



# The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 20, No. 1

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

January 2005

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

## 2005 Writer's Contest Issue

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 **Submit** two (2) copies of your entry, which must be original, unpublished, unsold, and not optioned prior to May 1, 2005.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.

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**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 RTF. Bylines are given. No payment. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length and content. Published articles will be appear on the SWW website.



**The SouthWest Sage**

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*Editor:  
Cliff Gravel*

*Assistant Editor:  
Larry Greenly*

*Editorial Staff:  
Nicole Schairer  
Lola Eagle  
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  
Website:  
www.southwestwriters.org*

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

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Cover: SWW Contest Rules

Page 3: SWW Contest Categories

Page 4: SWW Contest Entry Form

Page 5: Contest Connection by Joan Marsh

Page 5: Talk About Contests by Judy Ducharme

Page 6: Markets by Cathy Goodwin

Page 7: A Site Worth Sighting by Ira J. Rimson

Page 8: Beginning Writers by David Metcalf

Page 9: Beginning Writers by Donn A. Byrnes

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

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 Category Specific Guidelines**

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.

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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.

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**Correction:**

Apologies to Joanne Lukens,  
3rd place contest winner of  
Children's Book Category.  
We inadvertently misspelled her  
name in last month's Sage.

**The SWW Office Staff apologizes to members who received an unexpected hard copy of the December Sage.  
Please contact the office so that we can correct your record.  
Sorry for any concern we have caused you.**

## 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

### 50,000\* Chances to Win

Imagine waking up to a phone call from a friend whose friend has a friend in the publishing business. The publishing house is looking for manuscripts, short stories, and poetry, and an editor agrees to read yours. All you have to do is mail it by May 1st. No agent needed. Your hard work has the status of a solicited manuscript. It's like being offered an exclusive submission. Your manuscript will bypass the dreaded slush pile and go right to an acquisitions editor.

The 2005 SWW Contest offers this exquisite opportunity. Nothing could be easier. Make the 2005 SWW Contest a marketing milestone, an attainable New Year's resolution.

The SWW Contest Connection is a conduit for the contest committee to disseminate information and through which members may avail themselves of the chance to ask questions about the contest.

### What's New

1. The contest deadline date is May 1, 2005.
2. Editors and literary agents judge ALL the entries and critique the top three in each category. In addition, all entries receive a written critique by a qualified consultant selected by the contest Chair.
3. Expanded number of categories. The 2005 contest will have 18 categories.
4. Up to double the number of pages for submission in almost every category.
5. Your poetry entry may now include more than one poem on the available five pages.

### Questions & Answers

Send your contest-related questions to:  
joanmarsh@southwestwriters.com.

### Adding Value

The SWW Contest is open to all members and to the public. If you are a member of SWW and have a published book on manuscript format or any facet of the art or business of writing, and would like to list it on the contest web page Tips and Resources, let me know. This service is free of charge to all members.

**\*50,000 new books are published each year.**

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## Let's Talk About Contests

by Judy Ducharme, Co-Chair SWW Contest 2004

### Getting ready for the 2005 SWW Contest? Let's talk about ... POSTAGE.

When you enter a contest you have certain expectations—will I get a good critique? Will I win? In order to receive your critique(s) (some judges critique all the entries, although they're asked to critique only the top three) from the critiquer, and/or the judge, your return envelope should have the SAME AMOUNT of postage as the original contest entry. If the critiquer and/or judge write on your entry, you'll want that information. Last year we returned—to some contestants—only the critique and not the writing on the piece. Not enough postage.

The majority of contestants do everything right, including the postage. Using no staples—thank you everyone—made checking in the entries much quicker; inserting the entry with the SIGNED application on top, so the first thing we see is your name, including a return envelope the SAME SIZE as the outer envelope sent to SWW, with a “no-lick” closure. And with the SAME AMOUNT of postage. If you need to save money, don't drink that second Starbucks coffee, put the money on the return envelope instead.

Everyone on the contest committee told me not to supply the missing postage when I mailed the returns. I stood in the post office for one hour while each packet was weighed. Twenty-seven contestants had not affixed the correct postage.

I'm not the 2005 Chair, so it behooves you to stick stamps on the return envelope the same as on the mailing envelope. Chances are you'll get back the same amount of material as you send.

Don't let postage deficiency ruin a good contest. Good luck.

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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.



## Markets

by Cathy Goodwin, 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.

Copywriting had always seemed like something for Madison Avenue until I started selling my own e-books. When you sell your own products from a website, you skip the proposal process. Got an idea? Type it up, convert to a pdf file and watch the dollars roll in.

When I wrote proposals for my book, *Making the Big Move*, I had to consider target market, competition and selling points. But when I wrote, *Your Intuitive Move*, an e-book sold from my site, there was no need for a proposal. I just shared what I'd learned about using your intuition to grow your career, start a business, or move to a new location. Benefits? I hadn't thought that far ahead. Besides, I didn't want to promise my readers a perfect life or instant wealth.

After many false starts (and a few encounters with "book coaches" who encouraged me to "think positive thoughts and clear clutter"), it was time to learn more. After meeting Lorrie Morgan-Ferrero of Red-Hot-Copy, I learned that (a) copywriting means big money and (b) by learning a few tricks of the trade, my e-book sales could actually grow - a new way to make money by writing.

First, copywriters command big bucks. Morgan-Ferrero charges \$250-350 per hour. And she's booked weeks, sometimes months, ahead of time. Other copywriters charge even more (one "master" charges five thousand dollars for a week-long seminar).

Second, copywriting doesn't have to be hype to make sales. But a few tweaks go a long way. My career e-book started life as, "21 days to career freedom." Sales took off when I changed the name to, "*Your 21-day Extreme Career Makeover*."

But the biggest copywriting step tends to be ignored by most novices, who rush to create headlines. Morgan-Ferrero says, "Create a profile of your customer - your 'target,' or target market person. Go into detail. Give the person a name. Where does the person shop? Is she married or single? What would motivate her to buy your product or use your service?" Morgan-Ferrero recommends coming up with a 100-200 word

portrait of this customer before you write a single line of copy.

Most writers resist this advice, Morgan-Ferrero says. They think, "My product will fit anybody." But in fact, when you write to one person, others will respond to your copy, even if they don't quite fit the description. Volvo, says Lorrie, targets one customer, a woman with a family.

Writing a book or e-book, you can think the same way. Create your reader and write to him or her. Surprisingly, you'll attract a greater audience than if you try to reach "everyone with a credit card."

The first web copywriters got their start on Madison Avenue or the Los Angeles office of major advertising agencies. They took the principles of John Caples and David Ogilvie to heart, transferring those ideas to websites. Today, however, the field is wide open. If you have a web business, you don't want to keep paying for copy every time you launch an e-book or a new product. Increasingly e-business owners have become do-it-yourselfers, with the help of courses offered as teleseminars (classes by phone). And as they learn, they hire their talents out to others who lack time or inclination to motivate visitors with words. A web designer, for instance, typically prefers to work with images and would rather not get involved in headlines, bullets, subheads, and signatures.

Now I've become a convert! These days, copywriting no longer remains the province of advertising agencies - something "somebody else" can do. Anyone with an e-business needs to learn the basics of copy, if only to talk to a professional copywriter, saving time and money. And if you decide you like spinning words into gold, you may have a lucrative new career to supplement your other writing goals.

*Cathy Goodwin, Ph.D., is a career/business consultant and freelance author. She recommends Lorrie Morgan-Ferrero's course ([www.red-hot-copy.com](http://www.red-hot-copy.com)). Her own e-book can be accessed through [www.cathygoodwin.com/books.html](http://www.cathygoodwin.com/books.html)*

## A Site Worth Sighting

by Ira J. Rimson, Guest Columnist

Few writers are satisfied to accept the initial draft of a document as it appears on screen or paper. Most of us labor to find *the* correct words that convey the images we wish to communicate to the reader. Threadbare thesauruses (thesauri?) attest to searches for synonyms that avoid repetitiousness. One of the great gifts of the Internet is its offering of offbeat sites for the literately disadvantaged, collections of oddments of words and phrases and their usage, sometimes strange etymology and hilarious misuse.

One of the best recently came to my attention at [www.worldwidewords.org](http://www.worldwidewords.org), a seemingly inexhaustible collection of words, phrases, epigrams, and examples of media misuse that will prove an intellectual gift to the writer in search of the right word — especially if he or she is an insomniac. It is about English words and phrases with a seasoning of issues of grammar, style, and punctuation.

The index offers clues as to the comprehensiveness of the site's content:

### **Section Indexes**

Articles / Questions and Answers / Reviews / Topical Words / Turns of Phrase / Weird Words

### **Finding Things**

### **Weekly Newsletter**

### **Support Pages**

The entire site is comprised of 1500+ pages, usually updated by its loving keeper, Michael Quinion. Although he is a Brit, he addresses usage throughout the English-speaking world. In the words of one of its admirers:

"...[this] website of the week is for any gongoozlers whose public borborygmus was mistaken for a mobile phone or self-centered omphalopsychics performing cataglottism in the sitooterie. Etaoin shrdlu!"

Yes, their meanings are all recorded at the site and yes, it makes perverse sense, although it's doubtful that anyone would ever write it that way. On the other hand, the Articles section contains such useful gems as:

A test question gets grammarians arguing: *On pronouns and possessive antecedents.*

ASYE: *Acronyms Selected for Your Enjoyment*

Between the Lines: *Some railway words*

Chosen words: *The language of elections*

Citing Online Sources: *Advice on online citations formats*

Eating crow: *And other indigestibles*

Engine and Motor: *Two closely-related words*  
Fears and dreads: *Words for irrational feelings*

Gender-neutral pronouns: *Can one avoid sexist writing?*

How words enter the language: *Is there a formal process?*

Is This a Word?: *The language stork keeps lexicographers busy*

Mind the greens!: *Creative mishearings of lyrics*

Misplaced Modifiers: *Sloppy writing that evokes odd images.*

Money matters: *How much is that, then?*

My fellow Merkins: *An Internet bad joke*

No trees in the forest?: *Chasing a changing sense*

Plain English Campaign Awards 2002: *Textual confusion.*

Plain English Campaign Awards 2003: *One man's gobbledegook is another's plain speaking.*

Possessive Apostrophes: *The greengrocer's speciality*

Precision of Lexicographers: *On the history of collective nouns.*

Rules, Britannia: *When it's OK to use GB or UK*

Shades of Meaning: *Colour, hue, tint and shade*

The Colour of Words: *The fugitive names of hues*

The Lure of the Red Herring: *Do I smell a rat?*

Travellers to Antique Lands: *Tourism's lexical legacy*

Unpaired words: *Accentuating the negative*

Where it's at: *Names for a common symbol*

Which versus that: *When to use each in subordinate clauses.*

And those are only about half of the current article inventory.

Happy Reading!

*Ira Rimson is a retired Naval Aviator, former forensic engineer, and active curmudgeon.*

## Beginning Writer's Needs

by David Metcalf

With just a couple of locally published articles to my credit and a third recently accepted at a national magazine, I felt I was at the right place on the learning path to respond to the Sage Editor's request for articles on "What Writers Need at the Beginning of Their Careers." Every writer will have their own list, of course, but here are a few suggestions for items that helped start my journey.

**Get a good nuts and bolts book on freelance writing.** There are many books on getting started on a freelance writing career, but most cover the same material in similar ways. While it's good to get different points of view on the subject, all of these books left me asking more questions than they answered. I finally found Moira Allen's *Starting Your Career as a Freelance Writer*. Not only does Allen cover the basics, but she anticipates beginners' questions about the basics (including business basics). Then she goes further to cover topics the novice will be curious about after initial success, such as selling reprints and syndication.

**Meet a writing "buddy" on a regular basis.** Having a fellow freelancer to talk to on a regular basis is extremely helpful. You can encourage each other, make suggestions, and bounce ideas off each other. I am fortunate in meeting weekly with a writer with more experience than I. In addition to the above kinds of help, she serves as a real, first-hand example that it is possible to make money freelance writing. If you don't know someone who can be a writing buddy, try finding a comrade at the SWW's monthly meetings.

**Try for some early successes.** Before you say "Well, duh!" let me explain. My first "publication" was an article for my company newsletter. Newsletter editors are often desperate for decently written articles to fill space. This is a good way to get your feet wet. Many magazines are looking for fillers such as anecdotes and how-to tips. The work of 200 to 300 words could net you a check for \$25 to \$50. Also look for markets, like lesser-known specialty magazines, that accept unsolicited manuscripts. These save you the wait involved in querying, and you get to go through the learning

process of researching, writing, and packaging the article.

**Realize that *Writer's Market* only scratches the surface for magazine markets.** A recent trip to a bookstore yielded four different electronics hobbyist magazines I could write for, only one of which was listed in *Writer's Market* (including the online edition). Tightly focused regional markets, such as Albuquerque's *abqARTS*, are missed as well. Keep your eyes open and you'll be amazed at the variety of magazines and newspapers you'll find.

**Realize that timelines are long even in magazine writing.** First you have to wait for your query to be answered, then write and submit the article, then wait for acceptance, then wait to be paid. An article I wrote for *Nuts & Volts* magazine was submitted in September without a query. The editor wrote and said the article would be published sometime in the first quarter of 2005. Since *Nuts & Volts* pays up to 60 days after publication, this means I may not see a check until May. Allen points out in her book that magazines that pay "on acceptance" do not necessarily pay much faster than magazines that pay "on publication" because they may drag their feet sending you a contract to sign, as well as waiting an additional month to cut a check after receiving the signed contract.

**Subscribe to a writer's magazine.** I've found magazines like *The Writer* to be more helpful for inspiration than for technical issues. However, that inspiration is well worth the subscription cost. It also helps you feel like you're part of a larger community even if you're working in relative isolation.

You'll notice that I didn't mention conferences, classes, or equipment. All of these things are helpful, but their importance (including the items on my list) will be relative to each individual's needs. Happy writing!

*David Metcalf is a freelance writer living near Socorro, NM where he used to work for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (home of the VLA). He can be reached at [dmedcalf@southwestwriters.com](mailto:dmedcalf@southwestwriters.com)*

The SouthWest Sage Editor  
is desperately seeking articles about  
**Getting Publicity for Your Great Writing.**

250-750 words long by email 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).

## What Beginning Writers Need

by Donn A. Byrnes

### Writing seems simple at first

Writing can't be too hard, I thought, just look at all the mistakes in newspaper articles, and those folks are making a living at it. My first serious writing experience was in college. I earned an F in a technical writing course. I went on to cover myself with similar glory in other courses needing written homework. There was no problem with the engineering lab reports, these were simply filled with numbers, concepts, and conclusions. In later life several local firms paid me large sums of money over twenty years as a contract technical writer. I pumped out tons of techno-babble and became master of a strong voice in third person obscure, once removed.

What I didn't know about writing as a writer of stories and articles was, simply put, everything. That was clearly demonstrated to me over a two year period when the articles and stories sent out exactly equaled the number of rejections coming back. Fortunately my day job continued to pay the bills while I floundered through the similes, metaphors, and stilted prose. Plus, we saved a bundle on heating costs by burning rejection letters in our wood stove. Obviously there was more to this writing business than subject, verb, and object. When you don't know what you're doing, it's time to seek instruction from those who know.

### Take some courses, get some help

Writers Digest offered correspondence courses. So I invested in a short story course, thinking that short stories would be easier than novels or whatever. Well that was interesting but not the sort of help needed. The result was the longest short story ever written in the Western hemisphere, along with the purchase of every Writers Digest book on writing sold at Page One Books. Then I discovered SouthWest Writers.

SWW meetings introduced me to other writers who were struggling, and some members who were very successful and also taught writing courses. Attending SWW events and conferences not only let me meet terrific people but emphasized the importance of a critique group. That's when I met Paula Paul, Lana Harrigan, Madge Harrah, Eileen Stanton, and other well published writers. I took classes from Paula and Lana. The scales fell from my eyes, there was so much to learn. I joined a critique group and that was the smartest thing I ever did. Shortly thereafter I published my first short story, and with the continued help from the group more articles and stories were accepted.

### So, what does a beginning writer need to know?

- ♦ Join SWW or some other writers' organization.
- ♦ Take as many writing courses as you can afford
- ♦ Keep writing, submitting, and trying.
- ♦ Focus your writing efforts in a particular area.
- ♦ Find a critique group – one where you are the least skilled member.
- ♦ Keep writing, entering contests, target your writing where you have the most experience and skill.
- ♦ Attend writers conferences.
- ♦ Write a letter to the Editor – it counts as “being published.”
- ♦ Frequent the SWW meetings and presentations.
- ♦ Follow Paula Paul's #1 rule of writing: It doesn't have to be good, it has to be on paper. You don't even have to show it to your mother. Then you can fix it.

When I started writing I knew none of the above. Now that is all behind me. I'm still not famous, I'm still not rich, but I am a slightly better writer because many SWW people were patient and caring in their help.



## SWW Sage Delivery System

The SWW Sage is now openly on our website.  
No password needed.

If you are getting the hard copy, we suggest also reading the website issue.

If you like it, contact the office to take you off the hard copy list.

This will save SWW some money and our planet some trees.



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, January 1, 10 am to noon*

## How to Get Published This Year in Magazines

If you're not too hungover, come and hear a panel of published writers, including Rob Spiegel, Larry Greenly, Loretta Hall, and Melody Groves.

*Tuesday, January 18, 7 to 9 pm*

## The Technique of Research in Writing Historical Novels

With degrees in art, art education, and the humanities, Albert Noyer's career includes working in commercial and fine art, teaching in the Detroit Public Schools, and at private colleges. He lives in New Mexico and has published *The Cybeline Conspiracy*, *The Saint's Day Deaths*, and *The Secundus Papyrus*.

*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. Speaker and topic to be announced.

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

## Thank You!

Thanks to all the people who donated and bought books at our big used book sale in October. It was a big success. \$300 was raised for SWW general meeting funds.

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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.
- \* **Lloyd Rich**, noted publishing lawyer, will be giving a talk on Five Legal Issues Every Publisher Must Know in Santa Fe on *January 21st.* Call Jim Mafchir at (505) 988-7214.
- \* **Butler University Children's Literature Conference** will be held in Indianapolis on January 29, 2005. [www.butler.edu/childlit](http://www.butler.edu/childlit)
- \* **Key West Writers' Workshop** will be held in Key West, FL, on several dates in January and February. [www.fkcc.edu](http://www.fkcc.edu)
- \* **The Society of Southwestern Authors** will hold a Wrangling with Writing Workshop in Tuscon on January 28-29, 2005. [wporter202@aol.com](mailto:wporter202@aol.com)
- \* **Andy Gregg**, playwright and long-time SWW member, passed away in October 2004.

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Algebra Students  
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*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 1/15/05.** ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Awards for 2004. [maryann@forewordmagazine.com](mailto:maryann@forewordmagazine.com).

**Deadline 1/31/05.** Starcherone Fiction Prize. Story collections, novels up to 400 pages. Entry Fee: \$30. [www.starcherone.com](http://www.starcherone.com).

**Deadline 1/31/05.** The Iowa Awards. Fiction and Nonfiction up to 25 pages. Poetry up to 10 pages. Entry Fee: \$15. [www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/).

**Deadline 1/31/05.** Glimmer Train Press Winter Very Short Fiction Award. Entry Fee: \$10. [www.glimmertrain.com](http://www.glimmertrain.com).

**Deadline 2/1/05.** The Willow Literary Awards for books published in 2004. [www.womenwritingthewest.org](http://www.womenwritingthewest.org).

**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).

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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.

Albert M. Balesh, MD’s medical article “Flat Tired” appeared in the November 2004 edition of the West Texas County Courier Newspaper in Horizon City, TX. The newspaper can be viewed online at www.wtccourier.com. His other medical article “Vaccinum” was also published the December 2004 edition of the same paper.

Connie Harrington’s short-short story “Texas Armadillo” will be published in a 2006 issue of *The MacGuffin*.

M. Earnest Vann’s nomination by a major New York senior editor for his novel “Unnatural Tendencies,” a psychological thriller, for the 2004 Mark Austin Segura Award at the 11th Annual Harriette Austin Writers Conference should lead to publication.

Bill Buchanan’s four books “A Shining Season,” “Diablo: The Devil Steer,” “Present Danger,” and “Running Toward the Light” will be reprinted by UNM Press in 2005.

Shirley Fouts’s lecture on the *Villanelle* at the Mesilla Valley Writers meeting was followed by an interview with Joan Glicker and Maria Kruze, editor and photographer, of *Las Cruces Poets and Writers Magazine*, which featured Fouts in the November/December issue. Hilltop Records’ latest CD, *America*, includes Fouts’ song “Shove Old Gloomy Gloom Away.”

David Corwell promoted his story “Legacy of the Quedana” and the anthology it appears in, *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*, at the World Fantasy Convention in Tempe, AZ.

Nancy Marano received the International Cat Writers’ Association (CWA) Muse Medallion Award, as well as a special award sponsored by CWA and Fe-Lines, Inc., on November 20, 2004 at the 2004 CWA Communication Contest Awards Banquet in Houston, TX.

Sandra Cline’s novel “Pug Sheridan” will be published on December 1st, 2004 by Autumn Leaves Publishing. It has already received a 5-star rating on Amazon’s web site.



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**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  
welbert53@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*  
riograndemh@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**

Nell Charles Wilkerson  
Diana Gharbi  
Helen J. Truscott  
Kim Campbell  
June Walker  
Cathie Keenan  
Daniel F. Borgen  
Nan Nolette  
Mary Lou Fisk



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

SWW Board Meeting will be held at the SWW office on Tuesday, January 4, 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

- ◆ The office has a new computer.
- ◆ Larry Greenly has contacted a librarian to give a talk on censorship and banned books.
- ◆ Cash advances will no longer be made in connection with credit card purchases at the meetings.
- ◆ A new front door has been installed at the office.
- ◆ New lower cost brochures have been designed using the office copy machine.
- ◆ The extra office space in the SWW suite has been temporarily rented.
- ◆ The Board approved posting the Sage openly on the website.
- ◆ The Board approved allowing members of SWW to promote their work on the website for an annual fee of \$20 for each item.
- ◆ Cliff Gravel will act as the Website Coordinator.
- ◆ David Corwell is the 2005 Contest Chair.
- ◆ Lela Belle Wolfert is the temporary Conference Chair.
- ◆ Larry Greenly has taken over as Office Coordinator.
- ◆ The Board welcomes new Board members Cal Coates, and Lila Anastas, who will serve as the new Membership Chair.
- ◆ The Board expresses its gratitude to exiting Board members Judy Avila and Alan Reed. Special thanks to Pat Sutton, our Parliamentarian of many years, and Sylvie Larimore de Lara, the 2004 Young Writer's Contest Chair.

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@comcast.net

Vice Pres./Office Coordinator

Larry Greenly

(505) 293-8550 · drdoom999@juno.com

Secretary

Sandy Schairer

(505) 281-0546 · sandyliz@juno.com

Treasurer

Loretta Hall

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

Membership

Lila Anastas

(505) 797-5452 · lilaanastas@comcast.net

Public Relations

Melody Groves

MGroves@nmia.com

SWW Sage Editor/Website Coordinator

Cliff Gravel

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

Critique Service

Edith Greenly

(505) 293-8550 · drdoom999@juno.com

Policies & Procedures, Audit & Historian

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952

Volunteer Coordinator

Joan Marsh

(505) 865-1110 · JMarsh6834@earthlink.net

Members At Large

Judy Ducharme

(505) 256-9659 · jducharme121@comcast.net

Cal Coates

(505) 323-4929 · coatesofcolors@msn.com

Fred Aiken

(505) 856-2145 · FAAiken@aol.com

Other Key Positions

E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin

publicity@southwestwriters.org

Writer's Contest 2005 Chair

David Corwell

(505) 898-0624 · dcorwell@hotmail.com

Speaker Coordinator

Larry Greenly

(505) 293-8550 · drdoom999@juno.com

Interim Conference Chair

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952

## The SouthWest Sage

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

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## 2005 SouthWest Writers Contest

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See pages 1, 3, and 4 inside.

