INDIAN LAKE WRITERS' GROUP NEWSLETTER D.Bradley

September, 2016

Our writers' group has been in existence for about eighteen to twenty years.  It began with just two local people, Jill Reid and Fran Wells sitting together in the library discussing their writing.  Shortly after Bob and I purchased our home in Indian Lake (1998) we discovered, quite by accident when stopping by the library one day, that Michael Czarnecki had arrived to offer a writing workshop.  So, we stayed for Michael's program and encouraged by Michael we continued meeting with Jill and Fran and eventually some new friends on a regular basis.   There

have been years when we had twenty people attending regularly.  There have been several times over the years when Bob and I might be joined by only one other person.  It was always a pleasant experience.

In many of the early years there had been several people who attended regularly but claimed that they could not think of anything to write about.  They attended hoping to get inspiration.  It was then that we decided to offer an assignment suggesting that a word chosen might instigate an idea.  This turned out to be quite successful.  We often enjoyed hearing a variety of pieces written and inspired by the same word.

Many people have passed through our library doors over the years offering a bit of insight into their lives through their writing.  Many who continued attending for more than a year found inspiration when Michael Czarnecki and later, Steve Coffman offered their yearly writing workshop.

Michael and Steve joined us this Wednesday, September 14 and we were delightfully surprised to find  sixteen people sitting around our table in the library.  We all need to be reminded that our librarian, Nancy Berkowitz, writes a grant which supports this program.  The funds are available through the New York State Counsel for the Arts which supports Poets and Writers.  This state program encourages writing throughout each county in our state. Due to this state grant we have been lucky to have the benefit of Michael and Steve's presence over the years.

Michael, by the way, also runs Foothills Publishing Company.  He has published three books which we have put together with pieces from our local writers.  Our accomplishments include Mountain Moments in 2005, Footprints Past and Present in 2008, and Asters and Ink in 2014.

Many people who attended this meeting shared their writing.  Much good discussion followed.  We were happy to meet five people who were attending this meeting for the first time.  Perhaps some of them may be able to continue joining us on a regular basis.  Offering a writers' group in this little mountain town has been a wonderful and productive adventure.  We hope it may continue for many years to come.

The conclusion of our day included a reading by both Michael and Steve in the evening.

ASSIGNMENT:  Forgotten  (remember that this is only a suggestion)

NEXT MEETING:  Wednesday, October 12 at 1:30 in the library