



# The SouthWest Sage

---

Vol. 20, No. 2

*The Voice of SouthWest Writers*

February 2005

---

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

---

**SouthWest Writers Presents:**  
**BEYOND THE UNKNOWN**  
**Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Conference**  
Featuring Steve Saffel of Del Rey Books & Liz Scheier of Penguin

---

**Saturday, February 19, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM**

**~Registration opens at 7:30 AM~**

**Howard Johnson Hotel, Hotel Circle off Lomas at Eubank & I-40**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**\$99.00 for SWW Members**

**\$159.00 for Nonmembers**

**Box Lunch Included**

---

The special room rate at Howard Johnson's for SWW Conference attendees is \$44 per night as available.

Attendees who wish to come early or stay beyond the one-day conference will get the same rate.

Phone (505) 296-4852. **Be sure to mention the SWW Conference.**

Steve Saffel is the featured speaker in the morning while Liz Scheier meets with conference attendees. Liz Scheier is the featured speaker in the afternoon while Steve Saffel meets with conference attendees. Each will be taking 12 appointments, so sign up as soon as possible.

~Both editors are actively acquiring Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror.~

Conference is sponsoring other speakers, experiential panels, and a Midnight Event.

Also offered: Walking Tour of Old Town sponsored by Ghost Tours...\$15 extra.

See: *nmghosttours.com*

The Howard Johnson Hotel is on Hotel Circle off Lomas east of Eubank just north of I-40 and Eubank exit.

The special room rate for SWW Conference attendees is \$44 per night as available.

Attendees who wish to come early or stay beyond the one-day conference will get the same rate.

Phone (505) 296-4852. *Be sure to mention the SWW Conference.*

---

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM SEE: [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)**

Pick up a copy at the office or at a SWW meeting.

Call the SWW Office—(505) 265-9485—to register by phone/mail.

---



## The SouthWest Sage

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

Subscription is a benefit of SWW membership. For advertising rates and submission guidelines, see [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org).

Editor:  
Cliff Gravel

Assistant Editor:  
Larry Greenly

Editorial Staff:  
Nicole Schairer  
Andrea S. Lee

SWW Office:  
3721 Morris St. NE  
Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM  
87111-3611  
phone: (505) 265-9485  
fax: (505) 265-9483

E-mail: [SWriters@aol.com](mailto:SWriters@aol.com)  
Website:  
[www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)

Office hours:  
Monday-Friday  
9 a.m.-Noon

All articles copyrighted 2005 by author. Facts, views, and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or opinion of SouthWest Writers. SWW does not necessarily endorse the advertisers.

Cover:	Beyond the Unknown Conference
Page 3:	SWW Contest Rules
Page 4:	SWW Contest Categories
Page 5:	SWW Contest Entry Form
Page 6:	Contest Connection by Joan Marsh
Page 7:	Markets by Amber Hartley
Page 8:	It Happened by Judy Ducharme
Page 9:	This-n-That
Page 10:	SWW Events
Page 11:	Announcements
Page 12:	Other Contests
Page 13:	Member Successes
Page 14:	Odds & Ends/Ad Rates
Page 15:	SWW Board Information
Page 15:	SWW Writer's Guidelines

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

## 2005 SWW Writer's Contest

The SouthWest Writers Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing.

Editors and literary agents judge all the entries and critique the top three entries in each category. All entries receive a written critique by a qualified consultant.

Finalists in all categories are notified by mail and are listed on the SWW website with the title of their entry. First, second, and third place winners receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. Winners will be announced at a contest awards banquet after the SWW annual meeting.

First place winners also compete for the \$1,000 Storyteller Award.

### 2005 General Contest Rules

Use in conjunction with Category Specific Guidelines.

1. **Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2005. Only mailed entries accepted; no hand deliveries or e-mail submissions. All entries postmarked after the deadline will be returned unopened.

2. **Submit** two (2) copies of your entry, which must be original, unpublished, unsold, and not optioned prior to May 1, 2005. Your entry must not have been previously selected as a SWW contest winner within the same category. One copy of your entry will go to the judge, and one copy will be critiqued by a qualified consultant, both selected by SWW for the entry category.

3. **Category number:** Write on the outside envelope, under your return address.

4. **SASE:** Please include a 9" x 12" return envelope with the same amount of postage used to mail in your entry.

A critique and all contents of your submission package will be returned to you. **NO** metered postage on return envelopes, and please use self-sealing (nonmoisture) SASEs. *Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.* **Optional:** Self-addressed, stamped postcard to be returned to you upon receipt of your entry.

5. **Your name** must appear in only four (4) locations: (1) on the Contest Entry Form; (2) on the outside envelope with your return address; (3) on the SASE; and (4) on the optional notification postcard.

6. **Your signature** and the signature of the coauthor, if applicable, **MUST** appear on the Contest Entry Form.

**Entry Format (For additional information, see Category Specific Guidelines and Tips and Resources.)**

1. A separate title page is not needed.

2. **In the header**, on pages subsequent to page one (1), type the title or its key word(s) in the top left corner. In the top right corner, number the pages of your entry, starting with page two (2). Query letters, synopses, and outlines should also be numbered consecutively, but separately from the manuscript.

3. **Double space** your entry. Use Times New Roman or Courier New in 12 point font on 8½" x 11" paper with one (1)-inch margins. Use one (1) side of the paper only. Please paper clip your entry; **NO** staples or binding. (Exception: Screenplay format - see Category Specific Guidelines.)

4. **Single space** synopses and query letters. **Double space** proposals.

◆◆◆

**Everyone Spread the Word to:**

Writers, Publishers, Sales, Reps, etc.

SouthWest Writers has office space for rent.

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

local number fax machine, kitchenette.

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

Use in conjunction with General Contest Rules.

**NOVELS:** The first 20 pages or less, beginning with the prologue and/or first chapter, plus a one (1) page synopsis.

1. **Mainstream and Literary**
2. **Mystery, Suspense, Thriller, or Adventure**
3. **Romance**
4. **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror**
5. **Historical or American Frontier/Western**
6. **Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult**

(7th grade and up). You must type *Middle Grade* or *Young Adult* in the top right corner of the first page.

**SHORT STORIES:** 5,000 words or less

7. **Science Fiction, Fantasy, or Horror**
8. **Mainstream and Literary**
9. **Mystery or Romance**
10. **Other Genres: Historical, Western, etc.**
11. **Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult**

(7th grade and up). You must type *Middle Grade* or *Young Adult* in the top right corner of the first page.

**SHORT NONFICTION:**

12. **Nonfiction Article or Essay:** 800-3,000 words, any topic, plus a one (1) page query letter to the appropriate target publication.

13. **Children's Nonfiction Article:** Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up). 500-800 words, plus a one (1) page query letter to the appropriate target publication.

**OTHER:**

14. **Nonfiction Book:** The first 20 pages or less, plus a one (1) page query letter and a three (3) page proposal (include market competition, audience, summary, and chapter headings). No charts, etc.

15. **Children's Nonfiction Book:** Middle Grade (4th-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up). The first 20 pages or less, plus a one (1) page query letter and a three (3) page proposal (include market competition, audience, summary, and chapter headings). No charts, etc.

16. **Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction):** Target age: 4-7 years old. No more than six (6) pages (text only) for a 32-page book. NO illustrations.

17. **Screenplay:** The first 30 pages, plus a synopsis of no more than two (2) pages. Use accepted screenplay format; 12 point Courier only and MUST be bound with brads. NO stage plays or TV series, please. You must include the total page count of the screenplay in the top right corner of the first page.

18. **Poetry:** 5 pages or less, even if more than one poem. NO graphics, please.

---

**The outside envelope for each submitted entry must be labeled with one of the category numbers above; write the number on the envelope, under your return address. Use Category Specific Guidelines with the General Contest Rules and the Contest Entry Form.**

---

### Overheard at the New Year's Day SWW Meeting

Guest: "Is your book on *The Cultivation of Courage* finished?"

Member: "Yes, but I can't get up enough nerve to submit it to a publisher."

\* \* \* \* \*

Member: "I'm discouraged. I might as well burn my unfinished play, and I've worked on it every day for three years."

Friend: "That's your trouble. All work and no play."

\* \* \* \* \*

Member: "Why did you call the hero of your story, 'Adam'?"

Writer: "My critique group said I should write it in the first person."

\* \* \* \* \*

Guest: "What happened to that writer you introduced me to last week? I never heard of him anymore."

Member: "He uses a nom-de-plume."

Guest: "Is that as good as a Dell?"

**2005 SouthWest Writers Contest Entry Form**

Complete this form for each entry. Please print legibly. The form may be photocopied or printed out from [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org), but all signatures must be original. Mail each entry separately.

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Category (Circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

How did you hear about the contest? \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fees (NONREFUNDABLE) Please circle one.**

All categories (except poetry):	\$29 SWW Member	\$44 Non-Member
Poetry:	\$18 SWW Member	\$28 Non-Member

**Mail by May 1, 2005**

- Check or money order (in US \$) payable to SouthWest Writers. *Do not send cash.*
- This Contest Entry Form, completed and signed.
- Two (2) copies of your entry. Consult the General Contest Rules.
- SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope). This envelope must contain the same amount of postage used on the outside envelope. NO metered postage on return envelopes, please. *Entries with inadequate return postage will NOT be returned.*
- Write the category number entered under your return address on the outside envelope.
- Optional: Self-addressed, stamped postcard (acknowledges receipt of entry).

**Mail to:** SouthWest Writers Contest 2005  
 3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A  
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

**Contestant's Agreement**

In consideration for SouthWest Writers' (SWW) acceptance of my work for review in the SWW Contest 2005, I hereby submit my entry and fee, and agree to be bound by the contest rules stated herein. I understand that any questions regarding the interpretation of these rules, and any matters relating to the contest, which are not specifically covered by the rules, will be decided solely at the discretion of the contest officials. I will accept as final and be bound by all judges' decisions. I understand and agree that my manuscript will be subjectively evaluated, and SWW cannot accept liability for consequences arising from any opinion expressed. I hold harmless and indemnify SWW, its agents, employees, and volunteers for any and all losses, costs, or expenses incurred from any dispute arising from my participation in the contest. I acknowledge by my signature below that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these rules. I understand that my contest submission will not be accepted without my signature below, and that under no condition will my entry fee be refunded.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coauthor's signature, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SWW Contest Connection

by Joan Marsh, 2005 Contest Co-Chair

### Lights Camera Action

Featuring contest information for screenwriters.

Sharpened your plot points? Defined the theme, premise, and dramatic action? Fixed the elements of your story line? Then you're ready to submit the first thirty (30) pages of your screenplay to the SWW contest. No stage plays or TV series, please.

Think critically about the act of screenwriting. Your entry will be evaluated for originality, proper formatting, structure, dialogue, character/script development.

Linda Seger has worked as a script consultant since 1983 and is an honored speaker at the Director's Guild, the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences, and the American Film Institute. She is the author of several acclaimed books on screenwriting. Linda will grace SWW's Conference on May 21, 2005 with a screenwriting seminar. In the meantime, she created a list for us of ten (10) elements needed in the first thirty (30) pages of a screenplay:

1. If possible, start with an image that is a metaphor for your story. Look at the opening of *DEAD POET'S SOCIETY* to see how the image of tradition will then contrast with images of creativity.
2. Let us know the context, the world of your story. Don't presume we already know it.
3. Get a strong event, a catalyst, into the story within 10-15 pages to start the story. Up until the catalyst, you mainly have context.
4. Introduce your major character. Give him/her a strong introduction. Want to see a good one? Look at how John Book is introduced in *WITNESS* (a photographer's flash goes off as he comes through the door!).
5. You might want to think about where your credits come during the beginning. You have the alternative of the movie starting before credits, under credits, or after credits. Credits can be useful to help you structure your story and give it a strong visual opening.
6. Make sure we know who people are through dialogue, not just through description. That means finding creative ways to get their names out to the audience without saying, "John, meet Mary, an interior designer who's very good!"
7. Find a way to introduce your characters that is

positive. If we hate them right away, we won't un-hate them later. Even if they're flawed, make sure we like the people we're supposed to root for. Watch the beginning of *ROMANCING THE STONE* to see how the cat made Joan Wilder more sympathetic.

8. Think of sequences of scenes, not just individual scenes. Get the story moving by showing how each scene is connected to the next and the next, in a kind of action-reaction sequence.

9. Bring movement into the beginning of your story. If your characters move, we move. Sometimes just having a character come in the door, rather than CUT TO character standing or sitting, can help.

10. And don't forget the three rules of screenwriting: Structure. Structure. Structure. Give us a good catalyst, strong development in Act One, and don't forget your 1st Turning Point!

### Contest Tips:

- ♦ Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2005.
- ♦ Submit two copies of the first 30 pages and a single spaced synopsis of up to two (2) pages. Use accepted screenplay format; 12 pt Courier and bind with brads. Be sure the return envelope has the same amount of postage used to mail in your entry. A critique and all contents of your submission package will be returned to you.
- ♦ See the 2005 General Contest Rules, Category Specific Guidelines, and Tips and Resources at [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org).

Send me your questions about the contest:  
[joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com](mailto:joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com)

There are many books and software packages available to assist you. These are just a few:

- ♦ Cooper, Dona. *Writing Great Screenplays for Film and TV*. American Film Institute.
- ♦ Seger, Linda. *Making a Good Script Great*. Hollywood: Samuel French, 1994.
- ♦ Seger, Linda. *Advanced Screenwriting: Raising Your Script to the Academy Award Level*.
- ♦ Seger, Linda. *Creating Unforgettable Characters*.
- ♦ Tottier, David. *The Screen Writer's Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting, and Selling Your Script*.

### Correction:

The 2005 contest awards banquet will **not** be scheduled after the SWW annual meeting. Place and time of event will be announced at a later date.

## Markets

by Amber Hartley, Guest Columnist

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

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

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

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

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

Neil Widener took 30 credit hours per semester to finish college early and finance *Subdivision, Colorado*—an adventurous family film. As writer/director/producer/actor, he's been involved in every aspect of this independent venture (an official selection at the Santa Fe Film Festival). For more information and an exciting preview, visit [www.SubdivisionColorado.com](http://www.SubdivisionColorado.com).

### Where did you get the idea for *Subdivision, Colorado*?

The concept for *Subdivision* came out of my experiences growing up in the Rocky Mountains. Adventure was part of my everyday life, so I knew that I was growing up differently than other kids around the country. My intention with *Subdivision* was to create a valentine to my home state while telling an exciting story that everyone could enjoy.

### With a minor in film studies, are there tips you can share with a prospective screenwriter?

Imagine the story on the BIG SCREEN, where things play so much larger and heavier. Sometimes, what may seem right on a television or typed on a computer monitor will be either too much or not enough in a dark room with a thirty-foot moving image.

In the case of *Subdivision*, which is a fantasy adventure story—I simply wrote whatever I could imagine, regardless of cost or feasibility. As a result, we had to figure out how to accomplish a lot of things, but the result is a film quite unlike any other.

### What must a person keep in mind when writing for children?

When I'm writing for kids, it's so important to not condescend. I think kids are pandered to these days in terms of simplistic and marketing-driven storytelling. They are a far more sophisticated audience. In the case of my film, I was able to take great leaps of faith in the knowledge that young people's imagination would take the leap with me—and the result is, in

many ways, an experimental story with tangential scenes and strange characters and fantasy elements. It all makes sense to kids, though! **Take us through the process of independent filmmaking.**

The best part about independent filmmaking is maintaining creative control. In making *Subdivision*, I had to answer to no one but myself. The downside is that there is far more uncomfortable work involved—long hours with little or no pay, cutting corners because of lack of money, and the uncertainty of whether or not the film will ever be seen. All things considered, it's a terrific way to work if one is up for the challenge.

### Who is capable of launching out on his/her own (whether it's independent filmmaking or self-publishing)?

I've always thought that the kind of person who "makes it" is the one who isn't deterred by the supposed competitive nature of the industry, and through research, hard work, and a shred of talent is able to figure out how to reach their destination. But I wouldn't know—I haven't "made it" yet!

### What creative techniques did you use to finance and market the film?

*Subdivision, Colorado* is becoming somewhat of a cult hit and that's due to word-of-mouth from excited audiences who have seen the film either in Denver or at film festivals like Santa Fe. Certainly, the film's poster has been terrific in attracting attention, but I feel the cast's attendance at nearly every screening brings a personal feel to the film that audiences don't get from a big Hollywood picture. The availability of the DVD on [www.SubdivisionColorado.com](http://www.SubdivisionColorado.com) has allowed youngsters to watch the movie over and over, showing it to their friends and inspiring them to get out of the house and explore!

*Amber's note: Check out the website for a great example of how to market a product via the Internet.*

## It Happened

by Judy Ducharme

SWW Saturday Talk, December 4, 2004

*Writing the Southwest* author, David K. Dunaway, lived up to his advance publicity (see Cliff Gravel's "Book Review" in *The SouthWest Sage*, October 2004, vol.19 #10 p.1). David's talk was interspersed with the recorded voices of the actual interviews with prestigious Southwest authors. Tony Hillerman, Edward Abby, Barbara Kingsolver, and John Nichols were a few of the people David interviewed for his radio show. It was a good example on how to interview effectively. See the introduction for his talk, "Writing the Southwest" in December Sage, p.10.

There was no Tuesday meeting in December.

SWW Saturday Talk, January 1, 2005

Nearly a hundred attendees at the SouthWest Writers' first meeting of the year were privileged to hear how to be published in magazines by four of our nonfiction writers. There is no one avenue to being published. Each of the panel members had come to her or his niche by a different way. Their advice is write about what you love and there will be a magazine that wants it. Just be professional about it.

Loretta Hall wrote in *Civil Engineering*, a trade publication. When the cover story author for January dropped the ball, the editor called Loretta and asked if she could write 5,000 words in ten days, with photographs. She could and did; the editor accepted without seeing it. That illustrates that once you become known in your niche, editors will call you, if you fulfill your obligations.

Melody Groves wrote during her twenty years as teacher, then retired from teaching to concentrate on her writing. She co-wrote a screenplay that is still being shopped around. Her present focus came from her love of rodeo, so she took a class in bull riding. Her twenty-year-old daughter could not believe her mother wanted to do that—at her age. Melody wrote for *Desert Winds*, now she writes for *Desert Exposure*. She will have an article in June, 2005 *New Mexico Magazine*. She has written and published two books.

Rob Spiegel had to stay home with two small daughters, so, in order to make a living, he began writing through jobs found on the Internet. He freelanced on the Internet. He now writes in all areas, even e-mail newsletters. His remarkable article on how to do it is found in the 2005 Writer's Market on pgs. 67-70, "Living the Freelance Life Online." You can read Rob's column, "The Home Office,"

page 8

## Bulletin

The three-judge panel of the California Appeals Court voted to allow the filing of twenty-three class-action lawsuits charging networks, studios, and talent agencies with age discrimination against television writers age forty or older. The court said that writers who quit applying for jobs because of age bias in the writing industry are now able to file lawsuits beyond California's one-year statute of limitations.

WRITE ON, GREY PANTHERS  
OF THE PRINTED PAGE

in the *Albuquerque Tribune* each Thursday.

Larry Greenly learned to write by devouring all the books on writing in a library in Minnesota. He co-authored something in 1987 that worked into a thirteen-year job with a professional journal. He wrote a medical column. In Albuquerque he wrote a column on food for the *Alibi*, then did the same for *Crosswinds Weekly*. The columns parleyed into a two-year gig writing about gems of the month, flanked with advertising from local jewelry stores. Larry is a book doctor, he copy edits and is the Literary Arts editor for ABQArts, a free magazine.

The speakers advocated writing for free to obtain clips. You do not have to write a full, researched article to begin, write profiles, features, reviews—everything sells. Just because a magazine is free, doesn't mean they don't pay for submissions. When you get paid, it needn't be money—you can get free publicity for your business or free services, like parking at the KOA in return for columns. Once you become known as a book reviewer, free books start coming in the mail. Food reviewers get free meals.

How do you query a magazine? According to Rob, he uses four paragraphs to pitch an idea. The first one is the first paragraph of the article, the hook. The second is a brief outline of the content of the article, "who, what, when, where, why, and how," so beloved by editors. The third is the mechanics, the number of pages, who you'll interview. The fourth is why you are the best person to write the article. Don't say you haven't published if you have no clips. Loretta got around that by mentioning she'd been published in the *Washington Post*, not that they were letters to the editor.

All the members of the panel are nonfiction writers, published on the Internet and in newspapers, magazines, newsletters, journals. All were generous in sharing what they'd learned.

Special Congratulations and Thanks!

To  
Sandy Schairer  
the 2004 Parris Afton Bonds Award winner  
for exceptional service to the membership of SouthWest Writers!

Congratulations and Thanks!

To the following SWW Service Award Winners:

- Larry Greenly
- Edith Greenly
- Joan Marsh
- Pat Sutton
- Judy Ducharme

New Benefits for SWW Members

10 percent off any service, repair, or tires if you show your SWW card at Jess's Economy Tire and Auto, 3701 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, (505) 294-6594.

\* \* \*

10 percent off new or reconditioned machines, parts, and supplies for new and used typewriters, copiers, printer, and other equipment if you show your SWW card at Copier Technical Services, 10301 Comanche NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, (505) 296-6331.

The SouthWest Sage Editor  
is desperately seeking articles about  
**The Different Forms of Poetry.**

250-750 words long by e-mail in RTF (rich text format). Published articles will appear in the SouthWest Sage and on the SWW website. Bylines will be given. Complete writer's guidelines can be found at [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org).



Is there a certain kind of workshop or seminar that you would like SWW to present?  
Do you know of a speaker who could address topics related to writing?  
Anyone having ideas for the monthly programs is asked to contact  
the SWW Speaker Coordinator  
Larry Greenly.



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

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

*Saturday, February 5, 8:30 am*

## **New Member Continental Breakfast**

Learn about the benefits of membership in SWW and meet the 2005 Board of Directors. The breakfast is free, and the contacts you make will be a valuable New Year's gift to yourself. This event is sponsored by Cheri Eicher of Independent Means, SWW's insurance provider. The regular monthly meeting follows at 10 am.

*Saturday, February 5, 10 am*

## **How to Do Book Signings When Nobody Shows Up**

Jonathon Miller, attorney and screenwriter, is known as one of New Mexico's best book salesmen, yet very few people actually come to his book signings to see him. How does he do it? Come find out, because he will share his secrets with other writers.

*Tuesday, February 15, 7 pm*

## **Audiobooks: A Different Kind of Publishing**

Publishing audiobooks is different from publishing print books. There are different markets, different distribution channels, different products, different production processes, and different sources of properties. Edward M. "Ted" McClure will discuss these differences from a publisher's perspective so, as an author, you can see the differences.

*Saturday, February 19, 8:30 am*

## **Beyond the Unknown Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Conference**

SWW is lucky to have booked two well-known editors as our speakers--Steve Saffel of Del Rey Books and Liz Scheier of Penguin Groups. Steve Saffel will be the morning speaker while Liz Scheier talks with conference attendees by appointment. During the afternoon section, the editors will switch places--Liz Scheier will speak while Steve Saffel takes appointments. Both editors are actively acquiring Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror. See SWW at [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org) for details and registration forms.

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

CINDY FRITZ  
(505) 867-2980

**FINAL EDIT**  
Copyediting/Proofreading Services

2528 Baldy Loop NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144  
E-mail: [threewavesfromrio1@earthlink.net](mailto:threewavesfromrio1@earthlink.net)

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

- \* **NBC Universal** is seeking Spanish-language American playwrights for their Telemundo soap opera writing program at Dade College in Miami. [www.tallertelemundo.com](http://www.tallertelemundo.com)
- \* **Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** meets *second Saturday of each month* at noon. Potential members can attend 3 meetings to see if they would like to join. [www.leranm.org](http://www.leranm.org)
- \* **Storytellers of New Mexico** will be meeting at La Siringitu, 1501 Mountain Rd. NW, just east of the Explora Museum. *3rd Sunday of each month.* [www.thestorybird.com](http://www.thestorybird.com)
- \* **Rob Spiegel and Larry Greenly teach a free weekly class** at Bear Canyon Senior Center from 3 to 4:15 p.m. *every Monday.* Half lecture, half discussion of student writing. Covers fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and memoir. Free to members of any Albuquerque senior center (senior center yearly dues: \$12.50).
- \* **2005 San Francisco Writer's Conference** *February 18-20.* Workshops on fiction, nonfiction, books-to-film, interactive, memoirs, humor, thrillers, romance, poetry, children's books, philosophy, screenplays, syndicated columns, and cookbooks. [www.sanfranciscowritersconference.com](http://www.sanfranciscowritersconference.com)
- \* **University of New Mexico Press** seeks exciting work about American Indians, anthropology, art and photography, Chicano/Chicana studies, area history, Judaea, Latin American studies, and New Mexico and the Southwest. They publish biographies, fiction, poetry, and literature. [www.unmpress.com](http://www.unmpress.com)
- \* **Howard Shulman** is looking for a memoir ghostwriter to revise his accepted manuscript. (505) 401-2637
- \* **Gorilla Tango Theatre** is offering comedy writing classes in Albuquerque. [www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com)
- \* **Will Steinberg** is seeking a writer to tell his father's life story. (505) 292-5931
- \* **Jeffrey Hansson** is seeking someone to review his book "Artifact of Deception." [jrhansson@comcast.net](mailto:jrhansson@comcast.net)
- \* **SphinxBooks.com** is a new e-book publishing company that is accepting book-length submissions in Mystery, Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror.
- \* **Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration** Natchez, MO. *February 23-27.* Features lectures, films, writing workshops, seminars, exhibits, concerts, tours of historic sites, and much more. [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc)
- \* **Write on Four Corners** NPR radio program in Farmington, NM is looking for authors to interview. Contact Connie Gotsch at [gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us](mailto:gotsch@sjc.cc.nm.us).
- \* **The Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop** will be held at the University of New Mexico on *February 15-17, 2005.* Interested development professionals, researchers, faculty, and graduate students should register as soon as possible. [www.thegrantinstitute.com](http://www.thegrantinstitute.com)
- \* **The Rocking Chair Reader** is seeking true stories that revolve around weddings and/or marriages and take place in America's small towns. Deadline *February 28.* [www.adamsmedia.com](http://www.adamsmedia.com)
- \* **WORDHARVEST Workshops** *March 5-Family Matters: A Memoir Workshop.* And *March 12-Storytelling in the Digital Age.* [wordharvest@yahoo.com](mailto:wordharvest@yahoo.com)
- \* **Volunteer Editor Needed** for Culturenet E-Newsletter. Once a month for about four hours. Contact Alex Traube at [alex@culturenet.org](mailto:alex@culturenet.org) or 474-8500.
- \* **World Poetry Bout Association Closing Its Doors** For all videotapes and archival footage of past events and Circuses, send an e-mail to [minorheron@zianet.com](mailto:minorheron@zianet.com). For info on Poetry Bouts, see [www.PoetryBouts.com](http://www.PoetryBouts.com).
- \* **Orlando Story Design Workshop & PitchXchange** *February 19.* [rms@themegahitmovies.com](mailto:rms@themegahitmovies.com)
- \* **SWW Member Theresa Alice Foley Sleight** passed away on December 27, 2004.

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

**Deadline varies:** *ByLine Magazine*, monthly contests, varying topics. See the current issue or [www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp](http://www.bylinemag.com/contests.asp).

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

**Deadline 2/28/05.** Nelson Algren Awards for Short Fiction. Entry Fee: None. Chicago Tribune Literary Prizes, 435 N. Michigan Ave., LL2, Chicago, IL 60611.

**Deadline 2/28/05.** Marilyn Hall Awards. Plays for young audiences. Beverly Hills Theatre Guild, PO Box 39729, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

**Deadline 3/1/05.** Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction. Entry Fee: \$10. [www.coloradoreview.com](http://www.coloradoreview.com).

**Deadline 3/1/05.** James Jones First Novel Fellowship Award. Entry Fee: \$20. [www.wilkes.edu/humanities/jones](http://www.wilkes.edu/humanities/jones).

**Deadline 3/1/05.** BlueCat Screenplay Competition. Entry Fee: \$35 electronically, \$25 snail mail.

[www.bluecatscreenplay.com/submit.html](http://www.bluecatscreenplay.com/submit.html).

**Deadline 3/1/05.** The Bluestem Poetry Award for previously unpublished book of poems of at least 48 pages by US authors. Entry Fee: \$20. Prize: \$1,000 and publication. [www.emporia.edu/bluestem/](http://www.emporia.edu/bluestem/).

**Deadline 3/1/05.** Washington Prize. Open to original poetry by US writers. Entry Fee: \$20. Prize: \$1,500 and publication. [www.wordworksdc.com](http://www.wordworksdc.com)

**Deadline 3/15/05.** CNW/FFWA Florida State Writing Competition. Categories include fiction, nonfiction, children's, and poetry. Entry Fee: \$5-20. Prizes: \$50-100. [www.writers-editors.com](http://www.writers-editors.com).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Tom Howard/John H. Reid Short Story Contest. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: Up to \$1,000 and publication. [www.winningwriters.com/tomstory.htm](http://www.winningwriters.com/tomstory.htm).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Write Your Memoir Day 2005 Contest. Theme is "a situation someone talked you into and you lived to tell about it." Entry Fee: \$5. [www.yourmemories.net](http://www.yourmemories.net).

**Deadline 3/31/05.** Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest is open to kindergarten, first, second, and third graders. 12 Prizes. [www.knmetv.org/education/reading-rainbow-contest.php3](http://www.knmetv.org/education/reading-rainbow-contest.php3).

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

### SouthWest Writers Critique Service

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

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

Turnaround of approximately two weeks.

Query letter up to three pages: \$15

Synopsis up to three pages: \$25

All other manuscripts up to ten pages: \$35

Thereafter: \$3.50/page

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

Shirley Raye Redmond's hardcover book *Patriots in Petticoats: Heroines of the American Revolution* is being re-released by Random House in paperback this month.

Albert M. Balesh, MD's medical article titled "Hocus-pocus Meningococcus" appeared in an early January 2005 edition of the West Texas County Courier in Horizon City, TX.

Kate Booth Doyle's poem "What I Love About This Place" was published in the 2004 Willow Creek Journal, an annual anthology published and sponsored by the Creede Arts Council in Creede, CO.

Joe Bridwell sold his article "Coronado's Horses" and has been asked to write another.

Nancy Marano is the recipient of the Sticky Paws 2004 Training Award.

Patricia Simmons won first prize in the 6th annual Simon Scanlon Writing Awards competition for her article "Going Naked to God."



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



**It's been said that...**

"There are 200,000 useless words in the English language, and at Board meetings you hear them all."

*Anonymous*

"A writer is a fool who, not content with boring those around him, insists on boring future generations."

*Charles de Montesquieu*

"An Editor is someone who knows what they want, but doesn't know what it is."

*Walter Davenport*

"Writers are frustrated actors who recite lines in the auditoriums of the skulls."

*Rod Serling*

"No writer will ever be truly immortal. But every published work is another victory against complete death."

*Cliff Gravel*



**Critique Groups**

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

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

**SF/Fantasy:**

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

**Poetry:**

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

**Short Nonfiction:**

*Suzann Owings*  
(505) 867-0567

**Any Genre,  
Rio Rancho area:**

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

**Any Genre,  
Rio Rancho area:**

*Alice Harpley*  
riograndma@cableone.net

**Any Genre,  
Rio Rancho area:**

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

**Historical Romance:**

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

**Ficiton & Nonfiction:**

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

**SF/F:**

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

**Fiction/Poetry:**

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

**Fantasy/Romance:**

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

**Groups Seeking Members**

**Any Genre:**

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

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

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

**Novels/Short Stories:**

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

**Albuquerque Nonfiction:**

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

**Westside Scribes, Screen-  
plays:**

Every other Thursday  
*Marc Calderwood*  
Mckokopelli@aol.com

**Mystery/SF:**

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

**Novels/Short Stories:**

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

**New SWW Members**

R. Rose  
Elizabeth Burki  
Cindy Barrilleaux  
Marion Vann  
Linda Elliott  
Kippur Flax  
Rebecca Keller  
William Stone  
Carolyn Stone



**Free Professional  
E-Mail Addresses  
For SWW Members**

You can give editors,  
agents, and booksellers  
an address like  
IManAuthor@  
southwestwriters.com.  
Their messages to you  
will be automatically and  
invisibly forwarded to  
your existing address.  
Just send an e-mail  
message to  
LorettaHall@  
southwestwriters.com,  
including your choice of  
SWW address and your  
existing e-mail address  
where you want  
messages to be  
forwarded.



**SouthWest Sage  
Ad Rates**

**Worldwide Circulation  
on the Internet**

*Business card size:*  
\$16  
*1/4 page:*  
\$36  
*1/3 page:*  
\$45  
*1/2 page:*  
\$75  
*Full page:*  
\$100

*Multiple issue  
discounts available.*

**Deadline:**

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

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



For information  
about benefits for  
SWW members contact:

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

SWW Board Meeting will be held at the  
SWW office on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, at 6 pm

Here we are:

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

## Recent Board Meeting Highlights

- ♦ Pat Sutton gave her farewell and thank you to the Board as she prepares to continue her career as a Parliamentarian.
- ♦ The Board approved the expenditure of \$100 to purchase MS Office Pro software.
- ♦ SWW has been informed that the City did not approve the application for a grant.
- ♦ The Amazon link on SWW's website will be more prominent so that members will utilize it more frequently.
- ♦ The extra office in the SWW office complex is still available for rent. In addition, the Board conference room is available for rent for meetings, small workshops, or classes if a Board member is in attendance.
- ♦ Cal Coates, David Corwell, and Lila Anastas were introduced as new Board members.
- ♦ Cal Coates accepted the position of Volunteer Coordinator.
- ♦ Lila Anastas accepted the position of Membership Chair.
- ♦ David Corwell will continue as Contest Co-Chair.
- ♦ Joan Marsh accepted the position of Contest Co-Chair.
- ♦ Fred Aiken accepted the position of Chair of Nominating Committee.

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

### President

*Rob Spiegel*

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

### VP/Office Coordinator/Parliamentarian

*Larry Greenly*

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

### Secretary

*Sandy Schairer*

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

### Treasurer

*Loretta Hall*

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

### Membership

*Lila Anastas*

(505) 797-5452 · LilaAnastas@southwestwriters.com

### Public Relations

*Melody Groves*

MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

### SWW Sage Editor/Website Coordinator

*Cliff Gravel*

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

### Critique Service

*Edith Greenly*

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

### Policies, Procedures, and Audit/Historian

*Lela Belle Wolfert*

(505) 899-2952

### Volunteer Coordinator

*Cal Coates*

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

### Members At Large

*Judy Ducharme*

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

*Fred Aiken*

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

### Other Key Positions

#### E-lert Mistress

*Gail Rubin*

publicity@southwestwriters.org

#### Writer's Contest 2005 Co-Chairs

*David Corwell*

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

*Joan Marsh*

(505) 865-1110 · JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

#### Speaker Coordinator

*Larry Greenly*

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

#### Interim Conference Chair

*Lela Belle Wolfert*

(505) 899-2952

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

## The SouthWest Sage

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

See your membership card for renewal date.  
Renew to retain your membership benefits.



The SouthWest Writers Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing.

Cash prizes in numerous categories.

Professional judges and critiquers.

Winners' names published on the Internet.

Top prize: \$1,000.

See directions and form inside.

