylburkhard.com
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bettyburris@comcast.net
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mail@elizacross.com www.elizacross.com
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artelser@me.com

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david@ericksonllc.net www.ericsonllc.net ........................................ Fax: 303.674.1735
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Carol@carolfenster.com www.carolfenster.com
Books, Non Fiction

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kimberlyfield@msn.com
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marypeacefinley@att.net www.marypeacefinley.com
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jfinman@earthlink.net
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Flood, Nancy Bo, 4337 CR117, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 ...................... 928.672.2359
wflood@hotmail.com www.nancyboflood.com
Children and Young Adult Fiction and Non Fiction, Teaching

Frischknecht, Jacqueline, 3885 Newport Lane, Boulder, CO 80304 ............... 303.413.0955
jackie3@gmail.com www.anablepadventures.com

Gallob, Karen Weinant, 2240 Clear Fork Road, Crawford, CO 81415 .............. 970.921.3231
kmgallob@gmail.com
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gingetz@gmail.com www.gingetz.com
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proedit@aol.com www.buffygilfoil.com
Non Fiction

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karen.gilleland@gmail.com http://karengilleland.wordpress.com
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chris@christinegoff.com www.christinegoff.com
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Grever, Carol, 1800 Bluebell Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302-8022 ................... 303.499.1532
prena@indra.com www.carolgrever.com

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bhaley@frii.com
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heatherj.hansen@gmail.com

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rehartman@comcast.net www.nauralchildbirthexercises.com
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dhawkg948@gmail.com
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dotlamm@aol.com................................................................. Fax: 303.399.8070
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vlindner@wyming.com ........................................................................Fax: 720.979.1062
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joyce@lohseworks.com  www.lohseworks.com
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elainelong@chaffeeco.net  www.elainelong.com
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madideasil@gmail.com  www.michaelmadiganauthor.com
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Mann, Sharon Cairns, 2410 Uinta St., Denver, CO 80238 ....................... 303.495.2155
sharon@sharoncairnsmann.com  www.sharoncairnsmann.com
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McAdam, Claudia Cangilla, 14 Red Tail Drive, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 ....... 303.346.3003
claudia@claudiamcadam.com  www.claudiamcadam.com
Child-Youth Books, Books, Magazines, Fiction, Non Fiction

McKinley, Carol, 24798 Foothills Dr. N., Golden, CO 80401 ..................... 303.741.1701
carolannemckinley@gmail.com Investigative and Feature Reporting, Veterans Issues

Mencini, Gail, 5565 Preserve Drive, Greenwood Village, CO 80121 ............ 303.220.9666
gail@gailmencini.com  www.gailmencini.com ..................................Fax: 303.909.3337
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Meyers, M. Kathryn, 330 W. Jamison Circle, Littleton, CO 80120 .............. 303.741.1701
kathy@sugarloafdesigns.com www.sugarloafdesigns.com
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Miller, M Carolyn, P O Box 368, Golden, CO 80402 ............................. 303.883.4606
cmiller@cultureshape.com  www.cultureshape.com
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Miller, Courtney, 702 Round Mountain Road, Westcliffe, CO 81252 .......... 303.877.4184
courtneyMillerAuthor@gmail.com  www.courtneymillerauthor.com
Magazine And E-Zine Articles, Historical Fiction, Lectures, Musical Compositions, Videos

Mills, Claudia, 47 Benthaven Place, Boulder, CO 80305 ...................... 720.524.3901
claudia.mills@colorado.edu
Children’s Literature
Mingle, Pamela, 7220 W. Bonfils Ln., #304, Lakewood, CO 80226 .......... 303.905.2150
pammingle@gmail.com http://pammingle.com
Child-Youth Books, Fiction

Mitchell, Todd, 2727 Pleasant Valley Rd, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 .......... 970.493.2972
toddsmitchellbooks@hotmail.com
Young Adult, Middle Grade, Graphic Novels, Short Fiction, Non Fiction, Poetry, Teaching, Speaking

Mobley, Tanaka, Jeannette, 1317 19th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501 .......... 303.651.0082
jmobleyauthor@frii.com www.jeanniemobley.com
Children and Young Adult Fiction

Moe, Barbara, 1770 Hudson Street, Denver, CO 80220 .......... 303.333.5240
ommabh1037@q.com
Adult and Young Adult Fiction and Non Fiction

Montgomery, Yvonne, 919 East 10th Ave., Denver, CO 80218-2801 .......... 303.831.8488
yvonne.montgomery@gmail.com http://yvonnemontgomery.wordpress.com
Child-Youth Books, Fiction, Non Fiction

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cmlplus3k@comcast.net www.movescapecenter.com Fax: 303.432.8061
Adult Books, Fiction

Moore, Stan, 11259 W. Ford Dr., Lakewood, CO 80220 .......... 303.697.9401
stan338@comcast.net
Non Fiction, History

Morgan, Mary Jo Faith, 5704 Mossy Cup Court, Loveland, CO 80538-1233 .......... 970.663.4184
maryjo@maryjofaithmorgan.com www.maryjofaithmorgan.com Fax: 970.663.4184 call for Biographies, Interviews, Profiles, Website Text, Business Text, Ghostwriting

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michele@cookingwithmichelle.com www.cookingwithmichelle.com Fax: 303.791.0489
Food Writing, Recipe Development, Cookbooks, Food Photography, Blogging, Travel .......... Fax: 303.929.7802
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brucemost@comcast.net www.brucemost.com Fax: 303.942.1834
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minmeil@msn.com http://mimsprosse.com
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Nigg, Joe, 1114 Clayton Street, Denver, CO 80206 .......... 303.322.2175
jegryphon@aol.com
Mythology, Short Fiction

Noel, Tom “Dr. Colorado”, 1245 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220 .......... 303.355.0211
tom.noel@ucdenver.edu www.dr.colorado.com
Colorado Non Fiction

Nordberg, Ellen, 760 Orchard Dr, Louisville, CO 80027 .......... 303.242.4861
ellen@ellennordberg.com www.ellennordberg.com
Magazine and Newspaper Articles, Essays, Health & Fitness, Humor, Fiction, Web Content

Novotny, Pamela, 933 Pine Street, Boulder, CO 80302 .......... 303.443.5071
p.novotny@comcast.net www.pannovotnybooks.com
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Osmundson, Linda L., 1413 Cactus Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80525 .......... 970.206.0053
linda@lindaosmundson.com www.lindaosmundson.com
Children and Adult Magazines and Books, Fiction, Non Fiction, Art

Oswald, Nancy, PO Box 304, Cotopaxi, CO 81223 .......... 719.942.4361
nancyos@centurylink.net www.nancyoswald.com
Middle Grade & Young Adult Historical Fiction and Humor

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joyoverbeck@gmail.com www.joyoverbeck.com
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Pearlmn, Kerry, 783 S. Oneida Way, Denver, CO 80224 .......... 303.377.0218
kerrypear@aol.com
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Books, Non Fiction, Fiction

Porcelli, Joey, 401 Aspen Place, Golden, CO 80403 ................................. 303.215.0527 gortimer@msn.com
Books, Magazines, Scripts, Newsletters, Brochures .......................... Cell: 303.431.1058

Postek, Pat, 16380 Handies Way, Broomfield, CO 80023 ....................... 720.890.4940 patpostek@earthlink.net www.wagamoreproductions.com
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Prust, Samantha, 1013 Glenmoor Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80521 .............. 970.980.5038 samprust@gmail.com http://samanthaprust.wordpress.com
Short Fiction and Non Fiction, Technical Writing, Editing .......................... 970.980.5038

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Randolph, Ann, 2407 S Dahlia Lane, Denver, CO 80222 ............................ 303.758.3426
annerandolph@kitchenablewriting.com www.annerandolph.com www.kitchenablewriting.com
Non Fiction, Memoir, Short Fiction, Blogs

Raybon, Patricia, 5029 S. Fraser Street, Aurora, CO 80015 ........................ 303.693.0808 patrica@patriciaraybon.com www.patriciaraybon.com .......................... Cell: 303.693.7601
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jen@jenreeder.com www.jenreeder.com www.rock1kidney.org
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Rehme, Carol McDado, 1127 Garfield, Loveland, CO 80537 ................. 970.669.5791 carol@rehme.com www.rehme.com .......................... Fax: 970.663.9379
Inspirational Writing, Ghostwriting, Freelance Editing, Writing Workshops

Richards, Ronald, 950 N. Tabor Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104 ..................... 720.401.6678 r.richjan52@gmail.com
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Non Fiction, Western History, Women’s History

Robson, Deborah, 418 Goldeneye Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526 ............. 970.226.3590 robson@frii.com .......................... Fax: 970.282.3467
Non Fiction

Rold, Cindy, 1617 W. Canal Ct., Littleton, CO 80120 ............................... 303.347.6212
cindy@ckindy.com www.cindyrold.com .......................... Fax: 303.569.6823
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Rothman, Howard, 1280 E. Easter Ave., Centennial, CO, 80122 ............. 303.347.0754 hrothman@ecentral.com www.companieswithaconscience.com
Non Fiction

Saracino, Mary, 475 West 12th Avenue, Denver, CO 80204 ...................... 303.607.9700
marysar1004@msn.com www.marysarcino.com
Literary Fiction, Creative Non Fiction, Memoir, Poetry, Editing, Coaching .......................... Cell: 720.984.8008

Schafer, Lisa Rohner, 710 Sunshine Canyon, Boulder, CO 80302 ................ 303.444.3841 lisa@writecanyon.com
Western Lifestyle, Equine, Magazines, Websites
COLORADO AUTHORS’ LEAGUE AWARDS

CAL started its award program at the end of the Depression years to recognize the best published works submitted by members. The winners of these “Top Hand” awards received an appropriate prize, the carved figure of a cowboy standing on a book. Prizes have gone through several iterations since that time, with the current award a handsome memento of clear glass.

On May 9, 2014, ten Colorado writers (listed below) were honored by CAL. Tattered Cover owner Joyce Meskis also was honored with the CAL Author Advocate Award, and Poet Lois Hayna received the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award. Jessica Hill received a scholarship from CAL to pursue graduate study in creative writing at Colorado State University.

2014 COLORADO AUTHORS’ LEAGUE
AWARD WINNERS

**Book Adult Fiction Mainstream**

*Not to be Forgiven* by Nancy Mayborn Peterson

**Book Adult Fiction Genre**

*Rope Burn* by Bruce W. Most

**Book Young Adult**

*Backwards* by Todd Mitchell

**Book Children**

*The First Rainbow* by Phyllis J. Perry, illustrated by Jeff West

**Short fiction: Adult/Children**

“Footprints in Water” by Twist Phelan

**Book Adult General Non-fiction**

*Tasting Colorado* by Michele Morris

**Book Adult Creative Non-fiction**

*Sea Monsters* by Joseph Nigg

**Feature articles/Essay**

“Alive and Aloft in the Aeolian Zone” by Gary Raham

**Poetry**

*We Leave the Safety of the Sea* by Art Elser

**Blogs**

“Choose Happiness. Love all Life” by Susan J. Tweit