



SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

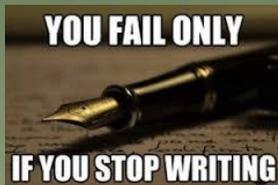
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March 2015

In this Issue

Page

- 2—President’s Message
- 3—SWW Information
- 4—Upcoming Speaker
James McGrath Morris
- 5—Upcoming Speaker
Jim Tritten
- 6—Upcoming Speaker and workshop by
Jack Woodville London
- 6—Upcoming Poetry Panel
- 7—The Writing Life, cont. from Page 1
- 8—Barbara Lemaire Workshop
- 9—Melody Groves Workshops
- 9—More upcoming speakers
- 10—Workshop by Mark Stevens
- 10—Dr. Greenly at ERAU
- 11—Successes and Announcements
- 12—This Writing Life—Betsy James
- 12—SWW Financial Report
- 13—NOTES from SWW Board
- 13—Contest and Conference Info
- 14—Critique Groups
- 15—Scholarship Application



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

The Writing Life: Gutsy, Risky Plays

By Sherri Burr

I write this column with Super Bowl XXIX, a contest between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots etched in my consciousness.

After the game, conventional and social media commentators condemned Seahawks’ coach Pete Carroll for calling a pass play when the Seahawks faced second-and-goal from the Patriots one-yard line with twenty-six seconds left in the game. If you are among the 114.4 million individuals who watched the event, you know the play ended when the Patriot’s Malcolm Butler intercepted the Seahawks’ pass. The Patriots won the game with twenty-eight points to the Seahawks’ twenty-four.

As people vilified Carroll for the risky play that failed, no one was commending him for his gutsy, yet successful, call to go for a touchdown, instead of a field goal, with six seconds left at the end of the first half. The problem with gutsy, risky plays in sports and in the writing life is that if they succeed you are hailed as a hero, but when they fail you’re pilloried.

Think of the bold writer of *Gone with the Wind*, which sold over a million copies during its first month in print. Ponder the amazing story of Solomon Northrup retold in *12 Years a Slave*, a book well received upon its publication in 1853 and rediscovered recently to become a national bestseller. Both of these books addressed slavery from different perspectives and films based on them won Academy Awards for best picture. But for every tome like these two, there are over a million books that won’t sell ten copies this year.

While every writer would like to be the next Margaret Mitchell or Solomon Northrup and pen stories that are still being experienced decades, if not centuries, after their death, such success is not predictable. As in sports, writers must act while unforeseen forces can propel them forward to success or intervene to cause disaster.

Ultimately what writers must do is make the best play at the time, or write the truth as they know it. When Carroll made the call to pass into the end zone with six seconds left at the end of the first half, I grimaced and told my guests, “This is

(continued on Page 7)

President's Letter by Rob Spiegel

Of Contests and Conferences

For decades, the SouthWest Writers annual contest was one of the leading writer's contests in the country. The contest provided training wheels for new writers to learn the arcane submission procedures for the publishing world. The contest played an essential role on the path to publication.

Now everything has changed. There are now hundreds, probably thousands, of contests available to aspiring writers. The small publishing world has exploded with contests. You can find hundreds listed at Poets and Writers, Writer's Digest, and FreelanceWriting.com. Many of them offer the one thing SWW is not able to offer – publication.

So, when the 2015 board found that the preliminary work had not been completed for a 2015 annual contest (we begin advertising in the early fall), we decided this may be an opportunity to re-think the contest. With all of the contests on the writing scene, what do we have to offer for all the time and risk involved?

We're not in a position to move forward with a strong 2015 contest, and maybe that's fortuitous. The old paradigm for an annual contest has passed. Perhaps a member will approach the board with an idea for a contest that will satisfy unfilled member needs in a way that existing contests don't. As for now, the risk involved and the army of volunteers required doesn't make sense.

Memoir conference for Fall 2015

A conference, however, does make sense. Memoir has always been our hottest conference topic. And if we hold the conference at the New Life Church, our costs will be low enough to ensure financial success. We intend to bring in two editors (or an editor and agent) who are actively seeking memoir manuscripts. We will hold a day's worth of sessions on how to write and market your memoir and offer short meetings with the editors/agent.

Planning is just beginning. If you would like to be part of the conference committee, let me know: robspiegel@comcast.net.

Welcome back the Bi-monthly Contest

Beginning in May, we will re-launch the bi-monthly contest. Every two months we will announce a new subject. Prizes will be \$150, \$50, and \$25. The first subject will be "A Poem." No longer than one page, and it can be on any subject. Look for an announcement soon on our newsletter and website.



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

1/2 page horizontal \$75

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

Deadline: 15th of each month for the following

2 HOUR WORKSHOP PRICES:

\$29 SWW MEMBERS

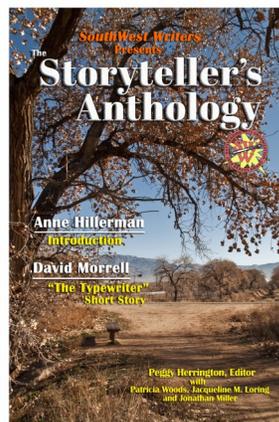
\$34 OSHER MEMBERS W/CARD

\$39 NON-MEMBERS

The Storyteller's Anthology is available to order in

paperback on Amazon [here](#).

A great addition to any library, it exemplifies the diversity of talent we bring to the literary world. Please consider leaving a positive comment on the Review page with a 5-star rating to enhance saleability of this excellent example of outstanding authorship by members of SouthWest Writers!





SouthWest Sage

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Vice-President and Speaker Coordinator
Bob Gassaway bgassaway@gmail.com

Secretary—Kathy Wagoner
swwSecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer and Business Table organizer
Edith Greenly swwtreasurer@gmail.com

Webmaster –Kathy Wagoner
justwritesww@gmail.com

Sage Editor– Rose Marie Kern
swwsage@swcp.com

Social Media and slideshows
Kim Mitchell kimberlymitchell56@gmail.com

Workshops and Classes Larry Greenly
SWWriters@juno.com

Joanne Bodin
jsbodin@msn.com

Harold Burnett
swwhmb@aol.com

Joycelyn Campbell
jcampbell8@msn.com

Jeanne Shannon
JSPOETRY@aol.com

James Tritten
jimtritten@comcast.net

**Next SWW Board meeting will be March 3rd at the
SWW office at 6:00pm.**

SWW Office:

3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114 Albuquerque, NM 87110
phone: (505) 830-6034 e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com
website: www.southwestwriters.com

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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 for the 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.



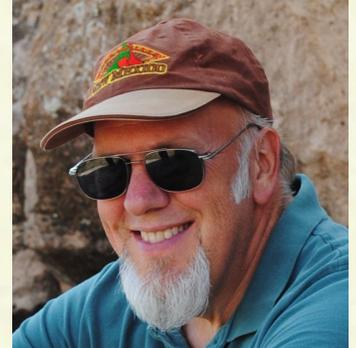
Guest Speakers and Topics at SWW Meetings

Saturday, March 7th 10am

James McGrath Morris:

Using Storyteller Techniques to Breathe Life into Your Writing

You will leave this meeting with a dozen specific narrative writing techniques that you can use to invigorate and bring life to any genre of writing. Adapted from the best of fiction and non-fiction writing, these storytelling methods help build tension, make for compelling scenes, and get you closer to writing a page-turning book.



James McGrath Morris is a Santa Fe author who writes primarily biographies and works of narrative nonfiction. His newest books are *Eye on the Struggle* and the best-selling Kindle Single *Revolution by Murder*. His other books include *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power* and *The Rose Man of Sing Sing*.

Eye On the Struggle: Ethel Payne, the First Lady of the Black Press, was recently released and has already received international attention. Here are some of the review comments he has received:

“Important and often absorbing new book . . . It’s a deep pleasure to meet Ethel Payne. ‘We are soul folks,’ she declared in 1967, ‘and I am writing for soul brothers’ consumption.’ Her own soul beams from this book...”
New York Times

“In James McGrath Morris’s compelling biography *Eye on the Struggle*, this ‘first lady of the black press’ finally gets her due. Morris lovingly chronicles Payne’s dedication and her rise. . . For her, being a reporter was about ‘stretching the horizon of the heart.’ Never content simply to ‘live and let live,’ she sought always to engage, fight and make change.” **O Magazine**

“*Eye on the Struggle* is a fast-paced tour through the highlights of 20th-century African-American history, with Payne as witness.” **Boston Globe**

“Morris’ well-paced narrative not only walks readers through the civil rights movement’s inner workings, but he lets us tag along with Payne on her 13 journeys to Africa and trips to China, Vietnam and elsewhere.” **Minneapolis Star-Tribune**

Brown Bag Session following the March 7th Meeting

Bob Gassaway: *Sharpen Your Words to Sharpen Your Stories*

Choose the right words to strengthen your writing. Grammar and punctuation will get some attention, but the main focus of this session will be on choosing strong verbs, paring phrases to their minimum number of words and using direct language.



Bob Gassaway started writing news for radio and television and moved to newspapers and The Associated Press, including a stint as a war correspondent in Vietnam. After earning a Ph.D. in sociology, focusing on the symbolism of human communication, he taught journalism for 22 years at the University of New Mexico and the University of Missouri. He also has written for magazines and professional journals and has published a number of book chapters. He now writes murder mysteries.

SWW Speaker—Tuesday, March 17th 7-9pm

JIM TRITTEN



Building a Writing Career

Have you ever tried to get paid for your writing? **Jim Tritten** cracked the code on how to actually get money for what he put on paper. He will outline a strategy for breaking in, unusual venues that can lead to publication, and ways to blend work and private writing. Jim will also talk about how to handle income and expenses, business options, and his transition from writing non-fiction to memoir and fiction in retirement.

Jim Tritten, Ph.D., wrote during a 44-year career with the military including while serving as a carrier-based naval aviator. He holds advanced degrees from USC and formerly served as a faculty member and department chair at the Naval Postgraduate School. Jim has published five books and hundreds of chapters, articles, and technical reports. A frequent speaker at many conferences, Jim's work has been translated into four languages and he has won 13 national writing awards.

Spend St. Paddy's Day with SWW and learn what it takes to be Lucky !



Upcoming Speakers at SWW Meetings—April

Saturday, April 4th—10am

Jack Woodville London

Why We Write:

Storytellers of Hope for an Uncertain World



Writers, and before there were writers, storytellers, help the rest of us believe that no matter how bad the hunting or gathering, or how fruitful the harvest, we're going to survive – if we know how the story comes out.

Jack Woodville London did post-graduate study in creative writing at the Fiction Academy, St. Cere, France, and at Rewley House, Oxford University. Author of the Year, 2011-2012, MWSA, and DIY Indie Author of the Year, 2013, he is the author of the *French Letters* series of historical novels and, in 2015, of *A Novel Approach*, a non-fiction book for writers on the craft and conventions of writing. He is the author of dozens of published articles on elements of writing the novel, a blog on writing and history, and almost one hundred book reviews in his feature "On the Nightstand" at jwlbooks.com.

After the Saturday April 4th Meeting,

Jack Woodville London will be presenting a two-hour workshop on :

WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN:

Planning the Novel, Character- vs. Plot-driving, and Bringing it into the World

Writing a novel or memoir can be complicated and get out of control, what with all the characters and back stories and those pesky demands for *veritas*. Using hands-on exercises, students will work on techniques to outline the story, identify and manage their characters and story lines, and make key decisions about the conventions of the novel.

\$29 SWW Members, \$34 Osher Members, \$39 Non-members



Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Poetry as Inspiration

A panel discussion with facilitator Joanne Bodin

Poetry, as an art form, has inspired people throughout the ages, as a way of expressing thoughts and emotions dealing with topics that are often difficult to talk about, and in some cultures are even considered taboo.

This discussion is facilitated by author and poet Joanne Bodin, and features several of our own award winning SWW members. Jeanne Shannon, Joanne Bodin, John Candelaria, and Don DeNoon will read from their poetic works as well as offer insight into the magical language of poetry.

The Writing Life: Gutsy, Risky Plays continued from Page 1

a mistake.” And then the Seahawks scored and tied the game fourteen-fourteen,

I was silenced, and then thought, Wow! The Seahawks go into halftime with a tied game. The wide grin on Carroll’s face said it all: he took a chance; it succeeded and turned the game’s momentum. Indeed, the Patriots didn’t score once in the third quarter while the Seahawks completed a touchdown and a field goal.

The energy shifted again in the fourth quarter after the Patriots scored two touchdowns. As the final twenty-six seconds of the game approached, the Seahawks possessed the ball deep in Patriot territory on the verge of scoring the touchdown needed to win the game. The call with the highest percent of success based on passed experience would have been to hand the ball to the Seahawks’ star running back.

Instead, Carroll told his quarterback to pass the ball. What neither Carroll, nor his quarterback, could predict was that within a matter of a second, Malcolm Butler would unexpectedly dive in front of the Seahawks’ receiver and steal the ball. Like Carroll, writers make plans in a world hoping for perfect execution. And as Carroll learned, any number of situations can intervene.

The problem with gutsy, risky plays in a competitive environment is that the opposition endeavors to make their own. Interviewed after leading his team to victory, Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady said, “Coach talked all week about how it was going to take all sixty minutes, and it certainly did.” Thus, while staying committed to the end, the Patriots demonstrated the last and gutsiest play.

Similarly, to flourish as writers, we must take risks and we must also persevere for as long as it takes to produce. Charles Darwin researched the topic of earthworms for forty-four years before finally publishing the book, *The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms, with Observations on Their Habits*. Published in 1881 to instant success, it remains in print today. Passion sustains a writer to examine a subject for that long.

Just as the desire for victory compelled the Patriots’ Malcolm Butler to dive for the Seahawks’ ball in the last seconds of Super Bowl XVIII, writers must

stay focused and opened to opportunities. Write with gusto, and dare to take risks.



Sherri Burr is a Yale Law School-educated law professor at the University of New Mexico. She has received several awards for her interviews, most recently earning First Place in the NM Press Women Contest for Television Talk Show for an ARTS TALK interview she did with Actor John Corbett (“Sex in the City” and “Northern Exposure”). These interviews are available through her website www.sherriburr.com and on www.youtube.com.

Request for Information!

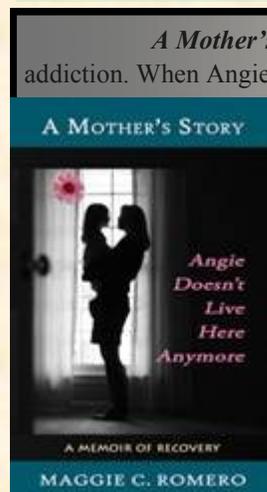
If you or a writer you know uses any type of voice-recognition software to write, please contact SWW member Ramona Gault.

Ramona is writing a feature for the April newsletter on this tool and wants to interview several more writers. Email:

stickynote.editor@gmail.com

Member Book

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



3 Day Social Media Intensive for Writers

February 28, March 7 and 14 2015

1 pm to 4 pm

Classes at the SouthWest Writers Office

Do you use Google?
Are you on Facebook?
Do you have a Website?

Are You on Twitter?
Are You on LinkedIn?
Are You on Pinterest?

Creating a profile is just the beginning...
Learn how to promote your writing to attract
fans, readers and publishers

\$119 SWW Members, \$129 Osher Members, \$139 Non-members

Please go to <http://www.southwestwriters.com/events/classes/>

for registration details



Barbara C. Lemaire, PhD has more than 20 years experience in marketing, public relations, publishing, strategic planning, sales, organizational management, project management and business coaching. She is Assistant Chairperson of Professional Coaching & Human Development Department at the International University of Professional Studies. Co-Founded Strategic Networking a business networking forum,. Edited and Published the 2008 Compre-

Syllabus is available on my website socialmediamadesimple.info



Mark your calendars for more Upcoming Speakers at SWW Meetings including:

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 am – noon
How to Plot Without Plotting

◇ **Mark Stevens**

Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Landscape: How Setting Creates Identity & Story
— Irene Blea

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 am – noon
Speaker and Topic TBA

Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Is OMGWTF?! (Old Mom Geezer Writing Teen Fiction): Cultivating a Voice Other Than Your Own .

— Jennifer Ruden

Watch upcoming issues of The Sage for more details on upcoming speakers, or go to our website at www.southwestwriters.com.

~ 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.



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

Melody Groves Workshops

Cost: \$39 members \$44 Osher \$49 non-members



Turning Fact into Fiction: Bending the Truth to Make it Fit

Fiction is an odd animal. It needs to have enough fact to make it believable, yet should incorporate a touch of fantasy, married with whimsy, that nestles with larger-than-life to create a realistic, make-believe world. It's a tough job, but you can do it!

In this workshop, Melody Groves will look at what makes good fiction including great character development, creating plots that twist and turn, building scenes from a scrap of an idea, and how to revise without making you crazy. Bring ideas and/or books you're working on, and we'll see how we can add a modicum of fact to make your fiction sizzle.

We'll cover

- What makes good fiction?
- Great character development
- Creating plots that twist and turn
- Creating a scene with just a scrap of an idea
- Revision without making you crazy

When: Saturday, March 21 9:00am-12:00 pm

Where: New Life Presbyterian Church

HOW TO PLOT:

Every Good Story Needs One

Sometimes we read stories and wonder what it was all about. Who did what and why? You can write better than that! This workshop by Melody Groves will cover the beginnings and basics of plotting.



- ◆ definition
- ◆ what a plot does
- ◆ every character wants something
- ◆ point of plot is change
- ◆ parts of a plot
- ◆ crisis vs. challenge
- ◆ the hook
- ◆ the characters
- ◆ subplots
- ◆ climax

When: Saturday, April 11 9:00am-12:00 pm

Where: New Life Presbyterian Church

Upcoming Workshop

May 2, 2015

Write What You *Don't* Know with Mark Stevens

12:30-2:30 pm (Immediately following the Saturday, May 2nd Membership meeting)
New Life Presbyterian Church 5540 Eubank NE
\$29 SWW Members, \$34 Osher Members, \$39 Non-members



Write What You *Don't* Know

It's one of the oldest adages in the "how to" book of writing fiction: *Write What You Know*.

For writers, this concept can be frightening. It can seem so confining. Mark Stevens says *forget about it*.

If Mark Stevens can write a mystery series featuring a female hunting guide, well, anybody can write about anything. He's a guy (Exhibit A) and he would just as soon give spiders a ride outside on a sheet of paper rather than kill them (Exhibit B). Shooting an elk or deer? Forget it.

In fact, freeing yourself from the limits of *Write What You Know* is liberating. Adopting the mantra, *Write What You Don't Know*, opens up a universe of possibilities and a whole new array of possibilities for the plots you're developing—and the characters who inhabit them. There are steps you can take to give you confidence as you step into the void. In this workshop, Mark will explore what it takes to write in-depth and convincingly outside of your comfort zone. In fact, tackling strange new worlds might heighten everything about your story, from character to setting and plot.

Mark Stevens was raised in Massachusetts. He's been a Coloradan since 1980. He's a former print reporter, national news television producer and school district communicator. He's now working as a self-employed communications consultant. Stevens has published three Colorado-based mysteries, *Antler Dust* (2007), *Buried by the Roan* (2011) and *Trampoline* (2014). *Buried by the Roan* was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award in 2012. The fourth book in the Allison Coil Mystery Series, *Lake of Fire*, will be published in September 2015. All four novels deal with issues involving the New West and are set on the Western Slope of Colorado including Glenwood Springs, The Flat Tops Wilderness, Meeker, and The Roan Plateau. Visit his website at <http://www.writermarkstevens.com/>.



Dr. Larry Greenly Wows ERAU

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University hosts a monthly lecture series on aviation history that is open to the public. On Feb 25th, SWW member Dr. Larry Greenly gave a presentation on his book "Eugene Bullard: World's First Black Fighter Pilot" to an audience of over 310 students, pilots, aviation professionals and many other members of the Prescott, AZ community. His presentation was doubly apropos as February is national Black History month.

Dr. Greenly emphasized the strength, flexibility and determination exhibited by Bullard, who was born in the deep south prior to WWI, as he fought the racial prejudices of his era. Bullard used every curve life threw him to learn new skills and make his way to France, where he joined the French Foreign Legion. France is where he became a highly decorated fighter pilot during WWI.

The book was written to a young adult audience and has already garnered several awards in the literary community for Dr. Greenly's stimulating method of describing the fascinating life and trials of Eugene Bullard

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***

Member Successes

Gayle Lauradunn was a featured reader at The Range in Bernalillo on Feb. 11 and at the South Broadway Culture Center on Feb. 18. Her poem "Inheritance" is included in the anthology TRIGGER WARNING: HOW POETRY SAVED MY LIFE published last Fall.

Jim Tritten published a memoir piece "Dad, I'm on an All-Plant Diet," in *More Voices of New Mexico*, a project of the New Mexico Book Co-op, pp. 173-177 ... [add following text] ... and "Why Did They Invent Pink Duct Tape?" in the Rio Rancho Creative Writing Community anthology *Catching Calliope*, Winter 2015 (Number 4), pp. 133-134.

Jasmine Tritten published "Stumpy" in the Rio Rancho Creative Writing Community anthology *Catching Calliope*, Winter 2015 (Volume 4), pp. 118-119.

Author and Historian **Veronica Tiller** participated in the creation and production of a new PBS film entitled "A Thousand Voices". The film focuses on women who carry forth the collective memory, traditions and beliefs of their ancestral families, clans and tribal communities She is Jicarilla Apache and was asked to be involved in the planning of the film.

Announcements

Anne Hillerman's mother, Marie, passed away. Services were held Thursday, February 19 at Our Lady of Annunciation in Albuquerque. Our deepest sympathy to her family and loved ones.

One of the founders of SWW, **Elsie Kreischer**, turned 95 on Feb 6. Congratulations, Elsie!

New SWW member **Zack Wheeler** (zackwheeler.com) is looking for a critique group. His preferences are Fiction and Science Fiction. He is located in the NE and his phone number is 505-252-8639. Zack works from home and has high flexibility when it comes to meeting times. His email is: zcwheeler@gmail.com

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

Flash Fiction Writing Contest

Announcing the 2015 Pikes Peak Branch of the National League of American Pen Women **Flash Fiction Contest**. A complete, but very short story of 100 words or fewer. Theme: "Between duty and devotion" Deadline: May 1, 2015. <http://www.pikespeakpenwomen.com/flash-fiction-contest.html>

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.

**This Odd Calling:
Creativity and the Writing Life**
by Betsy James

Spacious Poetry

Poetry is writing that has space inside it.

To listen for the roomy worlds of poetry, pay attention to traditional songs, the ones sung by lonely people before there were recording companies. Pay attention to kids' taunts—"I see London! I see France!"—and jump-rope rhymes; the poet is her own folklorist. Pay attention to the rhythms of speech.

Actually, just pay attention.



The Question Song

from *Listening at the Gate*
Poem and Illustration by Betsy James

Where do the winds go?
 What does the rain know?
Where is the egg when the bird has flown?

Where does the moon sleep?
 What makes the sea deep?
Where is the soul when the breast is bone?

What makes the mouth sing?
 What loves listening?
Where is the tune when the song is done?

Where is our joined heart,
 when at last our hands part
And we have returned to be sea, to be sun?

**Welcome New Southwest
Writer's Members!**

James Vineyard
Suzanne Byrne
Catherine Dowling
Julian Labato
Lee Brown

**Statement of Financial Condition
(SWW Balance Sheet)
December 31, 2014**

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Checking Account	\$ 2,743
Savings Account	21
Certificates of Deposit	35,487
Petty Cash	220
Total Current Assets	\$ 38,471
Other Current Assets:	
Prepaid Expense	\$ 224
Total Assets	\$ 38,695

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities:	
Accrued Taxes Payable	\$ 578
Deferred Revenue	1,755
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 2,333
Equity:	
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	\$ 43,495
Current Year Net Income (Loss)	(7,133)
Total Equity	\$ 38,695

Notes from the SWW Board

During the January and February SWW board meetings, the board of directors discussed and/or decided on many topics of benefit to the membership. Here is a summary of what's happened so far this year.

New Membership Perk: Author Pages : Current SWW members with published material can choose to have an author page on the website. An online submission form is in the works, with a projected start date in March.

Book Table: One central location for SWW authors to sell their books during meetings.

Brown Bag Sessions: Brown Bag Sessions will continue at no charge for visitors (to be reevaluated in six months).

Co-Meetings: Co-meetings with other writing groups, such as SCBWI, LERA, and Croak & Dagger, will take place on selected Tuesday night meetings.

Conferences: One-day memoir conference is being planned for the fall, 2015.

Contests: Annual contest is cancelled for 2015 (unless we receive a compelling proposal).

Bimonthly contests will start up again in May.

Credit Card Reader: Approved purchase of a Samsung Tablet and Square Reader for taking credit card payments at meetings.

Student Scholarship: Approved a Student Scholarship Membership for the newest student applicant.

Visitor Fees: Eliminate visitor fees (to be reevaluated in six months). Recognize those visitors who paid fees using a Visitor Card and offer them appropriate credit toward an annual membership.

Other News:

Pricing for 2-hour workshops is now: \$29 SWW members, \$34 Osher Members, \$39 Non-members.

All current SWW members are welcome to observe our monthly board meetings. The next meeting will be held in the conference room at Carlisle Executive Offices at 6:00 pm on March 3rd.

Contest Announcements

THE MASTER'S REVIEW: Submissions are open from January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015. This year stories will be selected by author Kevin Brockmeier who says he is "looking for the kind of stories that result when a writer combines imaginative daring with dynamic, exact, emotionally suggestive prose." Unlike previous years, this category is open to ALL EMERGING WRITERS. Anyone who has not yet published a novel-length work. For more information go to : <https://mastersreview.com/submissions>

Upcoming Conference

The Christian PEN: Proofreaders and Editors Network will present the Second Annual Editor Convention **May 1–2, 2015** in Austin, Texas. PEN-CON is the only convention for editors in the Christian market. The event will be held at Hilton Garden Inn NW/Arboretum.

Early registration deadline is **March 1**. Registration before March 1 is \$175, after that date the cost is \$200. Space is limited. Complete details including online registration, workshop descriptions, schedule, and more are available at <http://thechristianpen.com/convention-2/>.



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Critique Groups

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@yahoogroups.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 two 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.

All Genres

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

Children's/MG/YA

Erna Fergusson Library 3rd Saturday every month, 12:00-2:00 pm. To share, bring 5 copies of 5 pages max., double-spaced

Genre, Novel Length

2nd Tuesday every month, 7:00 pm Reviewing ready-to-query novels Lee, Lee@seki.com

Mainstream Fiction

Online Critique Group Christie Keele, ckeele10@hotmail.com

Screenwriting

Duke City Screenwriters Every other Thursday 6-9:00 pm Terry Hicks, earthreflection@aol.com or Marc Calderwood, skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com

Nonfiction

The Intrepids is a long-standing critique group. Every other Monday, 3:00-5:00 pm Members take turns hosting Gail Rubin, 505-265-7215 or gail@AGoodGoodbye.com

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, at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational facility, Room 7, Second Floor 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, North Domingo Baca Multi-generational Center (corner of Wyoming and Carmel) Short workshops/discussions. Preschmooze dinner, Flying Star, Wyoming & Paseo, 5:30-6:45 pm. schmooze@scbwi-nm.org



2015 Student Scholarship Application

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 a student with the interest and desire to pursue a writing career or if you wish to apply yourself, please complete this application and mail to the address at the bottom of the form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Current School: _____

Current Level: _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____

(In 250 words or less tell us why you would like to be a student member of Southwest Writers):

Recommended by: _____

Contact (phone/e-mail): _____

Send this application to SouthWest Writers, 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114, Albuquerque, NM 87110