

# SouthWest Sage

January 2009

www.southwestwriters.com

## UPDATE ON FEBRUARY 21 SCREENWRITER'S CONFERENCE

By Sandra Toro, 2009 SWW Conference Chair

The keynoter for our conference, Kirk Ellis, has just this past month received more awards for his brilliant adaptation of David McCullough's "John Adams." The Writers Guild of America honored him with a nomination for Long-Form Screenplay. The very next day he received a Critics Choice Nomination, and now four Golden Globes. These awards are in addition to winning the top prize in television, an Emmy Award for best screenwriting. "John Adams" was one of the highest rated miniseries ever on the premium cable network, HBO.

In an interview with the *Albuquerque Journal*, Ellis said, "People's interest in our history appears inexhaustible at the moment, and I'm grateful to have had the chance to contribute a little something to the national debate."

Meanwhile, Dan Mayfield writes in the *Albuquerque Journal* that the state of New Mexico's film office is working on "building via various training programs" for more people skilled in above-the-line jobs to work in the film industry. Screenwriters, like Ellis and Tammy Ader, are clearly above-the-line folks. Our screenwriter's conference aims to accomplish exactly the same things: entice more of our fiction and non-fiction writers to become adept at writing screenplays.

Based on the enormous box office success of "Twilight," adapted by Melissa Rosenberg for a feature length movie from Stephanie Meyers young adult novel, it is clear that those of you who write fiction and non-fiction for children and young adults should consider attending this conference to learn how you might break into writing screenplays for this audience, the hottest commodity these days in Hollywood.

Tammy Ader, the second writer/producer on our program, is famous for her creative ability in writing episodes of "Strong Medicine," which tackle severe social problems in today's society. For example, she has dealt with such issues as mental health, drug, alcohol and tobacco use and addiction, gun violence, domestic vio-



Tammy Ader

lence, sexual health issues, awareness of heart disease as it affects women, and our commitment to social justice for women, children and families. Her series, which ran for six years, had 106 original episodes, many of which were singled out for awards by various national organizations. Tammy will not only speak, but will take pitches from those who register early.

Ellis, Ader, our own Rick Reichman and Sherri Burr have confirmed their participation in the conference. We are currently awaiting confirmation from the New Mexico film office and from others in the industry.

The conference will be on Saturday, February 21 from 8:30 till 5:00. It will be held at the CNM Workforce Training Center on 5600 Eagle Rock, just east of I-25 and Eagle Rock. Lunch and snacks will be included in the cost of registration. Please help us spread the word about this conference, and register yourself using the registration blank in this issue of SAGE.



See page 11  
for registration  
form

## President's Message

2008 was an exceptional year for SWW with more classes, more workshops, and more conferences. We also continued our work with other publishing groups. We co-sponsored a conference with Sisters in Crime and co-sponsored two workshops with the New Mexico Book Association. We also added considerably to our financial cushion. So we head into 2009 in great shape. Thanks for all your help in making the year a success.

As for 2009 activities, look for more all-day workshops to replace our half-day first-Saturday workshops, which we will phase out for a while.

To outgoing board members Ron Schultz, Wendy Bickel, Sandy Schairer, Bonnie Hayes, John Candelaria and Rose Marie Kern – Thanks for all your work in 2008. Your smarts and sweat will be missed.

A number of the 2008 board members will continue their volunteering efforts in 2009: Larry Greenly, Edith Greenly, Keith Pyeatt, Peggy Herrington, Jeanne Shannon, Gary Ness and Melody Groves.

New to the board will be: Ruth Friesen, Pat Bost, Sandy Toro, Dianne Layden and Bob Gassaway.

We also have quite a number of other volunteers who contribute regularly, Harold Burnett at the book table and Gail Rubin taking care of our email e-lert. If you would like to become involved this year, contact SWW Volunteer Coordinator Bob Gassaway at bgassaway@gmail.com.



*"We head  
into 2009 in  
great  
shape."*

*Rob Spiegel*

## SWW Monthly Writing Competition Winners

### August: Memoir

**1st Prize: Bonnie J. Hayes**, Albuquerque, NM for "Ruffling the Waters."

**2nd Prize: Laurel Burnett**, Crownsville, MD for "Mere Reflections."

**3rd Prize: Marilyn Stablein**, Albuquerque, NM for "A Kind of Paradise."

#### Honorable Mentions (Alphabetical):

**Shirl Brainaird**, Albuquerque, NM for "A French Faux Pax."

**Ruth Friesen**, Albuquerque, NM for "Jill and the T-Bar."

**Charles J. Garcia**, Erie, CO for "Green Friday."

**Jeanette Hollman**, Hazelwood, MO for "My Dream Breakfast."

#### Judges' Comments:

This one was the toughest of all to judge. Virtually all entries were well-written.



### September: What I did this Summer

**1st Prize: Vicki H. Moss**, Chattanooga, TN for "My Redneck Summer."

**2nd Prize: Cathy Crenshaw Doheny**, Charlotte, NC for "Projecting Tragedy."

**3rd Prize: Judith Liddell**, Albuquerque, NM for "Advocating for Avocets."

#### Honorable Mentions (alphabetical):

**Joan Saks Berman**, Albuquerque, NM for "What I did this Summer."

**Pat James Bost**, Albuquerque, NM for "Discovering the Perfect Job."

**Carole C. Deily**, Plano, TX "The Fruits of Summer."

**Barbara DuBois**, Socorro, NM for "A Santa Fe Summer."

**Jan Fenimore**, Albuquerque, NM for "My 50th."

**Casey Keefe**, Corrales, NM for "Returning to the Pender Hotel."

**Rose Marie Kern**, Albuquerque, NM for "Oshkosh by Gosh!"

**Bev Zavitz**, Dallas, TX for "Raspberry Walk."

#### Judges' Comments:

Probably the first time there were no poorly written entries-- which made judging all the more difficult. The strongest stories wound up in the top three, but the honorable-mentions have every reason to be proud. Those entries came very close. Authors who didn't win anything: don't give up. Your writing was well-done and eventually you'll rise to the top.



**SouthWest Sage**

Published monthly by the Board of Directors of SouthWest Writers, a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Subscription is a benefit of membership.

**President** Rob Spiegel  
 robspiegel@comcast.net  
**Vice-President** Larry Greenly  
 SWWriters@juno.com  
**Secretary/Parliamentarian** Keith Pyeatt  
 keithpyeatt@comcast.net  
**Treasurer** Pat Bost  
 pjb19@comcast.net  
**Conference Chair** Sandy Toro  
 storo32567@aol.com  
**Writers Contest 2009 Chair**

**Critique Service** Edith Greenly  
 SWWriters@juno.com  
**Speakers** Rob Spiegel  
 robspiegel@comcast.net  
**Membership** Jeanne Shannon  
 JSPOETRY@aol.com  
**Public Relations** Melody Groves  
 MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com  
**Class Coordinator** Dianne Layden  
 dlayden@earthlink.net  
**SWW Sage Editor** Ruth Friesen  
 ruthsww@comcast.net  
**Workshop Coordinator** Gary Ness  
 ness66@comcast.net  
**Volunteer Coordinator** Bob Gassaway  
 bgassaway@gmail.com  
**Historian** Peggy Herrington  
 peg@msn.com  
**E-lert Mistress** Gail Rubin  
 grpr@flash.net

**SWW Office:**  
 3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A  
 Albuquerque, NM 87111  
 phone: (505) 265-9485  
 fax: (505) 265-9483  
 e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com  
 website: www.southwestwriters.org

Articles are copyright © 2009 by author. Facts, views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or opinions of SouthWest Writers. SWW does not necessarily endorse the advertisers.

# Happy New Year!

## In this Issue

- 1 SWW Screenwriters' Conference Sandra Toro
- 2 President's Message Rob Spiegel
- 2 Writing Competition Winners: August and September
- 4 SWW Board of Director Bios
- 5 To Be or Not to Be Kirt Hickman
- 6 Lessons from the Life of Tony Hillerman Sherri Burr
- 6 Writing Competition Winners: October
- 7 Successes, Contests and Announcements
- 8 Meetings
- 9 Workshops
- 10 Classes
- 11 Conference Registration Form
- 12 Critique Groups

**Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers**

Individual: \$60 (\$100 for 2 years), Two people \$50 each,  
 Student over 18: \$40, Under 18: \$25 Requires proof of student status  
 Outside U. S.: \$65, Lifetime Membership: \$750  
 Download the Sage from www.southwestwriters.com

**Join us first Saturday: 10 AM-Noon: Workshop: 1-4 PM, Third Tuesday: 7-9 PM**  
**New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico**



**My New Year's Resolution: No ifs or ands this year, just butt in the chair writing**

## SWW 2009 BOARD MEMBERS

**Rob Speigel, President**, is a magazine editor and book author. He has published thousands of magazine articles, scores of poems, dozens of short stories and many books, all with national publishers. For 10 years he owned the magazine *Chile Pepper* and a book publishing company.

**Larry Greenly, Vice-President**, has been a member since 1992, and has held every position on the board except treasurer. Greenly is a recipient of the Parris Award and SWW Service Awards and is the SWW office coordinator. Greenly has been instrumental in improving the financial status of SWW.

**Keith Pyeatt, Secretary**, is a mechanical engineer who writes paranormal thrillers. He's served on the board at SWW since 2006, first as conference coordinator, then two years as treasurer and financial officer. His first novel to be published, *STRUCK*, comes out in July from Regal Crest Enterprises. His website is <http://www.keithpyeatt.com>.

**Pat James Bost, Treasurer**, creates mysteries as a writer of fiction and solves non-fiction mysteries as a business writer, primarily in accounting. She has extensive experience in both academic and business arenas as an award-winning analyst, author, teacher and trainer. Pat lives on a New Mexico mountain with her husband and two dogs where she writes, gardens, quilts, and follows St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

**Melody Groves, Public Relations**, is a gunfighter on the streets of Old Town. She has published the non-fiction *Ropes, Reins, and Rawhide: All About Rodeo* and *Historic Bars of the Southwest* (coming Spring 2009), as well as fiction *Arizona War*, *Sonoran Rage* and *Border Ambush* with more in the wings. Melody is Publicity Chairman for Western Writers of America. She has served on the SWW board for years.

**Ruth Friesen, Sage Editor**, has edited several organizations' newsletters. Her varied business career ranged from high tech companies to non-profits. Ruth's essay on creativity with used building materials based on her tenure as director of Habitat for Humanity's ReStore will be published in *The Gleaners: Eco-Essays* this spring. She is honing her writing skills before tackling the novel that has been in her head for years.

**Bob Gassaway, Volunteer Coordinator**, has been a journalist and a journalism professor. He has worked for newspapers and The Associated Press. He is a co-editor of a non-fiction book called *Dirty Work* (Baylor University Press, 2007) and has published a number of scholarly articles and

book chapters. As a sociologist, he has studied the work of crime scene investigators in the Albuquerque Police Department, and he saw about 30 autopsies while studying forensic pathologists at the Office of the Medical Investigator. He now writes mystery novels and teaches writing.

**Jeanne Shannon, Membership Chair**, has served on the SWW Board since 2006, when she assumed the position of Chair of the 2007 International Writing Contest. In 2008 she served as SWW Historian. She is editor of The Wildflower Press, a small-press publisher of books of poetry, memoir, and fiction ([www.thewildflowerpress.com](http://www.thewildflowerpress.com)). Her poetry, short stories, and memoir pieces have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies in the United States and elsewhere, and in newspapers in her home state of Virginia.

*Ask a board member.  
They are excellent resources and can help you find answers to your questions.*

**Gary Ness, Workshop Coordinator**, after a long and distinguished career as a coach, athletic director, and professor of sports psychology, currently teaches sports law and marketing graduate courses online for the Sports Center, Virginia Commonwealth University. A sports columnist in the past, he is currently doing research for a Civil War book and writing essays and editorials.

**Sandra Toro, Conference Chair**, after careers in government, the pharmaceutical industry, and television journalism, is now a full-time novelist, specializing in historical family sagas and contemporary thrillers. The published author of *Reach for the Dream* and *Morning Star*, she is currently putting the finishing touches on a novel of the Inquisition set in 16th Century Europe. She has also taught creative writing and English literature at the University of Nebraska.

**Peggy Herrington, Historian**, was editor of the *SWW Sage* in 2007/2008. She holds a BA in music from the University of New Mexico and was a technical journalist from 1984 to 1991. Peggy then joined General Electric as editor of the *GENie* information service magazine after which she worked at Microsoft Corp in Redmond, WA as Multimedia Forum manager and MSN Money producer. An Albuquerque native, Peggy returned in 2003 and is now associate editor of *albuquerqueARTS* magazine.

**Edith Greenly, Critique Service, CPA**, has been involved with SWW for many years, both as treasurer and critique service chairman. Now she continues with the critique service, serves on the finance committee and acts as an advisor to the treasurer and board of directors.

---

*Women are extremely important shapers of my own life.*  
Tony Hillerman

---

## “TO BE” OR NOT “TO BE” by Kirt Hickman

Avoid to-be verbs whenever possible. These verbs (*am, is, are, was, were, be, been, and being*) can appear in a number of ways that weaken your writing style.

**Passive Voice:** Passive voice refers to a sentence in which the object of the action is the subject of the sentence.

For example:

Sue **was** hit by Bill.

Sue **was** hit.

You can eliminate passive voice by turning the sentence around so the person or thing doing the action becomes the subject of the sentence. This is called active voice.

Bill hit Sue.

Passive voice is more wordy and less direct than active voice. It's more laborious to read and often harder to understand.

Use it only when the object of the action is much more important than the subject, or when the subject is unknown:

He **was** murdered.

**Past Progressive Tense:** Past progressive tense indicates ongoing action in the past:

The smell **was** coming from the basement.

Change past progressive tense to past tense whenever possible:

The smell came from the basement.

This makes the narrative more immediate, more compelling to read. It gives it more punch.

### Statements of Being:

A statement of being tells the reader what something is without showing action. Statements of being are pure description. Learn to recognize them. Purge them from your style. For example:

Statement of being:

It **was** after two when the game started.

Joan **was** there when it happened.

Statement of action:

The game started after two.

Joan arrived before it happened.

The following excerpt, the opening paragraph of a non-fiction short story, is from a critique submission.\*

It **was** dark both inside and outside the cabin of the Super Constellation. It **was** night and we **were** somewhere over the North Atlantic. The four huge propellers imparted a noise and vibration onto the airframe that wore on both crew and equipment. Behind me **were** a half dozen air controllers, their eyes focused on the radar screens in front of them. They **were** tracking each plane that crossed the



Atlantic headed in the direction of the United States. They knew the schedule of the airlines, the typical speed and altitudes of airliners, transport planes and of Soviet bombers. Their job **was** to identify any plane that didn't belong there and had flight characteristics that might make it a potential enemy. My job as radioman **was** to transmit in Morse code their observations to our operational base in Newfoundland. This **was** the cold war, and we **were** on radar patrol.

This paragraph contains nine to-be verbs, which are shown in bold text. Most are unnecessary.

We flew at night, somewhere over the North Atlantic. The four huge propellers of the Super Constellation imparted a noise and vibration onto the airframe that wore on both crew and equipment. In the darkness behind me sat a half dozen air controllers with their eyes focused on their radar screens, tracking each plane that crossed the Atlantic toward the United States. They knew the schedule of the airlines, the typical speed and altitudes of airliners, transport planes and of Soviet bombers. They must identify any plane that didn't belong there and had flight characteristics that marked it as a potential enemy. As a radioman, I transmitted their observations in Morse code to our operational base in Newfoundland.

This **was** the cold war, and we **were** on radar patrol.

This revision eliminates all but two to-be verbs. I moved the last sentence into a separate paragraph for emphasis. The difference between the first passage and the second is subtle, but important. Because to-be verbs don't indicate action, at best they create a static image in the reader's mind. They don't invoke emotion. A story that relies upon to-be verbs will fail to hold the reader's attention no matter how interesting the topic. That said, you can't expect to eliminate all to-be verbs from your writing, especially from dialogue. Nevertheless, purge as many as possible.

Search your manuscript electronically for the words: *am, is, are, was, were, be, been, and being*. Use the Find/Replace function of your word processor to change the text format of these words to a different color (say, blue). Doing so will help you find them during editing. Once you've finished revising, Select All and change the text back to black.

Critique submission reprinted with author's permission

*Kirt Hickman has Bachelor and Master degrees in Electrical Engineering from UNM. He has worked with high-energy laser optics, microelectronics, and other technologies relevant to science fiction, and leverages his knowledge and experience to enrich his stories.. Worlds Asunder is his first novel.*

## Minding Finances for Writers:

### Lessons from the Life of Tony Hillerman

By Sherri Burr

Tony Hillerman, the author who exposed the Navajo way to millions of people, passed away on October 26, 2008. After moving to New Mexico in 1988, I mentioned to a University of New Mexico colleague that I was looking for a writer to speak to my class the following spring. She recommended I read *The Ghostway* and *The Dark Wind*. I became a fan and wrote Tony.



For a humble person who reveled in his Oklahoma farm boy roots, spending time with lawyers and lawyer-wannabees was not Tony's idea of fun. But he was also a teacher at heart and always willing to share, even with not-so-modest attorney types.

After publishing three books in 2004, I was invited to join First Fridays, a group that Tony and several of his writing pals started in the 1960s to share knowledge about the publishing industry. One morning a couple of years ago, I received an email seeking someone to drive Tony, now in his 80s, to the next meeting. I immediately volunteered.

Driving Tony Hillerman was a gift. Even as he struggled with health infirmities, he quipped, "Don't get old." Here are a few other tips from a great writing mind:

#### *Tip 1: Take Time to Observe the Clouds*

"Look at those clouds," Tony would say as we walked to my car. "Don't they remind you of a flock of geese?" Other times, he would notice horses in stalls or dogs wandering the roads. His books are filled with elegantly described settings. I realized that he could write so vividly about New Mexico and Arizona because he was constantly observing the environment.

#### *Tip 2: Be Generous with Your Writing Earnings*

On one occasion, we pulled up at a stop sign as a panhandler approached with a sign. Tony took out his wallet and handed the man \$10. Wow, I thought, how generous. At that First Friday meeting, Tony said that he had recently opened a letter and a \$100 bill fell out. The woman wrote of having borrowed his books from the library all these years and realized that he was probably missing some royalties. Lesson learned: generosity is returned manifold.

#### *Tip 3: Keep at It*

Tony's debut novel *The Blessing Way* received 101 rejection slips before being picked up by Harper & Row in 1980.

Along the way, agents wanted him to change the location of his books from the Navajo reservation to Santa Fe and to alter Joe Leaphorn's identity. He stuck to the truth of his stories, and you should, too. After bemoaning the dozen rejections that a manuscript had received, I realized I have to send it out 89 more times.

Keep the faith and keep writing. Tony did and we are grateful that he lived.

*Sherri Burr is a long-time member of SouthWest Writers and the author of 11 books. She is a tenured professor at the University of New Mexico where she teaches Entertainment Law.*

---

## October 2008 SWW International Monthly Writing Competition Winners

### Halloween Anecdote

**1st Prize: Rose Marie Kern**, Albuquerque, NM for "He Gave You What?!"

**2nd Prize: Elaine Soto**, Albuquerque, NM for "Homenaje a Kimosabe Chocolate."

**3rd Prize: Nancy LaTurner**, Albuquerque, NM for "Antidote for a Spoiled Halloween."

### Honorable Mentions (Alphabetical):

**Lola R. Eagle**, Albuquerque, NM for "Our Halloween Event."

**Dianne R. Layden**, Albuquerque, NM for "Halloween: 1959."

**Nan Barnard White**, Albuquerque, NM for "Grandman's Got What?"

**Nan Barnard White**, Albuquerque, NM for "Halloween Ticks in '56."

---

## New SWW Writing Contest with Bigger Prizes

Starting in 2009, SWW's monthly writing contest will change to the SWW Quarterly Contest. Winners will receive larger prizes, and entrants will have more time to prepare their manuscripts. Winners may be optionally printed in the SouthWest Sage. Indicate whether or not it's okay to publish your entry. The first 2009 Quarterly Contest is:

**A Memorable Event:** Write a personal anecdote (where you were, how you felt, or how you were affected, etc.) about a memorable event in your life. Some examples: Pearl Harbor, JFK's assassination, 9/11 or other such important event.

Double-spaced, 500 words maximum. Postmark deadline: Tuesday, March 31. All entries \$10. Prizes: \$150/1st prize; \$50/2nd prize; \$25/3rd prize. See more details at [southwestwriters.com](http://southwestwriters.com). Click on Quarterly Contest.

## Successes

**Merry Haugen** has just signed a contract with *National Geographic* to write the Teacher Guides for their student magazine, *National Geographic Explorer*. She will be responsible for both Pathfinder (the 4th-5th grade edition) and for Pioneer (the 2nd-3rd grade edition) each month. After enjoying a short-lived retirement, and while continuing to work on other children's books and memoir writing, Merry will see her first *National Geographic* work published this coming March.

**Frank Carden** just returned from a book signing at the Galveston Book Shop, Dec 6 & 7, for his novella *Prostitutes of Post Office Street*. The story is set in the red-light district of Galveston, where crooked cops and down-on-their-luck prostitutes dwell. Frank signed and sold over 60 books. The people of Galveston, working hard to recover from Ike (the Book Shop had seven feet of water on the first floor, and lost hundreds of books) were especially supportive of a story based on the history of their red-light district. The paperback is available online from Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.

**Valerie Stasik** was delighted to learn that her play *Trapped* submitted to the Santa Fe Playhouse Benchwarmers VIII competition was chosen for a reading. The readings will be

presented February 14 and 15. The eight submissions that were accepted for full-scale production will be performed the last week in January and the first week in February. Valerie's play will be directed by Santa Fe communication skills coach Sheri Mann, and Valerie will be reading one of the roles. *Trapped* is a drama about guilt and loss—loss of loved ones, loss of innocence, loss of identity. The Benchwarmers competition is so named because the only piece of furniture provided for the plays is a park bench. Valerie is the owner of The Writing Nanny Editing and Writing Services and sometimes writes under the pseudonym Maribee Putnam.

**Jan Fenimore** wrote an article about her 50th class reunion she attended this past summer and had it published in the November *Mature Life Magazine* of the *Albuquerque Journal*.

**Tekla Dennison Miller**, former prison warden, announces her new novel *Inevitable Sentences*. Her work of fiction is inspired by her experiences while employed by the Michigan Department of Corrections. It is not only a peek inside a prison, but also an examination of partner abuse and relationships with prisoners.

## Contests and Announcements

**New Mexico Press Women** is looking for an outstanding woman writer in New Mexico to honor with the prestigious **Zia Award**. This year's contest will consider nonfiction books by women writers living in the state. New Mexico Press Women gives the award at their annual spring conference, to be held April 17 and 18, 2009 at the Buffalo Thunder Resort. Entries must be postmarked by January 10, 2009. For more information on the contest please send correspondence to the address listed below or email at [jsavage@cybermesa.com](mailto:jsavage@cybermesa.com).

Jessica Savage  
Zia Award Contest Chair  
1612 Ralph Dr.  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Rick DeCost and Bob Griffin have launched a **new publishing company** with an online presence. **Absent Willow Publishing LLC**, Rochester, NH, is an independent book publisher that will provide its readers with high quality stories of horror, fantasy and science fiction. Its online efforts include the *Absent Willow Review*. Additionally, the *Absent Willow Review* will publish paperback anthologies from their collected works.

**The Sandy Writing Contest and the Crested Butte Writers Conference** deadline is Feb. 17, 2009. The Conference

is June 19-21. Eligibility and Rules can be found at [www.thesandy.com](http://www.thesandy.com). For questions not answered at the website, feel free to email the coordinator, Theresa Rizzo, at [theresa@theresarizzo.com](mailto:theresa@theresarizzo.com). Categories include Romance, Mainstream Adult Fiction, Suspense/Thriller, Fantasy/Science Fiction, and Children's/YA.

**Word by Word, the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Oklahoma Writers Federation Inc. Conference**, will be held on May 1-2, 2009. Bestselling thriller writer **Tess Gerritsen** is the keynote speaker on Friday evening and will sign books afterward. To register or learn more, see the website at [www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org) or call Marcia Preston, OWFI president, at 348.3325, e-mail [marcia@marciapreston.com](mailto:marcia@marciapreston.com).

**The 2009 Eric Hoffer Book Award:** New or old, we want to read your book. Each year, independent publishers release extraordinary books to little or no recognition. The Eric Hoffer Book Award recognizes excellence in publishing. \$1,500 GRAND PRIZE -- \$45 ENTRANCE FEE. See submission guidelines at [www.HofferAward.com](http://www.HofferAward.com) or check the listing in *Writer's Market*.

Program Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque

**Saturday, January 3**  
10:00 a.m. to noon

**Sarah H. Baker**

**How Not to Start from Scratch (or, Why Didn't Someone Tell Me This Stuff?)**

Author Sarah H. Baker shares some of her lessons learned on the road to publication. A few of the lessons are writing tips, but most of them concern selling manuscripts and working with publishers. Sarah's talk targets those not born into the writing world and is intended to be interactive, so bring your own hints to share.

**Sarah Baker** is the author of 12 published novels, has five more under contract, and has sold numerous novellas and short stories to publishers ranging in size from Echelon Press to Silhouette. Sarah writes romance as Sarah Storme, mystery as S. H. Baker, and erotica as Lydia Parks. Her latest book from Kensington, *Addicted*, is receiving rave reviews.

**Tuesday, January 20**  
7 to 9 p.m.

**Joline Gutierrez Krueger**

**Writing Darkly**

If true crime—or any crime, for that matter—figures into your writing, then come learn about how to bring authenticity to your work. Participants will also discuss how to better present those scenes in which tragedy and loss, good and evil, guilty and not guilty, the gruesome and the drama of the dark appear.

**Joline Gutierrez Krueger** is one of four front-page columnists for the *Albuquerque Journal*, New Mexico's largest and only statewide newspaper. She joined the staff just last February after the *Albuquerque Tribune*, where she had worked for 20 years, shut down. Her writing career has predominantly focused on criminal justice and crime, though she has also written about children, food and other things not so dismal. She is the winner of numerous journalism and writing awards. She was also inducted in 2005 into the Scripps Howard Hall of Fame and is a fellow of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and the Casey Journalism Center.

**Saturday, February 7**  
10:00 a.m. to noon

**Lynn C. Miller**

**Taking a Page From History**

Using archival materials—historical research, letters, biography, autobiography—can deepen the context and provide structural support for your fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Novelist Lynn C. Miller will talk about ways to use historical references to provide ballast for your work, referring to her own work in historical one-person performances and her novel, *The Fool's Journey* (2002).

**Lynn C. Miller** is author of the novels *The Fool's Journey* (2002) and *Death of a Department Chair* (2006) and co-editor of *Voices Made Flesh: Performing Women's Autobiography* (2003). She conducts generative writing and critique groups in Albuquerque. She taught writing and performance in higher education for thirty years, most recently at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a professor of theatre and women's studies. Visit [www.lynncmiller.com](http://www.lynncmiller.com) for more information.

**Tuesday, February 17**  
7 to 9 p.m.

**Gene Grant & David Richard Jones**

**The Theme's The Thing: Finding the Right Story for Theater**

What's the best way for novice drama writers to approach the special needs of theater? Gene Grant, who recently won the Vortex Theater's "Electoral Dysfunctions" short play contest with his first play, and Vortex Theater founder (and current Chair of the Artistic Committee) David Richard Jones will take you through the steps for making the transition, with a special emphasis on finding the thematic hooks for your story that work for theater.

**Gene Grant** is co-host of New Mexico In Focus on KNME, a weekly columnist for the *Albuquerque Journal*, and writes the "ABQ On Film," column for Albuquerque, *The Magazine*. He also contributes to *Variety* on the New Mexico film industry.

**David Richard Jones**: Founder, The Vortex Theatre, 1976. President of its Board of Directors 1976-78, 2005-07, Director of nearly 60 productions of plays, operas, and musicals in English and Spanish, Author of *Great Directors at Work* (University of California, 1986) and editor of *New Mexico Plays* (UNM 1989). Professor of English at UNM and Department Chair, 2005-08.



**Saturday, January 3**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

No registration. Pay at the door.

Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE

**Irene Blea****SWW Workshop****The Secret: Not for Women Writers Only**

There is a secret, a dialogue predominant among women. Irene Blea will reveal the secret, demonstrate it and extend it to writers. She will discuss the abstract and the visual elements of writing, how to use Visions Boards as a motivational tool, an outline for plotting your narrative and breaking through that thing that cannot get you started or to finish writing a published product. The secret has to do with the unconsciousness or the spiritual element of bringing forth what is desired. It is a collage constructed with the objective of obtaining writing and publication goals. Blea will present two examples of how the boards assist her in goal definition and in "flushing out" the story.

**Dr. Irene Blea** is an award-winning scholar, poet and public speaker with areas of specialization on the Santa Fe Trail, racism and sexism. She is a New Mexico Humanities Council lecturer and has written well over 30 articles and 7 books with an emphasis on women. Her latest book is *The Feminization of Racism: Promoting Peace in America*.

**Saturday, March 7**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

No registration. Pay at the door.

Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE

**Shirley Raye Redmond****SWW Workshop****Make More Money with Market Analysis—No Matter What You Write**

I can't emphasize enough how important market analysis is if you want to make money. For instance, two of my Random House kids books, *Lewis & Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President* and *Tentacles! Tales of the Giant Squid*, have both sold more than 150,000 copies each—that's more than a quarter of a million books! In fact, in 2010, when my Houghton Mifflin deal goes through for *The Dog That Dug For Dinosaurs*, originally published by Simon & Schuster, I'll have more than 2 million books in print! It boggles my brain sometimes.

However, the workshop will also include info on making more money for those writing for magazines, too. I believe

in recycling what I've written so I can sell the same piece over and over again, making more money with little or no effort.

**Shirley Raye Redmond** has sold 17 books and over 450 magazine and newspaper articles. Shirley Raye, who has an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois, has taught a variety of writing and literature courses at various colleges and universities. She's currently a part-time instructor with the Institute for Children's Literature and a former columnist for *The Santa Fe New Mexican*.

**Saturday, March 21**

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$65 + \$10 lunch (\$75) register by Feb 1

\$75 + \$10 lunch (\$85) register by Feb 28

\$85 + \$10 lunch (\$95) register at door

**SWW All-Day Workshop****Revising Fiction****Making Sense of the Madness****Kirt Hickman**

With all the books, talks, classes, and workshops out there on self-editing, a writer can be quickly overwhelmed by all the advice. There's so much to edit for. How do you catch it all? How do you know when you've got it right? How do you even know where to start? In this class, Kirt Hickman will offer a practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel, to first draft, through self-editing to final product. You'll also receive a set of presentation notes, including numerous examples, a self-editing checklist, and a list of recommended references—resources that you can take home and use to better your writing.

**Topics to be covered:**

World Building	Characterization
Plot	First Draft
Research	Manuscript Organization
Chapter Breaks	Exposition
Scenes	Narrative Style
Dialog	Finishing Touches
The Role of Critiques	

**Kirt Hickman**, author of the 2008 science-fiction conspiracy thriller *Worlds Asunder*, was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1966. Kirt was a technical writer for 14 years before branching into fiction. He has participated in discussion or critique panels for multiple SWW conferences and contributes a monthly column titled "Revising Fiction" to the *SouthWest Sage*. During his technical career, he made a living out of taking complex sets of requirements, or in this case advice, and boiling them down into simple, effective procedures. His methodical approach to self-editing has helped many make sense of the mass of writing advice available to the novice reader.

## WORKING FICTION: CHALLENGES AND PEER CRITIQUE

Instructor: Betsy James

January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11 (note two skipped weeks), March 4, 11, 18, 2009  
Wednesday Evenings  
6:30-9 pm

Register: SWW (505) 265-9485  
\$150 members  
\$180 non-members includes a 6 month SWW membership with online *SW Sage*  
Class Limited to 10 Students

One of the best stimuli of fresh work is the challenge of an outside idea, followed by respectful peer critique. In seven weekly assignments, we will write to various aspects of fiction—voice, description, dialogue, point-of-view, etc.—and then bring our work into the conversation of critique. Clear and respectful peer critique will be taught and modeled. Assignments will be appropriate to any fiction form: novel/short story, realistic/fantastic, adult/juvenile. Come prepared to work hard.

---

## FIVE EASY STEPS TO GETTING YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED—NON-FICTION

Instructors: Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves

January 12 through February 9, 2009  
Monday Evenings 5 weeks  
6:30-8:30 pm

Register: SWW (505) 265-9485  
\$69 members  
\$79 non-members  
Class Limited to 14 Students

Ready to get your non-fiction book published? Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves will teach you how to propel your way to fame and fortune.

These five classes address issues of non-fiction and will cover finding markets, writing queries (these will be critiqued by Rob and Melody), writing proposals (also critiqued and shared with the group), attending conferences (why that's crucial), and finding an agent.

Rob is the author of six published non-fiction books. Melody is the author of one published non-fiction book and three fiction books.

## FIVE EASY STEPS TO GETTING YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED—NOVELS

Instructors: Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves

February 23 through March 23, 2009  
Monday Evenings 5 weeks  
6:30-8:30 pm

Register: SWW (505) 265-9485  
\$69 members  
\$79 non-members  
Class Limited to 14 Students

Want someone to buy your novel? Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves will show you how to propel your way to fame and fortune.

These classes will address getting your novel published and will cover markets, the submission process (proposals), writing the synopsis (critiqued in class) as well as suggested conferences (why you should attend) and finding an agent.

Rob is the author of six published non-fiction books. Melody is the author of one published non-fiction book and three fiction books.

**Sign up online at [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com)**

**Or call the SWW Office at 265-9485**

All classes are held at

SouthWest Writers Conference Room  
3721 Morris NE, Ste A  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
(northwest corner of Comanche and Morris)

SWW offers a free writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center every Monday from 1:30 to 2:45 pm. Taught by Larry Greenly and Rob Spiegel, classes are free to members of any Albuquerque Senior Center. Membership is open to anyone over 50 and annual dues are \$13. Bear Canyon is two blocks north of Montgomery, one block east of Eubank.

# SCREENWRITERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 21, 2009

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES** conference presentations, a box lunch, refreshments and the possibility of a 10-minute pitch session. The conference will be held at the CNM WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER, 5600 Eagle Rock Avenue NE (near I-25 and Alameda), Albuquerque, NM. Check-in time is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The Conference will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you need a hotel, there are two within walking distance: Holiday Inn Express, 5401 Alameda NE, Albuquerque (505-797-2291) and Ramada Limited, 5601 Alameda NE, Albuquerque (505-858-3297).

**REGISTER** online at southwestwriters.com OR register by phone at the SOUTHWEST WRITERS office (505-265-9485) M-F 9:00 -noon OR register by completing this form and mailing it to: SOUTHWEST WRITERS, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. **Early bird deadline: February 1.** Limited spaces. No walk-in registrations.

*--Cut here if registering by mail. Retain top portion, and mail bottom portion.--*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current member of SouthWest Writers? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

How did you learn about this conference? \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Cost. Register on or before February 1 (postmark date) for early-bird rate:**

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$119.00 SWW member cost (early-bird rate)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$139.00 SWW member (registered after 2/1)

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$169.00 non-member cost (includes 1-yr SWW membership [early-bird rate])

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$189.00 non-member cost (includes 1-yr SWW membership [registered after 2/1])

**Method of payment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check or money order (payable to SouthWest Writers)

\_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa ONLY

**If paying by credit card:** Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digits near your signature)

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATERED LUNCH PREFERENCE FROM GLAZED HAMS & MORE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Italian Chicken Focaccia

*You're welcome to bring your own lunch. No discount.*

\_\_\_\_\_ The Awesome Veggie

\_\_\_\_\_ Ham & More Adventure

Please tell us of any special diet requirements or allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A 10-MINUTE PITCH SESSION, please indicate your preference. Only one pitch session can be assigned. However, if your first choice is unavailable, do you have a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice? If so, please indicate by the number "2" and "3."**

\_\_\_\_\_ Kirk Ellis, TV/film writer/producer ("John Adam," "Hell on Wheels," "Anne Frank").

\_\_\_\_\_ Tammy Ader, creator/executive producer ("Strong Medicine").

**NOTE: The number of pitch sessions is limited. We will try to accommodate everyone, but pitch sessions will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and we cannot guarantee that everyone will get a session. Early registration will increase your chance of getting the pitch session of your choice.**



SouthWest Writers is a nonprofit organization  
dedicated to encouraging and supporting all people  
to express themselves through the written word.

## **SouthWest Sage**

### **SouthWest Writers**

3721 Morris NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

[www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)

[SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com)

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Label shows your SWW Membership expiration date.**

**Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.**

---

#### Wanting to Start Groups/Looking for a Group

##### **Memoirs, Santa Fe**

*Leona Stucky-Abbott*  
505-820-2433

##### **Any Genre, Albuquerque**

Meet every other Friday  
NE Heights  
*Krys Douglas* 505-830-3015

##### **Any Genre, Las Cruces**

*Barbara Villemez*  
505-522-5734

##### **Poetry**

*Billy Brown* 505-401-8139,  
[welbert53@aol.com](mailto:welbert53@aol.com)

##### **Short Story, Poetry, Screenplay**

Santa Fe  
*Robert Evans* 505- 690-6651  
[reevans1@mac.com](mailto:reevans1@mac.com)

**Children's Books** Santa Fe  
[ldiemand@cybermesa.com](mailto:ldiemand@cybermesa.com)

##### **Screenwriting**

*G. Hathaway* 249-7957

##### **Nonfiction, Valencia County**

*Karen Keese* 505-261-0040  
[skywriter@wildblue.net](mailto:skywriter@wildblue.net)

##### **Memoir, contemporary culture, non-fiction**

*Anna Redsand* 872-3277

##### Groups Seeking Members

##### **Any Genre**

##### **Estancia Valley Writers Group**

Moriarty Community Library  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.  
*Tina Ortega* 505-832-2513

##### **Any Genre**

##### **Albuquerque Press Club**

201 Highland Park Cir. SE  
First Tuesdays 7 pm  
*Samantha* 401-1561 or  
[sclark.abq@earthlink.net](mailto:sclark.abq@earthlink.net)

##### **Critique Groups**

Submit requests to  
[SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com)

##### **Any Genre, Rio Rancho:**

*Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley*  
505-867-1408  
[riversedgebob@cableone.net](mailto:riversedgebob@cableone.net)  
[riograndema@cableone.net](mailto:riograndema@cableone.net)

##### **Land of Enchantment Romance Authors**

Meets second Saturdays at noon.  
[leranm.com](http://leranm.com)

##### **The Screaming Ninja Screenwriters**

Meets every other Thursday,  
Flying Star on 7th and Silver.  
*Marc Calderwood*  
505-897-6474  
[skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com](mailto:skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com)