



Vol. 23, No. 9

September 2007

## Writing a Memoir: Should You Do It?

by Lisa Silverman

With the tremendous success of such memoirs as Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, Mary Karr's *The Liar's Club*, and Dave Eggers' *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, the 1990s and early 2000s saw an explosion in the genre. This boom was seen in the number of memoirs acquired by publishers, the number of titles shelved in bookstores, and, as a result, the number of memoirs unfolding on writers' computer screens. But the brutal truth is that without a few crucial elements, your memoir will have no chance of finding a literary agent's representation, never mind becoming a bestseller.

It might help to consider a question that's always puzzled me: What's the difference between a memoir and an autobiography? Webster defines a memoir as "a narrative composed from personal experience," and an autobiography as "the biography of a person narrated by himself or herself." But the second definition of "memoir" is "autobiography," indicating just how blurry the line is. I think of a biography as a life story—a full life, that is, unofficial "biographies" of Paris Hilton or Justin Timberlake aside. Most memoirs, by contrast, don't begin at the author's birth and provide a thorough chronological history of a life now in its twilight years.

Memoirs are, of course, written by authors of all ages, and their narratives can encompass fifty years or one week. The first element necessary to a successful memoir is experience. Lots of us have led interesting lives or had unusual experiences. But not all of those lives and experiences are memoir-worthy. At the same time, the life experience you want to write about doesn't need to be earth-shattering to be the basis of a successful book—if you're a good enough writer. Whether your memories should jump from your head onto the pages of a memoir is difficult to judge when you're the one whose life's literary value is in question. If you didn't think it was worth writing about, you wouldn't be thinking about a memoir in the first place. But it's a judgment you must make honestly and objectively if you don't want to waste time writing what will never sell.

How do you know if your idea is a book in the making? Try to gain some distance and look at it as a potential reader. Would you pick up such a book off the shelf if it were about a total stranger with no other claim to fame? Would you read the description on the book's flap and be intrigued? Or would the words, "Oh, another person who..." enter your mind? Jaded and insensitive as it may seem, agents discard query letters all the time uttering

the words "another victim of abuse" or "another recovering alcoholic" or "another cancer survivor."

That's not to say you should abandon the idea if you fall into one of those categories, or another that encompasses a lot of people and has seen a lot of memoirs published. You need to bring something new to the table, whether the experience itself is different from everyone else's or the way you tell it is. And, unless you've led a truly wacky life, more likely it'll have to be the latter. How to make it different? Well, that's the hard part. And the part you're going to have to figure out on your own.

As with any genre in today's book market, publishers are more likely to acquire a memoir if its author has a platform, i.e., comes with a built-in marketing plan. While writing the book, start a blog discussing the experience or issue about which you're writing. Become affiliated with advocacy organizations, etc., who might help promote your book. It's tough out there if you're not a celebrity or an author with a track record. For every Dave Eggers, a thousand memoirists can't even clear the hurdle of finding an agent. Publishers bought memoirs by a *Washington Post* columnist, Cary Grant's daughter, the former head of a record company and the Air America radio network, and a woman with a *New York Times* best-seller to her name. But take heed: another author sold a memoir "about a typical divorce transformed by a lyrical yet brutally honest voice and narrative style." That author figured out how to tell an old story in a new way.

As important as marketing is, the memoir, perhaps more than any other genre, depends for its success on one simple thing: writing skill. Too many people make the mistake of thinking that fascinating experiences make for fascinating reads, no matter who writes about them. If you've never written before, take some classes. Work on your book in a workshop or in a writers' group. And if you look in the mirror and see someone who doesn't have the writing chops to tell their story right, contract with an experienced ghostwriter or coauthor. After all, everyone has lived a story, but only a select few have both the right tale and the right talent to create a winning book.

*Freelance editor Lisa Silverman copyedits at one of New York's most prestigious publishing houses. She has also worked as a ghostwriter and a literary agent representing both book authors and screenwriters. Lisa founded BeYourOwnEditor.com to provide writers with free advice on writing and publishing.*

## From the Editor



September heralds my favorite time of year in the Southwest, the golden days of fall. Fall this year also promises to be especially good for SWW members and guests.

Kicking things off is our **Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 1**, at which members will vote for 2008 SWW officers (see page 10). Also, the 2007 SWW Parris Award recipient will be announced, SWW's one-time award to an outstanding member with a published body of work who has put forth extraordinary effort in furthering the organization and shown encouragement to other writers. Who will it be? I wonder...

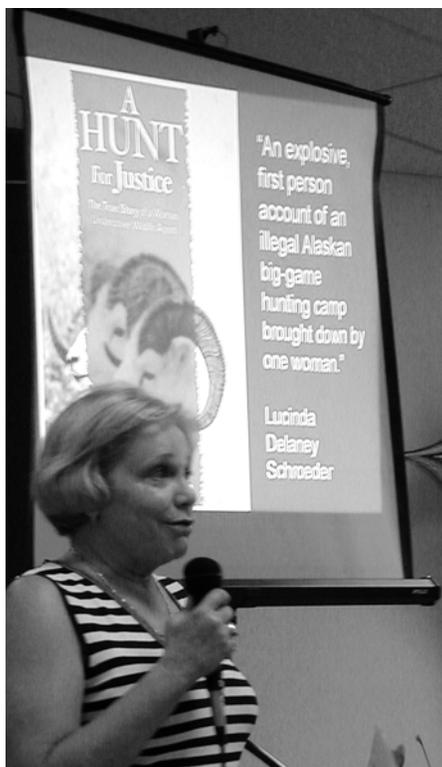
Following the business meeting, **Jonathan Miller**, New Mexico's own resident attorney/author whose work is currently optioned as a potential television series, will speak about what to do when you've finished your book. Sit back and lounge? I don't think so!

Our afternoon workshop by **Chris Eboch**, author of nine books for children, will address writing for children's magazines. If it's anything like her 2006 presentation, you are seriously advised to attend. Take a look at the testimonials on page 6.

### Third Tuesdays are Hot!

On Tuesday evening, September 18, **Penny Raife Durant** will share the ins and outs of doing research, at which she has mega-experience.

**Flashback:** Our July Tuesday evening meeting featured **Lucinda Schroeder**, President of Sisters in Crime, Albuquerque Chapter of Croak & Dagger. Lucinda did a fascinating presentation based on the true story behind her book, *A Hunt for Justice*. Based on techniques from *The Writer's Journey* by Christopher Vogler, Lucinda divulged real-life details (complete with photographs) behind her gripping account of life inside an illegal Alaskan big game hunting camp. She has the distinction of being the only woman to conduct a major federal undercover investigation inside such a camp. You missed a great tale if you weren't there.



### 2007 SWW Awards Banquet

The climax to our events this month happens on September 22 at our Gala Awards Banquet which will take place at the Uptown Marriott Hotel. Emceed by the one-and-only **John Candelaria**, members and guests will enjoy a fine meal as we spotlight awards, including the winners of the **2007 SWW Writing Contest**, **SWW Service Awards** (to five fabulous members who have gone beyond the call), and the coveted **SWW Storyteller Award!** Seating in the banquet room is limited, so if you haven't already, get your reservations in now!

### New Member Breakfast

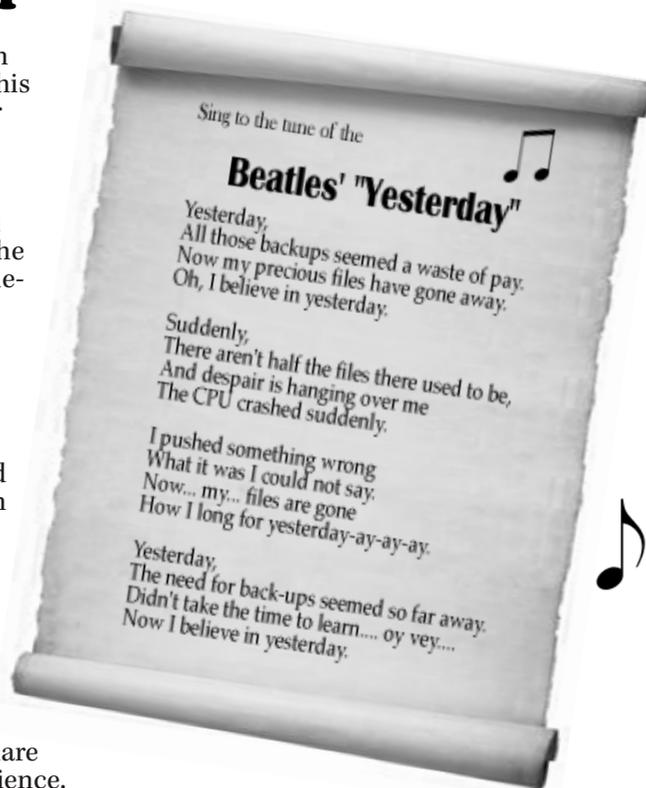
I can't sign off without acknowledging the 28 generous folks who brought delicious eats to our New Member Breakfast last month. Well over 100 members and guests gobbled them up in the packed meeting room as the morning went on, even during **Bob Sanchez'** informative talk about self-publishing. Treats lasted through lunch into the afternoon during **Loretta Hall's** excellent presentation on writing for trade magazines. Many thanks to everyone who brought food!

Hey, I'm now a Bored Member. Oops! Darn that spellchecker! I meant Board Member—of SouthWest Writers, of course. I shouldn't pun because I am truly honored and hope to serve this fine organization for years to come. My thanks for your generosity, support, and contributions.

Our Memoir Conference has been unavoidably delayed but we're working on an article about all the conferences SWW will host and co-host next year. Look for it in the October issue.

Until then, keep on writing!

*Peggy*





**SouthWest Sage**

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Four lucky writers who won special door prizes at the New Member Breakfast last month.



SWW members and guests enjoyed a delectable spread at the New Member Breakfast. Thanks to everyone who brought food!

**Features**

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**Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers**  
Individual \$60 (\$100 for 2 yrs), Two People \$50/each, Student: Over 18\* \$40, Student: Under 18\* \$25, Outside U.S.: \$65.00, Lifetime Membership: \$750  
*\*Requires proof of student status. Download Sage from SWW Website.*

**Join us! First Saturday: 10am-Noon; Workshop: 1-4pm. Third Tuesday: 7-9pm**  
**New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**Gala 2007 SWW Awards Banquet**

The inimitable John Candelaria emcees our gala Awards Banquet again this year! Come celebrate the winners of the **2007 SWW Writing Contest, Service Awards, and our coveted Storyteller Award!** Use the reservation form on page 13 to join the fun at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 22nd, at the Uptown Marriott Hotel.

**Everyone is cordially invited!**

## SWW Classes

Classes are held at the SWW conference room at **3721 Morris St. NE Suite A** in Albuquerque, which is available to members wishing to teach classes about writing. SouthWest Writers is not responsible for the opinions and teaching methods of the instructors. However, we welcome helpful criticism or comments on any class, and these should be forwarded to the office.

### How to Get Your Book Published

September 10 - October 8—Fiction  
Monday Evenings 6:30-8:30pm  
SouthWest Writers Conference Room  
Cost Fiction Classes: \$69 members, \$79 non-members

Don't miss this session! Want someone to buy your novel? **Rob Spiegel** and **Melody Groves** will propel you on your way to fame and fortune. This class will address markets, the submission process (proposals), writing the synopsis (critiqued in class), as well as suggested conferences (why you should attend), and finding an agent. Rob is the author of six published non-fiction books. Melody is the author of one published non-fiction book and two fiction books (with two more non-fiction under contract, and another fiction under contract).

#### Free Writing Class for Seniors

SWW offers a free writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center every Monday from 3:00- 4:15pm. Taught by Larry Greenly and Rob Spiegel, classes are free to members of any Albuquerque Senior Center. Membership is open to anyone over 50 and annual dues are \$13. Bear Canyon is two blocks north of Montgomery, one block east of Eubank.

The class covers all forms of writing, from fiction and non-fiction to memoirs and poetry. During the first half of the class there's a lecture on the principles of good writing. In the second half of the class the instructors look at students' work.

### Writing Short Stories

September 5, 12, 19, & 26, 6:30-9pm, SWW Office.  
\$65 members, \$75 non-members; for 6-14 people.

Everyone has stories to tell. Come to this class and begin yours! As we move from using ideas as spring-boards to selling complete pieces in the marketplace, you will learn how to get started, tackle common writing dilemmas, develop the structure of your story, and be well underway on a project of your own.

**David J. Corwell's** short fiction has appeared in *Dead in Thirteen Flashes* and *Cloaked in Shadow: Dark Tales of Elves*. He has won five national writing awards including the 2003 SWW Storyteller Award. Recently finished a novel and received his M. A. in Writing Popular Fiction at Seton Hill University. Graduate of the Odyssey Fantasy Writing Workshop and the Borderlands Press Writer's Boot Camp, he has done critiques for the annual SWW writing contest and critique service and served as a panelist at SWW writing conferences.

### Write the Great Screenplay

**Extensive:** Back by popular demand! In-depth, ten-week screen-writing class and workshop. Class limited to 14 students. Runs ten Sunday evenings, September 16, through November 18 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the SWW Office.

Cost: \$175 for members, \$225 for non-members (includes discounted one-year SWW membership).  
Materials fee \$5.

**Special Offer:** To learn more about Rick's classes call (505) 984-2927. Register online or call SWW at (505) 265-9485.

Polish your screenplay while learning:

- Correct formatting
- The seven elements of every scene
- To create memorable characters
- Three-act structure and eight major turning points
- To create great film speak
- To write compelling first scenes
- To market your script

**Rick Reichman's** students have sold scripts to Fox, Warner Brothers, HBO, Showtime, and to TV shows such as "Friends," "Home Improvement," "Roseanne," "Buffy The Vampire Slayer," "Xena Warrior Princess," and "Strong Medicine." His Santa Fe students are winning all kinds of awards! Are you his next star student? Sign up early!

Reichman has optioned two feature scripts and has had produced several documentaries and training films. He has written two books on screenwriting. To learn more about Rick's classes call (505) 984-2927.

For information about benefits  
for SWW members contact:  
**Cheri Eicher**

## INDEPENDENT MEANS

Group Benefits  
(505) 890-0358  
(800) 883-4310

Independentmeans@comcast.net

## Announcements

**Aug. 30-Sept. 3, Albuquerque Cultural Conference 2007:** "Dreaming Big: Cultural Activism, Publication, Education, and the Arts in the New Century," takes place at Harwood Art Center, 1114 7th St NW. Featured are panels, workshops, readings, performances, and exhibits from artists, writers, and activists. Registration fees range from \$40-\$100. For more information, visit [www.abqconference.org](http://www.abqconference.org) or send email to [ABQconference2007@yahoo.com](mailto:ABQconference2007@yahoo.com).

**UNM Press** will offer discounts on select books to buyers who order from its website, [www.unmpress.com](http://www.unmpress.com). The sale, called the "Ultra Value (UV) Sale," features books from award-winning fiction authors including **Max Evans, Rudolfo Anaya, Pari Noskin Taichert, Lisa Lenard-Cook, Nasario Garcia, Elena Poniatowska, Bill Buchanan, V.B. Price, and Ralph Flores**. Works from regional mystery writers such as Judith Van Gieson, Walter Satterthwait, Jake Page will also be available. Children's books include Marc Simmons' children's tales adapted from western history and the Grandmother Stories of Cherokee folktales.

### Narrative Art Center

Spend a weekend in beautiful Northern New Mexico with small-group, writer weekend intensives. Make extraordinary progress on your writing in a shared, spacious room. Enjoy delicious home-cooked meals. Bonus free pass to Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs. For more info contact: [www.narrativeartcenter.com](http://www.narrativeartcenter.com), 826 Camino del Monte Rey, Santa Fe, 505-988-5185.

**Sept. 7-9, Unleash Your Voice: Writing for Social Justice.** Don't know how to use your writing as a tool for social change? This workshop will focus on craft, uniting art and politics with integrity and effectiveness, and on reaching an audience with your message. You will leave with a draft of your work-in-process, greater assurance of your ability to

be a voice for social change, ideas for publishing and more. Presenter: **Beverly Bell**, author of *Walking on Fire: Haitian Women's Stories of Survival and Resistance*, winner of the 2006 PEN NM Award for Literature of Social Justice, and coordinator of the Other Worlds project.

**Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.:** Writers to Writers—"Speaking Your Mind: Personal Essay, Opinion, & Rant" by **Harry Willson** and **Zelda Gatuskin**. Westside Hastings (Coors Rd. and Montano), Albuquerque. (505) 898-0624 or [dcorwell@hotmail.com](mailto:dcorwell@hotmail.com).

**Sept. 15, 10a.m. to 4p.m.:** **Carol Franco**, author of *The Legacy Guide: Capturing the Facts, Memories, and Meaning of Your Life* offers a full-day workshop sponsored by Southwest Literary Center and Narrative Arts Center, [litcenter@recursos.org](mailto:litcenter@recursos.org) and [edit@thema.us](mailto:edit@thema.us).

**Sept. 21-23:** Manuscript Revision. Bring your work-in-progress for the help you need to make it perfect! Presenter: **Lisa Lenard-Cook**, author of *Dissonance*, short-listed for PEN Southwest Book Award, *Coyote Morning*, a Southwest Book of the Year, and coming soon from Writer's Digest Books: *The Mind of Your Story*.

**Sept. 21-23:** Journaling in Place: The Way to Deep Ground. Work with the world's only Journal Whisperer. Presenter: **Cindy Bellinger**, author of *Journaling for Women: Write, Doodle, Scribble!, Meet Yourself Up Close* and *Someone Stole my Outhouse*.

**Sept. 28-30:** *Your Life as a Book: Crafting the Memoir*. Every one has a story. But how do we turn that experience into a book? In this workshop you learn: where to start and end a memoir, how to locate "launch" memories that drive the story forward, how to use linear and collage structure to organize your memories, and a whole lot of other cool stuff about writing the memoir. Presenter: **Lisa Dale Norton**, author of *Hawk Flies Above: Journey to the Heart of the Sandhills*.



## Book Signings

**Aug. 31, 7p.m.** Poetry reading, Albuquerque Cultural Conference, Harwood Center, 1114 7th St NW, Albuquerque. **Anya Achtenberg, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Renny Golden, E. A. Mares, Demetria Martinez, Cherrie Moraga, Sara Ortiz, Margaret Randall, Levi Romero**, and a group of slam poets will read poetry as part of the Albuquerque Cultural Conference. Recommended donation is \$10. For more information, visit [www.abqconference.org](http://www.abqconference.org).

**Sept. 7, 5-9 p.m.:** **David J. Corwell, Ronn Perea, Sarah Storme, and Lela Belle Wolfert** sign their works. Fair Plaza Hastings (Lomas and San Pedro), Albuquerque. (505) 266-1363, (505) 898-0624, or [dcorwell@hotmail.com](mailto:dcorwell@hotmail.com).

**Sept. 8, 2:00p.m.** Mark David Gerson's free class: ("Birthing Your Book....Even If You Don't Know What It Is") and book-signing of *The MoonQuest*. Well Red Coyote, 3190

W. Hwy 89A (at Dry Creek Road), Sedona, AZ.

**Sept. 8, 7:30-10:30 p.m.:** **David J. Corwell, Ronn Perea, Cynthia and Arthur Romero, Sarah Storme, and Lela Belle Wolfert** sign their works. Joy Junction Charity Event at Casino Hollywood (I-25, Exit 252), San Felipe, NM. (505) 255-7831.

**Sept. 9, 2-6 p.m.:** **David J. Corwell, Ronn Perea, Lela Belle Wolfert**, and others sign their works. Market Cafe (Alameda/Hwy. 528 and Coors Rd.), Albuquerque. (505) 255-7831.

**Sept. 16, 1:30p.m.** Mark David Gerson, free reading from *The MoonQuest* and book-signing, Borders, 10420 Coors Bypass NW, Albuquerque.

**Sept. 23, 2-6 p.m.:** **David J. Corwell, Ronn Perea, Lela Belle Wolfert**, and others sign their works. Market Cafe (Alameda/Hwy. 528 and Coors Rd.), Albuquerque. (505) 255-7831.

# September

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

Saturday, September 1 from 10:00 a.m. to noon

### You're Finished. Now What?

This talk will discuss all aspects of taking your finished manuscript out into the world. It will be a wide-ranging discussion touching upon the following topics:

1. Getting an agent
2. Getting a publisher
3. The editing process with the publisher
4. Pre-publication marketing
5. Using the internet to create buzz
6. The integrated book tour
7. Selling your book rights to Hollywood
8. Getting paid by your publisher

After the presentation, **Jonathan Miller** will be available to answer questions on your current projects. Email your questions in advance to him at [volcanoverdict@aim.com](mailto:volcanoverdict@aim.com).

Jonathan Miller is an author/attorney in New Mexico. He has four books: *Rattlesnake Lawyer*, *Crater County*, *Amarillo in August* and *Volcano Verdict*. His work is currently optioned as a potential television series. Jon is a graduate of Albuquerque Academy, Cornell, University of Colorado Law School and the American Film Institute.

Tuesday, September 18, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Get Your Story Off the Ground With Research!

"Research is vital to any writing. I've spent seven years writing and researching everything that had to do with WWII, Italy, Rome, the Army Air Corps in Italy, Air Traffic Control before 1956, Wyoming, different passenger ships, the Andrea Doria, B-24s, German Stalag VII-A, and much more. I hope that this workshop will help you find those little facts that will cement your confidence and make the difference between a generic setting and a believable story."

**Penny Raife Durant** is the author of nine books for children, including the award-winning young adult novel, *When Heroes Die*. Eight are science books and offer various topics and activities in science to kids from preschool to middle school. She is currently rewriting *The Hearts of the Living*, a true story for adults based on a family story from 1944 to 1956, which has required a great deal of research.

SWW programs are rarely cancelled, but it is possible depending on the weather. If you have doubts about a program taking place or about the time or topic, call the SWW office (505) 265-9485 during business hours, M-F, 9am- noon.

Saturday, Sept. 1, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

### Get Published in Children's Magazines

Can you write poetry for preschoolers, middle grade mysteries, or young adult adventure? How about articles on simple science, humorous history or clever crafts? Over 500 children's magazines need stories and articles of all types. Writing for magazines can help you learn craft, give you a list of credits and published writing samples, or even bring in a steady income.

In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore the magazine markets, analyze specific magazines for content and style, and brainstorm appropriate ideas. Then we'll look at how to put together an article or story for children. Each participant will outline a topic and start developing a lead. Expect to leave this workshop with an article or story in progress, and a list of ideas for future development.

**Chris Eboch** is the author of nine books for children. Her articles appear regularly in *Children's Writer* and she has 3 articles in the *Children's Writer Guide to 2008*. She teaches "Writing for Children and Teenagers" through the Institute of Children's Literature, and is NM Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Participants in Chris's previous workshop for SouthWest Writers (Dazzling Description, April 2006) said, "Wonderful workshop! This was the best workshop I've attended." "I learned more in three hours about creative writing than I learned in all of my college writing courses." "Richly informative! Wish it could go on all day!"

## Welcome New Members

Susan McDuffie  
Anastasia Andersen  
Sharon van Ivan  
Pam England  
Stan Rhine

Debra Jones  
Lorena Hughes  
Kathleen Medina  
William Fisher  
Karen Harrison

**D**onations of refreshments at regular SWW meetings are gratefully accepted! Please consider providing this tasty service.

# October

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

*Saturday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. to noon*

### Researching the Story of Smokey Bear

**Sue Houser** will discuss the steps she followed in researching the story of Smokey Bear, the process of obtaining a license from the U.S. Forest Service and permission to use their photographs. The outpouring of interest in the book at the annual Smokey Bear celebration in Capitan, unexpected newspaper coverage, and even a TV interview indicates that Smokey Bear continues to be one of the most celebrated bears that ever lived.

**Sue Houser** is a former legal secretary and retired social worker. *Hot Foot Teddy: The True Story of Smokey Bear* is her first book.

Did you know? August 9: Smokey the Bear's Birthday!

*Tuesday, October 16, 7 to 9 p.m.*

### The Natural Rules of Writing

So someone has written a book. Their neighbors love it and so do their kids. Don't laugh! People come to my classes only to find an agent. They know they are going to make it big! They already know how to write--or so they think. So where do they go from here? I know the answer but it is a secret. If you really want to know, come to this meeting. I will explain in unadorned facts, and include a generous sprinkling of the natural rules of writing for children.

**Elsie Karr Kreischer** is one of SWW's five founding members. She has taught in the Enrichment Program at UNM Continuing Education the past 22 years, and authored three award-winning books with several more at the publisher being considered.

## Life Beyond SouthWest Writers

by Melody Groves

Membership in SouthWest Writers brings many benefits—networking, classes, workshops, talks, networking, meetings with industry professionals, critique services, critique groups, links to other writing sites, networking (did I say that already?), and opportunities to publish. While SWW is a large, international group, there are other genre-specific writers' organizations that bear closer perusal.

Why join another writers' group? Why not? Belonging to a genre-specific organization makes it easy to "speak the same language." Meeting agents, editors, and published writers in your genre just makes sense. While many writing mechanics and publishing options are similar, there are certain areas specific to the different genres.

**Western Writers of America** welcomes all published writers who derive their livelihood, in whole or part, from writing about the land and peoples of the American West, past and present. Membership includes novelists, historians, essayists, journalists, poets, screenwriters, and others. Application for membership is judged on an individual basis and the requirements for the different levels of membership are somewhat flexible.

What do you get for being a WWA member? A subscription to the *Roundup Magazine*, networking opportunities with multi-published professionals, access to editors who specialize in western genre, attendance at the national convention, as well as opportunities for regional activities.

Active membership requirements: multiple publications intended for a general readership. The number will depend on the kind of writing you do and what proportion of your work concerns the West. Three or more trade books (fiction or non-fiction) about the west; or a history of publication in nationally or regionally distributed

newspapers or magazines will be required, with a substantial proportion of this work being about the west. Screenwriters' work must include stories of the West and must have been produced and exhibited.

Associate member requirements: publication of a single book about the west or a lesser number of short stories or articles. If your work substantially concerns the west and you are a publisher, editor, bookseller, literary agent, literary reviewer, librarian, film or television producer or director, artist or illustrator, you qualify for membership. Dues are \$75/year.

For more information contact Paul Hutton, executive director Western Writers of America, pah2@comcast.net, or visit westernwriters.org. Membership in a couple of writers' groups is a good thing. Just don't give up SouthWest Writers.

*Melody Groves is a published western writer. She is a SWW Board member and handles Public Relations.*

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e-mail: [photos@joansaksberman.com](mailto:photos@joansaksberman.com)

Red Riding ... Queries The Real Red Riding Hood

Chapter Writing Progress

Thursdays August 2, 2007 8:00 PM

Written by Anonymous

Agents Email	Deadline
LINKS	10/02/07

Chapter	Synopsis	Status	# Words
I	Four mobsters sit in a diner, late one night, and listen to a fifth mobster explain to them that the fairytale "Little Red Riding Hood" is a fake.	Done	3500
II	He explains it is actually all about the importance of teaching children sex education.	Done	3000
III	He then regales them with the 'authentic', 'uncensored' version of the tale where Red is sent off to see the Wise Woman of The Woods (a witch-like grandmother) who will teach her sex education because her own mother is too embarrassed.	3880	
IV	Red enters the woods without learning the dangers that await her and meets the Wolf - a handsome prince-like man who is secretly a shape-shifting man-eater.	Draft 1	2000
V	The rest of the tale plays out as per normal except the Woodcutter doesn't make his entrance (he was added by the Brothers Grimm to facilitate a happy ending) and Red is raped and then ripped to pieces by the Wolf.	Draft ?	3200
VI	The Gangsters wrap up their evening and, utterly depressed, get ready to leave when the storyteller quips: "Did I ever tell you what really went down between Goldilocks and those Three Bears?" The Gangsters reply "no, what?" and the storyteller sets off on another tale.	Not started	.....

Book Proposal Agent Contract Publisher Contract

Real Red Riding Ho... Agent Publisher

- Chapters: Chapter I Chapter II Chapter III Chapter IV Chapter V Chapter VI



For more info or to download the free OneNote 2007 60-day Trial Version go to [office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote/FX100487701033.aspx](http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote/FX100487701033.aspx)

## Manage Your Writing Projects

by Peggy Herrington

A terrific new way to manage writing projects I recently discovered involves a new product from Microsoft, namely, the digital notebook called OneNote 2007, which I use with Office 2003 software—primarily Outlook and Word 2003—on Windows XP.

OneNote 2007 is a total revamp of OneNote 2003, which I've used for several years. But it's a whole different animal! When OneNote 2007 was released with Office 2007, I was delighted to discover that it works great with Word and Outlook 2003. As far as I can tell, it works as well with Office 2003 products as it claims to work with Office 2007.

The combination of OneNote 2007 with Word 2003 and/or Outlook 2003 is a great way to organize your writing whether you concentrate on books, magazine articles, stories, or just want a better way to keep track of ideas and research notes.

Here's what I'm excited about: Using OneNote 2007, I can organize all my writing projects in one convenient place on my PC, including ideas, research, notes, chapters, articles, book proposals, contracts and even links to email in Outlook 2003 and recorded phone conversations (e.g. interviews). I have quick access to everything from within OneNote 2007.

OneNote 2007 also accommodates graphics, making clipping and saving areas (including searchable text) from Web pages a snap, and it accepts hand-written notes if you have a tablet device. Much of this can be accomplished using easy drag-and-drop functionality.

### The Real Red Riding Hood

Shown in the OneNote 2007 screen shot on the facing page is a book in progress named *The Real Red Riding Hood*. If you look closely, you'll see that the manuscript (all six chapters of it) is less than half written.

Along the far left side of that screen is a column showing multiple notebooks on my PC, the bottom one being the OneNote 2007 Guide; that column can be expanded to show all the sections in each notebook. The screen's middle area shows one section of my Red Riding Hood notebook. That section contains a page with a slick little table (titled Chapter Writing Progress) that I easily created in OneNote which displays my chapters by number, synopsis, status, and the number of words I've written so far. It could be easily expanded to include additional columns, as well. Underneath the table is a link to my original book proposal and contracts with my agent and publisher for quick reference.

There's a handy list of hyperlinks to each of my chapters-in-progress along the right side of that table. Double-clicking a link opens that chapter so I can review it or continue writing. Under the column of chapter links you'll see little images of Red, Grandma and a two of my mobsters.

The tabs on the right side of that screen connect to the pages in that section. The first page is shown in the screen shot (Chapter Writing Progress), followed by pages named Quotes, Research, Proposal, and Notes.

### Bigger Than You Think

I minimized OneNote's screen to fit on a page here and still be readable, so it's larger on a monitor than shown. In fact, it's large enough to put all sorts of things on the screen, things like links to Outlook contacts (quick phone number access), specific emails and audio recordings (phone calls, for instance), hyperlinks to other files on your hard drive, and clips from Web pages. You can mark notes that you type with little tags and colorful icons to make it easier to return to reminders, to-dos, and other action items. And you can search all or part of your OneNote 2007 notebooks—even including text in graphic images!

OneNote 2007 has many other features I won't mention here as they don't relate to writing. But in case you're curious, you can share notebooks with others on the Internet, or use OneNote as a whiteboard for real-time collaboration. And you can share notes even with non-Office OneNote 2007 users by sending them as HTML so anyone with a Web browser can view them.

### The Damages

OneNote 2007 retails for \$99.95. Amazon.com sells it for \$79.99 and from AcademicSuperStore.com, through their educational discount program, it goes for \$44.95 with free shipping. Proof of student status is required.

### Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007

retails for \$149 at AcademicSuperStore.com which requires proof of student status. It's a heckuva deal, however, as this package includes Excel 2007, PowerPoint 2007, Word 2007, and OneNote 2007. They all work with Windows XP.

Unlike paper-based systems, word processing programs, email systems, or other productivity programs, Office OneNote 2007 has the flexibility to gather and organize text, pictures, digital handwriting, audio and video recordings, and more—all in one digital notebook on your computer. Office OneNote 2007 can make you more productive by keeping information at your fingertips and reducing time spent searching through sticky notes, email messages, paper notebooks, file folders, and printouts. I wholeheartedly recommend it to all serious writers.



## Vote! Vote! Vote!

All SWW members are cordially requested to attend the annual meeting on Sept. 1 at 10 a.m. to vote for 2008 officers. Ballots will be provided. Members who cannot attend may mail their votes to **Tellers Committee, c/o 7000 Bangor NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120** or e-mail them to [Tellers@SouthWestWriters.com](mailto:Tellers@SouthWestWriters.com) no later than August 31. You may vote only once.

### The Candidates



**Robert Spiegel**, running for President, currently SWW Vice President, is a contributing editor to many magazines. Author of five business books by major publishers, Rob penned chapters in the 2004 and 2005 *Writer's Market*. He writes a bi-weekly business column that appears in dozens of publications including the *Albuquerque Tribune* and teaches news and magazine writing in the UNM Communications and Journalism Department.

**Larry W. Greenly**, Vice Presential candidate, is 2007 president, has been a member of SWW since 1992. He is an editor for *albuquerqueARTS* magazine and is a freelance writer. Greenly has been instrumental in improving the financial status of SWW, procuring perks, and fostering a friendlier organizational gestalt. SWW's attendance figures reflect the success of his leadership.

**Sandy Schairer**, incumbent SWW Secretary, has been a writer for most of her life and is writing a non-fiction book based on her PhD dissertation. She has served on the SWW Board five years (as secretary in 2003 and 2005-2007) and co-chaired the Contest Committee in 2004. Schairer won the 2004 SWW Parris Award. She has a long career in public service and is willing to help SWW in any way she can.

**Keith Pyeatt**, incumbent SWW Treasurer, is a mechanical engineer who designed power plants for ten years. He then worked with energy users to reduce consumption. A full-time writer, Keith has served on the board at SWW for a year-and-a-half, first as conference coordinator, currently as treasurer and financial officer. Visit his writing website: <http://www.keithpyeatt.com>.

## Vote! Vote! Vote!

## Member Successes

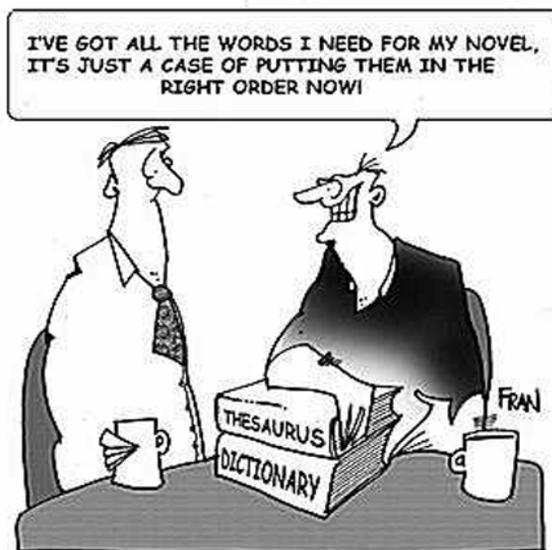
**Sue Houser** was interviewed by Diane Anderson, KRQE Early Morning News, on Monday, July 23rd, in reference to her book "Hot Foot Teddy: The True Story of Smokey Bear."

From **Linda Mertz**: I'd like to offer my thanks to SouthWest Writers for the wonderful events, workshops, and newsletter articles offered to members and guests. My thanks especially to Loretta Hall for her talk on building your own website. Since hearing her speak, I've launched one website and I have another ready for next month. AwakenedWeddings.com promotes my work as a wedding officiant and creator of personalized wedding ceremonies here in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. My second site, EnlightenmentJunkie.com, will promote my upcoming book. Thanks, too, to Laura L. Carlson for her article in *SouthWest Sage* about getting a business license and gross receipts tax number. By following her directions, it took me less than two hours to make my writing business legal. For inspiration and education, SouthWest Writers can't be beat!

**Jeanne Shannon** has poems forthcoming in *Clinch Mountain Review*, published by Southwest Virginia Community College, and *Bayou*, the literary magazine of the University of New Orleans. And who says poets never get dollars for their poems? Jeanne received a check for \$50 from Utah State University for a prose-poem that appeared recently in *Isotope*.

**Katherine B. Hauth** has signed a contract with Charlesbridge Publishing for a children's poetry collection titled *What's for Dinner?* that celebrates eating strategies of various creatures. She's also signed contracts for a poem each, in *Cricket* magazine for children and *Verbatim, The Language Quarterly*.

**Angela Cook** has had seven poems and a photograph selected for publication in the book *I Am a Miracle*. The e-book will be available in October and in soft cover in December.



## Markets

### by Eileen Stanton

Writers' magazines stress the importance of finding a professional, knowledgeable, and helpful agent to represent your work. In the quest for an agent myself, I've found **Pattie Steele-Perkins** seems to fill the bill. She was kind enough to judge romances in SWW's annual conference this year, and agreed to an interview.



**Q. I understand that you are CEO of Steele-Perkins, located in New York State. What drew you to becoming an agent?**

A. I wanted to write a book so I found an agent, Elaine Davie. As my book wasn't even started and I was well read in the romance genre, Elaine said if I found anyone in her slush pile I could sell she would give me a commission. The rest is history. Fifteen years later I still represent the first author I found in that slush pile, Carolyn Davidson. I never wrote the book.

**Q. What background have you had in the agenting or publishing and how long have you been an agent?**

A. Elaine Davie was a wonderful mentor. She introduced me to all the editors she worked with. Some of them are now Executive Editors and Vice Presidents at major publishers. The relationships she helped me establish with publishers and editors have played a vital role in the success of Steele-Perkins Literary Agency.

My Masters Degree in Communications is invaluable. Every day there is a new technology that impacts the book business and thus the author.

**Q. How healthy is the demand for romances, and what categories are "hot" at this time?**

A. Romance is more than half of the mass-market paperback sales according to RWA. In recent articles by the *New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly* the reason for this

is that publishers of romance know what their readers want. I've seen trends come and go. But what has always remained the same, from *Cinderella* to *Pride and Prejudice*, is a great love story.

**Q. Most editors won't accept a manuscript without an agent, which must put more pressure on you. What do you look for in a manuscript?**

A. I know what the editors are looking for and they've come to trust my judgment. If I find something "different" but wonderful I call and pitch it over the phone. I look for a great voice.

**Q. Do you want queries and synopses by email? How many chapters will you look at?**

A. I like a query with a synopsis via email. If I like what I see I usually ask for one chapter. What a synopsis tells me is if the story will work. The chapter tells me if the writer can tell the story.

**Q. Should the author finish her novel before she sends any part of it? What do you prefer?**

A. Absolutely finish the manuscript first and don't send it if you plan to do more revisions.

**Steele-Perkins Literary Agency**  
26 Island Lane  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
[pattiesp@aol.com](mailto:pattiesp@aol.com)

Look for Eileen's one-day classes in UNM and Santa Fe Community college catalogs. You can find her next "En la Casa" articles for the *New Mexican Magazine* in August, October and December.

*Award-winning Eileen Stanton is an author, co-founder and past president of SWW, and long-time teacher at three universities, including UNM. Having honed her interviewing talents over 15 years on the radio and in thousands of articles, Eileen brings this expertise to the Sage Markets column each month. Contact her at [estanton@cablone.net](mailto:estanton@cablone.net).*

## Recent SWW Board Highlights

Sandy Schairer, Secretary

Plans for regular features including programs, events, the Awards Banquet and annual meeting are covered monthly by the board. Members and guests may watch the board in action; guests cannot vote but may be asked for opinions.

Evaluations of workshops and classes remain high and programs continue to be active and successful. SWW meetings are regularly announced in the *Albuquerque Journal* as well as other sources.

The annual Parris Award for the outstanding volunteer of the year was voted on at the July board meeting with plans to present the award at the annual meeting in September rather than the Awards Banquet. Service Awards will be discussed and voted on at the August board meeting.

Discussion about program protocol resulted in a plan to reduce the lengthiness of announcements, with a request to eliminate interruptions. A new policy for credit card use was approved.

Plans to add voting in person in the bylaws were approved. The rationale is that voting in person has always been allowed, and when bylaws were updated in 2006 regarding delivery of ballots by *SWW Sage*, mail or email, there was no intent to prevent voting in person. Ratification by the membership will be held at the annual meeting prior to the election of 2008 officers. Only one method of voting will be conducted at any one election, i.e., if voting is in person, voting by mail and email will be prohibited to prevent the possibility of a member voting more than once.

## Writer on the Move

by Rose Marie Kern



**W**hen is a writer not a writer? When there is nothing to write with!

For almost two weeks now I have been without the means to do something I love doing daily-- write! Why? Because we are moving. Although we are

living in the new house, the computer is still in the old house. We left it there because that's where the DSL line is and the new place doesn't have any phone service yet.

I still get email once a day, but the frantic insanity of relocating means that every minute I am not at work or sleeping belongs to one of the myriads of chores required by this process. Either I'm packing or unpacking, cleaning, painting or stripping wax from old floors. The new house must be prepped for living; the old one must be made immaculate for sale.

Isn't it amazing that for years you keep saying, "We need to paint the outside trim on the house—it looks terrible!" But when does it actually get painted? Just before you put the house on the market, of course, so others can enjoy it!

My husband recently insisted we put in a circular driveway due to the fleet of cars we accumulate with driving teenagers. It has an adobe look which makes it the pride of the neighborhood. Tom has a fit if a vehicle leaks oil onto the concrete, so the old gray pickup and 1976 Datsun Z are still relegated to a curbside existence.

At the new house you can barely navigate through the stacks of boxes and furniture that will eventually find a home, only not until the old place shines like a field of solar panels. I have not yet cooked on the commercial-grade stove in the kitchen, mostly because I can't find my spatulas, so we go out for every meal. That was a nice change at first but lately it has become boring. Tom is having daydreams about my meatloaf.

Writing is no longer something done in a leisurely style at a computer whenever the inspiration hits. Mostly, I dumpster dive through my purse for a notepad or maybe the back of a Home Depot receipt where I scrawl a few keywords that will hopefully re-ignite my thoughts in a future, less busy moment.

Yet the impetus to cover a blank screen with words is insidious. I sit at work and, though I am supposed to leave the operations floor to take my break, I crouch behind the computer screen in hopes that the general cacophony of those working around me will cover the clacking of the keyboard as I ease my linguistic addiction.

My only solace is that my secretary spread is shrinking with each box hauled through the 90-degree heat. But that is another story.

*An Air Traffic Controller for 25 years, Rose Kern writes for aviation magazines, gardening, and environmental causes. Her current project is a book that gives pilots a deeper understanding of how Air Traffic works. She is past president of the New Mexico Solar Energy Assn., and has been their newsletter editor for eight years.*

## Minding your Credit

by Sherri Burr



**T**he published poet adopted a phone code known only to her closest family members and friends. They were instructed to dial her number, let the phone ring once, hang up, and then dial again. She would answer the second time.

Why did the poet adopt such an elaborate scheme before she would pick up her ringing telephone?

Answer: to distinguish friend from foe, namely collection agencies harassing her at all hours of the day and night.

With the national government running up debt exceeding \$8 trillion, some writers are not far behind in piling up mountains of debt for homes, cars, student loans, credit cards, and spending to support their writing habit. In the last two decades Americans have gone from saving 7.5 percent of their income to less than zero percent by 2005. The last time the national saving rate declined below zero percent was during the Great Depression when jobs became hard to come by during a contracting economy.

Many writers, like the poet, have become overwhelmed by their debt. Here are three tips associated with personal spending and debt management to prevent you from needing a phone code to keep the collection agencies at bay.

### Tip 1: Budget your Money

Every writer needs a budget that indicates the amount of money coming in and going out. The income section should track all receipts such as those from freelance sales, book royalties, salaries and so forth. The expense section should include categories associated with your business, such as computer, printing, research, and office costs. Track the miscellaneous expenses for one month to learn where the money goes. By accounting for the inflow and outflow, the writer can know his or her ongoing financing condition.

### Tip 2: Spend Thriftily

When it comes to spending, photographer Craig Stephenson says, "I judge everything I buy based on how much freedom I'm going to lose by having to pay for it." For Stephenson, spending is directly linked to the energy it takes to earn the money to pay for the acquired item. Spending thriftily ranges from watching for sales on big ticket items like computers and digital cameras, to recycling paper and refilling pens. When you can, buy supplies in bulk at Costco or Sam's Club.

### Tip 3: Develop a Cash Economy

A recent study revealed that 60 percent of Generation X purchase almost all of their items with credit or debit cards. For healthy financial management, a cash approach to spending is far better. You are less likely to go over budget if you only make purchases with the cash available in your wallet. When it comes to staying out of debt, cash is Queen.

*Professor Sherri Burr has taught copyright law, art law, entertainment law, and intellectual property law at the University of New Mexico for almost two decades. She is the author of six books, four of which relate to art law and entertainment law.*

**Contest Connection**  
by Jeanne Shannon

As they say down South (where I'm from), it's "all over but the shoutin'." The celebration, that is, when contest winners will be honored at the awards banquet. First-, second-, and third-place winners will be recognized and receive their cash awards at the banquet, to be held again this year at the Albuquerque Marriott Hotel. To make your reservation, fill out the form below and return it with your check to the SWW office. Banquet reservation forms are also available at SWW meetings, or by e-mail from me at [jspoetry@aol.com](mailto:jspoetry@aol.com).



# Southwest Writers Awards Banquet

*Come lend your support and share this exciting moment when the first-, second-, and third-place winners of our Annual Writer's Contest will be announced.*

**The Marriott Hotel**

2101 Louisiana NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110  
(Just North of I-40)

**Saturday, September 22, 2007**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**\$30.00**

*(includes beverage, tax, gratuity)*

Reservations are payable in advance. Please mail in bottom portion of this form by **September 1 to reserve your place.**

Please return this portion:

We **accept checks only.**

*Your canceled check is your receipt.*

**Make checks payable to:**

SouthWest Writers  
3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111-3611

**Entrees** (please check one)

**CHICKEN CARDINALE:** Assorted baby field greens with Italian vinaigrette dressing or ranch dressing. Boneless breast of chicken seasoned with lemon pepper, lightly roasted in bread crumbs, pan sautéed and served with lemon butter sauce, topped with julienne of sweet red & yellow peppers. Amaretto cheesecake with Kahlua crème for dessert.

**OR**

**VEGETARIAN PENNE POMODORI:** Assorted baby field greens with Italian vinaigrette dressing or ranch dressing. Penne pasta tossed with fresh grilled vegetables in a Roma tomato, olive oil and basil sauce. Amaretto cheesecake with Kahlua crème for dessert.

**Reservations for** \_\_\_\_\_ **people. Names, please print.** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone where we can reach you \_\_\_\_\_

**If you decide to come here from out of town we can offer you good rates at the Marriott Hotel. Call our SWW office between 9 & 1, M-F for more info. 505/265-9485.**

For office use only: check # \_\_\_\_\_ date received \_\_\_\_\_

# SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

**C**ongratulations to the winners of the June 2007 SWW International Monthly Writing Competition: Non-Fiction Article.



**1st Prize: Karen Mastrippolito,** Albuquerque, NM for "Who Are You Calling Ma'am/Sir?"

**2nd Prize: Julie Matherly,** Tallahassee, FL for "Aging Outside the Box"

**3rd Prize: Druanne Cushman,** Altadena, CA for "What Do We Really Need to Make

Us Happy?"

**Honorable Mentions:**

Rose Marie Kern, Albuquerque, NM for "Choosing the Simple Life"

Lila Anastas, Albuquerque, NM for "People Do Need People"



## Critique Groups

Submit your requests to  
SWWriters@juno.com.

*Groups Seeking Members*

**Any Genre**

First and third Wed. each month  
5:30pm at the Moriarty Library  
*Tina Ortega* 505-832-2513

**Any Genre, Rio Rancho:**

*Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley*  
505-867-1408  
riversedgebob@cableone.net  
riograndema@cableone.net

**Land of Enchantment  
Romance Authors:**

Meets the second Saturday of each  
month at noon. Potential members:  
attend three meetings to try it out.  
leranm.com

**The Screaming Ninja  
Screenwriters:**

Meets every other Thursday,  
Flying Star on 7th and Silver.  
*Marc Calderwood*  
505-897-6474  
skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com

**All Facets of Writing**

Tuesdays 3-5 p.m.  
Northeast Albuquerque  
Leave message for  
Len Hecht 977-3178

*Wanting to Start Groups/  
Looking for a Group*

**Memoirs, Santa Fe**  
*Leona Stucky-Abbott*  
505-820-2433

**Any Genre, Albuquerque:**

Meet every other Friday  
NE Heights  
*Krys Douglas*  
505-830-3015

**Any Genre, Las Cruces:**

*Barbara Villemez*  
505-522-5734

**Poetry:**

*Billy Brown* 505-401-8139,  
welbert53@aol.com

**Short Story, Novel  
or Non-fiction:**

*Kathy Kuenzer*  
kuenzerka@yahoo.com

September Contest

## Children's Critter Column

Write a column (humorous, scary, informative or scientific, etc.) about a critter, wild, domesticated or pet, for a children's magazine. Think pets, wild animals, zoo animals—the sky's the limit, except for word count. Limit the column to 500 words.

Postmark deadline: Monday, October 1, 2007.

**Instructions**

- Open to any writer in the world.
- Original, unpublished work only.
- No cover sheets.
- Print the following on first page: Name; Address; Phone; E-mail (if any); Category Name.
- Manuscripts prepared in standard format: 1" margins, double-spaced unless otherwise specified.
- Entries are not returned, so no need for an SASE.
- \$5 entry fee for SWW members; \$10 non-members.
- You may enter more than once, but an entry fee must accompany each entry.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Prizes: \$50 1st Prize; \$30 2nd Prize; \$20 3rd Prize and certificates.
- Mail entries to:

SWW Monthly Writing Competition  
3721 Morris St NE, Ste A  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

(Print category name under your return address)

## SouthWest Sage Advertising 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.

## Contests

This information is provided as a convenience. Before entering, be sure to check the listed website information or write the sponsors to make sure a contest is right for you. And don't forget to enter SWW's International Monthly Contest.

**Deadline: 9/1/07 (email).** Short stories. No entry fee. Prize: \$200. Plot Party submit-a-scene contest, Global. Plot Party is an interactive storytelling adventure that puts the fate of the ongoing serial novel in the hands of the readers. A scene is missing from the story's prologue and it's up to you to write it in 500 words or less. The best submission will be published online as part of the story and the winner will receive a cash prize of \$200. Submission guidelines and information at: [plotparty.com/index.htm](http://plotparty.com/index.htm).

**Deadline: 9/1/07 (online).** American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest. Entry fee: \$50. Prize: \$5,000. IT ALL STARTS WITH A STORY. Winner's and finalists' scripts will be considered for film option and development by American Zoetrope, Samuel Goldwyn Films, Sony Pictures Classics, Alphaville, Fortis Films, GreeneStreet Films, FilmColony, The Schiff Company, Pretty Pictures, Hart Sharp Entertainment, This Is That, Phoenix Pictures, Number 9 Films, Matinee Pictures, Michael London Productions, and Bull's Eye Entertainment. Those writers will be considered for representation by ICM, UTA, Paradigm, William Morris Independent, The Gersh Agency, CAA, and The Firm. Submit screenplay via online entry form. Judged by Francis Ford Coppola and the Zoetrope staff. Submission guidelines and information at: [www.zoetrope.com/contests/](http://www.zoetrope.com/contests/)

**Deadline 9/15/07 (postmark).** Poetry. Kate Tufts Discovery Award. No entry fee. Prize: \$10,000. Prestigious award for a first published book of poetry by a US citizen or current resident. Judges seem to favor books that have already won prizes and/or come from the top literary presses. Open to authors with published books; authors with one published book (published between September 15 of last year and September 15 of this year). Send 5 copies of the book; a one-page cover sheet with name, address, phone, email, fax and book title; a list of previous publications; and the entry form, available on website. No email entries. Submit entries to: Claremont Graduate University, 160 East 10th Street, Harper East B7, Claremont, CA 91711-6165. Submission guidelines and information at: [www.cgu.edu/tufts/tuftssubmit.html](http://www.cgu.edu/tufts/tuftssubmit.html)

**Deadline: 9/15/07 (postmark).** Tribes Short Fiction Contest. Entry Fee: \$10. Prizes: 1st Place: \$500 and publication in *A Gathering of the Tribes* Magazine; 2nd Place: \$200 and publication on [www.tribes.org](http://www.tribes.org); 3rd Place: \$100 and publication on [www.tribes.org](http://www.tribes.org). Open Theme. We look for excellence in language, skilled experimentation, and the ability to 'get a story told.' Up to three submissions accepted per author. Please send submissions separately. You may include a one-page bio. Word limit: 8,000. Submission guidelines and information at: <http://www.tribes.org>

**Deadline: 9/25/07 (postmark).** Self-published or independently published books, e-books, and audio books. DIY Book Festival Contest. Prizes: First place is \$1,500 and a flight to LA for awards ceremony. Entry fee: \$10-\$50/entry. Self-published or independently published book. Non-fiction, fiction, biography/autobiography, children's, teen-age, how-to, audio/spoken word, photography, art, comics, 'zines, fan fiction, poetry and e-books published on or after Jan. 1,

2005. Must be in English and have been self-published or issued by an independent publishing house. Judging includes how well the author used marketing tactics to reach a wider audience. Submission guidelines and information at: [diyconvention.com](http://diyconvention.com).

**Deadline: 9/30/07 (email).** Flash fiction. No entry fee. \$100 cash prize. The challenge of flash fiction is to tell a complete story in which every word is absolutely essential. Write a flash fiction piece between 500 and 700 words on the topic "In a Minute." Focus on one minute of your character's life. Flashbacks okay. Submission guidelines and information: [www.fanstory.com/contestdetails.jsp?id=447](http://www.fanstory.com/contestdetails.jsp?id=447)

**Deadline: 9/30/07 (email).** Short stories. Entry Fee: \$15.00. Prize: \$25 and 5 free copies of published book. *Mysteries of Life*: competition covers anything that might be considered strange or unusual, such as alien contact, Bigfoot, ghosts, etc. Longer stories are accepted for this contest (1,000 to 4,000 words). Submission guidelines and information at: [tourneyourworld.com/mysteries.htm](http://tourneyourworld.com/mysteries.htm).

**Deadline 10/1/07 (postmark).** Literary fiction. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Zoetrope All-Story Short Fiction Contest. Entry fee: \$15/ submission. Prizes: \$1,000 first, \$500 second, \$250 third. Judged by **Joyce Carol Oates**. Winner and seven finalists will be considered for representation by several top literary agencies. All genres of literary fiction accepted. Entries must be unpublished and 5,000 words or less. Submission guidelines and information at: [all-story.com/contests.cgi](http://all-story.com/contests.cgi).

**Deadline: 11/1/07 (postmark).** Short Story. *Writers Digest* Popular Fiction Awards. Grand prize of \$2,500 plus others. 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: [writersdigest.com/contests/popfiction/](http://writersdigest.com/contests/popfiction/).



**Smiles by the folks who brought grub to the New Member Breakfast. Thank you!**



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

## **SouthWest Sage**

SouthWest Writers  
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Albuquerque NM 87111  
[www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)  
[SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com)

Label shows your SWW Membership expiration date.  
**Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.**

**Make your reservations now for the SouthWest Writers'**



**Awards Banquet on Saturday, September 22!**

**Who:** You and your writing friends!

**What:** SouthWest Writers 2007 Annual Awards Banquet

**When:** Make your reservations *now* for 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 22, 2007

**Where:** **The Marriott Hotel** 2101 Louisiana NE, Albuquerque, NM (Just North of I-40)

**Why:** Celebrate the Winners of the 2007 SouthWest Writers Contest!

**How:** Fill out and mail the reservation form on page 13.

**Come vote for 2008 Officers at the SWW Annual Meeting on Sept. 1st**