



Vol. 24, No. 7-8

## **The Sun Magazine: Personal Essays and Powerful Stories** by Wendy Bickel

July/August 2008

When SouthWest Writers announced that *The Sun Magazine* Managing Editor Tim McKee would be in Albuquerque for the Memoir Conference on August 16, the response was enthusiastic. And no wonder.

For over 30 years, *The Sun Magazine* has published personal essays, short stories, interviews, poetry and photographs celebrating life. A visit to *The Sun's* website ([thesunmagazine.org](http://thesunmagazine.org)) provides a sampling of the high-quality essays and articles that appear in the magazine, as well as a window into the philosophy behind the publication: "to explore the challenges we face... to see what kind of room-mates beauty and truth can be, and to show that powerful teaching can be found in the lives of ordinary people."

An independent, ad-free monthly magazine, *The Sun* has a circulation of 72,000. Essays from *The Sun* have won the Pushcart Prize and been published in *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Essays*. In 2007, the Utne Independent Press gave its award for Best Writing to *The Sun*, describing the magazine as "an intimate forum where some of the finest contemporary writers share their most polished, provocative prose, and then everyone else is invited to join in."

Professional writers view *The Sun* as a quality market. Miriam Sagan, author of 20 books and columnist for *Sage Magazine* at the *Albuquerque Journal* says that "The

*Sun Magazine* prints excellent stories and personal essays. In particular, they have a READERS WRITE section where a theme is set each month and which is open to any writer. A good market to start with."

McKee joined the staff of *The Sun* in 2006. Prior to that time, he worked as a writer, editor and teacher. In 1999, his book *No More Strangers Now: Young Voices from a New South Africa*—based on a series of interviews with South African teenagers—was selected as a Jane Addams Children's Book Award honor book.

At the Memoir Conference, McKee will focus on a form of memoir—the personal essay—that is short in length but powerful in impact. He will discuss how editors at *The Sun* review submissions, what they are looking for, and what can make or break a submission.

McKee will take a limited number of 10-minute pitch sessions with conference-goers who would like to discuss their ideas for a personal essay. Early conference registration is encouraged for those seeking a pitch session. Appointments will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis, and SWW cannot guarantee that everyone who requests a pitch appointment will get one.

*Registration for the SWW Memoir Conference: How To Write and Publish Your Personal Stories on Saturday, August 16, is on page 13.*

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### On the Menu **SWW 2008 Awards Banquet**

by **John J. Candelaria**  
Chair, 2008 SWW Writing Contest



Our gala annual **Awards Banquet** celebrating winners of the 2008 SWW Writing Contest takes place this year at 1:00 p.m. on **Saturday, September 20**, at the **Albuquerque Marriot Hotel** on Louisiana Blvd. Opening with presentation of the 2008 Service Awards for significant service, the ceremony then moves to presentation of the prestigious SWW Parris Award for publishing and service.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place writing contest winners in all 16 categories will be announced and cheered, capped by presentation of the **2008 Storyteller Award** to the supremely talented writer (chosen from among this year's 1st Place winners) who is presented with the \$1000 top prize!

**Mark your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 20. Details including cost will be announced at meetings, in the September *SW Sage*, and on [southwestwriters.org](http://southwestwriters.org). Don't miss this gala Awards Banquet!**

## From the Editor

Is your summer garden in full bloom? I adore sunflowers but I'm referring to the intellectual garden where you pick words, plots, puns and subjects when you're hungry for creativity.



Whatever the season, we must all cultivate our garden every day, day in a day out, so its bounty is ready to harvest whenever we need it.

Tending a garden can be done in many ways—though writing is arguably the most important—through reading, revising, researching and fertilizing areas that need it—even by simply thinking about what you need to cultivate. If you need some fresh stock, perhaps you will find seeds here:

**U.S. Census Atlas:** If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the U.S. Census Bureau's new Census Atlas of the U. S. speaks volumes about how our population and housing have changed over the years. The atlas, with more than 700 full-color maps, is the first general population and housing statistical atlas published by the Census Bureau since 1925. Get your free digital copy at: [census.gov/population/www/cen2000/censusatlas/](http://census.gov/population/www/cen2000/censusatlas/) (Adobe's free PDF reader is required) or pony up \$165 for a printed copy. For an eye-opening example of how this data can be interpreted, see the Ad Age story at this link: [adage.com/article?article\\_id=128181](http://adage.com/article?article_id=128181)

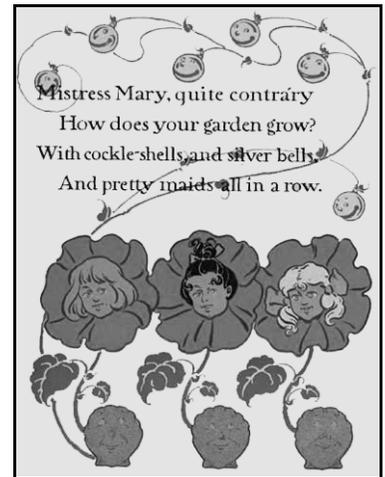
**Links list with a brain:** Alltop helps you explore your passions by collecting stories from "all the top" sites on the web. They've grouped these collections (aggregations) into individual Alltop sites based on topics such as environment, photography, science, Muslim, celebrity gossip, military, fashion, gaming, sports, politics, automobiles, and Macintosh. At each Alltop site they display headlines of the latest stories from dozens of sites and blogs. Do your research at: [design.alltop.com/](http://design.alltop.com/). It's amazing.

**Just for fun:** If you remember the 1990s you'll remember this wonderful yell—the sound of the Yahoo yodeler. Hear it any time by clicking the exclamation mark (!) at the end of the Yahoo logo on Yahoo.com. And see page 7 for the **Double-Tongued Dictionary**.

Help me welcome **Rose Marie Kern** to the SWW board and thank the *Sage's* talented proofers: Harold, Jeanne, Lola, and Larry. I'm looking for an assistant newsletter editor if you're interested. Talk to me at a meeting.

*Peggy*

**Welcome to the Sizzlin' Summer July/August issue of SouthWest Sage!**  
Monthly coverage will resume next month.



1902 illustration from Project Gutenberg EBook of William Denslow's *Mother Goose*.

If you think the ditty above is a nice little nursery rhyme, surprise yourself by looking into several possible meanings: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary,\\_Mary,\\_Quite\\_Contrary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary,_Mary,_Quite_Contrary)

## Tribute to Loretta Hall by Sandy Schairer

Enjoy fresh flowers on your PC each month by downloading the free Desktop Calendar from [flowerbud.com](http://flowerbud.com). No watering!



Loretta Hall, SWW member since 1987, retired from the SWW Board at the end of 2007. She joined SWW after taking a class on magazine writing from Eileen Stanton, another long-time member, and began a freelance writing career in 1990. Loretta was elected three terms as SWW Treasurer and then spent a year as Workshop Coordinator.

Currently on the Budget and Finance Committee, Loretta was recipient of the 2007 SWW Parris Award and has attended many workshops, classes and conferences. As a result, she has "made some deeply enriching friendships." She is the author of the non-fiction, oversized book *Underground Buildings: More than Meets the Eye* (2004) a mid-school level book *From Skyscrapers to Super Domes: Forces in Balance* (2005) and over 150 articles and book entries. Considered an expert on underground buildings, the former math teacher is currently pursuing a nationwide speaking tour for builders and architects. She continues to find time to teach magazine and technical writing as well as speaking and teaching at SWW programs and workshops.



**Loretta Hall**



**SouthWest Sage**

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- President** Rob Spiegel  
RobSpiegel@comcast.net
- Vice-President** Larry Greenly  
SWWriters@juno.com
- Secretary/Parliamentarian** Sandy Schairer  
SandyLiz@juno.com
- Treasurer** Keith Pyeatt  
k\_pyeatt@comcast.net
- Conference Chair** Wendy Bickel  
wendybickel@southwestwriters.com
- Writers Contest 2008 Chair** John Candelaria jjc-poet@comcast.net
- Critique Service** Edith Greenly  
SWWriters@juno.com
- Rose Marie Kern**  
solarranch@aceweb.com
- Speakers & Membership** Larry Greenly  
SWWriters@juno.com
- Public Relations** Melody Groves  
MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com
- Class Coordinator** Bonnie Hayes  
BonnHayes@aol.com
- SWW Sage Editor** Peggy Herrington peg@msn.com  
Gary Ness  
mess66@comcast.net
- E-lert Mistress** Gail Rubin  
publicity@southwestwriters.com
- Volunteer Coordinator** Ron Schultz  
RonSchultz@southwestwriters.com
- Historian** Jeanne Shannon  
jspetry@aol.com

**SWW Office:**  
3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM 87111  
phone: (505) 265-9485  
fax: (505) 265-9483  
e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com  
website: www.southwestwriters.org

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**In this issue**

Don't get Show versus Tell? Check out Keith Pyeatt's wormy example and Kirt Hickman's column. Focus on photography with Rose Marie Kern. Touch the high points at Denvention, ArmadilloCon, World Fantasy and Bubonicon with Laura Carlson, and do Amazon's Book Expo America with Sherri Burr. Speakers, workshops classes, our Memoir Conference and Awards Banquet are divulged while Len Hecht and Jawan do humor and poetry. All that and more in our Sizzlin' Summer July/August issue!

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**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 Memberhip: \$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**

**Breakfast for \*Bestsellers**

Join us at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 2, for our annual **New Member Breakfast**. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends and appetites. Tasty contributions will be appreciated! The regular meeting begins at 10 a.m.

\* Would-be (Always read the fine print.)

Professional Development Workshop Series

## Dan Poynter: Guerilla Marketing for Small Presses and Self-Published Authors

Tuesday, September 9, 7 to 9 p.m.

\$25 for members of NMBA/SWW, \$35 for non-members.

New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque  
Co-sponsors: New Mexico Book Association and SWW

### Unfair Advantage—taking control of your book

Dan Poynter reveals the five major advantages authors and smaller publishers have over the establishment. He peppers his presentation with statistics, examples, inside advice and many promotion ideas. He inspires, equips and empowers his audience with his unique delivery. With an understanding of the challenges and their solutions, they are prepared and encouraged to make their book(s) known. No one is being unfair to the newer author and smaller publisher.

### Book Promotion for Writers, Introverts & Other Reluctant Marketers

It doesn't matter if you sell out to a large New York publisher or publish yourself, the author must do the promotion. Publishers do not promote books; ask any author who has a publisher. The challenge is that **most writers are introverts**. So, most writers do not want beat their chests on radio, on television or in bookstores. What is an introverted writer to do?

Dan Poynter's seminars have been featured on CNN, his books have been pictured in *The Wall Street Journal*, and his story has been told in *U.S. News & World Report*. The media comes to him because he is the leading authority on book marketing, promoting and distributing. Dan was prompted to write *The Self-Publishing Manual* because so many publishers wanted to know his secret to selling so many books. Dan is one of the publishing industry's most energetic, experienced and respected leaders. He lives in Santa Barbara. Dan has produced more than 76 books and revisions so far, of which some have been translated into Spanish, Japanese, Russian, British-English and German.

## Announcements

### Writers to Writers

**July 14, 2008:** Severe Interrogation Methods: How to Get Sources to Tell the Truth by Mistake by Rob Spiegel

**August 11, 2008:** The Purposeful Writer by Laura Baker. SPECIAL presentation, from 6:20 to 8:30 pm

**July 19-20: The Yoga of Writing**, with Yoga Therapist and UNM-Taos Writing Instructor Monique Parker, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm, University of New Mexico-Taos. ENG 298/ 1.0 credit units. For writers who have difficulty finding time to write, are creatively blocked or are looking for time-tested techniques for reconnecting with their authentic voice. Pre-register through UNM-Taos. Admission fee of \$15, in-state tuition \$56. To register, call (505) 737-6200 or contact Monique Parker, monique@theyogaofwriting.com.



**New Literary Partnership:** New online literary magazine *The View from Here* and leading UK Literary Consultancy Corner-stones have joined forces to offer writers a new interactive experience. *The View from Here* is a fantastic opportunity for writers and book lovers to be informed and entertained' says Helen Corner, founder. 'This started as a blog about my experiences as a writer a year ago and ballooned in popularity when I started interviewing well known authors,' comments Mike French, owner and facilitator who has interviewed award-winning authors Julian Barnes, Tom McCarthy and Paul Torday. Subscription to the magazine is free. Surf to [viewfromheremagazine.com](http://viewfromheremagazine.com).

**Dr. Gary Chapman, best-selling author of *The Five Love Languages*** is compiling a collection of short stories in a volume entitled, *Love Lessons: Everyday Acts of Love That Change Lives*, which Bethany House will publish in Spring 2009. We will accept 40-50 stories at 1,200 to 2,000 words each. The stories should demonstrate a progression in your learning to love authentically and how you became a more loving person. If your story is selected you will receive a one-time fee of \$100 upon publication. We would like to receive all submissions by **August 31**, but would hope that most will be in by the beginning of the month.

## Successes

In *ByLine Magazine's* New Talent Poetry Contest, I received two Honorable Mentions for *Out of Control* and *Prayer In the Streets of Baghdad*. Winners were announced in the April 2008 issue. Unfortunately, my poetry was erroneously attributed to someone named D.L. Dobson rather than to me, **D.L. DeNoon**. I have requested that the magazine correct the error.

**Frank Carden's** short story "No is NO" was published in the May issue of *Las Cruces Poets and Writers Magazine*. We will also judge what we consider to be the three best stories with awards of \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively. Address all queries and manuscripts to Jeanette Littleton at [lovelessons@earthlink.net](mailto:lovelessons@earthlink.net).

## Signings & Appearances

From **Mark David Gerson**, author of *The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write*. Read/hear a free excerpt at [calltowrite.com](http://calltowrite.com).

### Radio Interviews:

1. Wednesday, August 6, 5 p.m. Spirituality Today on Unity.FM (Internet Radio Interview with Rev. Jamie Sanders of Unity of Pensacola). Visit [www.unity.fm](http://www.unity.fm).
2. Tuesday, August 12, 11 a.m.: Conscious Discussions Radio (Internet Radio Interview with Lillian & Dave Brummet). Visit [blogtalkradio.com/consciousdiscussions](http://blogtalkradio.com/consciousdiscussions).
3. Saturday, August 23, 10:30 a.m. Authors Read Radio Show: Reading excerpts from *The MoonQuest; A True Fantasy*. Visit [blogtalkradio.com/authorsread](http://blogtalkradio.com/authorsread)

**Free class and book-signing:** Saturday, September 6, 2:00 pm, Well Red Coyote Books, Sedona, AZ,

## SWW Classes

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.

*July 10, 24, 31, 6:30-8:30 pm, Three Thursday evenings*  
*\$45 members, \$55 non-members*

### **Fever Pitch: Promote Your Book or Screenplay to Publishers, Producers and Passers-by**

Whether in an elevator or behind a podium, authors need to pitch their stories in ways that catch and hold the attention of their intended audience. Present yourself professionally and effectively, and your work will get the exposure and attention it deserves. Let this master guide you through the process with feedback from fellow authors and his written critique. Some attendees may get to post their pitches online.

Lawyer, screenwriter and author, **Jonathan Miller** wrote his first novel, *Rattlesnake Lawyer*, based on his experiences as a public defender in Roswell. His novel, *Crater County*, and non-fiction book, *Amarillo in August*, both made the Tucson Public Library's master list of Southwest Books of the Year. *Legal Lapdances* won SWW 2006 Best Non-fiction and was optioned as a TV series. *Volcano Verdict* was a finalist for New Mexico mystery of the year. Jonathan's new novel, *La Bajada Lawyer* should be out soon!

*Sept. 3-Oct. 20, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Weds, 9 weeks,*  
*\$99, \$129 for nonmembers (includes 6 mo. online membership)*

### **How to Succeed with Magazines**

Taught by Rob Spiegel and Larry Greenly, this class will delve in all aspects of writing for magazines. We will explore developing ideas, writing winning queries and developing great articles. We'll also look at the nuts and bolts of working with magazine editors. We will include homework in writing queries, finding markets and developing outlines.

**Rob Spiegel:** Rob has 30 years of magazine experience, both with consumer magazines and trade publications. He has been senior editor at *Ecommerce Business and Electronic News*. He is currently a contributing editor at *Design News* and *Automation World*.

**Larry Greenly:** Larry's career as a freelance writer of non-fiction articles began 20 years ago. He has published hundreds of articles on various topics in magazines and elsewhere. Currently Vice President of SouthWest Writers, a contributing editor of *albuquerqueARTS* and a writing instructor at Bear Canyon Senior Center.

*Sept. 7 – Nov. 16 (skip Oct. 5), 10 Sunday evenings*  
*\$175/SWW members, \$225/Non-members, \$10 materials fee*  
*(Discounted \$50 SWW membership is available with \$225 fee; includes online SW Sage)*

### **Write a Great Screenplay: Beginning Screenwriting Class**

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 non-fiction by using the techniques they learned in his screenwriting classes. For more information, call Rick at (505) 984-2927.

*September 8- 29, 6:30-8:30pm, Monday evenings*  
*\$65 members, \$75 non-members*

### **Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness Part I: Write a Great Story**

**Kirt Hickman** offers a practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning, to first draft to final product. Each class includes a lecture, prepared exercises, and class time to work on the obstacles in your own writing projects. You'll receive a complete set of presentation notes, including numerous examples, a self-editing checklist, and recommended references—resources you can take home and use to better your writing.

Class 1: World Building & Characterization

Class 2: Plot

Class 3: First Draft, Research, & Gross Manuscript Problems

Class 4: Chapter Breaks & Avoiding Information Dumps

Kirt Hickman was a technical writer for 14 years before branching into fiction. He takes complex sets of requirements, in this case advice, and boils them down into simple, effective procedures. His methodical approach to self-editing can help you convert your first draft from mess to masterpiece. Kirt has completed five novels and is currently working on a book titled *Revising Fiction—Making Sense of the Madness*. He's is an SWW mentor and has participated in panels at multiple SWW conferences.

Part II of this class will start in October.

### **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.

## Photography for the Professional Writer

*Rose Marie Kern, SWW's newest Board member, entered this essay in the SWW Monthly Writing Contest earlier this year, where, to her delight, it took 2nd Place.*

Authors who venture into writing for magazines have an edge in getting published if their work is accompanied by pictures. Photography is not terribly difficult—you point the camera and shoot, right? Not necessarily.

First of all, what kind of camera do you use—film or digital? If it uses film, you will get the best photos from lower film speeds. Listed on the box as an ASA number where speed refers to the size and density of the silver grains on the film. Lower ASA numbers (100 or less) mean less grain; for a clear picture you need a lot of light, but the picture will have the best quality.

Higher ASA speeds (200 to 1000) capture pictures in darker lighting conditions, but they will be grainy. Unless you're after a specific photo effect, grainy photos are not acceptable for publication.

Photos from film should be submitted with your article in 8 x10 glossy format prints, which means the article must be sent snail mail. Affix a label to the back of each photo containing your name and contact information. Also attach a piece of paper to the back with tape that has the name and contents of the photo. Do not use a pen, as it mars the surface, and do not paperclip.

If you are sending a query, write "proof" on the front of the image with a marker. This allows the editor to see what you have to offer, but no one can use the image until you resend it with the finished piece.

Digital photos have an edge because they can be e-mailed with your article. You must query the magazine as to what format and size are required. Submitting digital photos requires a computer program, such as Adobe Photoshop, to manipulate the data.

Quality digital cameras let you set the file size. When shooting family pictures you can use a small file size to store the most shots possible in the camera's memory. When you are shooting professionally, always use the largest file size possible. This gives you latitude when later working with the image.

Upload the image to your computer and look at it critically. Is the subject centered? Are the colors perfect, or should you enhance them? Does the photo need to be converted to black and white? What kind of file format and size does the magazine prefer?

Most magazines want high resolution .dpi or digital pixels per inch (sometimes called ppi or pixels per inch). To "see" a pixel, go to VIEW on the toolbar in Photoshop and keep zooming in until the photo is nothing but a lot of square spots. Those are the pixels. The more pixels present, the higher the quality of the photo.

For home viewing or for online magazines your dpi can be as low as 72, but for anything that will be printed, magazines want a minimum of 250 and usually prefer 300 dpi.



Another consideration is the file format. Many cameras automatically shoot in .jpg format. The problem with .jpg is that the file will deteriorate each time it is resaved to disk, so most publications request either .tiff, .gif or .pdf formats. They may also specify a physical size in either total pixel widths or inches.

A limitation of the Internet is that many e-mail services do not allow you to send files larger than 3 megabytes, and large picture files can easily exceed that limit. In this case you may have to send the files on a CD by snail mail.

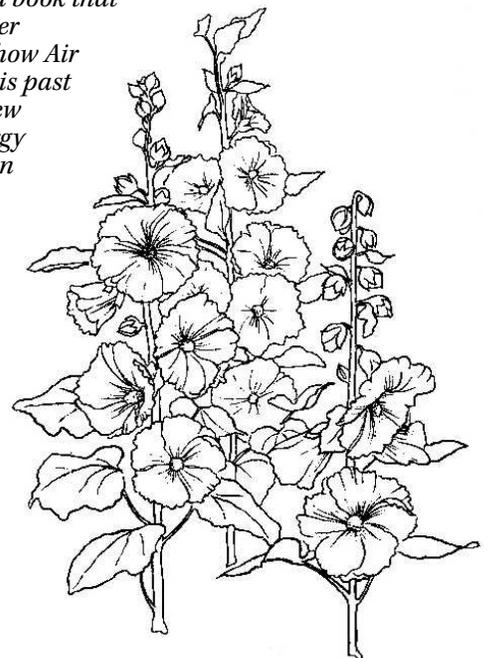
Your cover letter should state that you would like to be credited for the photos. To facilitate photo identification make your surname part of the file name, for instance: kern-sandia mtn.pdf.

Newsletter and magazine editors get frustrated because photographers will name files for the publication they are sending the photo to, which is helpful for them to track, but useless to the editor trying to identify your picture in a list of hundreds.

If photography is new to you, there are hundreds of books covering lighting, framing, and subject options. Taking close up pictures of people requires a signed "model release" or the magazine may not accept the photo. Large crowd pictures or those covering major public events are usually exempt but it is best to read up on the legal requirements of photographing people and their property.

Photography in itself is fun, just like writing. Pictures draw in your audience and allow a magazine to attract a wider readership. Keep your camera in the glove box, and reach for it the next time you see a double rainbow.

*An Air Traffic Controller for 25 years, Rose Kern writes for aviation magazines, gardening publications, and environmental causes. Her current project is a book that gives pilots a deeper understanding of how Air Traffic works. She is past president of the New Mexico Solar Energy Assn., and has been their newsletter editor for eight years.*



## SF Cons: A Learning Experience by Laura L. Carlson

If you write science fiction or fantasy, plan to attend a “con” this year. You’ll be able to hear favorite authors read their works or discuss pertinent topics about stories and publishing. You can delve into the peculiarities of writing about imaginary worlds and characters. And just being around the fans will teach you volumes about your potential readership. Unlike a general writing conference, everything you encounter pertains to SFF, making the con like an advanced class in the genre.

### The Basics

A bit intimidating at first (especially if you’re greeted by a Stormtrooper in full battle gear or a creepy, reptilian alien), these cons are organized in a similar fashion. Key people include a Toastmaster, who serves as the master of ceremonies; a Guest of Honor (goH, in SF talk), usually an author; a featured artist; and sometimes an outstanding editor, bookseller, or fan. These luminaries speak during panel discussions, give presentations and readings, and are generally available to the public for autographs and questions. Local authors and artists also join in the programming, which can revolve around a specific theme, like horror or dragons or the changing role of heroic women. Other sessions can include gaming, animé, fan videos, movie screenings, or even a costume contest. There’s always a dealer’s room, where comics, magazines, new and used books, art prints, jewelry and souvenirs can be bought. Usually there’s a juried display by talented book-cover artists. As a participant, you can freely wander from session to session, or follow a specific track geared to a particular interest.

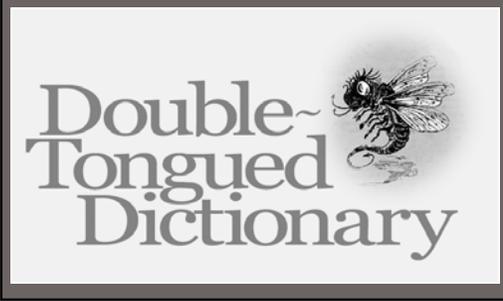
There’s always a con suite, too, where you can grab a complimentary hot dog or sandwich for a quick meal or pick-me-up.

Cons are held every year in all corners of the world, but it’s not necessary to travel far to get to a first-rate one. Albuquerque annually hosts the well-respected **Bubonic**, to be held Aug. 22-24. Austin’s **ArmadilloCon** 30, Aug. 15-17, also includes a one-day writer’s workshop. Clubs in Amarillo, Houston, and Dallas also host cons, and you’ll find others in nearby Arizona, California, and Colorado.

### The Best

If you’re looking for multiple session choices, try the huge **Denvention 3**, also known as **World Con** ([www.denvention3.org](http://www.denvention3.org); [www.worldcon.org](http://www.worldcon.org)). It’s held in different cities every year, with 2008’s version scheduled for Aug. 6-10 at Denver’s downtown convention center. Literally thousands of people attend this eclectic con, the granddaddy of everything SF. It’s part annual meeting, exhibition hall, awards, and “old-home” week, all rolled into one. Besides the typical con events, Denvention features the Critter Crunch, a robot battle that predates TV’s Battle Bots; filking, a type of SF folk-singing that can run from the humorous to the serious; a writer’s program for the newly-published; and a Ghost of Honor, **Robert A. Heinlein**. The prestigious Hugo Awards are also a perennial highlight. Prices range from \$225 for the whole convention to daily fees in the \$75-85 range.

Another large con, **World Fantasy** ([www.worldfantasy.org](http://www.worldfantasy.org)), will be held in Calgary, Alberta, from Oct. 30-Nov. 2 this year, but 2009’s con will be in more-accessible San Jose, California. The 2009 World Fantasy Convention will run from Nov. 5-9, and will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Edgar Allan Poe**. This is not where you should try to sell your work—it’s a



The **Double-Tongued Dictionary** is a blog that records undocumented or under-documented words from the fringes of English, with a focus on slang, jargon, and new words. This site strives to record terms and expressions that are absent from, or are poorly covered in, mainstream dictionaries.

Check them out at [doubletongued.org](http://doubletongued.org).

reunion of professionals, collectors, and fans of fantasy literature and art. Limited to 850 participants, the con usually has more than 200 published authors, 80 artists, 35 editors, and several rare book dealers in attendance. Besides its own prestigious awards banquet, this con has a mass book signing with famous and rising authors. SWW’s David Corwell signed his book there in 2004. A high-quality art show is also a staple feature.

### The Bargain

As to our local con, **Bubonic** ([bubonic.com](http://bubonic.com)), the only question you should ask yourself is, “Why aren’t you there?” Held at the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel (formerly the Wyndham, at 2910 Yale SE) on Aug. 22-24, it features world-class authors, many of whom are New Mexico residents. This year, the website lists George R.R. Martin, Melinda Snodgrass, S.M. Sterling, Walter Jon Williams, Ben Bova, Jane Lindskold, Daniel Abraham, Robert Vardeman, Laura J. Mixon, Jerry Weinberg and more. Several former SWW members will be presenters, among them authors Pati Nagle, Pari Noskin Taichert, and Yvonne Coats. The cost is only \$40 for the entire weekend and daily rates are available. When you consider travel costs like gas, airline tickets, hotels and meals for out-of-town cons, this quality con is a true bargain for the local crowd.

Explore the web a little and find a con that’s right for you. Enjoy time with like-minded professionals and other aspiring authors, and learn about SFF’s special techniques and concerns. Let yourself slip into a realm of imagination and ideas that takes its elves, dragons, and future worlds as seriously as you do.

*Laura L. Carlson has been a member of SWW for many years. She worked in the office, served on conference committees, and chaired the young writers contest. Nearly 100 articles in national, international, and local publications are to her credit, plus an award-winning, book-length church history. Her fiction has appeared in Dreams and Visions and Christian Single.*

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

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

### Copyrights, Copylefts, Fair Use, and Rights of Publicity: An Introduction to Copyright Law

What is a copyright? What rights does an author of a creative work possess? Diane Albert will introduce you to copyright protection with an emphasis on the rights of the copyright holder, public access and fair use, and what to do when someone infringes your copyright.



**Diane Albert** practices with Peacock Myers, P.C. in intellectual property prosecution and related business transactions. She holds a B.S. degree in both Mathematics Education and Metallurgical Engineering from Ohio State University, and M.E. and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. She received her J.D. from the UNM School of Law in 2007 and was awarded the Helen S. Carter prize for Outstanding Legal Writing.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Dr. Albert worked as a research scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, NM where she served as County Councilor for four years. Diane speaks French, Spanish, and Russian and prior to her career at LANL was awarded a post-doctoral research position funded by the French Ministère de l'Éducation, at Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, France. In her spare time, she is an avid bicyclist and teaches indoor group cycle and LIFT at NM Sports & Wellness. She and her fiancé live in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque with their pug Stanley and three cats.

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

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

No registration. Pay at the door.

### The Plot Thickens

Plotting can be one of the toughest obstacles in creating a novel. How do you move the story, keep the reader interested (and guessing)? It's like cooking. You have to find the right ingredients. Not too thick. Not too watery. With just enough spice.

**Johnny D. Boggs** has been praised by *Booklist* magazine as "among the best western writers at work today." and is one of the few authors to have won both the Western Heritage Wrangler Award and Spur Award for his fiction. *True West* magazine named him the Best Living Fiction Writer in its 2008 Best of the West Awards.

Boggs has three Spur Awards from Western Writers of America, winning for Best Juvenile Western Novel in 2008 for *Doubtful Canon*, Best Western Novel in 2006 for *Camp Ford* and for Best Short Fiction in 2002 for "A Piano at Dead Man's Crossing." He won the Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for Outstanding Western Novel of 2003 for *Spark on the Prairie: The Trial of the Kiowa Chiefs*. His novels, *Northfield*, *The Hart Brand* and *Ten and Me*, and his short story "The Cody War" were Spur finalists.



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.

### Welcome New Members

Sue van Namee  
Maryhelen Snyder  
Gary Steffen  
Miquela Rivera  
Sara Padilla  
Sharon W. Jeffers  
Kelly McMullen

Will Duff  
Jessica Chavez  
Barry Howard  
Trace Mollica  
Karen Elliott  
Steven Spencer  
Katherine DeGrow

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

### The Elevator Pitch

Increasingly, writers must be able to pitch their ideas on the spot. Learn how to pitch your project in minutes (if not seconds).

"The Elevator Pitch is both exciting and frightening at the same time. Mostly I can only give hints and examples of how it's supposed to work and then show by having people actually pitch and give them feedback," Rich said.

**Rich Reichman'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.

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Chris Eboch's presentation for this meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 21. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

### New Member Breakfast! Saturday, August 2, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

ALL members and prospective members are invited to a free breakfast prior to our regular Saturday meeting. Please plan to attend and welcome our new members! This is also a great opportunity to meet other writers in your genre(s) and learn about the benefits of SWW membership. Edible contributions gratefully accepted!

Saturday, August 2, 10:00 a.m. to noon

### Living Your Creativity: Secrets to Effortless & Powerful Writing

Living your passion for writing and writing your passion for a living involve pretty much the same principles and precepts. And the secrets to effortless and powerful writing are not really secrets at all. Join Mark David as he explores with you his "Thirteen Rules for Writing" and reveals the secrets you knew all along.

**Mark David Gerson** has taught writing as a creative and spiritual pursuit for more than 15 years in the U.S. and Canada. Through classes, workshops, coaching and consulting, Mark David has guided groups and individuals to connect with their innate wisdom, open to their creative power and express themselves with ease. Poets and playwrights, novelists and educators, amateurs and professionals, people who don't believe they can write and people with a compelling call to write — have all benefited from working with him, as have non-writers seeking to move through life's challenges and awaken their highest potential.

Mark David is the award-winning author of *The MoonQuest: A True Fantasy* and of *The Voice of the Muse: Answering the Call to Write*, a book of writing instruction, inspiration and practice. He has also recorded *The Voice of the Muse Companion*, a 2-CD set of guided meditations for writers. Mark David's free inspirational newsletter is read in more than two dozen countries.

Saturday, August 2, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

No registration. Pay at the door.

### Think Before You Write

The words we choose -- whether right or wrong -- color our writing, give it tone and texture. This workshop focuses on common errors writers make in choosing their words and arranging them. It will look at the bad habits we learn from television news, examine the flaws in some currently popular phrases, explore common grammar errors, and review important rules of punctuation for writers.

**Bob Gassaway** writes fiction and non-fiction and teaches workshops on writing. He is co-editor of *Dirty Work*, a 2007 non-fiction book focusing on occupations and professions that impart social taint to their practitioners. He wrote the chapters on crime scene investigators and forensic pathologists based on his research as a sociologist. He has worked in radio and television news, for newspapers in Texas, Missouri and New Mexico, and for The Associated Press. He is writing his second mystery novel.

Tuesday, August 19, 7 to 9 p.m.

### How a Couple of 'Accidental Coauthors' Let the Muses In

Establishing a plan for the article or book you're writing is never a bad idea, of course, but—have you noticed? Sometimes the project has ideas of its own. Authors **Sheila Key** and **Peggy Spencer**, MD, will discuss the wild, wonderful (and, at times, worrisome) magic that intruded early and often during the writing of their book, *50 Ways to Leave Your 40s: Living It Up in Life's Second Half*, and how these divine interventions resulted in a better book. Listen! If these two women—a couple of opposites who didn't even meet until halfway through "50/40's" development—could manage to go with the flow, then so can you. Sheila and Peggy will share ideas for knocking holes in that writer's box of yours, so your muses can breathe!

Peggy Spencer has a B.A. from the University of California Santa Cruz and an MD from the University of Arizona. She completed a residency at UNM, is board certified in Family Medicine, and works as staff physician at the UNM Student Health Center and adjunct faculty at the School of Medicine. Winner of the SWW 2006 Best Essay award, she writes a column for the *Daily Lobo* answering health questions, and contributes articles to *UNM Parent Matters* and *UNM Today*.

Sheila Key is an award-winning writer and graphic designer who has freelanced for publications ranging from corporate business journals to New Age magazines. She worked in radio for ten years in Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere, arriving in Albuquerque in 1994 when her husband became general manager of KUNM FM. Notably, it was the SWW 2003 writing contest that convinced Sheila to developing the book proposal. She won SWW awards that year and the next, and by then the proposal was ready. Thanks SWW!

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## Revising Fiction 13 Ways to Show Character Emotions (Part II)

by Kirt Hickman

Last month we began to look at creative ways in which you can show your characters' emotions effectively. To recap, we learned to:

1. Use emotional honesty.
2. Convey the source of the emotion.
3. Avoid clichés.
4. Use metaphor.



This only scratches the surface of what you can do. Wherever you see the name of an emotion in your writing, question carefully whether you're *showing* the emotion to the reader, or simply *telling* him about it. Here are some more ways to show your characters' emotions.<sup>1</sup>

### Use concrete details

Not bugs, but locusts and flies. Not flowers, but crocuses, pansies, or marigolds. If your character is drinking soda or wine, name the brand (real or fictitious). If she's reading a book or listening to a song, name it. Choose details that reflect your character's emotional state.

Consider the following passage, from an early draft of my science fiction novel, *Worlds Asunder*. This shows Dana McKaughey's first glimpse of Bill Ryan in the base trauma center after he's been in a terrible accident.

Tubes and wires ran everywhere, to machines and equipment whose purpose she could only guess at.

Does this passage let you feel what Dana is feeling? No. It shows her ignorance of the equipment sustaining Bill, but it doesn't convey emotion. Because she's not familiar with the machines, I can't describe them by name and function, but I can give details to the extent that she understands them.

Tubes and wires ran everywhere, from his arm, mouth, nose, chest, and several from beneath a blanket that had been pulled down to his waist. Each connected him to equipment in his headboard.

Meaningless numbers and graphics lit the display. She heard the hollow pump and hiss of a respirator and a series of beeps with the rhythm of a steady heart, but she'd cautioned herself against false hope for too many hours to draw encouragement from the disembodied sounds.

Instead of wires just running everywhere, they now run from specific parts of Bill's body to equipment in his headboard. Instead of settling for "machines and equipment," I describe what Dana sees and hears in a manner that reflects her emotions.

### Use internal monologue

This example is from Bill Ryan in *Worlds Asunder*:

Why couldn't he share that part of her life? Whenever he tried, she was just responsive enough to make him think he had a chance. But in the end, she always kept him at arm's length.

But Bill had resolved years ago not to psychoanalyze her behavior. He reminded himself of that pledge now to prevent his mind from slipping into that self-destructive mire of a woman's emotional logic. Women's prerogative,

he repeated over and over again to make himself believe it. Some days it got to him more than others.

This shows more about his emotional state, and about him as a character, than words like *frustration* or *loneliness* could possibly convey.

### Use dialog

Consider this example from a critique submission.<sup>2</sup>

[Ian] reached the table just in time to get the last slice of mushrooms, olives, and green chili, much to the annoyance of his sister.

The author could have used dialog to *show* the girl's annoyance.

[Ian] reached the table just in time to get the last slice of mushrooms, olives, and green chili.

"Mom," Kasey yelled in her most whiney voice. "Ian took the last piece of good pizza."

"You're a kid. You're not even supposed to like these toppings." Ian made a show of stuffing half the piece into his mouth in a single bite.

"Mom," Kasey yelled again.

The second passage reveals both characters much more clearly than the first, which simply tells the reader that Kasey is annoyed. The second passage shows, through dialog, how both characters respond to her annoyance.

### Show Physical Response

The bodies, when he found them, were nothing more than a partial set of scorched bones and ash, incompletely cremated, with a few melted personal effects. Bile filled Chase's throat and forced him to turn away. God damn it! Nobody was supposed to be in there. The death count was now at six, and Chase had known some of those people. He swallowed the vomit that rose in him, fortified his resolve, and looked again upon the victims. Both skulls remained intact, their bony grins mocking him from the ruins of his investigation. He imagined the perpetrator doing the same from somewhere nearby.

This passage from *Worlds Asunder* uses the involuntary response of Chase's body to express his revulsion. Without it, the scene contains some macabre imagery, but it's emotionally lifeless.

1. Ann Hood, *Creating Character Emotions*, Story Press Books, 1998.
2. Excerpts from critique submissions are reprinted with the permission of the original author.

Continued next month.

*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: From Receiving to Giving

by **Sherri Burr**

**B**ook Expo America attracts 30,000 people to its annual convention. Publishers, distributors, authors, librarians, agents, teachers, and readers descended on Los Angeles to talk about selling books. Two intriguing panels were called “Working the Clubs: How to maximize the selling of books with book club contacts” and a Spotlight on Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon.com.



Imagine using book clubs to catapult your work to the *New York Times* bestseller’s list. That is what Kimberla Lawson Roby (*The Best Kept Secret* and *Sin No More*) did. She compiled a list of Internet book clubs and sent them information about her books. She was selected by several. Eventually she talked to a friend about marketing writers to book clubs. The friend began “Book Connections.”

Book seller Bernard Henderson, another attendee, said bookstores love book club sales because they represent multiple purchases. Lisa Johnson, president and co-founder of “Sistahs on the Reading Edge” Book Club in Northern California said that her group loves information from authors. They read at least two self-published books a year plus those by bestselling authors.

The moral is that authors should work book clubs. Start by contacting those in your area. Also connect with local bookstores so they will order your book in bulk to satisfy book club demand.

Publishers love sales through Amazon.com because they count toward bestseller lists and Amazon gives immediate rankings. One of my books, *Entertainment Law in a Nutshell*, debuted on Amazon at 2,354,789. When the ranking jumped up to 8,752 two months later, my publisher was thrilled. At one point, he told me to direct sales through Amazon rather than through the publisher’s website.

Such is the pull of Amazon, which began in 1994 based on an idea by Jeff Bezos, who had to beg investors to participate. On Friday, 30 May 2008, he told how they unveiled five months of research on the Kindle Reader, the latest device for reading e-books. 125,000 books are now available for Kindle. The goal is to have every book published available. When you are selling your rights, remember your e-book rights. This could be huge.

Just as author Jon Miller whispered that Bezos was putting a lot of people in the room out of business, Bezos told us that Amazon discovered that people who downloaded e-books for Kindle still bought on average the same number of physical books. One person has bought over 1076 e-books.

*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.*

## Torn

by **Keith Pyeatt**

Keith Pyeatt, *SWW Treasurer*, entered this scene in the March 2008 *SWW Monthly Contest*. The topic was *Show, Don't Tell*. He was thrilled when it took 1st Place and says he had great fun writing it.

### Part 1 — The telling of “Torn”

He was torn. Part of him wanted to continue on to the Land of Riches, but another part longed to stay in the safe haven of familiarity. Dangers lurked everywhere. Leaving his adventurous side behind, he returned home, safe but doomed to a life where he’d never realize the dreams that once drove him. He was but half of who he used to be—the meek half.

### Part 2 — The showing of “Torn”

The earthworm crawled over sand toward the coffee grounds the human had dumped into the garden. The smell intoxicated, and the morning breeze carried warmth from the steaming grounds that tickled across the earthworm’s four-inch back.



“A little further,” the head segment said. “We’d be there already if I didn’t have to drag you.” His words scolded, but the tail kept watch on the human. She still hovered close by, sorting through her garden implements. Couldn’t the head sense the danger? Before the tail could sound a warning, a spade tore through the worm’s body, slicing it in half.

The head section writhed in pain a moment then continued his journey toward the fresh coffee grounds, making better time without the reluctant tail. The tail raced to the hole from which he’d emerged, but he turned back at the entrance for a final look. The human was gone, but a sparrow had landed in the garden at the edge of the coffee grounds. The worm’s head section—still a foot from his goal—gasped and dug into the soil to escape, but the sparrow’s beak plucked him from the ground. The head struggled and cried out before being gulped down.

The tail section sighed and entered the hole, already aware he’d never try to make it to the Land of Riches again. What need did he have for coffee grounds now? His mouth was in the section the bird swallowed.



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

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**MEMOIR CONFERENCE**  
**HOW TO WRITE AND PUBLISH YOUR PERSONAL STORIES**  
**Saturday, August 16, 2008**

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES** conference presentations, a box lunch, refreshments and the possibility of a 10-minute pitch session. The conference will be held at the CNM WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER, 5600 Eagle Rock Avenue NE (near I-25 and Alameda), Albuquerque, New Mexico. Check-in time is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The Conference will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. If you need a hotel, there are two within walking distance: Holiday Inn Express, 5401 Alameda NE, Albuquerque (505-797-2291) and Ramada Limited, 5601 Alameda NE, Albuquerque (505-858-3297).

**REGISTER** online at southwestwriters.com, OR register by phone by calling the SOUTHWEST WRITERS office (505-265-9485) M-F 9:00-noon, OR register by completing this form and mailing it to: SOUTHWEST WRITERS, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. **Early bird deadline: August 1.**

*-Cut here if registering by mail. Retain the top portion, and mail the bottom portion-*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Are you a current member of SouthWest Writers? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO  
 How did you learn about this conference? \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Cost. Register on or before August 1 (postmark date) for the early bird rate:**

_____ @ \$99.00 SWW member cost (early bird rate)	\$ _____
_____ @ \$119.00 SWW member cost (registered after 8/1)	\$ _____
_____ @ \$149.00 non-member cost - <b>includes one-year SWW membership</b> (early bird rate)	\$ _____
_____ @ \$169.00 non-member cost - <b>includes one-year SWW membership</b> (registered after 8/1)	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$ _____

**Method of payment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check or money order (payable to SouthWest Writers)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa (We accept only MasterCard and Visa)

**If paying by credit card:** Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**LUNCH PREFERENCE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Smoked Turkey sandwich  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fresh Vegetable sandwich  
 Please tell us if you have special diet requirements or allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A 10-MINUTE PITCH SESSION, please indicate your preference. Only one pitch session can be assigned. However, if your first choice is unavailable, do you have a second or third choice? If so, please indicate by the numbers "2" and "3":**

\_\_\_\_\_ Deborah Herman, literary agent (for any variety of memoir)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Luther Wilson, UNM Press Director (for memoirs with a Western connection, preferably New Mexico or the Southwest)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Tim McKee, Managing Editor, *The Sun Magazine* (for magazine-length personal essays)

**NOTE: The number of pitch sessions is limited. We will try to accommodate everyone, but pitch sessions will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis and we cannot guarantee that everyone will get a session. Early registration will increase your chance of getting the pitch session of your choice.**

## Never Marry a Widow

by Len Hecht

**N**ever marry a widow. That was the last piece of advice the old man gave Robert.

Now just a month later Robert had the task of cleaning out his father's apartment. The funeral was over, and the mourners had gone.

There wasn't very much to show for a life of seventy-eight years. Just three suits, a couple of sport jackets, some trousers and those ridiculous plaid shorts old men seemed to acquire when they approach senility.

Twenty years ago, his father laughed at seniors in plaids. He had been almost a fanatical Beau Brummel about his wardrobe. Something had changed him. Maybe Thelma.

Robert, I've been seeing this woman, her name is Thelma. I know you probably think it's silly of a man in his seventies to even think about women. But I do. Since your mother's been gone I've been alone and I don't like it!

Dad, it's your life and I'm not the person to tell you how to live. Specially with my record with women. Three divorces. I don't know how you and mom survived almost 50 years together.

Mostly by knowing when to ignore each other. Anyway, I've been seeing Thelma, did I tell you that's her name? Thelma Rosenblatt, with two t's. We've been out to the movies a few times now she wants me to go with her to Bermuda, her treat, of course. I told her Sam Kaplan pays his own way. It's "Dutch" or nothing.

Wow, my own father propositioned. It should only happen to me.

Stop making jokes. This is serious. I haven't been with any woman, except your mother, for more than fifty years. I went to the doctor for a prescription and he wrote one for Cialis, the one that's supposed to last for thirty-six hours. But I don't know if I remember how to start.

Don't worry about that, it's like riding a bicycle; it'll all come back to you.

But I never learned how to ride a bicycle. Why would I need a bicycle when I've got a perfectly good Chrysler 300?

You'll do just fine, Dad. Go to Bermuda with this Thelma Rosenblatt, with two t's. Have a good time.

A month later Thelma Rosenblatt, with two t's became Thelma Kaplan with just one n.

Robert and Thelma's daughter signed the register as witnesses and Sam moved into the home Thelma's late husband had left her. That, plus a large stock portfolio, and an insurance policy in the six figures.

I can't keep up with her, Sam complained to Robert by long distance. She makes these plans, expensive plans, when I tell her I can't afford to go on a cruise to the Caribbean she just insists on paying. I feel like half a man.

Most men would just enjoy. Why can't you?

All my life I paid my own way. Your mother never had to open her pocketbook when she was with me! After the cruise, Thelma wants to go

to Russia, of all places. I told her my father was glad to leave in 1900. He told me terrible things about Russia. Why would I want to go there? Besides, I can't take the cold anymore.

So, don't go to Russia, go someplace else, someplace warm. Maybe Hawaii.

Dad and Thelma went to Russia. When they came home, Dad moved out of the house.

The last time Robert saw the old man was in the Intensive Care Unit. He motioned Robert to come closer. He whispered the last piece of advice he ever gave Robert.

Never marry a widow, son, she's already killed once!

“Wow, my own father propositioned. It should only happen to me”

### Shall I Try Midwifery? by Jawan

I am my own pimp  
ordering me  
to stand on street corners  
hang out in dumps  
flirt there with baddies  
looking for humps.

If I could fuck a poem into life  
I'd do it myself.

But business is bad today.  
Tricks are not made.  
Haughty cars speed by  
paying no heed.  
Empty my pockets,  
empty my head,  
empty eye sockets...

No crack  
no speed  
no bread

No poem.



## SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

**C**ongratulations to the winners of our March 2008 International Monthly Writing Competition: Show, Don't Tell.



- 1st Prize: Keith Pyeatt**, Albuquerque, NM, for "Torn."
- 2nd Prize: M.L. Dellafiora**, Albuquerque, NM, for "My House is a Very Very Fine House."
- 3rd Prize: Ruth Friesen**, Albuquerque, NM, for "Widow."

Honorable Mentions (alphabetical):  
**Shirl Brainard**, Albuquerque, NM, for "Interlude."  
**Irene Chitwood**, Albuquerque, NM, for "Virginia Runs Away."

The judges say: All the entries mentioned above were well-written.

### July Contest Fourth of July Anecdote

**W**rite in first person about a memorable 4th of July incident or event you remember all these years. 500 words maximum, double-spaced. Postmark deadline: Thursday, July 31, 2008.

### 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*  
 505.856.6768  
[JohnRWard@q.com](mailto:JohnRWard@q.com)

*Wanting to Start Groups/  
Looking for a Group*

**Nonfiction, Valencia County**  
 Karen Keese  
 505-261-0040  
[skywriter@wildblue.net](mailto:skywriter@wildblue.net)

**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)

**Short Story, Poetry, Screenplay**  
 Santa Fe  
 Robert Evans 505- 690-6651  
[reevans1@mac.com](mailto:reevans1@mac.com)

### August Contest Memoir

**D**ig out those memories and write a humorous, poignant or whatever-strikes-your-fancy type of memoir in first person. 750 words maximum, double-spaced.

Postmark deadline: Monday, September 1, 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:

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 Writing Contest. Details are on page 14.

Deadline: 7/20/08. High Prairie Poets. **New Mexico State Poetry Society** Bimonthly Contests. Open to all poets. 32-line limit. Awards: \$20, \$10, \$5 plus 3 honorable mentions; no poems published. Entry fee: \$2 first poem; \$1 each additional poem. Info: Send SASE to Carol Dee Meeks, Silver Arrow Estates, 2601 South Elm Place, Apt. #108, Broken Arrow OK 74012; or e-mail [c\\_pmeeks@hotmail.com](mailto:c_pmeeks@hotmail.com).

Deadline: 8/1/08 postmark; late deadline: August 15 (\$5 late fee). **Memoirs Ink Fifth Annual Writing Contest** for original, well-written personal essays, memoirs, or stories based on autobiographical experiences. Must be in first person; other than that, the contest is open to any type, genre or style of story. Must be previously unpublished; 3000 words max. Awards: \$1000, \$500, \$250. Entry fee: \$15. Info: [memoirsink.com](http://memoirsink.com).

Early Deadline: 8/1/08; Entry fee: \$35. Deadline: 9/2/08; Entry fee \$50. Both online. **American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest**. Prize: \$5,000. It all starts with a story. The winners' and finalists' scripts will be considered for film option and development by American Zoetrope, Samuel Goldwyn Films, Sony Pictures Classics, Alphaville, Fortis Films, GreeneStreet Films, FilmColony, The Schiff Company, Pretty Pictures, Hart Sharp Entertainment, This Is That, Phoenix Pictures, Number 9 Films, Matinee Pictures, Michael Landon Productions, and Bull's Eye Entertainment. Those writers will be considered for representation by ICM, UTA, Paradigm, William Morris Independent, The Gersh Agency, CAA, and The Firm. Submit screenplay via online entry form at [zoetrope.com/contests](http://zoetrope.com/contests). Information contact: [contests@zoetrope.com](mailto:contests@zoetrope.com).

Deadline: 8/17/08. E-mail or regular mail. **Non-fiction Story Contest about Past Loves**. Write true story of a former sweetheart in no more than 700 words. Tell about your earlier love, someone whose memory brings a smile or a tear, or both. Did that woman or man change your life? How did

the experience affect the rest of your life? Your story may be heart-warming or humorous. No entry fee. Awards: \$100, \$75, and \$50. Info: [ourpastloves.com/contest.html](http://ourpastloves.com/contest.html).

Deadline: 8/31/08.

### **Baby Boomer humor**

**writing contest**. Fiction or non-fiction. Awards: \$125, \$75, \$50. Entry fee: \$5. **Over 50, Still Kickin's** first writing contest. 500 to 1000 words. You do not have to be a Baby Boomer to enter, but you better understand our perspective. Must be squeaky clean, suitable for a general audience. This writer-to-writer contest is meant to be fun and to give out modest prize money in the process. Info: [leannrubsam.com/contest.html](http://leannrubsam.com/contest.html).

Deadline: 9/1/08. **The InnermoonLit Award for Best Short-Short Story**. No entry fee. All writers are welcome to enter, and all authors shall retain the rights to their works. First prize: \$100; second prize: \$50; third prize: \$25 and a signed copy of one of my novels. Maximum words: 500 words. Guidelines: [brianagincourtmassey.com/contests/ssfguidelines.html](http://brianagincourtmassey.com/contests/ssfguidelines.html).

Deadline: 9/15/8 for your mystery short story for the \$1,500 **Tony Hillerman Mystery Short Story Contest** co-sponsored by *Cowboys and Indians* magazine. Stories must be no longer than 2,500 words, include a Native American character, and be set in the West. The winner is announced at the annual Tony Hillerman Writers Conference: Focus on Mystery, Oct. 29-Nov. 2 in Albuquerque. For rules, go to [wordharvest.com/index.php/contests](http://wordharvest.com/index.php/contests).

### Deadline 9/15/08: **2nd Annual Women and Success**

**Contest**. Seeking stories about women and cancer, entry fee \$20.00. The Grand Prize winner will receive \$150.00, ten copies of the book and publication in the book and a 20% discount on all books purchased. All other winners will receive \$50.00, three copies of the book, publication and a 20% discount on all books purchased. Submission guidelines at [ChelseaRichards1@aol.com](mailto:ChelseaRichards1@aol.com).

### **Stories That Make us Smile**

Are you a budding author looking for an opportunity to stretch your imagination and showcase your talents? Here's your chance to inspire with stories about everyday women who make a difference. Your story should tell the situation and sentiments behind a woman's smile — personal triumph, special moments or a life changing experience. Each contest will feature a different theme; fiction and non-fiction. Entries should not exceed 1,500 words. We'll even post a random selection of 10 entries every two weeks so that you can enjoy the stories with us. Every three months, SmileVino will select three winning submissions in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. First place: \$500.00; second place: \$300.00 and third place: \$200.00. Details at [smilevino.com/contests.aspx](http://smilevino.com/contests.aspx).



**George Terrell**

**Novel, Short Story  
Author and  
Playwright**

See My Web site:

[www.TerrellBooks.com](http://www.TerrellBooks.com)



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)

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Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.



## **How's Your Summer Garden?**



**I**f your writing isn't blooming like a lush summer garden, SWW can help.

SouthWest Writers sponsors expert speakers at twice monthly meetings, afternoon and all-day workshops, and critiques, classes, conferences, an annual writing contest and awards banquet, valuable member perks, and this newsletter, *SW Sage*. Yet some folks claim the *real* benefits are fellowship and networking with writers and other publishing pros.

SWW monthly meetings are free, and your membership assures continuance of these popular activities.

**Please join or renew your membership today!**