



The SouthWest Sage

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The Voice of SouthWest Writers

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

A Penny for Your Thoughts?

by Shirley Raye-Redmond

Would you like to get paid \$1000 for a short piece that requires no research, no interviewing, and no glossy photos? Opinion essays are “hot” and no longer confined to the editorial pages of newspapers. Even lifestyle publications are begging for readers’ views. *Woman’s Day* paid me \$2000 for an 850-word “Back Talk” article. More sentimental than opinionated? Try your hand at writing slice-of-life essays. *Better Homes & Gardens* wants short 400-word essays for the “Then and Now” department. The pay is \$1000 for well-crafted, poignant pieces.

But don’t make the mistake of thinking these essays are as easy to write as a journal entry. They aren’t. Use the following guidelines to ensure that your essay is marketable.

Develop a thought-provoking thesis. The thesis is like a coat hanger, and your essay is the garment. If your coat hanger is flimsy, the garment will fall off onto the floor. “Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States” is *not* a thesis. It is a fact. On the other hand, “Thomas Jefferson was the most creative, versatile and hypocritical president we’ve ever had” *is* a thesis. It expresses an opinion. Your task is to persuade the reader to agree with you.

Strive for originality. You’ll need an original slant, if you want to catch the eye of the “I’ve-seen-it-all” editor. Not long ago, I sold an opinion essay about excessive television viewing to *The Christian Science Monitor*. Sure, it’s a timeworn topic, but I took an unusual approach:

“Attention disorders, increased violence, and promiscuous sexuality—these are just a few of the social ills that have

been blamed on increased television viewing. While I admit to being disturbed by these, there is another side effect that people seldom study—the demise of old-fashioned hospitality.”

This was definitely a new twist, the editor told me in a note accompanying the check.

Match the essay to the market. Editors at *Family Fun Magazine* pay \$1500 for their parent-to-parent “Family Ties” essays. But they are not receptive to the same topics that appeal to the editor at *Newsweek*, who pays \$1000 for hard-hitting, timely essays for the “My Turn” column. Your intended market will also, to some extent, dictate the tone and style you should use while writing your essay. Some editors prefer a casual, conversational approach. Others want more of a hard-hitting, journalistic thrust. Some prefer a wistfully nostalgic tone.

Maintain focus. Just because you’ve written to the word limit, don’t assume that you’ve “stayed on task.” Reread your essay. Have you restricted your essay to one thesis? Have you padded your piece with a lot of fluff? Is it written in such a way that there can only be one interpretation of your argument?

If you follow these guidelines before serving up that slice-of-life essay or opinion piece, an editor will be more than willing to pay for your well-crafted thoughts.

Shirley Raye Redmond has sold more than 400 magazine and newspaper articles and ten books—two have surpassed 100,000 copies sold. Her next slice-of-life essay will appear in the May issue of Romantic Homes.

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



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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.

Contest Connection

by Joanne Bodin, SWW 2006 Contest Chair

Sharpened your plot points? Defined the theme, premise, and dramatic action? Fixed the elements of your story line? Then you're ready to submit the first twenty(20) pages of your screenplay to the SWW contest. No stage plays or TV series, please.

Think critically about the act of screenwriting. Your entry will be evaluated for originality, proper formatting, structure, dialogue, and character/script development.

Linda Seger has worked as a script consultant since 1983 and is an honored speaker at the Director's Guild, the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences, and the American Film Institute. She is the author of several acclaimed books on screenwriting and has created a list of **ten(10) elements needed in the first twenty(20) pages of a screenplay:**

1. If possible, start with an image that is a metaphor for your story. Look at the opening of *Dead Poet's Society* to see how the image of tradition will then contrast with images of creativity.

2. Let us know the context, the world of your story. Don't presume we already know it.

3. Get a strong event, a catalyst, into the story within 10-15 pages to start the story. Up until the catalyst, you mainly have context.

4. Introduce your major character. Give him/her a strong introduction. Want to see a good one? Look at how John Book is introduced in *Witness* (a photographer's flash goes off as he comes through the door!).

5. You might want to think about where your credits come during the beginning. You have the alternative of the movie starting before credits, under credits, or after credits. Credits can be useful to help you structure your story and give it a strong visual opening.

6. Make sure we know who people are through dialogue, not just through description. That means finding creative ways to get their names out to the audience without saying, "John, meet Mary, an interior designer who's very good!"

7. Find a way to introduce your characters that is positive. If we hate them right away, we won't un-hate them later. Even if they're flawed, make sure we like the people we're supposed to root for. Watch the beginning of *Romancing the Stone*

to see how the cat made Joan Wilder more sympathetic.

8. Think of sequences of scenes, not just individual scenes. Get the story moving by showing how each scene is connected to the next and the next, in a kind of action-reaction sequence.

9. Bring movement into the beginning of your story. If your characters move, we move. Sometimes just having a character come in the door, rather than CUT TO character standing or sitting, can help.

10. Don't forget the three rules of screenwriting: Structure, Structure, Structure. Give us a good catalyst, strong development in Act One, and don't forget your 1st Turning Point!

Contest Tips:

Remember to submit the first 20 pages (we changed this from last year's first 30 pages of the screenplay); **also, submit a one page single-spaced synopsis that tells the complete story. Use accepted screenplay format. Use 12 pt. Courier only and remember you MUST bind the manuscript 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.**

There are many books and software packages available to assist you. These are just a few:

-Cooper, Dona. *Writing Great Screenplays for Film and TV*. American Film Institute

-Reichman, Rick. *Formatting Your Screenplay*. New York: Paragon House, 1992

-Seger, Linda. *Making a Good Script Great*. Hollywood: Samuel French, 1994

-Seger, Linda. *Advanced Screenwriting: Raising Your Script to the Academy Award Level*

-Seger, Linda. *Creating Unforgettable Characters*

-Tottier, David. *The Screen Writer's Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting, and Selling Your Script*.

This month's Contest Connection features information compiled by Joan Marsh, last year's contest co-chair. Joan's article refers to Linda Seger's ten elements needed in the first 20 pages of a screenplay. Joanne Bodin is the SWW 2006 Contest Chair.

New SWW Email Address is Here

SouthWest Writers has retired its old AOL address, and has replaced it with SWWriters@juno.com. 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.*

Program for Writers University of New Mexico Writer's Seminar

The second annual University of New Mexico Writer's Seminar will take place April 29, 2006 at University of New Mexico's Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Ave NE in Albuquerque.

8:15-8:30 a.m. Late registrations for One-on-One Pitch

8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration and Supplies

9:05-9:10 a.m. Welcome with Dora Delgado Raby, Director of Continuing Education

9:10-9:15 a.m. Let SouthWest Writers Help You Larry Greenly, President

9:15-9:25 a.m. Introduction of Faculty Eileen Stanton, Director of

Seminar

9:30-10:45 a.m. Panel of Agents and Editors: What You Should Know

Tracy Bernstein, Ex. Editor at NAL

Sha-Shana Crichton, Agent and President of Crichton Literary Agency

Jim McCarthy, Agent with Dystel & Groderich Literary Management Agency

Shannon Jamieson Vasquez, Associate Editor at Bantam Dell

Stephen Laresse, Editor for *New Mexico Magazine*

Eileen Stanton, Moderator

10:45-11:00 a.m. Break

11:00-12:00 a.m. *Sex & the Witty*, Mary Lynn

If You've Seen One Magazine, You've Seen . . . One Magazine, Lee Maynard

12:00-1:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15-2:15 p.m. *Every Book's a Mystery*, Paula Paul

Writing Can Be Taxing, Pt. 1, Ted Lynn

2:15-3:15 p.m. *Every Page Perfect*, Mary Lynn

Writing From Your Gut (How To Get Banned in Your Own Backyard), Lee Maynard

3:15-4:15 p.m. *Heroes and Villains*, Paula Paul

4:15-5:00 p.m. *How to Cash in on the Needs of Spanish Readers*, Raquel Troyce

Re-Slant and Re-sell Your Articles, Eileen Stanton

5:15 p.m. *The Last Word* Auditorium

Throughout the day, Editors and Agents will meet on a one-on-one basis at separate tables in a room set up for this purpose. Attendees may only sign up for one person of their choice. But you can sit with other speakers at lunch and ask questions during the panel and talks.

To register, call (505)277-0077.

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.

Let's Talk About...

by Judy Ducharme

Who Will Judge My Short Story?

One of the ongoing problems with the SWW Annual Contest has been short stories being entered in the wrong category. Volunteers are busy codifying the entries and cannot read all of them to determine that they are in the correct category.

A short story was entered in the genre—romance category in which a young runaway was met at a train by a pregnant, married woman. It may be women's fiction, but it is not romance. Romance is when two people are in love, encounter obstacles, and overcome them to a happy ending. Mystery short stories have at least one murder off-stage, and an official investigating with the help of a civilian (cozy). The murder(s) can also take place on stage (hardboiled). The case is usually murder, and is solved on the last page, allowing the reader to try detecting the perpetrator.

These are my definitions, gleaned from many famous writers:

-Science Fiction is taking technology, usually on the cutting edge, and extrapolating it logically. Think Star Trek.

-Fantasy is characterized by improbable, fanciful or supernatural beings and events.

-Horror short fiction scares or terrifies the reader with evil events in a "real" situation.

-Westerns are set in the 1800s. Historical Westerns involve a real historical event woven into the story.

-Historical stories jump off from any historical event.

Please feel free to contact the office at (505)265-9485 if you need help. You want an experienced judge in your genre to read your submission.

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 Nelly or Elena at Baci'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

Myths About Writing with Jerry Weinberg February 4, 2006

Gerald M. Weinberg has written 40 books and 400 articles, while assisting others to write about 100 books through his writing classes, titled *The Fieldstone Method*. Around 120 attendees benefited from his years of teaching experience at the SouthWest Writers program on February 4. His explanations of the myths of writing should help all of us write better.

Myth 1: "Write about what you know." Write about what you want to know about, or an idea that you care about.

Myth 2: "Write one thing at a time." Finish before beginning another. Have many projects going at the same time. All will be finished in due time.

Myth 3: "Start with an outline." Start with an exciting idea that stirs your emotions.

Myth 4: "There is a shortage of good ideas." Not true.

Myth 5: "Write at the same time every day." Write on the project that calls you to write about it, whenever there is time.

Myth 6: "Writer's Block exists and I suffer from it." Jerry's theory is that it is a motivational problem. Just pick up another project until the problem on which you're stuck is resolved.

Jerry explained that motivation, organization and innovation keep a person writing. Lack of motivation may be from not writing what you care about. Jerry went into the Fieldstone method of writing. Gather the stones (or ideas) from anywhere: words, quotes, pictures, something out of place, etc, then keep them in a pile. Jerry records his ideas with one of the two pens he always carries and writes them on his ever-present note cards. He then puts them on his computer in categorized fields. He builds his "wall," a piece of writing, stone by stone.

If you missed the meeting, purchase *Weinberg on Writing: The Fieldstone Method*. Dorset House Publishing. \$24.95.

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, 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; and 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.

Tuesday, March 21, 7 pm-9 pm

Writing the Non-Fiction Book Proposal

Panelists include Larry Greenly, Loretta Hall, and Rob Spiegel

The good news for those selling non-fiction books is that in most cases you don't have to write the darn thing until you have a contract (and hopefully an advance) from a publisher. The not-so-good news is that you will undoubtedly have to write a book proposal to get that contract. Here's a panel discussion that explores the intricacies of how to put together a winning non-fiction proposal from three panelists who have spent way too many hours buried in the tedious process. We can't promise you that writing your book proposal will be fun, but we can give you critical pointers to help make sure you're on the road to success.

Saturday, April 1, 10 am-noon

Open Poetry Reading

Please join our annual open poetry reading, which opens Poetry Month. Readers must be Southwest Writers members. We take readers on a first-come, first served basis. Call the Southwest Writers office weekdays from 9 am-noon, or sign up at one of our meetings.

Saturday, April 1, 1-4 pm

SWW Workshop—Dazzling Description: How to Show, Not Tell

You've been told, “Show, Don't Tell.” Now learn how. Kirkus Reviews praised Chris Eboch's middle grade novel, *The Well of Sacrifice*, for its “richly textured depiction of ancient Mayan society.” Learn her secrets in this fun, hands-on-pen workshop. Make your settings sparkle, your characters come alive, and your emotions explode on the page through a series of fun writing exercises exploring all five senses. We'll also discuss body language, and what point of view really means.

Chris Eboch is the author of *The Well of Sacrifice* (Clarion Books), a middle grade historical adventure set in ninth century Guatemala. Kirkus Reviews called *The Well of Sacrifice* “[An] engrossing first novel...The novel shines not only for a faithful recreation of an unfamiliar, ancient world, but also for the introduction of a brave, likable and determined heroine.” Eboch teaches writing through the Institute of Children's Literature, and she has led dozens of writing workshops. Her writing articles include “The Hollywood Touch” and “How to Succeed at a Conference” (*Writer's Digest*) and “Putting the Story in History” (*Byline*). She is the New Mexico Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. See her website at www.chriseboch.com.

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 1st place contest winner** within the same category. 2nd and 3rd place previous contest winners may enter contest again. One copy of your entry will go to the judge, and one copy will be critiqued by a qualified consultant, both selected by SWW for the entry category.
3. **Category number:** Write on the outside envelope, under your return address.
4. **SASE:** Please include a 9" x 12" return envelope with the same amount of postage used to mail in your entry. A critique and all contents of your submission package will be returned to you. NO metered postage on return envelopes, and please use self-sealing (non-moisture) SASEs. **Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.** **Optional:** Self-addressed, stamped postcard to be returned to you upon receipt of your entry.
5. **Your name** must appear in **only four (4) locations:** (1) on the Contest Entry Form; (2) on the outside envelope with your return address; (3) on the SASE; and (4) on the optional notification postcard. **Your entry will be disqualified if your name appears elsewhere.**
6. **Your signature** and the signature of the co-author, if applicable, **MUST** appear on the Contest Entry Form.

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

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

SouthWest Writers Contest 2006

The SouthWest Writers Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHORT NONFICTION:(put word count upper right corner)

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

OTHER:

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

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

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

General Information:

Photocopies are acceptable.

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

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

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

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

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

Formatting Information:

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

Double space manuscripts and poetry.

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

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

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

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

Single space query letters and synopses.

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

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

Double space proposals.

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

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

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

How to Write a Book Proposal by Michael Larsen;

Writing the Nonfiction Book by Eva Shaw;

Every Page Perfect by Mary Lynn;

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

Writing A to Z, edited by Kirk Polking; and

Formatting Your Screenplay, by Rick Reichman.

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail Address _____
Entry Title: _____

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

How did you hear about the contest? _____

Entry Fees (NON-REFUNDABLE) Please circle one.

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

Mail by May 1, 2006

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

Mail To: **SouthWest Writers Contest 2006**
3721 Morris NE, Suite A
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

Contestant's Agreement

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

*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.

*Joint book signing with Jennifer McKerley (Man O' War: The Greatest Race Horse Ever-Random) and Shirley-Raye Redmond (Patriots in Petticoats-Random) at Barnes and Noble in the Coronado Center on Friday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, March 25 at 1:00 p.m., Shirley-Raye will share successful research tips with members of Croak & Dagger, the Albuquerque chapter of Sisters in Crime.

*Tom Gibbons is the managing editor of Photo Journal, newspaper and sister publication to Camera Arts Magazine. Photo Journal runs Informative articles about the craft of photography. Contact tomg@photojournalsw.com for submission guidelines.

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 SWWriters@juno.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

Contests

**The SWW International
Monthly Writing Competition**

You don't have to be an SWW member to enter, but SWW members do enjoy a reduced entry fee.

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)

Statement of Financial Condition

January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Bank of America Checking	2,216.99
AG Edwards Money Market	28,854.16
Postage Bulk Mail Fund	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	\$31,071.15

Property and Equipment:

Furniture and Fixtures	9,673.43
Computers	5,434.03
Building Improvements	0.00
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(14,521.00)</u>
Total Property and Equipment	586.46

Total Assets \$31,657.61

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Liabilities:

Taxes Payable	213.59
Total Liabilities	<u>213.59</u>

Capital:

R/E, Restrict, Scholarships	185.00
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	21,429.47
Current Year Funds Increase	<u>9,829.55</u>

Total Capital \$31,444.02

Total Liabilities and Capital \$31,657.61

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

Al Steeves won the Editor’s Choice Award for August at www.poetry.com for “On a Painted Rose.” Steeves also won first place for his poem “Chispas,” in the non-fiction poetry category at the San Antonio Writers Guild annual contest.

Lola R. Eagle has sold a poem entitled "Patience" to *Mature Years* magazine. Her short story “Holiday From Hell” appeared in the January 2006 issue of *True Romance* magazine. A review of her book *From The Eye of an Eagle* appeared in the November 2005 issue of *True Romance* magazine.

Barbara Villemez won an Honorable Mention award for a mainstream/literary short story *Mama's Things* in the 74th Annual Writer's Digest Competition. There were 18,000 entries overall, and “Mama’s Things” made the top 100.

Dennis Herrick’s short story “Mountain Spirit” was published in the December 2005 issue of *Midwest* literary magazine.

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
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for appointment and prices

Need a new book?
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505-836-5182
Jennie

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

Any Genre in Las Cruces:

Barbara Villemez
(505) 522-5734

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

Betta Ferrendelli

Adalucia Quan

Carolyn Flower

Jonathan Flower

Chuck Scott

Virginia DeBolt

Kelly Eagle

Marlene Kenney

David Bushmire

Sharon Anderson

Lisa Abeyta

Jarie Kovac

Bill Kovac

Seth Williams

Maxine Davenport

Kristin Martinez

Dewey Johnson

Barbara Baird

Albert Steeves

Joan Saks Berman

Sally-Alice Thompson

Sandy Szwarc

Douglas Flax

Kristin Dyer

Ron Wood

Donah Grassman

Rebecca Bannon

**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
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**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

-Treasurer Loretta Hall, and President (and Office Coordinator) Larry Greenly are learning the computer program *Quickbooks* for the office bookkeeping.

-The Proposed Budget for 2006 was unanimously approved. (It can be amended with board approval throughout the year—if the need arises.)

-Membership has been over 550 and now approaching 600. Larry Greenly e-mails people when their membership is about to expire to remind them to renew. Members are encouraged to renew before their membership lapses.

-SouthWest Writers Critique service received 32 critiques in 2005. The service has proven to be popular. Submissions have come from all over the United States and other countries. New: A critiquer has been recruited for manuscripts in Spanish.

-Feb. 18th Conference featuring agents Anne Hawkins and Doris Booth advance registration was good.

-Ron Schultz lines-up volunteers to “work” at the tables and front door and provide refreshments. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ron.

-New email address is now in effect: SWWriters@juno.com

-Joanne Bodin reported that Spanish category in the contest is beneficial for the organization. Formatting tips for the Annual Contest appear in the Sage and on the website.

-An official procedure for the book table is in the works to better serve the membership and authors selling and purchasing books. A one-dollar donation per book comes from each sale to SWW.

-SWW member Eileen Stanton’s writers’ conference at UNM is April 29th. Judy Ducharme will take the SWW storyboard to the conference and speak about SouthWest Writers while there.

-The monthly writing competition is underway.

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

President/Office Coordinator

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

Vice President

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

Secretary/Parliamentarian

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

Treasurer

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

Membership

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

Public Relations

Melody Groves
MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

Critique Service

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

Policies Procedures, and Audit

Lela Belle Wolfert
(505) 899-2952

Volunteer Coordinator

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

Bylaws Chair

Joan Marsh
JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

Conference Chair and Historian

Judy Ducharme
(505) 256-9659 ·

JudyDucharme@southwestwriters.com

Board Member at Large

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

Keith Pyeatt
(505)890-5545 · Keith@KeithPyeatt.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-lerc 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.

Dazzling Description: How to Show, Not Tell SouthWest Writers Workshop Saturday, April 1, 1-4 p.m.

You've been told, "Show, Don't Tell." Now learn how. Kirkus Reviews praised Chris Eboch's middle grade novel, *The Well of Sacrifice*, for its "richly textured depiction of ancient Mayan society." Learn her secrets in this fun, hands-on-pen workshop. Make your settings sparkle, your characters come alive, and your emotions explode on the page through a series of fun writing exercises exploring all five senses. We'll also discuss body language, and what point of view really means.

Chris Eboch is the author of *The Well of Sacrifice* (Clarion Books), a middle grade historical adventure set in ninth century Guatemala. Kirkus Reviews called *The Well of Sacrifice* "[An] engrossing first novel. . . . The novel shines not only for a faithful recreation of an unfamiliar, ancient world, but also for the introduction of a brave, likable and determined heroine." Eboch teaches writing through the Institute of Children's Literature, and she has led dozens of writing workshops. Her writing articles include "The Hollywood Touch" and "How to Succeed at a Conference" (*Writer's Digest*) and "Putting the Story in History" (*Byline*). She is the New Mexico Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. See her website at www.chriseboch.com.