

SouthWest Sage

February 2009

www.southwestwriters.com

FEBRUARY 21 SCREENWRITERS' CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker wins Four Golden Globes

Kirk Ellis, the keynote speaker for the SouthWest Writers conference for screenwriters, won four Golden Globes for "John Adams" on January 11, 2009. He has also won 13 Emmys, the most since "Roots". We are honored to have him share his expertise with us.

Don't miss your chance to gain knowledge from the experts in the screenwriting world. Register now for this blockbuster conference. See details and registration form on page 11 of the Sage.

The tentative schedule is:

8:30- 9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Welcome

9:15-10:15

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

FROM BOOK TO FILM TO EMMYS



KIRK ELLIS, award-winning television and feature film writer/producer of "John Adams," "Hell on Wheels," "Into the West," "Anne Frank," and "The Beach Boys: An American Family."

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 TURNING CUTTING-EDGE SOCIAL ISSUES INTO ENTERTAINMENT



TAMMY ADER, the award-winning Creator and Executive Producer of "Strong Medicine," the first basic cable drama ever to be sold into syndication and the first to exceed 100 episodes.

11:30-12:15 NEW MEXICO FILM OFFICE

12:15-1:30 Lunch and Networking

1:30-2:30 THE SEVEN ELEMENTS OF SCENE

RICK REICHMAN, former professor of screenwriting at Georgetown University, American University and numerous writer's conferences, as well as author of *Formatting Your Screenplay* and *20 Things You Must Know To Write A Great Screenplay*. His former students have sold scripts to the major film and television studios.

2:30-3:30 PITFALLS TO AVOID

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.

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-4:45 WORKING WITH SCREENWRITERS

CARLA CORWIN Unit Production Manager of "In Plain Sight," a weekly series filming in Albuquerque. (Invited)

4:45-5:30 PITCHING HINTS, Tammy Ader

The conference will be held at the CNM Workforce Training Center on 5600 Eagle Rock, just east of I-25 and Eagle Rock. Lunch and snacks are included in the cost of registration.

Thanks to Sandra Toro, SWW Conference Chair, for her hard work in organizing this professional cast of presenters.



See page 11
for registration
form

President's Message

If you're serious about your writing, I know your New Year's resolution. You want to get more exercise and lose weight. If you haven't been serious about writing, I also know your resolution. It's time to take your writing seriously.

"Serious about writing" means you write every day. The problem, of course, is you don't have time. Nobody does. It's too crazy in the morning and you're too exhausted at night.

I tried a new trick recently. Someone at a SWW meeting – can't remember who – said you only have to write 30 words a day. How hard can that be? So I tried it. The trick works. Once you get into those 30 words, other words flow. Pretty soon, two hours have passed and you've missed the new episode of "True Blood." But you have a new chapter.

For me, the hardest part of writing – besides finding the right words or constructing a sentence or building a paragraph or revising – is making myself begin. Anything is more fun – taking down the Christmas tree, scrubbing the toilet, brushing the dog's teeth.

So, I don't sit down to write a chapter any longer. It's too hard. Instead, I sit down to write 30 words. I can write 30 words. It's almost as easy as getting the swamp cooler going in the spring. Well, that may be an exaggeration. But I can do it. I can make myself write 30 words. And pretty soon, I have the first draft of a novel.



Resolving to Write

Rob Spiegel



Royal Rob and Princess Connie Spiegel marched into the January 3 meeting to the music of "Trumpet Voluntary" played by Larry Greenly.

"A Royal Time"

By John Candelaria

For SouthWest Writers, it is a New Year

With New Commitments to write those best sellers

With New Contest Winners

With New Writers joining our group

With New Books to sell

With New Resolutions to write

With New Royalties for powerful writing and engaging stories.

At SWW, we long for New Images of our newly installed President. For our

SWW President is the royal bearer of knowledge on how to write, our leader who takes us on the royal road to getting published and helps us

get those coveted royalties in permanent perpetuity.

So let us elevate our new SWW President Rob Spiegel with a new image of royal quality and bearing.



SouthWest Sage

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Happy Valentines Day!

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Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

Individual: \$60 (\$100 for 2 years), Two people \$50 each,
Student over 18: \$40, Under 18: \$25 Requires proof of student status
Outside U. S.: \$65, Lifetime Membership: \$750

Download the Sage from www.southwestwriters.com

Join us first Saturday: 10 AM-Noon: Workshop: 1-4 PM, Third Tuesday: 7-9 PM
New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico



*"The idea is to write
it so that people
hear it and it slides
through the brain
and goes straight to
the heart."*

Maya Angelou

Photo by Ruth Friesen

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way

By ML Dellafiora

Rightfully, the remainder of this article's title should be... "to the Forum," as befits the well-known play. For our purposes, however, the words, "in the forum," are a better match, for it is the writing one does in an online forum that can change one's life.

A forum is a part of a website where readers can partake in non-live discussions with others. Usually the forum is set up around a site that has "members," who share a common interest. A simple "log-in" is generally required where the writer declares a screen name and password for herself. Personally, I like the anonymity of the screen name and don't share mine, even years later after I know most of the other members through cyberspace. I give a lot of thought to the names I use online, mostly because I find that I discover and expand various personas of mine as I write. These are parts of myself that I consider dear.

I remember the first time I partook of the Internet, reading and watching the interactions in a particular forum for weeks before I worked up the nerve to jump in and write. Today I especially enjoy getting online after watching a latest release film, especially if I saw it alone or with someone who wasn't verbal enough for satisfaction and left me needing to discuss the movie's every quirk. I first discovered the joy in this when I saw *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*. As a great art aficionado I wanted to pry every detail of the film's heart and soul. My companion did not. I googled the title and set off into the vastness of cyber joy through the movie's forum, bursting forth under cover of a good moniker like, "lovebaby77" or "rezgirl11."

For writers, forums present an excellent opportunity to focus thought. Perhaps you have been thinking about a topic you would like to present. I remember in particular I wanted to debate my certainty that, as predators, cats should be fed only meat versus the popular carb-laden dry stuff. I rolled out with the title, "Mighty Hunter is Hungry." A good title corrals a writer as she adds posts, daily messages, that one tacks to a cyber-board much like the local info board at the local Laundromat. If you are serious about your writing, then dedication will carry through and you will not allow thread drift. You will stay on topic. Reading others' tangents in threads is a great way to watch and learn what not to do.

Forum writing forces clarification of your ideas, and if it is not of your own vigilance to be specific, then the clarification will come from others. They will prompt, ask, and if need be, even demand it from you! Forum writing is not for the fearful. It requires accountability from you as writer. I also bring my own standards of

accountability. While often the writing in a forum is casual, I appoint myself my own monitor to edit as I go. I resist the tendency to use popular texting images in any of my posts or threads. I constantly remind myself that I am in that forum for more than one reason, and that additional reason is to ever challenge myself professionally. I also don't need any additional bad habits. (*I've got enough with chocolate and good red wine.*)

Forum writing isn't instantaneous: you can take a few days to mull over a response. Unlike how one interacts through the message board at the laundry, in a forum one logs in, reads a post that may or may not be addressed to her, and then unlike simply tearing a tag at the bottom of a flyer and dialing a number, you actually get to leave a complete thought in return. You get to comment. You get to ask questions. You get to crab: "*Dear rockstar49, I seriously have to disagree with your opinion that yellow is a disgusting color of house paint.*"

As you participate in forums you will find that your writing becomes looser, your thoughts freer. You are opening new parts of yourself. A fine gift awaits when several years down the road you log into the "Search" section of your chosen site to research something, and a thread in which you once greatly dialogued appears. You begin to read, only to come to the moment - all forgotten seven Internet pages later - where you are overcome, remove your glasses, wipe your forehead, and exclaim with a proud huff, "*Damn! I'm good!*"

ML Dellafiora, aka Maxine Dellan, has written for The N.Y. Daily News, L.I. Newsday, and The Bayside Courier. She taught Writing and Service Learning for high school students, and is currently at work on a guide for Native teens. Ya'ah t'eeh!"

George Terrell

**Novel, Short Story
Author and Playwright**

See My Web site: **WWW.
TerrellBooks.com**

Filter Words

by Kirt Hickman

Filter words, also called viewpoint intruders, are words like: *saw, felt, heard, watched, etc.*, that take the reader out of the character's point of view. In the following example from an early draft of my science fiction novel *Worlds Asunder*, Snider is the viewpoint character.



Snider **watched** the controller take his seat.

The word "watched" distances the reader from Snider. The reader is no longer in Snider's head. She's standing back, watching Snider, as Snider watches the action. I revised the passage to say:

The controller took his seat.

Now the reader stays in Snider's head and experiences the action from there.

Consider this example from a critique submission.* The narrator is a woman named Clara.

I **looked** around at my fellow passengers. I **overheard** snatches of conversation in Italian. I **saw** parents feed- ing snacks to children, even a breast-feeding mother.

Here, the reader isn't looking at passengers, overhearing conversations, or seeing parents feed children. The reader watches Clara, as Clara looks at, overhears, and sees the action of the scene. These words have become a filter between Clara and the reader.

The author can eliminate the first sentence because Clara doesn't see herself looking around. The rest of the passage can be written without filter words.

All around me, people spoke in Italian. Parents fed snacks to their children. One woman nursed her infant.

In this passage, the reader becomes Clara and experiences the action first hand.

"Looking" and "Turning"

Other words, like *looking* and *turning*—anything that indicates eye movement without expressing emotion—can have the same effect as filter words. This is shown in the next example, from another critique submission.*

"Just do it." Digger **watched** the Field of Bones. His eyes shone dimly with the pale glow of the Sight as he **stared** north past the islands of tilted wooden stakes marking the commoners graves. Beyond hung a legion of paper lanterns, burned out for hours now, under which the paupers' children lay silent. He **searched** the darkness at the foot of Watchers Hill, then **shifted**

his vision upwards along the tumble of its rocky slopes. Ancient mausoleums loomed on the crest. The shadows there, bloated and heavy, held fast to stone and vine, but Digger had the Sight and nothing moved yet in those depths. And nothing would, if the diversionary fires on the other side of the hill held out until dawn.

This scene is written from Digger's point of view. The reader should see the setting through Digger's eyes. Eliminate the filter words and the reader becomes Digger.

"Just do it." Digger's sight illuminated the Field of Bones in ways that he could see, even in the darkest part of the night. North, beyond islands of tilted wooden stakes that marked the commoners graves, hung a legion of burned out paper lanterns, under which the paupers' children lay silent. Ancient mausoleums loomed atop the tumble of rocky slopes that fronted Watchers Hill. The shadows there, bloated and heavy, held fast to stone and vine, but the sight penetrated even those. Nothing moved yet in their depths. And nothing would, if the diversionary fires on the other side of the hill held out until dawn.

Thinker Attributives

A thinker attributive uses phrases like: he *thought*, or *knew*, or *remembered*, to show what your character is thinking. Don't rely on these devices. You're writing from the character's point of view, therefore any thoughts you express are assumed to be the thoughts of the character. This makes thinker attributives unnecessary. In fact, thinker attributives are just another kind of filter word.

Look at the following example from a critique submission.*

He seems nice enough, she **thought**, but he must be a weirdo because no one really runs around with green hair and wears a tuxedo jacket over coveralls.

Without the thinker attributive, this becomes:

He seemed nice enough, but he must have been a weirdo because no one really runs around with green hair and wears a tuxedo jacket over coveralls.

Alternatively, the author can eliminate both the thinker attributive and the to-be verb (been).

Though he seemed nice enough, the green-haired weirdo wore a tuxedo jacket over his coveralls.

* Critique submissions reprinted with authors' permission

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:

Micro-Movements

By Sherri Burr

At the Southwest Writers January 2009 meeting, the room overflowed with individuals seeking to get a jump on their writing year. The main speaker asked how many people made it a New Year's resolution to write. Dozens of hands went up.



The reality, however, is that most people who begin a year with the best of intentions abandon their goals by Valentine's Day. A recent New York Times article revealed that as many as 80 percent will have fallen off their "resolutions" wagon by then. If you doubt this, check out a gym and notice how the out-of-shape bodies compete for time on the treadmill at the beginning of January only to find by the end of February a committed soul can waltz in to empty machines. When it comes to writing, this year can be different. Why? Micro-movements!

Micro-movements are five seconds to five minutes in length. The idea is to do something small just to crack the ice. Micro-movements were invented by a woman whose first name is Susan, but who goes by the acronym of SARK, for procrastinators who have difficulty starting ventures and perfectionists who experience trouble finishing. Since it took more than ten years for me to publish my first book, I fell into both categories. Here are some tips on how to get moving and complete your writing resolutions.

Tip 1: Start Super Small

If you need to start a book project, for example, a micro-movement might be to open the computer, log in and type the word "book" on a blank page, save the file as book, and then log out. That's it. No more, no less.

Tip 2: Small Grows to Big

Some people think books are written in chapters, but that is too large of a portion because one chapter can take months to complete. I was on sabbatical while working on my first book, which led me to think I could write it in my home office. I met SARK on a Saturday several months into my sabbatical with little to show for it. The next Monday, my micro-movement became to go to my front door and stand looking in the direction of my law school office. After I did that, I would invariably walk there and write something.

By creating this simple routine, I was able to finish my portion of the manuscript and, along with my co-authors, publish the book. I learned that some settings have fewer distractions and it's important for writers to be aware of that

and adjust accordingly.

Two years after SARK first introduced me to micro-movements, I attended another lecture and afterwards thanked her for having helped me finish three books. It is now five years later and I've published eleven. My story is a reflection that SARK's ideas work and that large projects are completed in movements of five seconds to five minutes in length.

Tip 3: Keep Writing while Waiting

There's a saying in the music industry that a musician gets her entire life to craft her first CD and six months to finish the next if the first is a hit. I think this wisdom applies to writers as well, and requires us to keep writing while waiting. Writers wait for accepted pieces to be published. We wait for reviews and for book-signings. We wait for agents to review manuscripts and tell us if they want to represent our work. We wait for editors to decide if they want to buy articles or books. Agents and editors often ask, "So what else have you got?" During the interval, keep writing so that you can answer this question affirmatively. If you are short on words, read until the muse strikes again.

Write about what inspires you. Write in micro-movements. Happy New Writing Year!

Burr is a long-time member of SouthWest Writers and the author of 11 books. She is a tenured professor at the University of New Mexico where she teaches Entertainment Law.

SWW on the Web

As a member of SouthWest Writers you have access to additional benefits on our website, www.southwestwriters.com. Links to members' websites are available by clicking on "member links" on the left sidebar. If you want your website to be listed, all it takes is membership and \$5.00. Full instructions are on the site. All material posted on the SWW website must go through the SWW office. Call Larry at 265-9485 for further information.

Another spot on the sidebar lists "Perks." These range from typewriter and computer supplies and repair, to discounts on books and restaurant meals. Check it out. While you are browsing, click on "Resources." You'll find a gold mine of links: search engines, writers organizations, publishers, writing contests, online writers magazines and much more.

If you are looking for a company to create or host your website you might consider The Great E-scape, which hosts the SWW website. They provide web design, domain name registration, search engine optimization, hosting and managed hosting with some maintenance. They have provided quick and efficient response times for our organization. Thank you, Great E-scapes.

Successes

Mark David Gerson's essay "The Myth of Writers Block" closes out the first chapter of Modern History Press's *Authors Access: 28 Success Secrets for Authors and Publishers! The MoonQuest: A True Fantasy* won a NM Book Award for Science Fiction/Fantasy in November and recently earned its 16th five-star review on Amazon. Mark David is participating in two of the award-winners' book-signings: January 31 at Santa Fe's Clear Light Book Gallery and February 7 at the Cottonwood Borders. He was interviewed in January for the Prosperity Place radio show out of Santa Fe on "Expressing Your Soul's Purpose."

Best-Selling native New Mexican author, **Linda Lea Castle** is pleased to announce the publication date of her 19th full length novel. *Taos Chill* from Cengage/Five Star Mysteries will be out in hardcover March 17. Previewthebook.com for trailers.

Elizabeth Ann Galligan has a recent poem "Fellow Pilgrim" in *The Rag's* January edition.

Patricia A. Beasley's book *The Tears I Couldn't Cry Behind Convent Doors* will be published by Author House this spring.

Contests and Announcements

New Mexico Tech's Biology Department is creating a Virtual CSI: DNA course devoted to teaching high school students genetics in the context of crime scene investigation (based in part on the popular CSI television programs). The entire course will take place online, including training, 3D crime scene observation, and evidence analysis via an interactive 3D crime lab. We need **detective-type short stories** for our crime scenes that link characters, motive, and evidence. Full contest guidelines are available at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~biology/CSIWeb/> Prizes are \$100 first place, \$50 second place, and \$25 third place.

3rd Annual Writers for Literacy Event will be held Saturday February 21 at the **Moriarty Public Library** from 9 AM to 4 PM. Come meet authors of New Mexico, including SWW authors David Corwell, Marianne Powers, Lela Belle Wolfert, Mark David Gerson, Melody Groves, as well as others. Entrance is free and food will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefitting the adult literacy program of the library.

Enter **albuquerqueARTS Flash Fiction Contest** for a chance to win \$100 and publication in the April issue. Deadline is midnight March 1. Submit unpublished short stories from 75 to 750 words, any subject matter. There is no entry fee, multiple entries are OK. Email to FlashOn@abqarts.com or snail mail to *albuquerqueARTS*, 600 Central SE, #234, 87102. Winners will be notified by March 18, 2009.

The **New Mexico Breeze** is looking for writers. Contact Leslie Cumiford, co-founder, leslie@NewMexicoBreeze.com.

Dollie Williams gets a Byline

In the November/December Sage, Dollie Williams wrote an article titled "Red Hot Internet Marketing Workshop Delivers the Goods." Her name was inadvertently misspelled. Our apologies, Dollie.

SWW Quarterly Writing Contest

SWW's monthly writing contest has changed to the SWW Quarterly Contest. Winners will receive larger prizes, and entrants will have more time to prepare their manuscripts. Winners may be optionally printed in the *SouthWest Sage*. Indicate whether or not it's okay to publish your entry. The first 2009 Quarterly Contest is:

A Memorable Event: Write a personal anecdote (where you were, how you felt, or how you were affected, etc.) about a memorable event in your life. Some examples: Pearl Harbor, JFK's assassination, 9/11 or other such important event. Double-spaced, 500 words maximum. Postmark deadline: Tuesday, March 31. All entries \$10. Prizes: \$150/1st prize; \$50/2nd prize; \$25/3rd prize. See more details at southwestwriters.com. Click on Quarterly Contest.

November SWW Contest Winners

One Page Poetry

- 1st Prize: Karin Bradberry, Albuquerque, NM for "When Nobody Wore Clothes."
 2nd Prize: Laurel Burnett, Albuquerque, NM for "Cloth Recollections."
 3rd Prize: John Orman, Albuquerque, NM for "Drawing on the Past."

Honorable Mentions (alphabetical):

- Laurel Burnett, Albuquerque, NM for "Southwest Gale Force Wind."
 Ruth Friesen, Albuquerque, NM for "Music of Rain."
 Ruth Friesen, Albuquerque, NM for "The Moment."
 Elizabeth Ann Galligan, Albuquerque, NM for "Holy Obligation."
 Dianne Layden, Albuquerque, NM for "For Nat King Cole."
 Carol Dee Meeks, Broken Arrow, OK for "Cherokees Gain Ground."
 Charles Powell, Albuquerque, NM for "Her Questions."

Judges' Comments:

The winners and honorable mentions show strong use of language and the details are vivid, lucid and tasteworthy.

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

Newcomer Breakfast

Saturday, February 7
8:30 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.

Welcome to all members, current or new, who have never attended a newcomer breakfast. You'll have a chance to meet SWW board members and hear about the many benefits and activities of SouthWest Writers. Attendance at this potluck breakfast is free. Just bring a goodie to share.



Saturday, February 7
10:00 a.m. to noon

Lynn C. Miller

Taking a Page From History

Using archival materials—historical research, letters, biography, autobiography— can deepen the context and provide structural support for your fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Novelist Lynn C. Miller will talk about ways to use historical references to provide ballast for your work, referring to her own work in historical one-person performances and her novel, *The Fool's Journey* (2002).

Lynn C. Miller is author of the novels *The Fool's Journey* (2002) and *Death of a Department Chair* (2006) and co-editor of *Voices Made Flesh: Performing Women's Autobiography* (2003). She conducts generative writing and critique groups in Albuquerque. She taught writing and performance in higher education for thirty years, most recently at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a professor of theatre and women's studies. Visit www.lynncmiller.com for more information.

Tuesday, February 17
7 to 9 p.m.

Gene Grant & David Richard Jones

The Theme's The Thing: Finding the Right Story for Theater

What's the best way for novice drama writers to approach the special needs of theater? Gene Grant, who recently won the Vortex Theater's "Electoral Dysfunctions" short play contest with his first play, and Vortex Theater founder (and current Chair of the Artistic Committee) David Richard Jones will take you through the steps for making the transition, with a special emphasis on finding the thematic hooks for your story that work for theater.

Gene Grant is co-host of New Mexico In Focus on KNME, a weekly columnist for the *Albuquerque Journal*, and writes the "ABQ On Film" column for *Albuquerque, The Magazine*. He also contributes to *Variety* on the New Mexico film industry.

David Richard Jones: Founder, The Vortex Theatre, 1976, President of its Board of Directors 1976-78, 2005-07. Director of nearly 60 productions of plays, operas, and musicals in English and Spanish, Author of *Great Directors at Work* (University of California, 1986) and editor of *New Mexico Plays* (UNM 1989). Professor of English at UNM and Department Chair, 2005-08.

Saturday, March 7
10:00 a.m. to noon

Shirley Raye Redmond

All I Need to Know About Writing, I Learned from Nellie Bly

This is a bit of a pep talk during which I'll share fascinating writing tidbits I've gleaned from this 19th century reporter's career, focusing on the importance of informing and inspiring one's reader—regardless of whether one writes fiction or nonfiction.

Shirley Raye Redmond has sold 17 books and over 450 magazine and newspaper articles. Shirley Raye, who has an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois, has taught a variety of writing and literature courses at various colleges and universities. She's currently a part time instructor with the Institute for Children's Literature and a former columnist for *The Santa Fe New Mexican*.

Her first book, *Stone of the Sun*, was a romantic suspense published by Avalon in 1991. Her first children's book, *Grampa and the Ghost* (Avon's Camelot Books –1994) sold as a result of a meeting at SWW conference with the editor. The title also became a Weekly Reader Book.

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10% discount to
SWW members

Saturday, March 7

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

No registration. Pay at the door.

Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE

Shirley Raye Redmond**Make More Money with Market Analysis—No Matter What You Write**

I can't emphasize enough how important market analysis is if you want to make money. For instance, two of my Random House kids books, *Lewis & Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President* and *Tentacles! Tales of the Giant Squid*, have both sold more than 150,000 copies each—that's more than a quarter of a million books! In fact, in 2010, when my Houghton Mifflin deal goes through for *The Dog That Dug For Dinosaurs*, originally published by Simon & Schuster, I'll have more than 2 million books in print! It boggles my brain sometimes.

However, the workshop will also include info on making more money for those writing for magazines. I believe in recycling what I've written so I can sell the same piece over and over again, making more money with little or no effort.

Shirley Raye Redmond has sold 17 books and over 450 magazine and newspaper articles. Shirley Raye, who has an M.A. in English from the University of Illinois, has taught a variety of writing and literature courses at various colleges and universities. She's currently a part-time instructor with the Institute for Children's Literature and a former columnist for *The Santa Fe New Mexican*.

Saturday, March 21

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$65 + \$10 lunch (\$75) register by Feb 1

\$75 + \$10 lunch (\$85) register by Feb 28

\$85 + \$10 lunch (\$95) register at door

Revising Fiction**Making Sense of the Madness****Kirt Hickman**

With all the books, talks, classes, and workshops out there on self-editing, a writer can be quickly overwhelmed by all the advice. There's so much to edit for. How do you catch it all? How do you know when you've got it right? How do you even know where to start? In this class, Kirt Hickman will offer a practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel, to first draft, through self-editing to final product. You'll also receive a set of presentation notes, including numerous examples, a self-editing checklist, and a list of recommended references—resources

that you can take home and use to better your writing.

Topics to be covered:

World Building

Plot

Research

Chapter Breaks

Scenes

Dialog

The Role of Critiques

Characterization

First Draft

Manuscript Organization

Exposition

Narrative Style

Finishing Touches

Kirt Hickman, author of the 2008 science-fiction conspiracy thriller *Worlds Asunder*, was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1966. Kirt was a technical writer for 14 years before branching into fiction. He has participated in discussion or critique panels for multiple SWW conferences and contributes a monthly column titled "Revising Fiction" to the *SouthWest Sage*. During his technical career, he made a living out of taking complex sets of requirements, or in this case advice, and boiling them down into simple, effective procedures. His methodical approach to self-editing has helped many make sense of the mass of writing advice available to the novice reader.

Saturday, June 20

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All prices include lunch

\$59 register by May 1 (early bird special)

\$69 register by May 31

\$75 register at door

Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE

Jeanne Shannon**Constance Hester****Traveling the Highways and Byways of Poetry**

Whether you want to write poems or would simply like to be able to read poetry with more pleasure and deeper understanding, this workshop is for you. We will look at the work of well-known poets and less famous poets and try our hand at writing in various poetic forms. Writing prompts will help free our imagination and stimulate the flow of creativity.

Jeanne Shannon has been writing poetry since childhood. She has published three full-length collections of her poetry and ten chapbooks. Her work has appeared in numerous small-press and university publications. She is currently the editor/publisher of The Wildflower Press, a small-press book publisher in Albuquerque.

Constance Hester has published many poems in poetry journals and anthologies and in 2004 published her first book, *Call Me Myriad*. She helped found Fresh Ink, New Mexico and has taught several all-day workshops.

FIVE EASY STEPS TO GETTING YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED—NOVELS

Instructors: Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves

February 23 through March 23, 2009

Monday Evenings 5 weeks

6:30-8:30 pm

Register: SWW (505) 265-9485

\$69 members

\$79 non-members

Class Limited to 14 Students

Want someone to buy your novel? Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves will show you how to propel your way to fame and fortune.

These classes will address getting your novel published and will cover markets, the submission process (proposals), writing the synopsis (critiqued in class), as well as suggested conferences (why you should attend), and finding an agent.

Rob is the author of six published non-fiction books. Melody is the author of one published non-fiction book and three fiction books.

Sign up online at www.southwestwriters.com or call the SWW Office at 265-9485. All classes are held at SouthWest Writers Conference Room, 3721 Morris NE, Ste A, Albuquerque, (northwest corner of Comanche and Morris).

SWW offers a free writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center every Monday from 1:30 to 2:45 pm. 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Elise Kraf
Sarah Baker
P.J. Mateu
Ginger Ryker
Pat McHold
Janet Yagoda Shagam
Peggy Laurel
Barbara Gutierrez
Julian Spalding
Betty Jo Baca
Karen E. Glinski
Iris Keltz

Pat Beasley
Mary Lou Dobbs
Elizabeth P. Rose
Andrew P. Mayo
Sara Louise Dawson
Austin Killeen
Andrew Homer
Joyce Daza
Linda Meg Frith
Terry Brock
Kathleen Buckley
Jeanine Wilson

WRITING: FROM START TO SALES UNM Continuing Education Course 14899

Instructor: Eileen Stanton

April 25, 2009

Saturday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Cost \$140 - Available Discounts

Location: Albuquerque - CE North Building

Important: Section RAA.

Register through UNM Continuing Education

Courses: Personal Enrichment: Reading & Writing

We re-organized the fifth year of this writers' conference. Due to suggestions from writers in the area, we will start with a keynoter who is a humorous speaker and prolific author of 19 novels. A poll of 100 writers revealed that they wanted either editors or agents interested in the following fiction genres: General fiction; Mysteries; Children's Chapter and Y.A. books; Historic; all kinds of Women's Fiction; Paranormal; Christian Romances and Mysteries, as well as Short Story collections. Nonfiction book categories included Biographies and Memoirs; Contemporary Culture; How To books; and Nature and Environment. We also plan to bring in an editor from a top-paying magazine. We'll do a brief Q & A of the editors and agents to let you know what's selling in the publishing industry, and what they are buying. All of the instructors who give workshops are new to the conference. We're inviting three agents and four editors. All attendees will have a one-on-one meeting with an editor or agent. After registration, email Eileen Stanton with your selection or if you have any questions please email at estanton@cablone.net.

Please provide the course title and number when e-mailing or calling 505-277-0077 with questions.



Additional Board Member Bio

The bio of Dianne Layden, SWW Class Coordinator, was not available for inclusion in the January Sage. We'd like to introduce her now. Dianne Layden, Ph.D., teaches English part-time at CNM Community College and is an academic advisor at a private university. She has done research in workplace and campus violence, taught management and worked in human resources and labor relations. She writes essays and poetry.

SCREENWRITERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 21, 2009

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, NM. Check-in time is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The Conference will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 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 at 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: February 1.** Limited spaces. No walk-in registrations.

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Are you a current member of SouthWest Writers? _____ YES _____ NO

How did you learn about this conference? _____

Conference Cost. Register on or before February 1 (postmark date) for early-bird rate:

_____ @ \$119.00 SWW member cost (early-bird rate)

_____ @ \$139.00 SWW member (registered after 2/1)

_____ @ \$169.00 non-member cost (includes 1-yr SWW membership [early-bird rate])

_____ @ \$189.00 non-member cost (includes 1-yr SWW membership [registered after 2/1])

Method of payment:

_____ Check or money order (payable to SouthWest Writers)

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa ONLY

If paying by credit card: Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ (3 digits near your signature)

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATERED LUNCH PREFERENCE FROM GLAZED HAMS & MORE:

_____ Italian Chicken Focaccia

You're welcome to bring your own lunch. No discount.

_____ The Awesome Veggie

_____ Ham & More Adventure

Please tell us of any 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 2nd or 3rd choice? If so, please indicate by the number "2" and "3."

_____ Kirk Ellis, TV/film writer/producer ("John Adams," "Hell on Wheels," "Anne Frank").

_____ Tammy Ader, creator/executive producer ("Strong Medicine").

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.



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

SWWriters@juno.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Label shows your SWW Membership expiration date.

Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.

Wanting to Start Groups/Looking for a Group

Memoirs, Santa Fe

Leona Stucky-Abbott

505-820-2433

Any Genre, Albuquerque

Meet every other Friday

NE Heights

Krys Douglas 505-830-3015

Any Genre, Las Cruces

Barbara Villemez

505-522-5734

Poetry

Billy Brown 505-401-8139,

welbert53@aol.com

Short Story, Poetry, Screenplay

Santa Fe

Robert Evans 505- 690-6651

reevans1@mac.com

Children's Books Santa Fe

ldiemand@cybermesa.com

Screenwriting

G. Hathaway 249-7957

Nonfiction, Valencia County

Karen Keese 505-261-0040

skywriter@wildblue.net

Memoir, contemporary culture, non-fiction

Anna Redsand 872-3277

Groups Seeking Members

Any Genre

Estancia Valley Writers Group

Moriarty Community Library

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Tina Ortega 505-832-2513

Any Genre

Albuquerque Press Club

201 Highland Park Cir. SE

First Tuesdays 7 pm

Samantha 401-1561 or

sclark.abq@earthlink.net

Critique Groups

Submit requests to

SWWriters@juno.com

Any Genre, Rio Rancho:

Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley

505-867-1408

riversedgebob@cableone.net

riograndema@cableone.net

Land of Enchantment

Romance Authors

Meets second Saturdays at noon.

leranm.com

The Screaming Ninja

Screenwriters

Meets every other Thursday,

Flying Star on 7th and Silver.

Marc Calderwood

505-897-6474

skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com