



# The South West Sage

Vol. 21, No. 2

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

February 2006

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

## SWW CONTEST CONNECTION

by Joanne Bodin, 2006 Contest Chair

### WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START

This year's *Writer's Contest* is shaping up to be one of the best ever! We have some editors and agents lined up (*see list below*); critiquers have been selected for all nineteen genres; and the SWW Website already has all of the contest information posted under **Contest 2006** ([www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)). If you are planning on participating this year, here is some important information that should make the submission process easier.

Remember, you have until the **MAY 1<sup>st</sup> DEADLINE**.

### JUDGES WE HAVE SO FAR

(Please refer to [Contest Tips and Resources](#) on our website.)

***“Contacting a judge regarding your entry before the winners are announced is an automatic disqualification.”***

The following list will be updated each month in the *South West Sage*.

**Mainstream and Literary Novel**, Andrea Somberg, Literary Agent, *Harvey Klinger, Inc.*

**Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/ Adventure Novel**, Jessica Wade, Editorial Assistant, *Berkley Publishing Group* (*Penguin Putnam*)

**Romance Novel**, Devi Pillai, Associate Editor, *Warner Books*

**Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel**, Betsy Mitchell, Editor-in-Chief, *Del Rey Books, (Random House)*

**Middle Grade/Young Adult Novel**, Leann Heywood, Associate Editor, *Harper Collins Children's Books*

**Middle Grade/Young Adult Short Story**, Adam Oldaker (pending) Associate Editor, *Cricket, Carus Publishing Co.*

**Nonfiction Book**, Stephen Blake Mettee, Publisher, *Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press*

**Screenplay**, Pamela Jaye Smith, Producer, *Mythworks&Kathie Fong Yoneda, Script Consultant, TalkStory Productions*

**Spanish Language/Nonfiction Article or Essay**, Johanna Buchholtz-Torres, Editorial Director, *Hispanic Ventures-Meredith Corporation*

### NEW CATEGORY: Spanish Language/Nonfiction Article or Essay

Raquel Troyce, one of our members, has been instrumental in helping develop our newest Spanish Language category. We are very excited about this new genre. The Contest Guidelines are explained on our website (**in Spanish**) under **Contest 2006**. **Just click on the Spanish Language link.** This category is the same as the **Short Nonfiction Article or Essay** category (in English), but must be written in the Spanish Language. **Refer to Category Specific Guidelines on the Website.**

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



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

### Contest Season Continues

by Tom Gibbons

The backlog of articles in my hard drive keeps getting bigger and bigger as writers of all shapes and sizes send me material! We have the complete set of contest entry forms in this issue, and while they're essential for a bid at fame and success among the ranks of this organization, they also take up four entire pages. These can be found in along the middle for easy seperation (or photocopying), so now there's no reason not to enter!

Hopefully you'll notice the notice to the right. The forms from last issue are ineligible, so please don't use them. Apologies on behalf of the organization for this mix-up.

Aside from the 2006 Contest Information, we have Judy Ducharme's monthly column about the first SouthWest Writers meeting of the New Year. We also have the next installment of Judy's contest series. Our annual contest is no slouch when it comes to rules, and these articles are meant to help you enter and succeed. Also running this month is Eileen Stanton's *Markets* column. This month she's interviewing Jim McCarthy, one of the speakers from the upcoming *From Start to Sales* seminar, taking place April 29.

To prove that I don't have a bias, I'm going to claim that I don't have a bias, and cross my fingers. Never fear, however—holiday season is over, and soon we'll have more events to cover, and more voices that will find expression in the SouthWest Sage. Until then, rip out those forms, then rip into them, pen in hand. And don't forget the SASE!

Peace,



Tom Gibbons  
SWW Sage Editor

### 2006 SWW Contest Update

In this issue we have provided the official forms for you to copy when entering the writing contest. Please feel free to download and print these four forms, which can also be found on our website, southwestwriters.com.

Do not print out the forms or information from the January 2006 issue of Sage since that issue did not have the complete Writer's Contest packet.

**These are the forms you will need.**

- \* General Contest Rules: Page 7
- \* Category Specific Guidelines: Page 8
- \* Tips and Resources: Page 9
- \* Contest Entry Form: Page 10

If you have already mailed your submission (kudos on being so prompt!), call (505)265-9485 or email drjsbodin@hotmail.com, and we'll do our best to help get your submission processed. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday.

Need a new book?  
Save Money and Support SWW!

Go to [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)  
and click on the  
amazon.com box.  
You save money &  
SWW receives a commission.

*Professional Support Services*  
*Manuscripts/Reports/Editing*  
*and*  
*Other Support Services*

**505-836-5182**  
**Jennie**

### New SWW Email Address is Here

SouthWest Writers has retired its old AOL address, SWriters@aol.com, 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.



## The SouthWest Sage

*For twenty-four years, SWW has been bringing editors and agents from the very best publishing houses and agencies in the country.*

*Eileen Stanton is an award-winning author, co-founder and past president of SWW, and long-time teacher at three universities, including the University of New Mexico. She has honed her interviewing talents over 15 years on the radio and in thousands of articles. She brings this expertise to the Sage's Markets column each month.*

*Let her know what questions you want answered.*

*Her email is estanton@cableone.net.*

## Markets

*by Eileen Stanton*

Jim McCarthy, an agent with Dystel & Goderich Literary Management, is one of two agents and three editors who will speak and take one-on-one pitches from writers who attend *From Start to Sales* on April 29 at UNM's Continuing Education Center.

**Q.** What led you to become an agent after earning a degree in urban planning?

**A.** In a lot of ways, becoming an agent was dumb luck. I assumed, while going through school, that I would end up in landmarks preservation or urban renewal, but somewhere along the way I stumbled into an internship at DGLM. They were the first people to call me back after I sent out my résumés, and within two days I had my interview and accepted the job. Six years later, it seems like a charmed decision. A full-time position opened as soon as I graduated, and about a year after that I signed on my first client. Since then, there's been no looking back.

**Q.** What genres of books do you personally handle?

**A.** I have a pretty diverse group of clients, split almost evenly between fiction and nonfiction. My nonfiction tastes are a little narrower than my fiction. I tend toward memoir and anything pop culture, but I also keep an eye out for great narrative nonfiction or the occasional dating/relationship book. With fiction, I'm looking for just about anything that isn't sci-fi or fantasy. I represent thrillers, mysteries, chick-lit, romance, a smidgen of young adult, and a healthy dose of literary fiction.

**Q.** What are you looking for in a novel?

**A.** As I look over my list and really consider what

makes or breaks a book for me, I'd have to go with character development above everything else. A lot of writers can write perfectly competent books, but there's very little thrilling about competence. For me, once an author knows their characters intimately and can convey that to the reader, can make them live and breathe on the page, then I'm hooked. If I care about your characters, I'll care what happens to them. Also, I'm a sucker for anyone with a great sense of humor. If you make me laugh out loud, your chances increase greatly.

**Q.** What do you want to see in a nonfiction book?

**A.** I'm looking first at idea and second at platform. I need to be convinced not only that a book is worthwhile, but that the author has the authority to be writing it and that they have established themselves enough in their field to be able to move copies. With memoirs, everyone should be an expert on their own life—there I'm looking for something that has a fresh, unique voice and strikes me as being different from what is already available.

**Q.** What's the best and worst thing about your job?

**A.** It is overwhelmingly gratifying to be able to tell a first-time author that they're going to be published and to move along the process with them. You can't beat the feeling—unless, of course, you are a first time author who has just been told you're going to be published, I suppose. They do always seem slightly more excited than I. The worst is never having enough time to read for pleasure. The piles of books keep growing, but the piles of manuscripts scream louder, so there's the feeling that you'll never catch up.

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](mailto:elertmistress@southwestwriters.com).

### Let's Talk About...

by Judy Ducharme

#### Duplicates Shall be Nameless—Or What is a Packet?

Each packet that you mail to the Annual Contest of SouthWest Writers (SWW) consists of one (1) SIGNED Entry Form, obtained from the SouthWest Sage, SouthWest Writers office, the website, or first Saturday and third Tuesday programs. Insert a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) with the SAME amount of postage as the outside envelope. Include a check for the category, made out to SWW, PAPERCLIPPED to the Entry Form. There is NO Title Page—we just toss it if it appears. Send TWO copies of everything else—which shall be *nameless*. Your name must NOT appear on the other parts of the packet. One complete set goes to the critiquer; the other, to the judge. That is a packet. If there is more than one entry, each must be in a separate envelope, with separate SASE, and check.

Check Guidelines for particulars of the category.

Make sure there are two of everything, paperclip the parts together and take the OPEN packet to the post office. Weigh, affix postage on the outside envelope. Obtain the SAME amount of postage and stamp the SASE. Use self-sealing envelopes.

There is no limit to the number of separate entries that can be made or in the number of categories. Your body of work and the amount of money you wish to spend are the only restrictions. Begin the process early in the year, but the packet MUST be mailed and postmarked by May 1, 2006.

All entries will be read by an editor or agent, the judge for the category.

### Continental Cuisine from the Heart

If you missed out on the wonderful Continental cuisine at the SWW 2005 Contest Banquet, now is your change to experience one of the best restaurants in Albuquerque!

Show your SWW membership card to Nellu or Elena at Baciú's Bread & Wine Restaurant, 2740 Wyoming NE (corner of Wyoming and Candelaria) and receive a 10% discount (cash only).

Now open for lunch 11am to 4pm; dinner 4-9pm. Beer and wine available.

### It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

#### Workshop: Re-Vision Means Re-Seeing by Lisa Lenard Cook

Thirty-five authors attended the workshop longing for tips on how to revise their works. What they got were strategies. Using her award winning literary novel, *Dissonance*, as the example, Lisa described what to do.

Write the book from your right brain to "The End." Put it in the closet for a period of time—Homer said seven years! Take it out when something occurs to remind you of it and read with the left brain the entire manuscript, which she called a "marathon" read. Find out what the writing wants to be. What is the book about? Lisa doesn't begin with a theme; instead, she lets the characters tell the story. Revise directly on the manuscript, using different colored pens. For each marathon, note the date. Discover what is at stake, who the protagonist is, and the correct point of view.

Remove the "throat-clearing," as Lisa calls the stuff that precedes the story. Decide where the book is to begin and to end. Recognize what is important to the story and what is not. Decide what the book is about and indicate it in the first sentence, if not, the first paragraph. Failing that, certainly by the end of the first page.

List each scene and write down the voice and the purpose of the scene. Remove what isn't important. Add on the page what is important. In *Dissonance* she removed a lot of music theory and a psychiatrist character. Keep your discarded bits; you may use them in another writing. Lisa has a "boarding house" on her computer of discarded characters.

During her final marathon read of *Dissonance*, Lisa discovered that the book fell into five movements, like a symphony. That was when she knew the re-write was finished.

We got a handout helping with plot and character. With three hours at her disposal, Lisa taught us much more than I could mention here. It was a cost-effective and worthwhile workshop for those of us in the throes of re-writing.

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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.

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

*Saturday, February 4, 10 am-noon*

## **Myths About Writing** by Jerry Weinberg

Many aspiring writers dampen their own success because they allow themselves to be affected by dangerous myths, such as:

- Write about what you know about.
- Write one thing at a time, and finish before you start another.
- Start with an outline.
- There's a shortage of good ideas.
- Write at the same time every day.
- Writer's block exists, and I suffer from it.

Jerry Weinberg is the author of *Weinberg on Writing*, in which he presents his "Fieldstone Method" by which he has produced over 40 books and 400 short pieces, in non-fiction and fiction. He has coached hundreds of writers to finish and sell their projects. He can help you.

*Tuesday, February 21, 7 pm-9 pm*

## **Bloggging 101** by Marianne Powers

Are you ready to start blogging?

Marianne Powers will conduct a class that will get you blogging five minutes after you get home and log in to the internet. You will walk away with copies of screen prints and detailed instructions for one of the most popular blog services, Blogger. Blogs are your personal connection to everyone else in the world: readers, agents, editors, and other writers. And they're free! Services like Blogger give you a free web address, free server space, a choice of free templates, free archiving, and free comments for your readers. Marianne will also give tips on getting your blog noticed and "hit." Don't miss this chance to learn how to become an internationally published writer!

Marianne Powers is a writer and public speaker in the areas of management, conflict resolution, working relationships, and personal growth. Her blog and book, *Doing the Right Thing and Achieving All Your Goals at the Same Time*, is published on her website, [mariannepowers.com](http://mariannepowers.com). She can be reached through her website and at [marianne@mariannepowers.com](mailto:marianne@mariannepowers.com).

*Saturday, March 4, 10 am-noon*

## **Writing the Synopsis (and other contest tips)**

Panelists include:

David Corwell, author of horror fiction

Melody Groves, author of Western novels

Lela Belle Wolfert, author of romance fiction

Our panel of experts will discuss the importance of writing a gripping synopsis to sell your novel. The brief plot outline, or synopsis, is the first thing an agent or editor will read when encountering your novel submission. Your ability to create a dynamite synopsis can make the difference in whether the agent or editor reads further. Many agents and editors base their request to "see your entire novel" on the synopsis alone. Our panel will discuss how to write an effective synopsis while also answering other questions related to our upcoming annual contest.

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.  
It is now secure for online renewals and new memberships.

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 1<sup>st</sup> place contest winner** within the same category. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 email 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.

**\*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.

**\*Endorse your writing on the radio** Airleaf Publishing and Book Selling Services offers the opportunity to talk about and sell books on 32 radio stations. For details, call Brien Jones at (800)342-6068 or email brien@airleaf.com.

**\*A New Forum** for all things poetry is up at abqslams.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.

**\*Cezanne's Carrot**, The new Santa Fe-based literary journal is accepting submissions of short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and visual art. The journal publishes work that explores spiritual, transformational, visionary, or contemplative themes. The premiere issue and guidelines are available at the website: cezannescarrot.org.

### 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!

### 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

Synopsis up to three pages: \$25

All other manuscripts up to ten pages: \$35

Thereafter: \$3.50/page

## The SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

Now there's an quick and easy, low-cost writing competition at SWW to sharpen your skills. A different category will be offered each month. Enter them all!

And note that, while you don't have to be an SWW member to enter, SWW members enjoy a reduced entry fee. So join today! Visit [southwestwriters.org](http://southwestwriters.org) for secure online payment, phone our office with your credit card information, or send us a check or money order.

### February 2006: Query Letter

Craft a well-written, single-spaced query letter to an editor or agent (real or imaginary) pitching a book or magazine article. Length: 2 pages maximum. Deadline postmark: *February 28, 2006*.

### March 2006: Anecdote

Write an anecdote from your youth aimed for a magazine that prints short "reminisce" type articles. Length: up to 300 words. Deadline postmark: *March 31, 2006*.

### April 2006: Poetry

Check Future issues for details!

### Easy Instructions

- Open to any writer in the world.
- All entries must be postmarked by the date listed.
- Original, unpublished work only.
- No cover sheets.
- Print the following information on first page: Name; Address; Phone; E-mail (if any); Category Name
- Manuscripts prepared in standard format: 1" margins, double-spaced.
- Entries are not returned, so there's no need for an SASE.
- \$5 entry fee for SWW members; \$10 entry fee for nonmembers.
- You may enter more than once, but an entry fee must accompany each entry.
- Decisions of the judges will be final.
- Prizes: \$50 1st Prize; \$30 2nd Prize; \$20 3rd Prize.
- Mail entries to:  
SWW Monthly Writing Competition  
3721 Morris St NE, Ste A  
Albuquerque, NM 87111  
(Print name of category under your return address)

## Intellectual Property Services for Writers

*Let us assist you with your  
intellectual property needs, including:*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Copyright Registrations</li> <li>■ Intellectual Property Licensing</li> <li>■ Internet Issues</li> <li>■ Searches and Applications</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Publishing Agreements</li> <li>■ Foreign and Domestic</li> <li>■ Trademarks and Patents</li> <li>■ Litigation / Infringement</li> </ul> |
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Send information by e-mail in rich text format (.rtf) to SWWriters@juno.com. Please be brief.

**Scott Frost** has had two outdoors articles published in national magazines this fall: 2500 words in *Bugle*, the journal of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, And a 1200 word humor piece for *In-fisherman*.

**Shirley Clement Fouts's** article, "Our Vacation Jewel," in the January/February issue of *El Paso Inside and Out Magazine* took up six pages with beautiful photographs (not hers) and included her poem on the Inn of the Mountain Gods.

Fouts's reminiscence article, "Chocolates, Chores, and Christmas Past," appears in the new issue of *Las Cruces Poets and Writers Magazine*. Fouts signed her new book at a packed Hal Marcus Gallery festivity on December 18.

**Nancy Marano** won the Cat Writers' Association 2005 Muse Medallions for Newsletter—Column ("Cat Chat" in *PETroglyphs*), and Editor—Best Regional Newsletter, for *PETroglyphs*.

**Barbara Jacksha's** short fiction was recently published in *The Summerset Review* and *Talking Stick 14*. Additional stories have been accepted by *Margin* and *Mad Hatter's Review*. Barbara's story "Geometry Can Fail Us" was recently selected for inclusion in the upcoming W.W. Norton anthology *Flash Fiction Forward*, which will be published in the fall of 2006. Barbara, along with Wisconsin writer Joan Kremer and Santa Fe writer Lori Romero, also recently launched a new online literary journal, *Cezanne's Carrot*. [cezannescarrot.org](http://cezannescarrot.org).

**Joyce Litz's** biography, *The Montana Frontier: One Woman's West*, won a finalist Willa Award for best non-fiction from *Women Writing the West*, 2005.

**Donna Munch's** children's novel, *Dark Tales of the Tower*, was published October 2005 by Wordwright.biz Publishers Inc.

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!

## Screenplay Reading Service

Need affordable assistance with:

\* Character Structure

\* Drive Elements

\* Story Structure

\*Formatting

\* Quick turnaround \* Detailed written notes \* Discussion of notes and suggestions

**Marc Calderwood, Award Winning Screenwriter**

Also available for screenwriting business consultation and coaching.

Call (505) 897-6474 or Email [marccalderwood@hotmail.com](mailto:marccalderwood@hotmail.com)

for appointment and prices

**Everyone Spread the Word to:**

Writers, Publishers, Sales, Reps, etc.

SouthWest Writers has office space for rent.

\$250/mo. gets you/them NE business location with private lockable space, conference room, five cent copies, Internet access,

local number fax machine, kitchenette.

Call 265-9485, M-F, 9 am - noon.

**Critique Groups**

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

Carl Koestner

Melva Gellenthien

Jamey Lathrop

Trish Brewer

Luann Wolfe

Lexi Petronis

Peggy Conger

Hennelore Hendricks

Terry Hicks

Kimberlee Johnson

Diane Thome

John R. Miller

Sala E. Chapman

Molly Weber

Judith Costello

Bill Bryant

Rose Kern

Gino Pokluda

Melissa Birks

Vickie Edwards

Linda Broba Pribble

Dr. Linda Lawrence

Kathleen Sorenson

**SouthWest Sage  
Ad Rates**

**Worldwide Circulation  
on the Internet**

The SWW website receives  
hundreds of thousands of  
page requests every month.

*Business card size:* \$16

*1/8 page:* \$24

*1/4 page:* \$36

*1/3 page:* \$45

*1/2 page:* \$75

*Full page:* \$100

*15% discount for 3 mos.*

*20% discount for 6 mos.*

**Deadline:**

1st of each month  
for the following month.  
Payment due  
with camera-ready  
ad copy.

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

For information  
about benefits for  
SWW members contact:  
**Cheri Eicher**  
INDEPENDENT MEANS  
Group Benefits  
(505) 299-5919  
(800) 883-4310

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

All members of SouthWest Writers are welcome to attend a board meeting, which is the first Tues. of every month at 6:00 PM in the SWW office conference room. The Board Highlights in 2006 will be reported after the official minutes are written and approved by the Board. Contact the secretary at sandyschairer@southwestwriters.com for further information.

SouthWest Writers programs will feature Jerry Weinberg on Feb. 4th and Marianne Powers on Feb. 21st. A conference is scheduled for Feb. 18 so there will not be a workshop on the afternoon of the 4th.

Since the afternoon workshops have been so successful, the board has adopted a policy of splitting the proceeds with the presenters when the amount exceeds \$500.

ABQArts and SWW are discussing collaboration for a young writers contest. SWW Contest currently has a young writers journalism category moderated by Lynn Paskind called The Marty Award after her husband Martin who was a journalist and encouraged young writers.

Photographs of speakers and events are now being printed in the Sage.

The SWW Critique Service has been quite popular in 2005. It has received excellent feedback from those using the service.

David Steinberg gave SouthWest Writers such good publicity in his newspaper column in 2005 that the board sent him a "thank you note." Announcement of SouthWest Writers events also appear in other publications, soon to add Albuquerque the Magazine.

The 2006 contest guidelines and entry form are now posted on the website. There are 19 categories with a new Spanish article/essay category.

Raffles will be held four times a year—March, June, Sept. and Dec. Board is seeking good items to raffle. The December raffle made \$150.

SWW is offering e-vert space of limited length for advertising to booksellers and SWW members for a fee \$5.00. A disclaimer from SWW will accompany these ads, which must be of interest to writers.

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 and Procedures

Lela Belle Wolfert  
(505) 899-2952

### Volunteer Coordinator

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

### Bylaws Chair

Joan Marsh  
JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

### Conference Chair and Historian

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

### 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-vert 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.**

# Two Agents in Search of YOU!

## SouthWest Writers Conference

### February 18, 2006

Drag out your finished manuscript and polish it up. You could be published in 2006.

Anne Hawkins, literary agent with John Hawkins from New York and Doris Booth of AuthorLink, Dallas, will be here to help you understand how the trends in marketing, editorial decisions and the writing business affect you as an author. Learn what editors really want and how to get an agent. The conference will be at Hotel Circle Howard Johnson conference venue, "under the orange roof." Box lunches will be provided. You are welcome to dine with the speakers. Cost is \$99 for members of SouthWest Writers and \$159 for non-members.

-Anne Hawkins collects fiction on the border of literary/commercial, as well as mystery/suspense. In the non-fiction arena, she wants narrative projects about history, current events, science, nature, medicine and women's and family issues.  
-Doris Booth likes true crime, romance, thrillers, women's fiction and a wide range of non-fiction.  
Come prepared to pitch to Anne or Doris. Register soon, there will be fewer appointments this time, because Anne and Doris will present two segments together.

For registration forms, visit [southwestwriters.org](http://southwestwriters.org), or contact Larry Greenly at (505) 265-9485.