



Vol. 24, No. 4

April 2008

## SWW Receives 2008 Bravos Award by Larry Greenly, SWW Vice President

The prestigious Bravos Awards are bestowed annually by the Arts Alliance to the most worthy individuals or organizations in visual, dance, music, theater and literary arts disciplines. This year, SouthWest Writers is honored to win the Bravos Award for Outstanding Arts Organization. The first Bravos Awards dinner in 1985 attracted only 30 artists and friends, but the fund-raising event has now grown to an audience of hundreds of guests, and the Bravos recipients are honored throughout the year.



Founded in 1981 as a nonprofit organization, the Arts Alliance provides communication within the arts community with a mission to “advocate for, support, recognize and coordinate efforts to enhance the state of the arts in the Albuquerque metropolitan area.” The organization provides information, programs and services, advocacy, recognition and celebration for the metropolitan area’s five major arts disciplines: dance, theater, visual, music and literary arts. Check them out at [abqarts.org](http://abqarts.org) and consider attending the awards dinner on April 26 at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Winners this year include: *Excellence in Dance*, Suzanne M. Johnston; *Excellence in Literary Arts*, Max Evans; *Outstanding Arts Volunteer*, Barbara Lohbeck; *Excellence in Arts Education*, Albuquerque Museum of Art & History Docent Program; *Outstanding Arts Organization*, SouthWest Writers; and *The President’s Award*, Ann Lerner.

24th Annual Bravos Awards Banquet  
April 26, 2008, 6:00 pm  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
\$75 per person, or \$750 for a table of ten  
If you haven't received a Bravos invitation, call the Arts Alliance office at 268-1920. They will mail you one or take your reservation over the phone.

**Arts Alliance  
2008 Bravos Award  
Outstanding Arts Organization**

**SouthWest Writers** has been helping its members and the public since 1982 to progress in their aspirations to write, whether professionally or for pleasure. Five years ago, SWW was struggling financially. Today, the organization is flourishing after reorganizing its priorities. Since then, its local and out-of-state members have noted the change in the organization’s perspective, and they frequently comment on the “good vibes” existing at its regular meetings. One of the largest and most-respected writing organizations in the country, SWW welcomes writers of all ages, genres and skill levels to its programs, workshops, classes and conferences. It offers several writing conferences each year, bringing in professionals from across the country to teach and engage writers. Writers from as far away as Puerto Rico have used its manuscript critique service. Its international annual writing contest provides cash prizes, and all entrants may receive an optional written critique. Entirely volunteer-run, SWW’s impact on the life of the local (and beyond) writing community is significant and laudatory.



### KNME Videotapes SWW meeting

Check your TV schedule for PBS KNME-TV (Channel 5) in early May for a program that was videotaped during SWW’s Tuesday evening meeting on April 18 in celebration of the 2008 Bravos Awards.

## From the Editor

By now, you *must* know that the Arts Alliance has bestowed upon SouthWest Writers their 2008 Bravos Award for Outstanding Arts Organization, a tribute that's sure to improve your posture—because you are responsible in part for that honor. As an active SWW member, every meeting, class and workshop you attend, every newsletter you contribute to, every visitor you greet, each time you mention SWW to another writer, or use a technique or tip you learned here, you're carrying the SWW torch. So stand proud with SWW's other 500+ members and enjoy this splendid honor.



Because of it, *albuquerqueARTS* magazine commissioned a feature story in their April Literary Arts issue by yours truly called, "On the Scene with SouthWest Writers," in which I dropped as many names as was humanly possible. Read it, should you doubt me. Larry Greenly (who's been drooling for a Bravos Award for years) wrote the accompanying sidebar, which I recommend if you haven't been a member for a coon's age. Didn't see that issue? Surf over to [abqARTS.com](http://abqARTS.com). You'll find the whole issue online along with a list of distribution points where you can get a paper copy.

Thanks, also, to the Bravos Award, Larry's Tuesday evening presentation in March was videotaped by KNME-TV, Channel 5, our favorite PBS affiliate. And, if that's not enough, I want to extend an invitation for you to celebrate with me and many other SWW members and board members at the Bravos Award Banquet on Saturday, April 26. Yes, it's pricey, but like the hair people say, you're worth it. Just be sure to tell a board member you're going so we can all try to sit together.

There are wonderful articles in this issue—Kirt Hickman coaches your muse (page 10), there's a how-to from the master of promotion, Mark David Gerson (page 7, and get a load of his successes on page 4), while Sherri Burr offers ideas for renewing your creativity (page 11), and Harold Burnett brings it all together in an essay on music and poetry (page 5).

April is National Poetry Month, a celebration introduced in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets. I'd like to share a few words on the subject by our very own Lella Bell Wolfert:

*A total poem is when you give your all. Remember, it is not what you feel, but what you can make others feel. It is sharing your best ideas. The object is to create a poem that will endure.*

*Poetry is a grinning boy creating satire. Poetry is children on the sidewalk singing. Poetry is singing "The Star Spangled Banner" before a football game. Poetry is the Pledge of Allegiance in a kindergarten class. Poetry is Robert Frost's "and miles to go before I sleep." Poetry is a daddy's kiss and hum.*

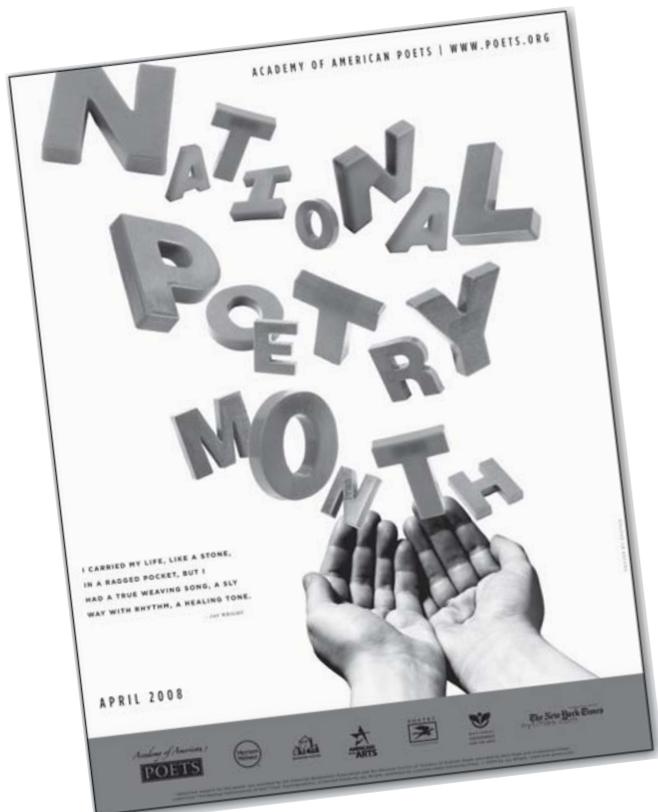
*Obviously, this is only a beginning of things to know about poetry. But, it is important if you want to do any kind of writing.*

*Poetry is what a poet writes.*

If you're a poet of any ilk, sign up quickly to deliver yours at our Tuesday evening meeting this month. That way, when Edna St. Vincent Millay asks, "To what purpose, April, do you return again?" you can answer: for National Poetry Month, of course!

Thanks to everyone who contributes to SWW and *SW Sage*.

*Peggy*



## Thanks to David Corwell

by **Sandy Schairer**

Retiring from the SWW Board of Directors after seven years of service, David J. Corwell served on a myriad of committees including Contest, Marketing, Long Range Planning, Critique Service, Nominating and Tellers Committees, and most recently New Member Breakfast. David organized the book table at SWW programs. David said, "I would like to think I streamlined every committee I worked on. I was honored to serve on the Board and have the opportunity to contribute to the organization."



Recipient of the 2003 SWW *The Storyteller Award* and the Parris Award in 2004—two of SWW's highest accolades—David holds an MA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. Author of "The Harvest" in *Dead in Thirteen Flashes* and "Legacy of the Quedana" in *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*, David was a 2007 New Mexico Book Award Finalist in anthology and science fiction. Now a full-time writer, he's working on a collection of supernatural and dark fantasy stories, a graphic novel and a screenplay. He moderates *Writers to Writers*, a monthly program that meets at the westside Hastings on the second Monday of the month.



# 2008 BRAVOS AWARD

## SouthWest Sage

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“On the scene with SouthWest Writers” feature story in April *albuquerqueARTS*.

On newsstands now!

## Features

- 1 SWW Receives Bravos Award! ..... by Larry Greenly
- 2 Thanks to David Corwell ..... by Sandy Schairer
- 5 Rhyme Time or Not ..... by Harold M. Burnett
- 7 Thirteen Rules for Publicizing Your Book ..... by Mark David Gerson
- 10 That Darned First Draft ..... by Kirt Hickman
- 11 Minding Finances: Fill the Creative Well ..... by Sherri Burr
- 11 Screenwriting Workshop ..... by Rick Reichman
- 12 SWW Writing Contest 2008 and Entry Form
- 15 SWW Scholarships

## Departments

- 2 From the Editor
- 4 Announcements, Successes, Signings
- 6 SWW Classes
- 8 April Events
- 9 May Events
- 14 Monthly Writing Competition Critique Groups, Ad Rates
- 15 Contests

### Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

Individual: \$60 (\$100 for 2 years), Two People: \$50/each, Student: Over 18\* \$40, Student: Under 18\* \$25, Outside U.S.: \$65, Lifetime Membership: \$750  
\*Requires proof of student status. Download the Sage from SWW Website.

**Join us! First Saturday: 10am-Noon; Workshop: 1-4 pm. Third Tuesday: 7-9 pm. New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

## Don't Miss these Exciting April Events!

### SWW Annual Open Poetry Reading Tuesday Evening, April 15

### 24th Annual Bravos Awards Banquet Saturday Evening, April 26

## Announcements

**SWW Discount!** The Santa Barbara Writers Conference, **June 21-26, 2008** in Santa Barbara, CA, features evening speakers **Ray Bradbury, Joseph Wambaugh, Sue Grafton, Jane Heller and Luis Alberto Urrea**. In addition: 30+ daily workshops, Agents & Editor's Day, Master Classes, panel discussions, and a Young Writers Program. Standard conference fee is \$825 and we would like to offer a **special rate of \$625 for anyone involved with SouthWest Writers**. More info at [sbwritersconference.com](http://sbwritersconference.com).

**April 5: Poetry and Shrine-Making Workshop by Karin Bradberry**, award-winning poet and teacher of English, Creative Writing and Spanish whose passion is creating art that incorporates her poetry. Learn how to give embodiment to your favorite poem or other piece of writing in this workshop. Cost is \$20; April 5, 1-4 pm at OFFCenter studio, 808 Park Ave. SW, 247-1172, or 323-3938 evenings.

**April 5:** The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators is hosting a one-day workshop at the Qwest Learning and Conference Center, 3898 South Teller in Lakewood. Registration is \$125 for non-members. Details at [rmcsbwi.org](http://rmcsbwi.org).

**April 5:** The East Mountain Library is planning an "Explore the Sandias" round-table with authors Mike Coltrin, Bob Julyan and Mike Smith. Saturday, April 5, 3:00- 5:00 pm at the East Mountain Library, 1 Old Tijeras Rd. Contact Tamara or Kelly at the East Mountain Library, 281-8508.

**April 5:** Writer **Cindy Bellinger** teams up with yoga instructor, **Jennifer Beckman**, for a day of creative yoga. Through writing and painting explore the stuff that bubbles to the surface during yoga. April 5, 9 am to 4 pm. \$115, call 505-757-2221.

**April 12:** A day of creative inspiration to encourage fresh ideas for your fiction, memoir, non-fiction, poetry or journaling with **Sean Murphy and Tania Casselle**. One Day Workshop in Los Alamos, Saturday, April 12, 10 am to 5 pm. \$65 including lunch. Details at [murphyzen.com](http://murphyzen.com) or email [myctr@laplaza.org](mailto:myctr@laplaza.org)

**April 19: Melody Groves'** Western novel, *Arizona War*, debuts Saturday, April 19, 1-3 pm at Treasure House Books in Old Town. Set in 1861, *Arizona War* brings frontier history alive. Johnny Boggs says, "...a well-honed edge for action that'll get your blood boiling. Historical fiction at its best." Available at UNM Press, Amazon.com and Treasure House Books. Also keep open Saturday, **May 3:** She's having an official book launch party at Vintage Cowgirl in Old Town from 2-4 pm, complete with live music and gunmen.

**April 26 to January 2009:** Write to the Finish, a 9-month long-distance course for writers working on a book-length project with **Sean Murphy and Tania Casselle**. Designed to support, inform, and inspire writers to make significant progress on a book-length project (novel, non-fiction, memoir, or collection of short stories, essays or poetry). No prior experience with email groups or phone conferencing is needed. E-mail [myctr@laplaza.org](mailto:myctr@laplaza.org) for details.

**The Intrepid Critique Group** invites non-fiction writers to join the group, which meets every other Monday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Material critiqued includes non-fiction book chapters, articles, opinion pieces and pitch letters. If interested, contact **Gail Rubin** at [grpr@flash.net](mailto:grpr@flash.net).

**Lucretia Tippit**, Ph.D. and retired Spanish teacher, is available to edit Spanish phrases in novels and stories written by SWW members. Contact her at [tippit@spinn.net](mailto:tippit@spinn.net) or 898-1678.

**Jean D. Schoppe** needs help to write her memoir, which she thinks will help other people. Payment negotiable. Call (505) 266-7192.

**Jonathan Lawrence** is looking for a memoir ghostwriter. Call him at 271-9336.

**Howard Fried** loves coming to SWW meetings, but his eyesight prevents him from driving at night. If you could drive him to the Tuesday night meetings, he would be grateful. He lives near 6th & Menaul at 2820 Los Tomases Dr NW, phone 342-1724.

## Book Signings

April 13: **Mark David Gerson** will have a signing for *The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write* from 2-4pm at the west-side Borders.

## Successes

**Shirley Raye Redmond's** 13th and 14th books were just released: *Intruder* (Nancy Drew Girl Detective #27—Simon & Schuster) and *Pup's Prairie Home* (Picture Window Books).

**Julie Matherly's** essay "We'll Dance in Heaven," was published in *Kaleidoscope* "Life Stories II" – January 2008 (United Disability Services, Akron, OH). Her essay explores the one year anniversary of her husband's diagnosis with Parkinson's Disease. It was also the article/essay winner at the 2005 Yosemite Writers Conference.

**Mark David Gerson's** fantasy novel, *The MoonQuest*, was named a semi-finalist in the Young Adult category in the 2007 Reader Views Literary Awards. The positive review of *The MoonQuest* in January's Library Journal has led to scores of library orders from public libraries all over the country. In February, *The MoonQuest* received a favorable mention in a *Publishers Weekly* blog and also received its 11th five-star review on Amazon, and his March workshop at Well Red Coyote Books in Sedona, AZ on "The Myth of Writer's Block" attracted a record turnout and record sales for *The Voice of the Muse* book and CD.

**Carola Sena's** book review of *And We Ate the Leopard* by Meg Wente was published in *albuquerqueARTS*, and she finished writing and editing her memories through 1983—32 pages worth—and had them printed and bound for her seven children.

**Karin Bradberry's** poem "Pray for Green" was published in the March issue of *albuquerqueARTS*. Her poem "La Mesilla Fiesta" will be published in the new Harwood Art Center poetry anthology, *Looking Back to Place*. Karin's thrilled as this is the first time her poetry will appear in a book.

**Lucretia Tippit's** Christian novel, *The Pageant Unveiled*, was published by Infinity Press. The book tells the story of Kathy Whitford, a baby boomer, who is called to the ordained ministry at age 44 and finds herself tested during her first pastorate. It's available on [buybooksontheweb.com](http://buybooksontheweb.com) or from the author at [tippit@spinn.net](mailto:tippit@spinn.net).

## Rhyme Time or Not by Harold M. Burnett

In the July 2007 *SouthWest Sage*, I wrote an article “Looking Backwards” about the creation of National Poetry Month, the history of the U.S. Poet Laureate selection process, and Donald Hall—the 14<sup>th</sup> U.S. Poet Laureate. This year I want to be different and look forward. This is National Poetry Month, created when President Clinton issued a proclamation on April 1, 1996. It is now recognized that this act has increased the awareness and appreciation of poetry. The month-long celebration will be supported by SouthWest Writers and other groups with programs, classes, critiques, and slams. And for everyone world-wide, poetry is Category 16 for the annual SWW writing competition—deadline May 1, 2008.

It was intentional that I omitted the individuals who have made every month a poetry month—for many years—and have large collections of published works. These individuals with life-long contributions to poetry make up the pool of people for the Librarian of Congress to use in selecting the next Poet Laureate. The 15<sup>th</sup> U.S. Poet Laureate has already been selected for the year 2008. His name is Charles Simic. With all the political media coverage, it is doubtful that many people even heard about his selection.

Charles Simic was born on May 9, 1938, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. His childhood spent in war-torn Europe had many traumatic experiences. He emigrated from Yugoslavia in 1954, lived in the Chicago area until 1958, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1961, and graduated from New York University in 1966. He published his first book of poetry in 1967. Since then he has published 20 books of his own poetry as well as 40 translation works in several foreign languages. His works have been widely celebrated for “his brilliant poetic imagery; his social, political, and moral alertness; his uncanny ability to make the ordinary extraordinary.” He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for *The World Doesn't End*. The Wallace Stevens Award (\$100,000) was awarded to him in 2007 by the Academy of American Poets—recognizing “his outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry.” He is Professor Emeritus of American Literature and Creative Writing at the University of New Hampshire. His latest book, *That Little Something: Poems*, is scheduled for release on April 7, 2008 (Harcourt).

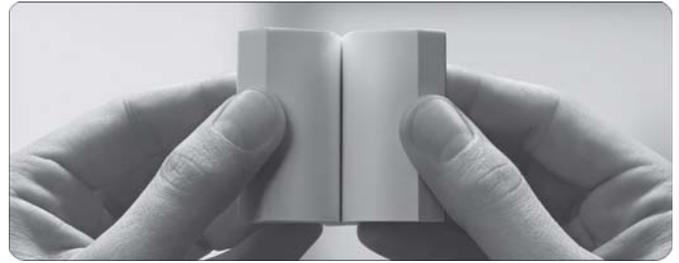
**“Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.”**

**Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)**

**“Poetry is the presentment in musical form to the imagination, of noble grounds for the noble emotions.”**

**John Ruskin (1819-1900)**

Why the quotes here? I like the quotes, and I needed a gentle transition to talk about music and the relationship to poetry. Most of all, I want to recommend a new book by Oliver Sacks—*Musicophilia—Tales of Music and the Brain* (Knopf 2007). Sacks, a noted neurologist and author, has nine previous books including award-winning *Awakenings* and *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*. In this latest work, his many tales reveal what music can do “to us, with us, and for us.” Those same words can be applied to poetry.



One doesn't have to look very far to find examples of poem to song: *Amazing Grace* (John Newton 1725-1807), *Battle Hymn of the Republic* (Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910), *This Land is Your Land* (Woody Guthrie 1912-1967), and *Ode to Joy* (Friedrich von Schiller 1759-1805) that provided the lyrics for the final movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Recently, there has been publicity celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley (Dec. 18, 1707-Mar. 29, 1788), English clergyman, poet, and hymn writer. Along with his brother John, he started the Methodist movement in the Church of England that ultimately made its way to America. The numbers are not exact but Charles wrote at least 5,000 items that were published in 60 verse publications. A few thousand more were published posthumously. Today's Methodist Hymnal has at least sixty hymns using the verse of Charles Wesley—his verse is not limited to Methodist hymnals.

I now think that it is time to pay more attention to poetry and music. Rhyme, rhythm—or not—I'll treat the effort like exercise. It is never too late to start.

*Harold M. Burnett is a retired chemist, Lt. Col. US Air Force, and business owner. He has a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Texas and a meteorology degree from Penn State. During his 34 years in Los Alamos, NM, he worked for the laboratory 13 years and owned/operated a bookstore during the '70s and '80s. He and his wife, Betty, are beginning their fourth year as members of SWW.*

### Intellectual Property Services for Writers

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Classes are held at the SWW conference room at 3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A, in Albuquerque, which is available to members wishing to teach writing skills. SouthWest Writers is not responsible for the opinions and methods of the instructors. However, we welcome constructive criticism and comments on any class, and these should be forwarded to the office. Classes are limited to 14 and may be tax deductible. Register by calling SWW (505) 265-9485 between 9 a.m. and noon weekdays.

## Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness

Part I: Global Topics *April 3- April 24, 6:30-8:30pm,*  
\$65 members, \$75 non-members

With all the books, talks, classes and workshops out there on self-editing, a writer can quickly become overwhelmed. There's so much to edit for: plot, characterization, scene structure, digressions, consistency, setting, back story, point of view, passive voice, showing vs. telling, dialog, clichés, pacing, grammar, format, and much more. How do you catch it all? How do you know when you've got it right? How do you even know where to start?

**Kirt Hickman** offers a practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel to first draft to final product. Each class will include a lecture, prepared exercises, and class time to work on whatever obstacles you face in your own writing projects. In addition, you'll receive a complete set of presentation notes, including numerous examples, a self-editing checklist, and a list of recommended references—resources that you can take home and use to better your writing. A technical writer for 14 years before branching into fiction, Kirt makes a living out of taking complex sets of requirements, in this case advice, and boiling them down into simple, effective procedures.

Part I: Global Topics (\$65 members, \$75 non-members)

Class 1: World Building and Characterization

Class 2: Plot

Class 3: 1st Draft, Research, Gross Manuscript Problems

Class 4: Chapter Breaks & Avoiding Information Dumps

## Write a Great Screenplay: Beginning Screenwriting Class

*April 6 - June 8, 10 Sunday Evenings, 6:30-8:30pm*

\$175/SWW members, \$10 materials fee

\$225/Non-members, \$10 materials fee

(Discounted \$50 SWW membership with \$225 fee includes online *SW Sage* newsletter)

For more information, call Rick at (505) 984-2927

8 student minimum, Class Limited to 14 Students

20 Things You Must Know to Write A Great Screenplay, and you can know them and so much more in **Rick Reichman's** Beginning Screenwriting class. In ten weeks you will learn correct formatting, the seven elements of every scene, the three-act-structure and its eight major turning points, how to create terrific film-speak, how to write compelling openings, and the best way to market your script.

Rick's students have sold to Fox, Warner Brothers, HBO, Showtime, all the major networks, and to such recent shows as "Crossing Jordan" and "New Amsterdam," to name a few. His students have also sold novels, short stories, plays, and nonfiction by using the techniques they learned in his screenwriting classes.

## Get Your Nonfiction Book Published

*April 7 - May 5, 6:30-8:30pm*

\$69 members, \$79 non-members

Ready to get your nonfiction book published? **Rob Spiegel** and **Melody Groves'** classes will propel you on your way to fame and fortune.

The nonfiction class will cover finding markets, writing queries (critiqued by Rob and Melody), writing proposals (also critiqued and shared with the group), attending conferences (why that's crucial), and finding an agent.

Rob Spiegel is the author of six published nonfiction books. Melody is the author of one published nonfiction book and three fiction books.

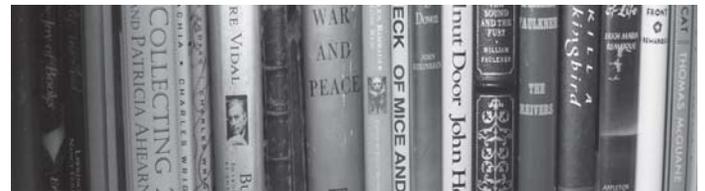
## Find the Right Market for Your Writing

*April 8, Tuesday Evening, 6:30-8:30pm*

\$15 members, \$25 non-members

Finding the right market is critical to your success in writing. Most rejections come when new writers send their work to the wrong market. Solve this problem by learning how to find the right publishers and agents.

Rob Spiegel is the author of six published nonfiction books.



## Traveling the Poetry Road

*April 9, 16 & 23, Wednesday afternoons, 1:30pm - 3:30pm*

\$45 members, \$55 non-members

Address the elements that make your poems stronger - including vivid images, concrete details, and words that engage the senses. Discover common pitfalls and learn to avoid them. Examine and discuss poems by a few well-known 20th-century poets. Experiment with writing poems in traditional and non-traditional forms. Find out how to submit poetry for publication and self-publishing.

**Jeanne Shannon** has three full-length poetry collections, the latest--*Angelus*--published in 2006. Her work also appears in numerous small-press and university publications including the UNM Press anthology, *In Company: New Mexico Poets After 1960*. She holds a master's degree in English/Creative Writing from the University of New Mexico.

### Free Writing Class for Seniors

SWW offers a free writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center every Monday from 3:00- 4:15pm. Taught by Larry Greenly and Rob Spiegel, classes are free to members of any Albuquerque Senior Center. Membership is open to anyone over 50 and annual dues are \$13. Bear Canyon is two blocks north of Montgomery, one block east of Eubank.

**Turn to page 11 for more information on Rick Reichman's Screenwriting Class.**

## Thirteen Rules for Publicizing Your Book by Mark David Gerson

### 1. There are no rules.

What worked for your last book may not work on this one. What worked for your friend's book may not work for yours. Publicity is an art not a science. Feel out what works and go with it. If something doesn't seem to be working, let it go.

### 2. It's up to you.

Even publishers don't provide much marketing support — unless you're famous enough not to need it. If you want people to know about your book, it's up to you to tell them.

### 3. Don't skimp on your book cover.

Your book cover is your most important promotional tool. If you're self-publishing, don't design it yourself. Leave it to a professional book-cover designer. Then put the image on all your promotional material.

### 3a. Everyone has a fridge.

Fridge magnets that display your cover are great promotional tools...better than bookmarks, because everyone in the household gets to see them. (Magnets: [www.vistaprint.com](http://www.vistaprint.com).)

### 3b. You have to wear something.

Be a walking billboard: Wear a t-shirt or sweatshirt that shows off your book cover. (T-shirts: [www.vistaprint.com](http://www.vistaprint.com); sweatshirts: [www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com).)

### 4. Abandon all expectations.

Sometimes your efforts will produce results. When they don't, don't stress about it or beat yourself up. Just move on to your next idea.

### 5. Everyone loves an author.

Surveys say that 82 percent of Americans want to write a book. The fact that you have — and that it's published — buys you a lot of credibility with many people. Some will buy your book simply because they've met the author.

### 6. New Mexico loves its authors.

Many New Mexico bookstores, including chains, eagerly support regional writers and are happy to set up signings/events for you. Don't be shy about approaching a store's manager. However, just because your book's on the shelf doesn't mean it will sell. Just because you've scheduled an event doesn't mean people will show. You still must promote your book and event.

### 6a. Be focused and approachable at your book signing.

Don't read or work at your table. Discourage friends and family from hanging around. Don't gossip with fellow authors at a group signing. You're there to engage readers and sell books. Be friendly and engaging. If someone doesn't buy a book, give them a card or flyer.

### 7. Don't be shy.

Let anyone and everyone know you've written a book. Share your passion for your subject. But don't be obnoxious. Always carry promotional material — business cards, fridge magnets, postcards, flyers. Hand it out liberally. Always have books with you to sell--and sell them.



### 8. Everybody loves a winner.

If writing a book buys you credibility, writing an award-winning book buys you even more. Enter contests. When you win or place, issue a press release and let *everyone* know.

### 9. Get testimonials.

Encourage your readers to send you their comments and post reviews on Amazon. Include reader testimonials on flyers and on your web site.

### 10. Remember the internet.

Get a web site. Start a blog. Join social networks like MySpace. Let the world know you're an author. On social networks, let people get to know you first as a person. They're more likely to buy your book if they like you, less likely if they think you're just there to hustle books. Social networks geared to authors and book marketing are great for ideas, less so for selling books. (My MySpace page: [www.myspace.com/mdg888](http://www.myspace.com/mdg888); my web sites: [www.markdavidgerson.com](http://www.markdavidgerson.com) and [www.lightlinesmedia.com](http://www.lightlinesmedia.com); my blog: [www.markdavidgerson.blogspot.com](http://www.markdavidgerson.blogspot.com).)

### 11. Connect with your readers.

Collect e-mail addresses from your readers and stay in touch through a newsletter that offers real value. Encourage readers to forward it to friends and family.

### 12. Publicity is about freebies.

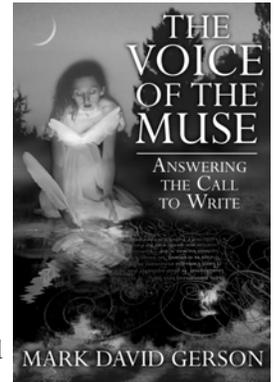
There are many cost-free ways to get into the media: events listings and book reviews, for example. You can also write book reviews or articles (like this one) that give you a short bio where you can mention your book. Contact your alumni magazine or hometown paper. They may be thrilled to write about a now-published graduate/native.

### 12a. Consider a publicist.

Just because you can write doesn't mean you can write a press release. Just because there are infinite ways to market your book doesn't mean you have the time or expertise to do them all. A publicist will also buy you credibility with certain media outlets.

### 13. There are no rules.

Read these ideas and those in books like Dan Poynter's *Self-Publishing Manual* and John Kremer's *1001 Ways to Market Your Book*. Then find your own way. Hone your intuitive skills to know what feels right and what doesn't, what will bear fruit and what won't. Then get out there and let the world know that you've got the book it's been waiting for!



*Mark David Gerson is author of and chief publicist for The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write and The MoonQuest, an award-winning fantasy. He has also recorded The Voice of the Muse Companion, a 2-CD set of guided meditations for writers.*

# April

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

Saturday, April 5, 10:00 a.m. to noon

### Gossip: Turning Life into the Personal Essay

How do the anecdotes of daily life get transformed into published essays? We'll look at how both observation and craft transform experience. And how do family members and friends feel about becoming characters? The author will share her process and provide tips for your own writing.

**Miriam Sagan** is a columnist for "Sage Magazine" at the *Albuquerque Journal* and poetry columnist for the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. She has also been a columnist for *New Mexico Magazine* and *Writer's Digest*. She is the author of twenty books and runs the creative writing program at Santa Fe Community College.

Saturday, April 5, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

No registration. Pay at the door.

### The Challenges of Writing Fantasy

**Laura J. Mixon** is a chemical and environmental engineer, but is better known as a science fiction writer. She writes about the impact of technology and environmental changes on personal identity and social structures. Her work is often associated with the cyberpunk movement, and has been the focus of academic studies on the intersection of technology, feminism, and gender. She has also experimented with interactive storytelling, in collaboration with renowned game designer Chris Crawford. In the 1980s, she served in the Peace Corps in East Africa. She is married to science fiction writer Steven Gould (*Jumper*).

Tuesday, April 15, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Annual Open Poetry Reading

Since April is the kindest month -- and because it's national poetry month -- we once again will hold an open reading for SouthWest Writer members.

If you would like to read your poems on this Tuesday evening, please call the office (265-9485) or send along an e-mail to [swwriters@juno.com](mailto:swwriters@juno.com) to get on our list. We will present 20 readers for 3 minutes each. We'll sign up SWW members on a first-come, first-served basis until we have 20. We always fill all the spots, so call or e-mail us soon.

Say hello to  
**Debbie Coates,**  
SWW refreshment  
meister!



We'll brew the coffee and tea; you help with the eats. Donations of refreshments at meetings are gratefully accepted.

Please consider providing this service.

### In Memory

**Daniel J. Murphy** of Albuquerque, well-known writer, poet, dramatist and former SWW member, died peacefully on March 21, 2008, after a bout with a sudden and unexpected neurological disease.

Funeral arrangements were private. Rather than flowers, the family asked friends to consider a memorial donation to SouthWestWriters. For details, contact [colin.j.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:colin.j.murphy@gmail.com).

SWW programs are rarely cancelled, but it is possible depending on the weather. If you have doubts about a program taking place or about the time or topic, simply call the SWW office (505) 265-9485 during business hours, M-F, 9am- noon.

### SWW Financial Report

Keith Pyeatt, SWW Treasurer

In accordance with Article V, Section 5, Paragraph D8 of SWW's Bylaws, I hereby submit the Financial Report for the fiscal year 2007 to be published in the April 2008 newsletter.

#### Statement of Financial Condition (Balance Sheet)

January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007

#### ASSETS

Current Assets:	
NM Educators Fed Credit Union	4,246
AG Edwards Money Market	39,758
Total Current Assets	\$ 44,004
Property and Equipment:	
Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 9,673
Computer	5,434
Accumulated Depreciation	(14,820)
Total Property and Equipment	\$ 287
Total Assets	\$ 44,292

#### LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Capital:	
R/E, Restricted, Scholarships	\$ 185
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	44,895
Current Year Funds Increase	(788)
Total Capital	\$ 44,292
Total Liabilities and Capital	\$ 44,292

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m. to noon

### The Real-World Craft of Journalism

Journalism is a different beast than other types of writing, because, simply, we don't make it up. Journalism is a craft. Like bricklaying, a journalist takes pieces and parts from the real world and assembles them into something that can stand on its own. Sometimes the crafts are beautiful. Sometimes, not.

The old axiom, write what you know, applies as much to journalism as other types of writing, but it means more. Through research, interviews, and experience, a journalist has to really know what the story is and what the important parts are. If the mortar isn't strong, the wall won't stand up to the slightest breeze. At the same time, many of the standard principles of writing apply: style, structure, flair, composure, plot, all play important parts in a newspaper or magazine story. Mayfield will explain how it's done, why it's done, how the good writers do it, and how newspapers and journalists work.

**Dan Mayfield** is Assistant Arts Editor at the Albuquerque Journal, president of Albuquerque Press Women and an award-winning journalist with 11 years of full-time writing experience. As the *Journal's* Assistant Arts Editor, Mayfield wears many hats. He writes, edits, and assigns stories to the arts and entertainment staff, writes a weekly column on the state's film industry, and covers the state's boxing scene for the sports department. As a writer, he's won several state and national awards from the National Federation of Press Women, one of the largest press organizations in the nation. Mayfield has written for several magazines, including *Santa Fe Trend*, the *Harvard Journal of Public Policy*, and *The Albuquerque Tribune*, where he was a business reporter for five years. Also, he's the host of the Doo-Wop Stop, the weekly doo-wop radio show on Real Oldies 1600 AM in Albuquerque.

Tuesday, May 20, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Perfect Your Plot: The Hero's Journey and Beyond

**Kirt Hickman** will briefly cover the hero's journey, a series of twelve checkpoints through which your plot should progress, but there's more to plot than these checkpoints. As a writer, you've got to fill in the gaps. You've got to get your characters from each checkpoint to the next. At the same time, you must make your book exciting to keep your reader engaged. Learn how to hook your reader; how to maintain suspense through the muddle... um, middle, of your story; how to keep your reader guessing; and how to satisfy him in the end.

Kirt Hickman earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico. He has worked with high-energy laser optics, microelectronics, micro-machines, and other technologies relevant to the science fiction genre, and leverages his knowledge and experience to enrich his stories. He was a technical writer for fourteen years before branching into fiction, in 2003. *Worlds Asunder* is his first novel. He has the sequel, *Venus Rain*, a how-to titled *Revising Fiction*, and a fantasy trilogy in progress.

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\$20 for members, \$30 for non members

No registration. Pay at the door.

### Today's Hottest Writing Tool: the Blog

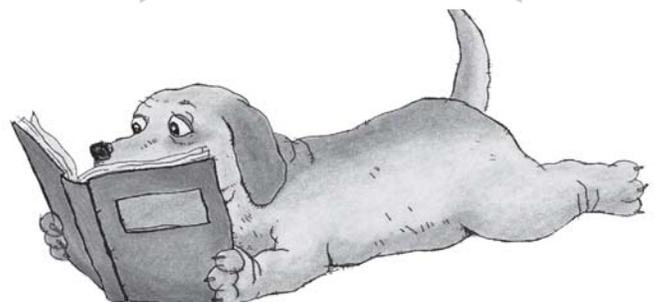
Winner of the 2008 Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, Diablo Cody started her career by writing a blog. Whether you use MySpace, as Cody does now, or WordPress, blogging is today's hottest writing tool. Did you know a blog can be your website? A blog can be low-cost, even free, but you must know how to develop a popular site and get people to return and post comments.

Why? Because agents and publishers look for writers with platforms—a following of most any kind. Whether your genre is fiction or non-fiction, blogging is a great way to develop your platform, provided you do it right.

**Peggy Herrington**, former technology journalist, worked for Microsoft from 1995 to 2001, after a decade of writing about online services such as CompuServe, America Online (now AOL) and GENie before the World Wide Web debuted in 1993. Peggy will talk about using keywords and other tools to build a popular WordPress blog, developing and posting meaningful content, RSS feeds, graphics and photos. Included are hand-outs and a free, legal electronic copy of *The Medici Effect: Breakthrough Insights at the Intersection of Ideas, Concepts & Cultures* by Frans Johansson, published by Harvard Business School Press. Don't miss this workshop if you're serious about being a successful, published author.

## Welcome New Members

<b>Jennifer Buntjer</b>	<b>John Carter-North</b>
<b>Nancy Godbout</b>	<b>Terri Verrette</b>
<b>Jurka Dixon</b>	<b>Patricia Wagner</b>
<b>Hearne Hearne</b>	<b>James O'Leary</b>
<b>Alexandra Dellamore</b>	<b>George Forrest</b>
<b>Lucille Mulcahy</b>	<b>Star Tierra</b>
<b>Charles Watter</b>	<b>Kim McKee</b>
<b>Patricia Gebhard</b>	<b>John F. Jackson</b>
<b>Ruth Burns</b>	<b>Robert M. Tucker</b>
<b>Jane Barrett</b>	<b>Katya Miller</b>
<b>Amanda Searcy</b>	



## Revising Fiction: That Darned First Draft: Putting Your Muse in Charge

by **Kirt Hickman**

As simple as it sounds, writing first draft is the most difficult step for many writers. They can't find the time; they read what they've written and decide it needs work, so they keep going back to edit; or they don't know what to write next, or how to write it. Having a good knowledge of your characters and an outline of your plot will go a long way toward solving the latter problem, but it's often not enough.



Writing first draft is a right-brain (creative brain) process. The vast majority of problems that writers experience during first draft are caused by inappropriate left-brain (analytical brain) interference. The left brain says things like:

"This is terrible. I should go back and fix it."  
 "Nobody's going to read this."  
 "I need to think this scene through before I write it."  
 "I'd better do more research."  
 "I really need to do the grocery shopping, the laundry, or the dishes."  
 "I just don't have time."

With this kind of talk in your head, it's no wonder you can't get words onto the page. You must silence your analytical brain, your editor. Shut it up long enough for your creative brain, your muse, to write. Use these tips to trick your editor into submission<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Get up Early

Your muse never sleeps. It dreams all night. If you get up early, you can write for a couple of hours before your editor wakes up. Skip the coffee, however. Your editor needs the caffeine. Your muse doesn't.

### Avoid Distractions

I write my first drafts between four and six o'clock in the morning, before I go to my day job. This is one of the few times I can write without distractions. My wife and five-year-old son are asleep, the television and radio are off, and the phone doesn't ring. The house is quiet. It's ideal.

### Write by Hand

I know what you're thinking. *In this day and age, I'm supposed to write by hand? You can't be serious.* I am. Typing is a left-brain process. Writing long-hand, particularly in cursive, is a right-brain process. Writing by hand helps keep your editor dormant. Though some writers consider this an extra step, others have been surprised by how much it helps. Try writing a couple of scenes by hand with a good quality pen. Use large sheets of unlined paper. Your editor likes lines and boundaries, your muse doesn't.

Personally, I've found it unnecessary to write by hand to keep my editor silent, though I still do it frequently when I'm away from my computer. When I'm at home, however, I close my eyes as I type. There go the lines and boundaries that my editor likes so much.

### Don't Stop to Edit

Don't sweat the quality of your first draft. It's a rare author who gets it right the first time. Whatever weaknesses appear in your style; whatever inconsistencies plague your characters and plot; however badly your scenes or

manuscript may be organized; no matter how poor your grammar, spelling, and punctuation are—whatever mistakes you make—correct them later. That's what revision is for. If you get bogged down in editing now, you may spend weeks polishing a scene that you'll eventually have to throw away. Don't waste the time. Get your story onto paper now. Polish what you keep later.

If you pursue an idea that contradicts something you've already written, make a note in the margin and continue writing as if you've already resolved the inconsistency. You've noted the problem. You won't forget to correct it. Just keep writing.

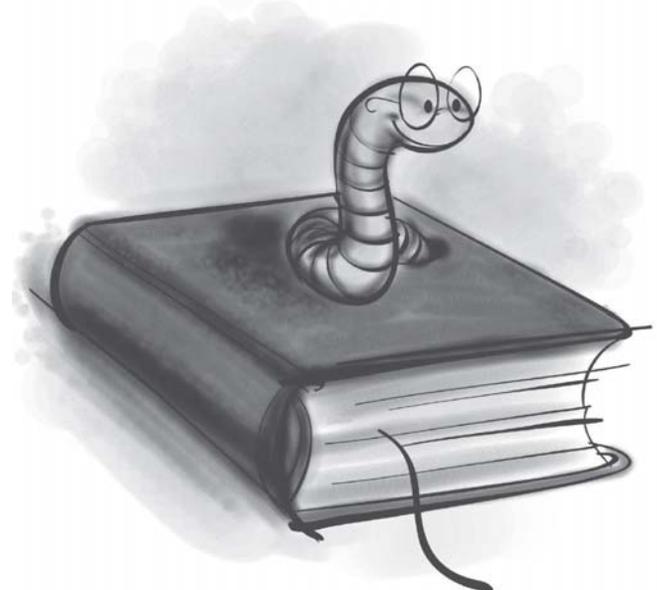
If you can't think of a word you need, leave a blank or write a similar word that does come to mind. Make a note to find the right word later. Don't wake up your editor with a search through the nearest thesaurus. In my experience, the word I'm looking for is too different than the one I wrote down to find it in a thesaurus anyway.

### Don't Stop to Research

Suppose you need to describe Barcelona in the springtime, but you've never been to Barcelona. Don't run to the Internet for images. Just make a note: "What does Barcelona look like in the spring?" then keep writing. You'll have time later to fill in the missing details. Don't arrest your muse with a digression into research.

<sup>[1]</sup>These suggestions, and more, are offered by Tom Bird in *Write Right from God, Third Edition*, Sojourn, Inc., 2005.

*Kirt Hickman has Bachelor and Master degrees in electrical engineering from UNM. He has worked with high-energy laser optics, microelectronics, and other technologies relevant to science fiction, and leverages his knowledge and experience to enrich his stories.. Worlds Asunder is his first novel.*



## Minding Finances for Writers Fill the Creative Well by Sherri Burr

In her book, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*, Julia Cameron urges writers and other artists to fill their inner well or artistic reservoir. She encourages the "active pursuit of images to refresh our artistic reservoirs."



For writers to mind their finances, they must create material that brings income. Writers should expose themselves to a multitude of images, be they from watching movies or television, listening to music, attending workshops and lectures, browsing museums and galleries, traveling, or playing sports. These are among my favorites. Cameron says that any regular, repetitive action, such as needlepoint, showering, shaving, scrubbing, can also prime the well.

For the occasions when writer's block strikes, I recommend taking time off to do what's fun, or do what you've been thinking of but haven't done before. For example, in January 2008, I attended the Sundance Film Festival for the first time. I had thought about attending this festival for years and when a business acquaintance told me he was going, I thought *Why not me?*

I decided to do Kamikaze Sundance. I booked an inexpensive flight, car, and hotel through southwest.com. I had no official connection to the festival. I did not buy a festival pass, or any tickets ahead of time. I did check out the website [sundance.org/festival](http://sundance.org/festival) for a sense of events where I noticed that Sundance offered several panels with recognizable screenwriters, directors, editors, and industry folks.

After my plane landed in Salt Lake City, I picked up my rental car and headed to Park City. I drove Main Street to get a sense of the surroundings and headed to a box office. When nothing I wanted to see was available, the ticket seller advised me to go wait-list for *The Great Buck Howard*. "Tom Hanks is supposed to be there," she said. I took her advice, found the theater, walked in the door and there was Tom Hanks standing right there in front of me being interviewed about a film in which his son Collin stars and he plays a supporting role.

On another day, I attended a session with playwright and screenwriter Martin McDonagh who just directed his first film in Bruges. McDonagh discussed how he visited the Belgium city of Bruges to take a travel break from writing and in the city started thinking about having two hit men exiled to Bruges. That trip led to his first feature film.

McDonagh is the perfect example of someone who filled his artistic reservoir through traveling and ended up with something new and wonderful. If you feel stuck or tired in your writing, take some time off. In two hours, you can watch a movie or browse a museum. In two days, you can take a short trip. Whatever you do, have fun and watch your writer's block disappear.

*Professor Sherri Burr has taught law (copyright, art, entertainment, and intellectual property) at the University of New Mexico for almost two decades. She is the author of six books, four of which relate to art law and entertainment law.*

## Screenwriting Workshop by Rick Reichman

Whether novel, short story, memoir, plays, creative non-fiction, or, of course, screenwriting, screenwriting structure is the e-ticket to success in all kinds of writing. Several of my students have told me how much learning the structure and techniques of screenwriting has helped them not only with screenplays but with their other writing.

Why? Because you want your readers turning those pages. You want them laughing, crying, shivering with fear, on the edge of their chair—or lounge or bed—and most of all, you want them anxious, anxious, that is, to know what will happen next. While any writer intuitively knows this, accomplishing it is much more difficult.

I recently saw an interview with John Grisham, who is probably one of the most widely read novelists in the world today. The question was, why does your work attract so many readers. Why is it so compelling? Now many writers would talk about great characters—an in-depth study of their hearts, minds, and soul. But Grisham shot that down quickly. He said he didn't really delve that far into his characters. Sure he made characters that you wanted to be around for three or four hundred pages, but mostly he concentrated on plot. He focused on the constant twists and turns of the story, of keeping the narrative constantly surprising all the way through the end. While Grisham doesn't write the screen adaptations to his own novels, what he was describing in a nutshell was the structure and techniques of screenplay.

Those twists and turns, those unexpected surprises, those constant reversals of fate and fortune are all part of what you will learn in my screenplay classes. By focusing on scene. By learning the essential elements that comprise the scene. By understanding how to put those scenes smoothly together to create the beginning, middle, climax, and end, you come to create the page-turner, the sought-after script, the compelling work. I think my students' success as film and TV writers as well as novelists, short story writers, playwrights, and non-fiction writers has shown me that what I teach in Screenwriting helps a writer create a better and more accomplished work.

If you'd like to find out more about my upcoming 10-week screenplay class—which begins Sunday April 6—call me in Santa Fe at (505) 984-2927. If you want to register for the class, call SouthWest Writers any weekday morning at (505) 265-9485 or register online at [southwestwriters.com](http://southwestwriters.com).

For information about benefits  
for SWW members contact:  
**Cheri Eicher**

**INDEPENDENT  
MEANS**

Group Benefits  
(505) 890-0358  
(800) 883-4310

## SouthWest Writers 2008 Writing Contest

The 2008 SouthWest Writers Writing Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing. In addition to competing for cash prizes and the coveted Storyteller Award, contest entrants may receive an optional written critique of their entry from a qualified contest critiquer.

SouthWest Writers also has a critique service staffed by professional critiquers for any writers wishing an optional critique to help polish their manuscripts before entering this or any other contest. The SWW Critique Service is completely independent from the contest, has different staff, and its use has no effect whatsoever on contest eligibility or judging.



### Categories

You may enter as many manuscripts as you wish in any of the following categories. Each entry must be mailed separately with an entry form and proper entry fee.

1. **Mainstream or Literary Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
2. **Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
3. **Romance Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
4. **Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
5. **Historical/American Frontier/Western Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
6. **Middle Grade or Young Adult Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
7. **Christian Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.
8. **Memoir Book:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced, no synopsis.
9. **Memoir Article:** 1,500 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.
10. **Mainstream or Literary Short Story:** 5,000 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.
11. **Middle Grade or Young Adult Short Story:** 5,000 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.
12. **Nonfiction/Essay Article:** 1,500 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.
13. **Nonfiction Book:** 1st 10 pages double-spaced + double-spaced 10-page book proposal + 1 page single-spaced query letter.
14. **Children's Picture Book Fiction/Nonfiction:** Entire manuscript, 10 double-spaced pages maximum.
15. **Screenplay:** 1st 20 pages + 1 page synopsis (using industry-standard formatting, Courier font, brad-bound).
16. **Poetry:** Any form, format, spacing or number of poems, 5 pages maximum.

### Rules/Deadlines/Judging

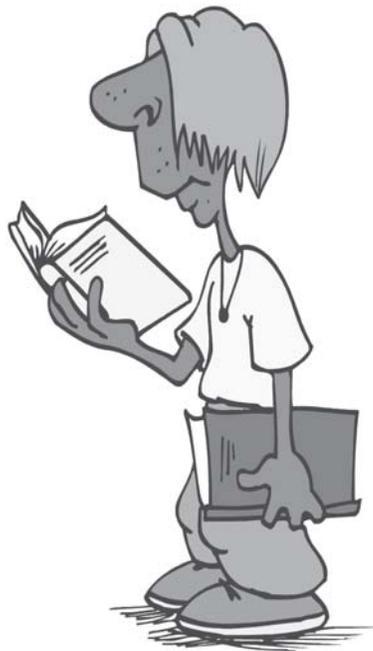
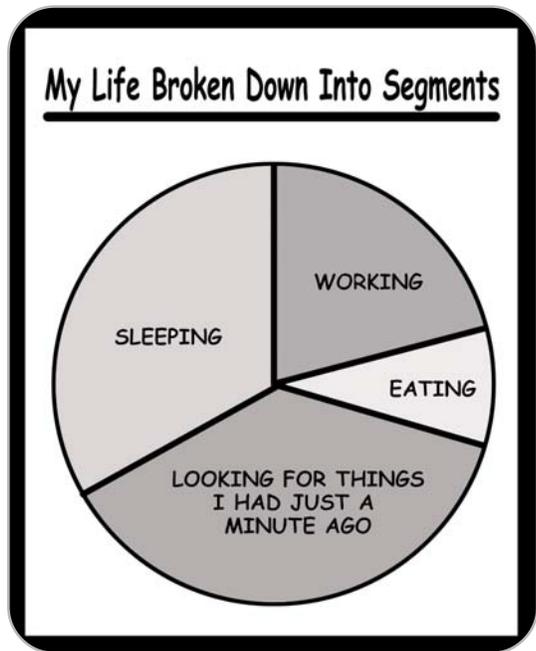
1. Each entry must be in a separate envelope accompanied by an entry form and entry fee. **No certified mail.** Enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you want notification of receipt.
2. Mark entry category number on envelope below return address.
3. Your entry must be written in English, original, and unpublished or un-optioned at time of submittal.
4. If your manuscript previously won 1st prize in a particular category, it is ineligible for that category.
5. Using standard manuscript formatting, your manuscript must be printed on one side of 8-1/2 x 11 or A4 white paper in 12-point Courier or Times New Roman. Synopses and query letters are single-spaced; poems and scripts are any spacing; all other categories and book proposals are double-spaced.
6. Your name may not appear anywhere on the manuscript, synopsis, query or book proposal.
7. **Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2008. Late entries must be postmarked by May 15, 2008 and accompanied by an additional \$5.**
8. Entries without critiques will not be returned. Submit 2 copies of entry, following specified rules. No return envelope is needed.
9. Entries with optional, purchased critiques will be returned. Submit 3 copies of entry + a large, self-addressed envelope with enough postage stamps affixed to return materials. **NO METERED POSTAGE.**
10. Entries with an optional, purchased critique will be critiqued by a well-qualified contest critiquer in the category entered. Critiques will be returned in August, 2008.
11. All manuscripts will be screened by a panel and the top 10 in each category will be sent to appropriate editors or literary agents to determine the final top 3 places. The top 3 winners will also receive a critique from the judging editor or literary agent. Contacting any judge about an entry is an automatic disqualification.
12. Entrants retain all rights to their entries. By entering this contest, you agree to abide by the rules, agree that decisions by the judges are final, and agree that no refunds will be awarded.
13. Winners in each category are notified in August, 2008. 1st Prize, \$150; 2nd Prize, \$100, 3rd Prize, \$50. 1st place winners are eligible for the \$1,000 Storyteller Award. A contest banquet in September, 2008 (tba) will be held to announce and honor the top 3 winners in each category. Winners will be posted on the SWW website following the awards banquet.

### New User-Friendly Rules!

Changes to the 2008 SWW Writing Contest include updated categories and simplified rules so be sure to check them out if you've entered before--and even if you haven't. The critique that formerly came with your entry is now available before the contest, so you'll have an even better chance with the judges. A satisfied writer tells what she thought of SWW's Critique Service on p. 10, and details are published on [southwestwriters.org](http://southwestwriters.org).

## 2008 SWW Writing Contest Judges

- Mainstream and Literary Novel**, Allison Wortche, Knopf/Crown Books
- Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel**, Allison Brandau, The Berkley Publishing Group, Penguin Group
- Romance Novel**, Leis Pederson, The Berkley Publishing Group
- Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel**, Danielle Stockley, The Berkley Publishing Group, Penguin Group (USA)
- Historical/American Frontier/Western Novel**, Carolyn Morrisroe, Penguin Group
- Middle Grade/Young Adult Novel**, Kari Sutherland, HarperCollins Publishers
- Christian Novel**, Rachel Zurakowski, Books & Such Literary Agency
- Memoir Book**, Elizabeth Evans, Reese Halsey North Agency
- Memoir Article**, Fred Sauceman, Editor, *Now & Then* Magazine
- Mainstream or Literary Short Story**, Rose Marie Kinder, Editor Emerita, *Pleiades*, Co-editor, Sweetgum Press and Cave Hollow Press
- Middle Grade or Young Adult Short Story**, Susan Marston, Junior Literary Guild
- Nonfiction Article or Essay**, Pending
- Nonfiction Book**, Paul Rhettts, LPD Press & Rio Grande Books
- Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction)**, Larry Rosler, Boyds Mill Press
- Screenplay**, Eleanor Bravo, Producer, Independent Filmmaker
- Poetry**, Lisa Lewis, *Cimarron Review*



### Entry Form

## 2008 SouthWest Writers Writing Contest

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: ( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear of contest?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Category Number:** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

**Circle appropriate entry fee:**

	May 1 Deadline	May 15 Late Deadline
<b>SWW Member</b>		
No Critique	\$20	\$25
With Critique	\$45	\$50
<b>Non-Member</b>		
No Critique	\$30	\$35
With Critique	\$55	\$60

**Method of Payment:**

Check or Money Order (no cash) US\$ payable to SouthWest Writers

Charge my  Visa  Mastercard

Exp iration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed entry form, entry and fee to:**  
 SouthWest Writers Contest 2008  
 3721 Morris NE Ste A  
 Albuquerque, NM 87111-3611

# SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

**C**ongratulations to the winners of our December 2007 International Monthly Writing Competition: Surprise Short Story.



- 1st Prize: Jan Fenimore**, Rio Rancho, NM, for "Eyes."
- 2nd Prize: Scott Merrow**, Albuquerque, NM, for "The Good Mother."
- 3rd Prize: Jan Fenimore**, Rio Rancho, NM, for "A Child of Light."

**Honorable Mentions (alphabetical):**  
**Meagan King**, Clermont, FL for "The Diary of a Painting."  
**Nancy LaTurner**, Albuquerque, NM, for "Bully."

**The judges say:**  
 All entries were good (so pat yourself on the back); the top 5 were outstanding; the top 1 was exceptional.

## April Contest Poetry Month

**F**or this month, a cover sheet is okay. Write a poem of any style, form, format, spacing or subject matter. Polish those words. The sky's the limit. One page limit.

Postmark deadline: April 30, 2008

**Instructions**

- Open to any writer in the world.
- Original, unpublished work only.
- No cover sheets.
- Print the following on first page: Name; Address; Phone; E-mail (if any); Category Name.
- Manuscripts prepared in standard format: 1" margins, double-spaced unless otherwise specified.
- Entries are not returned, so no need for an SASE.
- \$5 entry fee for SWW members; \$10 non-members.
- You may enter more than once, but an entry fee must accompany each entry.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Prizes: \$50 1st Prize; \$30 2nd Prize; \$20 3rd Prize and certificates.
- Mail entries to:

## Critique Groups

Submit your requests to [SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com).

*Groups Seeking Members*

**Any Genre**  
**Estancia Valley Writers Group**  
 Critiques and moral support  
 Meets at Moriarty Community Library  
 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.  
*Tina Ortega* 505-832-2513

**Any Genre, Rio Rancho:**  
*Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley*  
 505-867-1408  
[riversedgebob@cablone.net](mailto:riversedgebob@cablone.net)  
[riograndema@cablone.net](mailto:riograndema@cablone.net)

**Land of Enchantment  
 Romance Authors**  
 Meets second Saturdays at noon.  
 Attend three meetings to try it out.  
[leranm.com](http://leranm.com)

**The Screaming Ninja  
 Screenwriters**  
 Meets every other Thursday,  
 Flying Star on 7th and Silver.  
*Marc Calderwood*  
 505-897-6474  
[skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com](mailto:skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com)

**All Facets of Writing**  
 Afternoon critique group, all genres,  
 NE Heights.  
 Len Hecht 977-3178

**Memoirs, Albuquerque**  
*John Ward*  
 505-859-6768  
[JohnRWard@q.com](mailto:JohnRWard@q.com)

**Any genre Albuquerque**  
 Meets every other Thursday  
 Arielle Windham or Penny Rogers  
[awindham84@hotmail.com](mailto:awindham84@hotmail.com)  
[progersnm@aol.com](mailto:progersnm@aol.com)

*Wanting to Start Groups/  
Looking for a Group*

**Memoirs, Santa Fe**  
 Leona Stucky-Abbott  
 505-820-2433

**Any Genre, Albuquerque**  
 Meet every other Friday  
 NE Heights  
*Krys Douglas*  
 505-830-3015

**Any Genre, Las Cruces**  
*Barbara Villemez*  
 505-522-5734

**Poetry**  
*Billy Brown* 505-401-8139,  
[welbert53@aol.com](mailto:welbert53@aol.com)

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

(Print category name under your return address)

## SouthWest Sage Advertising Rates

### Worldwide Circulation on the Internet

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

*Business card size: \$16*

*1/8 page: \$24*

*1/4 page: \$36*

*1/3 page: \$45*

*1/2 page: \$75*

*Full page: \$100*

*15% discount for 3 mos.*

*20% discount for 6 mos.*

**Deadline:** 1st of each month for the following month. Payment due with camera-ready ad copy.

## Contests

This information is provided as a convenience. Before entering, be sure to check the listed website information or write the sponsors to make sure a contest is right for you. And don't forget to enter SWW's International Monthly Contest.

**Don't forget the SouthWest Writers 2008 Annual Writing Contest, deadline 5/1/08 (postmark)**, with 16 categories of novels, short stories, nonfiction, children's, screenplay, and poetry. Prizes include \$150 first, \$100 second, and \$50 third in each category and a \$1,000 Storyteller award. Entry fees range from \$20 with NO critique (\$30 for nonmembers). Simplified rules and details at our website: southwestwriters.com.

**Deadline 4/15/08 (postmark or email).** Poetry. Florence Poets Society Annual Contest; open to all poets. Entry fee: \$20, includes a copy of *Silkworm 2008*, the annual review of the Florence Poets Society. Award: \$1,000 for the best overall entry of up to three poems. Submission guidelines and information at [florencepoetsociety.org](http://florencepoetsociety.org) contest page or PO Box 60355, Florence MA 01062-0355 or [fpoets@localnet.com](mailto:fpoets@localnet.com) or [postmaster@florencepoetsociety.org](mailto:postmaster@florencepoetsociety.org).

**Deadline: 5/1/08.** 16th Annual *Writer's Digest* International Self-Published Book Awards, 9 categories. Awards: \$3,000, \$1,000, books. Entry fee: \$100 first entry, \$50 each additional. Submission guidelines and information at [writersdigest.com:80/contests/self\\_published.asp](http://writersdigest.com:80/contests/self_published.asp).

**Deadline: 5/2/08 (email).** Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Mystery or Horror. Golden Visions Magazine Writing Contest. No entry fee. Theme: Freedom. Awards: Top three stories will be published in July print edition. Length: 1000-3000 words. Submission guidelines and information at [goldenvisionmagazine.biz/Contes.html](http://goldenvisionmagazine.biz/Contes.html).

**Deadline: 5/15/08.** 77th Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition, 10 categories. 1,001 winners. Awards: \$3,000, \$1,000, \$500 plus more. Entry fees: Poems are \$10 for the first entry; \$5 for each additional poem submitted in the same online session. All other entries are \$15 for the first manuscript; \$10 for each additional manuscript submitted in the same online session. Submission guidelines and information at [writersdigest.com:80/contests/annual/77th/](http://writersdigest.com:80/contests/annual/77th/).

**Deadline: 5/15/08 (postmark).** Short Story. Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition. Prizes: \$1,000 first place, \$500 second place, \$500 third place. Entry fee: \$12 if postmarked by 5/1/08, \$17 otherwise. Stories must be original, unpublished, typed and double-spaced, and 3,000 words or less. No theme restrictions. Fiction only. Only open to writers whose fiction has NOT appeared in a nationally distributed publication with a circulation of 5,000 or more. Submission guidelines and information at: [shortstorycompetition.com/](http://shortstorycompetition.com/).

**Deadline: 5/20/08 (postmark or email).** 2008 Movie Script Short Contest. Turn your short story into a short script and win a chance to see your short script made into a short film. Awards: 1st place gets produced. 1st, 2nd, 3rd place receive fabled Golden Brad Award and prize package. Entry fee: \$40-\$50 (earlier entry, lower entry fee). Submission guidelines and information at [moviescriptcontest.com/enter\\_short.html](http://moviescriptcontest.com/enter_short.html); Movie Script Contest, PO Box 6336, Burbank CA 91510-6336.

**Deadline: 15th and last day of the month.** Short story. Pick-a-Photo short-short story contest (750 words or less). Entry fee: \$2.50/story. Twice a month the best story will be published with the author's name on our website. Every three

months judges award a \$25 prize. All stories are archived so visitors can view them. Submission guidelines and information at [yourphotostory.com/rules.html](http://yourphotostory.com/rules.html).

**Deadline: 5/31/08 (postmark):** Short stories, short stories for children, personal essay/memoir, poetry. The Society of Southwestern Authors 2007 Writing Contest. Prizes: \$300 first, \$150 second, \$75 third in all four categories. Honorable mentions: \$25. Entry fee: \$10/entry. Critiques are an additional \$25/entry. No simultaneous entries. Short stories: 2,500 words max. Short stories for children: 1,500 words max. Memoir: 2,500 words max. Poetry: 40 lines max. Submission guidelines and information at [ssa-az.org/contest.html](http://ssa-az.org/contest.html).

### SWW Scholarships

The chairman should submit a budget. The committee shall consist of a member of the Board and at least three other SWW members.

The purpose of this is to provide scholarships to SWW members in good standing to attend an SWW conference. One (1) scholarship shall be given each year. The scholarship shall consist of attendance at the conference and the cost of meals, but exclude lodging and travel.

All monies on hand will be deposited into a savings or money-market account. SWW will pay for the food for the conference. (Policy and Procedure passed in 2002.)

Such recipients shall be selected based on the following criteria:

Applicant must be a member of SWW in good standing, age eighteen (18) or older.

Financial need of applicant shall be considered.

Applicants must show serious intent in pursuit of a writing career.

Selection shall be made without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

Recipients are prohibited from applying for future scholarships.

The application procedure shall be published in the March and April *Sage*. A member of the committee should announce this opportunity at each membership program up to June 1. The deadline for the applications shall be June 1 and the recipient notified before the end of June.

The decision of the committee shall be final. The board shall be notified of the committees' decision at the July Board meeting.

The chair shall keep a file of pertinent material, including a calendar of due dates, to be passed to successor. S/he shall carry out the directives in the bylaws of SWW and any other duties as directed by the board.



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

SouthWest Sage

**SouthWest Writers**

3721 Morris NE

Albuquerque NM 87111

[www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)

[SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com)

Label shows your SWW Membership expiration date.  
Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.



## Share the Excitement! Bring a Friend to the Next Meeting

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2008 Bravos Award  
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- Conferences, Workshops
- Annual Writing Contest
- Monthly Newsletter
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**SouthWestWriters.com**