



# The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 20, No. 11

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

November 2005

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

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## SouthWest Writers Breaking News!

by Larry Greenly

### Free at Last!

SouthWest Writers will be ditching the AOL email address, effective January 1, 2006. Our new email address will be SWWritersATjuno.com. Please make note of this. (*also note the second 'W' -ed.*)

### Mini-Contest

Southwest Writers is putting the finishing touches on a low-cost monthly writing contest— open to everyone— that will start in January 2006. This will be a good chance to sharpen your writing skills for our big annual writing contest.

Entry fees will be \$5 for SWW Members and \$10 for non-members. Entries will be judged and the top three winners each month will receive cash prizes. Unlike our annual contest, no manuscripts will be returned and no critiques of the submitted manuscripts will be given unless an additional fee is paid. Watch our website for details.

### Free—The Magic Word

Southwest Writers has several working computer monitors that need a home. If you want a free monitor, call the office at (505) 265-9485.

### Member Links

If you are a SWW member, you can now link your website to SWW's site and increase your visibility on the internet. There is a one-time fee of \$5 for the link, which will remain on our site as long as you retain your SWW Membership. Members may also take advantage of SWW's email forwarding service where you may use a classier email address for business purposes, such as JohnPublic@southwestwriters.com in lieu of something like

HotStud@hubbahubba.com. The service is tied to SWW Membership, which means it disappears if your membership is not renewed. For details, call the office at (505) 265-9485.

### New Perks

SouthWest Writers is always working hard to obtain perks for its members. Show your membership card at these establishments for the latest perks:

- 10% discount on tires, auto service at Jess' Auto & Tire Service, 3701 Morris NE. (505) 294-6594.
- 10% discount on repair or purchase of new or reconditioned typewriters, printers, copy machines, and supplies at JT Tech Services, 10301 Comanche NE. (505) 296-6331.
- 10% discount at Acequia Booksellers, 4436 Corrales Rd., Corrales, NM. (505) 890-5365.
- 20% discount on books ordered from UNM Press catalogue. (505) 277-1895. Refer to Luther Wilson when ordering.
- 15% discount used books at the Book Garden, 1635 Eubank NE. (505) 2926005. Please show membership card before purchase.
- 10% discount at Albuquerque Business Products, 1636 Stanford SE. (505) 243-6713. Free delivery. Remanufactured toner cartridges; toner for copiers, laser printers, faxes; laser printing service.
- Show your SWW membership card to Nelly or Elena at Baci's Bread & Wine Restaurant, 2740 Wyoming NE (corner of Wyoming and Candelaria) and receive a 10% discount (cash only). Now open for lunch 11am–4pm; dinner 4–9pm. Beer and wine available.

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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, 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.



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Breaking News by Larry Greenly . . . . . Cover

A Letter from the Editor . . . . . Page 3

Markets by Eileen Stanton. . . . . Page 4

It Happened, Sept. 20 by Judy Ducharme . . . . . Page 5

It Happened, Oct. 1 by Sandy Schairer . . . . . Page 5

Edge of Chaos by Charley Mulvey . . . . . Page 6

Publish on a Blog by Marianne Powers . . . . . Page 7

The Write Way by Penny Rogers . . . . . Page 8

2006 Board of Directors . . . . . Page 9

SWW Events . . . . . Page 10

Announcements . . . . . Page 11

Contests . . . . . Page 12

Member Successes . . . . . Page 13

Odds & Ends/Ad Rates . . . . . Page 14

SWW Board Information . . . . . Page 15

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).

## Into the 21st Century

by Tom Gibbons

I think we're all starting to feel it—this is a new century. When 2000 rolled around, I found myself wondering, along with many others, *What's the big deal? Another year past. Another big ball dropped. Where are my hovercars and robot servants?* It's taken a few years, but we are beginning to see huge technological changes in the way we interact and do business, especially in the writing world. Ipods and weblogs abound.

For those of you who know of blogs only by name, please read the article by Marianne Powers. The "blogosphere" has exploded in the last few years: the number of blogs online have been doubling every five months for the past twenty! Now, there are about fourteen million blogs out there, waiting to be read. This is what makes them so intimidating (at least for me)—where on earth do you start? Believe it or not, it is this very question that has created such strong ties in the blog community.

There are many who attribute the success of weblogs to a fad gone out of control. Others see the phenomenon, along with the rest of the world wide web, to be taking the publishing world in a new direction. Some embrace the changes, others are repelled by them. I myself was weaned on a keyboard instead of a typewriter, trained to hit the "delete" key when others would use white-out, and to use the save key with aplomb while my wastebasket sits relatively empty except for gum wrappers and the occasional Coldstone cup. So I come equipped with an automatic bias.

I extend the issue to you, Writers of the Southwest- blogs, yea or nay? Also, I've received questions about formatting software like Wizards for Word: is it worth shelling out hard-earned cash? Why not do the work yourself? It's a topic that deserves to be explored, so if anyone's got the goods, please spill it for the rest of us Luddites. Soon we will all be trapped in front of our monitors, so enjoy the weather while it remains reasonable!

Peace,  
Tom Gibbons  
Sage Editor

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**Jennie**

### 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 Nelly or Elena at Baci's Bread & Wine Restaurant, 2740 Wyoming NE (corner of Wyoming and Candelaria) and receive a 10% discount (cash only).

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

### New SWW Email Address Coming

SouthWest Writers is going to retire its old email address, SWriters@aol.com, in the next few months and replace it with SWWrtiersATjuno.com (use the @ symbol). Starting immediately, we are using both email addresses concurrently until we pull the plug on AOL. Please make note of this fact in your email address book.



**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 will use her interview talents, honed by 15 years on the radio, and thousands of articles, to bring the information you need to know in order to contact them and to get published.*

*Let her know what questions you want answered.*

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

## Markets

*by Eileen Stanton*

A conversation with literary agent and freelance editor Claire Gerus. Meet Claire at the November 19th SWW Romance and Mainstream Conference.

By Eileen Stanton

**Q:** Please tell us a bit about your background.

**A:** I've been Editor-in-Chief of two publishing houses, worked for eight major publishers, including Harlequin, Rodale, Random House and Doubleday, John Wiley, Kensington, and Adams Media. I've written articles for national media and taught corporate communications to such clients as IBM, Kelloggs, Mutual of Omaha, and Procter & Gamble

**Q:** Do you have your own company, or do you freelance for publishers and other literary agencies?

**A:** In 1996, I established a thriving business as a New York literary agent, selling publishers books on a wide variety of subjects: business, history, memoirs, religion, health, spirituality, psychology, politics, pop culture, and women's studies. In 1999, I joined Kensington Publishing in New York and founded Twin Streams Books, an alternative healing imprint. Later, as Executive Editor at Citadel Press, I acquired and edited a variety of titles: celebrity biographies, self-help, relationship, spirituality, new age, diet books, and health books.

**Q:** Can you give us examples of books you have edited or agented?

**A:** I sold a 3-million-copy health bestseller, and brought film star Esther Williams' story to Simon & Schuster. It went on to become a *New York Times* bestseller and is now being made into a feature film. As Executive Editor at Adams Media in 2001-2002, I published the first biography of Laura Bush as well as a wide range of new-age, business, self-help, and inspirational books.

**Q:** What do you look for in book projects?

**A:** I'm looking for projects that will change readers' lives for the better, whether fiction or non-fiction.

**Q:** I note that you handle both experienced and novice writers if their story is compelling? What do you expect to see in a query letter?

**A:** I hope to see a letter that reflects the writer's professionalism (no typos, misspellings, or incorrect information). Most important, however, it should capture my interest in reading the manuscript as is, or in discussing ways to make it more saleable if it's a "near miss" in its present form.

**Q:** Explain your procedure for selling a manuscript. For instance, do you call editors and ask to submit? Visit with editors face to face? Pitch to them, as writers pitch to you? Tell us whatever you think we need to know about the way you do business.

**A:** I do all of the above, with more emphasis these days (since I'm now living in Arizona) on telephone queries. I never send out a proposal or manuscript without getting an expression of interest first.

**Q:** What project do you wish would land on your desk today for representation?

**A:** The topics and areas I avoid are children's books and poetry. All else is fair game if written well.

**Q:** Without giving away all your 'secrets,' tell us what we can expect to learn from you at the November SWW conference.

**A:** You can expect to get an insider's hints, tips and secrets to navigate the jungle of publishing houses large and small. Whatever goes on behind closed doors, such as how editors submit proposals to a publishing board. I'll also talk about the pluses and minuses of P.O.D. In addition, I am willing to do a ten minute Q&A at the end of my talk.

Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership? Check the website.  
It is now secure for online renewals and new memberships.

## Copyright Issues and Laws for Writers

by Judy Ducharme

Rod Baker, a Partner in and Chief Litigator for Peacock Myers, P.C., Intellectual Property Attorneys, entertained and informed the attendees of SouthWest Writers on Tuesday, September 20 with a talk entitled "Copyright Issues and Law for Writers." He began by telling us the difference between the products that fall under intellectual property: patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and copyrights.

Copyrights do not have to be registered to exist. Since the 1989 Bern Convention, the act of creating a piece of work creates a copyright. Anything before 1989 requires an attorney to determine its status. It is advisable to register your copyright. In case of willful infringement, you can prove the material is yours. To register, go to the government web site [www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html](http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html) and click on "Copyright Registration." Don't be misled by the myriad non-government sites wanting to register your copyright for three times the amount. (How to register added by Judy Ducharme.)

Words can be freely used. E.g. "Exit Now!" Rod mentioned that Donald Trump looked into copyrighting "You're fired." He could not, nor could Harley-Davidson register the sound of the Harley Motorcycle with the patent office. Oral speeches cannot be copyrighted; they must be written. Sentences cannot be copyrighted; they are too short. It must be a substantial portion of the work. If the work is completed over time, a copyright applied for on the unfinished work will cover all before the date of the application. Anything after that date must be reapplied for.

Many people feel material on the Internet is public domain. It isn't. While you may write "Copyrighted" on any created work, you may not use the copyright symbol. The same goes for the Registered Trademark symbol or the words "Patent Pending" on a work for which you have not applied for the requisite designation.

Translators can copyright translated works, unless they are works for hire. Works for hire are copyrighted by the employer, who pays an employee—the writer—to write the material. A contract should be signed with the employee before the work is begun. The writer must be paid as an employee. All infringement issues are adjudicated in Federal Court, since the Copyright Office is a department of the federal government.

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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.*

## Storytelling with Emotional Voltage

by Sandy Schairer

SouthWest Writers annual meeting attendees got a treat on October 1st when Stephen R. Donaldson spoke to a crowd of over 70 people. Donaldson is the author of numerous best-selling fantasy and science fiction books including *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever*, *Mordant's Need*, *GAP sequence*, and *Mick Axbrewder & Ginny Fistoulari*, plus two short story collections.

Donaldson had a wealth of information to impart about the craft of writing. He started by saying that all literature (and perhaps all art) has the major purpose of answering the question: "What does it mean to be human?" or in other words, "What's the meaning of life?" This refers to, according to Donaldson, all levels from the "galactic to the subatomic" levels of existence.

Donaldson said that recently it has become common to "diss" popular genres as if they were not relevant to the Big Question. He added, people don't read and write these popular books because they think it's "stupid." For Donaldson, even popular fiction is relevant to who we are as human beings.

Donaldson explained that a good story is good because of particularity—writing about specific individuals with specific personalities in specific situations. People, even fictional characters, are at their most unique on the surface and the most universal at their core. The writer is to make the readers believe in the characters, and to get them to care about what the characters do.

An exceptional writer uses the ability of imagination to conceive and share vision and ideas. Donaldson used examples of writers who are adept at writing outside the construction of linear time in such a way that the readers can follow the effectiveness in the order that the author puts events down.

During the question and answer portion of his talk, Donaldson said that the writer can interject into his writing why he likes the character and reveal this in insight rather than telling it to the reader.

In advising writers about revisions, Donaldson said that revision becomes more complex the more and longer one writes if the writer is raising his or her sights and growing in the field of writing. Complexities increase with added skill and ambition. For Stephen Donaldson, it is good to try something harder and harder as one develops as a writer.

<http://www.stephenrdonaldson.com/>

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*Sandy Schairer, PhD, is the current and 2006 Secretary of SWW Board, also member of RWA/LERA and ARE-Edgar Cayce Foundation. She is the author of Extremely Short Stories for Busy People, now available.*

## Writing from the Edge of Chaos

by Charley Mulvey

The writer's words often constitute the reality that informs our opinions. Historians write to make sense out of the past so we can learn from our mistakes and create a better future. Journalists record daily events for public consumption, in part to entertain, but also so that people can make informed decisions for their lives. When in crisis, we assume that this knowledge of the past will help us plan for the future. Consider that the past has very little to teach us about how to survive the future.

Without guidance from the past, we live in fearful uncertainty. While horribly uncomfortable, it is this state of being that writers and creative people strive to create—many call it “courting the muse.” Physicists use the term “edge of chaos” to describe this newness in complex systems, because one small occurrence can upset the whole system in unexpected ways. Order is an illusion; change is the only constant. In the social context, the edge of chaos is the place where competing ideas become confluent. It is the one place where a system is spontaneous, adaptive and creative. In this domain we are fully alive.

When events no longer make sense and our old frames of reference can't help us grapple with new realities, we become confused. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Americans had to start thinking about the Middle East without many frames of reference. After hurricane Katrina we had to find new meaning for the words “citizenship” and “neighbor.” We have no references from the past to help us deal with global warming. Not knowing is so uncomfortable we tend to grab for answers, any that might bring security. A state of confusion, however, can lead to the next breakthrough.

Bringing the muse to the brink of disaster could make the difference between creating something new or tumbling into the abyss. The creative mind knows how important it is to suspend biases and let new ideas come forth. The creative mind gives up the notion that it already knows how the world is ordered and becomes curious. The successful writer listens to other points of view, listens in order to learn, and isn't afraid to give expression to new ideas.

We are at the edge of a new frontier of human interactions. In these perilous times, deep thinkers are needed. In order to create, Writers must take the time to reflect and go beyond the frets and worries of daily life. This kind of critical thinking, if taught to others, could make the difference. Socrates asked questions because he saw that it was discourse that truly mattered. How should we deal with equality between the sexes? How can we deal with equality between nations when there is no precedent to guide us?

Only creative and courageous thought will move us forward. It takes courage to not know all the answers. Consider that we don't have to know the answers, but we do need to be courageous. A writer can ask the reader to consider new ways of looking at things, try them on, and ask questions before deciding. A writer can propose alternate views and excite curiosity. A writer can be the kind of teacher that stimulates thought and inspires even more questions. It seems to me, the future is all possibility. What do you think?

---

*Charley Mulvey currently lives in Colorado. He is a mediator, writer, and mural painter. Charleymulvey@hotmail.com*

### 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).

Thank you so much!

## Publish Your Writing on a Blog

by Marianne Powers

You can publish your writing right now on a free website that can reach everyone in the world who has Internet access. It doesn't cost anything. You don't have to know anything about programming or websites. You just have to be able to access the Internet yourself and type on a computer. The free website I'm talking about is called a blog (web+log).

Most Blogs are personal web logs or journals. A new and exciting use for blogs is to publish your own writing. This type of blog is like an electronic newspaper written, edited, and published by one person—you. It is delivered to your readers or subscribers the instant you save what you've typed, and is available on a virtual newsstand called the World Wide Web. Blogs are cataloged by bots (robotic programs) that crawl the Web constantly and include your blog in the results when someone searches for the words you've written.

At first, bloggers had to have a website and the know-how to program it. Now, there are many free blog services available for people who don't know anything about programming. Google.com has a blog service at [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com). Other popular blog services are: [www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com), [www.typepad.com](http://www.typepad.com), and [www.bloglines.com](http://www.bloglines.com). MSN (Spaces) and America Online (AOL Journals) are also starting blog services for their subscribers.

To start a blog at Blogger, go to [blogger.com](http://blogger.com) and click on the button that says, "Create an Account." Creating a free account is quick and easy, especially if you take the defaults with Blogger as your host. Pick a title for your blog. Your URL (Universal Resource Locator—your web address) will be created from the title in this format: [www.yourtitle.blogspot.com](http://www.yourtitle.blogspot.com). Choose from 31 free templates (styles) for your blog. Click Create to type in your first post. You're on the Web! Anyone who has the URL can go to your blog immediately. After a few days, the bots will crawl your blog and start presenting it in search results.

If you a bit more technologically savvy (or have a friend who is), you can customize your blog by changing the defaults

under the Setups tab. You can host your blog on your own website if you have one. You can allow people to post a comment to what you have written and restrict who can comment. You can have Blogger notify you when someone posts a comment. You can create an RSS feed. You can put pictures on your blog. You can create audio using another free service called Audioblog and put that on your blog. Your own radio station!

If you can find your way around in the HTML (HyperText Markup Language) code found under the Template tab, you can put ads on your blog. The most popular of these are Google ads. When you sign up for their program and they approve your website (or blog), their bots crawl your site and decide what kind of site it is. Then, a computer program selects ads that match the content on your site. The AdSense program that generates the ads is also free and pays you whenever anyone clicks on an ad. You can find information on AdSense at [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) or [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) (click on Advertising Programs). Ads are not appropriate for every blog. A blog doesn't have to have ads.

So, why would you want to become a blogger?

- You practice the art of writing every day (or every week or whatever you choose).
- You get your writing out on the Internet where people can find it (readers, agents, editors).
- You develop a readership that you can talk to and who can talk back to you.
- You become part of a community of writers that you link to and who link back to you.

I hope to see you in the blogosphere soon!

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*Marianne Powers is a writer and public speaker in the areas of management, conflict resolution, working relationships, and personal growth. Her blog and book, *Doing the Right Thing and Achieving All Your Goals at the Same Time*, is published on her website, [www.mariannepowers.com](http://www.mariannepowers.com). She can be reached through her website and at [marianne@mariannepowers.com](mailto:marianne@mariannepowers.com).*

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# The Write Way

by Penny Rogers

Being a writer does not automatically give you a handle on English grammar and punctuation. Many of us dislike using the terms that English teachers love to throw around, but editors are sensitive to mistakes in grammar, particularly in non-fiction articles and books as well as in proposals and query letters. Naturally, in dialog an author uses levels of grammar to reveal the speaker's character and background. This column will discuss some basic rules to be used or ignored at your pleasure.

## PREPOSITIONS CAN BE A PROBLEM

What, pray tell, is a preposition? It's usually a short, common word that shows the relationship between two or more nouns (the name of a person, place, thing or idea such as beauty). As a child I learned to identify many prepositions using this pattern: The squirrel ran \_\_\_\_\_ the trees. *Up, down, in, at, to, from, between, around, over* or *under* (a fallen tree), *through* and *beside* all fit. Of course it doesn't work using *after, with, until, about, or inside* the tree, but you get the idea. Prepositions tell us where, how, when, and accompaniment. He came *to* the party *in* a limo *at* seven o'clock *with* his date.

The problem comes when the object named after the preposition is a pronoun. He came with...she or her? Easy. Just between you and...is it I or me? If you know your prepositions, the answer is simple. The pronoun or pronouns following a preposition are called the object(s) of the preposition. They are always in the objective case: **me, you, him, her, us, and them**. Try using only one of the choices in the example above. Between I? Wrong. And just between you and me, I hear this mistake all too often.

When I was teaching English, I instructed the students to put parentheses around prepositional phrases to set them apart from the other elements of the sentence.

I went (for a walk) (with her and him).  
They went (with John and me).

When the pronoun object of a preposition is used to introduce a question, it is often separated from the preposition by the rest of the sentence: *Whom* do you wish to speak *to*? There is a movement toward using the interrogative *who* since it is placed before the verb and not after the preposition, but standard literary English still requires using *whom*. In somewhat stilted English we avoid the problem by saying *to whom* do you wish to speak?

This same separation happens when we use a clause as the object of a preposition. (A clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb). Clauses are often introduced by the words *whoever* or *whomever*. These words may act as a subject or an object within the clause, but they will occur at the beginning. You must be aware that the whole clause is the object of the preposition, not that word alone.

I will speak to [whoever answers the phone].  
I will speak to [whomever he tells to answer the phone].

There will be more about clauses and phrases in another column which will deal with commas. It is enough to say here that a prepositional phrase consists of the preposition and its object or objects. The objects may be nouns or pronouns, gerunds (an *ing* form of a verb) or clauses. Just remember to use the objective form of all pronouns that are the objects of a preposition.

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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 Norteamericanos in Valencia, Spain, and ten years at Albuquerque T-VI.*

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Just send an e-mail message to [LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com](mailto:LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com),

including your choice of SWW address and your existing e-mail address where you want messages to be forwarded.  
.....



**Congratulations Larry!**

SWW president Larry W. Greenly has been a member of SWW since 1992 and has been on the board for twelve of those years. He was previously president of SWW in 1995 and 2003, holding every position on the board except treasurer. During his tenure he has been awarded both the Parris Award and SWW Service Award for his contributions to SWW.

Greenly is currently a contributing writer for a local newspaper, a literary and calendar editor for a local arts magazine, and a freelance writer with articles in many publications. He has been a critiquer for the SWW annual writing contest and for the SWW critique service, has lectured at SWW meetings and the annual SWW conference, and has taught writing at the Bear Canyon Senior Center for the past year. During his tenure, Greenly has been instrumental in improving the financial status of SWW and procuring perks for SWW members.

As president of SWW, Greenly plans to:

- continue improving membership services,
- increase the membership rolls,
- expand SWW’s international reach through the Internet,
- strengthen and protect SWW’s fiscal base.



**Congratulations Rob!**

Robert Spiegel is a contributing editor to a number of magazines, including *Automation World*, *MSI*, *Logistics Management*, *Supply Chain Management Review*, and *Home Business Magazine*. He is a former senior editor at *Electronic News* (Reed Business). He was also senior editor at *Ecommerce Business* (Reed Business). Rob is author of five business books

published by major publishers.

Rob is author of chapters in the 2004 and 2005 *Writer’s Market*, and he writes a bi-weekly business column that appears in dozens of publications including the *Albuquerque Tribune*. He teaches news and magazine writing in the Communications and Journalism Department at UNM. In addition to his 20 years as a business journalist, Rob spent ten years as publisher/owner of *Chile Pepper* magazine, which he sold to return to writing.



**Congratulations Loretta!**

Loretta Hall, a member of SouthWest Writers since 1987, is currently serving as the SWW treasurer. She is a former high school mathematics teacher who has served as finance officer or treasurer of several other organizations including Casa Angelica Auxiliary, Annunciation School Board, and her own freelance writing corporation. Loretta is a non-fiction writer whose published works include three books and 200

article- and chapter-length pieces.

**Annual Meeting Service Awards**

Service Awards were presented on October 1 at the Annual Meeting. Recipients received an engraved silver pen and a certificate of appreciation. The Board awards the service of up to five people for the exceptional volunteering for SWW during the past year. This year the following five people were nominated and received the most votes from the board:

- Loretta Hall—board treasurer and budget/finance committee chair
- Gail Rubin—SWW e-lert mistress
- Cliff Gravel—former Sage editor and website liaison
- Both Cal and Debi Coates who arrange refreshments and volunteers to help set up SWW meetings.

The SWW Board of Directors presents the annual Parris Award to an individual who has shown exceptional volunteering in time, money, and effort over his/her career in SouthWest Writers, as well as to a candidate who has a body of published works. The 2005 award went to David J. Corwell. David, with his dedication to represent SWW in several community events and with his long service on the board, did a wonderful job with the 2005 Contest, along with his Co-Chair, Joan Marsh. He also mans the member book table at SWW meetings. He received a certificate of honorary/lifetime membership and a silver engraved Nambe plaque to commemorate the award.

David is a science fiction/fantasy author as well as an editor. His short fiction has appeared in *Dead in Th13teen Flashes* and *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*. He has also written articles and book reviews for publications such as *BookPage* and *The Sandoval Signpost*. When not writing, David is a Contributing Editor for *Gila Queen’s Guide to Markets*.



**Congratulations Sandy!**

Sandy Schairer has been a member of SouthWest Writers for over 10 years and a writer for most of her life. She has served on the SWW Board for three years (as secretary in 2003 and 2005). In 2004, she was co-chair for the Contest Committee. Sandy has seen SWW improve year after year and is glad to be a part of that growth. She won the SWW Parris Award 2004, but she

is not ready to stop serving this organization. She is “retired” from careers as a records technician in law enforcement, a home health aide, and a hospice administrative assistant with over 35 years experience in secretarial work. Sandy is willing to help SWW in any way she can with her experience and skills and is proficient on the computer. She is also a member of RWA, LERA, ARE and is currently writing a non-fiction book based on her PhD Dissertation.

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, November 5, 10 am–noon*

## Writing Mainstream vs. Writing Genre

Paula Paul is the award-winning author of 20 novels, which include both mainstream and genre fiction. She will discuss the differences between the two, as well as the similarities. She will offer advice on how to make the switch from one to another, and why. Both the craft and marketing aspects will be discussed.

*Tuesday, November 15, 7–9 pm*

## A Panel Discussion with Local Publishers and Editors

Maria Elena Alvarez Luk, publisher of *Prime Time*; Dana Herrera, editor of *abqARTS Magazine*; and Lexi Petronis, editor of *Albuquerque the Magazine* will discuss writing for local magazines. A Q&A will follow.

*Saturday, December 3, 10 am–noon*

## Three Mistakes Writers Most Frequently Make

Drawing from his three-and-a-half decades as an author, New York Times bestseller, David Morrell, analyzes the three main roadblocks to a successful career. Morrell is the award-winning author of *First Blood*, the novel in which Rambo was created. He holds a Ph.D. in American Literature from the Pennsylvania State University and taught in the English department at the University of Iowa. “The mild-mannered professor with the bloody minded visions,” as one reviewer called him, Morrell is the author of 28 books, which include such bestsellers as *The Brotherhood of the Rose* (the basis for a top rated NBC miniseries), *The Fifth Profession*, and *Extreme Denial* (set in Santa Fe, where he lives).

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

### 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

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

- \* **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.
- \* **Louisiana Disaster Relief Fund** Monetary Donations are being received to assist libraries in Southern Louisiana. For more info visit [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).
- \* **Independent Booksellers need your help!** The American Booksellers Association has created a Bookseller Relief Fund to aid independent bookstores affected by Hurricane Katrina. [www.bookweb.org](http://www.bookweb.org).
- \* **Donate Books** The Katrina Literary Collective has been created to collect and distribute books to victims of the hurricane. Contact Amber Communications Group at [amberbk@aol.com](mailto:amberbk@aol.com).
- \* **Assist Arts Organizations** The Southern Arts Federation has set up an emergency relief fund to assist artists and arts organizations in Gulf Communities. Visit [www.southarts.org](http://www.southarts.org).
- \* **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. [www.leranm.org](http://www.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. [steffanieg@aol.com](mailto:steffanieg@aol.com).
- \* **Tony Hillerman Writers Conference—Focus on Mystery** at the Albuquerque Hilton, *November 3-6*. [www.sfworkshops.com](http://www.sfworkshops.com).
- \* **Joan Logghe** invites all to a potluck, meet, greet, and eat event, *Wordstock*, a celebration of the literary arts and small press fair. *November 12*, noon to 6pm. Call her at home (505) 753-3174 or on her cell (505) 459-3482.
- \* **Writers to Writers Presentation** Albuquerque, NM. Syndication by Eileen Stanton. *November 14, 6:30 pm*. Westside Hastings (corner of Coors Rd. and Montano). Contact David at (505) 898-0624 or [dcorwell@hotmail.com](mailto:dcorwell@hotmail.com).
- \* **November NM Book Co-Op Lunch features Selling Books at Hastings** Two Hastings managers will talk about selling books at the national chain. At noon on *November 16* at the Hometown Buffet, 9261 Coors Blvd NW. Reservations are encouraged by contacting [info@nmbookcoop.com](mailto:info@nmbookcoop.com) or by calling 344-9382.
- \* **MSU GF Literary Guild** In addition to publishing the work of local artists, editors hope to attract submissions from authors nationwide. The journal's editorial staff has announced a call for submissions of original artwork and has posted guidelines on the literary guild's web page <http://www.msugf.edu/litguild/index.htm>. Submission deadline for the first issue is *November 30*.
- \* **Plot Magic for Children's Books** *Saturday, December 3, 2005 from 1pm to 4pm*. New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque.
- \* **Nimrod International Journal** is currently accepting quality fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction for publication in the spring 2006 issue. Deadline for submissions is *December 15, 2005*. Send to: Nimrod, The University of Tulsa, 600 S. College Ave., Tulsa, OK 74104.

*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 11/15/05.** Bancroft Prize. [www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguides/amerihist/bancroft.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eguides/amerihist/bancroft.html).

**Deadline 11/30/05.** The Dorothy Brunsman Poetry Prize. [www.bearstarpress.com](http://www.bearstarpress.com). Offered annually to poets living in the Western States. Entry Fee: \$20.

**Deadline 11/30/05.** Writers' Journal Travel Writing Contest. Reading Fee: \$5/entry limit 4 entries per person. Send to: "Travel Writing Contest" Val-Tech Media, PO Box 394, Perham, MN 56573-0394.

**Deadline 12/15/05.** Pen/Martha Albrand Award for First Nonfiction. [awards@pen.org](mailto:awards@pen.org). Offered annually to American citizens or permanent residents. No entry fees.

**Deadline 12/15/05.** Malice Domestic Grants for Unpublished Writers. [www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org). Offered annually and designed to help the next generation of malice authors get their first work published and to foster quality malice literature. No entry fees.

**Deadline 12/31/05.** Sydney Taylor Book Award. [www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org).

**Deadline 1/15/06.** *Literal Latte* Fiction Award. [www.literal-latte.com](http://www.literal-latte.com). Offered annually to any writer "to provide talented writers with three essential writing tools for continued success: money, publication, and recognition."

**Deadline 1/30/06.** Writers' Journal Fiction Contest. Send to: "Fiction Contest" Val-Tech Media, PO Box 394, Perham, MN 56573-0394.

**Deadline 1/31/06.** The Cornelius Ryan Award. [www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org). Offered annually for excellence in a nonfiction book on international affairs. Entry Fee: \$125.

## Intellectual Property Services for Writers

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Copyright Registrations</li> <li>■ Intellectual Property Licensing</li> <li>■ Internet Issues</li> <li>■ Searches and Applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Publishing Agreements</li> <li>■ Foreign and Domestic</li> <li>■ Trademarks and Patents</li> <li>■ Litigation / Infringement</li> </ul>
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For those members wishing to receive an e-mail notice of SWW Events and Meetings,  
please send a request to be placed on the E-Alert system.  
Send the request to Gail Rubin at [publicity@southwestwriters.org](mailto:publicity@southwestwriters.org).

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

**Melody Groves** spoke at a recent Westerners dinner meeting in Albuquerque about the Butterfield Stage. Also, Desert Exposure Magazine ran her article and photos on the same topic in their November issue. Groves continues to write for abqARTS.

**Shirley Raye Redmond** recently sold articles to *Byline*, *Country Discoveries*, *Romantic Homes* and *Texas Co-Op Power*.

**Mary Zalmanek's** book *The Art of the Spark: 12 Habits to Inspire Romantic Adventures* was released in September 2005. Greg Godek, best-selling author of *1001 Ways to be Romantic*, said in the foreword: "I'm jealous of Mary. I'm jealous that I didn't think up the concept of 'Romantic Habits' first."

**Joseph Badal's** *The Pythagorean Soutlion* was the #4 best seller of all mass market paperbacks at Barnes & Noble last week. It has gone into a second printing two weeks after being published.

**Joyce Riha Linik** is coauthor of *Tapestry of Tales*, a new book for educators published by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Link also received Honorable Mention in *ByLine Magazine's* 2005 New Talent Short Story Contest for her story, "Primal Urges."

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 SWriters@aol.com. Don't miss this unique chance for free publicity and fame...and your right to brag!

### 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.

### Screenplay Reading Service

Need affordable assistance with:

- \* Character Structure
- \* Drive Elements
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Quick turnaround \* Detailed written notes \* Discussion of notes and suggestions

**Marc Calderwood, Award Winning Screenwriter**

Also available for screenwriting business consultation and coaching.

Call (505) 897-6474 or Email [marccalderwood@hotmail.com](mailto:marccalderwood@hotmail.com) for appointment and prices

**Critique Groups**

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

**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

**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

**Fiction & Nonfiction:**

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

**Any Genre:**

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

**New SWW Members**

Diane Daley

Samuel Francis

Rod Baker

Hildegund Steele

Virginia Seiser

Carol March

Marie Merrick

Donald Hamilton

Denise Hamilton

R. Marie Hinojosa

Paula Muran

Ann Steinmetz

June Mathis

Rebeca Mullen

Keith Moen

Ruth Morris

Stephen R. Donaldson

Steve Johnson

Rory McClannahan

**SouthWest Sage  
Ad Rates**

**Worldwide Circulation  
on the Internet**

The SWW website receives  
hundreds of thousands of  
page requests every month.

*Business card size: \$16*

*1/8 page: \$24*

*1/4 page: \$36*

*1/3 page: \$45*

*1/2 page: \$75*

*Full page: \$100*

*15% discount for 3 mos.  
20% discount for 6 mos.*

**Deadline:**

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

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

For information  
about benefits for  
SWW members contact:  
**Cheri Eicher**  
INDEPENDENT MEANS  
Group Benefits  
(505) 299-5919  
(800) 883-4310

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

## Recent Board Meeting Highlights

- ♦ The Board thanked Cal Coates for all his work at SWW. Cal resigned his post on the board because of his employment schedule.
- ♦ Potential board members for the 2006 board will be invited to attend the December Board Meeting. Larry Greenly will appoint the board with 2005 and 2006 boards' approval.
- ♦ Judy Ducharme accepted the position of conference co-chair for the remainder of 2005 with Gail Turnmire.
- ♦ The board discussed the format for the annual meeting and has plans to improve it next year. The service and Parris awards will be presented at the contest awards banquet instead of the annual meeting.
- ♦ The board voted to upgrade SWW software with QuickBooks.
- ♦ The membership committee will contact the winners of the contest to see if they would like to join SWW.
- ♦ Proposed changes in the Bylaws to make voting easier and less expensive will be handled by a committee consisting of Joanne Marsh—Chair, David Corwell, Loretta Hall, and Sandy Schairer
- ♦ Elsie Kreischer presented a brief history of SWW at the New Member Breakfast. The board would like to continue to present this to new members as a possible written history. The “memories” of beginning and early SWW will be compiled by the secretary of the board. See ad in Sage.
- ♦ The board approved the projected cost for advertising the next contest since it has to be arranged before the new year begins.
- ♦ Membership Committee will meet Oct. 21 at 10:00 AM with Melody Groves and Lila Anastas.
- ♦ The board will offer member website links from the SWW website. A small one-time fee of \$5.00 will be charged for members who continue to renew their annual membership.
- ♦ Monthly writing competitions will be instituted on a trial basis in 2006. Details will appear on the website.
- ♦ SWW will co-sponsor member Eileen Stanton's writers conference in April.

Board meetings are open to members as non-voting guests.

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

Larry Greenly

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

### VP/Office Coordinator/Parliamentarian

Rob Spiegel

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

### Secretary

Sandy Schairer

(505) 281-0546

·SandySchairer@southwestwriters.com

### Treasurer

Loretta Hall

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

### Membership

Lila Anastas

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

### Public Relations

Melody Groves

MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

### Critique Service

Edith Greenly

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

### Policies, Procedures, and Audit/Historian

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952

### Volunteer Coordinator

Cal Coates

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

### Members At Large

Judy Ducharme

(505) 256-9659 ·

JudyDucharme@southwestwriters.com

### Writer's Contest 2005 Co-Chairs

David Corwell

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

Joan Marsh

JoanMarsh@southwestwriters.com

### Nomination Committee Chair

Fred Aiken

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

### Other Key Positions

#### SWW Sage Editor

Tom Gibbons

sageeditor@southwestwriters.com

#### E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin

publicity@southwestwriters.org

#### Speaker Coordinator

Larry Greenly

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

#### Interim Conference Chair

Lela Belle Wolfert

(505) 899-2952



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](http://www.southwestwriters.org)

[SWriters@aol.com](mailto:SWriters@aol.com)

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

SouthWest Writers Presents  
**Write Your Way to a Best Seller**

November 19, 2005

8:30 am to 5:30 pm

Howard Johnson Hotel

Registration opens at 7:30 am

Howard Johnson Hotel, 15 Hotel Circle NE, Eubank and I-40, Albuquerque, NM

Special Conference Room rate \$44.00 per night, as available. Phone the hotel (505) 296-4852.

For a registration form, please visit:

[www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)