



The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 21, No. 4

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

April 2006

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

The Book Table

by Sandy Schairer

As most of our members know, SouthWest Writers has a book table where members can display and sell their books during meetings. It has become so popular that we've graduated to a bigger display table and a cash register.

SWW charges the author's requested price for each volume, taking only a \$1.00 donation per sale. The table is manned by volunteers who must be board members, according to our bylaws. Speakers and workshop presenters do not have to donate the \$1.00 per book. SWW sells their books as a courtesy to them for being presenters.

David Corwell of the SouthWest Writers Board has been the guiding force behind the book table recently, assisted by SWW member and author George Terrell who came up with the idea and told a board member, "SWW should sell members' books at our meetings."

The cash register is set up to sell the books without computing tax since it's a non-profit organization. (Each author must have his/her own process for reporting sales tax as part of his/her writing business.) At the conferences the SWW book table does take the sales tax since the majority of the stock belongs to Book Works, an Albuquerque bookstore that has graciously agreed to work with SWW in this venue.

Since the book table has become more popular month after month, more authors are now offering their books for sale. Sometimes this means up to 75 individual volumes on the table. This is fabulous! However, it calls for a more streamlined method of keeping track of everything.

There have been new changes to the process besides switching to a cash register. Since the money is put in the register and taken back to the office to process, the SWW office now sends the authors' proceeds after the treasurer and office coordinator have done the paperwork.

Thanks for your cooperation. It is truly exciting to see so many books by SWW members all in one place. Congratula-

New Procedures for SWW Members Selling Their Books

Hand the board member at the book table an 8 1/2" x11" sheet of paper with the following information:

- Your last name and first name (for an alphabetical log)
- The title(s) of the book(s) placed on the table
- The number of volumes of each title placed on the table
- The cost of each book

Optional: Sticky notes or price tags on the books, if your price is not printed on the back (especially if you are offering a discount to SWW members).

After the meeting, indicate how many copies you are taking back and initial the log so we know what books are accounted for.

Your proceeds will be mailed to you (minus the \$1.00 per copy donation) by the SWW office in a timely manner.

Continued on page 3

tions to everyone who has published. Thanks for making your books available to members, as well as allowing SWW to provide this type of service that benefits members, other attendees, and the organization alike. Thanks also to speakers who make copies of their books available for sale.

Since we are all writers, please remember to support your fellow authors by looking over the selection of books and purchasing your friends' and colleagues' books. Don't forget to ask for an autograph if the book isn't already signed. Keep in mind that the authors you support with your purchases are, or will be, in a position to buy your book when the time comes.

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by Sandy Schairer, SWW Board Secretary. Sandy is the author of Extremely Short Stories for Busy People and two e-books on Fear of Writing e-bookstore. She also writes romance under a pseudonym.

WRITER'S GUIDELINES The SouthWest Sage welcomes articles about the craft and business of writing. Articles should be 250 to 750 words long, plus a 40-word bio. Submissions are preferred by e-mail in an RTF attachment with 11pt. Times New Roman font and single-spaced. Bylines are given. No payment. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and content. Published articles will appear on the SWW website. Send submissions to SWriters@aol.com.


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Sage**

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*Editor:
Tom Gibbons*

*Assistant Editor:
Larry Greenly*

*SWW Office:
3721 Morris St. NE
Suite A
Albuquerque, NM
87111-3611
phone: (505) 265-9485
fax: (505) 265-9483*

*E-mail:
SWWriters@juno.com
Website:
www.southwestwriters.org*

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SWW dues are \$60 per year (or \$100 for 2 years).

Two individuals joining or renewing together get a special rate of \$50 each.

Students with current proof of attendance can enjoy a special \$40 rate.

At the \$60 rate, that's only \$5 a month to belong to a great organization!

You can now pay your dues securely online at www.southwestwriters.org.

Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership? Check the website.

It is now secure for online renewals and new memberships.

Contest Connection

Continued from Page 1.

New Procedures for SWW Members Buying Books at SWW Programs.

Make sure you give your money to the board member and s/he processes the purchase in the cash register. S/he will check off the book title on a log to make sure the proper author is paid for that purchase.

If you are not paying with cash or check, please pay for the book at the front table, which is equipped with a credit card processor.

The board member at the front desk processing the credit card makes sure the SWW copy goes into the cash register for processing.

The board member at the book table will make sure the purchase is logged.

Thanks for supporting your fellow authors.



Elsie Kreischer is a founding member of SWW. She gave a workshop on writing children's books a few months ago that 11-year-old Sarah Otts attended. Kudos, Elsie!

You Might Be a Poet If...

by Sandi Blanton

You might be a poet if you've ever had your heart broken and couldn't help but pen a few tear-stained lines.

You might be a poet if your heart has ever ached so much at the sight of a sunset that it just spilled onto a page.

You might be a poet if your love for a friend or tenderness for a child brought you to tears of joy and you just had to share.

You might be a poet if you've become so indignant about a social injustice or appalling human condition that you wanted to scream about it from the rooftops.

You might be a poet if you've ever lost something so precious that your grief could never find enough expression.

You might be a poet if you've ever had a spiritual or mystical experience or insight that seemed too important not to preserve so you jotted down a few lines on an envelope or napkin.

Poetry is about life, about being human and expressing it in language. It's not about measured rhythms or rhyming words (although those are sometimes used). It's not about wearing black or having long hair or going to poetry readings or acting weird (although those are all fine too). It's about getting emotions out into language in a way that moves others to feel their own unique humanity. It's not about causing others to understand what you feel, but causing them to feel what they feel. It's about the joy, the pain, the love, the sadness, the wonder, the humor, the awe, the possibility of being human. No topic is off limits. It's about expressing, sharing, connecting.

In some sense everyone is a poet. Many people have said to me, "I'm not a poet, but I've written some poems." Guess what? That makes you a poet. So go through those notebooks, dust off those unique expressions of yourself, polish them up and submit them to the SWW contest. It's only \$18 to enter. You might be a winner and you could touch someone's heart.

For information about upcoming poetry events, e-mail Billy Brown at welbert53@aol.com.

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Remember, the Contest Deadline is May 1st. Visit www.southwestwriters.org for ALL Contest information. You can submit up to five pages of poetry even if you have more than one poem (see Category Specific Guidelines). If you have any questions you can email Joanne Bodin, 2006 SWW Contest Chair at drjsbodin@hotmail.com or call the SWW office at (505)265-9485.

New SWW Email Address is Here

SouthWest Writers has retired its old AOL address and has replaced it with SWWriters@juno.com. We are using both email addresses concurrently until we pull the plug on AOL. Please make note of this fact in your email address book.

SWW CONTEST

Judges 2006

Category	Judge	Credentials
Novels		
1. Mainstream and Literary	Andrea Somberg	Literary Agent, <i>Harvey Klinger, Inc.</i>
2. Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure	Jessica Wade	Editorial Assistant, <i>The Berkley Publishing Group (Penguin Putnam)</i>
3. Romance	Devi Pillai	Associate Editor- <i>Warner Books</i>
4. Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror	Betsy Mitchell	Editor-in-Chief- <i>Del Rey Books(Random House)</i>
5. Historical/American Frontier/Western	Gina Bernal	Junior Editor, <i>The Berkely Publishing Group (Penguin Putnam)</i>
6. Middle Grade/Young Adult	Lexa Hillyer	Associate Editor, <i>Harper Collins Children's Books</i>
Short Stories		
7. Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror	William Horner	Editor, <i>Fantasist Enterprises</i>
8. Mainstream/Literary	Nicola Mason	Managing Editor, <i>Cincinnati Review</i>
9. Mystery/Romance	Kathryn Compton	Editor-In-Chief, <i>GRIT: American Life and Traditions Magazine</i>
10. Other Genres: Historical, Western, etc.	Meghan Saar Terry Harshman	Managing Editor, <i>True West Magazine</i> Editor, <i>Children's Playmate</i>
11. Middle Grade/Young Adult		
Short Nonfiction		
12. Article or Essay	Tess Taylor	Editorial Staff, <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>
13. Children's Article	Kim Griswell	Coordinating Editor, <i>Highlights For Children</i>
Other		
14. Nonfiction Book	Stephen Blake Mettee	Publisher, <i>Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press</i>
15. Children's Nonfiction Book	Erin Clarke	Editor, <i>Knopf Books For Young Readers</i>
16. Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction)	Erin Clarke	Editor, <i>Knopf Books For Young Readers</i>
17. Screenplay	Pamela Jaye	Producer, Director and Founder of <i>Mythworks</i>
18. Poetry	Kathie Fong Yoneda	Script Consultant, Principal in <i>TalkStory Productions</i>
19. Spanish Language/ Nonfiction Article or Essay	Tess Taylor Johanna Buchholtz-Torres	Editorial Staff, <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> Nonfiction Article or Essay Editorial Director, <i>Hispanic Ventures-Meredith Corporation</i>

For those members wishing to receive an e-mail notice of SWW Events and Meetings, please send a request to be placed on the E-lert system. Send the request to Gail Rubin at elertmistress@southwestwriters.com.

**Tuesday, February 21, 2006: Blogging 101
with Marianne Powers**

by Sandy Schairer

Marianne Powers, SWW member, author of *Doing the Right Thing and Achieving all Your Goals at the Same Time*, is a public speaker in the areas of management, conflict resolution, working relationships, and personal growth. Marianne presented an informative talk on blogging for a full house at the SouthWest Writers program on Feb. 21, 2006.

Blogging refers to a “blog”—a word derived from “Web Log.” Marianne told attendees that a blog is basically an on-line journal that originated in 1994. For a writer, a blog is an excellent way to practice writing every day. It’s good for getting your name and ideas onto the world wide web. Marianne encouraged every writer to set up a blog because, she said, “blogs are dynamic, interactive and free,” and readers, agents, editors, and publishers can become familiar with your name and writing.

In addition, there are ways to make money using a blog, which include “ads” on your site such as those from Google’s AdSense, or linking to an online bookstore by becoming an Amazon Associate or Barnes & Noble Affiliate. You can also sell your books/stories using programs like PayPal. You may also set up a “donation” button to give fans an opportunity to support your site or causes.

Marianne took SWW attendees through the simple steps necessary to set up their blogs, recommending the free blog service sponsored by Google called Blogger. Marianne suggested picking a “platform,” i.e. your theme or topic of interest. If you have more than one interest, you can set up two or more blogs. You ought to pick your names in advance and have them ready for each step in setting up a blog. These include a log-in name with a password, a display name (your real name or a pen name you want to promote), the e-mail address you want connected with your blog, and a title for your blog. You also choose a web address that will appear as www.(your title).blogspot.com. You can have people come to your blog spot by invitation, or they can find you while surfing the topics you have posted on your blog. You can even set up a way for people to contact you or post comments regarding your blog entries.

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For more detailed information, go to Blogger on-line or check out www.mariannepowers.com. Marianne has offered to post the blogging information on her website and blog.

**Saturday, March 1, 2006: Writing the Synopsis
(and other contest tips) with David Corwell and
Melody Groves**

by Judy Ducharme

Ninety people puzzled by how to write a synopsis were relieved by David Corwell and Melody Groves at the SouthWest Writers panel on Saturday, March 1st. A synopsis sells your novel to an agent or an editor. It tells the entire story of the main character(s). Romance novels, as well as some others, have two main characters. Most, however, have only one main character. Subplots, no matter how intriguing and well-written with unique characters, are not included unless they impact the change and growth of the main character(s). Be sure to mention each plot twist, but not in detail, including the “dark moment,” the climax and the redemption of the main character(s). Even if it is a mystery, the end must be told. When you finish the one-page, single-spaced synopsis, a first reader should say, “Why should I read the book?”

The synopsis is told in your voice. It must be in the present tense. Do not write in dialogue. The format includes the book title, the names of the main character(s), bolded when first mentioned, and the external and internal plot twists. Work in the theme of your novel. (Setting grounds the reader, who must decide to buy your book.)

Writing a synopsis can lead you to identify the main character. Write the synopsis from his or her point of view. Use vibrant language, capture the flavor of the book, and, if another book follows, hook the editor in the last paragraph.

A synopsis can be used to present a quick market analysis, as David illustrated.

Having said all that, please remember that if you ask ten people how to write a synopsis, you will get ten different answers.

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Judy Ducharme, MLS University of Alabama, 1982, is retired from 18 years as Senior Medical Librarian at UNM Health Sciences Library. Judy is revising her historical novel set in New York at the turn of the twentieth century.

Free Professional E-Mail Addresses For SWW Members

You can give editors, agents, and booksellers an address like IManAuthor@southwestwriters.com.

Their messages to you will be automatically and invisibly forwarded to your existing address.

Just send an e-mail message to LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com,

including your choice of SWW address and your existing e-mail address where you want messages to be forwarded.

Very rarely are SWW programs cancelled, but it is possible should the weather become fierce. Please remember, if you have doubts about whether a program will happen, or about the time or topic, call the SWW office number (505) 265-9485 during business hours, M-F 9am - noon.

Tuesday, April 18, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location, Location, Location

"I've come to understand that the setting or location of a novel so influences the development of character that it might be said to *be* a character itself. Everything I've written, in fact everything I enjoy reading, *stars* the setting, whether intentionally or accidentally."

At age nineteen, Richard E. Peck was commissioned the youngest officer and pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. He then completed college in two-and-a-half years, and his Ph.D. in three. He's worked as a stock boy, door-to-door salesman, disk jockey, playwright, actor and club comic, and eventually the president of three universities.

His novels celebrate the places he's lived: Philadelphia, Rome, New Mexico, Wisconsin. He writes—all day, every day—when he's not golfing or visiting his grandchildren. He has a clear goal: "Two novels a year," he says, "each one better than the last, until I get it right."

Richard E. Peck's published novels include *Philly Amateurs* (UNM Press: 2006), *Strategy of Terror* (SevenLocksPress: 2005), *Dead Pawn* (UNM Press: 2004), *Something for Joey* (Bantam: 1978) and *Final Solution* (Doubleday: 1973)

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.. to noon

Science and Other Fictions—Technology and the Story

Walter Jon Williams has appeared on the London and New York Times bestseller lists, and has twice won the Nebula Award for his fiction. He's published 26 volumes of fiction in 26 years, has written for movies and television, and has also acquired a fourth-degree black belt in Kenpo karate. He has been a New Mexico resident for nearly 40 years. His last credit was as a co-writer for the Alternate Reality Game *Last Call Poker*.

Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Self Promotion: It's a Good Thing

So often that little voice in our heads tell us not to "brag" about ourselves or what we're writing. Problem is, if we don't "brag," nobody will know what we're doing. Self-promotion is not bragging. Instead, it's just a way of letting the world know that you're a writer and love what you do. Networking is free and the most effective method of promotion. This talk will focus on getting up the courage to extend your hand and tell the world who you are!

"I live what I write -- I write what I live."

Although Melody Groves, a native New Mexican, has traveled and lived all over the world, her feet are planted in southwestern soil. A deep love of all things Old West creates a fertile playground for her imagination. A member of the New Mexico Gunfighters Association, she "shoots" sheriffs and outlaws every Sunday in Albuquerque's Old Town. Going toe to toe with a revolver-wielding sheriff gives her firsthand feel for what her characters experience.

Donations of refreshments at the regular SWW meetings will be gratefully accepted!

Please consider providing this valuable service to our organization.

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

Intellectual Property Services for Writers

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Use in conjunction with Category Specific Guidelines.

1. **Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2006. Only mailed entries accepted; no hand deliveries or E-mail submissions. All entries postmarked after the deadline will be returned unopened.
2. **Submit** two (2) copies of your entry, which must be original, unpublished, unsold, and not optioned prior to May 1, 2006. Your entry **must not have been previously selected as a SWW 1st place contest winner** within the same category. 2nd and 3rd place previous contest winners may enter contest again. One copy of your entry will go to the judge, and one copy will be critiqued by a qualified consultant, both selected by SWW for the entry category.
3. **Category number:** Write on the outside envelope, under your return address.
4. **SASE:** Please include a 9" x 12" return envelope with the same amount of postage used to mail in your entry. A critique and all contents of your submission package will be returned to you. NO metered postage on return envelopes, and please use self-sealing (non-moisture) SASEs. **Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.** **Optional:** Self-addressed, stamped postcard to be returned to you upon receipt of your entry.
5. **Your name** must appear in **only four (4) locations:** (1) on the Contest Entry Form; (2) on the outside envelope with your return address; (3) on the SASE; and (4) on the optional notification postcard. **Your entry will be disqualified if your name appears elsewhere.**
6. **Your signature** and the signature of the co-author, if applicable, MUST appear on the Contest Entry Form.

Entry Format [For additional information, see Category Specific Guidelines and Tips and Resources (on the SWW Web site).]

1. **A separate Title Page** is not needed.
2. **In the header**, on pages subsequent to page one (1), type the title or its key word(s) in the top left corner. In the top right corner, number the pages of your entry, starting with page two (2). Query letters, synopses, and outlines should also be numbered consecutively, but separately from the manuscript.
3. **Double space** your entry. Use Times New Roman or Courier New in 12 point font on 8½" x 11" paper with one(1)-inch margins. Use one (1) side of the paper only. Please paper clip your entry; **NO staples or binding.** (Exception: Screenplay format - see Category Specific Guidelines.)
4. **Single space** synopses and query letters. **Double space** proposals.

SouthWest Writers Contest 2006

The SouthWest Writers Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing.

Editors and literary agents judge all the entries and critique the top three entries in each category. All entries receive a written critique by a qualified consultant.

Finalists in all categories are notified by mail and are listed on the SWW web site with the title of their entry. First, second, and third place winners receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. Winners will be honored at a contest awards banquet. Date and time to be announced.

First place winners also compete for the \$1,000 Storyteller Award.

Use in conjunction with General Contest Rules for the Southwest Writers Contest

NOVELS: The first 20 pages or less, beginning with the prologue and/or first chapter, plus a one (1) page synopsis.

1. **Mainstream and Literary**
2. **Mystery, Suspense, Thriller, or Adventure**
3. **Romance**
4. **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror**
5. **Historical or American Frontier/Western**
6. **Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up).** You must type *Middle Grade* or *Young Adult* in the top right corner of the first page.

SHORT STORIES: 5,000 words or less (put word count upper right corner)

7. **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror**
8. **Mainstream and Literary**
9. **Mystery or Romance**
10. **Other Genres: Historical, Western, etc.**
11. **Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up).** You must type *Middle Grade* or *Young Adult* in the top right corner of the first page.

SHORT NONFICTION:(put word count upper right corner)

12. **Nonfiction Article or Essay:** 800-3,000 words, any topic, plus a one (1) page query letter to the appropriate target publication.
13. **Children's Nonfiction Article:** Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up). 500-800 words, plus a one (1) page query letter to the appropriate target publication.

OTHER:

14. **Nonfiction Book:** The first 20 pages or less, plus a one (1) page query letter and a three (3) page proposal (include market competition, audience, summary, and chapter headings). No charts, etc.
15. **Children's Nonfiction Book:** Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up). The first 20 pages or less, plus a one (1) page query letter and a three (3) page proposal (include market competition, audience, summary, and chapter headings). **No charts, etc.**
16. **Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction):** Target age: 4-7 years old. No more than six (6) pages (text only) for a 32-page book. **NO** illustrations.
17. **Screenplay:** The first **20** pages, plus a **one** page single-spaced synopsis **that tells the complete story.** Use accepted screenplay format; 12 point Courier only and MUST be bound with brads. NO stage plays or TV series, please. You must include the total page count of the screenplay in the top right corner of the first page.
18. **Poetry:** 5 pages or less, even if more than one poem. **NO graphics**, please.
19. **Spanish Language Nonfiction Article/Essay :** Written in Spanish only; 800-3,000 words, any topic, plus a one (1) page query letter to the appropriate target publication. (word count upper right corner)

The outside envelope for each submitted entry must be labeled with one of the category numbers above; write the number on the envelope, under your return address. Use Category Specific Guidelines with the General Contest Rules and the Contest Entry Form.

The general rules of the 2006 SouthWest Writers (SWW) Contest conform to accepted publishing industry standards of manuscript preparation for submission of work to editors or agents. The **Contest Category Specific Guidelines** describe any additional requirements by genre. The following information will also apply:

General Information:

Photocopies are acceptable.

Include a 9" X 12" return envelope (SASE) with the same amount of postage used to mail in your entry. A critique and all contents of your submission package will be returned. NO metered postage on return envelopes, and please use self-sealing (non-moisture) SASEs. ***Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.***

The Short Nonfiction Article or Essay can address any topic, including - but not limited to - cooking, spiritual, inspirational or motivational, how to, travel, cultural, etc. No charts or pictures please.

The newest category, Spanish Language Nonfiction/ Article or Essay has the same requirements as the Short Nonfiction Article or Essay category but must be written in Spanish.

There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit. However, each entry must be submitted separately (in its own envelope, with a separate Contest Entry Form and a non-refundable entry fee).

Any entry failing to comply with these rules will not be judged, but will be critiqued. Contacting a judge regarding your entry before the winners are announced is an automatic disqualification.

Formatting Information:

Use 8½" x 11" white paper, non-erasable bond, with one (1) inch margins all around.

Double space manuscripts and poetry.

A separate Title Page is not needed. Type the book/story/article title in CAPS, centered and halfway down the first page, and drop two (2) double spaces to begin your text. Begin each subsequent chapter the same way.

Beginning on page two(2), use a running header. On the top left, type the title or its key word(s). On the top right, number sequentially. Headers should appear on every page except page one (1). Query letters, synopses, and proposals should also be numbered consecutively, but separately from the manuscript. ***Your name should never appear on the manuscript, query letter, synopsis, or proposal.***

Text should be printed in black ink. Manuscripts and poetry use 12 point Times New Roman or Courier New, and screenplays use 12 point Courier New only. Avoid the use of other fonts.

Care should be taken not to overuse question marks, exclamation points, and parentheses.

Single space query letters and synopses.

Query letters should be **one (1) page long** and contain a brief description of the book's purpose, its market, and the author. Begin with a strong hook. Prove to the editor/agent that you can write, that you know the market, and that you are a professional. If the query letter is intriguing enough, a request for a proposal can follow. This is your most important sales tool.

Synopses reveal the plot and main characters of your book in a concise and exciting way. It should be **one (1) page long** and written in third-person present tense. Include the ending.

Double space proposals.

Nonfiction book proposals pitch your idea, your books' marketability, and your expertise. For the SWW contest, double space your entry; include a summary, a table of contents (chapter headings), market competition, and target audience. (Always request the guidelines from the publisher or agent with whom you plan to deal.)

Many books are available to guide you in proper manuscript format. A few of these are:

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Published by Sheree Bykofsky and Jennifer Basye Sander;

How to Write a Book Proposal by Michael Larsen;

Writing the Nonfiction Book by Eva Shaw;

Every Page Perfect by Mary Lynn;

The Writer's Digest Guide to Manuscript Formats by Dion Dincin Buchman and Seli Groves;

Writing A to Z, edited by Kirk Polking; and

Formatting Your Screenplay, by Rick Reichman.

Complete this form for each entry. Please print legibly. The form may be photocopied or duplicated from southwestwriters.org, but all signatures must be original. **Mail each entry separately.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Entry Title: _____

Category (Circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

How did you hear about the contest?

Entry Fees (NON-REFUNDABLE) Please circle one.

All categories (except poetry): \$29 SWW Member	\$44 Non-Member
Poetry: \$18 SWW Member	\$28 Non-Member

Mail by May 1, 2006

- Check or money order (in US \$) payable to SouthWest Writers. *Do not send cash.*
- This Contest Entry Form, completed and signed.
- Two (2) copies of your entry. Consult the General Contest Rules.
- SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope). This envelope must contain the same amount of postage used on the outside envelope. NO metered postage on return envelopes, please. **Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.**
- Write the category number entered under your return address on the outside envelope.
- Optional: Self-addressed, stamped postcard (acknowledges receipt of entry).

Mail To:

SouthWest Writers Contest 2006

3721 Morris NE, Suite A

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

Contestant's Agreement

In consideration for SouthWest Writers' (SWW) acceptance of my work for review in the SWW Contest 2006, I hereby submit my entry and fee, and agree to be bound by the contest rules stated herein. I understand that any questions regarding the interpretation of these rules, and any matters relating to the contest, which are not specifically covered by the rules, will be decided solely at the discretion of the contest officials. I will accept as final and be bound by all judges' decisions. I understand and agree that my manuscript will be subjectively evaluated, and SWW cannot accept liability for consequences arising from any opinion expressed. I hold harmless and indemnify SWW, its agents, employees, and volunteers for any and all losses, costs, or expenses incurred from any dispute arising from my participation in the contest. I acknowledge by my signature below that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these rules. I understand that my contest submission will not be accepted without my signature below, and that under no condition will my entry fee be refunded.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Co-Author's signature, if applicable: _____ Date: _____

We request that you e-mail your announcements about writing-related activities to SWWriters@juno.com no later than the first day of the month preceding publication. Please limit the announcement to 60 words or less.

***The SWW International Monthly Writing Competition.**

April is poetry month! Write a poem on any topic, using any style and any format. Length: 30 lines maximum. Deadline postmark: *May 1, 2006*. <http://southwestwriters.com/>.

***Studio veteran, film finance expert and produced**

Hollywood screenwriter Ted Perkins will present his award-winning two-day seminar on *April 8th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 9th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.* at the Coldwell Banker Legacy Reality Paseo Office, 8200 Carmel NE in Albuquerque.

For details, visit www.hollywoodmadesimple.com. Preregister at www.twwstudios.com/signup.htm or contact Todd Wingert at (505)205-7142.

***Writers to Writers Presentation.** Poetry: *Reveries and*

Wandering by Lela Belle Wolfert. *April 10, 6:30 p.m.* at Westside Hastings (corner of Coors Rd. and Montano), Albuquerque, NM. Info: David Corwell at (505) 898-0624 or dcorwell@hotmail.com.

***Sandy Schairer** is starting a monthly "Writing-for-fun" group in the East Mountains near Edgewood. Contact sandyschairer@southwestwriters.com.

***Seeking History of SouthWest Writers** The SWW Board

is compiling a historical archive of the beginning and early development of SouthWest Writers Organization. All members with memories of SWW to share, please send them to sandyschairer@southwestwriters.org.

***Craft of Writing Workshops** in Taos, NM. Every Tuesday, 10-11:15 a.m. at Wired Cafe. \$10. Drop-ins welcome. Taught by author/essayist/poet Linda Sonna. (505)737-9092.

***Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** meets *second Saturday of each month* at noon. Potential members can attend three meetings to see if they would like to join. leranm.org.

***Steffanie Gibbons** is the editor of *New At Home*, a magazine for people who have just bought a house in Albuquerque or Santa Fe. They are looking for writers for assigned feature topics. steffanieg@aol.com.

***Photo Journal** is a monthly newspaper with distribution all over New Mexico. They are looking for articles, columns, and reviews on the business and craft of fine art photography.

Contact tomg@photojournalsw.com for more information.

***A New Forum** for all things poetry is up at abqlslams.org. Go there and poke around, join, and post.

***Sabra Steinsiek** is looking for New Mexican fiction authors who have a book coming out in April or May of 2006 for an article she is writing. Please contact her at writersabra@hotmail.com.

***Lucinda D. Schroeder** will be giving a book talk and signing for *A Hunt for Justice—The True Story of a Woman Undercover Wildlife Agent* in Santa Fe on *April 14, 7 p.m.* at Borders on 3513 Zafarano Dr; *April 15, 2006, 1 p.m.* at Borders on 5901 Wyoming Blvd, NE; and *7 p.m.* at Borders on 10420 Coors Bypass, NW in Albuquerque.

***Wordharvest Workshops for Writers** take place every week this April from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes are limited to 15 on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit sfworkshops.com for details. For questions, contact wordharvest@yahoo.com.

***Open House at the Writers Room.** The Writers Room in Santa Fe opened March 18 with an open house in the Southwest Literary Center. The Writers Room is located upstairs at 826 Camino de Monte Rey (between St. Francis and Pacheco). Local and visiting writers may use the space to write, read or use the free wireless internet service. For more information on the Writers Room, including reserving the space for a class or event, please call (505) 577-1125 or email litcenter@recursos.org.

***American Theater Ensemble Screenwriters and Playwrights Group** meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., Puccini's Golden West Saloon, 620 Central Ave SW. They are currently seeking members. Contact: (505)242-2353 or email elreytheater@qwest.net.

***Copier Technical Services** (aka JT Tech Services), one of the participating businesses in the SWW Membership Perk Agreement, has temporarily moved to 2520 La Charles NE in Albuquerque. The business does quality repair work on printers, copiers and typewriters. It also sells supplies and new or reconditioned equipment. SWW members receive a 10% discount. Call Bruce at (505)296-6331.

SouthWest Writers Critique Service

A thorough critique and assessment of your manuscript by published writers, teachers, or agents. Books, articles, short stories, stage plays, and screenplays...even poetry. Turnaround of approximately two weeks.

Query letter up to three pages: \$15

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All other manuscripts up to ten pages: \$35

Thereafter: \$3.50/page

Bylaws

AMENDMENTS: SOUTHWEST WRITERS BYLAWS - JANUARY 2006

#1 – Current Wording:

Article V: Officers. Section 2. Eligibility.

B. To be eligible for the office of vice-president, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination. [See Article V: Section 2. B.]

Proposed Amendment: Amend Article V: Officers. Section 2. Eligibility.

Insert: A. To be eligible for the office of vice-president, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination **and shall have served one (1) year on the Board in the past five (5) years.** [See Article V: Section 2. B.]

If Ratified, Will Read: Article V: Officers. Section 2. Eligibility.

To be eligible for the office of vice-president, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination and shall have served one (1) year on the Board in the past five (5) years. [See Article V: Section 2. B.]

Rationale: The vice-president should have the same eligibility requirements as the president.

#2 – Current Wording:

Article VI: Nominations and Elections. Section 3. Elections.

A. Ballots shall be mailed first class to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned by mail to a teller's committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board. [See Article VI: Section 3. A.]

Proposed Amendment: Amend Article VI: Nominations and Elections. Section 3. Elections.

Strike Out and Insert: ~~Ballots shall be mailed first class to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned by mail to a teller's committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board.~~ A. **Ballots shall be provided by either Sage ballot or E-mail to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting.** These ballots shall be returned to addresses provided by the teller's committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board. [See Article VI: Section 3. A.]

If Ratified, Will Read: Article VI: Nominations and Elections. Section 3. Elections.

A. Ballots shall be provided by either Sage ballot or E-mail to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned to addresses provided by the teller's committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board. [See Article VI: Section 3. A.]

Rationale: This will allow every member the opportunity to vote.

3 – Current Wording:

Article XVII: Amendment of Bylaws. Section 1.

Any SWW member in good standing may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting a written proposal to the Board. The bylaws may be amended after notice at the previous regular Board meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board and then, after thirty (30) days notice, ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of responding voting members. [See Article XVII: Section 1.]

Proposed Amendment: Amend Article XVII: Amendment of Bylaws. Section 1.

Insert: Any SWW member in good standing may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting a written proposal to the Board. The bylaws may be amended after notice at the previous regular Board meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board and then, after thirty (30) days notice, ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of responding voting members. **Ballots shall be returned either by Sage ballot or E-mail to addresses provided by the teller's committee.** [See Article XVII: Section 1.]

If Ratified, Will Read: Article XVII: Amendment of Bylaws. Section 1.

Any SWW member in good standing may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting a written proposal to the Board. The bylaws may be amended after notice at the previous regular Board meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board and then, after thirty (30) days notice, ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of responding voting members. Ballots shall be returned either by Sage ballot or E-mail to addresses provided by the teller's committee. [See Article XVII: Section 1.]

Rationale: This will allow every member the opportunity to vote electronically or via first class mail.

Send information by e-mail in rich text format (.rtf) to SWWriters@juno.com. Please be brief.

Congratulations! to the January 2006 SWW International Monthly Writing Competition Winners for a Restaurant Review:

1st Prize: Sue Houser, Albuquerque, NM for "Padilla's Mexican Kitchen."

2nd Prize: Susan J. Alexis, Albuquerque, NM for "Sven & Ole's: Height of White."

3rd Prize: Margarita Montalvo, Albuquerque, NM for "Los Equipales."

Honorable Mention: Greg Racca, "Charles Andrew Willingham IV's Restaurant Review."

Honorable Mention: Diane Thome, "A Matter of Convenience."

Your successes could be on this page and our worldwide website to be seen by agents, editors, publishers, producers, and search engines. But you have to do more than just talk, you have to e-mail your successes to SWWriters@juno.com. Don't miss this unique chance for free publicity and fame...and your right to brag!

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Critique Groups

Submit addition or deletion requests or changes to
SWWriters@juno.com.

**Wanting to Start Groups/
Looking for a Group****Groups Seeking Members****Poetry:**

Billy Brown
(505)401-8139
welbert@aol.com

Short Nonfiction:

Suzann Owings
(505)867-0567

**Any Genre,
Rio Rancho area:**

Winnie Keith
(505)771-8059

w.leone@giftsbyleone.com

**Any Genre,
Rio Rancho area:**

Alice Harpley
riograndemba@cableone.net

**Any Genre,
Rio Rancho area:**

Bob Harpely
(505)867-1408
quasiburro@cableone.net

Historical Romance:

Leah Dodd
(505)890-0210
patandleah@peoplepc.com

SF/F:

Joel Holt
(505)265-1938
loki265@hotmail.com

Fantasy/Romance:

Heidi Punke
(505)271-9772
heidiandmitch@yahoo.com

Any Genre in Santa Fe:

Mary Mazza-Anderson
cmmom@zianet.com

Fantasy/Poetry:

Janet Belovarsky
(505)891-9529
royalbloodseries@aol.com

Any Genre in Las Cruces:

Barbara Villemez
(505)522-5734

Any Genre:

Tina Ortega
2nd and 4th Thursday 6 pm
at Moriarty Library
(505)832-2513
jleksutin@hotmail.com

**The Santa Fe Screenwriter's
Group:**

Susan Burns
(505)474-8268
thursday51@aol.com

Novels/Short Stories:

Saturday afternoons at
Albuquerque Main Public
Library on Copper
Jack Phelan
(505)292-0576
(505)256-3500

Albuquerque Nonfiction:

Meets weekly at the old
Albuquerque Press Club
Marianne Powers
(505)892-4990
drifty@aol.com

**Westside Scribes,
Screenwriters:**

Every other Thursday
Flying Star on Rio Grande Blvd.
Marc Calderwood
skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com
897-6474

Mystery/SF:

Fred Aiken
(505)856-2145

FredAiken@southwestwriters.com

Novels/Short Stories:

Janeen Anderson
(505)899-5624
janeen@jangly.com

Fiction & Nonfiction:

Paula High
(505)271-0837
plhigh@abq.com

Any Genre:

Meets once a month
Sunday afternoons
Michael Franco
MDLindell@aol.com

New SWW Members

Catherine Rivard

Timothy Burns

Donald Taylor

Margaret Parks

Scott Merrow

Paula Merrow

Leah Everhart

Peg Speiner

Julie Pascal

Catherine Gleason

Donna Herp

Chisato Bess Higuchi

Justine Briggs

Candice Thomas

Kenneth Weene

Frank Praytor

Dorothy Zahrt

Allen Cooper

Sandra Mueller

Patricia Miller

Zana Gay Harvey

For information
about benefits for
SWW members contact:

Cheri Eicher

INDEPENDENT MEANS
Group Benefits
(505)299-5919
(800) 883-4310

**SouthWest Sage
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**Because SWW
is a nonprofit
organization,
we cannot accept ads
for financial
institutions,
insurance,
or real estate.**

**SWW Board Meeting will be held at the
SWW office on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at 6 pm**

Here we are:

**3721 Morris St. NE Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87111-3611
phone: (505) 265-9485 fax: (505) 265-9483
e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com
web: www.southwestwriters.org**

Recent Board Meeting Highlights

- The annual contest is again featuring the Marty Award coordinated by Lynn Paskind, who originated the award in memory of her husband, Martin Paskind, a journalist who promoted interest in writing to teenagers.
- Keith Pyeatt was named as new board member and has been appointed to the Conference Chair position.
- The SouthWest Writers Critique Service is doing well. Submissions keep coming in. A critiquer has been engaged for submissions in the Spanish language.
- The conference on Feb. 18 was a success. Twenty-four people attended.
- The annual contest chair Joanne Bodin has signed up all the critiquers and judges. A list of judges will be posted on the website soon.
- The board wishes to thank Ron Schultz, Volunteer Chair for the great refreshments served at programs. The donations have been wonderful and so has the food.
- New procedures for the book table are done. NOTE: Members may bring their books to sell during programs. A \$1.00 donation per book sold is the only "cost." Speakers and presenters have the dollar donation waived.

Members may see the complete minutes for the year (and previous years) on file in the SWW office. Office hours: M-F, 9am-noon.

President/Office Coordinator

Larry Greenly
(505) 293-8550 · SWWriters@juno.com

Vice President

Rob Spiegel
(505) 275-2556 · RobSpiegel@southwestwriters.com

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Sandy Schairer
(505) 281-0546 · SandySchairer@southwestwriters.com

Treasurer

Loretta Hall
(505) 764-9906 · LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com

Membership

Larry Greenly
(505) 265-9485 · SWWriters@juno.com

Public Relations

Melody Groves
MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

Critique Service

Edith Greenly
(505) 265-9485 · SWWriters@juno.com

Policies Procedures, and Audit

Lela Belle Wolfert
(505) 899-2952

Volunteer Coordinator

Ron Schultz
(505) 323-9252 · RonSchultz@southwestwriters.com

Conference Chair

Keith Pyeatt
(505) 890-5545 · keith@keithpyeatt.com

Historian

Judy Ducharme
(505) 256-9659 · JudyDucharme@southwestwriters.com

Board Member at Large

David Corwell
(505) 898-0624 · DavidCorwell@southwestwriters.com

Writer's Contest 2006 Chair

Joanne Bodin
(505) 880-8326 · drjsbodin@hotmail.com

Other Key Positions

SWW Sage Editor

Tom Gibbons
sageeditor@southwestwriters.com

E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin
publicity@southwestwriters.org

Speaker Coordinator

Rob Spiegel
(505) 275-2556 · RobSpiegel@southwestwriters.com



SWW is happy to announce the enormously expanded list of writer's resources website links is now on the SWW website.
Check it out.



The SouthWest Sage

SouthWest Writers
3721 Morris NE
Albuquerque NM 87111
www.southwestwriters.org
SWWriters@juno.com

See your membership card or mailing label for renewal date. Renew to retain your membership benefits. You may now do this securely online.

Writers Conference: From Start to Sales

Sponsored by SouthWest Writers

Saturday, April 29

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Continuing Education Building

1634 University Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, NM

Kick-start your writing career by attending this practical, informative power conference! Beginning writers will hear an editor and veteran writer reveal ways to sell to magazines. Aspiring writers of novels will hear two prolific novelists tell you how to plot your book. Plus two editors and two agents are looking for manuscripts. Attendees who have signed up by April 10 will get a FREE 5-minute pitch session with the editor or agent of their choice.

See the SWW website for further information: www.southwestwriters.com.