



The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 19, No. 12

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

December 2004

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

Congratulations Winners!

2004 SWW CONTESTS

The purpose of the SouthWest Writers Annual Contest is to encourage and honor excellence in writing. Over 400 entries were received this year.

Editors and agents judge all entries and critique the top three in each category. In addition, all entries are critiqued by a qualified professional.

Those who place First, Second, and Third in each category receive prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$75 respectively. First place winners compete for the Storyteller Award. The winner of the \$1,000 Storyteller Award is **David H. Rogers**.

MAINSTREAM NOVEL (56 entries)

Judge: Tom Colgan, Penguin/Putnam

1. *Three Times Twenty*, Diane Owens
2. *Spinning Wool in the Mouth of the Monster*, Deborah Rice
3. *Ileana's Odyssey*, Lila L. Anastas

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE/THRILLER NOVEL (30 entries)

Judge: John Scognamiglio, Kensington Publishing Company

1. *Pools of Purple*, Judy Castleberry*
2. *Wolves*, Rebecca L. Williams*
3. *Desert Winds*, Bruce & Pamela Nyman

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY/HORROR NOVEL

(29 entries)

Judge: Steve Saffel, Del Rey/Ballantine Publishing Group, Random House, Inc.

1. *Above Haldis Notch*, Keith Pyeatt*
2. *Island of the Setting Sun*, David J. Corwell*
3. *Cold Comfort*, Charity Tahmaseb

ROMANCE/HISTORICAL/WESTERN NOVEL

(26 entries)

Judge: Hazel Rumney, Thorndike Press

1. *The Great Deception*, Beth Soloway
2. *Hanna's Promise*, Linda Carroll-Bradd
3. *I Am Machiavelli*, S.M. Patino

MIDDLE GRADE/YOUNG ADULT NOVEL (35 entries)

Judge: Ellen Krieger, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

1. *Cascabel*, Lynn Murray
2. *Jingle Night, Silent Bells*, Jennifer Bohnhoff*
3. *Shelby and the Shifting Rings*, Michele Veillon

SHORT STORIES--MAINSTREAM AND LITERARY (60 entries)

Judge: Sally (Sarah) Spence, Literary Imagination, Department of Classics, University of Georgia

1. *Color Me Stupid*, Mike Tuohy*
2. *Quarter Moon*, Frank Carden*
3. *Leaves and Fishes Combo*, Mike Tuohy*

SHORT STORIES--ALL GENRE (19 entries)

Judge: Steve Saffel, Del Rey/Ballantine Publishing Group, Random House, Inc.

1. *The Devil's Smokes*, David H. Rogers*
2. *Angus*, Randy Styner
3. *The Freeman's Toll*, Darren Moore*

Continued on page 3

WRITER'S GUIDELINES The SouthWest Sage welcomes articles about the craft and business of writing. Articles should be 250 to 750 words long. Submissions are preferred by email in RTF. Bylines are given. No payment. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and content. Published articles will be archived on the SWW website. Complete writer's guidelines can be found on the SWW website. www.southwestwriters.org



The SouthWest Sage

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SWW Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9 am - 12 noon

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!

Winners cont'd from page 1

SHORT STORIES--MIDDLE GRADE AND YOUNG ADULT (7 entries)

Judge: Jen Weiss, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

- 1. *In the Face of Fear*, Julie K. Casper*
- 2. *The Porcelain Eagle*, Julie K. Casper*
- 3. *Dog Pound Dog*, Julie K. Casper*

SHORT NON-FICTION--ARTICLES AND ESSAYS (39 entries)

Judge: Elfrieda Abbe, The Writer, Morris Publishing

- 1. *Change and Connection*, Kristin E. Litchman*
- 2. *Bends in the Road*, Lela Belle Wolfert*
- 3. *Pardon Me, My French is Showing*, Lyn Kidder*

BOOK LENGTH NON-FICTION (14 entries)

Judge: Anne Hawkins, John Hawkins & Associates

- 1. *Until the End of Time*, Timothy F. Glass*
- 2. *In Laos With Blue-Eyed Swede*, Gregory McElwain*
- 3. *50 Ways to Leave Your 40s*, Sheila Key*

CHILDREN'S BOOKS--4 TO 7 YEARS--FICTION/ NON-FICTION/PICTURE BOOKS (47 entries)

Judge: Rich Wallace, Highlights Magazine for Children

- 1. *Trading Post*, Deborah W. Trotter
- 2. *Harry the Gosling*, Diana McKinney
- 3. *A Different Talent*, Joanne Lokens

SCREENPLAY (12 entries)

Judge: Cliff Gravel, Story Analyst

- 1. *Carlota*, Kim Campbell
- 2. *Diplomatic Channels*, Liese Sherwood-Fabre
- 3. *The Clone Chronicles*, Marc Calderwood*

POETRY (57 entries)

Judge: Matthew Thorburn, Good Foot Magazine

- 1. *The Rolling Stone*, Dorothy Piper
- 2. *Small Print*, John Orman*
- 3. *Genesis of a Poem*, Janet S. Harris*

Congratulations to the 2004 Young Writers Contest Winners!

FICTION

- 1. *Culpa*, Maarten Boets
- 2. *Sam Howards*, Reuben Hesselden
- 3. *A Journey's Purpose*, Sophie Roethle
- HM. *An Unexpected Rain*, Sarah Cooper

JOURNALISM

Marty Award: *Denim Blues Hit Teachers*, Virginia Lee

NONFICTION

- 1. *Guardian Angel*, Sophia Tripodi
- 2. *Images in The Great Gatsby*, Noah Gapsis
- 3. *The Miracle of Saying Goodbye*, Francesca Jimenez
- HM. *Spelunking in the Ural Mountains*, Dasha Oulianova

POETRY

- 1. *Our Creed*, The Future, Sam Wellborn
- 2. *Acceptance*, Dylan Ravenfox
- 3. *101 Mutations*, Kaitlyn Bell
- HM. *Negative*, Melissa Baca

With sincere best wishes to everyone who has participated in the 2004 contest,
Sylvie Larimore de Lara, PhD

* = SWW Members

The SWW Office Staff apologizes to all current members who received a postcard saying their memberships were lapsed. Your records in our office are correct. The postcard was not. Sorry for any inconvenience or concern we caused you.

Markets

by Cathy Goodwin

Interview with Stephanie Lee, a literary agent with Manus Literary Agency in Palo Alto, California:

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

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

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

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

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

Please tell us about your background. I have a B.A. from Stanford University in English Literature with an emphasis in Creative Writing in Fiction. A professor suggested I go out in the world and just "live" before applying for my MFA. I had no idea that writers needed agents, but I found an internship here at Manus & Associates. I absolutely fell in love with working with writers and learning about the industry, and I've been here ever since.

What is the number one quality you look for when you consider a self-help query and proposal? Aside from the obvious need for strong, readable writing, the top two considerations are: 1) Is the author truly an expert in the field with a great platform, and 2) Is this topic focused enough, unique enough, angled enough, to bring something new to the table?

What kind of "platform" do you look for in a self-help writer? Who you are is just as important as what you are writing about when it comes to self-help. Publishers want their self-help authors to already have a built-in market and audience for books.

If you speak to 100,000 people a year because you conduct your own tours in the field, or if you have a column in *Mademoiselle*, or if your website gets thousands of hits per month, you've got a built-in audience for your book, which means easy sales for your publisher. You have to make your total package worth a million bucks (figuratively or literally) for publishers to see your project as a good investment.

What is the hottest trend you see in today's self-help nonfiction? You cannot follow the hot trend of the moment. By the

time your book comes out, the trend will be over. Knowing which books have been successful is very smart, but you should write within your field of expertise. You don't want to be sending in the 100th proposal about a no-sugar diet, just because it's been all the rage. Don't be a trend-follower. Be a trend-setter!

What is your greatest source of frustrations with queries, proposals and other submissions? Quite honestly, many of them are very boring! We read up to 2,000 queries a month, so you should work really hard to make your query letters stellar. You don't need bells, whistles and back-flips, but your queries should succinctly showcase why I want to look at your book and why you are the right person to write it.

A giant pet peeve: I turn to the competitive survey and the author says, "There are no other books like mine on the market." For any kind of book you're writing, you need a competitive survey. You might have the only book about, say, "How to snag a man using hot tips from famous sirens of the silver screen," but you need to show that you've researched other successful books on how to seduce men, how you're tapping a similar audience that other bestsellers have, and how your book is different/better/new.

When you read a query or proposal for a self-help book, what makes you say, "I want to represent this writer!"? Great writing. Great concept. Great platform. Memorable book title. Researching what other books your potential agent has represented will definitely benefit you.

I also like to represent nice people! Many of my clients become my good friends. This is a long term relationship (hopefully) so do remember to be professional, courteous, and friendly if we speak on the phone or meet in person.

Continued on page 6

SWW Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to assist at programs, conferences, and workshops.
Volunteering puts you on the front line for networking opportunities!

Contact Joan Marsh at jmarsh6834@earthlink.net for information on how you can get involved.

The Tax Man Cometh (Already?)

by Ted Lynn

It's tax time again. Yes, now is the time to think about what taxes you'll pay by April, and what taxes you won't pay. That's because most decisions about when to pay expenses, or incur income, must be made before January 1, 2005. If you think your tax burden (rate) will be lower next year, you might want to delay income until then, and/or move your deductions into the current year by paying (or charging them on a credit card) before you go to that New Years Eve party.

Many writers know the big items they can deduct on their 1040 Schedule C in order to offset income. The expensive computer, that plane trip to New York to pick up the advance on the great American novel, and the home office which the Muse visits from time to time. But the small expenses can also add up to big deductions, if you take the time to track them, using such programs as Intuit's Quicken (www.intuit.com). Here's a checklist of lesser-known deductions that can put a dent in your tax bite come April.

- Toner, paper, labels, cabling, maintenance and repairs on your printer.
- In addition to travel deductions: parking and toll fees for your vehicle.
- Pens, pencils, pads of paper, PostIt notes, file folders, file boxes, your PDA and/or cell phone, and file cabinets.
- Subscriptions to newspapers, magazines, newsletters on writing and business.
- Books on just about any subject (Novelists read other writers to research the market; nonfiction writers need a wide range of reference material).
- Cameras, film, photo processing, photo storage systems, travel to process film.
- In addition to research trips to exotic locales, local trips to the library, SWW meetings, police stations, courtrooms can all be deductible, even for novelists.
- Diskettes, zip disks, computer repair and maintenance, cabling, extra phone lines and cords for your computer, extra memory, your modem, and special cards for your machine.
- Your Internet Service Provider monthly fee, long distance voice and digital charges.

- Interest on credit card charges for business expenses, time payment interest, and annual fee on the credit card you use for business expenses (you should have separate ones for business and personal expenses).
- Publicity photos, copying of tear sheets and clips to send to editors, business cards, flyers and other advertising tools.
- Postage, envelopes, stationery, return address labels, rubber stamps, photo mailers, disk mailers.
- Your watch, watch cleaning and repairs, battery.
- Daytimer, calendars, other reminder systems.
- Software for your computer, including utilities, money and deduction tracking, submission tracking, "Writer's Market" on CD, insurance on the office equipment.
- Health insurance premiums (up to 100% in the year 2004).
- Business meals and entertainment with writers, editors, agents, subjects, sources, etc.
- Food and other expenses for entertaining in your home (critique group, writer friends, subjects, sources).
- Manuscript reproduction expenses, including travel to and from local copy shop.
- Your briefcase, purse or other writing implement carrying device.

If at all possible, obtain receipts for such expenses. If you can't get receipts, keep good business records, including to whom you paid the expense, the amount, date, business purpose, and, in the case of entertainment, who you had that meal with. And remember, you don't have to have income, or make a profit to deduct your expenses. All you have to do is have a "profit motive." In other words, you have to evidence a **SERIOUS INTENT** to make a profit.

So, get off that couch and start deducting.

Please keep those Email questions coming. They'll help all of us understand the Business of Writing better.

Ted Lynn
ted@writerscenter.com

Tuesday Night

by Judy Ducharme

SWW Tuesday Talk, October 19, 2004

Lisa Lenard Cook

“What Do You Know About Your Character?”

Lisa Lenard Cook gave a dynamic, interactive talk on how to know your character to fifty attendees at Tuesday’s SouthWest Writers’ meeting. First, she led us in creating a character, Henry “Slick” Johnson, a master mechanic, forty-six, who had a lot of success with women. He’d been married, but divorced years before. He wears a “chin-strap” beard and looks unkempt until he cleans up to... wait a minute, that’s my story that jumped off from the character we built. With a list of thirty-seven questions and encouragement, Lisa started our story-telling juices flowing. We only used the first seven or so to “know” this character, including name, nickname, gender, age, appearance, marital status, and relationships. The list, adapted from *What If* (Bernays/Painter, New York: HarperPerennial, 1991), can have other items added, the music preferred by the character. She asked for the first page of any story based on Slick. You can E-mail her at lisa@lisalenardcook.com to send the page.

Lisa advised us to know too much about our character,

Markets cont'd from page 6

Do you have guidelines, pet peeves or suggestions for sending e-mail queries? Check submission guidelines in writer’s guides and on agents’ websites to see if they even accept email queries. Some writers are very casual about email queries and send me something like, “Hi, I found your website and I’ve got a book. Do you want to take a look at it?” Um, no. I will delete that query.

What one piece of advice would you like to offer new (or nearly-new) writers who want to submit a proposal to you? Research! Being a writer is very different than being a published writer. Research the agents before you send queries. Research how to write a query letter and proposal. You don’t need to spend lots of money on how-to books, but just spend some time in the

astrological sign, where they live, whether or not it relates to the book. Do not tell all about a character in the first paragraph. Dribble out tidbits throughout the story. She suggested giving each character, no matter how minor, a telling detail, for example, if Italian, have the character talk with his or her hands. Knowing your characters allows you to create full people, not flat. Use veracity in fiction, don’t make your character do something out of character. Know where s/he lives, look at the map. She became a member of AAA (Triple A) to get the free trip guides they produce. That way, you won’t have someone drive from Los Angeles to San Diego in ten minutes.

To produce best-selling literature or any fiction, write the story then, revise, revise, revise. Make every word count. Hemingway could spend hours deciding between a, the, or neither one.

Lisa writes literary fiction, multilayered fiction. There is a story on one level, but other levels include linguistic and metaphoric. It is character-driven fiction.

Lisa Lenard Cook won the Jim Sagel Award for her first book, Dissonance which was published by University of New Mexico Press. Coyote Morning, released in August was also published by UNM Press.

library or in the bookstore and get some good tips (we have a guide to writing non-fiction proposals on our website).

Don’t be shy just because you’ve never written a book before! We work with lots of new writers.

Finally, don’t lose hope if one agent rejects you. Rejection will undoubtedly be part of the process, whether by agents, or later on, by publishers. One of our books that Oprah picked for her book club was first rejected thirteen agents before it came to us. This industry IS subjective, so keep trying!

Cathy Goodwin, Ph.D., who wrote Making the Big Move (New Harbinger 1999), is a freelance writer and career consultant. Visit her website: <http://www.cathygoodwin.com>

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 10x12 private lockable space, 14-seat conference room, five cent copies, Internet access,

local number fax machine, kitchenette, free utilities.

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

Smart Websites for Writers

by Geraldine Mosher

"December always makes me think of Christmas, and Christmas always makes me think of children. So this column is about the tremendous source of information about writing for children that can be found on the Internet." That's how I started out the column I wrote for the December 2001 SouthWest Sage. And this is how I ended that column: "Note: There is such a quantity of excellent information on this subject that I have only touched the surface in this column. Therefore, I'll do an additional column on writing for children in a subsequent month." Well, I didn't realize how much time had gone by, but since this is certainly a "subsequent month," I'll give you some more places to look on the Internet for information about writing for children.

The Purple Crayon <http://www.underdown.org> is written by a children's book editor, so his experience definitely contributes to some good advice. Click on Basic Information for Writers and Illustrators. Under Basics you'll find articles such as "Getting Started: Really Basic Information," "Frequently Asked Questions," and "Multiple Submissions." Under Beyond the Basics will be articles such as "Getting Out of the Slush Pile," "A Primer on Agents," "Cover Letters and Queries," and "A Guide to Etiquette, Status Calls, and More."

"Writing for children takes a deft hand, a warm heart, and the gift of remembering what it was like to be one." This quote is from www.psnw.com/~badger/WIN/child.html. This website has the following links to help you market your talent: Children's Book Council, Children's Writing Resource Center, Children's Publishers & Booksellers on the Net, and Children's Literature Award Lists.

Go to www.writing-world.com/children for the following articles: "The Christian Children's Market: A

Place for Beginning Writers," "Marketing Your Children's Manuscript," "Five Reasons to Write Children's Nonfiction," "So You Wanna Be a Children's Poet," "Understanding Children's Writing Genres," and "Writing About Controversial Subjects."

If you'd like to write a children's picture book but don't know where to start, check out http://mo.essortment.com/childrensbookw_rjxz.htm. It has an article with basic information on how to write picture books for children. You'll learn about the length of a picture book, age categories, and themes.

The Children's Book Council (CBC), a non-profit trade organization, is a resource for writers, illustrators, publishers, librarians, parents and teachers. The website of the CBC is crammed with useful facts and figures, news on the latest publishing trends, and wise advice. Go to <http://www.CBCBooks.org>, click on Publishing FAQs (at left), then click on FAQs. Here you'll find lots of information such as "What are the different types of children's books available?," "Is it acceptable to send query letters to multiple publishers at the same time?," and "What are the costs and benefits of having an agent?"

Last, but not least, an absolute "must" is the website of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators www.scbwi.org. SCBWI is a national organization with a membership of 10,000+. At this website click on Links, then on Industry Related Links for 94 sites with information related to children's publishing.

Happy Surfing!

Geraldine Mosher is a freelance writer and member of SWW, as well as a computer consultant and trainer. Her business is Your Computer Tutor, 296-4042. She is also the owner of Top Quality Publications. Check out her website at www.topqualitypublications.com.



New New Sage Delivery System

Everyone keep checking the website.

The Board has approved putting
the SouthWest Sage on the website openly.

No password required.

We will implement this as soon as feasible.



Old Books for New Writers

Compiled by Cliff Gravel

These books have proven themselves to be of great benefit to writers time and time again. So much so, that they can be found on the shelves of nearly every bookstore, new or used. The following comments have been compiled from the back covers of the soft cover editions.

ZEN IN THE ART OF WRITING

by Ray Bradbury.

Releasing the Creative Genius Within You.

Zest. Gusto. Curiosity. These are the qualities every writer must have, as well as a spirit of adventure. In this exuberant book, the incomparable Ray Bradbury shares the wisdom, experience, and excitement of a lifetime of writing. Here are practical tips on the art of writing from a master of the craft—everything from finding original ideas to developing your own voice and style—as well as the inside story of Bradbury’s own remarkable career as a prolific author of novels, stories, poems, films, and plays.

Zen in the Art of Writing is more than just a how-to manual for the would-be writer: it is a celebration of the act of writing itself that will delight, impassion, and inspire the writer in you. In it, Bradbury encourages us to follow the unique path of our instincts and enthusiasms to the place where our inner genius dwells, and he shows that success as a writer depends on how well you know one subject: your own life.

THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES

by Joseph Campbell

Often cited as Campbell’s best book, this classic study traces the story of the hero’s journey and transformation through virtually all the mythologies of the world, revealing the one archetypal hero in them all. Originally published in 1949, it has inspired generations of students.

THE WRITER’S JOURNEY

by Christopher Vogler.

Mythic Structure for Storytellers & Screenwriters.

Based on the work of Joseph Campbell, this book provides an insider’s look at how master storytellers from Lucas to Spielberg have used mythic structure to create powerful stories which tap into the mythological core which exists in all of us.

This practical writer’s guide reveals the secret patterns of mythology. Writers will discover step-by-step guidelines and learn how to structure plots and create realistic characters. Innovative exercises help writers troubleshoot and improve their own work. These ideas—which have been tested and refined by professional screenwriters, playwrights and novelists—will empower the writer’s command of story telling with the ancient wisdom of myth.

The SouthWest Sage Editor
is desperately seeking articles about

What Writers Need at the Beginning of Their Careers.

250-750 words long by email in RTF (rich text format). Published articles will appear in the SouthWest Sage and on the SWW website. Bylines will be given. Complete writer’s guidelines can be found at www.southwestwriters.org.

The In-House Poet Laureate

by Barclay Franklin

They say poetry, because of its rhyme and meter, is remembered long past anything done in prose. So, if you have a way with words, and excel at creating poems, why not volunteer to be your company's resident poet?

With humor and verse, even testy subjects can be handled. The company is proposing a cut in vacation days? Or are cubicles going to be made smaller in the secretarial pool? While strongly worded prose pieces often address such issues, it's the well-crafted poem that gets cut out and tacked up to the corkboards and cubicle walls in a company. Poems tend to weigh in with more kick than prose pieces. And they often produce positive changes in attitudes. When I was in training as a medical technologist, one poem tacked up to the pathologist's bulletin board got the dozen tech students a meeting with the pathologist, and garnered us more respect and better hours.

While verse often has the power to engender change, poems need not be restricted to protests. One writing job I did often over several years proved to be extremely pleasurable.

Lots of companies hold retirement parties. When I worked at the local hospital, I was often asked to create some verse for a retirement party. I would canvass all the retiree's friends and co-workers to pick up tidbits about the honoree. Both good and not-so-good, though funny, information made for some memorable poetry. Did the retiring operating room technologist have a penchant for chewing gum behind his surgical mask? Did the administrative secretary keep a box of bonbons in her bottom drawer-bonbons that she gulped in times of stress? Was the short doctor sensitive about the footstool he used beside the surgery table? Was someone always kind and even-tempered during a crisis? Did a doctor indicate his

nervousness in the emergency room by whistling random tunes? Weaving kudos and idiosyncrasies into a celebration of the retiree's life brought smiles and laughter to the one retiring and a measure of in-house respect to the poet, as well.

The personnel director was the one who often requested my poetic services. I'd do some research, then let the information percolate a bit. When I thought I had a handle on it, I'd sit down and write and revise. When the verse was done up to my satisfaction, I'd run it past some of those who knew the retiree best. If they gave the thumbs up, I'd print out the verses on thick paper, tear the paper to give it an antique look and decoupage the verses to a piece of weathered wood from an old barn. A few coats of spar varnish, and the plaque was ready to present to the retiree during his or her "going-away" celebration. Many times, the honorees have told me that my verses still occupy a place of honor on the walls of their homes.

In-house verses have many uses. If some workers in your department continually leave a mess behind, a funny verse might persuade them to clean up their act. A warm verse for a co-worker's maternity leave will be cherished long after the booties have been outgrown. A funny verse sent to someone undergoing treatments for a serious disease can raise the spirits. A handmade card for someone's wedding will likely find its way into a scrapbook of the festivities.

Poetry has greater impact than prose in many cases. Maybe you'll never be a national poet laureate, but I bet you can function as your company's in-house poet laureate with just a bit of practice. Go ahead-volunteer. It will make the other work you do for the company that much the more rewarding.

According to Karen Villanueva, on the New Mexico Culturenet

Once again the Book section of the Albuquerque Journal has been reduced. It is always the first section to get pared down in favor of making more room for Sports.

Please let Editor Kent Walz of the Albuquerque Journal know there is a population out there that very much wants to see Art and Book News coverage, and that the diminished section is not serving its readers' needs.

Karen is a publicist and long-time member of SouthWest Writers.

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, December 4, 10 am to noon

Writing the Southwest

Dave Dunaway is a DJ at KUNM and an author and editor of a half-dozen volumes of history and biography. He's also a well-known documentarian, presenting literature and history via radio & television. His more recent work is *Writing the Southwest*, a book-and-CD set which explores our region through the eyes of its major authors. On the CD, Rudy Anaya, Terri McMillan, and John Nichols, talk about how they write and for whom. Dunaway will play excerpts and discuss directions for Southwest Writers today: Has our region become too hip, replacing stereotypes from the Fred Harvey era with New Age ones? Must a writer from New Mexico be published in New York City to reach his/her audience? Hear Tony Hillerman make up the plot of *Thief of Time* before your ears during this presentation of David King Dunaway and his radio interviews.

Tuesday, December 21

No Meeting Due to the Upcoming Holiday

Saturday, January 1, 10am to noon

How To Get Published This Year In Magazines

If you're not too hungover, come and hear a panel of published writers, including Rob Spiegel, Larry Greenly, Loretta Hall, and Melody Groves.

Tuesday, January 18, 7 to 9 pm

The Technique of Research in Writing Historical Novels

With degrees in art, art education, and the humanities, Albert Noyer's career includes working in commercial and fine art, teaching in the Detroit Public Schools and at private colleges. He lives in New Mexico and has published *The Cybeline Conspiracy*, *The Saint's Day Deaths*, and *The Secundus Papyrus*.

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

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linking life and word

legacyediting@aol.com

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In an attempt to open the announcements section to include all SWW members' writing related activities (classes, book signings, etc.), we request that you email your announcement to the editor no later than the 1st day of the month preceding publication. Please limit the announcement to 3 lines/40 words. Submitted material may be edited for publication.

- * **Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** meets *second Saturday of the month* at noon. See www.leranm.org for details. Potential members can attend 3 meetings to see if they would like to join.
- * **Storytellers of New Mexico** will be meeting at La Siringitu, 1501 Mountain Rd. NW, just east of the Explora Museum. *3rd Sunday of each month* www.thestorybird.com
- * **Dramatics Magazine** A monthly for theater arts students and teachers is accepting unpublished scripts for one act and full length plays. Contact Donald Corathers at dcorathers@edta.org.
- * **Rob Spiegel and Larry Greenly teach a free weekly class** at Bear Canyon Senior Center from 3 to 4:15 p.m. *every Monday*. Half lecture, half discussion of student writing. Covers fiction, nonfiction, poetry and memoir. Free to members of any Albuquerque senior center (yearly dues \$12.50).
- * **American Road** is *seeking articles* chronicling historic highways, events, and roadside establishments. www.mockturtlepress.com/americanroad.html
- * **Oceans of the Mind** is *seeking all forms of Science Fiction* with specific themes for each issue. www.trantorpublications.com
- * **Hiking Author Needed** Manasha Ridge Press, a publisher of outdoor guidebooks, seeks an author to research and write "60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Albuquerque." the book is a part of a series. www.menasharidge.com
- * **American Recreation Coalition** is looking for journalism students to cover forest service forms in NM. www.funoutdoors.com
- * **Sundance Theatre Lab** *December 15* The Sundance Theatre Laboratory is a three-week long workshop that offers playwrights and directors the time, space, and support to develop new plays. <http://institute.sundance.org>
- * **Southwest Literary Center** *December 16 at 7 pm*. Winners and finalists of the Southwest Literary Center's contest will read from their work. www.recurros.org/swlc.html
- * **Lunarosity**, the online journal of poetry and fiction, is now seeking *submissions for its January-February* issue. Lunarosity is especially interested in presenting the work of Southwestern authors. www.zianet.com/lunarosity
- * **2005 San Francisco Writer's Conference** *February 18-20*. Workshops on fiction, non-fiction, books-to-film, inter-active, memoirs, humor, thrillers, romance, poetry, children's books, philosophy, screenplays, syndicated columns, and cookbooks. www.sanfranciscowritersconference.com
- * **University of New Mexico Press** seeks exciting work about American Indians, anthropology, art and photography, Chicano/Chicana studies, area history, Judaea, Latin American studies, and New Mexico and Southwest. They publish biographies, fiction, poetry, and literature. www.unmpress.com

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FINAL EDIT
Copyediting/Proofreading Services

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

Deadline varies: *ByLine Magazine*, monthly contests, varying topics. See the current issue or www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp for more. Mail entries to: Contests, *ByLine Magazine*, PO Box 5240, Edmond OK 73083-5240.

Deadline 12/01/04. *Writer's Digest* 5th Annual Short Short Story Competition, 700 E. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati OH 45236. Entry Fee: \$12. Bold, brilliant...but brief fiction (up to 1,500 wds.). www.writersdigest.com/contest/short_story.asp.

Deadline 12/01/04. 12th *Writer's Digest* International Self-Published Book Awards, 700 E. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati OH 45236. Entry Fee: \$100. www.writersdigest.com/contest/self_published.asp.

Deadline 12/01/04. The Mona Schreiber Prize for Humorous Fiction and Nonfiction. Entry fee: \$5. Prizes: \$500, \$250, and \$100. www.brashcyber.com.

Deadline 12/01/04. Phoebe Winter Fiction Prize open to unpublished short stories up to 25 pages. Entry Fee: \$12. Prize: \$1,000 and publication. www.gmu.edu/pubs/phoebe/.

Deadline 12/15/04. Writing on Vacation Award. Entry fee: \$10 for first entry, \$5 for each additional entry. Prize: \$1,000. SASE to *Georgetown Review*, 400 E. College St., Box 227, Georgetown, KY 40324.

Deadline 12/15/04. Chicago Literary Awards seeks unpublished short stories and poems. Submit a story up to 6,500 words or 1 to 3 poems up to 300 lines total. Entry fee: \$12. Prize: \$1,000 and publication. www.anotherchicagomag.com.

Deadline 12/31/04. PMA Benjamin Franklin Awards for books published July 1-Dec. 31, 2004. www.pma-online.org.

Deadline 1/15/05. ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Awards for 2004. maryann@forwordmagazine.com.

Deadline 1/21/05. Five Legal Issues Every Publisher Must Know with noted publishing lawyer Lloyd Rich. Community Room, Santa Fe Unitarian Church. Call Jim Mafchir at (505) 988-7214.

Deadline 1/1/05. The *Writer* and *Rosebud* magazines invite you to enter the New Discovery Poetry Award contest for previously unpublished poetry. The first-place winner will receive \$1,000 and publication in both magazines. Poems may not exceed 40 lines in length. www.writermag.com.

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Thereafter: \$3.50/page

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

Nancy King has signed contracts for two books, both with Champion Press. Her non-fiction book, "Dancing With Wonder: Self Discovery Through Stories," will be published in February 2006.

Kimberley Griffiths Little's YA novel, "The Last Snake Runner," has just been released in paperback from Random House/Laurel Leaf and is on the 2004-2005 Land of Enchantment list and the New Mexico Battle of the Books.

Babara DuBois has a poem, "Black," in the fall issue of the Friends of the Socorro Library newsletter and a review of "Refuge" by Terry Tempest Williams in the Friends of the Bosque del Apache fall newsletter.

Debra Sparks had a short story, "Sunset on the Gulf of New Mexico," published in the recent edition of God's Way for Couples, Living a Life of Devotion published by White Stone Books and released in July 2004.

Cora Gail Gunn Trent has a new book, "Absence of Grief," published by AuthorHouse, which is available on their website in paperback or e-book and will soon be in book stores and on site such as amazon.com.

Jeannine Van Eperen was one of the authors ("Love and All That Jazz") who participated in a book event sponsored by New Mexico Women Magazine, A Desert of One's Own: Women: Writing in New Mexico at Barnes and Noble on November 6th.

Nancy Glass West's work has been included in the SouthWest Writers' Collection at Texas State University-San Marcos: documents about book publishing in Texas.

Sabra Brown Steinsiek's final volume of the "Taylor Morgan Trilogy" has been released by Whiskey Creek Press. The book is available from Error! Bookmark not defined.

Melody Groves had articles published in AbqARTS, Desert Exposure, and Albuquerque, The Magazine.



Your successes could be on this page to be seen by agents, editors, and publishers. But you have to do more than just talk, you have to e-mail your successes to SWriters@aol.com. Don't miss this unique chance for free publicity and fame...and your right to brag!



Critique Groups

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

**Wanting to Start Groups/
Looking for a Group****SF/Fantasy:**

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

Poetry:

Billy Brown
(505) 401-8139
welbert53@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
riograndemh@cableone.net

Any Genre,**Rio Rancho area:**

Bob Harpley
(505) 867-1408
quasiburro@cableone.net

Historical Romance:

Leah Dodd
(505) 890-0210
patandleah@peoplepc.com

Ficton & Nonfiction:

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

SF/F:

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

Fiction/Poetry:

Dianne Boles-Scott
(505) 299-0026

dboles-scott5@msn.com

Groups Seeking Members**Any Genre:**

Tina Ortega
2nd and 4th Thursday 6pm
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,**Screenplays:**

Every Other Thursday
Marc Calderwood
Mckokopelli@aol.com

Mystery/SF:

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

New SWW Members

Nell Charles Wilkerson

Diana Gharbi

Helen J. Truscott

Kim Campbell

June Walker

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about benefits for
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Cheri Eicher
INDEPENDENT MEANS
Group Benefits
(505) 299-5919
(800) 883-4310

SWW Board Meeting will be held at the SWW office, Tuesday, December 7, 2004, at 6 p.m.

Here we are:
3721 Morris St. NE Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87111-3611
phone: (505) 265-9485 fax: (505) 265-9483
e-mail: SWriters@aol.com
web: www.southwestwriters.org

October Board Meeting Highlights

Secretary, Marsha Thole.

◆ Results of a survey of attendees at the September SWW meetings were presented to the Board. A more in-depth analysis will take place at the Board strategy planning retreat in mid-October. On the whole, SWW received high marks for meeting the needs of its members.

◆ Is there a certain workshop or seminar that you would like SWW to sponsor? Do you know of a speaker who could address topics related to writing? Anyone having ideas for the monthly programs is asked to contact the SWW vice president.

◆ SWW accepts credit cards for membership dues, conference, and workshop registrations. It does not give cash advances on your credit card for any purpose. Please keep this in mind when purchasing books at the monthly meetings.

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

- President**
Rob Spiegel
(505) 275-2556 · robspiegel@comcast.net
- Vice President**
Larry Greenly
(505) 293-8550 · drdoom999@juno.com
- Secretary**
Marsha Thole
(505) 856-3352 · MarshaThole@southwestwriters.com
- Treasurer**
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- Young Writer's Contest 2004 Chair**
Sylvie Larimore de Lara
youngwriterscontest@southwestwriters.com

The SouthWest Sage

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Albuquerque NM 87111
www.southwestwriters.org
SWriters@aol.com

See your membership card for renewal date.
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Special Event

The December 4th get-together is also our annual potluck.

Don't miss it.

Get to know your new SWW Officers.

Here's another chance to let the new Board know what changes
you'd like to see in SouthWest Writers in the coming year.