

Creative Writing Group Celebrates 40 Years!

Lois McCarthy started teaching the Creative Writing Group at the Senior Activities Center/ Bonneville Community Center in 1981. Lois retired from this volunteer position in 2011, at the age of 93, after 30 years of leading the class. Since then the group has been led by group members.

When Lois McCarthy led the group she produced a book collection of group writings every year. Early writers included Barbara Asboe, Alice Walker, Kenneth and Lucille Harten, Eva Kelly, Margaret Maguire, Madelyn Voeller, Sylvia Woolley, and many more. Book titles included *Pocatello and Neighbors*, *The Old Neighborhood*, and *Random Harvest*. There is a considerable amount of Pocatello and Idaho History in these books. After Lois retired, Virginia Kelly compiled and published *The Gift of Time* in March 2015. Marshall Public library has most of the 34 books that have been published. Look up Bonneville Community Center in the library catalog to get a partial list of titles and call numbers.

The creative writing group meets every Friday from 1 to 3 pm. at the Senior Activities Center. The group begins with an opening creative activity. It may be a fun quiz, or a writing activity. Sometimes the member leading the class has a lesson, Every week a homework assignment is given for members to work on at home, or they can write something else that they are interested in. They bring the homework (hopefully a copy for every group member), and each attendee reads what she/he brought, then group members can make a positive comment on the paper. In the good old days, we would finish with a social and refreshments, but Covid sanitation has stopped the refreshments—hopefully some day we can get back to it.

This group continues to write on. It is open to interested writers who would like to write their life story, or poetry, or short essays on interesting topics, or one page stories, etc. Come check us out, and see if you want to join, and complete some writing to share with your family or friends.

