



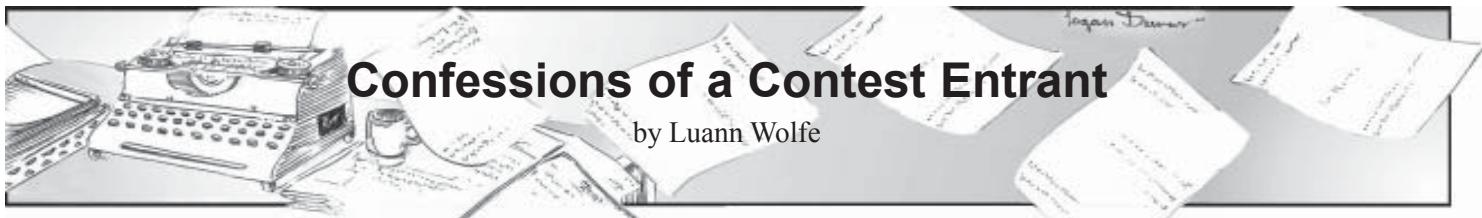
The SouthWest Sage

Vol. 21, No. 10

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

October 2006

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



Confessions of a Contest Entrant

by Luann Wolfe

It is ten days before the deadline for the SouthWest Writers annual contest. I just promised Lela Belle Wolfert that I would enter the poetry and essay competitions. Those of you who attend SouthWest Writers (SWW) meetings may know Lea Belle as the "Queen of Everything." I don't intend to break my promise to the Queen.

There is just one problem: I know nothing about writing poetry and I wrote my last essay in high school. Although I've done a great deal of work in publishing, it wasn't as a writer and I didn't take creative writing classes in high school or in college. But how tough can it be to write eight hundred words in a week?

I have a story about our pets that I figure I can turn into an essay before the deadline. I tell my husband that he'll have to fend for himself at mealtime until I finish my contest entries and I run over to the library where I pick up a few books on how to write poetry and essays.

I had never thought about writing poetry until three weeks ago, when I listened to twenty-two extraordinary poets perform their work at a SWW meeting. I was so inspired by that experience that I just had to try it for myself. But creating my contest entries turns out to be harder than I thought it would be. I look at the page, and nothing comes out, and what I do write seems stupid and trite.

I'm also very confused by the contest's formatting guidelines. I each day I read the contest rules on the SWW website (<http://southwestwriters.com>), thinking that if I read them often enough I might actually understand what they mean.

I've never written anything in double-spaced format. I look through the writing book I got from the library but I still can't figure it out.

Each time I want to quit I remember advice from Lela Belle, the Queen: "Just do your best, and send it in, because no matter what the outcome, you'll get a lot out of entering the contest."

I keep re-working the essay and three poems and slowly they come together. It's now three hours before the deadline. I haven't yet formatted the essay; I'm still learning how to use my new computer. I have no idea how to adjust the margins, or add the footers. While I'm trying to create a header and page numbers, I accidentally lose all of my last-minute changes. And the post office closes in less than two hours.

I go out to the living room, sit down on a footstool, and start to cry. My cat, G.G., comes up and stares at me, as if to say, "You don't have time at act like this. Go and finish your project." I go back to the computer, re-enter all of the changes, and format the essay.

With just thirty minutes left I make the drive to the post office in record time, run in and get in line. There are only seven minutes to spare when I turn in my contest entries to be post-marked. A huge wave of relief washes over me. I did it. I entered my first writing contest.

In the subsequent weeks, I wonder how my entries stack up against the other submissions. Perhaps my three poems and my essay have so wowed the judge that she hails me as a new American writing talent. Or maybe my entries are so terrible that she wants to gouge out her eyes after reading them.

A few months later I find two packets from SWW in my mailbox. I rip them open. Inside I find no special invitation for me to attend the Awards Banquet; I'm not one of the finalists in either of my categories. I pull out the critiques from each packet. Here is the feedback that can help shape me as a writer.

I look at the essay critique. It lists all of my formatting errors. It also suggests that, for the sake of clarity, to use fewer pronouns and more names or nouns. However, at the bottom of the page, it says, "Overall, pretty well written, and if cleaned it up a bit, it would be publishable."

Now I read the poetry critique. The first two stanzas of one poem are "lovely, but it falls flat in the third stanza." And the man who did my critique has some very good advice. He recommends I try "more subtle, figurative ways to make my points," and to "look for fresh ways to say the same things."

I know exactly what he means; my writing is about as subtle as a sledgehammer. Fortunately, I won't go to jail for writing bad poetry.

What did I gain from entering my first writing contest? Most importantly, I received valuable feedback that will help me become a better writer. At this stage in my life, there's very little more important to me than improving my writing. I also gained more confidence in my writing ability by participating in the contest. Even though my first attempt at poetry didn't set the world on fire I'm willing to keep trying until I get it right.

Will I enter the contest again in 2007? You bet I will. Only next time, I'm going to start working on my entries earlier than I did this year.


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Sage**

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Is it time for you to renew your SWW membership?

SWW dues are \$60 per year (or \$100 for 2 years).

Two individuals joining or renewing together get a special rate of \$50 each.

Full-time students under 18 with proof of status and current 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.

15 Editing Tips

by Deborah Finkelstein

You've written the story and you want to send it in. But how do you know it's ready?

It's time to edit your story. Self-editing can be difficult; when you read something too many times you will stop actually seeing what's on the page. Here are a few tips to help you evaluate your own work, and a few things to do before you share it with others:

Do you have a catchy introduction? Your beginning should draw readers into the story.

Does it have a conflict and a beginning, middle, and an end? The story can have great description, and funny dialogue, but without conflict and progression, it's not a story; it's a piece of a story.

Read it aloud. Reading aloud will allow you to hear mistakes. Your ears will catch things your eyes missed. You will hear grammar mistakes, repeated words, etc.

How do the paragraphs begin? Does every paragraph begin "Mary did this" and "Mary did that" or "She did this" and "She did that." Don't begin every paragraph the same way. Make it more interesting for the reader.

Are you using active or passive verbs? You should only write, "He began to walk," if the fact that he *is beginning* is important. For example, "After nine years in a wheelchair he decided to try physical therapy and then he began to walk." It is not important in the following example, however: "She began to walk over to him." Instead write, "She walked over to him." This is more active.

Avoid overuse of exclamation points, italics, parentheses, etc. Exclamation points should almost never be used and many writers make heavy use of certain punctuation or italics.

Show, don't tell. "He was angry" is telling. "He stomped his feet," "He clenched his fists," and "He banged on the table" are ways of showing anger.

Have you remained in the same tense for the whole story? Is the whole story from one point of view? If you start in present tense, make sure the whole story is in present tense. If you start off the story in first person then keep the story in first person.

Have you changed any character's name? Many writers start off a story with a character having one name—Nick for example—and later change that character's name—Matt for example—but forget to change the name in earlier parts of the text.

Is it vivid? Are your characters, plot and dialogue realistic? Do readers know your location? Do readers know your characters?

Are you an expert? If you mention a subway line in New York City, make sure it's a real subway line. If you mention the military, make sure you have the correct details on rank and other elements.

Ask a friend who knows writing and a friend who knows grammar to read it for you. Ask a friend to read it aloud to you. When you read it, the story sounds the way you want, but when your friend reads it you may hear mistakes or things you want to change or clarify. It's the same with asking a friend who knows writing. They will provide you with constructive criticism and examples of ways to improve. Sometimes one friend knows writing and another grammar. If none of your friends fit the bill, consider working with an editor, writing coach, or joining a writing group.

Is it laid out properly? No matter where you're sending this story, (magazines, publishers, contests, etc.), the recipient will have requirements on how they want to receive it. Double-check their requirements and make sure your story fits them. There may be requirements on length, margins, fonts, single/double spacing, location of title on the page, page numbering, location of your name and contact information.

Check the spelling and grammar. It may seem obvious, but it is a step many writers overlook.

Read it one last time. Just to make sure. Then send it and start a new story.

George Terrell

Novel and Short Story Author and Playwright

See My Web Site:

www.George-Terrell.com

Free Professional Email Address for SWW Members

You can give editors, agents, and booksellers an address like JoeSmith@southwestwriters.com and their messages will be automatically forwarded to your existing address.

Send an e-mail message to LorettaHall@southwestwriters.com, including your choice of SWW address and your existing e-mail address.

The Million Dollar Question

by Gunda Siska

Is your manuscript marketable? With a little planning, the answer might be *yes*. A marketing plan is a document to keep your marketing efforts focused, organized and successful. However, most authors don't have a marketing plan. You may think that once a New York publisher falls in love with your manuscript the publisher will do it. But that is a misconception according to the experts in the industry. The publisher will buy and publish your book and hopes it will catch on. But if it doesn't sell, your book—and potentially your writing career—will come to a premature end. It's harsh, but true. You are responsible for selling your book, so take ownership of your project.

That's the bad news. The good news is that you can write a marketing plan at any stage of your writing career. If your book sales have stalled, you can jumpstart sales. If your book is being published, you can get yourself and your publicist on the same page. If you are writing a book, you can make your manuscript more marketable.

So, where to start? Answer the following questions:

Why will readers want this book? Why would Oprah want to have you on her show? These questions will form your hook and the basis for your promotional events.

Who is your audience? Who would buy this book? Be as specific as possible. The answer will tell you where to advertise and publicize.

Where does that audience hang out? What kind of physical and internet places do they frequent? That's where you are going to sell your book.

When you are all done answering the above questions, get together with your critique group or friends and brainstorm. Then surf the web and save all articles that pertain to marketing and publicity. And stay tuned to the *Sage* for more articles on marketing and the efforts of other members.

NEW DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The new *Sage* deadline is the 10th of each month. 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 a Word 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. Send submissions to editor@southwestwriters.com.

Editorial:

A Passion for Greatness

by Larry Castillo-Wilson

Where have you gone, literary greatness? In our lifetime the race of literary giants have fallen like redwood trees. As never before floods of words have inundated our world, but few are island paradises of genuine greatness. The English critic Cyril Connolly once suggested: "Let us reflect whether there be any living writer whose silence we would consider a literary disaster." We have had our share of disasters, but have we had any literary disasters?

Some might say that the reading public wants only mediocrity, schmaltz, triteness, simplistic ideas and half-truths, bland and simple style, vocabulary that refuses to grow up. In essence, writing at its lowest common denominator. This assumption is clearly debunked by a glance back at Shakespeare, who wrote some of the most marvelous works in the English language for a population struggling to emerge from barbarity. Whatever the case, it is my conviction that in every age the reading public will read excellence that possesses beauty of style, and significance of substance—writing that is interesting, meaningful and exciting.

Time essayist Lance Morrow believes the appearance of great writing in the world is a miracle. Certainly, there is something miraculous about the creative process, but great writing demands one's highest effort. Great writing demands a passion for excellence: a standard of excellence within us that we will tenaciously pursue even if it means sweating drops of blood; the writing of sentences flaming with meaning; the expression of the full range, depth and intensity of our experience in a way that invokes insight that ripples across time and cultures; phrases that dance with meaning rather than words that lie like cadavers on the page; writing that stretches the imagination, dilates the diction, and romances the language.

Great writing requires deep awareness of human nature and keen observation of the events and behavior around us. In the words of Samuel Johnson, "Shakespeare must have looked upon mankind with perspicacity, in the highest degree curious and attentive."

What is the future of writing? I long for, I hope for, and I pray for a new age of great literature, beginning with us. We stand on the threshold of a literature that will transcend time and space. I envision words of enduring meaning and beauty that will stir a reader sitting in a cubicle in a space colony a thousand years hence. I assert that the human species has a great destiny to achieve in the universe. We will fulfill that purpose only if we can create a great cosmic literature, a literature to be our inspiration and our companion.

—
SouthWest Writers member and United Methodist minister Larry Castillo-Wilson writes poetry, history articles, devotional material, short stories, theological books and historic road research papers.

Events, Book Signings and Workshops

Sun, 10/1, 12-2pm: **David Stuart**, *The Guaymas Chronicles*, memoir of a young gringo anthropologist on Mexico's Sea of Cortez. Fiesta Market (in the ABQ Sunport, pre-security), 2200 Sunport Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 243-3100

Sun, 10/1, 2:30 pm: **Jeanne Shannon** will read poems from *Angelus* at Title Wave Books, 1408 Eubank NE (Eubank and Constitution in the Princess Jeanne Shopping Center).

Thurs, 10/5, 7-9pm: **Francisco Balderrama**, *Decade of Betrayal*, about the experiences of individuals illegally shipped from the U.S. to Mexico in the 1930s. National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 246-2261

Fri, 10/6, 5-8 pm: **David J. Corwell**, *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*. Tramway Hastings, 12501 Candelaria Rd. NE, Albuquerque. (505) 332-8855.

Fri, 10/6, 7pm: **Author Panel**. Richard Etulain, Glenda Riley, and Nasario Garcia discuss new and old Western and Southwestern stories. Page One Bookstore, 11018 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 294-2026.

Fri, 10/6, 7pm: **Telling Western and Southwestern Stories:** New and Old. Well known and respected authors and their writings about the west. Page One Bookstore, 11018 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 294-2026.

Sat, 10/7, 11am-1pm: **Edith Tarbescu** will sign the children's books *Anushka's Voyage* and *The Crow* at the new Hastings bookstore, Tramway and Candelaria. Her website is: www.home.earthlink.net/~tarbescu.

Sat, 10/7, 3-5 pm: **Self-Publishing and Local Author Fair.** Authors are invited to bring their books to promote independently and sell at Page One's Self-Publishing Fair. Page One Bookstore, 11018 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 294-2026x3060.

Sat, 10/7, 3pm: **Richard Etulain**, *Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West*, history of the many peoples and cultures of the American West. Borders—West Side, 10420 Coors Bypass NW, Albuquerque, NM, (505) 792-3180.

Sat, 10/7, 4-6pm: **Raymond Shewack & William Frangos**, *49 Trout Streams of New Mexico*, Hastings, 4315 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 299-7750.

Sun, 10/8, 3pm: **Arthur Bachrach**, *D.H. Lawrence in New Mexico*, Taos residents' recollections of the Lawrence's life and friends in 1920s. Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 344-8139

Mon, 10/9, 6:30 pm: **Harold Burnett**, Writers to Writers Presentation, From Memories to Memoirs. Westside Hastings (corner of Coors Rd. and Montano), Albuquerque. Call David at (505) 898-0624 or dcorwell@hotmail.com.

Tues, 10/10, 7pm: **Michael Weinstein**, *With God on Our Side: One Man's War against an Evangelical Coup in America's Military*. An important book at a critical time in our nation's history, the story of one man's courageous struggle to thwart creeping evangelism permeating America's military. Weinstein is from Albuquerque.

Wed, 10/11, 1-3pm: **Ana Baca**, *Mama Fela's Girls*, life in northeastern New Mexico at the height of the Great Depression. Treasure House Books, 2012 South Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 242-7204.

Thurs, 10/12, 1-3pm: **Two-time Agatha Award Finalist** Pari Noskin Taichert signs *The Clovis Incident* and *The Belen Hitch*. Treasure House Books, 2012 South Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 242-7204.

Thur, 10/12 & Thur, 10/19, 6:30-8:30 pm: **David J. Corwell**, Writing Course, Genre Writing. \$25.00 Los Volcanes Senior Center, 6500 Los Volcanes NW, Albuquerque. Persons 50 years and older may become a center member for \$13.00 a year. This membership fee is in addition to the cost of the course and is valid at all six senior centers in Albuquerque. (505) 836-8745.

Thur, 10/12, 7pm: **Ana Baca**, *Mama Fela's Girls*, See 10/11 listing. Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 344-8139

Thur, 10/12, 7pm: **Calling all kids** and bear lovers! Visit OsoBear and learn all about his explorations and adventures throughout New Mexico! OsoBear will bear-graph his very own *New Mexico A to Z* activity book. Page One Bookstore, 11018 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 294-2026.

Fri, 10/13, 1-3pm: **Slim Randles**, *Sun Dog Days*, two middle-aged cowboys who rekindle their friendship while running wild horses. Treasure House Books, 2012 South Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 242-7204.

Fri, 10/13, 5-7pm: **Ana Baca**, *Mama Fela's Girls*, See 10/11 listing. Casa de Avila, 324 San Felipe St NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 242-3753.

Sat&Sun, 10/14&15, 9am-4pm: **Wendy Keller** teaches about becoming a successful author/speaker, \$298. Info and registration at <http://www.kellermedia.com>, Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Road NE, Albuquerque, NM (505)-821-3333.

Thur, 10/19, 7-9pm: **Thomas Chávez**, *New Mexico Past and Future*, new perspective on the colorful history of New Mexico includes the stories of many of the people who have spent their lives in the area from before the arrival of Europeans in the sixteenth century through the present day. National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 246-2261.

Thur, 10/26, 7-9pm: **Ana Baca**, *Mama Fela's Girls* See 10/11 listing. National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 246-2261.

10/27, 5-7pm: **Mary Sundstrom**, illustrator, *Little Cow in Valle Grande*, bilingual children's story that shares the adventures of a young calf. Casa de Avila, 324 San Felipe St NW, Albuquerque, NM (505) 242-3753.

10/28, 3pm: **Rudolfo Anaya**, *Curse of the ChupaCabra*. Book signing and ChupaCabra costume contest. National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th Street SW Albuquerque, NM (505) 246-2261.

10/29, 12-2pm: **Emmett Garcia**, *Coyote and the Sky* & Mary Sundstrom, Illustrator, *Little Cow in Valle Grande* (see 10/27 listing). Sundstrom's book is about the Santa Ana Pueblo creation legend that shares with children the story of the beginning of the stars and constellations. Fiesta Market (in the ABQ Sunport, pre-security), 2200 Sunport Blvd SE Albuquerque, New Mexico (505) 243-3100.

Mon&Tues, 10/30&31, 7pm: **Mitch Albom**, *For One More Day*. *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*, through Alboms' inspiring characters and masterful storytelling readers will newly appreciate those whom they love. Page One Bookstore, 11018 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, NM (505) 294-2026.

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Events, Book Signings and Workshops, cont.

Tues-Sun, 11/2-5, all day: **Tony Hillerman Writers Conference.** Wes Studi, who portrayed Lt. Joe Leaphorn in the PBS movies based on Hillerman's books and Tony Hillerman will be on hand. Hillerman also discusses his latest book, *The Shape Shifter*. www.hillermanconference.com for price, events and details.

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

Author Services and Calls for Submissions

Copier Technical Services (aka JT Tech Services) repairs printers, copiers and typewriters, sells supplies and new or reconditioned equipment. The business participates in the SWW Membership Perk Agreement: members receive a 10% discount. They have temporarily moved to 2520 La Charles NE, Abq. Bruce, (505) 296-6331.

Blogger John Knudson has a weekly poetry post. He wants poems by local poets. Contact him if you'd like to post a poem at johnknuds@ix.netcom.com or see his blog at: <http://albloggerque.blogspot.com>.

Cezanne's Carrot, a Santa Fe-based literary journal is accepting submissions of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and visual art. Find current and past issues and full submission guidelines at the website, www.cezannescarrot.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. editor@newathome.com.

Local Book Clubs and Published Authors wanted for the Author Book Club Connection (ABCC). When the information is put together it will be put on a web site so book clubs can contact the authors. If you are in a book club or a published author and would like to be part of ABCC contact Scott at alley0412@msn.com.

The Million Pound Story, an online writing project, is seeking loose plot outlines for a story of the fantasy genre. The outline will offer writers a starting point and should define a timeframe, basic information on characters, world & environment and loosely define the story. Go to www.millionpoundstory.com for more information. Send submissions to story@millionpoundstory.com.

New company to help writers for performance. The Screen-Play Trio is a team of experienced screenplay and stage play writers help you write, adapt, and critique works for performance. Contact Cliff Gravel, 505-888-1747 or see the New Mexico Film Directory at www.nmfilm.com.

A New Forum for all things poetry is up at abqlslams.org. Go there and poke around, join, and post.

NM Poetry Tangents: Call for submissions for local poets and writers for a NM based poetry anthology to be published in January. The project will feature selections by Sandra Cisneros and Jimmy Santiago Baca. <http://nmpoetrytangents.com> or e-mail Zach at tigerbrighttiger@yahoo.com.

Seeking History of SouthWest Writers The SWW Board is compiling a historical archive of the beginning and early development of SouthWest Writers. All members who can contribute information, please send email to [judyducharme](mailto:judyducharme@southwestwriters.org) or sandyschairs@southwestwriters.org.

The Writers Room is for writers to write, read, use the free wireless internet or reserve the space for a class or event. Upstairs at 826 Camino de Monte Rey, between St. Francis and Pacheco in Santa Fe. (505) 577-1125 or litcenter@recursos.org.



Contest Connection

Congratulations to the 2006 SWW Writer's Contest Winners

by Joanne Bodin, 2006 Contest Chair

Our Awards Banquet was a huge success. We want to thank everyone who attended and who participated in this exciting event. Thank you especially to all of the winners who came from out of state. We had people who attended not only from New Mexico, but from Colorado, Texas, California, Arizona, North Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico. We will feature more details of the Awards Banquet in the November Sage. A special thank you to **Michele Buchanan** for her wonderful music on the Celtic harp, to **Chocolate Amor** for their tantalizing and delicious chocolate fountain, and to **John Candelaria** for his excellent job as our master of ceremonies.

All of the 2006 winners are listed in this issue of the Sage.

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN TO THE WINNERS!

And congratulations to all those who took the time to enter the contest this year.

We look forward to the 2007 SWW Writer's Contest. Many of you also took the time to mail in your evaluation forms and we appreciate your feedback. Based on your evaluations, we will be making some changes and adjustments to next year's contest. We also will have a new contest chair for 2007. I will serve as a resource for the new chair; however, I will not have time to take on the full responsibility next year. It has been a pleasure working with all of the SouthWest Writers' volunteers who made this contest possible. Thank you to all of the participants who contacted me through email and offered such valuable suggestions and feedback.

Remember, writing is one of the most important tools we have in our society. It is through the power of the written word that our thoughts, hopes, dreams, and visions help sustain and shape future generations.

Good luck and keep writing!

--

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.

2006 Winners of the SouthWest Writers's Annual Contest

Storyteller Award Winner

1st Place: *The October Man: A Novel*. David Halperin, Durham, NC

Mainstream/Literary Novel

1st Place: *The October Man: A Novel*. David Halperin, Durham, NC

2nd Place: *Dominant Male*. Timothy Burns, Taos, NM

3rd Place: *Midnight Blues*. Lois Cutts Sullivan, Los Lunas, NM

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel

1st Place: *Rummage for Death*. Kristin Parrott, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *Peace, Love & Murder*. Nancy Conner, Ithaca, NY

3rd Place: *Eyes of the Night Jaguar*. Suzanna Neal, San Diego, CA

Romance Novel

1st Place: *A Hunk for the Holidays*. Cathleen Smith, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *The Stone Key*. Gabriella Anderson, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *Dark Legacy*. Barb Simmons, Bosque Farms, NM

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel

1st Place: *Into the Crow Wood*. Marian Frear, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *Demon Lover*. Armando de Aguero Abq, NM

3rd Place: *What Is Is*. James Manton, Mesquite, TX

Historical/American Frontier/Western Novel

1st Place: *Flaherty's Run*. William Henry Hoffman, Fort Myers, FL

2nd Place: *Under a Crimson Sky*. Jackie Clements-Marenda, Staten Island, NY

3rd Place: *Blood Oath*. Timothy Burns, Taos, NM

Middle Grade/Young Adult Novel

1st Place: *Ringing Bird*. Keith E. Moen, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *The Thing about Pomegranates*. Iliana Pappas, New York, NY

3rd Place: *Pain and Power*. Kari Haworth, San Jose, CA

Science Fiction/Fantasy/ Horror Short Story

1st Place: *Path to F'dar*, Darren Moore, Phoenix, AZ

2nd Place: *Oberon's Bane*. Wendy Bickel, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *The Wind Still Whispers Their Names*. Sean Abbott, Abq, NM

Mainstream/Literary Short Story

1st Place: *Cinema Verite*. John Blanchard, Oakland, CA

2nd Place: *Interstate*. Rory McClannahan, Edgewood, NM

3rd Place: *Duck Pond*, Marilyn Stablein, Abq, NM

Mystery/Romance Short Story

1st Place: *Dead Man Breathing*, David Corwell, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *A Soft Place to Fall*. Susan Coppola, Miami, FL

3rd Place: *The Bounty Hunters*. James Kuykendall, Laredo, TX

Historical, Western, Etc. Short Story

1st Place: *Chupacabra*. Ana Manwaring, Penngrove, CA

2nd Place: *Albuquerque Sky*. Carolyn Donnell, San Jose, CA

3rd Place: *Double Jack: A Miner's Mark*. Val Valentine, Pagosa, CO

Middle Grade/Young Adult Short Story

1st Place: *The Poor House*. George Youngblood, Spring, TX

2nd Place: *Captive Audience*. Sheryl Allen & Deborah Synder Abq, NM

3rd Place: *A Mustang for Blanca*. Paula C. Merrow, Abq, NM

Nonfiction Article/Essay

1st Place: *A Discharge by Any Other Name*. Peggy Spencer, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *In the Medina*. Gregory McElwain, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *Discover the Sandia Foothills*. Robert Huffman, Abq, NM

Children's Nonfiction Article

1st Place: *Fred Harvey, The Father of Fast Food*. Sheila Wood Foard, Van Buren, MO

2nd Place: *Why Abraham Lincoln Became an Inventor*. Larry Greenly, Abq, NM

Nonfiction Book

1st Place: *Rosebuddies*. Louella Bryant, Lincoln, VT

2nd Place: *Living with Nephew*. Sherri L. Burr, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *No Heroic Measures- The Life and Times of a Hospice Nurse*. Nancy Costea, Abq, NM

Nonfiction Children's Book

1st Place: *Divided Loyalties: The Story of Sarah Townsend*. Wendy Bickel, Albuquerque, NM

2nd Place: *Spirit Horse: Woody Crumbo, Native American Artist*. Margaret Parks, Tijeras, NM

Children's Picture Book (Fiction & Nonfiction)

1st Place: *Brat the Pirate*. Leslie Prichard, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *Five Stones*. David S. Hagan, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *Until Red Dust Circles the Moon*, Patricia Hernandez-Gonzales, Abq, NM

Screenplay

1st Place: *My Late Wife*. Marc Calderwoodm, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *Orgasms and Other Lies*. Elizabeth Appell, Kentfield, CA

3rd Place: *Dancing Like Myself*. Tracy Koretsky, Berkeley, CA

Poetry

1st Place: *My Son Strapped to my Back*. Marilyn Stablein, Abq, NM

2nd Place: *Recollected in Tranquility*. Heather O'Shea, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *Dime Box Time*. Jamie Erin Henry, Abq, NM

Spanish Language Nonfiction Article/Essay

1st Place: *No lo Suficiente*. Ricardo Gonzalez, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

2nd Place: *Funeral en McDonald's*. Margarita B. Montalvo, Abq, NM

3rd Place: *Guernica*. Lucretia Tippit, Abq, NM

SouthWest Writers' Pitch, Publish, and Promote Conference

(The one-day conference so BIG it'll take a day and a half to hold it)

Howard Johnson Hotel & Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM

November 18, 2006 from 8:30 - 5:00 and November 19, 2006 from 8:00 - Noon

What do you do once your book is written, revised, and edited countless times? To fulfill the goal of most writers, it's time to attract attention to your book, get it published, and make it a best seller. It's time to pitch, publish, and promote.

PITCH — To interest an agent or editor in your book, you need to learn how to pitch. Katharine Sands wrote the book on "pitchcraft." She'll give valuable advice and insight on how to attract and work with literary professionals. Katharine Sands is a literary agent with Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency in New York City. She represents a wide range of authors in a broad range of categories — category and literary fiction; chick lit; nonfiction (popular culture, entertainment, personal growth, leisure); home arts; and even more eclectic books on travel, humor, and spirituality. Katharine is also looking for wonderful writers to add to her client base, and she'll be taking a number of scheduled pitch sessions during the conference.

PUBLISH — To tell us about publishing, who better than the CEO of a dynamic small press? Bob Sanders from Mundania Press will tell you how to make a publisher say "yes" to your book. Come to the conference and find out what publishers want. Yes, talent is important, but publishing is a business. You need a business plan. Bob Sanders will explain how to make one and why you should. Mundania Press (www.mundaniapress.com) publishes a wide variety of genres in different formats — paperbacks, hardcovers, e-books, and now audiobooks. They've published over 150 books with many more to come. Bob will also be available for a number of scheduled 15-minute mentoring sessions during the conference.

PROMOTE — It doesn't matter whether you get published by a big house, a small press, or yourself, to sell the number of books you want to sell, you need to understand the marketplace and how to market your book. Jerry D. Simmons (www.WritersReaders.com) spent more than twenty years in sales and management at what was The Time Warner Book Group, now known as Hachette Book Group USA. He knows the industry. He knows what happens when a book is published. Most importantly, he knows what needs to happen for your book to sell successfully. When not presenting, Jerry will hold a number of scheduled 15-minute mentoring sessions to address your needs about marketing, publicity, or the publishing industry in general.

Cost for the conference is \$119 for SWW members (\$125 if you register after 11/3/06) and \$179 for non-members (\$185 if you register after 11/3/06). The non-member cost includes a one-year membership in SWW.

Enjoy a buffet banquet at JB's (adjacent to the conference center) Saturday night from 6:30 to 8:30. The cost is \$30/person. Watch SWW's webpage and next month's *Sage* for details on the keynote speaker.

If you have questions, contact Keith Pyeatt, SWW Conference Coordinator, at k_pyeatt@comcast.net or call the SWW office at (505) 265-9485.

How Would You Like To See Your Byline Here?

We need your articles for the *Sage*!

The Sage Editor wants articles on SWW meetings and events.

This is your chance to flex your reporting muscles, send in your opinions, test out a new style, have fun writing and get published in the *Sage*.

We prefer articles be saved as Word documents and sent by email.

Don't forget to tell us what the article is about and a little bit about yourself.

Please send to editor@southwestwriters.com.

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

Registration includes conference presentations, a box lunch Saturday, refreshments, and the possibility of either a 10-minute pitch session with Katherine Sands or a 15-minute mentoring session with Bob Sanders or Jerry Simmons. The number of pitch and mentoring sessions are limited and will be assigned on a first-come basis. Not everyone will get their first or second choice. Not everyone will even get a session, but the earlier you register, the better your chances.

Register by November 3rd (postmark date if mailed) to take advantage of the early bird rate.

Conference times:

Check in from 7:45 - 8:15 Saturday morning. Please be on time.

Conference from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday and 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon Sunday.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

Are you a member of SouthWest Writers? YES NO

How did you learn about this conference? _____

Conference Cost (non-member registration includes a one-year membership to SWW):

@ \$119.00 SWW member cost (registered by 11/3/06) = \$ _____
 @ \$125.00 SWW member cost (registered after 11/3/06) = \$ _____
 @ \$179.00 non-member cost (registered by 11/3/06) = \$ _____
 @ \$185.00 non-member cost (registered after 11/3/06) = \$ _____
 will attend the Saturday night buffet banquet @ \$30.00/each = \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Indicate method of payment (the only credit cards we accept are MasterCard and Visa)

Check or money order (made out to SouthWest Writers)
 MasterCard
 Visa

If paying by credit card:

Cardholder Name: _____
Card Number: _____
Security Code: _____ (the last 3 digits of the number near your signature)
Expiration Date: _____
Billing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I'd like a pitch or mentoring session with (indicate first and second preference):

Katharine Sands, agent from Sarah Jane Freymann Agency, 10-minute pitch session
 Jerry Simmons, marketing and publicity expert, 15-minute mentoring session
 Bob Sanders, CEO of Mundania Press, 15-minute mentoring session

Saturday lunch preference (check one):

turkey sandwich box lunch
 vegetarian salad box lunch
 chef salad box lunch

Special diet requirements or allergies _____

If attending the Saturday night dinner with keynote speaker, indicate dinner choice(s) below:

Dinner Buffet — carving station w/roast beef or roasted turkey breast, rice pilaf w/Julienne vegetables and walnuts, tossed salad w/assortment of salad complements, new potatoes w/garlic and parsley, two hot seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea, or soft drinks.
 Vegetarian Buffet — same as above except with pasta primavera as main dish.

Howard Johnson Hotel and Convention Center is located near I-40 and Eubank (northeast of the intersection) at 15 Hotel Circle NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

For hotel reservations, call Howard Johnson at (505) 296-4852 and ask for the SouthWest Writers Conference special rate (\$44.95 plus tax per night).

Mail this registration form to: SWW, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

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, October 7, 10 am to Noon

Writer as Witness

Demetria Martinez will discuss writing as both a spiritual practice and a political undertaking in a century that demands more of the writer/citizen than ever before. She will also offer practical advice on how to bring forth voice in various genres, with a discussion of how she wrote her novel, *Mother Tongue*, over a period of nine months while working full time as a reporter.

Demetria Martinez is an author, activist, lecturer and columnist. Her autobiographical essays, *Confessions of a Berlitz-Tape Chicana* (Univ. of Oklahoma Press), winner of the 2006 International Latino Book Award in the category of Best Biography, is now out. Her books include the widely translated novel, *Mother Tongue* (Ballantine), winner of a Western States Book Award for Fiction, and two books of poetry, *Breathing Between the Lines* and *The Devil's Workshop* (Univ. of Arizona Press). (Martinez reads a sampling of poems from *Breathing Between the Lines* on her new CD, with music by Devon Hall.) She writes a column for the *National Catholic Reporter*, an independent progressive newsweekly.

Demetria is also a creativity coach. You can learn more about her coaching at her website: www.demetriamartinez.com

Tuesday, October 17, 7 to 9pm

Revising Fiction - Making Sense of the Madness

With all the books, talks, classes and workshops out there on self-editing, a writer can quickly become overwhelmed by all the advice. There's so much to edit for: plot, characterization, scene structure, digressions, consistency, setting, backstory, point of view, passive voice, showing vs. telling, dialog, cliches, pacing, grammar, format, and much, much more. How do you catch it all? How do you know when you've got it right? How do you even know where to start?

This talk will offer a practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel to first draft to final product. You'll receive a complete set of presentation notes, including numerous examples, a self-editing checklist, and a list of recommended references—resources that you can take home and use to better your writing.

Kirt Hickman was a technical writer for fourteen years before branching into fiction. He's made a living out of taking complex sets of requirements, or in this case advice, and boiling them down into simple, effective procedures. His methodical approach to self-editing can help you convert your first draft from mess to masterpiece. Kirt has completed two novels and has two more in the works. He's been an SWW mentor since the inception of the mentoring program and has participated in discussion or critique panels for multiple SWW conferences.

Saturday, November 4, 10 am to Noon

The Freelance Advantage

Kelly Koepke will speak about her experience as a freelance business and lifestyle writer. Kelly helps businesses small and large, profit and not for profit, better communicate with their employees and customers via brochures, website copy, newsletters, press releases, letters to the editor and ghostwritten articles.

She also contributes feature stories to a variety of local publications, including Dukecityfix.com, abqARTS, Localflavor, the *Albuquerque Journal*, the *New Mexico Business Weekly*, the *New Mexico Business Journal*, and *New At Home*.

Kelly Koepke received her bachelor's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College in Santa Fe, and her Master of Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Before striking out on her own, she spent 15 years as a non-profit manager. Her business training and experience translates into a keen understanding of marketing and public relations for her clients.

She is a board member of and marketing committee chair for the Art Alliance, an arts advocacy organization.

SouthWest Writers Workshops

Saturday, October 7, 1 to 4pm

Writing in the Mythological Voice: Elevating the Mundane into Myth

Writing in the mythological voice takes you out of this time and place into a magical space that “never was but always is.” By using ancient archetypal linguistic rituals to elevate your truths into mythological language, you learn to transform humdrum, taken-for-granted parts of your life into powerful writing that touches people deeply at all levels.

While writing memoir roots the reader in a specific time and place, the mythological voice is the voice of ancient story telling, the voice that aims straight for the reader’s heart and spirit. Working with this voice allows writers of fiction and memoir not only to discover deeper truths in their and their characters’ experiences but also to present those truths and experiences in the most universal way possible. This is the voice that reunites fact and myth, truth and meaning.

Natalie Reid has been conducting writing seminars in the U.S., Europe, and Asia for 30 years, working in the fields of transformational writing, business and academic writing, and contrastive rhetoric. A member of the National Writers Union, she has been a workshop director at the International Women’s Writing Guild’s (IWWG) annual week-long summer conference since 1998.

Her short fiction, essays, and book reviews have appeared in *Aura*, *Knock*, *Natural Bridge*, *Pumbedissa*, *Releasing Times*, *Remembering the Magic*, *Sarasvati*, *Sistersong: Women Across Cultures*, *Sofer*, *13th Moon*, *Venture Inward*, and *Women’s Words*. She is the author of four books published in Tokyo, including three collections of essays by Asahi Press on American language and culture (most recently *Making Choices: Towards The 21st Century*).

Natalie has developed a four-step method for using the writing of fiction to heal from a crisis in faith and is now completing a book about the use of writing for spiritual transformation. She has immersed herself in the language of myth and story telling since early childhood, and prefers the mythological voice to all others.

Saturday, November 4, 1 to 4pm

Verb and Metaphor

Juan Blea will take attendees through the components of a metaphor and show how they relate to verbs. Using the AGENT-ACTION-OBJECT formula, he develops new metaphors from verbs that may not have been considered for usage in poetic language.

The basic outline is as follows:

- 1) Define metaphor and discuss various types of metaphors
- 2) Discuss the components of a metaphor: tenor and vehicle.
- 3) Describe how verbs allow both complex and simple metaphor construction once a writer understands how tenor and vehicle relate to verb construction using the AGENT-ACTION-OBJECT formula.
- 4) Construct metaphors in new contexts using all the previous concepts.

Juan Blea is from Santa Fe, NM where his research interests include human cognition, especially as it pertains to language. He is 34 years old, and his Master's is from College of Santa Fe. He is currently working on a new novel, while promoting his current novel, *Butterfly Warrior*.

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

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

Please consider providing this valuable service to our organization.

Contests

Note: This information is provided as a convenience. Before entering, be sure to check the listed website at the end of each listing for submission guidelines and information or write the sponsors to make sure a contest is right for you.

Deadline 10/1/06. One-act, 40-50 page play. San Juan College's Fine Arts Committee's Sixth Biennial Play Competition. First place, \$300 and full production, \$200 second place, \$100 third place. Winners announced 1/15/07. Entry Fee: \$35/play, payable to San Juan College. Any subject, no previously produced work, limit two entries per person, mail plays separately without binders, individual submissions only. Please, no large group projects. Kay Tentler, Henderson Fine Arts Center, San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd., Farmington 87402. (505) 325-1617.

Deadline: 10/1/06. Speculative fiction novellas. 2006 Bards and Sages Writing Contest. Prizes (awarded in US Savings Bonds): \$500 first, \$200 second, \$50 third. All winners receive publication of novella and a one-year membership to the Speculative Literature Foundation. Entry fee: \$15. Unpublished works between 15,000 and 40,000 words. No strong erotic themes. Submission guidelines, info: <http://www.bardsandsages.com/2006contest>.

Deadline: 10/2/06 (postmark). Short fiction. 10th Annual Zoetrope All-Story Short Fiction Contest. Prizes: \$1,000 first, \$500 second, \$250 third. The winner and seven finalists will be considered for representation by seven top literary agencies. Entry fee: \$15/submission. All genres of literary fiction accepted. Entries must be unpublished and 5,000 words or less. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://all-story.com/contests.cgi>.

Deadline: 10/31/06 (postmark). Poetry. Shining Star Amateur Poetry Contest. Prizes: \$1,000 grand prize, \$400 second, \$200 third, and \$100 fourth. Poems are published online. Poets retain all rights. Entry fee: \$10 for two poems. Additional poems are \$2. The haiku contest is free. Poems must not exceed 50 lines, must be original and unpublished. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.shiningstarpoetry.com/Contest.htm>.

Deadline: 11/1/06 (postmark). Short story and poetry by a woman. For both contests the prize is \$1,000 and publication for first prize. Runners-up considered for publication. Kalliope Short Fiction Contest. Fiction entry fee: \$15/entry. Must be under 3,000 words and written by a woman, any style, any subject. Poetry entry fee \$5/poem or 3 for \$12. Maximum poem length 50 lines. Eligible entries in both contests are unpublished and they can't have won monetary awards. Submission guidelines and information for fiction: <http://opencampus.fccj.org/kalliope/k-shortstory.html>. For poetry go to <http://www.fccj.org/kalliope>.

Deadline: 11/1/06 (postmark). Short Story. Writers Digest Popular Fiction Awards. Grand prize of \$2,500 plus other prizes. First prize in each of five categories receives \$500 and other prizes. Entry fee: \$12.50/entry. Enter in one of five categories: Romance; mystery/crime fiction; sci-fi/fantasy; thriller/suspense; or horror. 4,000 words or fewer. Entries must be unpublished. Writer's Digest retains one-time publication rights to the grand prize, first prize, and honorable mention winning entries in each category to be published in a WD publication. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/popfiction>.

Deadline: 11/1/06 (postmark). Novel and short story. Pikes Peak Writers' Paul Gillette Writing Contest. Prizes per category: \$100 first place, \$50 second place, \$30 third place. Entry fee: \$30/entry for members, \$40 for nonmembers. Critiques are an additional \$20 each. Contest has 7 book-length categories and 1 for short stories (fiction only). Short stories must not exceed 5,000 words. Novel entries must include the first 15 double-spaced pages and a 2 - 5 page synopsis. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.ppw.net/contest.html>.

Deadline: 11/3/06 (postmark). 2nd Annual John Templeton Foundation Kairos Prize for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays. Prizes total \$50,000. The primary purpose of the prize is to help inspire first-time screenwriters to produce compelling, entertaining, spiritually uplifting scripts. Late deadline December 15, 2006 More information at <http://www.kairosprize.com>.

Deadline: 11/15/06 (postmark). Short story and poetry. East Coast Writing Contest. Prizes per category: \$100 first, \$50 second, \$25 third. All winners will be published in the East Coast Writers bi-annual journal. No further copyrights will be taken. Entry fee: \$10 for first entry, \$5/each for second and third entry. Four categories, each with word limits: 2,500 words for Fiction, 2,500 words for Personal Essay, 72 lines for Poetry, and 1,500 words for Children. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.eastcoastwriters.com>.

Deadline: 12/1/06 (postmark). Short, short story. Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition. Prizes: \$3,000 first, \$1,500 second, \$500 third, \$100 fourth through tenth. Winners names printed in *Writer's Digest*. Writer's Digest reserves the one-time publication rights to the top 25 winning entries. Entry fee: \$12/entry. All entries must be 1,500 words or fewer. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/shortshort>.

Deadline: 12/20/06 (postmark). Poetry. Writer's Digest Poetry Awards. Prizes: \$500 first, \$250 second, \$100 third, \$25 fourth through tenth. Winners names printed in *Writer's Digest*. Writer's Digest reserves the one-time publication rights to the top 25 winning entries. Entry fee: \$10/first poem and \$5/each additional poem. All entries must be 32 lines or fewer. No style or subject restrictions. Must not be published (even on a personal website) or submitted elsewhere. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.writersdigest.com/contests/poetry>.

Deadline: 12/31/06. Southern Shady Ladies Home Remedy Contest. Submit a home remedy and the story behind it. 1500 words or less, double-spaced, include cover page with your full name, title of remedy and story, current mailing address, telephone number and SASE. Prizes: \$100 grand prize, \$50 first prize, \$25 second and third prize. All winners' stories and remedies will be published in the Southern Shady Ladies Home Remedy Book. All other winners receive one copy of the book and 25% discount on additional books. After publication, all rights revert back to author. All unselected work will receive comments where appropriate. Entry Fee: \$10/entry. Larnette Phillips, 7877 Highway 4, Jay, Florida 32565, Chelsearichards@aol.com.

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.

The Impassioned Business Writer: Emily Esterson

Emily Esterson wouldn't let anything stop her writing career. She started keeping journals at age six; she says she wanted to be a foreign correspondent or an international lawyer. She later learned international business and did a newsletter/magazine for a French oil company, but was fired because her boss found a typo in an early draft of the publication. It is something that still puzzles Esterson, but she was undeterred; she started freelancing and used her business knowledge to her advantage.

Esterson has a bachelor's in French Literature, an MBA from Denver University and an MFA from Goucher College. The first article she sold was through a blind query letter to *Colorado Business Magazine*. Since then she published articles in *Boulder Daily Camera*, *Expansion Management*, *Colorado Business Magazine*, and numerous other publications. She also headed up *New Mexico Business Weekly* as editor for six years. Along with extensive experience in business writing she also writes about horses, technology and is the New Mexico editor of *New West Network*, an online magazine covering news and issues throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Q. What kind of changes have you gone through in your career?

A. I've moved from writing to more editing (although I still write a lot). I actually love helping writers improve. That's one thing I discovered working at the *New Mexico Business Weekly*, where I had some younger, less experienced employees. I love to work with writers! Also, my network of editors/people I've worked for has really grown so I don't have to chase work as hard any more. Not to say it just comes in the door, but it's easier than it used to be. And, well, I'm sure your readers have heard this, but network relentlessly. I almost never sell a story off a query letter. I do sell stories by dropping names, meeting editors, and making contacts.

And as an editor, I'm always surprised when I run into a writer who doesn't follow my assignment directions. Despite the romantic notion of "being a writer," we editors have a product to produce and writers are providing that product. I hate to be harsh, but I've made my living at this for 20 years by treating it as a business. That said, specialize in something you love. I'm very interested in business. I'm also interested in horses. I write about both (and sometimes together). It took me a long time to realize that you can't write well about accounting if you don't care about it.

Q. Did you know your interests or are they the ones that stood the test of time?

A. I've always been a horse person. It's only been in the past three or four years that I started to do more writing about horses. As for business, well, people think it's boring but it's really dramatic. Money, power, families, crises, conflict, success. It has all the elements of a good story. I've always been interested in the inner workings of companies.

Q. What can a person who writes fiction gain from learning journalistic writing?

A. I've been dabbling in fiction. But here's the thing: If you don't get out and see and research and **live** your story, it will be flat. Take it from John McPhee, whose prose is always engaging and meticulously detailed. He actually goes and does the thing he's writing about.

Fiction writers get stuck in their little writing rooms instead of filling their stories with real details from real life. Just because the story is made up, doesn't mean it can't feel authentic to the writer.

Q. What is the greatest tool in a writer's arsenal?

A. Self-editing—go through your copy and do this exercise: Is every word the one that's best? Do my sentences vary in length and style? (Count the words!) Do my sentences flow well together? Do my paragraphs flow? And if all those things work you'll be in business.

Q. Is there an article or book you'd like to see, a great story that hasn't been covered for some reason?

A. Well, I wouldn't tell a bunch of writers that, would I? I'm competitive. That said, I think we need a lot more hard hitting investigative journalism in the world, in general.

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

Odds & Ends

Critique Groups

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

Wanting to Start Groups/ Looking for a Group

*Any Genera, Albuquerque:

GLBT Writers

Jim McDonough

505-688-2954

jim@queerwriters.com

*Any Genre, Las Cruces:

Barbara Villemez

505-522-5734

*Any Genre, Santa Fe:

Mary Mazza-Anderson

cmmom@zianet.com

*Fantasy/Poetry:

Janet Belovarsky

505-891-9529

royalbloodseries@aol.com

*Fantasy/Romance:

Heidi Punke

505-271-9772

heidinandmitch@yahoo.com

*Historical Romance:

Leah Dodd

505-890-0210, *patandleah@peoplepc.com*

Lester Libo

is looking to for a critique group in the fiction genera. *lesterml@comcast.net*.

*Poetry:

Billy Brown

505-401-8139, *welbert@aol.com*

*Sci Fi/Fantasy:

Joel Holt

505-265-1938, *loki265@hotmail.com*

*Writing-for-fun:

East Mountains near Edgewood

Sandy Schairer

sandschairer@southwestwriters.com

*Short Nonfiction:

Suzann Owings

505-867-0567

Groups Seeking Members

*Albuquerque Nonfiction:

Meets twice monthly at the old

Albuquerque Press Club

Marianne Powers

505-270-9150,

marianne@mariannepowers.com

*American Theater Ensemble Screen-writers and Playwrights:

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7pm

Puccini's Golden West, 620 Central Ave SW

505-242-2353 *elreytheater@qwest.net*

Any Genre:

Meets once a month on Sunday afternoons

Michael Franco

MDLindell@aol.com

*Any Genre, including childrens, Albuquerque:

Meets the first Wednesday of the month, 7-9pm, Hastings Superstore,

Wyoming and Montgomery

Sabra Steinsiek

505-260-1837

Groups Seeking Members

*Any Genre, Moriarty:

Second and fourth Thursday each month, 6pm

Moriarty Library

Tina Ortega

505-832-2513, *jleksutin@hotmail.com*

*Any Genre, Rio Rancho:

Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley

505-867-1408,

riversedgebob@cableone.net

riograndema@cableone.net

*Fiction & Nonfiction:

Paula High

505-271-0837, *plhigh@abq.com*

*Land of Enchantment Romance Authors:

Meets the second Saturday of each month at noon.

Potential members, attend three meetings to try it out.

leranm.org.

*Mystery/Sci Fi:

Fred Aiken

505-856-2145

FredAiken@southwestwriters.com

*Novels/Short Stories:

Janeen Anderson

505-899-5624, *janeen@janglyा. com*

*Novel/Memoir

Meet online and monthly, NE Albuquerque.

Nancy Costea

505-323-9681

costeawood@comcast.net

*Novels/Short Stories:

Meets Saturday afternoons

Albuquerque Main Public Library on

Copper

Jack Phelan

505-292-0576 or 256-3500

*The Santa Fe Screenwriter's Group:

Susan Burns

505-474-8268, *thursday51@aol.com*

*The Screaming Ninja Screenwriters:

Meets every other Thursday, Flying Star on 7th and Silver.

Marc Calderwood

505-897-6474,

skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com

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

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1/4 page: \$36

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Deadline:

1st of each month
for the following month.

Payment due
with camera-ready
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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

Independentmeans@comcast.net

**SWW Board Meeting will be held at the
SWW office on Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 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**

Member Successes

Connie Harrington's short story *The Inversion of Jeremy Jones* will be published in a 2007-2008 issue of *Connecticut Review*.

George Youngblood entered six stories and a poem in the Southeastern Writer's Contest and received three first place, two second place, and two third place awards.

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

Send information by e-mail in rich text format (.rtf) to editor@southwestwriters.com.

New SWW Members

Joseph G. Brooks	Andrea Vestrand	Patricia Medsker
Sonia Fader	Pamela B. Duran	Margaret Gross
Patroclus Eugene Savino	Constance Short	Michelle Kleihege
Heidi Spreacker	Karen Keese	Ray Collins
Susan Harmon	James C. Jones	Virginia Kilkuskie
Liza Wheeler	Elizabeth McIlhaney	Tom Chelmowski
Andrea Guendelman	Dawn Davis	Peggy Herrington
Anne Z. Kuck	John Hoffsis	

**Need a new book (or almost anything else)?
Save Money and Support SWW!**

*Go to www.southwestwriters.org
and click on the
amazon.com box.
You save money &
SWW receives a commission.*



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



President/Office Coordinator

Larry Greenly

SWWriters@juno.com

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Secretary/Parliamentarian

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Workshop Coordinator

Bonnie Hayes

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Conference Chair and Historian

Judy Ducharme

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Board Member at Large

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Writer's Contest 2006 Chair

Joanne Bodin

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Other Key Positions

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editor@southwestwriters.com

Assistant Editor

Tom Gibbons

E-lert Mistress

Gail Rubin

publicity@southwestwriters.com

Speaker Coordinator

Rob Spiegel

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The SouthWest Sage

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

Saturday, December 2, 1 to 4pm

Self-Publishing: The Other Path to Print

The maze of the traditional publishing industry is a tough one to navigate. With today's technology of digital printing, publishing a novel or short story is much easier with no need to lock-step through the rigid process of publishing. Writers are no longer tied to submitting their work to the big publishing houses but are able to see their stories in print much sooner. This workshop will explore some of the ways to get their work into print and into stores. A panel of self-published authors will explain the process.

Melody Groves is the author of *Ropes, Reins, and Rawhide: All About Rodeo* (May, 2006, UNM Press), *The Quest* and *Sonoran Rage* (novels published by print-on-demand). She recently received a book contract from the University of North Texas Press to produce a book on ranch rodeo. Melody has also published articles in *New Mexico Magazine*, *True West Magazine*, *Desert Exposure* and *Albuquerque the Magazine*. She is a columnist for *abqARTS* and has written two screenplays.

Melody is publicity chairman for the Western Writers of America, and PR chair for SouthWest Writers. She's a member of The Westerners, the New Mexico Book Co-op, and she is a gunfighter with the New Mexico Gunfighting Association.

