



The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 20, No. 8

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

August 2005

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

Introducing You to the New Sage Editor

Here we are! As members of SouthWest Writers, we are all seeking some kind of support for our writing. All writers get the same warning from a friend or family member when they start fooling around with a pencil and paper, or typewriter, or keyboard—it is a solitary profession. This is a notion that many budding writers carry into their careers, and for many it takes on the weight of gospel truth.

As a writer gains experience, it becomes clearer that self-imposed exile can be useful in some circumstances, but it is no way to live one's life. I grew up and went to school in Seattle, Washington. There my writing was always a dirty little secret, something to be kept from my peers. I had no idea that far away, in the deserts of New Mexico, there was an organization devoted to bringing writers together.

New Mexico attracted me for many reasons. Much of my family was here, and the cost of living was lower. More important, though, was the lore and history of the area, and the lingering sense of the frontier. Nowhere on the West Coast can you find a city such as Albuquerque, one that has such an irresistible pull. Somehow, I was convinced I had a better chance at making my mark here than anyplace else in the world.

I came with a degree in English Literature from University of Washington, a hard drive full of half-completed and abandoned stories, and no clue that SouthWest Writers even existed. A year later, it has become clear to me that I am not the only one who has felt the same attraction to the Southwest. The earliest pioneers helped one another to survive—there was no alternative. This spirit has lived on, and the society of writers we have here is proof.

SouthWest Writers is here to get everyone in touch. This newsletter is no exception—it exists solely for your benefit and aid. I speak now from experience: sometimes all an aspiring writer needs is his or her name in print to make things happen. We're always looking for articles about the craft and marketing of writing. It doesn't matter where a writer is from, or what genre in which the writer feels comfortable. The writing is all that matters.

I look forward to working with you all!

-Thomas Gibbons,
Southwest Sage Editor

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.



The SouthWest Sage

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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.

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WARNING

Computer hackers are always trying something new. Lately, they've been spoofing (imitating) emails from SouthWest Writers that include an attachment. The attachment contains a virus, so *don't open it!* Legitimate emails from SWW will never contain an attachment. If in doubt, feel free to call the SWW office at (505) 265-9485.

Luckily, we don't think anyone has actually received these spoofs because they haven't been addressed correctly, but we felt a warning was in order. To help protect yourself if you don't have an antivirus program, log onto www.southwestwriters.org and download the free (or paid) version of AVG antivirus software, a high-quality program that we recommend.

Markets

by Mary Lynn

A conversation with novelist and nonfiction writer Sean Murphy.

Q: Tell me a little about your background—when you started writing, why...

A: I made my first stab at a novel at age six (truly!) although life issues got in the way of its completion...(it's a tough world for a prepubescent author). My motivation then was the same as today—love of literature and the natural desire to create it myself.

Q: What's the first thing beginners should do when they decide to enter the career field of a professional writer?

A: Have themselves evaluated by a mental health professional!

Q: Perhaps something you wish you'd known or done when you started out.

A: The only person who can ensure a book's success is its author. We must treat every aspect, from writing through promotion, as an extension of the creative act.

Q: You suggest that students in your August 20 SWW workshop read one of your books beforehand. Which one? Any of them?

A: *The Finished Man*. After that, *The Hope Valley Hubcap King* or *The Time of New Weather*.

Q: And what should students expect to learn from your presentation?

A: Having worked with hundreds of students, I've realized there are a handful of elements writers struggle with again and again. I've developed a method that strengthens each of these areas—a sort of 'Nautilus' approach for developing all the muscles we use as writers. This will be an active day of writing, perfect for jump-starting a project, deepening our voices, and overcoming blocks.

Q: Re: *The Time of New Weather*. What inspired you to write political satire and how did you learn to do it?

A: Political satire is not difficult—all one has to do is observe the daily news and

exaggerate very slightly! In *New Weather* I wanted to expand on questions raised in *The Hope Valley Hubcap King*, but also felt compelled to address certain disturbing political developments that arose during its writing. I find humor a great leavening agent in addressing challenging issues!

Q: While you were writing *The Finished Man*, did you have a Pulitzer Prize nomination in mind? If not, looking back, what elements in the story got you the nomination?

A: *The Finished Man* is my foray into the classic 'well-made novel'—perhaps this inspired Bantam's nomination. You can never anticipate recognition, you just do your best and then send your literary offspring off into the world...

Q: What percentage of your time is spent writing and what percent is spent on the business side of writing (selling the manuscript, working with the editor, marketing the book with various PR duties, etc.)?

A: At least 50-50, sigh...

Q: *The Hope Valley Hubcap King* won the Hemingway Award for a First Novel. What is it about that book that brought it to such a high level of excellence?

A: People often point to its freshness and uniqueness of voice. I never deviated from my deep intuitive sense of this book's direction, although it took me 12 years of writing and rewriting to achieve it.

Q: If you could give only one piece of advice to beginners, would it have anything to do with Zen?

A: Yes. Follow your intuition and do what you love.

Meet Sean Murphy at the August 20th SWW workshop: Dimension in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction.

Learn to do your own market research! Mary Lynn would like writers to contribute to the Markets column, and she'll help you get started!

Mary is willing to share the column with guest market columnists on a regular basis, or she will accept market items you have gleaned in your research.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to do your own market research, share that knowledge with others, and be published in The SouthWest Sage.

Send your items to:
Mary Lynn
c/o SouthWest Sage
or e-mail her at:
mary@writerscenter.com

The highly recommended new edition of Mary Lynn's *Every Page Perfect* is available through SWW for \$19.95, plus postage.

The Amazon link button is now on the home page of the SWW website. Remember, using that link to buy books generates a commission to SWW.

Writers, Start Your Engines

by Ted Lynn

We've talked about using Google for searching for information on the Internet. Here are web sites that are smaller and more specialized than Google, but in some instances provide improved search capabilities.

<http://www.zoominfo.com>—Zoom Info is a crawler that searches the World Wide Web for information on individual people, then summarizes that information for the searcher. Try your own name or someone you know who's been in the media recently. You may be surprised.

<http://www.factbites.com>—Fact Bites says it's "more interested in content analysis than link popularity," which is how Google ranks its results. Instead, Fact Bites provides the searcher with the same type of information you'd get if you had the time and access to look it up in an encyclopedia. When we entered "Proton Beam Therapy" in the Find Box, we received thousands of words about what it is, how it's used to treat cancer, where it's available, and why it's superior to other treatments.

<http://www.brainboost.com>—Brain Boost is similar to "Ask Jeeves" in that it allows you to ask questions using plain English instead Boolean Algebra required by other search engines. We inserted "What is proton therapy?" and received a wealth of information on the subject, including quotes from some of the leading authorities in that field of medicine.

<http://www.a9.com>—A9 is designed to make searches on the web easy. A9.com says it's "a powerful search engine, using web search and image search results enhanced by Google, Search Inside the Book® results from

Amazon.com, reference results from GuruNet, movies results from IMDb, and more. A9.com remembers your information so you don't have to."

<http://www.gigablast.com>—GigaBlast has already indexed more than two billion web sites (about 1/4 of what Google has indexed). Developed by a New Mexican, Matt Wells, who earned an MS in Mathematics from New Mexico Tech in Socorro, this search engine provides large-scale, high-performance, real-time information retrieval technology, and it also provides "unique 'gigabits' of information, enabling visitors to easily refine their search."

<http://www.teoma.com>—The Teoma web site states "Instead of ranking results based upon the sites with the most links leading to them, Teoma analyzes the Web as it is organically organized, in naturally occurring communities, that are about or related to the same subject, to determine which sites are most relevant. Teoma is the only search technology that can locate communities on the Web within their specific subject areas, as they actually exist. And this allows us to finely tune our search process, providing more precise results."

<http://www.ask.com>—Ask Jeeves owns Teoma just mentioned above, as well as many other search engines. You can download a Toolbar to make searching easier and more accessible. With Ask Jeeves you can use plain English to ask questions, and Jeeves will provide answers.

So, happy surfing and searching. Please let me know if you have any business questions for writers.

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Free Professional E-Mail Addresses For SWW Members
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You can give editors, agents, and booksellers an address like IManAuthor@southwestwriters.com.

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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.
.....

An Interview: National Poetry Slam 2005

by Thomas Gibbons

An interview with Don McIver, Blue Dragon Slam Master and Publicity Director for the National Poetry Slam in 2005.

Q: How was ABQ selected for the National Poetry Slam this year? Also, when was the decision made and unveiled to the community?

A: Albuquerque was selected at the annual Slam Master's Meeting in April of 2003 by the national organization, Poetry Slam Inc (PSI). PSI is a non-profit that coordinates with the local slams throughout the U.S. and Canada. It was unveiled upon receiving the bid in various media outlets, (the Journal, Tribune, Alibi, NM Business Weekly).

Q: Also, what was the selection process for the winning city?

A: In April of 2003, there were three cities that bid for the Nationals: ABQ, Miami, and New Orleans. Basically, interested cities present their bid to the collected slam masters and the slam masters vote on where they want NPS held. Included in their bid is hotel rates, possible venues, the strength of the local slam, personalities involved, municipal and/or state support, funding sources, etc.

Q: What kind of effect do you think the National Poetry Slam has had on the local slam poetry scene, and the larger poetry scene in general?

A: We already had a pretty strong scene when we started putting the bid together in the fall of 2002. At the time we had three monthly slams, which we still have. The effect has been an expansion of the number of poets involved, the number of opportunities for poets to share their craft (more school involvement, more reading opportunities, more chances to earn money).

The effect on the local poetry scene, I think, has been positive because NPS has brought a lot of people into local slams, and once at the local slam, they open up to the possibilities of poetry as entertainment.

Q: Are volunteers still needed? What is NPS looking for, in terms of roles and/or time commitment?

A: Yes, volunteers are still needed. NPS is four days and nights of poetry so any amount of help/time is appreciated.

Q: What can we expect at the event itself? Will it be at all similar to smaller slam meetings (Poetry + Beer, Mas Poetry, etc) or will it be closer to an auditorium-type presentation?

A: That depends. The first two nights will very much be in the Poetry & Beer and MAS Poetry mold, as the competition is eliminated and we get to the four teams vying for the title of National Poetry Slam Champion, the venue is the Kiva Auditorium, which is theater style seating in an incredible space.

Q: If someone was a poetry fan, but unfamiliar with, or apprehensive of, slam poetry, how would you convince that person to attend or get involved in this event?

A: First, don't get caught up on the competition. The competition is really a gimmick to get the audience involved. Second, slam poetry is meant to be heard, thus don't judge it like you would a poem on the page in front of you. Third, slam was designed to give poetry back to regular folks, to return poetry to the people. It's empowering for the performers, many of whom previously were not encouraged to write, share, or perform.

It's also empowering for the audience because it is people, like themselves, speaking the truth they know.

Q: All in all, what can a poet expect from attending or getting involved?

A: Depends on what they attend. The day events feature a variety of free themed readings, from the African-American Showcase to the Grief and Remembrance Reading, from a Kids' Show to the Head to Head Haiku.

The evening bouts will be loud and raucous. Audience participation will be encouraged while many of the poets cheer on their friends.

The National Poetry Slam will take place August 10-13. Check out the slam scene at www.abqpoetryslam.org.

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 publicity@southwestwriters.org.

Keyboarding FX

by Cecil Perry Clinton

Okay. We all go to the movies occasionally, right? Some more than others. That's entertainment. And a good writer knows she can't equal the total immersion in the scene that a movie offers.

Wrongo, wrongo, me boyo!

Good writers often present scenes on the page that out-visualize anything ever attempted in cinema. The great writers outmovie the movies with every word.

So, what's their secret?

Nothing. How can anything be a secret when it's printed right on the page in plain sight? Bad writing, good writing, and great writing are open to everyone. We can read any of the three. We're free to write any of them also. Unfortunately, the choice we make is sometimes not consciously chosen. But there is no secret, there's only craft and technique. And limited imitation.

You knew the answer to my question before you ever read the first word on this page. It's just so obvious, you probably haven't ever thought about it.

That's my job, pointing out the obvious. If I tell you things you already know, you can't help but think I'm smarter than I am. Feeding you information you already have is what keeps copycats and plagiarists in business. And me.

So, you know it, it's right on the tip of your mind but your fingers are a little inarticulate right now. Then let me apply the Socratic Method.

When you leave a good movie what do you remember? What do the people around you talk about? What element of that film you just saw will stick in your mind? What will every movie made in the next ten years copy?

Right, the special effects. FX.

More so for horror, sci-fi, espionage, and thrillers, but they're used in all films. Vignetting lenses to soften the features of the heroine and make her more desirable, as well as hide the effects of last night's bash. Up angles to make the hero appear as tall as a god, and never showing the other actors below the knees to hide the fact they work in trenches. The film industry works hard to conceal the fact that that pretty face is mounted on some shrimp. Speed-up shots and launch ramps to make the chase scene really exciting while keeping insurance costs at a minimum.

Voice-overs and electronic enhancements to the sound track keep the audience from realizing the singer on screen sounds like a writer gargling thumbtacks.

They all work too. To the tune of some hundred billion dollars a year in this country alone.

Not only can we use the same techniques, we have an advantage over the movies. A film can only slow-motion so much before the audience leaves for something more exciting. We can drag a scene out for pages and pages, whole chapters if we so choose. With a judicious choice of words and details, we can keep it interesting and entertaining *ad nauseam*. Someday, someone is going to write a whole book about one ten-second car crash. It won't be me; that comes close to being work.

What I'm reminding you of is to show me exactly what you're seeing. Give me the details of your character's thoughts and emotions that make the scene telling and poignant. Show me the important little vignettes that make your scene real and alive; the fender crumpling against the tire, metal shredding rubber from the sidewalls and squealing along the rim; the hero's fingers, reddish-purple with cold and wrinkled from the rain, clutching at the rough stone of the ledge and leaving feathery little tracks of blood. Give me some smells that make the scene breath in my own nostrils. Give me some insights into why it's important to the protagonist, and add a few for the villain. Real evil is pretty boring stuff. Even Lucifer felt envy.

Think your scene through. Visualize it. Then pick out the things that mean something to you. They'll also mean something to your reader. We cannot escape our common humanity, so we might as well use it to our advantage. Attack the page with emotion and telling details and your reader's imagination will enfold your words in a three-dimensional world more real than his armchair, more solid than her kitchen table.

Take as long on the scene as you feel is necessary. But don't just describe it. That's recital. Show me the scene through the little details that make it real while telling me what I see. Drag the reader into your story kicking and screaming if you have to, but get him or her in there. FX that page. That's Writing.

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SouthWest Writers Presents Sean Murphy Dimension in Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction

Sean Murphy has written four books, teaches creative writing throughout the United States and has taught with Natalie Goldberg. His work includes *The Time of New Weather*, *The Finished Man*, *The Hope Valley Hubcap King*, and *One Bird, One Stone: 108 American Zen Stories*.

Saturday, August 20, 2005
8:30am-5:30pm
Howard Johnson Hotel

Registration opens at 7:30am.

Howard Johnson Hotel, 15 Hotel Circle, Eubank & I-40, Albuquerque, NM. Special conference room rate \$44.00 per night, as available. Phone the hotel at (505) 296-4852 and ask for the SWW Conference Rate.

Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime phone: () _____ E-mail: _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

Payment amount enclosed: _____ \$99 member _____ \$159 non-member
Nonmembers paying \$159 automatically become members because the membership fee is included. SWW accepts cash, checks, money orders, Visa, Mastercard.

Credit card information: Visa number: _____ exp mm/yy _____ Mastercard number: _____ exp mm/yy _____ Name as it appears on card: _____ Billing address: _____ Signature of cardholder: _____ phone# _____

Box lunch included Vegetarian YES NO Special diet YES (Specify) _____

Mail registration form and payment (do not mail cash) to: SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87111, fax # 505-265-9483, phone 505-265-9485 or bring the form with you on 8/20.

Refund requests must be submitted to the SWW Board in writing or by e-mail. A full refund will be issued if cancellation is made in writing by August 1, 2005. A \$25 processing fee will apply for refunds requested after August 1, 2005 but before September 1, 2005.

Would You Like To Be Published Here?

We need articles for the Sage!

The articles need to be saved as an .rtf (Rich Text Format) file and attached to an email.

We prefer the font to be 11pt Times New Roman, and we like single-spacing.

Please send something on a writing-related subject to SWriters@aol.com.

Thank you so much!

SWW Membership Perks

- Effective networking with field professionals and aspiring writers. Learn the business of writing in an energetic and creative atmosphere.
- Substantial discounts for several day-long conferences throughout the year on various genres. See www.southwestwriters.org.
- Substantial discounts on SWW Workshops, interactive sessions featuring well-known writers and writing instructors. See our website.
- Twice-monthly programs with door prizes available only to members.
- Substantial discounts on entry for the SWW Annual Writing Contest. Prizes are awarded in many categories; winners are chosen by national editors and agents.
- Option of free hard-copy subscription to the SouthWest Sage, our monthly newsletter, which is packed full of market news, members successes, and instructive features—and which is seen by hundreds of thousands of readers across the world.
- Show your membership card at Hasting's Superstores and sign up for an educational discount, which is 25% for books and varying percentages for other items.
- Critique groups available in all categories of writing.
- Critique service available for your manuscript. See our website.
- Health, Life and Dental group rate insurance.
- NM Educator's Credit Union membership available.
- 10 percent discount on tires, auto service at Jess' Auto & Tire Service, 3701 Morris NE.
- 10 percent discount on repair or purchase of new or reconditioned typewriters, printers, copy machines and supplies at JT Tech Services, 10301 Comanche NE.
- 10 percent discount on new computers; 20 percent discount on used computers, free service call to Albuquerque area home or business, low-cost computer classes, free recycling, \$29 computer diagnosis at Computer Outlet, 3621 Wyoming NE.
- 15 percent discount at Transcendental Hypnotica, 129 Jackson NE. Hypnosis and more. Discard writer's block and other barriers to happiness.

New Perk:

Albuquerque Business Products

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10% off for all SWW members

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.

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

Saturday, August 6, 10 am-noon

Storytelling with Emotional Voltage

Carolyn Flynn, editor at *Albuquerque Journal's Sage*, says powerful writing comes from those deep places inside us. Her lecture will help you find the "live wire" in your writing. By learning to detect it in your own writing practice, you can get to the heart of the story. Flynn will help you find the emotional truth in your writing and unleash the courage to go there. You will leave with a firm grounding in how to write with urgency and clarity. Flynn's new book, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Creative Visualization*, will be coming out in the fall.

Tuesday, August 16, 7-9 pm

A Spectator to the Grand Adventure of Our Time: Writing About Science

John Fleck has written for the Albuquerque Journal for fifteen years, covering science and nuclear weapons. Prior to the Journal, he wrote about science, water policy and regional development for the Pasadena Star News in southern California. A graduate of Whitman College, Fleck has won a number of awards for his work, including the National Weather Association's Walter J. Bennett Award for his work explaining weather and climate to the public and the title, "Honorary Electron" from New Mexicans for Science and Reason.

Saturday, September 3, 10 am-noon

How to Interview People for Magazines or Books

A panel consisting of SWW President Rob Spiegel, Vice-President Larry Greenly, and Treasurer Loretta Hall will discuss techniques to make your interviews less frightening and more efficient, and how to use the raw material to your best advantage. A Q&A will follow.

Tuesday, September 20, 7-9 pm

Copyright Issues and Law for Writers

Rod D. Baker, partner and chief litigator for Peacock Myers, P.C., intellectual property attorneys will discuss: What is copyright? Who can claim copyright? What can, and cannot, be protected by copyright? How to secure and register copyrights. Whether and how to provide notice of copyright. Transferring copyrights. When do you need a copyright attorney?

Donations of refreshments at the regular SWW meetings will be gratefully accepted!
Please consider providing this valuable service to our organization.

Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership? Check the website.
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We request that you e-mail your announcements about writing-related activities to SWriters@aol.com no later than the first day of the month preceding publication. Please limit the announcement to 60 words or less.

- * **The SWW Booth** at the annual Community Fest in Edgewood—August 20th, 9am to 4pm—needs volunteers to talk to potential new members and sell leftover books from the used book sale last October. Booths are also available for authors for their own book sales. Do a book signing out in the country! For further information, contact SWW Secretary at SandySchairer@southwestwriters.com.
- * **Susan McAllister**, Director of the Harwood Arts Center, is seeking volunteers for the National Poetry Slam on August 10-13. All volunteers get into evening events free, all nights except finals night. Cash donation would also be appreciated to pay half the price for \$20 tickets to final evening for 30-40 volunteers. www.nps2005.org.
- * **Readwest's Adult Literacy Tutoring Program** is seeking volunteers. www.readwest.org.
- * **New Mexico Screenwriters Speaker Series** www.nmscreenwriters.com.
- * **Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** meets *second Saturday of each month* at noon. Potential members can attend 3 meetings to see if they would like to join. www.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.
- * **Norma Walker** is now coordinating the Dial a Poem program (505-342-5797), in which local poets from four co-sponsoring poetry groups read their own poetry.
- * **Kathy Andrew** would like help organizing and editing a couple of books. lifestories1@netzero.com.
- * **The CUP OF COMFORT ANTHOLOGY** is seeking stories about expectant mothers, and children with Autism. www.cupofcomfort.com.
- * **Andrea Somberg**, literary agent with Harvey Klinger Inc., is actively seeking new clients. andrea@harveyklinger.com.
- * **Cynthia Walsh** is seeking a ghost writer or co-author for a book about a Native American US Army Nurse who served in WWII. Her history and a taped interview of her veteran experiences are available. nizhoni22@cableone.net.
- * **The Glen Workshop** Santa Fe, NM. July 31-Aug. 7. www.imagejournal.org.
- * **Painting with Words** August 5-6. Albuquerque, NM. Painting and poetry workshop with Benjamin Alire Sáenz. Contact the Cultural Center of Mesilla at (505) 524-2499 or bbf@zianet.com.
- * **Poetry to Refresh the Spirit: Redream a Just Wor(l)d** Santa Fe, NM August 6. www.sfworkshops.com.
- * **2005 National Poetry Slam** Albuquerque, NM. August 10-13. www.abqpoetryslam.org.
- * **Marjorie Agosin** will read from her new book *Poem for Josephina in Chile* at Bareiss Gallery, Taos, NM. August 12. www.somostaos.org.
- * **Laurel Bastian**, recipient of the 2005 Taos Resident Writer Award from the Taos Writers Conference, will read from *Elope*, a new collection of poems, at Walden Gallery, Taos, NM. August 19. www.somostaos.org.
- * **A Mind of One's Own** August 22-28. A Room of Her Own Foundation's 2005 retreat for women writers at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. www.aroomofherownfoundation.org.
- * **Sixth Annual Storytellers Festival** Feat. Susan Klein, Derek Burrows and Karahkwahawi. Taos, NM. October 21-22. www.somostaos.org.
- * **Glorieta Christian Writers Conference** Glorieta, NM. October 26-30. www.classervices.com.
- * **2nd Annual Western Kentucky Book Expo** Saturday, October 29. psmith@ucadvocate.com.
- * **Tony Hillerman Writers Conference—Focus on Mystery** Santa Fe, NM. November 3-6. www.sfworkshops.com.
- * **Understanding Undercover Operations for Writers: How to Set Them Up, Bust Them, and Barely Survive Them** A 4-week class with Lucinda Schroeder, a retired federal agent. To sign up, go to www.rwamysterysuspense.org.

Note: Do not send your entry without writing to the sponsor or checking a website for guidelines and entry fees, and always include an SASE!

Deadline varies: *ByLine Magazine*, monthly contests, varying topics. See the current issue or www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp.

Deadline 8/01/05. Vital Signs. www.vitaltheatre.org.

Deadline 8/01/05. The Contest of Contest Winners. www.scriptdoctor.com.

Deadline 8/01/05. Vital Signs. www.vitaltheatre.org.

Deadline 8/29/05. Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction. www.unt.edu/untpress.

Deadline 8/31/05. Ten-Minute Musicals Project. www.tenminutemusicals.org.

Deadline 8/31/05. In the Midnight Hour Halloween Fiction Contest. www.oncewritten.com.

Deadline 9/30/05. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley Prize for Imaginative Fiction. www.rsbd.net.

Deadline 10/1/05. San Juan College's Fine Arts Committee is accepting entries to its Sixth Biennial Play Competition. Contact Linda Baker at (505) 566-3202.

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

Don Bullis' *99 New Mexicans... and a few other folks*, a book of biographical essays, was published by Science and Humanities Press earlier this year. Tony Hillerman wrote the book's introduction. Such notable historians as Paul Andrew Hutton, Don Alberts, Robert Torrez, and Leon Metz provided cover blurbs.

Dr. Thelma Giomi had her poem *Star Trails* published in *ALL AS ONE: Poetry By and For New Mexicans*.

Sandra Vail recently sold her first book to Harper Collins Children's Books.

Margarita Montalvo wrote, translated, and illustrated *Zoologico de Poemas/Poetry Zoo*, which was awarded the 2005 Latino Book Award under the category of Best Children's Picture Book-Bilingual.

Eugene Hudson's book *The New Beginning* was published in April 2005. Author John Brown's praise: "This is a story that needed to be told. Details of characters and their activities keep the reader reaching for the next page. A well-timed release of this story, it's refreshing, an escape from the every day news bulletins."



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 SWriters@aol.com. Don't miss this unique chance for free publicity and fame...and your right to brag!



ByLine Magazine's Silver Anniversary Celebration
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Critique Groups

Submit addition or deletion requests or changes to
SWriters@aol.com.

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

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
riograndema@cableone.net

**Any Genre,
Rio Rancho area:**

Bob Harpley
(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

Groups Seeking Members

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@janglya.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

Thomas Gibbons

Sami Swan Thompson

Henry Schneider

Dr. Wayne Meyerwitz

Roy E. Tanner

Alexis Powers

Elaine Soto

Mark David Gerson

For information
about benefits for
SWW members contact:

Cheri Eicher

INDEPENDENT MEANS

Group Benefits

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This is my first issue
as Editor. I look
forward to working with
all of you.

Tom



SWW Board Meeting will be held at the
SWW office on Tuesday, August 2, 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: SWriters@aol.com
web: www.southwestwriters.org

Recent Board Meeting Highlights

- ◆ Lynn Paskind reported the winners of Young Writers' Journalism Contest. They will be listed in The Sage and on the SWW Website. The winners will, in addition to the prizes, be given a one-year membership to SWW.
- ◆ The Parris Award secret ballot vote was taken at the July meeting. The award will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 1. The new member breakfast will be on Oct. 1 before the SWW Annual Meeting.
- ◆ The conference for November will be general fiction & novel writing, especially for beginner writers, rather than covering only romance writing.
- ◆ Members are urged to give their e-mail addresses to SWW so that they may receive the e-lert that is e-mailed every month before the SWW meeting. It contains meeting and other SWW event information. The ballots for the 2006 SWW Officers will be mailed August 22.
- ◆ Tom Gibbons was appointed and approved as the new Sage Editor, assisted by Nicole Schairer.

Board meetings are open to members as non-voting guests.

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

Rob Spiegel

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

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Lela Belle Wolfert

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Cal Coates

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Joan Marsh

JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

Nomination Committee Chair

Fred Aiken

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Other Key Positions

SWW Sage Editor

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E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin

publicity@southwestwriters.org

Speaker Coordinator

Larry Greenly

(505) 293-8550 · LarryGreenly@southwestwriters.com

Interim Conference Chair

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952



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
SWriters@aol.com

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

Community Fest

2005's 3rd Annual

Edgewood, NM

Saturday, August 20th

9 am - 4 pm

Arts and Crafts

Music

Food and More

Local Business Booths

Visit the SWW Booth—and buy a used book

For Booth Information, Contact
Christ Unity at the Edge of the Woods
281-3543 or pjher@juno.com