

OCTOBER 15, 2008

VALLEY WINDOW

ADM ONE
Regers

Readers' collective does write thing

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FOR THE REPORTER-HERALD

Loveland Loves to Read is 5 years old.

For the past five autumns, Lovelanders citywide have read the same designated book at the same time.

Sponsored by Friends of the Library, the ambitious program gathers more momentum each year.

We attend author presentations and book signings. Book clubs troop en masse to all sorts of peripheral programs, including moderated book discussions, lunches with the author, activities and movies related to each year's themes. Friends share the book with

Contest winners

Writing contest winners this year are:

1. "Outside the Box" by Michelle Mach
2. "Mudslinging" by Heather Schichtel
3. "Shoe Of A Different Color" by Fay Ulanoff

Read the winning stories at www.ci.loveland.co.us/library/libmain.htm.

one another. E-mails fly back and forth asking who has tickets to author events.

As a community, we revel in this literary comradeship with our neighbors. This year we

read "Bellwether" by Connie Willis, who has won an impressive 10 Hugo and six Nebula awards.

When Willis addressed us from the resplendently restored Rialto stage Oct. 1, she engaged us immediately with tales of her personal journey into books as a reader.

She dropped names as numerous as roads on a map, describing how each author led her on experiential pathways.

There were many knowing nods as Willis described getting that momentous "first" library card. Willis also answered readers' questions and offered tips and encouragement to writers in attendance.

Best of all, she validated the need to read among her audience, and affirmed the pull books and their adventures have on us all.

We laughed with her, sighed with her and shook our heads. After listening to her vivid imaginings, there is no doubt she will deliver more carefully crafted stories in the future.

One teen started carrying a notebook everywhere after hearing Willis, determined to be more open, to observe, and to write.

Ah yes, readers who write. A writing contest has been part of the Loveland Loves to Read festivities the past three years.

Take this year's prompt.

Have you ever tried to use the words bellwether, flip and serenity within 250 words to conjure up a complete story about creating your own fad?

Curious people who wondered if they could do. Adventurous people having fun do. And serious people determined to meet a real deadline did.

We heard the three winning stories at a luncheon with Connie Willis on Oct. 3.

Whether you're a reader or a writer, Loveland Loves to Read is an integral part of Loveland's broad cultural landscape. It's the perfect setting for reading and perhaps launching writing careers, too.