



# The South West Sage

Vol. 20, No. 3

*The Voice of SouthWest Writers*

March 2005

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



## **SWW Seeking Nominations for 2006 Board of Directors**

**Your participation is important.**

The SWW nominating committee, Fred Aiken, Judy Ducharme, and Sandy Schairer, request your participation in the nomination of elected officers for the calendar year 2006. Please submit names for consideration based on the following requirements:

To be eligible for the office of 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.

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.

To be eligible for the office of secretary, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination or have the requirement waived by the Board.

To be eligible for the office of treasurer, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination or have the requirement waived by the Board and have the necessary qualifications for the position.

The duties for each of these officials will appear in the May issue of the SouthWest Sage, along with comments from your current officers.

The slate for the nomination of officers will be posted in the SWW office at 3721 Morris NE Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Please send your nominations to this address, or e-mail them to: [SWriters@aol.com](mailto:SWriters@aol.com). Put the words "Nominating Committee" in the subject line of your email.



**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](mailto:SWriters@aol.com).



**The SouthWest Sage**

*is published monthly by the Board of Directors of SouthWest Writers, a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.*

*Subscription is a benefit of SWW membership. For advertising rates and submission guidelines, see [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org).*

*Editor:  
Cliff Gravel*

*Assistant Editor:  
Larry Greenly*

*Editorial Staff:  
Nicole Schairer  
Andrea S. Lee*

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

*E-mail: [SWriters@aol.com](mailto:SWriters@aol.com)  
Website:  
[www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)*

**Office hours:  
Monday-Friday  
9 a.m.-Noon**

*All articles copyrighted 2005 by author. Facts, views, and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or opinion of SouthWest Writers. SWW does not necessarily endorse the advertisers.*

Cover: SWW Seeking Nominations/Writer’s Guidelines

Page 3: It Happened by Judy Ducharme

Page 4: Markets by Eileen Stanton

Page 5: Don’t Cheat Yourself by June Walker

Page 6: Contest Connection by Joan Marsh

Page 7: Course Taker by Raquel Troyce

Page 8: This -n- That

Page 9: Odds & Ends/Ad Rates

Page 10: SWW Events

Page 11: Announcements

Page 12: Contests

Page 13: Member Successes

Page 14: SWW Financial Report

Page 15: SWW Board Information

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!

## It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

SWW Tuesday Evening Talk on November 16, 2004

Loretta Hall spoke on the topic of “How To Be Professional, Even if You’re an Amateur.” It was a combination of professionalism and practicality to enable one to be a successful freelance writer. Loretta handed out an outline of the talk, her business card and a sample of her extra-weight stationery.

The main thing is to make a decision, then create an attitude that reflects that you are a writer. Internal attitude and the outward expression of it defines the professional writer. Say “I am a writer.” Dress like a writer. Have cards printed, answer the phone, change your E-mail address to prove you are a writer. Maintain a website with a personal bio and picture of you (not your dog, etc.). Use Kinko’s to print cards. As a member of SouthWest Writers, you are eligible to use our web site to give to editors—see Loretta for more information. She advocates the least expensive way to accomplish your goal. For the web site she suggested “Go-Daddy.com,” a domain provider for \$9.00 per year and about \$10 a month for web siting. She uses Bright White #24 for her stationery.

Work on your writing. Take classes, many of which are available on line and around town. Enter contests—for critiques and cash—join a critique group. Write. Read books about writing. Learn to be concise, yet comprehensive. Do not refer to employment as your “real” job; that diminishes your stature as a writer. Network. Once you have made it, share what you’ve learned with others. Join writing groups and work within the organization to improve the profession.

Use Writer’s Market and other sources to determine the value of your work. Don’t sell yourself short. Learn to line through items on a contract that are not acceptable to you. If a formal contract is not offered, then write a letter outlining the assignment as you understand it, and send two signed copies to the editor, one to be signed and returned to you. Fulfill the terms of any assignment, and always make your deadline while adhering to the tone, style, format, word count requested.

Loretta’s talk was a combination of exhortations that have proved useful in her quest to professionalism and how to do it.

She explained that writing a business plan indicates your desire to make a profit. That way you can take the expenses off your income tax. (See Ted Lynn’s article in January, 2005 SW Sage). Learn the requirements of your niche. Identify your target audience and figure out how to fulfill their needs and desires. Query before writing the article. If you’ve already written the article it is hard to

rewrite according to the way the editor wants it to flow. Develop a reputation for completing assignments. Your accomplishments will build your self-confidence and your editors will trust you. Editors will begin calling you with requests for articles.

Try not to write for hire, except in the beginning—if you must—to get clips. Otherwise, you lose your right to the intellectual property. Write for your newsletters, newspapers, other places to get clips. If you have an interview, be prepared for it with questions already formulated from your research about the subject.

---

## It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

SWW Tuesday Evening Talk on January 18, 2005

Alfred Noyer writes about the Fifth Century. Through his research he has found relics from that era, many of which he displayed at SouthWest Writers January meeting, Tuesday, January 18, from 7pm to 9pm. Unfortunately, there was not time for him to go into details of how to obtain the materials. He had coins and maps and books about the Fifth Century. Maps and pictures of the homes, small rooms and short doors were displayed. He created and spoke from a timeline of the last hundred years of the Roman Empire. He mentioned Toby Press and Dover Paperbacks as places to find books of the era. He spoke of medicine and daily life of the people who lived in the 600s. He knew about the king, Constantine, and told of his seeing a vision of a cross before a battle, so he put crosses on all his men’s shields. Constantine made all religions legal and able to be practiced. It was a fascinating talk about the Fifth Century and the materials one needs to collect in order to write authoritatively about a different historical time. The talk ended with others in his group relating their experiences in writing history.

Lisa Polisar extolled his book, The Secundus Papyrus, in abqARTS, March, 2004, p.14. writing that it “...is a highly intriguing story that breathes life and color into the twilight years of the Roman Empire.” She compared it with Umberto Eco’s Name of the Rose.

## Markets

by Eileen Stanton, Guest Columnist

When Donald Maass speaks, writers listen. He's the author of fourteen novels and two excellent books on writing. Editors listen as well. As president of the Donald Maass Literary Agency, which he founded in New York in 1980, he sells more than one hundred novels per year to top publishers in the U.S. and overseas, garnering large advances. Even other agents listen: they recently elected him president of The Association of Authors' Representatives, Inc. (AAR)

### How is the publishing business different today from when you started?

In the late 70s publishing was consolidating and becoming more corporate. Today it is even more so. As profound as those changes have been, the evolution of book retailing—for instance the rise of the chains—has been even more far-reaching. For novelists, all this means that the pressure to become profitable, and quickly, is huge. The truth is that it can take five books for consumers even to become aware of one, more than that for one to master the craft. But, today, novelists rarely get five shots at proving themselves. We are seeing mystery series cancelled after two books and fantasy trilogies not being published out. In this environment one must be a powerful storyteller to thrive.

### Define a "breakout novel."

In a publishing sense, it is any novel that brings the author to a significantly wider audience. I am more interested in what it means in terms of storytelling. For my purposes, a breakout novel is one that feels large, deep, complex and absorbing. Exactly how those effects are achieved are the subject of my books *Writing the Breakout Novel* and *Writing the Breakout Novel Workbook*.

### Has the fact that you're also a writer made you a better judge of the manuscripts that come across your desk? In what way?

I don't think one needs to have written oneself to know that a manuscript is not holding one's attention, or even why. Having written novels (14 of them) I do know how novelists think and feel, though. That has helped me to talk with them about their storytelling. For instance, I think there is no point in telling a novelist to write something different than the

story they want to tell. The fire will go out of their writing. Rather it's a matter of showing them how to take their story to new levels; to wring out of it all its potential.

### What are the most important elements that editors and readers look for in a good novel?

It's easy to say "a good story" but what does that mean? Well, many things. It means characters that are not just sympathetic, but inwardly conflicted. It means a plot that is not just compelling but layered. It means not just a neat hook and an action-packed climax, but tension on every page. It means measuring change (the secret of telling not showing), and much more. You think it's easy? The techniques of breakout storytelling are easy to understand but enormously time consuming to do. It takes a massive commitment. For whatever reasons, few novelists are willing to give it that much effort.

### In both your book and seminar, you stress the importance of raising the stakes. To do this, you discuss creating high human worth. Are you finding many protagonists with the qualities you refer to, i.e. honesty, integrity, loyalty, kindness, bravery, respect, trust and love of his fellow man?

In a word, no. In manuscripts we meet many okay protagonists: average guys and gals. Believable as they may be, they do not engage me. Immediately showing me some highly admirable quality in a character, even in a small way, is the secret of making me (or any reader) care.

### What is the most important advice you can give today's authors?

Success does not come from your agent, the deal, your publisher, a publicity budget, a New York Times review or anything else outside your control. Success comes from your storytelling. That's it. Believe it or not, the folks who find that hardest to believe are published novelists!

For information concerning Donald Maass' next seminar in Park City Utah, contact: Free Expressions, [www.free-expressions.com](http://www.free-expressions.com). To learn more about Donald Maass and his agency: [www.maassagency.com](http://www.maassagency.com).

*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](mailto:mary@writerscenter.com)*

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

## Don't Cheat Yourself:

### Deduct Every Business Expense

by June Walker, Guest Columnist

As a tax and financial consultant to the self-employed, the integrity and honesty of people in the arts has impressed me. However, these same creative people, in their search for truth and perfection, sometimes fall into the trap of being “scrupulous to a fault.”

This article is not about discarding your scruples nor about how to cheat the IRS. It is about *not* cheating yourself out of legitimate deductions and about how *not* to pay more tax than you should.

Business expenses are the costs you incur to run your business—the money you must spend in order to make money. The IRS says a business expense must be both *ordinary* and *necessary*. An *ordinary* expense is one that is common and accepted in your field of business. A *necessary* expense is one that is appropriate and helpful for your business. An expense does not have to be indispensable to be considered necessary.

Okay, but what is ordinary to a mystery writer? What is necessary for a biographer or the author of a cookbook?

The answer: *Anything* you do that relates to your work, that stimulates or enhances your business, nurtures your professional creativity, improves your skills, wins you recognition, or increases your chances of getting published is a business expense and therefore deductible.

Nadine Novella knows that she can deduct the price of any book, magazine or newspaper she buys – because she’s reading it for content, or for style, or both. But she can go even further. A character in her current manuscript is psychopathically obsessed with computer games. Nadine feels that she can get more deeply into the character by staying up half the night playing Grand Theft Auto, careering from the glitz to the ghetto of Vice City. Her purchase of this computer game is not for fun; it’s a business deduction.

Nadine is a writer, but she is also an independent professional. She is in the *business* of writing. So whenever she reaches into a pocket for money, writes a check, or pulls out a credit card, she must remain aware that she may be engaged in a work-related transaction.

#### DEVELOP A BUSINESS MINDSET

First: Define your writing business as broadly as you honestly can. The more multi-faceted and inclusive your writing, the more wide-ranging your expenses. A generalist — someone who might write about anything — can claim a greater variety of expenses than a sports writer.

Second: Take a fresh look at your activities. Don’t assume that the distinction between work and family, or play and chores,

is well-defined. Circumstances determine whether an expense is personal or business. The business life of an employee has clearly established boundaries, but the business life of a self-employed writer is intertwined with personal life.

A woman with two children who helps take care of her aging mother and freelances for magazines on the subjects of social interaction and family living and children’s health will find that many expenses that might be personal for most people are legitimate business deductions for her. If she drives to the nursing home to visit Mom but also interviews the director for this month’s “Family” column, that’s business mileage. The same would apply were she to go to Office Arsenal for school supplies for her children but also purchase toner for her printer. The errand counts as business mileage.

Third: Whatever you do, and whomever you do it with, consider the possibility of a business connection. Someone may be *primarily* a business associate even though in some cases he or she may also happen to be a friend, parent, child, or spouse. Friendship with a business associate does not necessarily rule out a business deduction. You’ll just have to show that the predominant motive for the activity that warranted the expense was business-related.

A business writer deducts not only the cost of meals with her sources but also the expense of dining out with her husband, an investment broker. Why? Because during the meal she explains the organization of her book and gets his input on that, asks his advice on the use of several investment terms, and tests his reaction to her book proposal. She could not have had this business discussion at the family dinner table with their three children in attendance and so the gift given to *her brother* as thanks for baby-sitting while she was at this business dinner is also a business expense.

---

To receive a complimentary copy of A LIST OF TYPICAL AND UNUSUAL SELF-EMPLOYED BUSINESS EXPENSES visit [www.junewalkeronline.com](http://www.junewalkeronline.com).

June Walker is a member of Southwest Writers. Her first book, *Self-Employed Tax Solutions* (Globe-Pequot), was published in January. She has been a financial and tax consultant to entrepreneurs throughout the United States and Europe for more than 25 years. Her international clientele is exclusively independent professionals, from psychologists to IT consultants to attorneys to life coaches, with a large contingent of writers, performers, and artists. A popular seminar speaker focusing on educating the independent professional, June lives in Santa Fe, NM.

## SWW Contest Connection

by Joan Marsh, 2005 Contest Co-Chair

### What's New

We have an exciting lineup of Contest Judges:

Category	Judge	Credentials
3. Romance Novels	Erin Cartwright-Niumata	Editorial Director at Avalon Books
4. Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror Novels	Liz Scheier	Editor at ROC Books
5. Historical or American Frontier/Western Novels	Tom Colgan	Senior Editor at The Berkley Publishing Group
6. Middle Grade or Young Adult Novels	Sarah Sevier	Associate Editor at Margaret K. McElderry Books
7. Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror Short Stories	Elizabeth Monteleone	Editor/Publisher of Borderlands Press
10. Other Genres: Historical, Western, etc. Short Stories	Christopher M. Cevalco	Editor/Publisher of Paradox: The Magazine of Historical and Speculative Fiction
12. Nonfiction Article or Essay	C. Michael Curtis	Senior Editor at The Atlantic Monthly
13. Children's Nonfiction Article	Kim T. Griswell	Coordinating Editor at Highlights for Children
15. Children's Nonfiction Book	Caitlyn Dlouhy	Senior Editor at Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Many thanks to David J. Corwell, 2005 SouthWest Writers Contest Chair and Board Member for contracting some of the best judges in the field. We'll have an update in the April Sage.

If you love being scared out of your wits or if your bedtime ritual includes searching for elves in the shadows and corners of your room, learn more about David's published work at the following web sites: [www.dreampeople.org](http://www.dreampeople.org) ("The Harvest" *Dead in Thirteen Flashes*), and [www.fantasistent.com](http://www.fantasistent.com) ("Legacy of the Quedana" *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*).

### Q & A

**Q:** Is there a limit to the number of submissions I can make in the same category?

**A:** No. You may enter the same category as many times as you have submissions for. Each submission should be mailed in a different envelope, along with a separate entry fee. For requirements, see the Contest Entry Form, General Contest Rules, and Category Specific Guidelines.

**Q:** Is it a good idea to get help from SWW's critique service in preparation for the contest?

**A:** The critique service provides a thorough individual assessment of your work. If you choose to go this route, be mindful of the approximate two-four week turn around time and the May 1st Contest deadline. A good critique group may be another seriously beneficial tool for you.

Please send your Contest questions to [joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com](mailto:joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com).

## I Became a Professional Course Taker

by Raquel Troyce

I have always had a strong passion for writing. That's what I feel like doing most of the time. One day I realized that I really wanted, more than anything else, to become a professional writer. On the way to achieving my dream, I discovered that along with it I mastered myself as a professional course taker.

At the beginning, I was taking as many writing and other subject classes as I could find.

I knew that if I was going to be in this business the right way, I was going to need a word processor. The problem was that I never used a computer before. So there I was, attending a course on word processors.

English is my second language. Even though I speak it, read it and write it very well, I still needed to learn a lot so I could use it correctly to express myself on paper. My next step; I signed up at my local college to take English classes.

Then, of course, came the writing classes and workshops.

I don't think that I am wrong when I say that at a certain point, I was the best customer at the Continuing Education Program that the University had.

I cannot blame myself; I started for the right reasons. I wanted to improve my skills and learn everything I could to be able to make a living writing as a business. However, it got out of hand. All the classes that were being offered were not only helpful, but also so interesting! How can one ignore them? There didn't seem to be enough time, and money, to take as many as I needed...and wanted

I was very lucky to find great teachers, but especially two of them were very influential in my achievement. They were supportive, but they were very fair to me too. They started pushing me away from the classes; they told me that I had enough of learning, for now, and that I should put in good use what I have learned and start writing; that's, they said, if I was really serious about my career as a professional writer.

The only way to do it, they advised me, was to practice, practice and practice.

I was still feeling that I was not quite ready. I felt that my style, my grammar, my syntaxes, were not good enough. Of course, my English needed a lot of polishing too, and I was not handling the word processor as well as I wanted. In other words, I was not ready to break into the profession.

I almost forgot to mention the big collection of books on writing that I have been buying from Writer's Digest Book Club and the many subscriptions to writing magazines that I ordered.

One day I read, either in a magazine or in one of the books, about the fear that some writers experience when it comes to actually doing it; when it comes to filling the blank pages. I was in shock; all of a sudden, my postponement made sense.

I was so afraid that I was not going to be able to write, I didn't want to face the possibility of failure. I was hiding in classes, in books, in workshops. I needed, and I still need to study a lot. But what's the point of learning if you don't use what you know?

Today, I am following my teacher's advice; I cut out taking that many classes. I am planning to attend only English courses because this is my weakest point, but more than everything, I am writing a lot.

I discovered that I was so busy studying that I almost forgot that I do very well on my own language: Spanish, so now, I write in both English and Spanish, and I am taking advantage of my former career as a student. I'm not afraid any more.

---

Raquel Troyce was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. She has published articles both in English and in Spanish. Using her experience as an online advisor on personal relationships for a major Internet company, Raquel wrote a nonfiction book titled "Seduction, Love, and Lies," soon to be published.

**Wouldn't a website help  
market your novel?  
Or showcase your writing?**

**Notch  
Web Design**

**www.notchwebdesign.com  
Call: (505) 890-5565**

**Bulletin**

BOUND TO BE READ bookstore now gives a 20% discount on book purchases to SWW members who show their current membership card. Also, on Sundays, customers get a free cup of coffee with the purchase of a newspaper.

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

The editor apologizes to **David Medcalf** for misspelling his name in the January issue of the Sage.



Watch for an enormously expanded list of writer's resources website links on the SWW website in the future.



The SouthWest Sage editor is desperately seeking articles about The Craft and Business of Writing Screenplays for Feature Films.

Coming on May 21st  
SWW proudly announces that Linda Seger will present a day-long seminar on screenwriting.

**“ Famous Quotes on Writing ”**

Writing is easy. All you do is sit staring at a blank piece of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead.  
*Gene Fowler*

I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork.  
*Peter DeVries*

Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it.  
*Oscar Wilde*

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.  
*Winston Churchill*

Talent is helpful in writing, but guts are absolutely essential.  
*Jessamyn West*

Being a real writer means being able to do the work on a bad day.  
*Norma Mailer*

A critic is a legless man who teaches running.  
*Anonymous*

The best time for planning a book is when you're doing the dishes.  
*Agatha Christie*

My best friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read.  
*Abe Lincoln*

A room without books is like a body without a soul.  
*Cicero*

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](mailto:publicity@southwestwriters.org).

**Critique Groups**

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

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

**SF/Fantasy:**

Joel Holt  
(505) 265-1938  
10k1265@hotmail.com

**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  
riograndma@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

**Ficton & Nonfiction:**

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

**SF/F:**

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

**Fiction/Poetry:**

Dianne Boles-Scott  
(505) 299-0026  
dboles-scott5@msn.com

**Fantasy/Romance:**

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

**Any Genre in Santa Fe:**

Mary Mazza-Anderson  
cmmom@zianet.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, Screen-  
plays:**

Every other Thursday  
Marc Calderwood  
Mckkokopelli@aol.com

**Mystery/SF:**

Fred Aiken  
(505) 856-2145  
FredAiken@southwestwriters.com

**Novels/Short Stories:**

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

**New SWW Members**

Shirley Blackwell  
Robin Anderson  
Kaatje Vender Gaarden - Jayne  
Alice Brock  
Hugh Horan  
Lisa Kennicott  
Catherine Spude  
Esther Farris  
Cel Vigil  
Laurel Westman  
Stephanie Farrow  
Kristi Carver  
John Kite



**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.



**SouthWest Sage  
Ad Rates**

**Worldwide Circulation  
on the Internet**

The SWW website receives an  
excess of 50,000 page requests  
per month.

*Business card size:*

\$16  
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 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

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, March 5, 10 am*

### **Mucking in Moscow, Hanging Around in Havana: Murder and Espionage**

KRQE's investigative reporter Larry Barker will speak on "Mucking in Moscow, Hanging Around in Havana: Murder and Espionage," two investigations in search of an accused spy from Santa Fe. Barker has wanted to pursue journalism ever since he worked on his high school newspaper. Since then, he helped launch the original Crime Stoppers, which is now an international organization. He has traveled the world exposing corruption and con men in his journalistic quest. Barker has received nine Rocky Mountain Emmy awards, four regional Edward R. Murrow awards, two Best of the West awards, more than a dozen awards from the New Mexico Associated Press Broadcasters, and the prestigious Silver Circle Award from the Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

*Saturday, March 12, 10 am*

### **Writing: From Start to Sales**

For the first time, The Continuing Education Program at UNM is bringing in editors and an agent from national houses for a one-day seminar for all beginning and seasoned writers of novels, articles and nonfiction books. Southwest Writers will co-sponsor the event. It will take place at **1634 University NE, on Saturday, March 12, 2005. The cost is \$95, which includes lunch for pre-registered students. To register, call 277-0077, and ask for "Writing: From Start to Sales."** Three editors and one literary agent will not only tell what they are looking to buy, but will take five-minute one-on-one meetings with writers who have a writing project (a book or article) to "pitch." You'll sign up for your favorite at the door, but the first 60 registrants through UNM will get their first pick. For information, call Eileen Stanton at 771-0478.

*Tuesday, March 15, 7 pm*

### **Turning Life into Fiction**

Blessed with a short attention span, Judith Hendricks has worked as a journalist, copywriter, computer instructor, travel agent and waitress before landing at the McGraw Street Bakery in Seattle, where she fell in love with the rhythms of baking. Her first novel, *Bread Alone*, has been translated in 11 languages and distributed in more than 15 countries. Her second novel, *Isabel's Daughter*, which grew out of her fascination with the Southwest, has received much critical acclaim. She's now working on her third novel, a sequel to *Bread Alone*. Her nonfiction has appeared in many publications around the world.

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

**FRANK ZORETICH**  
Writing Coach & Manuscript Line-Editor

(505)260-1980  
frank@mail.com  
First Hour Free

In an attempt to open the announcements section to include all SWW members' writing-related activities (classes, book signings, etc.), we request that you e-mail your announcement to the editor no later than the first day of the month preceding publication. Please limit the announcement to 3 lines/40 words. Submitted material may be edited for publication.

- \* **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](http://www.leranm.org).
- \* **The Croak and Dagger Branch of Sisters in Crime** will have a general meeting on Saturday, March 26 at 1pm at the briefing room of the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation. [royandcal@netzero.com](mailto:royandcal@netzero.com).
- \* **NBC Universal** is seeking Spanish-language American playwrights for their Telemundo soap opera writing program at Dade College in Miami. [www.tallertelemundo.com](http://www.tallertelemundo.com).
- \* **Storytellers of New Mexico** will be meeting at La Siringitu, 1501 Mountain Rd. NW, just east of the Explora Museum. *3rd Sunday of each month*. [www.thestorybird.com](http://www.thestorybird.com).
- \* **Rob Spiegel and Larry Greenly teach a free weekly class** at Bear Canyon Senior Center from 3 to 4:15 p.m. *every Monday*. Half lecture, half discussion of student writing. Covers fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and memoir. Free to members of any Albuquerque senior center (senior center yearly dues: \$12.50).
- \* **University of New Mexico Press** seeks exciting work about American Indians, anthropology, art and photography, Chicano/Chicana studies, area history, Judaea, Latin American studies, and New Mexico and the Southwest. They publish biographies, fiction, poetry, and literature. [www.unmpress.com](http://www.unmpress.com).
- \* **Howard Shulman** is looking for a memoir ghostwriter to revise his accepted manuscript. (505) 401-2637.
- \* **Lee Mason** needs a manuscript typed. His book has been critiqued and edited. Lee Mason (505) 890-6772.
- \* **Will Steinberg** is seeking a writer to tell his father's life story. (505) 292-5931.
- \* **Ginger Swanson** is seeking a ghostwriter to pen memoirs. [vswanson@shreve.net](mailto:vswanson@shreve.net).
- \* **Jeffrey Hansson** is seeking someone to review his book "Artifact of Deception." [jrhansson@comcast.net](mailto:jrhansson@comcast.net).
- \* **SphinxBooks.com** is a new e-book publishing company that is accepting book-length submissions in Mystery, Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror.
- \* **Write on Four Corners** NPR radio program in Farmington, NM is looking for authors to interview. Contact Connie Gotsch at [gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us](mailto:gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us).
- \* **Jonathan Miller** will read from his upcoming novel "Volcano Verdict" at Barnes and Noble, *March 7, 2005* at 1pm.
- \* **The Symposium for Professional Food Writers** White Sulphur Springs, WV. *March 16-20*.  
[www.greenbrier.com/foodwriters](http://www.greenbrier.com/foodwriters).
- \* **Writers Week at UNCW** Wilmington, NC. *March 21-25*. [www.uncw.edu/writers/community-writers.html](http://www.uncw.edu/writers/community-writers.html).
- \* **June Walker Book Signing** Borders Books and Music in Santa Fe. *March 24 at 7pm*.
- \* **Children's Literature Conference** Hempstead, NY. *April 2*. [www.hofstra.edu/writers](http://www.hofstra.edu/writers).
- \* **TMCC Writers' Conference** Reno, NV. *April 7-10*. <http://commserv.tmcc.edu>.
- \* **Smokies in the Springtime Writers Seminar** Townsend, TN. *April 7-10*. [www.touchofsuccess.com](http://www.touchofsuccess.com).
- \* **Odyssey, The Summer Fantasy Writing Workshop** New Hampshire University. *June 13-July 22*. Application deadline April 15. [www.sff.net/odyssey](http://www.sff.net/odyssey).
- \* **UWM Spring Writers Festival** Milwaukee, WI. *April 15-17*. [www.sce-arts.uwm.edu](http://www.sce-arts.uwm.edu).
- \* **Border Book Festival** Las Cruces, NM. *April 15-17*. [www.borderbookfestival.org](http://www.borderbookfestival.org).
- \* **ASJA Writers Conference** New York City, NY. *April 16-17*. [www.asja.org](http://www.asja.org).
- \* **Pikes Peak Writers Conference** Colorado Springs, CO. *April 22-24*. [www.pikespeakwriters.org](http://www.pikespeakwriters.org).
- \* **2005 Taos Summer Writers' Conference** to be held *July 9-15*. Register online at [www.unm.edu/~taosconf](http://www.unm.edu/~taosconf).
- \* **Santa Barbara Writers Conference** *June 17-24*. [www.sbwc.org](http://www.sbwc.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](http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp).

**Deadline Open.** Side Show Contest. Literary short stories only. Entry Fee: \$12.50 for all submissions sent in same envelope. Prizes: \$50-100 plus \$5 per page when book is printed. [www.somersaultpress.com](http://www.somersaultpress.com).

**Deadline Open.** Gilman & Gonzales-Falla Theater Foundation Musical Theater Award. \$25,000 first Prize. [www.ggftheater.org](http://www.ggftheater.org).

**Deadline 3/15/05.** CNW/FFWA Florida State Writing Competition. Categories include fiction, nonfiction, children's, and poetry. Entry Fee: \$5-20. Prizes: \$50-100. [www.writers-editors.com](http://www.writers-editors.com).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Tom Howard/John H. Reid Short Story Contest. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: Up to \$1,000 and publication. [www.winningwriters.com/tomstory.htm](http://www.winningwriters.com/tomstory.htm).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Write Your Memoir Day 2005 Contest. Theme is "a situation someone talked you into and you lived to tell about it." Entry Fee: \$5. [www.yourmemories.net](http://www.yourmemories.net).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest is open to kindergarten, first, second, and third graders. 12 Prizes. [www.knmetv.org/education/reading-rainbow-contest.php3](http://www.knmetv.org/education/reading-rainbow-contest.php3).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Success Means... is the curious theme of Women Writers of the Desert's 2nd Annual Essay Contest for Women. [www.womenwritersofthedesert.org](http://www.womenwritersofthedesert.org).

**Deadline 4/15/05.** Ann Stanford Poetry Prize. [mpw@usc.edu](mailto:mpw@usc.edu).

**Deadline 4/30/05.** The 27th Nimrod/Hardman Awards, The Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction, and The Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry. [www.utulsa.edu/nimrod](http://www.utulsa.edu/nimrod).

**Deadline 5/01/05.** Nuestras Voces Playwriting Competition. Spanish or English. [www.reportorio.org](http://www.reportorio.org).

**Deadline 5/01/05.** Robert R. Lehan Playwriting Award for One-Act Plays. [jshea@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:jshea@wsc.ma.edu).

**Deadline 5/01/05.** Whip City Radio Drama Award. [jshea@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:jshea@wsc.ma.edu).

**Deadline 5/31/05.** Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. [www.ugapress.org](http://www.ugapress.org).

**Deadline 6/01/05.** Children's New Script Contest. [www.southwest-theater.com](http://www.southwest-theater.com).

**Deadline 6/01/05.** Chicano/Latino Literary Prize for poetry. [www.hnet.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/contest.html](http://www.hnet.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/contest.html).

**Deadline 6/01/05.** Christopher Brian Wolk Award. [www.abingdon-nyc.org](http://www.abingdon-nyc.org).

**Deadline 6/01/05.** Actors' Playhouse National Children's Theatre Festival. [www.actorsplayhouse.org](http://www.actorsplayhouse.org).

**Deadline 6/30/05.** Delacorte Dell Yearling Contest for contemporary or historical fiction. [www.randomhouse.com/kids](http://www.randomhouse.com/kids).

**Deadline 6/30/05.** Musical Theatre Development Program. [www.wcensemble.org](http://www.wcensemble.org).

**Deadline 7/01/05.** Henrico Theatre Company Playwriting Competition. [www.co.henrico.va.us/rec](http://www.co.henrico.va.us/rec).

**Deadline 7/15/05.** North Carolina New Play Project. [www.playwrightsforum.org](http://www.playwrightsforum.org).

**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

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

Barbara Dubois has two poetry chapbooks published, *The Greek Suite* and *Country Style*.

Melody Groves announces the release of her second Western novel, *Sonoran Rage*, which she writes under the pen name Mesa Dean. In addition, all five of her Western novels, beginning with *The Quest*, have been contracted to be published as audiobooks, the first available in June. Also, she now writes for *abqARTS* magazine. The March issue features her story *Pillars of the Community*. She will also be speaking at the Albuquerque Writers to Writers meeting on March 14 and at the Festival of the West in Phoenix March 17-20. Check out her new website: [www.melodygroves.com](http://www.melodygroves.com).

June Walker was interviewed by *Business Week* in the February 14th issue *Don't Write Off That Tax Write-Off*. She also wrote an article for *The Crafts Report* magazine, published in the February 2005 issue *Extensions: Good and Good For You*. And she was interviewed by Santa Fe KSFR-FMs Diego Mulligan on *The Journey Home* show on February 23rd.

Jeannine Van Eperen has already received three glowing reviews on her historical romance *Trail to Bliss* published by Awe-Struck on January 28, 2005. She also received two great reviews on her recently published contemporary romance *Love and All That Jazz*.

Jamie Morris has landed a huge contract with Harper Collins that permit her to write full time.

Albert M. Balesh, MD's latest medical article *Terminator versus Defibrillator* appeared in an early February 2005 edition of the *West Texas County Courier* newspaper in Horizon City, TX.

Kate Booth Doyle has poetry published in the *Willow Creek Journal*.

Regis McCafferty published two books in 2004: *The Sherlock Holmes Adventure*, a collection of short stories featuring Joshua Pitt, Victorian inquiry agent, and *Another View From The Park*, collected poems. He is currently working on a sequel to *Bugs: A Hays McKay Mystery*, published in 2003 and a second collection of short stories featuring Joshua Pitt.

Judith Avila's story *The Reluctant Snake Charmer* was published in the February 2005 issue of *New Mexico Magazine*.

Darren Moore made the top ten (6th out of 143 entries) in the 2004 Science Fiction Writers of Earth SF/F Short Story Contest.

Congrats to Marc Calderwood for receiving the Grand Prize in America Gem's Short Script Contest.



**Your successes could be on this page and our world-wide 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!**

SWW Financial Report  
Loretta Hall, SWW Treasurer

In accordance with Article V, Section 5, Paragraph D8 of SWW's Bylaws, I hereby submit the Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2004, to be published in the March 2005 newsletter.

Statement of Financial Condition  
(Balance Sheet)  
January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Bank of America Checking	\$ 620.96
AG Edwards Money Market	25,162.61
Postage Bulk Mail Fund	<u>335.47</u>

Total Current Assets \$ 26,119.04

Property and Equipment:

Furniture and Fixtures	9,673.43
Computers	5,434.03
Building Improvements	45.10
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(14,707.00)</u>

Total Property and Equipment 445.56

Total Assets \$26,564.60

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Liabilities:

Taxes Payable	\$ 477.44
Future Year Dues	<u>5,150.00</u>

Total Liabilities 5,627.44

Capital:

R/E, Restrict, Scholarships	185.00
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	15,203.66
Current Year Funds Increase	<u>5,548.50</u>

Total Capital 20,937.16

Total Liabilities and Capital \$26,564.60

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

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

## Recent Board Meeting Highlights

- ◆ Board extended a scholarship for the Feb. 19th conference to a young writer & Mission School student.
- ◆ Lynn Paskind's plan to continue the Marty Award for Journalism for young writers in memory of her husband Martin Paskind was accepted. She will administer the contest under the auspices of SWW for 2005.
- ◆ Plans for a membership drive are taking shape. Benefits to members are increasing, i.e. a new 20% discount at *Bound to Be Read*.
- ◆ SWW will share a booth at the May 7th Cottonwood Mall Book Fair.
- ◆ The SWW website received over 78 thousand "page requests" in January. Membership chair Lila Anastas will be contacting the members whose memberships have lapsed each month to encourage them to renew.
- ◆ The Amazon logo is now prominent on the website so that members will order their books and movies through the SWW website—a source of a little income for SWW.

Minutes of all Board meetings are available at the SWW Office during office hours: M-F, 9am-noon.

### President

*Rob Spiegel*

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

### VP/Office Coordinator/Parliamentarian

*Larry Greenly*

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

### Secretary

*Sandy Schairer*

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

### Treasurer

*Loretta Hall*

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

### Membership

*Lila Anastas*

(505) 797-5452 · LilaAnastas@southwestwriters.com

### Public Relations

*Melody Groves*

MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

### SWW Sage Editor/Website Coordinator

*Cliff Gravel*

(505) 888-1747 · CliffGravel@southwestwriters.com

### Critique Service

*Edith Greenly*

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

### Policies, Procedures, and Audit/Historian

*Lela Belle Wolfert*

(505) 899-2952

### Volunteer Coordinator

*Cal Coates*

(505) 323-4929 · CDCoates@southwestwriters.com

### Members At Large

*Judy Ducharme*

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

### Other Key Positions

#### E-lert Mistress

*Gail Rubin*

publicity@southwestwriters.org

#### Writer's Contest 2005 Co-Chairs

*David Corwell*

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

*Joan Marsh*

(505) 865-1110 · JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

#### Speaker Coordinator

*Larry Greenly*

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

#### Interim Conference Chair

*Lela Belle Wolfert*

(505) 899-2952

#### Nomination Committee Chair

*Fred Aiken*

(505) 856-2145 · FredAiken@southwestwriters.com

## The SouthWest Sage

SouthWest Writers  
3721 Morris NE  
Albuquerque NM 87111  
www.southwestwriters.org  
SWriters@aol.com

See your membership card for renewal date.  
Renew to retain your membership benefits.



The SouthWest Writers Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing.

Cash prizes in numerous categories.

Professional judges and critiquers.

Winners' names published on the Internet.

Top prize: \$1,000.

