



The SouthWest Sage

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The Voice of SouthWest Writers

March 2007

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

The Worth of the Wicked

by Stephanie D. Tyson

Sometimes writers mistakenly devote most of their attention to developing the main character while leaving the antagonist flat and underutilized. Yet so much of the meat of a story can be found in the doings of a well-written bad guy who experiences hatred, pain, torment, and even the opportunity for rehabilitation.

A character's hatred can be triggered by a variety of circumstances, big or seemingly insignificant. Perhaps someone once neglected to offer him a ride home from work, or kicked his dog, or even killed his sister in an unforeseen accident. Whatever the hatred is, it must be visible to the reader right from the start. Even if the antagonist is able to maintain the subterfuge in outward appearances that he is a good guy, writers should weave in hints of his true shady character for readers to detect. It is never a good idea to blindside an audience with an action that seems to have no actual potential of happening until BOOM, it's there.

Be it mentally or physically, we have all felt pain at one time or another. It is up to the writer whether or not the antagonist shows his pain. The pain could be pushed down deep inside, thus helping to fuel the ember of discontent into a bright flame of hate. Maybe an accident several years ago left him alone, or with a defect that has made getting a decent job difficult. Perhaps at a young age he was bitten by a rabid raccoon, or forced to care for an ailing parent that had no hope of recovery. There are countless painful reasons why a person could lose his or her sense of what's good in the world.

Torment plagues most protagonists from time to time. Bad guys should experience torment as much as, if not more than, the good guys. Torment is what keeps that dark flame of hate burning like a wildfire. Maybe it springs from letting a girl he truly loves slip through his fingers or from the investment he scoffed at that has made others millions. True torment lies deep within, and it's something he refuses to acknowledge even when faced with his own demise at the hands of the hero. It is the driving force that keeps his goals at the front of his thoughts at all times.

Keep in mind that the antagonist doesn't always have to be the one readers love to hate. Maybe as the story progresses so does his rehabilitation from hate. He might find himself helping others because of an experience he had, or nagging thoughts at the back of his mind. Gradually, a begrudging hero could emerge. He becomes the guy readers hate to love, yet can't help but admire anyway.

No matter what the root causes of the antagonist's actions are, it's important to develop them as much as the protagonist's. Readers then can find things to hate and relate to in both types of characters. They can contrast each character's motives and decide for themselves whom to root for. Likely they'll choose the hero, but who knows? If you've developed the antagonist well enough, probably they'll find something in the bad guy worth cheering for after all.

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Stephanie D. Tyson has loved writing as far back as he can remember. She is awaiting the release of his first book, *Gatekeepers: The Dragon Tower*. She's always had a special place for the 'antagonists' in stories, though she realizes that ultimately the hero needs to win.

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 editor@southwestwriters.com.



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Volunteers Needed!

SouthWest Writers is creating a Speaker’s Bureau of published authors of either magazines and/or books. We are targeting the Albuquerque public schools (middle and high) to begin our voyage into this uncharted territory. We have notified the appropriate schools that we do not expect our speakers to be paid, but we would like the school to notify their parent teacher organization or parent teacher association and allow the writer to let the students know where their publications may be purchased. Books will not be sold at the school. We’re looking at speaking for about 30-45 minutes and would mainly center around the art of writing and what it takes to be a writer. Conditions may vary depending on the school.

If you are interested in putting your name on the list, please contact Melody Groves, Public Relations Chairman, at melodygroves@comcast.net. If you prefer one area of the city, please indicate which one.

Thank you for volunteering. Who knows? The next JK Rowling may be in the audience.

From the editor

Spring Cleaning

Think of this month's issue as the SouthWest Writers to-do list. It is packed with contests and workshops; there are classes on memoirs, short stories, screenplays, historical fiction and children's stories. We have experts in business writing, people to guide you in character development and a workshop in aggressive marketing strategies.

Also, information on the huge 2007 Annual Contest is inside. The contest covers an incredibly broad spectrum of genres, but you should also peruse the list of contests Keith Pyeatt has compiled this month. He offers up everything from novels to 300-word short stories.

Whether it's that finished manuscript collecting dust or sharpening your characters, it's time to roll up your sleeves, uncap a felt-tip pen and start circling classes you need and the contests you'd like to enter. It's time to get ready for spring cleaning.

April 14 to May 19 (six sessions), Saturdays 11am to 1 pm

Workshop: The Heart of Memoir

This weekly class will begin by helping you, the writer, discover what exactly IS the story you want to tell, and end with a complete and detailed outline of your memoir. We will examine key life turning points to discover the "golden thread" of your life and create a user-friendly "map" to help you complete the journey of writing your memoir. Come prepared to crack yourself open in a safe and contained environment. Participants must be willing to dig into the depths of who they are and trust that what they find holds meaning enough to share.

In 1998, **Dina (McQueen) Wolff** received her M.A. in Biography/Autobiography from Vermont's Goddard College. During her graduate studies, Dina discovered her Grandfather Wolff's autobiography. She designed and self-published the book, which was released under her then imprint, Authentic Publishing, in 2000. Since then, Dina has helped many writers discover what their story is, how to organize an outline to facilitate the writing of it, acted as their chapter-by-chapter editor, and designed and published their books.

Her publishing history includes fiction and poetry in *Neologisms*, *Red Dancefloor Press*, *Messages from the Heart*, *Bohemian Chronicle*, *Inside/Outside Magazine*, and *Crankmail*. Her nonfiction has appeared in national travel magazines, and regional newspapers. Dina is the 2006 Discovery Award winner in the category of fiction.

This class is \$200 for SWW members, \$250 for non-members (includes SWW membership) minimum 6, maximum 14 students. Please visit www.highbelow.com for class syllabus and information about Dina's work.

George Terrell

Novel and Short Story Author and Playwright

See My Web Site:

www.George-Terrell.com

Intellectual Property Services for Writers

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Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership?

SWW dues are \$60 per year (or \$100 for 2 years).
Two individuals joining or renewing together get a special rate of \$50 each.

Full-time students under 18 with proof of status and current 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

Writing Short Stories

Everyone has stories to tell. Come to this class and begin yours! As we move from using ideas as springboards to selling completed pieces in the marketplace, you will learn how to get started, tackle common writing dilemmas, develop the structure of your story, and be well underway on a project of your own. And with plenty of time to enter the SWW annual contest!

David J. Corwell's short fiction has appeared in *Dead in Thirteen Flashes* and *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*. His writing has won five national writing awards, including the 2003 SWW Storyteller Award. He recently finished his first novel and received his M. A. in Writing Popular Fiction at Seton Hill University. David is also a graduate of the Odyssey Fantasy Writing Workshop and the Borderlands Press Writer's Boot Camp. He has been a critiquer for the annual SWW writing contest and critique service and a panelist at SWW writing conferences.

This course is on Wednesdays, March 14, 21, and 28, from 7 to 9pm at the SouthWest Writers' office:

3721 Morris NE, Suite A
(north of Comanche on the West side of Morris)

The cost is \$45.00. Call 505-265-9485 for more information.

Free Professional Email Address for SWW Members

You can give editors, agents, and booksellers an address like JoeSmith@southwestwriters.com and their messages will be automatically forwarded to your existing address.

Send an e-mail message to LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com, including your choice of SWW address and your existing e-mail address.

Conference for Children's Writers and Illustrators

This April 13 and 14, New York will come to New Mexico for a conference that happens each spring, and it is always a big hit!

Attention editors and book designers: Come to the fifth annual Handsprings Conference, a two-day event co-sponsored by the New Mexico chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI-NM) and SouthWest Writers.

After last year's Handsprings Conference, writer-illustrator Jan Thomas of Socorro was offered a two-book deal by the visiting editor. Jan says, "I learned so much about every aspect of the children's book market at the Handsprings Conference. I got my book in front of an editor, and to my amazement, got a contract!"

This year, the Big Apple publishing business will visit the Duke City in the form of Mark McVeigh, senior editor at Dutton Children's Books; Laurent Linn, senior designer at Henry Holt books; and Krista Marino, editor at Knopf Delacorte Dell will all speak at the conference. Also featured are New Mexico's own Katherine Hauth, Kristin Litchman, and Sally Blakemore who will lead workshops on writing, illustrating and marketing. Participants also enjoy plenty of time to network.

Conference attendees can sign up for manuscript critiques with one of the editors. Illustrators can schedule portfolio reviews with the Senior Designer. It's a rare chance to get professional feedback. "Anyone who attends the conference can submit work to these people afterward, and it will get a closer look," says Chris Eboch, SCBWI-NM regional advisor and author of *The Well of Sacrifice*. Editor/Art Designer Consultation submissions are due March 18.

This year's conference includes the traditional Friday Night Party. Partygoers will also have time to meet and network with other local writers and illustrators, and to view the portfolio display by local illustrators. And, for the first time, the conference is introducing mini book launches, where authors can briefly introduce their published works.

The Handsprings Conference will be held at the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center, North Building, 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM. Writers and illustrators are invited, regardless of skill level. Download a brochure at the local website at www.scbwi-nm.org or write to Conference Registrar, 11 Arco NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

The early bird registration deadline is March 30. Prices range from \$90 - \$150 depending on membership status and registration date. The Friday evening party costs from \$15 - \$20. The sponsoring organization, the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) is an international organization with more than 18,000 members. New Mexico is home to 200 of those members.

Rick Reichman: Back by Popular Demand

Classes at SWW: Write the Great Screenplay

Learn:

Correct Formatting
The seven elements of every scene
The heroes Journey
Three-act structure and its eight major turning points
To create great film speak
To write compelling first scenes
To market your script

Rick Reichman's students have sold scripts to Fox, Warner Brothers, HBO, Showtime, and to such TV shows as Friends, Home Improvement, Roseanne, Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Xena Warrior Princess, and Strong Medicine, to name a few.

His students in Santa Fe are winning all kinds of screenwriting awards including The Manhattan (NY) Short Screenplay Contest, a semi-finalist in the Gimme Credit Screenplay Competition, a runner-up in the Upstart Short Script Competition, and an alternate in the Duke City Shootout. Two students placed as a finalist in the New Mexico's Governor's Cup, the 2005 Duke City Shoot Out, and one won the Hollywood Symposium Screenplay Competition and was a semi-finalist in Studio Notes' Screenplay Competition.

Reichman has optioned two feature scripts and has had produced several documentaries and training films. He has written two books on screenwriting. The first is *Formatting Your Screenplay* and his latest book, *20 Things You Must Know to Write a Great Screenplay*, is due out in May. His screenwriting articles have appeared in Creative Screening and *The Writer* magazine.

This 10 week screenwriting class meets for 2 hours each week from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the SWW Office at 3721 Morris NE Albuquerque. It begins Sunday evening March 18 and runs through Sunday May 27th. To learn more about the class call (505) 984-2927. To register call SWW at (505) 265-9485. The class is limited to 14 students and class seats are available on a first come first serve basis. The cost is \$175 for members and \$225 for non-members. Materials fee \$5. The non-member fee includes a discounted one-year membership to Southwest Writers.

Two Great Classes by Chris Eboch

Putting the Story in History

An historical setting can add extra dimensions to a story, but it can also bore the reader with too many irrelevant details. This workshop will cover the difference between historical fiction and history; what historical fiction can do; methods of historical research; how to make history come alive; and how to explain painful truths such as historical violence and racism. We'll explore developing ideas, plotting, building characters, and developing lifelike settings, through fun exercises. Bring your work in progress for tips on critiques and editing. This workshop is helpful to people writing nonfiction, memoirs or family histories as well as those writing historical fiction.

This class is on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:45 from March 20 to 27 and April 10-24 (5 weeks). The cost is \$145 for SWW members, \$195 nonmembers. Class size is a minimum of 8 students, maximum 14.

Writing for Children

Remember the magic of bedtime stories? When you write for children, you have the most appreciative audience in the world. But to reach that audience, you need to understand the business of writing for children, including the requirements for different genres, the age ranges, and markets. You also need to write fresh, dynamic stories, whether you're writing short stories, articles, picture books or novels. Bring your work in progress, or start new stories or articles. By the end of this class, you should have at least one piece ready for submission!

This class is on Tuesday afternoons from 3 to 4:30, March 20 to May 8 (8 weeks). The cost is \$175 for SWW members, \$225 nonmembers. Class size is a minimum of 8 students, maximum 14.

Chris Eboch is the author of *The Well of Sacrifice* (Clarion Books, 1999), a middle grade historical adventure set in nineteenth century Guatemala. *Kirkus Reviews* says, "Eboch crafts an exciting narrative with a richly textured depiction of ancient Mayan society." Eboch has also published five nonfiction books, with a fictionalized biography and a novel under contract.

She spans fiction and nonfiction, elementary school to high school. Her articles on writing have appeared in *Writer's Digest*, *Children's Writer* and *Byline*.

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 3 from 10am to noon

Covering the Business Beat: Strategies for Publishing What You Write

Stephanie Hainsfurther — a business journalist of 20 years — will talk to writers about the opportunities here in New Mexico and online for business articles. She'll discuss how to write effective articles and how to get them published in the top New Mexico publications.

Hainsfurther is a freelance business journalist and editor with 20 years of experience in article writing and placement.

From a background in small business management, she has written, pitched and published more than 650 articles in regional and national magazines and newspapers, and in international trade journals in the fields of the arts, architecture, utilities and energy, the environment, healthcare, retail and commercial real estate.

She is co-author of *Covering the Business Beat: Strategies for Publishing What You Write* (Purdue University Press, August 2004) with Emily Esterson.

Hainsfurther is the editor of *New Mexico Business Journal*. She also teaches writing to business people for Anderson Schools at UNM, in their certificate program and for their private corporate clients, and writes business features for clients such as the *Albuquerque Journal*/ and *Small Business Review online*.

Hainsfurther also is the author of *Pocket Gardening for Your Outdoor Living Spaces: Tips for creating the perfect garden in small places* (Hobby House Press, 2004). She is the Southwest region writer for *Gardening How-To* magazine, with more than 600,000 subscribers in the U.S. and Canada. She has a B.A. in English from St. Joseph College in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Tuesday, March 20 from 7 to 9pm

Think Before You Write

Bob Gassaway will present a program called "Think Before You Write" on March 20. Bob will discuss writing as problem solving, choosing the right words when you write, the linguistic wrongs that television teaches us, clearing your brain before you edit yourself, and managing your work as a writer.

Gassaway is a former journalist and journalism professor and a sociologist. He recently retired from the University of New Mexico where he taught writing and editing classes. He now is writing mystery novels. As a sociologist, he has studied the work of crime scene investigators in the Albuquerque Police Department and the work of forensic pathologists at the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator. He plans to draw on what he learned in his research in writing a series of police-procedural novels.

Saturday, April 7 from 10am to noon

Open Poetry Reading

April is Poetry Month. Each year in celebration, we hold an open poetry reading during our Saturday meeting. Readers need to register in advance in order to participate. SWW members who want to read can sign up by calling our office at 265-9485 or by sending an email to the address at the bottom of our website. There is a limited number of readers we can present during our meeting. So call or email us early, as we usually fill up quickly.

SouthWest Writers Workshops

All workshops are \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

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

Saturday, March 3 from 1 to 4pm

Selling Yourself in 60 Seconds or Less Pitching to producers, publishers and passers-by

This workshop will focus on how writers can pitch their projects. We will do case studies and critiques on several people's pitches in the room through role playing. Every attendee will get a free written evaluation of the pitch by **Jonathan Miller**.

Miller has four published books and has had his projects optioned on several occasions by Hollywood producers. He was an Associate Producer on the nationally syndicated show, *Arrest and Trial*. He holds the store sales records in stores all over America. He's a graduate of the Albuquerque Academy, Cornell, University of Colorado Law School and the American Film Institute.

This workshop is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members.

Saturday, April 7 from 1 to 4pm

Character Clinic

From picture books to adult fiction, the marketability of your writing depends on your skill at character creation. If your book is to be successful your characters must be real and robust enough to fight their way through a mountain of slush, and fresh enough capture an editor's jaded, word-weary heart.

This hands-on clinic will ensure that your characters are fully formed and ready to rumble their way to the best-seller list! We will explore:

The emotional contract between writer and reader—understanding the promises your characters must make to the reader in the first chapter, and how you keep those promises.

Characters as collaborative constructs—using your readers' own joys and sorrows to help them invest emotionally in your characters

Rags and ribbons, flesh and bones—making sure your characters are completely believable in the context of your book

Space is limited, so sign up early. Bring complete picture books (2000 words or less) or the first chapter of your novel and a synopsis, and get ready to shine.

Kersten Hamilton is a prolific writer known for her fast-paced storylines and dynamic characters. She is the author of twenty-four books for children and young adults, as well as articles and dramas for adults. The first two books of Hamilton's new mid-grade series, "Caleb Pascale and the Peculiar People" are now available from Standard Publications. Her second and third picture books from Viking will be available in 2008.

For more information on Hamilton or her books, visit kerstenhamilton.com

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

Contest Connection

by Jeanne Shannon



The deadline for 2007 contest entries is May 1, and it will be here before we know it—how time does fly! So it's not too early to start getting your entries ready and making sure you understand the contest rules and the guidelines for the category or categories you are entering. All the contest information including the entry form is posted on the website (www.southwestwriters.org) under **Annual Contest**. Some of that information is also being printed in this issue of the SouthWest Sage. Make sure you go over the *Tips and Resources* page.

Judges have been selected. (Remember, "Contacting a judge regarding your entry before the winners are announced is an automatic disqualification.") Here's the list:

Mainstream and Literary Novel, Danielle Svetcov, Literary Agent, Levine/Greenberg Literary Agency.

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel, Michelle Vega, Editorial Assistant, Berkley Editorial

Romance Novel, Pattie Steele-Perkins, Literary Agent, Steele-Perkins Literary Agency

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel, Elizabeth Evans, Literary Agent, Reece Halsey North Literary Agency

Historical/American Frontier/Western Novel, Allison Brandau, Editorial Assistant, Berkley Publishing Group

Middle Grade/Young Adult Novel, Erica Sussman, Assistant Editor, HarperCollins Children's Books

Inspirational or Spiritual Novel, Leis Pederson, Junior Editor, Berkley Publishing Group

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Short Story, Gavin Grant, Editor, Small Beer Press

Mainstream or Literary Short Story, John Daniel, Editor, Daniel & Daniel Publishers

Mystery or Romance Story, Andrew Gulli, Managing Editor, *The Strand Magazine*

Other Genres: Historical, Western, etc., Short Story, Fred Sauceman, Editor *Now & Then*

Middle Grade or Young Adult Short Story, May-May Sugihara, Editor, *SPIDER Magazine*

Nonfiction Article or Essay, Kathryn Compton, Editor-In-Chief, *GRIT, American Life and Traditions Magazine*

Children's Nonfiction Article, Judy Burke, Senior Editor, *Highlights For Children*

Nonfiction Book, Mike Larsen, Literary Agent, Larsen-Pomada Literary Agency

Middle Grade or Young Adult Mystery or Suspense, Michele Burke, Assistant Editor, Knopf Books For Young Readers

Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction), Michele Burke, Assistant Editor, Knopf Books For Young Readers

Screenplay, Christina Hamlett, Script Consultant, Pasadena, California

Poetry, Kathleen Burgess, Associate Editor, Pudding House Publications

Spanish Language Nonfiction Article or Essay, Maria de Los Angeles Ochoa, Managing Editor, *Américas Magazine* (publication of the Organization of American States)

If you have any questions about the contest, please contact me at js2007sww@yahoo.com. Good luck and keep writing!

General Entry Format Rules and Tips

Don't use a separate Title Page. Type the book/story/article title in CAPS, centered and halfway down the first page, then drop two double spaces to begin your text. Begin each subsequent chapter the same way.

Manuscripts and poetry must be printed in black ink with 12-point Times New Roman or Courier New. Screenplays must be printed in 12-point Courier New only. Paper clip your entry; no staples or binding, except for screenplay entries. Do not overuse question marks, exclamation points and parentheses. **Double space** manuscripts and proposals. **Single space** query letters and synopses. Poetry may be single-spaced.

For **manuscripts**, use a running header on the upper right with the title or key words and consecutive page numbers, beginning on page two. Headers must appear on every page except page one. Query letters, synopses, and proposals should also be numbered consecutively, but *separately* from the manuscript.

Query letters must be one 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 must be one page long and written in third-person, present tense. Include the ending.

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

Books on proper manuscript format:

- *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.

General Rules

Photocopies are acceptable. The Short Nonfiction Article or Essay can address *any* topic, but don't include charts or pictures. 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 times you may enter, but 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 be critiqued, but will NOT be judged. Contacting a judge regarding your entry before the winners are announced is an automatic disqualification.

See www.southwestwriters.org. Finalists are notified by mail and listed on the SWW website with the title of their entry. First, second and third place winners receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50, respectively. First place winners also compete for the **\$1000 Storyteller Award**. Winners are honored at a contest awards banquet (tba).

1. **Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2007 or they will be returned. No hand deliveries or E-mail submissions are accepted.
2. **Submit** two copies of your entry, which must be original, unpublished, unsold, and not optioned prior to May 1, 2007. Your entry **must not have been previously selected as a SWW 1st place contest winner** within the same category. One entry copy will be sent to the judge; the other will be critiqued by a qualified consultant.
3. **Write the Category Number** on the outside envelope, under your return address.
4. **SASE:** Include a 9" x 12" return envelope with the SAME amount of postage used to mail in your entry so the critique and all contents of your submission package can be returned to you. **NO METERED POSTAGE ON RETURN ENVELOPES** (USPS will not deliver). **Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.** An optional self-addressed, stamped postcard will be returned to you to verify receipt of your entry.
5. **Your name must appear in only four locations or your entry will be disqualified:**
 - Contest Entry Form
 - Return address on outside entry envelope
 - SASE
 - Optional notification postcard.
6. **Your signature** (and any co-author's signature) **MUST** appear on the Contest Entry Form.

SPECIFIC CATEGORY GUIDELINES

NOVELS: First 20 pages or fewer, double-space. Begin with prologue and/or first chapter, and single-space, one 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.
7. **Inspirational or Spiritual**

SHORT STORIES: Up to 5,000 words, with word count in top right corner on 1st page.

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

SHORT NONFICTION: (Print word count upper right corner)

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

OTHER:

15. **Nonfiction Book:** The first 20 pages or fewer, double-spaced plus a one page query letter, single-spaced, and a three page proposal, double-spaced, (include market competition, audience, summary, and chapter headings). No charts, graphs, etc.
16. **Children's Mystery or Suspense Book:** Middle Grade (4th - 6th grade) Young Adult (7th grade and up). The first 20 pages or fewer, double-spaced, plus a one page synopsis, single-spaced.
17. **Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction):** Target age: 4-7 years old. No more than six pages, double-spaced, (**text only**) for a 32-page book. **NO** illustrations.
18. **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 it **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.
19. **Poetry:** 5 pages or fewer, any spacing, even if more than one poem. **NO graphics.**
20. **Spanish Language Nonfiction Article/Essay:** Written in Spanish only; 800-3,000 words, double-spaced, any topic, plus a one page query letter, single-spaced, to the appropriate target publication. (Word count upper right corner.) See Spanish language link on website.

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.

2007 SWW CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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: _____
 How did you hear about the contest? _____
 Entry Title: _____

Category (circle one):

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

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, 2007

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), which must contain the **same** amount of postage used on the outside envelope. **NO metered postage** on return envelopes.

Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.

Write 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 2007
3721 Morris NE, Suite A
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111-3611

Contestant's Agreement

In consideration for SouthWest Writers' (SWW) acceptance of my work for review in the SWW Contest 2007, 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: _____



The SouthWest
Sage



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.

HOW DOES A GOOD JUDGE JUDGE?

By Eileen Stanton

With SWW's Contest deadline coming May 1, there's still time to get a manuscript ready. Agent Elizabeth Evans, of the Reece Halsey North Literary Agency agreed to tell me her secrets.

Q. What was your background before coming to the Reece Halsey North Literary Agency?

A. I have always been a voracious reader. I love stories. I think storytelling is hardwired into us; it's an intrinsic human instinct. So, in college I majored in English Literature and minored in History. I found the evolution of storytelling from the oral tradition to the written word fascinating.

My first long-fiction workshop instructor happened to be a wonderfully talented author who writes mysteries under the pen name Gillian Roberts, and she suggested I contact her friend Kimberley Cameron, a literary agent in Tiburon. Kimberley was looking for an intern to read through the slush pile, and was I interested? At this point I had no idea what an agent did, or that they even existed, but I knew I wanted in. It sounded like my dream job - reading all day long.

Q. What drew you to Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror novels?

A. Horror novelists can push fiction to the outer limits of the imagination, and in doing so they inspire grand emotions in the reader. In reading this genre, I am often astonished by the scope and depth of fantasy worlds envisioned, or moved to fear or wonder by horror novels. I find science-fiction mind expanding because it takes our current technology and pushes it a step further. It's thrilling, and sometimes chilling, to read about what could be.

As a child, my favorite books were *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis and the works of Madeleine L'Engle, and as I grew older I quickly fell in love with Magical Realists like Garcia Marquez.

Q. What elements do you look for in a novel manuscript?

A. Solid organization and a structure that plants a new question in each chapter to keep the pacing up. I want the reader to keep turning the pages.

Also, I hope to see character arc as well as plot development, and the characters' motives should be driving the plot action. I view the novel as the effects of time on characters, so to me character development is most important. The most intricate plots are boring without interesting characters. I also look for the climax, the peak of rising action. There should also be a nice balance between scene and summary, telling and showing. In my mind, a great novel doesn't just report what happens, it steps back and reflects on what happened

Q. What do you want to see when you judge the first chapter and synopsis of a novel?

A. I always look for a strong voice, surprising or insightful details and tension or the hint of tension. Conflict must be introduced in these first pages. A strong setting is always helpful. And I believe that key themes and symbols should be introduced early on.

Q. How has television affected the audience and sales of more books in these genres?

A. I think the success of blockbuster movies like Harry Potter, *The Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* shows that these genres have universal themes that appeal to a broad audience. I think it also shows how hungry readers and viewers are for heroes. These are largely stories of journeys, of good vs. evil, archetypal themes. I think Sci-Fi/Fantasy is emerging as one of the most popular and lucrative genres in literature and film.

Q. What turns you off when reading a manuscript?

A. My biggest turnoff is pedestrian language. I want fresh writing, not clichéd descriptions and banal details. Sometimes inexperienced writers try to write with as much detail as possible, but they mistake quantity for quality. It's not how much detail that matters, it's which details. I don't need to know every step of a character's wake-up routine, especially if it's an ordinary brush the teeth, comb the hair, pour the cereal morning, but instead I want carefully chosen, telling details that help build unique characters and settings.

Contests

Note: This information is provided as a convenience. Before entering, be sure to check the listed website at the end of each listing for submission guidelines and information or write the sponsors to make sure a contest is right for you.

Deadline: 3/15/07. Poetry. The 49th Parallel Poetry Award. Prize: \$1,000 first place and publication in the *Bellingham Review*. Runners-up and finalists may be considered for publication. Entry fee: \$15/first entry (up to 3 poems). Each additional entry is \$10. Submission guidelines and information at www.ac.wvu.edu/%7Ebhrefview/guidelines2007.doc.

Deadline: 3/15/07. Creative nonfiction. The Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction. Prize: \$1,000 first place and publication in the *Bellingham Review*. Runners-up and finalists may be considered for publication. Entry fee: \$15/first entry. Each additional entry is \$10. Maximum length of 8,000 words. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/%7Ebhrefview/guidelines2007.doc>.

Deadline: 3/15/07. Short fiction. The Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction. Prize: \$1,000 first place and publication in the *Bellingham Review*. Runners-up and finalists may be considered for publication. Entry fee: \$15/first entry. Each additional entry is \$10. Maximum length of 8,000 words. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/%7Ebhrefview/guidelines2007.doc>.

Deadline: 3/15/07 (postmark). Short story. Nelligan Prize by Colorado Review. Prize: \$1,000 and publication in the *Colorado Review*. Entry fee: \$10/entry. Stories must be unpublished, no length or theme restrictions. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/NPSF/sub.html>.

Deadline: 3/15/07. Novels. Gather.com's First Chapter Contest. Prize: \$5,000, publishing contract with Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, and promotion and distribution by Borders. Four finalists receive \$500 each. Entry fee: None. Only unpublished authors may enter this "American Idol type" contest, where your first chapter is posted online for others to rate. Requires submitting entire novel via email attachment. Entrants must not submit material to other publishers until they receive notice of elimination, and winner must sign standard contract with Simon & Schuster. Novel must be completed, commercial fiction, and in English. Self-published authors may enter. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://firstchapters.gather.com>.

Deadline: 3/20/07 (postmark). Poetry. Robert Frost National Poetry Contest. Prize: \$150 first, \$75 second, \$50 third. Entry fee: \$10. Previously unpublished, open to style and theme, 30 lines maximum. Heritage House Press retains one-time rights to publish winning or selected contest entries. Rights then revert back to authors. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.robertfrostpoetryfestival.com>.

Deadline: 3/20/07 (postmark). Haiku. Robert Frost National Haiku Contest. Prize: \$75 first, \$50 second, \$25 third. Entry fee: \$10. 3-line format of up to 17 or fewer syllables. All haiku must contain a seasonal or nature image. Heritage House Press retains one-time rights to publish winning or selected contest entries. Rights then revert back to authors. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.robertfrostpoetryfestival.com>.

Deadline: 3/21/07. One-page story. 2007 One-Page Story Contest. Prize: \$150 first, \$100 second, \$50 third. Eight notable entries receive \$25 Barnes & Noble gift cards. Entry fee: \$5. How tight can you write? Create a story of 300 words or fewer on any subject with a discernible beginning, middle, and end. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.nebpublishing.com>.

Deadline: 3/31/07. Short Story. 15th Annual Tom Howard/John H. Reid Short Story Contest. Prizes: \$1,200 first, \$800 second, \$400 third, and 4 high distinction awards of \$200 each. Top ten stories published on the Winning Writers website. Entry fee: \$12/entry. Any original short story, essay, or other work of prose up to 5,000 words. No style or theme restrictions. Submission guidelines and information at: http://www.winningwriters.com/contests/tomstory/ts_guidelines.php.

Deadline: 4/2/07. Thriller, mystery, suspense, or sci-fi novels. Iota Novel Writing Contest. Prize: \$1,000 and publication of novel. Entry fee: \$10. Author must be unpublished and have a "Southwest connection, either by the author's personal connection or by some element in the manuscript." NOTE: this is a start-up small publisher in California with no history of publication (first novel yet to be released). SWW's contact with them has been positive, but as with any contest, we encourage writers to visit the sponsoring organization's website and/or contact them to make sure it's right for you. Submission guidelines and information: <http://www.bijouresearch.com/IotaHome.asp>.

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Keith Pyeatt is the outgoing conference chair at SouthWest Writers and the incoming treasurer. He writes psychological, paranormal thrillers and has a website at: <http://www.keithpyeatt.com>.

SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

March 2007: *The Children's Novel*

See how well you do with openings of children's novels. Any genre. Length: the first three pages, double-spaced. Postmark deadline: 31 March 2007.

April 2007: *Poetry*

April is poetry month. Submit a poem of any subject in any format, spacing and length. Postmark deadline: 30 April 2007.

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 unless otherwise specified.
- 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 are final.
- Prizes: \$50 1st Prize; \$30 2nd Prize; \$20 3rd Prize and certificates.
- Mail entries to:

SWW Monthly Writing Competition
3721 Morris St NE, Ste A
Albuquerque, NM 87111

(Print name of category under your return address)

Congratulations! Winners of the December 2006 Monthly Competition, Holiday Poetry

1st Prize: Charles J. Garcia, Erie, CO for *In One Small Way*

2nd Prize: Susan J. Alexis, Albuquerque, NM for *The Ghosts of Christmas Past*

3rd Prize: Joshua Swenson, Tucson, AZ, NM for *South Pole Santa and the Elfengineers*

January Board Meeting Highlights

•President Larry Greenly reported that the January Program was well attended (approximately 95 people) despite the snowy weather. Eleven new members signed up at the Saturday program. Larry talked to CNM (former TV-I) about on-line classes for SWW.

•Vice President Rob Spiegel reported that the April 17 Meeting will be held in conjunction with Sisters in Crime, the Albuquerque Mystery Writers organization. In May the program speaker is from out of town and will be presenting the afternoon workshop that month also.

•The 2007 proposed budget was unanimously approved. This and the financial reports are filed in the office along with the approved minutes and can be viewed by any member in good standing.

•Edith Greenly reported that a total of 30 people sent in 47 submissions in 2006. The gross was \$5383.00 with expenses of \$3923.00 and an income of \$1460.00. This exceeds the projected amount of \$700 on the 2006 budget.

•SWW Board is seeking a conference chairperson. Keith Pyatt, previous chair, will be speaking with a candidate for this position about conferences. Conferences are a big part of SWW so members with business experience are asked to consider volunteering to chair or assist with this committee/function.

•Loretta Hall reported that 32 people attended the Sat. workshop in January. The workshops continue to be successful. The honorarium paid to the presenters was increased as of January 2007.

•Public Relations Chair Melody Groves reported that 17 *Published Authors Lists* were sold at the January program for \$1.00 each. They will be available until they are gone.

•Board approved creating a new contest category: *Inspirational/Spiritual Novel*. The Children's Non-Fiction Book category was replaced with a Middle Grade/Young Adult Mystery Novel category.

•On-Going Classes are being scheduled for the SWW Board Room. Contact Chair Bonnie Hayes if you want to present a class related to the writing field, with a small percentage of the proceeds to go to the organization. Board member David Corwell will be presenting a 3-week class on short stories in March. SWW promotes classes pertaining to writing. Other types of classes and fees will be decided on case-by-case basis.

•The board approved the purchase of a new computer for the office at a cost of \$250.00 after rebates.

Critique Groups

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

*Wanting to Start Groups/
Looking for a Group*

***Any Genre, Albuquerque:**

GLBT Writers
Jim McDonough
505-688-2954
jim@queerwriters.com

***Any Genre, Las Cruces:**

Barbara Villemez
505-522-5734

***Fiction Writers**

Will meet every three weeks at Erna
Ferguson Library, 6-8pm.
Bill Howden, 505-341-4474

***Any Genre, Santa Fe:**

Mary Mazza-Anderson
cmmom@zianet.com

***Fantasy/Romance:**

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

***Historical Romance:**

Leah Dodd
505-890-0210, patandleah@peoplepc.com

Lester Libo

is looking for a critique group in the
fiction genre. lesterml1@comcast.net.

***Poetry:**

Billy Brown
505-401-8139, welbert@aol.com

***Sci Fi/Fantasy:**

Joel Holt
505-265-1938, loki265@hotmail.com

***Writing-for-fun:**

East Mountains near Edgewood
Sandy Schairer
sandschairer@southwestwriters.com

***Short Nonfiction:**

Suzann Owings
505-867-0567

*Groups Seeking
Members*

***American Theater Ensemble Screen-
writers and Playwrights:**

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the
month, 7pm at Puccini's Golden West, 620
Central Ave SW, 505-242-2353,
elreytheater@qwest.net.

Odds & Ends

*Groups Seeking
Members*

Any Genre:

Meets once a month on Sunday after-
noons
Michael Franco
MDLindell@aol.com

***Any Genre, including childrens,
Albuquerque:**

Meets the first Wednesday of the month,
7-9pm, Hastings Superstore, Wyoming
and Montgomery
Sabra Steinsiek
505-260-1837

***Any Genre, Moriarty:**

Second and fourth Thursday each month,
6pm at the Moriarty Library
Tina Ortega
505-832-2513, jleksutin@hotmail.com

***Any Genre, Rio Rancho:**

Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley
505-867-1408,
riversedgebob@cableone.net
riograndema@cableone.net

***Land of Enchantment Romance
Authors:**

Meets the second Saturday of each
month at noon. Potential members, attend
three meetings to try it out. leranm.org.

***Mystery/Sci Fi:**

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

***Novels/Short Stories:**

Janeen Anderson
505-899-5624, janeen@janglya.com

***Novel/Memoir**

Meet online and monthly, NE
Albuquerque.
Nancy Costea, 505-323-9681
costeawood@comcast.net

***Novels/Short Stories:**

Meets Saturday afternoons
Albuquerque Main Public Library on
Copper.
Jack Phelan, 505-292-0576 or 256-3500

***The Screaming Ninja Screenwriters:**

Meets every other Thursday, Flying Star
on 7th and Silver. Marc Calderwood
505-897-6474,
skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com

SouthWest Sage Ad Rates

Worldwide Circulation on the Internet

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

Business card size: \$16

1/8 page: \$24

1/4 page: \$36

1/3 page: \$45

1/2 page: \$75

Full page: \$100

15% discount for 3 mos.

20% discount for 6 mos.

Deadline:

1st of each month
for the following month.

Payment due
with camera-ready
ad copy.

For information about
benefits for SWW members
contact:

Cheri Eicher

**INDEPENDENT
MEANS**

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

Independentmeans@comcast.net

SWW Board Meeting will be held at the SWW office on Tuesday, March 1, 2006, at 6 pm

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

New SWW Members

Carol Franco	Kori Lane	Phyllis Ryan
Catherine Y. Fridey	Tony Sanchez	Tom Cole
Sim Middleton	Charles Garner	Jacquie Cook
Michael Space	Ellen Seusy	Lorette Enochs
Chris Mayo	Arielle Windham	Bing (Virginia)
Jonathan Lisansky	Sandy Butcher	LeRoy
Jennifer Catron	JoAnne Fredrikson	Mary Winfield
Bob Gassaway	Anne Bahm	Robert Penaloza
Christina Florence	LeAnne Lynch	Linda Penaloza
Patrick Prescott	Ray Michael Baca	Paul Silva
Patricia Cole	Dana Reilly	Allison Hensel

**Need a new book (or almost anything else)?
Save Money and Support SWW!**

*Go to www.southwestwriters.org
and click on the
amazon.com box.
You save money &
SWW receives a commission.*

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 it in your email address book.

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

President/Office Coordinator

Larry Greenly
SWWriters@juno.com

Vice-President

Rob Spiegel
(505) 275-2556 · RobSpiegel@comcast.net

Secretary/Parliamentarian

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

Treasurer

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

Workshop Coordinator

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

Conference Chair

Pending

Historian

Judy Ducharme
(505) 256-9659

JudyDucharme@southwestwriters.com
Book Table/New Member Breakfast

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

Writer's Contest 2007 Chair

Jeanne Shannon
(505) 296-0691 · js2007sww@yahoo.com

Class Coordinator

Bonnie Hayes
(505) 821-5372 BonnHayes@aol.com

Other Key Positions

SWW Sage Editor

Lee Ross
editor@southwestwriters.com

SWW Sage Assistant Editor

Jeanne Shannon
(505) 296-0691 · jspoetry@aol.com

E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin
publicity@southwestwriters.com

Speaker Coordinator

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

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.

Exceptional Member(s) of the Month

SouthWest Writers exists because of its dedicated board of directors, great speakers and technical help of all kinds, but it wouldn't exist without the wonderful, enthusiastic members. While they may not have a title within the organization or spend much time at the podium, our great members need to be appreciated, so we're making an effort. This month, Harold Burnett and his wife, Betty, are our exceptional members.

"He and his wife Betty are always at meetings and willing to help as greeters plus providing food," says Ron Schultz, the SWW workshop coordinator. Burnett and his wife have always been happy to lend a hand, genuine, and generally the type of member any organization is thrilled to have.

