



# The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 21, No. 5

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

May 2006

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

## Introducing the New SouthWest Sage Editor

Hello, my name is Lee Ross, I'm the new editor for *The SouthWest Sage*. With help from ex-editor Tom Gibbons, I'm easing into the job. I've known Tom for several months, supplying content for *Photo Journal*, so he thought I would make a good fit as editor here. Before I go into my qualifications, let me give a little background on myself.

I was born in New Mexico and grew up in an adobe home built by my parents. The back door of the house opened up to miles and miles of arroyos and blue grama grass I could explore.

After high school I moved to Albuquerque, where I received a bachelors degree in art history from the University of New Mexico. Working nights, from eleven at night to seven in the morning in a radiology lab, I managed to collect a small savings.

With that savings, a day pack, a passport and a camera, I spent over a year exploring Latin America and Asia. I hiked the Japanese Alps during a typhoon, learned to barter in Spanish, and in central Guatemala I jumped off of a waterfall into an underground river.

When I was in Chile a one-armed man snatched my camera and I chased after him in my sandals. Unlike the hardened traveler I saw myself as, I was huffing and shouting, "mis fotos," in a very embarrassing, high-pitched voice

To my amazement, some local men in a pickup truck drove off the road and onto the sidewalk, cornering the one-armed man, and made him give the camera back to me. That experience not only taught me to keep my camera close to me, but also that people are endlessly surprising. Strangely, the most important lesson my travels have taught me was that I didn't have to journey all that far to find excitement. There are plenty

of interesting stories and opportunities here in the Southwest, and I feel that writing opens even more possibilities.

I've worked as the non-fiction editor for *Conceptions Southwest* and as the editorial assistant for *Albuquerque Sports News*. A few of the other publications I work with are *High Country News*, *Albuquerque the Magazine*, *New Mexico Magazine*, and *New Mexico Business Weekly*.

I expect the position of editor to be enjoyable, but also challenging. I'm very excited to get started and work with all of the great writers. Please feel free to email me suggestions, comments, articles, questions, and the like at [leeross@southwestwriters.com](mailto:leeross@southwestwriters.com).

Lee Ross,  
Sage Editor

Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership? Check the website.

It is now secure for online renewals and new memberships.

**WRITER'S GUIDELINES** The SouthWest Sage welcomes articles about the craft and business of writing. Articles should be 250 to 750 words long, plus a 40-word bio. 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. Send submissions to [SWriters@aol.com](mailto:SWriters@aol.com).



**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).*

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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!  
 You can now pay your dues securely online at [www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org).

## What I've Learned

by Tom Gibbons

After working on the Southwest Sage for a year, my life has changed in more ways than one. I've learned a good number of things about being a writer through editing this newsletter. Now I'm handing the reins over to Lee Ross, who I hope will take to the task with as much aplomb as he does with his writing. Before I go, though, I would like to share a few things I've learned.

Lesson #1: More is always more. I never would have expected that removing one part of the newsletter to make room for others would cause such an immediate reaction. I'm talking in particular about the contests page, which makes a triumphant return this month. People truly care about the content in this newsletter, and it isn't the right of the editor (or anyone else, for that matter) to take it away without asking.

Lesson #2: Get organized. I'm not a saint when it comes to being organized, but when in an editorial position it is absolutely necessary. No one likes to chase missing press releases, or to rewrite articles because they were never backed up before the computer crashed. Print a copy of everything, invest in a filing system, and keep track of every bit of mail and correspondence received.

Lesson #3: Know when not to edit. In an editing position, it's easy to get high from the "power rush" and feel entitled to change anything and everything about an article. Style belongs to each writer, and the editor shouldn't go overboard and rewrite the article so that it is unrecognizable. Writing itself is like a living thing, born of its author's inspiration. It is like a seed; you have to be careful not to nip it in the bud with clumsy editing.

A year ago, writing was still a hobby for me, and I was reluctant to call myself an official "writer." Now I edit a newspaper, freelance for a number of magazines, and have even started a novel. The people I've met at SouthWest Writers all share one thing in common: they have the dedication to go on writing, even when it feels boring, or hopeless, or they "don't feel like it." That's the real secret to becoming a writer, and I'm glad and honored to be counted as one of you.

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*Tom Gibbons is the Managing Editor for Photo Journal, the newspaper for fine art photography in the Southwest. He has written for the magazines New at Home, Camera Arts, and abqArts. He will go to graduate school one of these days.*

## The SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

Even though the annual contest deadline has passed, SWW's International Monthly Writing Competition is still going strong! You don't have to be an SWW member to enter, but SWW members do enjoy a reduced entry fee.

### Easy Instructions

- Open to any writer in the world.
- All entries must be postmarked by the date listed.
- Original, unpublished work only.
- No cover sheets.
- Print the following information on first page: Name; Address; Phone; E-mail (if any); Category Name
- Manuscripts prepared in standard format: 1" margins, double-spaced.
- Entries are not returned, so there's no need for an SASE.
- \$5 entry fee for SWW members; \$10 entry fee for nonmembers.
- You may enter more than once, but an entry fee must accompany each entry.
- Decisions of the judges will be final.
- Prizes: \$50 1st Prize; \$30 2nd Prize; \$20 3rd Prize.
- Mail entries to:
  - SWW Monthly Writing Competition
  - 3721 Morris St NE, Ste A
  - Albuquerque, NM 87111
  - (Print name of category under your return address)

### May 31, 2006: Synopsis

Write a synopsis of a novel of any genre (your own novel or another author's novel). Length: up to two pages, double-spaced.

### June 30, 2006: Pet Anecdote

Write a personal anecdote about your pet (any type of animal) for a magazine or newspaper in the style of a memoir, column, or non-fiction article. Length: up to three pages, double-spaced.



## The SouthWest Sage

*For twenty-four years, SWW has been bringing editors and agents from the very best publishing houses and agencies in the country.*

*Eileen Stanton is an award-winning author, co-founder and past president of SWW, and long-time teacher at three universities, including the University of New Mexico. She has honed her interviewing talents over 15 years on the radio and in thousands of articles. She brings this expertise to the Sage's Markets column each month.*

*Let her know what questions you want answered.*

*Her email is [estanton@cablone.net](mailto:estanton@cablone.net).*

## Markets: Shannon Jamieson Vazquez

by Eileen Stanton

Shannon recently moved to Berkley as an editor. She is coming to the conference—"Writing: From Start to Sales."

**Q.** What education and career path led you to Berkley Books, a division of Penguin?

**A.** Well, I started off as an English Lit major (go figure!) with a specialty in creative writing, but it was an internship at the University Press my senior year that convinced me I wanted to pursue a career in publishing. After graduating, I moved to New York and found work at a small literary agency as an associate agent, then moved on to work in editorial with Bantam Dell (part of Random House). I was with Bantam for over six years, and have just recently moved to Berkley Books as an Editor.

**Q.** What genres of books do you handle?

**A.** Mysteries, suspense, thrillers, general and women's fiction, as well as nonfiction of all kinds. I tend to go for slightly lighter, more pop-culture commercial nonfiction; I'm not typically drawn to hefty, serious business or health books.

**Q.** What are you looking for in a novel?

**A.** Strong writing, a distinctive voice and a fresh, engaging story.

**Q.** What would appeal to you in a nonfiction book?

**A.** An author with a good platform, and a premise that seems fresh and interesting, and/or helpful and of the zeitgeist.

**Q.** How important is the author's ability to self-promote her novel or nonfiction book?

**A.** Crucial. An author's passion and self-promotion can really make a huge difference in sales and attention for his/her books. Unfortunately, publishers simply do not have unlimited marketing and promotional budgets, and the reality is that some books get the lion's share of what's available. Everyone else then has to make do with what's left, and any author who can help augment that with self-promotion is going to see a much better result.

**Q.** What's the best and worst thing about your job at Berkley Books?

**A.** Well, at the moment I'm still so new, that's a hard question to answer—everything's great! Taken as a more general question about publishing, though, the best part is finding projects and authors that I can get truly excited about, and my own pride in helping to publish these wonderful books. The worst part is the reality that we turn down about 99 percent of what we see.

**Q.** If after you have the one-on-one meeting with a writer at our mini-conference you are interested in either a novel or nonfiction book, what will you specifically ask to see from the writer?

**A.** For fiction, I want to see the entire manuscript. For nonfiction, I'm looking for a proposal that tells me why your book is special and why you are the best person to write it; what your platform is, and what makes you a marketable expert; a realistic assessment of what competitive titles are already out in the market (especially if a quick search on Amazon or walk through Barnes & Noble turns up half a dozen books on the same or similar topic); and a few sample chapters.

**Q.** Will you ask for a manuscript from a writer without an agent?

**A.** Absolutely. Unsolicited and unagented can be a problem, but as long as I'm soliciting it, unagented isn't an issue.

### New SWW Email Address is Here

SouthWest Writers has retired its old AOL address and has replaced it with [SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com).

Please make note of this fact in your email address book.

# Tuesday, March 21, 2006: How to Do a Non-Fiction Book Proposal

by Sandy Schairer

On March 21 there was a fabulous, educational presentation on “How to Do A Non-Fiction Book Proposal” by the SWW trio—Rob Spiegel, Loretta Hall, and Larry Greenly. The panel discussion included the basic rules as well as the authors’ own personal experiences and preferences. Rob Spiegel began by saying that the most definitive book about proposals is Michael Larson’s *How to Write a Book Proposal*. It’s an excellent reference guide, but be sure to review a publisher’s specific submission guidelines. Don’t send them 20 pages if they request three pages, or vice versa.

Rob Spiegel recommended leaving off the book proposal until the publisher or editor requests it (after you’ve sent the query letter and it has been successful in generating the publisher’s interest). Loretta Hall, on the other hand, said it is best to write the proposal in advance so that it will be ready to send. If anything, it will be good practice. Generally the panel advised not to write the book until the book proposal is done, accepted, and a contract is offered, although they acknowledged that some authors do write their books in advance of an offer.

The proposals generally consist of the following:

- A Cover Letter: a business letter to introduce your book.
- Overview of the Book: the one to three pages that condense all the major ideas of the book into a brief form. (Be sure to find out what length the publisher prefers.)
- Market Overview: this includes the market analysis of similar books, why you are submitting to that particular publisher, your qualifications such as your subject expertise, your writing skills, and your ability to promote the book.
- Table of Contents of the book.
- Chapter by Chapter Outline: include enough to paint a complete picture of each chapter, making sure that the chapter titles are connected to the title of the book and that they are descriptive or indicative of the content (use subtitles if necessary). A good chapter-by-chapter outline will be your guide when you write the book.

The SWW trio agreed that you must do your research, and the Internet is an excellent place to start. You can learn about market strategies, the competition, statistics, and potential audiences. Also, be sure to include in your market overview what you have done so far in the area of writing, speaking, and your education(and/or teaching) about your subject matter. All three panel members also advised “Be consistent,” using the same number of sentences or paragraphs of the same size when summarizing the chapters.

Larry gave a very helpful list of things not to do. For example, don’t tell the publisher this will be the next blockbuster or that your friends and relatives think it’s “really good.” Don’t address the book proposal to Whom it May Concern, never use undocumented assertions, avoid an attitude of superiority, don’t demand unrealistic advances, don’t be secretive about your bio, and (please) don’t send cookies or gifts!

Loretta said that to handle your experience and expertise without sounding like you are bragging, write it in the third person, as if you are someone else writing about you. Also, ask for a reasonable advance by figuring out what your expenses are (such as photography, trips for research).

Be sure to include sample photos in your book overview. Rob said he sometimes waits until the publisher suggests an amount, then he can negotiate if necessary. If you have an agent, be sure to let her/him know your minimum requirements. The advance might be all you will get for the book.

Over all, remember that you may not feel you can write a 100,000-word non-fiction book, but by tackling the project with your chapter outlines as guides, you can easily write a book in 600-word increments. Good luck!

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*Sandy Schairer, Ph.D, is the author of Extremely Short Stories for Busy People and writes romantic fiction under a pseudonym. She can be reached at her southwestwriters.com email address.*

## 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.

**Saturday, April 1, 2006:  
Open Poetry Reading**

by Judy Ducharme

The SouthWest Writers monthly meeting, on Saturday, April 1st, was well attended. More than 20 poets came to read and sing original poetry in honor of Poetry Month. Billy Brown handled the proceedings with great aplomb, and always had someone in the batter box, queued up to read. Each of the 23 readers read their poetry for four minutes, and only one had to be gently restrained from going over that limit.

There were three poems about the death of a mother and one about the death of a daughter. Three poets examined Albuquerque’s Tricentennial, while others wrote about pick-up trucks from various aspects. Some dark topics were rendered in words: a child birthing a child and putting it up for adoption, incest, and abuse. Two people not only wrote the poems, but also sang them.

A good number of readers wrote about nature, which is not unexpected in New Mexico. They mentioned ducks, kingfishers, mourning doves, javalinas and our mountains. Beautiful phrases abounded: “stars scattered like seeds,” and “cunning fingers of thought.” Lela Belle Wolfert, our own Queen of Everything, wrote “Sunday Morning in the Nursing Home,” read by Paula Staniulis, which was applauded twice.

The skillful poets read well and our SouthWest Writers are truly accomplished. Billy Brown suggested that we collect all of the poems in a chapbook.

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*Judy Ducharme, MLS University of Alabama, 1982, is retired from 18 years as Senior Medical Librarian at UNM Health Sciences Library. Judy is revising her historical novel set in New York at the turn of the twentieth century.*

**Contest Connection  
May 2006**

by Joanne Bodin

The May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline has come and gone. We are in the process of going through the hundreds of contest entry packets now. We will assign each person a number that will follow them through the entire competition. This ensures the anonymity of your entry. First we check to make sure you have submitted two of everything, so one set of submissions goes to the critiquer, and one set to the judge. We should hear back from these people by the August 1 deadline. At that point we will find out who the top three winners are in each category. We notify you by mail if you are in the top three, but we will not announce the first, second, or third place winners until our awards banquet in September. If you are a winner and you live out of town, and you cannot make it to the awards banquet, you will have an opportunity to let us know when we notify you by mail. Don’t worry; we will call you to let you know your winner’s status. We want to thank so many of you for your interest in SouthWest Writers, and for your participation in our contest. Now you can relax over the summer and look forward to the announcement of the winners in September. We will let you know the exact date and place of the awards banquet in the next Sage. We have included a complete and updated list of the judges. Thank you again for your participation.

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*Joanne Bodin, Ph.D., is the 2006 SWW Writer's Contest Chair. She is a retired teacher of the gifted in Albuquerque. Her book, Step By Step Storytelling: A Narrative Language Curriculum, is used throughout the school district. She is currently working on a novel and is learning jazz piano.*

**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

## The Write Way: More About Clauses

by Penny Rogers

Understanding clauses is not just an academic exercise. Depending on how they function in a sentence, clauses may or may not require a comma before, after, or at both ends. Punctuate the following bolded clauses:

1. The Tom Olson **who telephoned today** isn't the same Tom Olson Mary used to date.
2. **Although it is cloudy** I don't think **that it will rain**.
3. I told her that **whoever walks on the grass** will answer to me.
4. I am not going to attend the concert **even though I have a free ticket**.
5. **Before you send out a manuscript** have it critiqued by a professional.

Let's discuss the first sentence. The clause "who telephoned today" is necessary to distinguish which Tom Olson you mean. No commas should be used. There is another adjective clause in the sentence. The relative pronoun "that" is omitted before the clause "Mary used to date." We often omit this pronoun when it is used in short restrictive (or necessary) clauses and is easily understood.

A note concerning "which" and "that": "which" is used in non-restrictive clauses, which require commas to set them off. "Which" should have a noun as an antecedent, not a noun clause. Remember that the "-ing" form of a verb can function as a noun and is then called a gerund.

"That" is used in restrictive clauses, which should not be set off by commas. The relative pronoun "which" is never used to refer to people, but "that" may be so used. The second sentence begins with an adverbial clause. It should be followed by a comma. The second clause, "that it will rain," is a noun clause introduced by the indefinite subordinating conjunction "that," which has no function in the clause. The complete clause is functioning as the object of the verb "think." Do not separate this object from the verb with a comma.

In the third sentence there is another noun clause introduced by the same indefinite subordinating conjunction, which I did not underline. The complete clause, which goes to the end of the sentence, functions as the object of the verb "told." Imbedded in that clause is the underlined clause introduced by the relative pronoun "whoever." This noun clause functions as the subject of the verb "will answer." It should not be set off by any commas.

The fourth sentence illustrates an adverbial clause added at the end of the main clause. Personally, I do not usually use a comma after the main clause in such a situation. However, some editors will require a comma before a non-restrictive

adverbial clause at the end of the sentence. In the example above, the clause "even though I have a free ticket" does not define why I am not going to the concert. The clause would be considered non-restrictive, and some editors would want a comma before it.

The fifth sentence is an example of an adverbial clause at the beginning of a sentence. There should always be a comma after an introductory adverbial clause.

In my note above about the use of "which," I warned against using the relative pronoun "which" to refer to a clause instead of a distinct noun. The following examples are INCORRECT and are designed to show why such usage produces unclear sentences.

He came here from Iran and didn't speak English, which made it difficult to get a job.

(Better: He came here from Iran. Not speaking English made it difficult to get a job.)

They arrived late for the parent-teacher conference, which really upset the teacher.

(What upset the teacher, the conference or the fact that they arrived late? Better: Their late arrival for the parent-teacher conference really upset the teacher.)

One more caution about the case of pronouns used in sentences containing clauses. Last week I heard the following sentence in a prayer:

Thank You for the blessings You give to **we** who do not deserve them.

Please remember that pronoun objects of a preposition should be in the objective case (me, you, her, him, us, them). The relative pronoun should be in the case that is appropriate for its function in the clause. In the prayer the pronoun after the preposition *to* should be *us*, and the relative pronoun *who* was correctly used as the subject of the clause.

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*Penny Rogers has a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has taught English for eighteen years including three years at the Centro de Estudios Norteamericano in Valencia, Spain, and ten years at Albuquerque T-VI.*

## SWW CONTEST

### Updated Judges 2006

Category	Judge	Credentials
<b>Novels</b>		
1. Mainstream and Literary	Andrea Somberg	Literary Agent, <i>Harvey Klinger, Inc.</i>
2. Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure	Jessica Wade	Editorial Assistant, <i>The Berkley Publishing Group (Penguin Putnam)</i>
3. Romance	Devi Pillai	Associate Editor- <i>Warner Books</i>
4. Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror	Betsy Mitchell	Editor-in-Chief- <i>Del Rey Books(Random House )</i>
5. Historical/Am. Frontier/Western	Leis Pederson	Junior Editor, <i>The Berkely Publishing Group (Penguin Putnam)</i>
6. Middle Grade/Young Adult	Lexa Hillyer	Associate Editor, <i>Harper Collins Children's Books</i>
<b>Short Stories</b>		
7. Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror	William Horner	Editor, <i>Fantast Enterprises</i>
8. Mainstream/Literary	Nicola Mason	Managing Editor, <i>Cincinnati Review</i>
9. Mystery/Romance	Kathryn Compton	Editor-In-Chief, <i>GRIT: American Life and Traditions Magazine</i>
10. Other Genres: Historical, Western, etc.	Meghan Saar	Managing Editor, <i>True West Magazine</i>
11. Middle Grade/Young Adult	Terry Harshman	Editor, <i>Children's Playmate</i>
<b>Short Nonfiction</b>		
12. Article or Essay	Tess Taylor	Editorial Staff, <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>
13. Children's Article	Kim Griswell	Coordinating Editor, <i>Highlights For Children</i>
<b>Other</b>		
14. Nonfiction Book	Stephen Blake Mettee	Publisher, <i>Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press</i>
15. Children's Nonfiction Book	Erin Clarke	Editor, <i>Knopf Books For Young Readers</i>
16. Children's Picture Book (Fiction and Nonfiction)	Erin Clarke	Editor, <i>Knopf Books For Young Readers</i>
17. Screenplay	Pamela Jaye	Producer, Director and Founder of <i>Mythworks</i>
	Kathie Fong Yoneda	Script Consultant, Principal in <i>TalkStory Productions</i>
18. Poetry	Tess Taylor	Editorial Staff, <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>
19. Spanish Language/ Nonfiction Article or Essay	Johanna Buchholtz-Torres	Nonfiction Article or Essay Editorial Director, <i>Hispanic Ventures-Meredith Corporation</i>

### Would You Like To Be Published Here?

We need articles for the Sage!

The articles need to be saved as an .rtf (Rich Text Format) file and attached to an email.

We prefer the font to be 11pt Times New Roman, and we like single-spacing.

Please send something on a writing-related subject to [SWriters@aol.com](mailto:SWriters@aol.com).

The Board has approved the following amendments to the SWW Bylaws. A vote of the membership is hereby announced. All members are called to vote on ratification of the amendments at the business portion of the JUNE 2006 SWW Saturday Program on June 3, 2006.

**AMENDMENTS: SOUTHWEST WRITERS BYLAWS - JANUARY 2006**

**#1 – Current Wording:**

**Article V: Officers. Section 2. Eligibility.**

B. To be eligible for the office of vice-president, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination. [See Article V: Section 2. B.]

**Proposed Amendment: Amend Article V: Officers. Section 2. Eligibility.**

Insert: A. To be eligible for the office of vice-president, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination **and shall have served one (1) year on the Board in the past five (5) years.** [See Article V: Section 2. B.]

**If Ratified, Will Read:** Article V: Officers. Section 2. Eligibility.

To be eligible for the office of vice-president, a person shall have been a member in good standing for no less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of nomination and shall have served one (1) year on the Board in the past five (5) years. [See Article V: Section 2. B.]

**Rationale:** The vice-president should have the same eligibility requirements as the president.

**#2 – Current Wording:**

**Article VI: Nominations and Elections. Section 3. Elections.**

A. Ballots shall be mailed first class to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned by mail to a teller’s committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board. [See Article VI: Section 3. A.]

**Proposed Amendment: Amend Article VI: Nominations and Elections. Section 3. Elections.**

Strike Out and Insert: ~~Ballots shall be mailed first class to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned by mail to a teller’s committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board.~~ **A. Ballots shall be provided by either Sage ballot or E-mail to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned to addresses provided by the teller’s committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board.** [See Article VI: Section 3. A.]

**If Ratified, Will Read:** Article VI: Nominations and Elections. Section 3. Elections.

A. Ballots shall be provided by either Sage ballot or E-mail to each member between thirty (30) and forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting. These ballots shall be returned to addresses provided by the teller’s committee of three (3) members in good standing appointed by the president and approved by the Board. [See Article VI: Section 3. A.]

**Rationale:** This will allow every member the opportunity to vote.

**#3 – Current Wording:**

**Article XVII: Amendment of Bylaws. Section 1.**

Any SWW member in good standing may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting a written proposal to the Board. The bylaws may be amended after notice at the previous regular Board meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board and then, after thirty (30) days notice, ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of responding voting members. [See Article XVII: Section 1.]

**Proposed Amendment: Amend Article XVII: Amendment of Bylaws. Section 1.**

Insert: Any SWW member in good standing may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting a written proposal to the Board. The bylaws may be amended after notice at the previous regular Board meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board and then, after thirty (30) days notice, ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of responding voting members. **Ballots shall be returned either by Sage ballot or E-mail to addresses provided by the teller’s committee.** [See Article XVII: Section 1.]

**If Ratified, Will Read:** Article XVII: Amendment of Bylaws. Section 1.

Any SWW member in good standing may propose an amendment to these bylaws by submitting a written proposal to the Board. The bylaws may be amended after notice at the previous regular Board meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board and then, after thirty (30) days notice, ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) of responding voting members. Ballots shall be returned either by Sage ballot or E-mail to addresses provided by the teller’s committee. [See Article XVII: Section 1.]

**Rationale:** This will allow every member the opportunity to vote electronically or via first class mail.

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, May 6, 10 a.m. to noon

## Science and Other Fictions—Technology and the Story

Walter Jon Williams has appeared on the London and New York Times bestseller lists, and has twice won the Nebula Award for his fiction. He's published 26 volumes of fiction in 26 years, has written for movies and television, and has also acquired a fourth-degree black belt in Kenpo karate. He has been a New Mexico resident for nearly 40 years. His last credit was as a co-writer for the Alternate Reality Game, *Last Call Poker*.

Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## Self Promotion: It's a Good Thing

So often that little voice in our heads tell us not to brag about ourselves or what we're writing. Problem is, if we don't brag, nobody will know what we're doing. Self-promotion is not bragging. Instead, it's just a way of letting the world know that you're a writer and love what you do. Networking is free and the most effective method of promotion. This talk will focus on getting up the courage to extend your hand and tell the world who you are!

"I live what I write -- I write what I live."

Although Melody Groves, a native New Mexican, has traveled and lived all over the world, her feet are planted in southwestern soil. A deep love of anything cowboy and Old West creates a fertile playground for her imagination. A member of the New Mexico Gunfighters Association, she "shoots" sheriffs and outlaws every Sunday in Albuquerque's Old Town. Going toe-to-toe with a revolver-wielding sheriff gives her a firsthand feel for what her characters experience.

Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. to noon

## Creating Characters that Make Readers Roar for More

Is your fiction filled with animatrons? Clockwork characters can clog the cogs of your career.

Fine-tune your fiction by learning:

- \*Where to gather bones and flesh for characters
- \*How to give them life
- \*When and how to kill them off
- \*and MORE!

Kersten Hamilton is the author of articles and book reviews for adults, nine young adult novels, two mid-grade novels, four easy-to-reads, six picture books, one nonfiction book and various musicals, lyrics, poems and such. She is expecting a new picture book from Viking and a new mid-grade series from Standard to hit the shelves of a bookstore near you in 2007.

Donations of refreshments at the regular SWW meetings will be gratefully accepted!

Please consider providing this valuable service to our organization.

### Intellectual Property Services for Writers

*Let us assist you with your intellectual property needs, including:*

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We request that you e-mail your announcements about writing-related activities to SWWriters@juno.com no later than the first day of the month preceding publication. Please limit the announcement to 60 words or less.

\***Sandy Schairer** is starting a monthly "Writing-for-fun" group in the East Mountains near Edgewood. Contact sandyschairer@southwestwriters.com.

\***Seeking History of SouthWest Writers** The SWW Board is compiling a historical archive of the beginning and early development of SouthWest Writers Organization. All members with memories of SWW to share, please send them to sandyschairer@southwestwriters.org.

\***Literary Passions**, a lecture series at the New Mexico State Library. On May 9, 5 p.m.: Judith Van Gieson & Don Bullis of ABQ Press. Lecture is free and open to the public. Located at 1209 Camino Carlos Rey in Santa Fe. Call (505)476-9790 for questions.

\***The Second Annual Chama Book Fair** on May 12-14. Provided by the New Mexico Book Co-op. For more information go to <http://nmbookcoop.com/Projects.html>.

\***New Author PR Service Available** Tom Garrity of Garrity Group Public Relations and Larry Ahrens of KAGM Radio are teaming up to form a new company to be media representatives for authors, experts and anyone who wants access to radio, TV, newspaper and internet. They will be a pay-for-performance company. The company will be based in Albuquerque but will represent clients to media worldwide. Both Ahrens and Garrity are tentatively scheduled to be at the May 26 New Mexico Book Co-op lunch meeting to talk about this new venture.

\***Writing in the Alps**. Let the beauty of the Swiss Alps and the serenity of Lake Lugano inspire your natural creativity in this five-day residential workshop with Sean Murphy and Tania Casselle. Beginners or experienced writers are equally welcome. Workshop runs May 31-June 4. To sign up, visit [www.powercoachingcentral.com](http://www.powercoachingcentral.com).

\***S.O.M.O.S. Taos Annual Benefit Reading Dinner Silent Auction**. On Sunday, June 11, 5:30 p.m., at the Bavarian Taos Ski Valley. \$100 per person. This fundraiser supports many wonderful S.O.M.O.S. programs. Please RSVP (505)758-0081, [somos@laplaza.org](mailto:somos@laplaza.org).

\***Craft of Writing Workshops** in Taos, NM. Every Tuesday, 10-11:15 a.m. at Wired Cafe. \$10. Drop-ins welcome. Taught by author/essayist/poet Linda Sonna. (505)737-9092.

\***Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** meets second Saturday of each month at noon. Potential members can attend three meetings to see if they would like to join. [leranm.org](http://leranm.org).

\***Steffanie Gibbons** is the editor of *New At Home*, a magazine for people who have just bought a house in Albuquerque or Santa Fe. They are looking for writers for assigned feature topics. [stefanieg@aol.com](mailto:stefanieg@aol.com).

\***Open House at the Writers Room**. The Writers Room in Santa Fe opened March 18 with an open house in the Southwest Literary Center. The Writers Room is located upstairs at 826 Camino de Monte Rey (between St. Francis and Pacheco). Local and visiting writers may use the space to write, read or use the free wireless internet service. For more information on the Writers Room, including reserving the space for a class or event, please call (505)577-1125 or email [litcenter@recursos.org](mailto:litcenter@recursos.org).

\***A New Forum** for all things poetry is up at [abqslams.org](http://abqslams.org). Go there and poke around, join, and post.

\***Sabra Steinsiek** is looking for New Mexican Fiction authors who have a book coming out in April or May of 2006 for an article she is writing. Please contact her at [writersabra@hotmail.com](mailto:writersabra@hotmail.com).

\***American Theater Ensemble Screenwriters and Playwrights Group** meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., Puccini's Golden West Saloon, 620 Central Ave SW. They are currently seeking members. Contact: (505)242-2353 or email [elreytheater@qwest.net](mailto:elreytheater@qwest.net).

\***Copier Technical Services** (aka JT Tech Services), one of the participating businesses in the SWW Membership Perk Agreement, has temporarily moved to 2520 La Charles NE in Albuquerque. The business does quality repair work on printers, copiers and typewriters. It also sells supplies and new or reconditioned equipment. SWW members receive a 10% discount. Call Bruce at (505)296-6331.

\***Photo Journal** is a monthly newspaper with distribution all over New Mexico. They are looking for reviews, interviews, and articles on fine art photography. Contact [tomg@photojournalsw.com](mailto:tomg@photojournalsw.com) for more information.

## Continental Cuisine from the Heart

If you missed out on the wonderful Continental cuisine at the SWW 2005 Contest Banquet, now is your change to experience one of the best restaurants in Albuquerque!

Show your SWW membership card to Nellu or Elena at Baciú's Bread & Wine Restaurant, 2740 Wyoming NE (corner of Wyoming and Candelaria) and receive a 10% discount (cash only).

Now open for lunch 11am to 4pm; dinner 4-9pm. Beer and wine available.

*Note: This information is provided as a convenience. Before entering, be sure to check the listed website information or write the sponsors to make sure a contest is right for you.*

**Deadline: April 30, 2006 (postmark).** Short Fiction. E.M. Koeppel Short Fiction Award. Prize: \$1,100 first place and \$100 editors' choice awards. Winning short story and editors' choices will be published on website (authors retain all other rights). Entry fee: \$15 for one story and \$10 each for additional stories. Maximum length: 3,000 words. Stories must be unpublished and can be any style and any theme. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.writecorner.com](http://www.writecorner.com).

**May 1, 2006 (postmark).** Romance Novel. Annual Sweetheart Romance Novel Contest. Prize: \$1,000 for best publishable manuscript. Entry fee: \$10. Novels must be between 40,000 and 70,000 words, unpublished, unproduced, and not under contract with any publisher. Genre may be Contemporary, Historical, Regency, Gothic (not too dark), Mystery, Fantasy, or Christian, but the love story must be the important part. Contest only open to residents of the United States. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.sweetheartromances.com](http://www.sweetheartromances.com).

**May 1, 2006 (postmark).** Flash Fiction. La Belle Lettre Prose Contest. Prizes: \$100 first place, \$50 second place, \$25 third place, three honorable mentions. Entry fee: \$6. Theme: Desperation. Maximum words: 1,000. Submissions must be unpublished and the original work of the author. Detailed guidelines and application can be found at: [www.labellelettre.com/2006\\_writing\\_contests.htm](http://www.labellelettre.com/2006_writing_contests.htm).

**May 15, 2006 (postmark).** Short Story. Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition. Prizes: \$1,000 first place, \$500 second place, \$500 third place. Entry fee: \$10 if postmarked by 5/1/06, \$15 otherwise. Stories must be original, unpublished, typed and double-spaced, and 3,000 words or less. No theme restrictions. Fiction only. Only open to writers whose fiction has NOT appeared in a nationally distributed publication with a circulation of 5,000 or more. Guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.shortstorycompetition.com](http://www.shortstorycompetition.com).

**May 15, 2006 (received).** Novels and short fiction. "The Scarlet" Contest by *Writer's Weekend*. Prizes: \$100 first place, \$50 second place, \$25 third place, and Judge's Choice awards. Entry fee: \$15. Separate competitions for published and unpublished writers in each category of Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Romance, Mystery/Suspense, General Fiction, and Short Fiction (under 6,000 words). Prefer email entries. All entries must be original and unpublished. Send the first five pages, a two page, single-space synopsis (not required for short fiction), and a query letter. Guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.writersweekend.com/contest.php](http://www.writersweekend.com/contest.php).

**May 31, 2006 (postmark).** Poetry. The William Stafford Award for Poetry. Prizes: \$1,000 first place. First place and runnerups receive publication in *Rosebud Magazine* and three copies of the issue. Entry fee: \$10. Send three to five original unpublished poems, any style or theme, each poem no longer than one page. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.rsbd.net/stafford2006rules.htm](http://www.rsbd.net/stafford2006rules.htm).

**May 31, 2006.** Poetry. *Main Street Rag's* Annual Chapbook Contest. Prizes: \$500 winner and 50 copies of chapbook. Two runners up receive \$100 and publication. All entries receive a copy of the winning ms. and are considered for publication. Entry fee: \$15. Send between 24 and 32 pages of poetry, any style/form, no more than one poem per page and no smaller than 10pt type of an easily readable font like Arial or Times New Roman. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.mainstreetrag.com/contests.html](http://www.mainstreetrag.com/contests.html).

**June 1, 2006.** Screenplay/Teleplay. Austin Film Festival Competition. Screenplay Prizes: \$1,000 first place, \$500 second place, \$500 third place. Teleplay Prizes: \$1,000 Drama, \$1,000 Sitcom. All prizes also include travel and accommodation expenses and passes to the film festival. Entry fee: \$40 screenplay postmarked by May 15, \$50 screenplay postmarked by June 1, \$30 teleplay. Rules, guidelines, applications, and more information can be found at: [www.austinfilmfestival.com/site/index.php](http://www.austinfilmfestival.com/site/index.php).

**June 15, 2006.** Short Fiction. *Main Street Rag's* Short Fiction Contest. Prizes: \$250 first place and 10 copies of published anthology, \$100 second place and five copies, \$50 third place and five copies. All entries receive a copy of the published anthology and are considered for publication. As many as 5 finalists will be invited to submit a book length manuscript for publication consideration. Entry fee: \$10. Up to 10,000 words. Theme: "Encounters with Famous People." No restriction on content style or subject. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.mainstreetrag.com/contests.html](http://www.mainstreetrag.com/contests.html).

**June 30, 2006.** Short Story, Children's Short Story, Memoir, and Poetry. The Society of Southwestern Authors 2006 Writing Contest. Prizes for each of four categories: \$300 first place, \$150 second place, \$75 third place, \$25 honorable mention. Short Story (2,500 words max), Short Story for Children 6-12 (1,500 words max), Personal Essay/Memoir (2,500 words max), Poetry (40 lines max). Entry fee: \$10 per entry. Entries must be original and unpublished. No simultaneous submissions. Detailed guidelines for submission can be found at: [www.ssa-az.org](http://www.ssa-az.org).

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*Keith Pyeatt is the new conference chair at SouthWest Writers, and a paranormal author. He refuses to clarify what's paranormal—him or his novels.*

Send information by e-mail in rich text format (.rtf) to SWWriters@juno.com. Please be brief.

Judy Avila, Cliff Gravel, and Melody Groves won second place in the SWW Query Letter Contest with the query letter for their screenplay *Love Your Local Ghost*.

Jeannine Van Eperen won the FAR Award: Book of the Year from Wings 2005 for *Memory and Desire*, a contemporary mainstream novel. *Lila's Protege* and *Children of St. Yves* also by Jeannine Van Eperen both received Five-Beacon Reviews from *Lighthouse Literary Reviews* in March.

Your successes could be on this page and our worldwide 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 SWWriters@juno.com. Don't miss this unique chance for free publicity and fame...and your right to brag!

### Screenplay Reading Service

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\* Quick turnaround \* Detailed written notes \* Discussion of notes and suggestions

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for appointment and prices

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**505-836-5182**  
**Jennie**

### 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.

**Critique Groups**

Submit addition or deletion requests or changes to  
SWWriters@juno.com.

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

**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@tableone.net

**Any Genre,  
Rio Rancho area:**

*Alice Harpley*  
riograndema@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

**SF/F:**

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

**Fantasy/Romance:**

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

**Any Genre in Santa Fe:**

*Mary Mazza-Anderson*  
cmmom@zianet.com

**Fantasy/Poetry:**

*Janet Belovarsky*  
(505) 891-9529  
royalbloodseries@aol.com

**Any Genre in Las Cruces:**

*Barbara Villemez*  
(505) 522-5734

**Novel**

*Kate Bennett*  
(505) 244-1291,  
katebennett@yahoo.com

**Novel**

*Connie Stevens*  
(505) 332-8993  
conniestevens8993@msn.com

**Poetry**

*Linda Broda Pribble,*  
(505) 332-0849  
lindabrodapribble@comcast.net

**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,  
Screenwriters:**

Every other Thursday  
Flying Star on Rio Grande Blvd.  
*Marc Calderwood*  
skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com  
897-6474

**Mystery/SF:**

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

**Novels/Short Stories:**

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

**New SWW Members**

Patricia Gonzales

Kathleen Hockey

Rima de Vallbona

Anna Redsand

Kathy Wagoner

Robert Mayer

Linda T Sniderward

Lee Ross

Cheryl Riley-Cain

Sheila Wood Foard

Lydia Crichton

For information  
about benefits for  
SWW members contact:

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

**Fiction & Nonfiction:**

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

**Any Genre:**

Meets once a month  
Sunday afternoons  
*Michael Franco*  
MDLindell@aol.com

**SouthWest Sage  
Ad Rates**

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The SWW website receives  
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*1/2 page:* \$75

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**Deadline:**

1st of each month  
for the following month.

Payment due  
with camera-ready  
ad copy.

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

SWW Board Meeting will be held at the SWW office on Tuesday, November 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: SWWriters@juno.com  
web: www.southwestwriters.org

Recent Board Meeting Highlights

Joan Marsh resigned her position on the board. The Board has a new board member—Bonnie Hayes. Keith Pyeatt is the new Conference Coordinator. Sandy Schairer is on the bylaws committee.

SouthWest Writers will be having workshops after the Saturday meetings every month, not just months when there is no conference.

Lela Belle Wolfert, long time board member, is on a leave of absence for her health. The board wishes her a speedy recovery.

Title Wave bookstore has offered their community room (seats 40-50 people) to SWW and non-profit organization events free of charge and a \$10 or 10% fee (whichever is lower) for a profit-making events.

The SouthWest Writers Critique Service is doing well, with numerous submissions from all over the country.

Proposed bylaw changes will be posted in The Sage in April & May, and a call for members to attend the June meeting to ratify the changes will appear in the May & June Sage.

Members may see the complete minutes for the year (and previous years) on file in the SWW office. Office hours: M-F, 9am-noon.

President/Office Coordinator  
Larry Greenly  
(505) 293-8550 · SWWriters@juno.com  
Vice President  
Rob Spiegel  
(505) 275-2556 · RobSpiegel@southwestwriters.com  
Secretary/Parliamentarian  
Sandy Schairer  
(505) 281-0546 · SandySchairer@southwestwriters.com  
Treasurer  
Loretta Hall  
(505) 764-9906 · LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com  
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Larry Greenly  
(505) 265-9485 · SWWriters@juno.com  
Public Relations  
Melody Groves  
MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com  
Critique Service  
Edith Greenly  
(505) 265-9485 · SWWriters@juno.com  
Policies Procedures, and Audit  
Lela Belle Wolfert  
(505) 899-2952  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Ron Schultz  
(505) 323-9252 · RonSchultz@southwestwriters.com  
Workshop Coordinator  
Bonnie Hayes  
Conference Chair  
Keith Pyeatt  
(505) 890-5545 · keith@keithpyeatt.com  
Conference Chair and Historian  
Judy Ducharme  
(505) 256-9659  
JudyDucharme@southwestwriters.com  
Board Member at Large  
David Corwell  
(505) 898-0624 · DavidCorwell@southwestwriters.com  
Writer's Contest 2006 Chair  
Joanne Bodin  
(505) 880-8326 · drjsbodin@hotmail.com  
Other Key Positions  
SWW Sage Editor  
Lee Ross  
leeross@southwestwriters.com  
Assistant Editor  
Tom Gibbons  
E-let Mistress  
Gail Rubin  
publicity@southwestwriters.org  
Speaker Coordinator  
Rob Spiegel  
(505) 275-2556 · RobSpiegel@southwestwriters.com



SWW is happy to announce the enormously expanded list of writer's resources website links is now on the SWW website. Check it out.



## The SouthWest Sage

SouthWest Writers  
3721 Morris NE  
Albuquerque NM 87111  
www.southwestwriters.org  
SWWriters@juno.com

**See your membership card or mailing label for renewal date. Renew to retain your membership benefits. You may now do this securely online.**

## Spring Clean-Up:

### A close up look at editing and Revision Techniques

Instructor: Judy Fitzpatrick

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

Saturday, June 3, 1-4 p.m.

at New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque

Learn how to find and fix what isn't working in your narratives and strengthen what is there to build compelling, successful stories. **Everything in a story has to function in terms of the story.** Learn how to find focus and balance in your narrative and how to read for revision. When your writing is in need of editing, where's the best place to start?

This workshop will offer some easy-to-follow, logical steps that will help develop the necessary skills and discipline you need to not only correct what is wrong with your stories, but identify and enhance what is right in your work. If you have a three to five page narrative you believe needs editing, send it to SouthWest Writers along with your workshop fee. Your manuscript may be used to illustrate and teach techniques such as cutting, reorganizing, and proofreading; here's how to avoid sags, stalls, and side-tracks found in early drafts. Class size is limited, so sign up early.

Judy Fitzpatrick was Associate Publisher/Editor for *Young Voices Magazine* for ten years and edited poetry, fiction and non-fiction for Four Seasons Publishing in Olympia, Washington. She has been a writing instructor at Pierce College, in Tacoma, Washington, and has taught classes for both *Sage Ways* and *SEED* since moving to the Southwest in 1986. Her articles on writing have appeared in *Prime Time* and also in the *Southwest Sage*. Ms. Fitzpatrick has been teaching writing-as-a-process workshops for over twenty years; she is also a published author and script supervisor with two award winning films to her credit. Currently she is at work on a novel.

