



SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

Vol. 30, No. 9

September 2014

2014 SWW INTERNATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

BY ANDY MAYO

The SouthWest Writer's Annual Writing Competition in 2014 continues a long tradition of offering a platform for authors worldwide to display their talents. By entering the contest, authors can get their work in front of professional literary agents and editors without having to write a query letter. This year, the contest's 32nd, two literary agents requested contact information for four of our contestants in the Mainstream/Literary Novel and the Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel categories.

In all, there were 432 entries in this year's competition from 40 states and six foreign countries: 38% from New Mexico, 44% from the next 14 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Washington), 13% from the next 25 states, 3% from Canada and 2% from the five other foreign countries.

Of the 29 winners (our judge in the Essay category elected not to name a 3rd place winner), 38% came from New Mexico. New Mexicans swept the Poetry category, winning all three prizes. Congratulations to SWW members Phyllis Hoge for winning first place and Linda Yen for winning third.

Comments from some of those winning this year confirms SWW's success in sponsoring the contest in order to encourage writers to keep writing:

"It's such a confidence boost to win a prize in an international contest and I feel really encouraged to persist with my writing and try to get it published. Please pass on my thanks to the judges and thank you for organizing the contest."

"This means a great deal to me. Your organization's support and encouragement of writers and their work is so appreciated, and I feel incredibly honored by this award."

(Continued on Page 9)

Brown Bag Session Suspended for September Meeting

The recent addition of the Brown Bag Sessions to the 1st Saturday meeting schedule has been quite popular, and there are several planned in upcoming months.

September's Brown Bag, however, has been usurped to give more time to the candidates who are running for office for SWW. These folks will be given a chance to talk to the members both at this meeting and at the meeting on the 3rd Tuesday in September. The election will take place during the first part of the meeting on Saturday, October 4th, only those members who are present will be allowed to vote.

After the October meeting there will be a Brown Bag session featuring Magazine Author Rose Marie Kern who will discuss how to identify what magazines will accept your type of writing and how to approach them.

Kathy Kitts will lead the BBS on Saturday, Nov 1 where she will inspire and encourage you to participate in the nationwide writing event known as NaNoWriMo.

Instead of a BBS in December, SWW will hold a Holiday Celebration Party for the SWW membership.

October Writing Challenge

Pick up your pen or power up the computer for the Sage's October Writing Challenge. We are looking for good old fashioned mysteries and artwork next month with a Halloween theme.

400 words or less, 12 point Times New Roman single spaced. Word document, or sent in the body of an email. Artwork should be sent in .jpg or .gif format.

SWW judges decision of what to publish are final. Stories must not have been previously published. Payment is by-lines and clips only.

Send the stories and artwork by September 15 to editor Rose Marie Kern at swwsage@swcp.com.



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President's Letter *by Lee Higbie*



Our Saturday, 6 September, meeting will feature John W. Byram on “An Author’s Guide to Copyright: From Gutenberg to Google.” Candidates for office will present their platforms. Because this seems like a too-full schedule, we will not have a Brown Bag Session.

There have been a few times in SWW's 25 year history when multiple candidates ran for a position. This time there are two “slates,” or so it appears, for President, Vice President and Treasurer. Three candidates have been with SWW for many years. Three others are relative new comers. Listen to their speeches and read their pleas for votes. I expect their plans and platforms to vary significantly. They will decide the direction of SWW for the next year. SWW depends on our votes in October.

The three candidates who served on the board several years ago are Rob Spiegel for President, Bob Gassaway for Veep, and Edith Greenly for Treasurer.

The candidates from the current board are Andy Mayo for President, Peg Herrington for Veep and Dino Leyba for treasurer. Peg and Dino are currently serving in the same positions and Andy is the current Secretary. I think they have done a fantastic job.

Come to the 6 September meeting to hear from them and ask them questions. Read their statements in the Sage and be sure to come to the Saturday, 4 October meeting to vote. **You have to be at the meeting to vote.**

Our plan for the voting is to pass out ballots to members as they come in on 4 October, and give a ballot to any new or renewing member if they re-up at the meeting. During the business meeting I will also ask for additional nominations from the floor. After the names of the nominees, there will be space to write in another person, such as a “nominee from the floor.” During the coffee-break and networking and program times, the votes will be counted and the results will be announced by the end of the meeting. By the way, if you haven't noticed, the October first Saturday program is a talk by David Edgerley Gates entitled “How to Write Short Stories (Not that I know the secret).” Sounds worth the trip to me. Hope you are there to enjoy it and vote.

#

In the last week I enjoyed two examples of the importance of writing mechanics. The first was a note left on the Board Room white board, I suspect by Betsy James, on the importance of properly using commas. “Let's eat, Grandma,” as might be said by Johnny after a hard afternoon playing. “Let's eat Grandma.” might be from the Flanders and Swann's non-reluctant cannibal (... If the Juju had meant us not to eat people, / He wouldn't have made us of meat! ...). The second example stressed the importance of correct capitalization. “Harry helped Jack off the horse.” Well, because of the nature of this publication, the rest of this paragraph will be left as an exercise for the reader.

Lee

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SouthWest Sage Advertising Rates Worldwide Internet Circulation

The SWW website receives thousands of page requests every month.

Business card size: \$20 1/4 page, vertical: \$40 1/3 page, horizontal: \$50
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 in .jpg format.

Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

Individual: \$70 (\$65 renewal if paid two months in advance)

Student: 18 and over, \$40; under 18, \$25

Requires proof of student status

Outside U.S.: \$75, Lifetime Membership: \$750

Download the Sage from www.southwestwriters.com

Join us first Saturday, 10 am-Noon and third Tuesday, 7-9 pm

New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE,
Albuquerque, New Mexico



SouthWest Sage

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SOUTHWEST WRITERS MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held at

New Life Presbyterian Church

5540 Eubank NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

For more information, call the SWW office at 505-830-6034.

To register for classes and workshops: sign up at SWW meetings or register online at www.southwestwriters.com.

Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10am to noon, and on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9pm. All SWW members are encouraged to come together in celebration of the art of writing. Each meeting many members announce their recent successes and have an opportunity to network with other writers. Most meetings feature prominent speakers who bring their expertise in the arts of writing, publication, editing, and many other topics of interest to those in the profession.

After the Saturday meeting, an additional brown bag session is held to provide members with training in a variety of areas. Members may attend all sessions free of charge, visitors are charged \$10 per meeting.

You Can Write for *SouthWest Sage*

Want to add a byline to your portfolio? We welcome submissions focusing on all aspects of researching, writing, and publishing any genre. See past issues of *SouthWest Sage* for the types of articles we publish.

Payment is in bylines and clips. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Article lengths from 300-1000 words. Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length.

Please send all submissions as either standard text in an email or in a word document with Times New Roman or calibri font in 11pt. Size. Do not get fancy with any formatting or fonts—the more difficult it is for me to set it into the newsletter, the less likely I am to print it.

Send questions or submissions to Rose Kern, *SouthWest Sage* Editor, swwsage@swcp.com.

Workshop and Class Refund Policy

Full refund if cancellation is received more than 7 days before class. From one week out to 24 hours before class, participant is entitled to select another class. Inside of 24 hours, participant receives no refund or class. For multi-session classes, if you miss a class, you receive no refund. We pay our instructors based on how many students enroll, so you are part of that roll count if you don't cancel as detailed above.

Critique Groups Seeking Members

Fiction/Nonfiction

Wally Gordon, wallygordon@q.com or Chris Enke, enke@unm.edu
Erna Fergusson Library
Second Wed. each month,
4-6:00 pm With interest, can change day & time

Mainstream Fiction

Online Critique Group
Christie Keele, ckeele10@hotmail.com

Sci-Fi

Send name and writing experience to:
Cosmic_Connections_SF_Critique_Group@yahoo.com

Suspense/Mystery

Olive Balla is looking for form a critique group for fiction. Her genre is suspense/mystery, and she would like to meet once or twice per month in Los Lunas, or within a fifteen mile radius. If this sounds interesting please contact her directly. Email: ombal-la@gmail.com (505) 865-5315 (Landline) (505) 550-0011 (Cell)

Mixed genre

NE ABQ writer's critique group (mixed genre) is looking for new energetic members. We meet in members' homes every other Wednesday at 6pm. If interested email Karen at k_glinski@yahoo.com. Include a 1 page sample of your writing.

What's an Author to Do?

Sell your book to the 'Big 5'?
Lots of luck. Light a candle.

Publish It Yourself?

Sure—*If You Know Enough About:*

- ▶ *Editing*
- ▶ *Layout*
- ▶ *Cover design*
- ▶ *Proofreading*
- ▶ *Printing*
- ▶ *Ebook conversion*
- ▶ *Distribution*
- ▶ *Marketing*
- ▶ *And that's how you want to spend your days.*

But Now There's Another Way!

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LOOKING FOR A CRITIQUE GROUP?

Email Rose Kern at swwsage@swcp.com with the following information and we'll publish your request:
Name, email address, phone number, genre preference, geographic location (Belen, NW Heights, near UNM, etc.), preference for frequency of meetings, preferred day of the week.

Albuquerque Area Writing Groups

The **Albuquerque Croak & Dagger** chapter of Sisters in Crime meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, police briefing room at James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Substation. www.croak-and-dagger.com/

The Wordwrights: Don Morgan and Dennis Kastendiek moderate, all genres welcome. North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Room 1, 2nd floor. Mondays, 1:30-3:30 pm. Contact Dennis: dwjkas@yahoo.com

Children's/MG/YA Writers: 3rd Saturday critique group meets monthly at Erna Fergusson Library, San Mateo and Comanche, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. . Bring five copies of five pages, double-spaced, to share.

Duke City Screenwriters:

Meets every other Thursday
6:00 - 9:00 pm Critique group, education, and fun! Contact Terry Hicks: earthreflection@aol.com or Marc Calderwood: marccalderwood@hotmail.com

SCBWI: Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators: 2nd Tuesday each month, 7-8:30 pm, Alamosa Books. Short workshops/discussions. Pre-schmooze dinner, Flying Star, Wyoming & Paseo, 5:30-6:45 pm. schmooze@scbwi-nm.org

Writers2Writers meets the 2nd Monday each month, 6:30-7:30 pm, Hastings Café, NE corner of Coors and Montano. Monthly speakers. All genres are welcome. Contact FAAiken@aol.com

Guest Speakers and Topics at SWW Meetings

Members are free, Guests \$10

Is Google a Writers Friend?

September 6th

John Byram

Director,

University of New Mexico Press

An Author's Guide to

Copyright:

**From Gutenberg to
Google**



Copyright is the protection federal law gives authors and artists for their creative work, subject to certain limitations. These limitations are much misunderstood and have changed dramatically over the years. How is copyright defined, why does "creative expression" need protection, and how can authors best navigate the sometimes confusing world of copyright rules and regulations found in the publishing industry today?

A native southern Californian, **John W. Byram** spent the first portion of his publishing career with W.W. Norton & Company in New York. At Norton, he started as a campus sales representative for a five state territory in the Midwest, transitioned into a marketing position in charge of promoting the company's music, art, archaeology, and economics textbooks, and eventually became a full-time academic science editor. John joined the University Press of Florida's acquisitions department in 2002, where he was the press' associate director and editor-in-chief for seven years, and eventually also added director of development to his list of managerial responsibilities. John accepted the position of director of the University of New Mexico Press in August, 2010, and he has been particularly active in helping the press add a variety of digital publishing initiatives to its program.

*Send your successes and announcements
to the SouthWest Sage Editor at
swwsage@swcp.com.*



September 16, 2014

Lisa Lenard-Cook

New Life for an Old Book:

The Reissue of *Dissonance*

Dissonance, published by UNM Press in 2003, won the Jim Sagel Prize for the Novel, was short-listed for the PEN Southwest Book Award, was a book of the year at the Midland MI, Cincinnati, and Tucson-Pima County Libraries, a countywide reading selection of Durango-LaPlata Reads!, and a selection of NPR Performance Today's Summer Reading Series. Still, after eight years in print, the book hadn't been issued in paper or electronic editions, so I asked for—and got—my rights back. The question then was: what next? Tonight, I'll share that journey with you.

Lisa Lenard-Cook is the author of the novels *Dissonance* and *Coyote Morning*, and the writing guides *The Mind of Your Story: Discover What Drives Your Fiction* and (with Lynn C. Miller) *Find Your Story, Write Your Memoir*, as well as numerous trade nonfiction books. Her short fiction has appeared in *Southwest Review*, *Rosebud*, *Puerto del Sol*, and other journals. She is a faculty member at the Santa Barbara Writers Conference and the Taos Summer Writers Conference, and was a featured writer at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference in Ogden. With Lynn C. Miller, Lisa co-founded ABQ Writers Co-op, *bosque (the magazine)*, and the Bosque Fiction Prize, in 2010. Visit her websites at www.lisalenardcook.com and www.abqwriterscoop.com

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP PRICES:

\$40 SWW MEMBERS

\$50 OSHER MEMBERS w/CARD

\$70 NON-MEMBERS • \$75 AT THE DOOR

Guest Speakers and Topics at SWW Meetings

Members are free, Guests \$10



Saturday, October 4th, 2014

David Edgerley Gates

How to Write Short Stories (Not that I know the secret)

Short form vs. long? Genre vs. literary? I'll say something brief about what I'm working on and then throw it open to questions. I'll bring along some back issues of ALFRED HITCHCOCK my stories have come out in, not for sale, necessarily,

but to give away to interested readers. The latest is "Stir Crazy," loosely based on the New Mexico penitentiary riot.

David Edgerley Gates lives in Santa Fe. The author of the Placido Geist bounty hunter stories, a series of noir Westerns, he's a past nominee for the Edgar, the Shamus, the Derringer, and the International Thriller Writers award, and has appeared in Best American Mystery Stories, as well as other anthologies. His most recent novel, *Black Traffic*, is a Cold War spy thriller. Visit his website at www.DavidEdgerleyGates.com

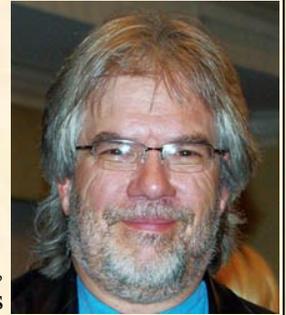
Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Johnny Boggs

Inspiration: Finding Your M.O./ Muse/Mojo/Magic/Motivation (Nonfiction)

If anyone tells you writing is easy, don't believe it for one second. It's hard, frustrating, and the act of someone who is insane. So where do you find ideas and inspiration for that nonfiction book/novel/short story/magazine article/poem/screenplay—without forcing your significant other to have you committed?

Praised by Booklist magazine as "among the best western writers at work today," Johnny D. Boggs has won both the Western Heritage Wrangler Award and Spur Award for his fiction. His nonfiction books include *Billy the Kid on Film, 1911-2012*; *Jesse James and the Movies*; *Great Murder Trials of the Old West*; and *That Terrible Texas Weather*. He has written for more than 50 newspapers and magazines, and is a frequent contributor to True West, Wild West and Western Art & Architecture. Past president of Western Writers of America, Boggs lives in Santa Fe with his wife and son. Visit www.johnnydboggs.com for more.



That's My Baby!

A Gathering for Picture Book Critique

Betsy James

September 6, 2014, 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

Do you have picture book manuscripts you've always wanted feedback on? Join children's author-illustrator Betsy James and fellow writers for an afternoon of constructive peer critique and insight into writing and illustrating for children.

Bring manuscripts that do not exceed 800 words (most first picture books should be 500 words or less). To help your readers help you, the best format for your work is double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman.

SWW Members \$40
OSHER Members \$50
Non-members \$55
Plus \$10 if not registered in advance

Southwest Writers
Carlisle Executive Offices
3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114



Betsy James is the author and illustrator of sixteen books for adults and children.

<http://www.listeningatthegate.com>

(older readers)

<http://www.betsyjames.com>

(younger readers)

Classes & Workshops

Classes and Workshops are held at the SWW Office, 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Albuquerque 87110, 505-830-6034

Websites for Writers

With Loretta Hall



1:00 - 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Meeting space: TBA

\$40 SWW members/\$50 OSHER members, \$55 Non-members.

All categories add \$10 at the door if not registered in advance

Learn how to design a website that will be attractive and effective. Topics include domain names, purpose of your website, website design concepts, hosting options, search engine rankings, and inexpensive (or free) site-building software. We will explore options for creating and maintaining your own website without knowing any programming language. Using the types of template-based programs and reliable but inexpensive hosts we will discuss, the cost of your site can range from \$0 to about \$10 per month. If you decide to have someone build your site for you, this workshop will prepare you to talk knowledgeably with that person about what you want.

Nonfiction author Loretta Hall maintains four websites that she built using template-based software. One of them, SubsurfaceBuildings.com, has won several awards and is the top search engine result for "underground buildings." The others are NMSpaceHistory.com, SpacePioneerWords.com, AuthorHall.com. As the author of six nonfiction books, Loretta's passion is explaining technical concepts to non-technical people.

Classes & Workshops

Classes and Workshops are held at the
SWW Office, 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Albuquerque 87110, 505-830-6034

How to Write for Magazines: Or How to Bag Your First Magazine Assignment

A 4-WEEK CLASS WITH MELODY GROVES

Mondays: November 3, 10, 17, 24

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

\$160 SWW members, \$170 Osher members, \$200 Non-members



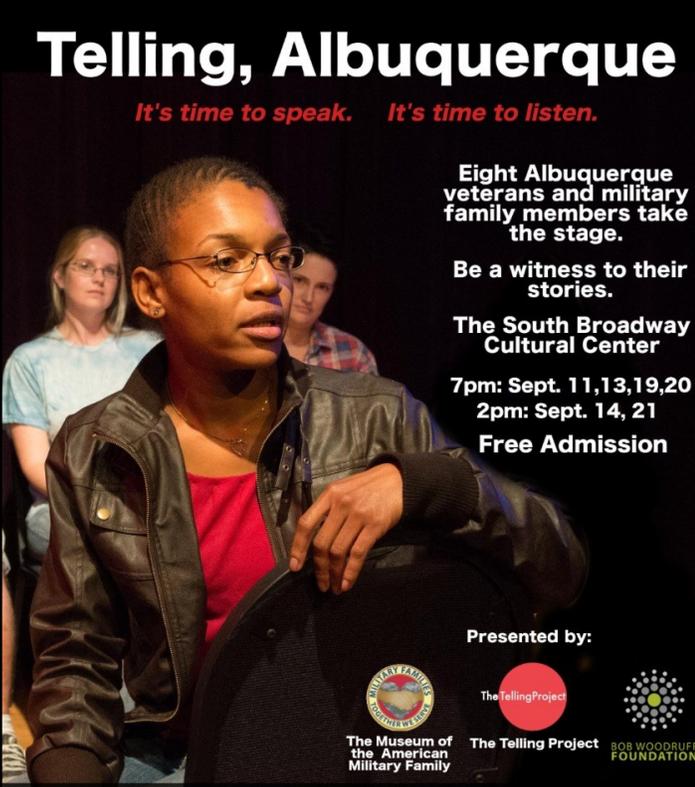
[Click here](#) to register online. Call the SWW Office (505-830-6034) or sign up at a monthly meeting to register offline.

In today's writing world, the opportunity to write for magazines is almost endless. With over 9,000 published yearly, in addition to online magazines, the world is your oyster. But, there are tricks to bagging an assignment.

Finding the right market, finding the right editor, finding out about the competition—all tricks of the trade. So if you've got a good idea but don't know where to go and how to start, look no more. This class is for you. In four short weeks we'll cover finding your story, finding the market, tweaking the same idea for different magazines, photo requirements, and approaching an editor. And that's just for starters.

Melody Groves has written for *New Mexico Magazine*, *True West*, *Wild West*, *American Cowboy*, *Police Collector News*, *Enchantment*, *Chronicles* (on line), *Albuquerque the Magazine*, *abqARTS* and *Desert Exposure*.

Announcement



Telling, Albuquerque
It's time to speak. It's time to listen.

Eight Albuquerque veterans and military family members take the stage.
Be a witness to their stories.
The South Broadway Cultural Center
7pm: Sept. 11, 13, 19, 20
2pm: Sept. 14, 21
Free Admission

Presented by:
The Museum of the American Military Family
The Telling Project
BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION

In partnership with:
WORKING GROUP THEATRE
New Mexico Veterans Memorial
HISPANO

With support from:
Pinon
On the Level Construction Dan Beckler

Sponsored by LERA and NaNoWriMo
Appearing in Albuquerque –October 11th
LERA Success/Business 12:30-1:30



Presentation/1:30-3:30
8600 Academy Rd NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Chris Baty

Founder of NaNoWriMo

Chris will discuss how he accidentally founded NaNoWriMo back in 1999, share a

few of his favorite moments from its growth over the last 15 years, and get into some of the sneaky ways he thinks a month of literary abandon helps you be a better writer. He would also love to include time for everyone in the chapter who has participated in NaNoWriMo to share their favorite tips and survival strategies. Join us to hear his fascinating story of how he made literary history.

More information: programs@leranm.com



SWW WORKSHOP AND CLASS REFUND POLICY

To ensure that SouthWest Writers can cover the cost of space rental, meals, and instructor fees, we have implemented a new workshop and class refund policy. If you cancel one week before the workshop or class beginning date you will receive a full refund. Cancellations after one week prior up to 24 hours prior to the beginning of the workshop or class will receive a credit only toward a future workshop or class of your choice. If you do not cancel or don't show up for the workshop or class you will receive no refund and no credit. For multi-session classes, if you miss a class, you receive no refund. We pay our instructors based on how many students enroll, so you are part of that roll count if you don't cancel as detailed above.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the class coordinator at SWWclasses@gmail.com.

TELLING, ALBUQUERQUE, produced and co-written by SWW member, Caroline LeBlanc, features eight veterans and family members—including SWW members **Allen Witt, Marykay Chapman, and Jacqueline Murray Loring**—each telling his/her own story. **TELLING, ALBUQUERQUE** will open at the South Broadway Cultural Center at 7 PM on 9/11. Additional evening (7PM) performances will be offered on 9/13, 19, and 20. Matinees will be at 2 PM on 9/14 and 21. Admission is free. We still need ushers for some program, so call Caroline LeBlanc at 505-350-6964 if you're able to usher when you come to see the show.

~ WRITING MARATHONS ~

Two SWW members host an 8-hour writing marathon on the last Sunday of every month, 2:00-10:00 pm, at alternating locations. Email ktwag@msn.com or ruffwag3@earthlink.net.

(SWW Contest Winners—Continued from Page one)

"I am thrilled to have been selected . . . As you all know, a fledgling writer works and slaves away over every word and to have this kind of recognition means everything to a sweaty-browed, wanna-be writer. It keeps me "killing my darlings," and writing "down the bones."

"Many thanks to the SouthWest Writers for making this opportunity possible. Also, please relay my appreciation to MacKenzie Fraser-Bub of the Trident Media Group for her critique comments and suggestions for my novel's next steps."

"A friend saw the announcement [on the website]. I was excited to see my name on the list. The news made for a fun day with friends on social media, especially my critique group."

"I've entered other contests, and the critiques from South-west Writers were far more polished than those I've received in other contests. They felt as if they came from people in the know, which is why they're so helpful. "

The most popular category was Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure with 18% of the entries, followed by Mainstream/Literary Short Story, 14%, Poetry, 13%, Children's Picture Book, 10%, Juvenile/Young Adult Novel, 9%, Creative Nonfiction/Memoir, 8%, SciFi/Fantasy/ Horror, 6%, Essay, 6%, and Women's Fiction, 4% of total entries.

The winners by category:

Mainstream/Literary Novel,

1st Place: Colleen De Maio, Van Nuys, CA, *The Myth of Wile E.*

2nd Place: Maralie BeLonge, Albuquerque, NM, *Flight Patterns*

3rd Place: Catherine North, Greater Manchester, UK, *Angels*
Judge: Laura Biagi, The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, New York, NY

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel

1st Place: Liese Sherwood-Fabre, Lewisville, TX, *A Botanical Blunder*

2nd Place: Elle Wild, Corsham, UK, *Strange Things Done*

3rd Place: Andy Simons, Seattle, WA, *Days of the Dead*
Judge: Sandy Lu, L. Perkins Agency, Bronx, NY

Juvenile/Young Adult Novel

1st Place: Barbara Gold, Stamford CT, *Weed Whackers*

2nd Place: Jennifer Bohnhoff, Albuquerque, NM, *Elephants on the Moon*

3rd Place: Amanda Searcy, Albuquerque, NM, *Adrift*
Judge: MacKenzie Fraser-Bub, Trident Media Group, New York, NY

Women's Fiction

1st Place: Orly Konig-Lopez, Gaithersburg, MD, *Healing Hoofbeats*

2nd Place: Elizabeth Nix, Aspen, CO, *Silver Cup*

3rd Place: Judith Logan, Highlands Ranch, CO, *Tap Dancing on a Spider Web*

Judge: Shira Hoffman, McIntosh & Otis Inc., NYC, NY

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror short story

1st Place: Stephen Merlino, Seattle, WA, "Outside the Game"

2nd Place: Kathryn Wagoner, Albuquerque, NM, "MoatKeeper"

3rd Place: K. Kitts, Placitas, NM, "The Oppression of Astonishment"

Judge: Leah Bobet, *Ideomancer Speculative Fiction Magazine*, Toronto, Canada

Mainstream/Literary short story

1st Place: Marrie Stone, Laguna Beach, CA, "Aviculture"

2nd Place: Linda Michel-Cassidy, Arroyo Seco, NM, "The Tides Were Within Him"

3rd Place: Stafanie Tatalias, Anchorage, AK, "Cigarettes and Buddha"

Judge: Caitlin McGuire, *Fjords Magazine*, Columbia, SC

Creative Nonfiction/Memoir

1st Place: Jan Smith, Taos, NM, *Blink Like Crazy*

2nd Place: Christopher Murray, Olympia, WA, *Unusual Punishment*

3rd Place: Sharon MaHarry, Ojai, CA, *Crazy Mama*

Judge: Mollie Glick, *Foundry Literary + Media*, New York, NY

Nonfiction Essay

1st Place: Elizabeth Rose, Galisteo, NM, "He Saw an Eagle"

2nd Place: Dee Dee Chumley, Edmond, OK, "Passion Redefined"

(The judge elected not to award a 3rd Place.)

Judge: Robert Fogarty, *Antioch Review*, Yellow Springs, OH

Children's Picture Book (47 entries)

1st Place: Thomas Fox, West Orange, NJ, *Levi and the Heavy Hat*

2nd Place: Donna Turello, Staten Island, NY, *The Red Beret*

3rd Place: Stacy Jensen, "Colorado Springs, CO, *Never Feed the Humans*

Judge: Allison Moore, *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*, New York, NY

Poetry

1st Place: Phyllis Hoge, Albuquerque, NM, "Quanfu"

2nd Place: Catherine Ferguson, Galisteo, NM, "Bequest"

3rd Place: Linda Yen, Albuquerque, NM, "Shadows"

Judge: Susan Lynch, *The Conium Review*, Vashon, WA

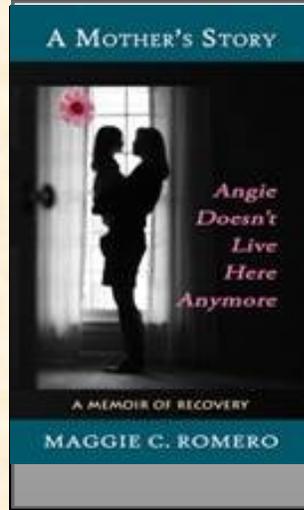
Congratulations to all our Contest winners and a big thank you to Andy Mayo for the hundreds of volunteer hours he spent organizing and running the contest!

Member Successes

Chuck Greaves' novel HUSH MONEY (Minotaur) won the SWW Storyteller Award, and was a finalist for numerous regional and national honors including the Shamus Award (Private-Eye Writers of America), the Reviewers' Choice Award (RT Reviews), the Rocky Award (Left Coast Crime), the New Mexico Book Award, and the Audie Award (Audio Publishers Ass'n) for Best Mystery of 2012. His novel HARD TWISTED (Bloomsbury) won Best Historical Novel in the 2010 SWW contest, and was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award in Fiction.

Albert Noyer's fourth novel, *Unholy Sepulcher*, in his Getorius and Arcadia Mystery series, is now available in Kindle format. "A body found in Jerusalem's Holy Sepulcher leads to a secret sex-cult and Arcadia's abduction, where a Bedouin War Lord will sell her to the highest bidder." From Sept. 3-29, Noyer's artwork will be featured at the Loma Colorado Main Library Auditorium in Rio Rancho. Information: 505 891-5013 ext. 3081.

Donald DeNoon recently received Honorable Mention for his poem, *Here, There and Back*, in the 2014 Ohio Poetry Day contest.



A Mother's Story is an intimate portrait of family addiction. When Angie's illness became apparent, Maggie jumped into a recovery program. The subsequent thirteen years have been a poignant redemption journey, as she has claimed recovery for herself even as her daughter struggles. "She shows us that in this illness, there is no sideline to stand on for observation. We are all within the circle, and we are each responsible for our own happiness." Merimee Moffitt, *Making Little Edens* Available at Amazon

The success below had a typo in last month's issue. It is here reprinted with the correct name of the book.

Sharon Van Ivan's memoir *Juggle and Hide* with cover art by her artist husband, Charles Pfahl received a Star and review by Kirkus Reviews. It was named their Indie Pick of the Day on July 20th. The book is available now on Amazon.



Help Support SouthWest Writers
SWW receives a commission on books ordered via this link to [Amazon](#).



SOUTHWEST WRITERS CRITIQUE SERVICE

An experienced critiquer, picked from a panel of professional writers and editors, will be matched with your genre and will critique your manuscript for a reasonable price below the usual market rate.

The SWW Critique Service accepts all genres, including:

- Query letters
- Synopses
- Articles
- Essays
- Nonfiction books
- Book proposals
- Short Stories
- Mainstream/literary fiction
- Genre fiction
- Children's
- Middle-grade
- Young Adult
- Screenplays/stageplays
- Poetry

COST

- \$15 - Poetry of no more than 3 pages
- \$15 - Query letter of no more than 3 pages
- \$25 - Synopsis of up to 3 pages
- additional pages are \$3.50/page
- \$35 - Minimum charge for up to 10 double-spaced manuscript pages
- additional pages are \$3.50/page

SWW critiquers follow genre-specific guidelines. But feel free to include specific questions you want answered and any points you want the critique to focus on (such as point of view, plot structure, etc.). Go to [SouthWestWriters.com](#) for guidelines and information on submitting your manuscript to our critique service.

Use Your Brain: Make Writing a Habit

By Joycelyn Campbell

You probably already know that waiting for inspiration to strike is a sure way to get little or no writing done. If you want to produce a body of work—and be prepared to welcome inspiration when it does show up in your neck of the woods—you need to write regularly. The best way to do that is to turn the act of writing into a habit.

In writing, habit seems to be a much stronger force than either willpower or inspiration.

—John Steinbeck.

Habits are a labor-saving device for your brain, which needs all the help it can get. Your brain weighs only about three pounds, yet it consumes 20% of your body's energy. Habits allow your brain to streamline some of its operations by powering down and switching to autopilot. Essentially you're wired to have habits. And your brain isn't interested in your opinion about your habits (whether you think they're good ones or bad ones). A brain's going to do what a brain's wired to do.

When you perform any activity on a regular basis—brushing your teeth before going to bed, snacking in front of the TV, going to the gym after work—your brain takes note. It then “chunks” that behavior, beginning with the cue or trigger that initiates it, and turns it over to your *basal ganglia*. The cue could be time of day, a particular feeling such as loneliness, or even another activity. In the case of writing, it could be sitting down in front of your computer at the same time every day or with your favorite hot beverage.

Once a behavior has been chunked, each time your brain encounters the cue or trigger for it, it switches to autopilot while you go through the motions of performing the activity. After you complete that chunk of behavior, your brain turns autopilot off and powers back up.

In addition to the cue and the behavior itself, the third part of what's called “the habit loop” is the reward. The reward is the feeling of pleasure you get during—or after—engaging in the behavior. The pleasant feelings you experience are the result of your brain's release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter that also activates emotional and learning circuits. The reward is positive reinforcement that motivates you to repeat the behavior. Although it's a critical part of the habit loop, the reward is the part people are most likely to skip when trying to create a new habit. If you aren't writing on a regular basis but think you ought to be able to do it without having to reward yourself, your *basal ganglia* beg to differ.

Until you've developed the habit of writing, you're needlessly taxing your brain by forcing it to operate at full power while you debate whether, when, where, and what to write. Once you've turned writing into a habit, you can channel that brainpower into your actual writing.

Start by choosing a time and place to write, preferably daily. Decide on a cue so your brain knows when to switch to writing mode. Try hooking your writing habit onto an existing routine, such as drinking your first cup of coffee or tea or returning home from a walk or the gym, and using that as a cue. Then choose a reward. You can give yourself a smaller reward each day or a bigger one after, say, a week. Just make sure you reward yourself often enough that your brain associates the reward with writing.

There is no magic number of days it will take before sitting down to write at the designated hour becomes automatic. It varies from person to person and habit to habit. Your brain responds to consistency, however, so it will eventually get the message. In fact, once you've developed the habit of writing you may find it hard to resist the siren call of your writing cue, even on days when you're sure you don't have time to write.

If you find the blank page a daunting place to begin, avoid having to face it by stopping in the middle of a scene or a passage. By the time you get back to it the next day, you not only won't have to think about whether or not to write, you won't have to think about where or how to begin, either. As a bonus, you will have given your unconscious the opportunity to make connections and see patterns that may not have been evident the day before. *That's* how to use your brain.

P.S.: It's a myth that we only use 10% of our brain. We don't use all of it all the time, but we use 100% of it during the course of a day.



Joycelyn Campbell is a writer and teacher and the founder of FARTHER TO GO! through which she helps people discover what they really want in life and shows them how to use narrative structure to create bigger and juicier life stories. She also facilitates Monthly Meetings of the Mind (& Brain) at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. Visit her at fartherto-go.com

SWW Members:

***Place an ad for your book with cover art
and a blurb of 50-60 words.***

\$10/month or \$25/three months

***Contact Rose Kern, Sage Editor,
swwsage@swcp.com***

Insights on Selling Books at the NM Arts & Crafts Fair

By Paul Rhetts

Ten different authors and publishers participated in the NM Arts & Crafts Fair at the State Fair/Expo this year. This was the first time the Fair featured the New Mexico Book Coop as a group. A number of people said to the authors they were glad to see NMBC as part of the Fair because books are an art form. Great feedback! Some other ideas and comments:



1. Many of the authors have never done a large show before, and this one was three days. The first day the Fair was open 11 hours plus set up time. If you cannot work long hours, partner with another author to share the time.

2. Some authors asked us (New Mexico Books personnel) to let them go home early or come in late. The Fair is not ours so we can't give you permission. Many shows have as policy that if you are not in your booth when the show is running (except getting food or bathroom breaks) you are thrown out. Shows do not want "no shows". This is work and your responsibility is to be at the show or make arrangements for a person to sell during show hours. What if you went to a show and people weren't in their booths? A person pays to get in and they expect people to sell.

3. We were taken care of very well by the Fair – breakfast, snacks, cold drinks, coffee, booth sitters if you had to leave for the bathroom, and general good feelings.

4. We loved our location! Usually newbies get the dregs of locations and have to work their way up. We had a great location in the middle of the Fair with hidden storage and we were all together. We could watch each other's backs.

5. It was hot but it could have been outside! 100 degrees is hard on swamps.

6. You take a chance if you do not have a business license. Tax people do check and can take action. Word to the wise if you are doing the Holiday Fair at the Balloon Museum – it is City property. Tax people go to things that are advertised. Have your license with you in your cash box.

7. **Interacting with the public is an art!**

8. Have handouts and nice looking signs. Take a little

time so you do not look like a newbie. Your dress and booth décor reflects upon you.

9. FOLLOW RULES!!! If they say not to attach things to the walls or curtains – DON'T! If they say wear your badge to get in and use your parking pass DO IT! It is not a discussion item.

10. Bring drinks and food/snacks.

11. Have boxes and stuff out of sight. Neatness counts.

12. Cover tables and make them eye catching. Look at what the arts people do!

13. Have more than one book on your table.

14. Do not be obnoxious to your neighbors. Neighbors are your friends and can help you out.

15. Bring a cloth to cover up your books when you are gone. It won't deter thieves but sends a signal that the booth is not manned when the day is over.

16. Tell friends you are there and come see you!!! PROMOTE YOURSELF!!!

17. Finally, the **sale book** idea. Health Press and LPD Press/Rio Grande Books had them. People LOVED the fact they were getting a deal. Word got around and people came over. If you can't have anything in your booth as a deal, get near someone who has it. IT BRINGS PEOPLE IN TO THE AREA TO LOOK AND MAYBE TO BUY! Potential book buyers were drawn to the whole row of book people just by the news of the "special discounts" even if not everyone had them. The economy is still bad in New Mexico and people are counting their pennies. Getting a deal puts people in a good mood. It also helps people discover the book area – if they look maybe they will buy!

If they invite us back and the cost is about the same, we want to do this again! They advertise and got a lot of people in the door.



Gale O'Brien

by KL Wagoner

Gale O'Brien is a cancer survivor and the author of the award winning book *Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life in the Face of Cancer*. Previously a school teacher, Gale has a Master of Arts degree in Education, with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction. She now enjoys a rewarding career as a writer and motivational speaker. Gale is the founder of The Healing Blog: Creating an Exceptional Life and the *Passione Per L'Arte* blog. She is also a contributing correspondent to Albuquerque Community Live Arts and Performance Services. For more information about Gale, please visit <http://galeobrien.com/>.

1. What is your elevator pitch for *Transformation*?

Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life in the Face of Cancer is an honest, revealing, no-holds-barred description of my transformational journey to survival and how I finally gave myself permission to start living life fully engaged.

2. What do you hope readers will take away from it?

I wrote this book to encourage patients, survivors, caregivers and anyone encountering a serious illness to view disease as a phase to pass through with the hope of knowing that an exceptional life is waiting ahead.

3. What unique challenges did this work pose for you?

Deciding whether my book would be unique and necessary. I had to make sure that the book I was planning to write was not only unique compared to the other books on cancer recovery, but also necessary before adding one more title to the staggering number of books in print.

4. What inspired you to write it?

In talking with many cancer survivors, I discovered that some of them have no drive, ambition, or direction. They are simply existing from one medical appointment to the next. They have allowed their cancer diagnosis to dominate their daily life and, in doing so, I believe they may be setting themselves up for reoccurrence. This is not an exceptional life to live. This is a doomed existence. I was inspired to write this book to encourage survivors to look outside the normal context of life and to create an openness toward what could lie ahead in their life after cancer.

5. What was the most rewarding aspect of writing *Transformation*?

When I was writing the book, I was totally immersed and living it in my head. When my book was finally published, it felt like I was being let out of cell, so to speak. I felt alive again!

Writing a book is an achievement. The most rewarding part is the number of readers who have responded positively and thanked me for writing the book.

6. What do you want to be known for as an author?

Not just a purveyor of information and advice, no matter how useful. But a writer. Someone who cares about, and crafts, words to bring people into the story; to take the reader on a journey. Personally, I want to be known for living my life in fearlessness. To have inspired a generation of cancer survivors to look beyond their diagnosis and to create an exceptional life afterwards.

7. What book has transformed your own life?

On Becoming Fearless...in Love, Work, and Life by Arianna Huffington. Ms. Huffington wrote a quote that has stayed with me long after reading her book:

“When we know who we are, we can overcome our fears and insecurities. We surpass our smaller selves who suffer the slings and arrows of our conditioned reality, and we move to the unconditional truth of our larger selves. The answers to the questions of what to say, what to do, whom to let in, and whom to keep out become a clear and simple matter of listening to our hearts. That inner voice helps us align with our purpose, because each of us has a purpose, even if we judge it to be insignificant. The voice is there. We just need to listen to it. When we do that, we live in fearlessness.”

8. Have you found writing or marketing to be the most challenging?

Marketing has been more of a challenge. Learning to overcome my fears—that the book might bore people; that the book might not sell; that I might freeze during an author event and forget what I was going to say to the audience. People underestimate the amount of continuous marketing that must be done in order to turn one's book into a blockbuster. As authors, we must shamelessly promote our book at every opportunity that presents itself.

9. What advice do you have for discouraged writers?

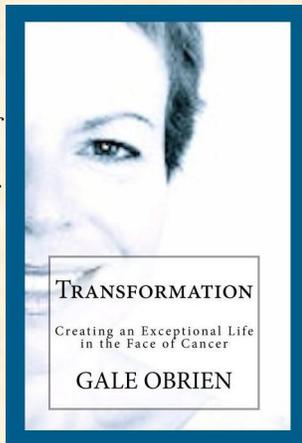
Learn to reject rejection. Get used to the idea that there is going to be a lot of rejection along the way. The secret is to never give up. If one person tells you no, ask someone else. Someone, somewhere, sometime will say yes. Move on to the next person. Someone is waiting to say yes.

10. What are you working on now?

Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life in the Face of Cancer is currently being translated into Spanish. There is a need to build cancer awareness among the Latino population. In addition, I'm writing a companion workbook to *Transformation* which will be used to teach weekend workshops and do individual coaching with cancer survivors.

—Continued Next Page

11. Is there anything else you'd like Sage readers to



know?

I'm looking for a writing partner to co-author the following subsequent titles in my book series:

Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life for Men with Cancer

Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life for Teenagers with Cancer

Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life for Children with Cancer

Transformation: Creating an Exceptional Life for Caregivers of Cancer Patients

KL Wagoner (writing as *Cate Macabe*) is the author of *This New Mountain: a memoir of AJ Jackson, private investigator, reposessor, and grandmother*. Visit her at www.ThisNewMountain.com/blog and at her blog devoted to speculative fiction at <http://klwagoner.wordpress.com/>.



As mentioned on Page 1, the annual election of SWW's Board of Directors takes place at the October 4th meeting. Only those members attending the meeting can vote. Although the candidates and their bios were in the August issue of the Sage, they are reprinted in this issue in case members did not see them last month. The first of the Candidates, running unopposed, is Kathy Wagoner above—Her information is below.

2015 Board of Directors for SouthWest Writers—Candidate for Secretary

Kathy Wagoner is the current SWW webmaster, the previous Sage editor, and a member of the PR committee. She acquired organizational skills and discipline through service in the military and became detail-oriented while working in a variety of environments, including law offices and graphic design/typography. Science fiction and fantasy are the genres she enjoys writing the most, but she also writes articles, conducts interviews, and has published a friend's memoir through Casa de Snapdragon. Kathy has been an SWW member since 2006 and a board member for two and a half years.

"During the time I've been on the board, we've worked to cut-cut-cut to balance the budget, but the difference between wishes and reality has kept us in the red. Times are tough all around. I oppose forcing members to make up for the deficit by increasing their costs for membership, courses, etc. I will continue to volunteer where needed, and I'm prepared to make tough decisions as necessary to keep SWW alive. Two of my strongest abilities are attention to detail and seeing all sides of a situation – and I will use them for SWW's benefit if I'm elected as Secretary on the executive board.

I would love to see SWW prosper in the near future with the ability to give back to the membership and community by offering free classes, sponsoring low-cost conferences, and establishing a mentoring program for all ages, including youth. I think it would be great to offer online courses, as well."



This Odd Calling: Creativity and the Writing Life

Illustration and article by Betsy James
The “-ing” Disease

“You’re saying I’m using *-ing* too much?” he said, sitting against the sloping hoarding, trying not to think about the coating of rusting iron he was touching.

Overuse of *-ing* jangles like tin cans tied to a dog’s tail.

Too much *-ing* suggests to the reader’s subconscious that the whole scene twitches, like blankets that crawl with bedbugs. Overuse signals a limited toolkit. Lively, tight prose doesn’t use the same dance step over and over. And over. The cure for *-ing* disease, as for many writers’ maladies, is sentence carpentry—skill with the myriad ways to build a sentence:

“What’s wrong with *-ing*?” He leaned on the hoarding, tried not to think about its flaking rust. What was he touching?

Candidates for Treasurer of the 2015 Board of Directors for SouthWest Writers



EDITH GREENLY

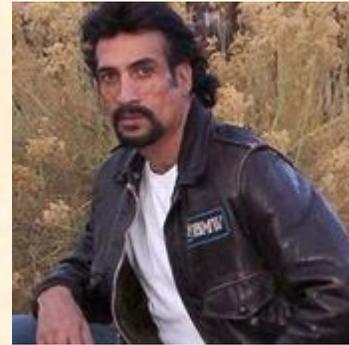
My 30+ years experience as a licensed C.P.A. in Minnesota and New Mexico have been in the public and private business sectors. My degrees include a B.S.B.A. (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration) and an M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration). I also completed the educational requirements for C.F.P. (Certified Financial Planner). As a C.P.A. I handled all accounting-related functions, including payroll checks, payroll tax filings, financial statement compilations, and business and personal tax returns.

I served on the SouthWest Writers board for ten years (2000-2010)—three years as SWW treasurer and ten years on the finance and budget committees. I was also the SWW critique service chair from 2004-2010. For my service, the SWW board of directors awarded me several SWW Service Awards.

In the last few years, SWW has been running a serious deficit. As SWW treasurer, I used to prepare a monthly analysis of individual programs to help the SWW leadership make well-informed decisions before any financial difficulties arose.

For example, by 2003, SWW was in serious financial difficulty, but after analyzing SWW's contracts, I discovered irregularities in one vendor's contract. SWW recovered enough money from that vendor to keep our doors open for several months. Then I helped cut expenses and participated in instituting profitable programs that earned SWW about \$60,000 in savings by 2010—something I'm sure that SWW can do again in the next five years.

I look forward to serving SWW members again and promise to do my best to help bring SWW back to profitability.



DINO LEYBA

I am your current SouthWest Writers Treasurer. My years employed as an accountant and running my own business have given me a strong financial background. As a past NM Quality Examiner, I hold credentials in Quality Improvement. I believe strongly that organizations today must exceed customer expectations while remaining competitive. Continuous improvement, a systematic organization-wide approach for continually improving processes that deliver products and services, is one strategy SWW can adopt to meet today's challenges and prepare for a bright future.

Balancing the budget requires operational efficiency, with both expense cutting and implementation of revenue producing programs. Strong and decisive leadership is required to achieve these directives.

We have made great strides this year. An accounting firm was engaged to review and recommend improvements to our financial processes. An integrated and comprehensive budget has been implemented to aid in our decisions. The website has been redesigned with increased functionality. Writing opportunities are being sought through grant application and project share initiatives. Youth and community outreach programs are underway as is the revitalization of scholarship programs. The membership process will see new and refreshing changes. We encourage conversation related to the revival of an annual conference and awards banquet.

Southwest Writers has great potential as the premier provider of education and networking opportunities for writers of all genres and to become an established publishing resource. Commitment to excellence and a thriving and engaged membership base will carry SWW into the future.

I would appreciate your vote to continue these great projects.



PEGGY HERRINGTON

Having successfully lived through editing and publishing *The Storyteller's Anthology*, I have a proven history of delivering writing, editing and publishing skills to SWW as a member benefit. With luck, our next project will be a book about the KiMo Theatre for the City (written for pay by SWW members), followed by more grant-funded member-written books for organizations such as Literacy Alive, which SWW may bring to Albuquerque.

All member-written books will belong to SWW. Like the anthology, they will produce revenues to help balance the budget. If we can publish just one book for each of five years, books sales and royalties will make a measureable difference not only to SWW's treasury but to our members authoring credentials.

Vote for me as your 2015 Vice President. I pledge to bring well-known industry speakers with exciting presentations to our meetings, and support renewed SWW conferences and other fund raising events.

Currently serving as Vice President and Fund Raiser, I also served on the Board as *SW Sage* editor from 2007-2010. I donated editing/design of *The Storyteller's Anthology* and recently wrote and submitted a grant application for a book about the KiMo Theatre. Writing coach, book editor/designer, I served an arts magazine for 6 years as associate editor, managed and produced for three Microsoft divisions, and edited General Electric's *GENie LiveWire* member magazine. As a freelance technology journalist from 1983-1991, I authored well over 500 feature stories, columns, articles and reviews. I hold a Bachelor of Arts from UNM.



BOB GASSAWAY

I began my career as a writer and photographer for a television station and since have worked for newspapers and The Associated Press. I've also sold fiction and non-fiction to magazines, published in several academic journals, published several book chapters and co-edited a commercially published book. After earning a Ph.D. in sociology, focusing on the symbolism of human communication, I taught journalism for 22 years.

As vice president of SouthWest Writers, I would like to pursue three goals:

1. Find better ways to attract members to our organization. Our membership has been shrinking for several years. I would like to help better communicate the benefits of our organization to more people.
2. Help revive the writing conferences that were once an excellent offering to our members. Help make our classes and workshops more affordable to our members.
3. In addition, one of my major concerns is that SouthWest Writers has doubled the size of its paid staff in the past year and a half without any discernible enhancement of services to the membership. Instead, the focus has been on accounting and busywork. I would like us to reconsider these expenditures and redirect our focus in ways that will better serve the dues-paying members of SouthWest Writers.

I've served three and a half years on the board of directors of SouthWest Writers, and I believe I can see some ways to enhance our operations. I want SouthWest Writers to truly reflect our motto: Writers helping writers.

Candidates for President of the 2015 Board of Directors for SouthWest Writers



ROB SPIEGEL

I have considerable experience guiding SWW to success. I was president 2004-2005, and 2008-2009. The years in-between I was VP while Larry Greenly was president. At the beginning of that period, SWW had \$1,500 in the bank. By the end of that period, we had \$60,000 in savings. We accomplished that through a combination of strong expense oversight and an eye toward programs that served SWW members while delivering sufficient revenue to create a safety fund.

To recapture that financial success, we need to reinstitute one-day conferences that present nationally known editors and agents. When we launched these conferences, they had a 22-attendee breakeven. The conferences each produced \$3,000 to \$4,000 in profit. At two per year, we were putting \$6,000 to \$8,000 into savings each year. Conferences were abandoned after my tenure. They were being held in pricy venues, and breakeven had drifted up to 65 attendees. That increased risk and killed profits. By holding conferences at the church, we can return them profitability and again start adding to savings.

I intend to reinstitute the book table and make changes to bring about a more member-friendly SWW.

I am a journalist of 40 years. I also write and publish poetry, fiction and drama. SWW is my professional title. I believe it is important for SWW to have successful writers as part of its leadership. I also owned a successful magazine (Chile Pepper) and book publishing company for 10 years.



ANDY MAYO

The challenge facing SouthWest Writers today is finding stability—financial, organizational and programmatic—in our difficult new environment. Few people are earning more than they did 10 or more years ago. The publishing industry has been ‘disrupted’ by new technologies. We have competition today from writing websites that we never imagined a few years ago. The past is not the path to the future.

The first step toward stability is sound financial management.

As the current Executive Board Secretary, I have focused on creating a more accountable and cost effective administration. Having a professional CPA firm handle financial management, as our Treasurer, Dino Leyba recommends, will improve transparency and will help future Boards’ spend money only on activities that are crucial for growth.

And grow we must. We need more members and/or non-member revenue because we cannot ask our current members to pay more. Yet in my experience there has never been a membership drive.

To grow we must finance activities that are attractive to all writers and that members will value such as conferences. Everything we do should help serve our members as writers. And we should have fun.

I served on the first Board of beanonline.org, a nonprofit which has since grown internationally. I’ve been a reporter and bureau chief at two metropolitan daily newspapers and managed corporate departments with up to 200 employees and an annual revenue of \$10 million. My full-length plays *The Prisoner* and *Brothers* had staged readings in Los Angeles and Seattle respectively.

Brown Bag Session October 4th

Writing for Magazines, “Finding the Journalist Within”



Rose Marie Kern has monthly columns in 3 national and 6 regional publications, and although most of her work is in aviation, she has also had freelance articles accepted by such magazines as “Mother Earth News,” “Backwoods Home,” “Countryside” and “Solar Today”

During Rose’s Brown Bag Session following the meeting on October 4th, she will go over the basics of identifying how to determine what types of articles you could consider writing and what kinds of magazines you can target.

Welcome New Southwest Writer’s Members!

Daniel Douglas
Lauren Merewether
Anne Brannen
Joan Saberhagen
Carl Michael Carlson
David Menicucci
Jemque Nielsen

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

SouthWest Writers is seeking deserving high school and college students for one-year scholarship memberships in our organization. To be eligible, an applicant must be enrolled in high school or college.

If you know someone with the interest and desire to pursue a writing career or if you wish to apply yourself, please complete the application form on page 15 of this newsletter and send to: *SouthWest Writers* 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114 Albuquerque, NM 87110

CANINE SYMPHONY

By Bobbi Adams

A familiar sound pulls me from my slumber. The clock reads 2:18. Amore, the Alpha of my six dogs, is snoring, occasionally throwing in a snort or two. I start to chuckle. They always make me laugh when they snore or dream.

My smallest dog, Tootsie, growls in her sleep. I don’t know how she could bite anything with eleven teeth missing. Kaite, the pug-a-mutt, begins whining through her smooshed in pug nose. They feed off each other. Panda, always the noisy one, starts yipping and Mimi, unable to vocalize due to crushed vocal cords, is running. Her feet scrape the side of her crate and sound like brushes on a snare drum. Coco joins in with her unique snore. A high-pitched whistle comes out every other snore. I wonder if they are dreaming about past abuse, or a game they played today.

Unconsciously, they synch up with each other and start to compete. They keep getting louder, and sounds combine to make an odd symphony. What great music, given as a gift in the middle of the night.

The sounds crescendo and become more insistent....And then it happens. Amore, the snoring, snorting dog and conductor of this pack, suddenly sneezes...twice. All the dogs are startled awake.

They look around and realize where they are. They shift their positions, sigh deeply and go back to sleep. All rescue dogs, they are happy, healthy, secure and at peace in their forever home.

As for me, I am blessed with an impromptu sonata in the middle of the night that makes my heart smile. Till next time, the canine symphony is over.



Bobbi Adams is retired from the airline industry and lives in Albuquerque with her six rescue dogs and 3 birds. She is a member of SWW, Community Emergency Response Team, (CERT), Alumni Police Academy. Coco and Bobbi are members of Pet Therapy Inc. She also loves gardening and likes to share her vegetable bounty with others.



Try our Google Calendar link to see what’s coming up for each month. Use the link on the SWW website or click here: www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=swwcalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Denver

