



The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 20, No. 4

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

April 2005

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

Screenwriters Read This All-Day Screenwriting Seminar Dr. Linda Seger

Dr. Seger is an internationally known speaker in the area of screenwriting and has lectured in over 24 countries around the world. As the author of eight books, Dr. Seger has appeared in more than 60 radio and television shows. She has consulted on more than 2,000 scripts, including 40 produced films and some 35 produced television projects with ABC, CBS, NBC, Disney, and Turner Network. Her clients have included TriStar Pictures, Ray Bradbury, William Kelly, Linda Lavin, Suzanne dePasse, and Tony Bill, as well as production companies and writers from six countries.

“I found Dr. Seger’s *Making a Good Script Great* so helpful, specifically the section on Central Question and on creating scene sequences, I’ve used those concepts on my films, starting with *Apollo 13*.”

Ron Howard, Academy Award winning director

The seminar will include a discussion with screenwriters, Cliff Gravel, and Melody Groves about team writing.

Saturday, May 21, 2005 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM
~Registration opens at 7:30 AM~
Howard Johnson Hotel, on Hotel Circle off Lomas
North of I-40 at the Eubank exit
Albuquerque, New Mexico
\$99.00 for SWW Members \$159.00 for Nonmembers
Box Lunch Included

The special room rate at Howard Johnson’s is \$44.00 per night for SWW Seminar attendees (as available). Attendees who wish to come early or stay beyond the one-day conference will get the same rate. Phone (505) 293-9072. Be sure to mention the SWW Seminar.

For Further Details and a Registration Form:

www.southwestwriters.org. Or pick up a copy at the SWW office or a SWW meeting.

Or call the SWW Office at (505) 265-9485 to register by phone.

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



The SouthWest Sage

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

Subscription is a benefit of SWW membership.

For advertising rates and submission guidelines, see www.southwestwriters.org.

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Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-Noon**

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Cover: Dr. Linda Seger Seminar Information

Page 3: It Happened by Judy Ducharme

Page 4: Markets by Mary Lynn

Page 5: It Happened by Judy Ducharme

Page 6: Contest Connection by Joan Marsh

Page 6: The Inevitable by Ted Lynn

Page 7: Writing for Audio Books by Charley Mulvey

Page 8: Extensions by June Walker

Page 9: Odds & Ends/Ad Rates

Page 10: SWW Events

Page 11: Announcements

Page 12: Contests

Page 13: Member Successes

Page 14: 2006 Board Nominations

Page 15: SWW Board Information

SWW dues are \$60 per year (or \$100 for 2 years).
Two individuals joining or renewing together get a special rate of \$50 each.
Students with current proof of attendance can enjoy a special \$40 rate.
At the \$60 rate, that's only \$5 a month to belong to a great organization!
You can now pay your dues securely online at www.southwestwriters.org.

It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

SWW Meeting, Saturday, February 5, 2005.

Jonathan Miller's talk on February 5 for SouthWest Writers' Saturday meeting was titled "How to Sell Even if No One Shows Up for the Book Signing." In among all the tales of failure turned into success, Jonathan gave us a lot of suggestions how to have a lucrative book signing. Jonathan's talk was hilarious. He even made a funny story out of having a stalker for a while. And getting rid of box after box of his books delivered to his office.

Jonathan's first book signing for "Rattlesnake Lawyer" was with Ruthie Francis in the Wyoming Hastings Superstore on September 15, 2001. No one came specifically to see him, though there were five elderly ladies who drove down from Santa Fe to see Jonathan Miller. When they said he looked younger than they thought and asked about Dudley Moore, he knew it was a case of mistaken identity. The ladies left without buying anything, but he sold fifty books with his persistence and perseverance. The secret to a successful book signing is hard work.

When approaching a bookstore for a book signing, don't call. Go in person and leave a copy of your book and a one page letter about the book and about you. If no one calls you, you may make three calls to remind them that you went by. No more than three. Research the town and the store. Find out before the signing when the most people are likely to be there and events that draw people away, like football games. Confirm the signing a few days before, because the person in the community relations position may have changed.

Don't agree to be in a back corner, insist on a visible spot, even if you have to be in the foyer. Use a soft voice to speak, until people ask you to speak up. It is not necessary to have a talk prepared, just vary what you say and how you say it, to remain fresh and excited about your book. Be polite, but allow yourself one rude comment or comeback during a book signing.

Remember you are a guest in the store. Clean up after yourself and your customers. Thank everyone you talk to, encounter, and especially the people who allowed you to sign your book. Negotiate for free stuff, but not until you sell ten books. Check out when you leave and leave the area as it was before the signing.

Talk to teachers and prospective writers, it helps you become known.

You can't spend a lot of time with one person, so give them a brochure for SouthWest Writers as a place they can learn how to write, get published and all the other questions you will field.

Notice where publishers, book distributors and book store owners shelve your books. Respect yourself and others will respect you. Always have extra copies of your book in your car, in case the bookstore runs out.

His next book is "Amarillo In August," a true story of the misadventures he encountered in selling his book through book signings.

It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Conference, Feb. 19.

The one-day conference encompassed seventeen fun-filled hours. There was a well-received panel discussion. The editors were Steve Saffel, Del Rey Books of Random House, and Liz Scheier, ROC from Penguin Group. Both spoke entertainingly about writing. Each had twelve pre-set appointments with writers aspiring to be published, while the other was talking. Steve requested an additional hour to answer any questions. He went to dinner with us, and on to the ghost tour of Old Town. The two-hour tour was hosted by Julia Brown, co-owner of NM Ghost Tours, and twelve of us enjoyed the history she divulged. Go to the web site www.nmghosttours.com for information about this fun thing to do. It didn't even rain on us, though it had rained off and on all day.

At 11:30pm, fifteen of the attendees gathered in the dim Crystal Room and drank hot chocolate, ate cookies and other goodies, and told ghost stories. Steve Saffel told of a ghost tour he'd taken in York, England where the Roman Legion walked along an old Roman road buried under a pub. Ken Hudnall, writer from El Paso, told stories of his ghost encounters in El Paso. The rest of us explained ghosts we have lived with. By 12:30am all were tired and ready to go back to their rooms, perhaps to sleep.

We sold books for Book Works and others. The conference made over a thousand dollars and had forty paid attendees. We gave a scholarship to a young woman who was most appreciative. Lela Belle Wolfert deserves our thanks for the success of the conference; she was ably assisted by the Conference Committee and others. David Corwell allowed us to use his cash register so all the money from books sales was divided accordingly.

Linda Seger will be here on May 21, 2005 to speak on "How to Make a Good Script Great."

Markets

by Mary Lynn

A conversation with literary agent Ashley Kraas, Kraas Literary Agency.

Q: Please tell us about your background. Include anything you consider important to your entry into the agenting business such as your education, experience, how you got interested in literary representation, etc.

A: After several years in the corporate sales and marketing arena, I have returned to the publishing world to work as an associate at my mother's agency. Previous experience includes working as an associate at the Anita Diamant Agency. I was also an editorial assistant in the Warner Books romance and women's fiction department where I worked with authors such as Helen Mittermeyer, Millie Criswell, Sherryl Woods and Renaldo Fischer. I also work as a freelance editor.

Q: Considering your representation areas (please name them), are there outstanding examples you'd recommend we read and study? If so, which TITLES and by whom?

A: I am accepting well-written, powerful submissions for chick lit, romance (historical, contemporary, Regency, paranormal, suspense), women's fiction, historical fiction and nonfiction (including, but not limited to, biographies, self-help, spiritual and memoirs).

For chick lit, I recommend *SEX, MURDER AND A DOUBLE LATTE* by Kyra Davis which will be pubbed May of this year. The "Bubbles" series by Sarah Stromeier is also particularly clever. Other talented authors that make the list for romance and women's fiction include Nora Roberts, Fern Michaels, Rosemary Pilchner, and Jennifer Crusie. For nonfiction/memoirs, I've recently read *TO AMERICA* by Stephen Ambrose and am currently reading *GALILEO'S DAUGHTER* by Dava Sobel. They're both exquisite.

Q: Are there text or reference books you'd recommend for studying writing techniques and/or the writing business?

A: Writing groups are great resources for authors. And, for non-narrative, nonfiction, I highly recommend Jeff Herman's 10 **PROPOSALS THAT SOLD AND WHY**. It's a guide to writing nonfiction proposals and answers all the right questions.

Q: Explain your procedure for selling a manuscript. For instance, do you call editors and ask to submit? Or travel to New York periodically? Visit with editors face to face? Pitch to them, as writers pitch to you? Tell us whatever you think we need to know about your business.

A: I have a continual correspondence with all of the editors that I work with in New York via email as well as phone calls. Plus, I travel to the city three to four times per year to meet with them face-to-face. I generally know what editors are currently looking for; however, if I'm unsure or if I have a particularly special/timely mss., then I'll call the editor and ask her or him directly about possible interest in the piece.

Q: What do you expect to see in a query letter?

A: I don't generally read too many query letters. I prefer the submission of the first 50 pages as it gives me the ability to really evaluate the author's work.

Q: Everything seems to be speeding up and editors have less and less time to read. How does this effect your job?

A: It makes me much choosier in the mss. I take on.

Q: In terms of your 'dream' submission—What project do you wish would land on your desk today? In other words, what book/subject/topic would you consider most likely to be the easiest for you to market, then become a hot seller?

A: I'll have to see it to know.
Thank you, Ashley.

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.

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

It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

Larry Barker and the Story Behind the Story

Larry Barker's talk Saturday, March 5 was titled Mucking in Moscow, Hanging Around in Havana: Murder and Espionage. Larry Barker, familiar to all of us from TV, helped originate Crime Stoppers. Larry Barker told us the story behind the story of Edward Lee Howard, known as the spy who lived in Santa Fe.

Larry saw the headlines when we did, October 2, 1985: "Spy Hunt Targets New Mexico Man" and "Ex-official May Be KGB Defector in New Mexico." Ed was an economic analyst for the NM Legislative Finance Committee. He had a wife and child. Although born in Alamogordo, he came back to NM from working on economic issues for the State Department, supposedly.

In reality, Ed Howard had been trained by the CIA to infiltrate the KGB in Moscow. He flunked lie detector tests, drank and had some petty thefts. The CIA fired him. Bitter, he had to get even so he sold secrets to the KGB, which resulted in several moles in place in Moscow being found out and killed.

The September before the headlines, Ed knew the FBI was onto him, so he slipped the country by avoiding a surveillance trailer, getting on a plane in Albuquerque, flying to Tucson—and then he disappeared. That's when the letters from Larry Barker started, one just addressed to Ed Howard, Moscow. In 1995, Larry got a reply to one of his letters, on E-mail, saying that if Larry were able to get to Moscow, he, Ed, would talk to him.

Seems he'd had a book published, "Safe-House." Ed agreed to talk to Night Line and Larry Barker. Ed and Larry met at The Santa Fe Restaurant (in Moscow), had three days of in depth interviews. Larry visited his homes: a small dacha on the fringe of Moscow and a huge palatial apartment in Central Moscow. He had one security guard

watching him.

Back in NM, Larry did a series of reports and articles on Ed Howard. He'd found him to be a personable man with a sense of humor. Ed's book was bad and self-serving. He wanted to be forgiven so he could come home. He died two years ago from a purported fall on the steps of his dacha. The FBI is skeptical that he is dead. The end of a real spy thriller.

The Havana connection started when a policeman made a routine traffic stop of a car carrying three militants with a trunk full of material: bombs, guns, ammunition. All was well until Officer Robert Rosenblum requested to look in the trunk. Someone shot him. The three men left the car on the side of the road, kidnapped a tow truck driver and hijacked to Havana, a TWA flight on its way to Chicago. It was 1971, at 2:30 am.

Skip to a few years ago. Larry picked up the cold case, found a friend who had been to Havana and had the phone number of Charlie Hill, one of the three who fled this country for Cuba. One had died fifteen years before. Larry found himself in Havana with a photographer, posing as tourists. They met with Charlie Hill, who decided not to give the interview and ran away. By then they had some great footage on a digital camera.

Larry and his photographer were to leave the next morning, when a call from the front desk alerted them that two men from the Cuban Interior Department were in the lobby to see them. The two "tourists" stuck to their story that they were tourists, after they hid the digital evidence of the story they'd come to Havana to get. Finally, the two men said to be on that plane at 7 am. They were on the plane. Larry, and his bilingual photographer won a Regional Emmy for the story. To this day Charlie Hill, a crass and unpleasant fellow, is protected by Castro, although he has been asked by our government to return him.

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SWW Contest Connection

by Joan Marsh, 2005 Contest Co-Chair

What's New

The Contest Awards Banquet will be held on September 3, 2005 at 1:30 pm. We will celebrate with the contest winners at Bread and Wine, 2740 Wyoming Blvd. NE, following the September membership meeting. Everyone is invited. The entire meal: entrée, coffee or tea, dessert, tip and tax are all included for \$19.95. John Candelaria, poet and writer, will be Master of Ceremonies.

I am taking reservations now. Please e-mail your reservation to: joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com. Payment information will be forthcoming.

Questions & Answers

Q: Can anyone enter the contest?

A: Yes. The contest is open to the public. The entry fees are higher for non-members: All categories (except poetry) are \$29 for SWW members, \$44 for non-members; Poetry fees are \$18 for SWW members, \$28 for non-members.

Q: Can you help me determine the correct category for my manuscript?

A: You are the best judge of placement for your entry.

Q: My 20th page (category 2) ends mid-sentence. May I send 21 pages so the judge isn't left hanging?

A: The 21st page won't be forwarded to the Judge or Critiquer. Send your manuscript as it is or end with the last complete paragraph on your 20th page.

Q: Poetry entries are not usually double spaced. I can fit two poems, single spaced, per each of the 5 pages allowed. May I submit my poetry entry single spaced?

A: Poetry entries may be single spaced. On the General Contest Rules page, Entry Format #3 incorrectly implies that Poetry entries should be double spaced. That was my oversight. We are accepting both double spaced and single spaced entries. Judges and critiquers have been notified.

Q: How will I know if SWW received my entry?

A: See #4 General Contest Rules: SASE. You may enclose a stamped self-addressed post card with your entry. When your entry is received by SWW your post card will be mailed back to you.

Q: Where are the contest entry fees listed?

A: On the SWW Contest Entry Form.

Q: What is all the fuss about postage?

A: No fuss at all. The postage requirements for the return envelope are the same as they are for the exterior envelope in which you place your entry.

Send your contest-related questions to:

joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com

On Tuesday night, April 19, 2005, Contest Chair David Corwell and I will be available at the membership meeting to answer your contest questions. Our Q&A session will follow the scheduled speaker. The membership meeting (open to the public) begins at 7pm and is held at the New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque.

One of the Inevitable is Upon Us

by Ted Lynn

In December, we talked about several of the deductions writers can take but many neglect. Now here are some web sites and electronic techniques you can employ to make sure you file timely returns, save you time, and hopefully, save you money as a self-employed freelance writer. This is particularly crucial for those of us who have procrastinated (who me?) and have only a short time to do their taxes.

Point your browser to the IRS web site: <http://www.irs.gov> and select "FREE FILE" in order to see if you can use a commercial service to compute and submit your 2004 Federal Tax Return for free. Next select the "Before Getting Started," and "Step by Step Instructions" to make sure you understand the eligibility requirements and the

other actions you must take to afford this free service.

Next, select "Start Now" and you'll be guided to the web site listing of more than a dozen companies that provide this free service. Make sure you go to the commercial sites by selecting one from this page and linking from the IRS site, in order to use this free service. Companies listed include TurboTax, FileYour Taxes.com, TaxSimple.com, OnlineTaxes.com, H&R Block, FreeTaxUSA.com, TAXSLAYER.com, eSmartTax, and EFILE TAX RETURNS, INC., among others.

You can arrange to pay your taxes from your Bank Account, and/or to have refunds deposited directly into it. You can also file your New Mexico Personal Income Tax

Cont'd on next page...

Writing for Audio Books

by Charley Mulvey

Edward "Ted" McClure has found his niche. His new job lets him bring humor and compassion to his work. With a reprieve from law and military intelligence, Ted provides entertainment for travelers, custodians, soldiers, and just about anybody who needs their eyes for something else besides reading. As managing editor of Americana Publishing, Ted sorts through mountains of books and manuscripts to find the attention grabbing stories. He wants those truck drivers to stay awake and keep their eyes on the road.

On occasion, I read to an elderly friend, and up until Ted spoke at the February 15th Southwest Writers meeting, I had assumed that audio publishers simply shortened the most popular books to be read aloud for this market. But Ted says that editing for audio books is different than editing for print, because listening is different than reading. Our brains work differently when we are only hearing something, and our attention span is shorter.

So, how do you write for audio? Ted looks for action adventures, thrillers, westerns, and mysteries that are pleasant to the ear and easy on the brain. He wants tight, quick episodes. People do not remember that they hear as easily as they remember what they see. You can put a book down and come back to it, but in audio listening something important has to happen every five minutes. It could be "a gunshot or a kiss," Ted says, as long as it's not a long philosophical digression distracting the listener from the story. Style is also important. Awkward combinations of words or too many guttural sounds will put the listener off, and a too passive voice will put her to sleep. The rhythm of the story is also important. Shorten the complicated sentences. Leave out showy technical information. Neologisms (invented language) won't work, even in science fiction. No long descriptive passages. Keep it crisp.

Cont'd from last page...

electronically. In fact, when you go to their web site, <http://www.state.nm.us/tax>, select "e-services" in the left-hand column, and then PIT-NET, you'll find you have an extra 17 days to file your 2004 return beyond the Federal filing deadline of April 15th. There is no charge for paying by electronic check, but if you want to use a credit card to pay your tax, there will be a 2.22 percent charge.

Advantages of filing electronically include faster refunds, fewer errors, and proof of filing. You can also obtain and submit the form needed for an automatic four-month extension on your obligation to file, although you still have to pay any tax you owe by April 15th for your federal return.

Ted's company publishes an average of 10 new titles every month and 90% are sold at military bases and truck stops. The short novels or novellas are 30,000 or 60,000 words in length to fit on either two or four disks or cassettes. There are two basic structures for dramatization. Single reader books are prevalent, but audio products might also be fully dramatized with sound effects and a full cast. Americana's readings are single voice, although characters may be distinguished from one another with talented actors like reader Phil Sisneros. A single reader might make a dozen characters in a scene recognizable from one another.

Americana prefers submissions already in print because the editing work is already done, but Ted will look at manuscripts if he is convinced the material is what he needs. For example, you might say in your synopsis, "This is an action adventure novella that sounds really good when read out loud." Ted points out that the writer should find what each publisher's particular interests and requirements are. Ask what you need to submit, and don't rely on Writer's Market, because requirements change. Don't send Ted your self-help books or inspirational pieces, no matter how wonderful. Americana is not doing those at this time. He suggests that you put out a sample of your work on a website and link it so a publisher can find it. What an editor is looking for might depend on what genre he needs more of in a particular month. Ted prefers electronic submissions.

Americana's audio rights are non-exclusive, so you can still publish for print even after your audio book is heard around the world. Ted McClure enjoys what he does, feels that his work is important, and likes to support local talent. Don't give up, keep submitting, and feel free to e-mail Ted with questions: editor@americanabooks.com.

For more information about purchasing audio books, see www.americanabooks.com.

If you paid into an IRA during 2004 (through April 15, 2005), you may be eligible for a Tax Credit of 10 percent of your contribution. In the Search Field on the IRS web page, enter "IRS Publication 590" to find the publication which you can view on your screen, or print out. Then you can determine if you're eligible for the credit, and how much you may reduce your tax bill.

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

Ted Lynn: ted@writerscenter.com

Extensions: Good for Writers

by June Walker

Your sister has a spring wedding planned and you're the maid-of-honor. April 15 is just around the corner, but there's no time to think taxes right now. Or...

The magazine piece you've been working on has taken so long that you haven't found time even to look at your mail much less get your tax records together.

Will either of these reasons for filing late pass muster with the Internal Revenue Service? An unnecessary question, because you don't need a reason to file your return as late as August 15. And a simple reason will give you until October 15 to file. And here's something most writers don't know: It may be in your best interest to file your tax return after the April 15 deadline.

The Benefits of Filing After April 15

Ignore the old husbands' tale that an extension triggers IRS computer screens to flash "Audit this return!" Not so.

An extension gives you more time to collect and review your material. And, even if you have your return completed by the end of February, it's better for you — the self-employed writer — to hold that return for a little marination. Here's why:

Most taxpayers think there is only one way to prepare a tax return. Tax pros know that income and deductions can be treated in a variety of ways. If your tax preparer understands the self-employed life, she is equipped to make choices to your tax advantage. And many of her choices for 2004 may depend upon your income and expenses in 2005. The later into 2005 the more you'll know about 2005.

For instance, a substantially higher income in 2005 than in 2004 may warrant a fuller deduction in 2005 for equipment purchased in 2004. Or, with a high 2004 income you may want to make a hefty contribution to your self-employed pension. If you don't have the money right now to put into that pension, an extension gives you until October 2005 to come up with your 2004 pension contribution.

Take your time and talk with your tax professional about creating a favorable tax scenario.

How Does an Extension Work?

Tax returns are due April 15. An extension gives you more time to file your return – but does *not* give more time to pay your taxes. Your taxes for 2004 are due by April 15, 2005.

There are two extensions offered from the IRS. An automatic extension gives you until August 15 to file. And what I call the "super" extension gives you until October 15.

You may also need to file a state extension.

Automatic Extension Form 4868 must be filed by April 15. You will receive no confirmation of receipt from the IRS and you must file your return by August 15.

Estimate your total tax liability for 2004 using tax returns of previous years as a guide. For instance, if you made 25% more in 2004 than in 2003, pay at least 25% more in taxes. If you made less, pay less. It's best to overestimate the tax you'll owe. Pay the balance due or as much of it as you can.

If you can't pay the balance due, you will be charged penalty and interest when you file your return.

Always file an extension, even if you cannot pay the full balance due. And, come return filing time, if you still don't have the money, don't file your return late. File on time and you can pay your tax later. If you file your return late, in addition to any late payment penalties and interest you could also be hit with a late filing penalty.

Some anxious people rush to pay their income tax by taking cash advances on credit cards. That's a foolish move. Mastercard and Visa will charge you more in interest than will Uncle Sam.

Super Extension Form 2688 must be filed by August 15 and gives you until October 15 to file your return. For this super extension you need to give a reason for requesting more time. "My accountant is too busy" is not an acceptable reason. "Work commitments prevented timely filing" is a good reason. "Family illness" is a distressing but good reason. The IRS will send you a notice that your application for more filing time has been approved.

Either extension form can be downloaded from www.irs.gov.

June Walker is the author of *Self-employed Tax Solutions* (Globe Pequot Press). To learn more and to receive a list of *Examples of Typical and Unusual Self-employed Business Expenses* visit www.junewalkeronline.com.

Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership? Check the website.
It is now secure for online renewals and new memberships.

Critique Groups

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

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

Poetry:

Billy Brown
(505) 401-8139
welbert@aol.com

Short Nonfiction:

Suzann Owings
(505) 867-0567

Any Genre,

Rio Rancho area:

Winnie Keith
(505) 771-8059
w.leone@giftsbyleone.com

Any Genre,

Rio Rancho area:

Alice Harpley
riograndma@cableone.net

Any Genre,

Rio Rancho area:

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

Historical Romance:

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

Ficton & Nonfiction:

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

SF/F:

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

Fiction/Poetry:

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

Fantasy/Romance:

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

Any Genre in Santa Fe:

Mary Mazza-Anderson
cmmom@zianet.com

Groups Seeking Members

Any Genre:

Tina Ortega
2nd and 4th Thursday 6 pm
at Moriarty Library
(505) 832-2513
jleksutin@hotmail.com

**The Santa Fe Screenwriter's
Group:**

Susan Burns
(505) 474-8268
thursday51@aol.com

Novels/Short Stories:

Saturday afternoons at
Albuquerque Main Public
Library on Copper
Jack Phelan
(505) 292-0576
(505) 256-3500

Albuquerque Nonfiction:

Meets weekly at the old
Albuquerque Press Club
Marianne Powers
(505) 892-4990
drifty@aol.com

**Westside Scribes,
Screenwriters:**

Every other Thursday
Flying Star on Rio Grande Blvd.
Marc Calderwood
skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com
897-6474

Mystery/SF:

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

Novels/Short Stories:

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

New SWW Members

Karen Miller
Rebecca Demoss
Patrick Demoss
Diana Almader-Douglas
Satya Lee
Judith Woods
Len Harvard
Stanley Ray
Bill Watson
Frank Zoretich
Ted McClure
Laura Goldsmith
Martha McFarland
Jim Hammond
Barbara Hammond
Alan Carlson
James O'Leary
Christine Matalucci
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IManAuthor@
southwestwriters.com.
Their messages to you
will be automatically and
invisibly forwarded to
your existing address.
Just send an e-mail
message to
LorettaHall@
southwestwriters.com,
including your choice of
SWW address and your
existing e-mail address
where you want
messages to be
forwarded.

**SouthWest Sage
Ad Rates**

**Worldwide Circulation
on the Internet**

The SWW website received
over 90,000 page requests
last month.

Business card size:

\$16

1/4 page:

\$36

1/3 page:

\$45

1/2 page:

\$75

Full page:

\$100

15% discount for 3 mos.

20% discount for 6 mos.

Deadline:

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

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



For information
about benefits for
SWW members contact:

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

Very rarely are SWW programs cancelled, but it is possible should the weather become fierce. Please remember, if you have doubts about whether a program will happen, or about the time or topic, call the SWW office number (505) 265-9485 during business hours, M-F 9am - noon.

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

Saturday, April 2, 10am-noon

Open Mic Poetry Reading

April is Poetry Month. Sign up to read your favorite poetry, and bring your friends and neighbors to listen. All are welcome to read, but SWW members get preference. Five-minute limit, subject to change. Call the SWW office at (505) 265-9485 to register if you want to read.

Tuesday, April 19, 7-9pm

Double Feature: Banned in Boston-Colorado

Eileen Longworth, Director of Albuquerque Libraries, will discuss the recent banning of Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me Ultima* by a Colorado school district and aspects of book-banning and censorship in general. **SWW Contest Rules & Tips:** A panel will discuss how to enter a writing contest and tips to improve your odds and avoid being disqualified.

Saturday, May 7, 10am-5pm

New Mexico Book Fiesta at Cottonwood Mall in Albuquerque

The New Mexico Book Co-op, a coalition of small and independent book publishers and authors in New Mexico, is sponsoring this event. Publishers and authors are invited to participate in the book fair. There will be a fee of \$70.00 for each booth/table. Booths/tables can be shared by more than one author or publisher. Any sharing of booths/tables must be arranged by applicant. The organizers of the book fair will not handle any such sharing. For additional information, info@nmbookcoop.com or call (505) 344-9382.

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

Need a new book?
Save Money and Support SWW!
*Go to www.southwestwriters.org
and click on the 'amazon.com' box.*
You save money & SWW receives a commission

FRANK ZORETICH
Writing Coach & Manuscript Line-Editor

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frankz@mail.com
First Hour Free

CINDY FRITZ
(505)867-2980

FINAL EDIT
Copyediting/Proofreading Services

2528 Baldy Loop NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144
E-mail: threewavesfromrio1@earthlink.net

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

- * **Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** meets *second Saturday of each month* at noon. Potential members can attend 3 meetings to see if they would like to join. www.leranm.org.
- * **NBC Universal** is seeking Spanish-language American playwrights for their Telemundo soap opera writing program at Dade College in Miami. www.tallertelemundo.com.
- * **Storytellers of New Mexico** will be meeting at La Siringitu, 1501 Mountain Rd. NW, just east of the Explora Museum. *3rd Sunday of each month*. www.thestorybird.com.
- * **Rob Spiegel and Larry Greenly teach a free weekly class** at Bear Canyon Senior Center from 3 to 4:15 p.m. *every Monday*. Half lecture, half discussion of student writing. Covers fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and memoir. Free to members of any Albuquerque senior center (senior center yearly dues: \$12.50).
- * **University of New Mexico Press** seeks exciting work about American Indians, anthropology, art and photography, Chicano/Chicana studies, area history, Judaea, Latin American studies, and New Mexico and the Southwest. They publish biographies, fiction, poetry, and literature. www.unmpress.com.
- * **SphinxBooks.com** is a new e-book publishing company that is accepting book-length submissions in Mystery, Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror.
- * **Write on Four Corners** NPR radio program in Farmington, NM is looking for authors to interview. Contact Connie Gotsch at gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us.
- * **TMCC Writers' Conference** Reno, NV. *April 7-10*. <http://commserv.tmcc.edu>.
- * **Smokies in the Springtime Writers Seminar** Townsend, TN. *April 7-10*. www.touchofsuccess.com.
- * **Revitalize Your Writing and Double Your Sales** with Shirley Raye Redmond. *April 9*. 9am-4pm in Santa Fe, NM. \$125. For information/registration, (505) 471-1565 or wordharvest@yahoo.com.
- * **Juneteenth Legacy Theatre** *April 15*. www.juneteenthlegacytheatre.com
- * **Odyssey, The Summer Fantasy Writing Workshop** New Hampshire University. *June 13-July 22*. Application deadline April 15. www.sff.net/odyssey.
- * **UWM Spring Writers Festival** Milwaukee, WI. *April 15-17*. www.sce-arts.uwm.edu.
- * **Border Book Festival** Las Cruces, NM. *April 15-17*. www.borderbookfestival.org.
- * **Montana Spa Screenwriting Retreat** *April 15-17*. Gwen Petersen: sagebrsh@ttc-cmc.net.
- * **Arkansas Literary Festival** *April 15-17*. www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org.
- * **ASJA Writers Conference** New York City, NY. *April 16-17*. www.asja.org.
- * **Pikes Peak Writers Conference** Colorado Springs, CO. *April 22-24*. www.pikespeakwriters.org.
- * **Missouri Writers' Guild Conference** *April 22-23*. Donna Volkenannt: dvolkennt@charter.net.
- * **25th Los Angeles Times Festival of Books** on the UCLA campus. *April 23-24*. www.latimes.com.
- * **Oklahoma Writers' Federation Annual Conference** *April 29-30*. www.owfi.org.
- * **Malice Domestic XVII** *April 29-May 1*. www.MaliceDomestic.org.
- * **Colorado Christian Writers Conference** *May 11-14*. www.writehisanswer.com/Colorado.
- * **7th Annual Screenwriting Conference** Santa Fe. *June 1-5*. www.scsfe.com.
- * **Santa Barbara Writers Conference** *June 17-24*. www.sbwc.org.
- * **2005 Taos Summer Writers' Conference** to be held *July 9-15*. Register online at www.unm.edu/~taosconf.

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.

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

Deadline Open. Gilman & Gonzales-Falla Theater Foundation Musical Theater Award. \$25,000 first Prize. www.ggftheater.org.

Deadline 4/05/05. Flash Fiction. www.bylinemag.com.

Deadline 4/15/05. Spring Poem. www.bylinemag.com.

Deadline 4/20/05. Pet or Wildlife Article. www.bylinemag.com.

Deadline 4/30/05. General Poetry. www.bylinemag.com.

Deadline 5/05/05. New Talent Short Story. www.bylinemag.com.

Deadline 4/15/05. Ann Stanford Poetry Prize. mpw@usc.edu.

Deadline 4/30/05. The 27th Nimrod/Hardman Awards, The Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction, and The Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry. www.utulsa.edu/nimrod.

Deadline 4/30/05. Stephen Susco Screenwriting Mentorship Competition. www.writersroom.net.

Deadline 5/01/05. Nuestras Voces Playwriting Competition. Spanish or English. www.reportorio.org.

Deadline 5/01/05. Robert R. Lehan Playwriting Award for One-Act Plays. jshea@wsc.ma.edu.

Deadline 5/01/05. Whip City Radio Drama Award. jshea@wsc.ma.edu.

Deadline 5/01/05. Script P.I.M.P. Writing Competition. www.scriptpimp.com.

Deadline 5/01/05. Field Poetry Prize. www.oberlin.edu/ocpress.

Deadline 5/31/05. Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. www.ugapress.org.

Deadline 6/01/05. Children's New Script Contest. www.southwest-theater.com.

Deadline 6/01/05. Chicano/Latino Literary Prize for poetry. www.hnet.uci.edu/spanishandportuguese/contest.html.

Deadline 6/01/05. Christopher Brian Wolk Award. www.abingdon-nyc.org.

Deadline 6/01/05. Actors' Playhouse National Children's Theatre Festival. www.actorsplayhouse.org.

Deadline 6/01/05. 2005 Juniper Creek/Unnamed Writers National Poetry and Short Story Competition. www.junipercreekpubs.com/events.

Deadline 6/30/05. Delacorte Dell Yearling Contest for contemporary or historical fiction. www.randomhouse.com/kids.

Deadline 6/30/05. Musical Theatre Development Program. www.wcensemble.org.

Deadline 7/01/05. Henrico Theatre Company Playwriting Competition. www.co.henrico.va.us/rec.

Deadline 7/01/05. Maxim Mazumdar New Play Competition. www.alleyway.com.

Deadline 7/15/05. North Carolina New Play Project. www.playwrightsforum.org.

Deadline 8/01/05. Vital Signs. www.vitaltheatre.org.

Deadline 8/31/05. Ten-Minute Musicals Project. www.tenminutemusicals.org.

SouthWest Writers Critique Service

A thorough critique and assessment of your manuscript by published writers, teachers, or agents.

Books, articles, short stories, stage plays, and screenplays...even poetry.

Turnaround of approximately two weeks.

Query letter up to three pages: \$15

Synopsis up to three pages: \$25

All other manuscripts up to ten pages: \$35

Thereafter: \$3.50/page

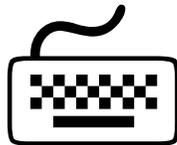
Send information by e-mail in rich text format (.rtf) to the SouthWest Sage editor at SWriters@aol.com. Please be brief.

Norma Walker has had two poems published in ABQ Arts: “North Country” in the October 2004 issue and “First Frost” in the December 2004-January 2005 issue.

Bob Natiello earned Special Mention in the Society of Southwestern Authors’ 2004 Contest for his memoir “The Almost Perfect Crime.”

Darren Moore won 2nd Place in the 2005 NESFA Contest for his story “The Most Daunting Task.”

Pari Noskin Taichert’s mystery “The Clovis Incident” has been nominated for an Agatha Award for Best First Novel 2004. This fan-based award is one of the oldest and most respected in the mystery community. Few, if any, New Mexico authors have ever been nominated in this category. Pari’s next book “The Belen Hitch” is due out early this fall.



2005 Marty Award Contest

Excellence in High School Journalism

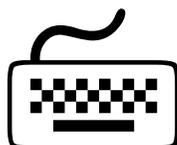
New Mexico high school students
may compete for the Martys

in two areas of journalism:

- Opinion or Editorial Essay
- News Article

For more information, go to:

www.southwestwriters.com



Call for Nominations for 2006 Officers

by *The Nominating Committee*

The SWW Nominating Committee (consisting of Fred Aiken, Judy Ducharme, and Sandy Schairer) is seeking nominations for the 2006 elected officers. Nominations should be sent to The Nominating Committee, Southwest Writers, 3721 Morris NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87111. You may nominate any member in good standing of SWW for these officers (self-nomination is acceptable) provided that the nominees meet the eligibility requirements that were listed in the March 2005 "The Southwest Sage".

Nominations must be accompanied by a written consent of the nominee to serve if elected.

Southwest Writers bylaws prescribe the following duties to our four elected officers:

A. The president shall:

1. Be the chief executive officer and official spokesperson of SWW and serve as the presiding officer over all meetings of the **Board** and meetings of the general membership.
2. Sign SWW contracts along with the secretary.
3. Appoint the following, subject to approval of the board: all standing committee chairs, except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, and all special committee chairs as the **Board** shall authorize.
4. Execute corporate business as specified by the **Board** and established policy.
5. Serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.
6. Coordinate all SWW activities.
7. Decide the outcome of a vote by the **Board** by making or breaking a tie.
8. May appoint a parliamentarian whose membership in SWW is not required.
9. Prepare, upon completion of the term served and no later than March 1, an annual report for publication in the subsequent April SWW newsletter.
10. Fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the **Board**.

B. The vice-president shall:

1. Preside in the absence of the president.
2. Be responsible for scheduling educational programs and workshops.
3. Assume the office of president when that office is vacated or when the president is unable to serve.

4. Assist the president in the operation of SWW.

5. Fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the **Board**.

C. The secretary shall:

1. Record and preserve the minutes of all meetings of the **Board**, the executive committee, and other official organization meetings, as deemed necessary by the **Board**.
2. Furnish a copy of the **Board** minutes and of the annual meeting to each member of the **Board** and to such other persons as may be directed by the president or the **Board**.
3. Furnish a copy of the minutes of the executive committee meetings to each member of that committee.
4. Sign SWW contracts along with the president.
5. Manage official correspondence as designated by the **Board** and by established policy.
6. Keep Articles of Incorporation, official copies of minutes and all other important documents including all SWW contracts in the archives at the SWW headquarters.
7. Fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the president or the **Board**.

D. The treasurer shall:

1. Serve as custodian of all funds belonging to SWW.
2. Serve as chair of the budget and finance committee.
3. Submit a proposed annual budget to the **Board** at the January **Board** meeting.
4. Serve as the **Board** liaison to any hired agent acting as custodian of SWW's funds and ensure that this agent provides accurate written financial reports.
5. Supervise the hired agent's safe-keeping and maintenance of accurate financial records, which shall be open for inspection by any member, the member's agent or attorney.
6. Supervise the collection and disbursement of funds.
7. Prepare and submit to the new **Board** a biannual financial report to be published in the newsletter in the month preceding the annual meeting.
8. Prepare, upon completion of the fiscal year served in office and no later than February 1, the annual financial report for publication in the subsequent March newsletter or before.
9. Fulfill such other duties as may be assigned by the president or the **Board**.

* * *

For those members wishing to receive an e-mail notice of SWW Events and Meetings, please send a request to be placed on the E-lert system. Send the request to Gail Rubin at publicity@southwestwriters.org.

SWW Board Meeting will be held at the
SWW office on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, at 6 pm

Here we are:

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

Recent Board Meeting Highlights

- ♦ Office maintenance for spring cleaning is coming up soon (on a Saturday.) Members and friends will be able to sign up to help.
- ♦ February income was approximately \$6,000 with \$5,300 in expenses. The February conference came in under budget with an income of \$1,128.73. SWW screenwriting seminar is on May 21st featuring Linda Seger.
- ♦ May 7th Book Fair is at Cottonwood Mall. SWW and a few SWW authors have booths. Brochures for prospective members will be available.
- ♦ SW Sage is mailed (approximately 490) and available on SWW website. Contact the office to switch to the electronic Sage to help cut down printing expenses. Ad space is available (for writer-related ads.) Board approved SWW website redesign to make navigation easier.
- ♦ Contest committee continues to select judges and critiquers. PR for contest escalates. Entry deadline is May 1. Award Banquet is September 3.
- ♦ Nominations are being sought for the 2006 board elections.

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

President

Rob Spiegel

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

VP/Office Coordinator/Parliamentarian

Larry Greenly

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

Secretary

Sandy Schairer

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

Treasurer

Loretta Hall

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Melody Groves

MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

SWW Sage Editor/Website Coordinator

Cliff Gravel

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

Critique Service

Edith Greenly

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

Policies, Procedures, and Audit/Historian

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952

Volunteer Coordinator

Cal Coates

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

Members At Large

Judy Ducharme

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

Writer's Contest 2005 Co-Chairs

David Corwell

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

Joan Marsh

JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

Nomination Committee Chair

Fred Aiken

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

Other Key Positions

E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin

publicity@southwestwriters.org

Speaker Coordinator

Larry Greenly

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

Interim Conference Chair

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952



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



The SouthWest Sage

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

See your membership card for renewal date.
Renew to retain your membership benefits.
You may now do this securely online.

Everyone Spread the Word to:

Writers, Publishers, Sales, Reps, etc.

SouthWest Writers has office space for rent.

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

local number fax machine, kitchenette.

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