



SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

Vol. 31 No 10

October 2015

Contents

Page

- 1 *Blocked or Lazy?* Sherri Burr
- 3 President's message
- 4 Nominees for next year's Board
- 5 October Speakers
- 6 November Speakers
- 7 More Speakers
- 8 Bi-Monthly Contest winning story
By Jasmine Tritten
- 9 Member Announcements
- 10 Upcoming classes/workshops
- 11 *Enneagrams* by
Joycelyn Campbell
- 13 *Empty Sky* by Dino de Leyba
- 13 Info on Scribl by Lee Higbie
- 14-15 Memoir Conference highlights
- 16 *Why I Can't Write*
by Eva Newman
- 17 *The Wake* by Mary Beth Dorsey
- 18 Critique and Writer's Groups
- 19 New Members and items to be
voted on by SWW members
- 20 SWW general information

Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

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

Student: \$25

Requires proof of student status

Outside U.S.: \$75,

Lifetime Membership: \$750

Download the *Sage* from

www.southwestwriters.com

The Writing Life: Blocked or Lazy?



By Sherri Burr

During the year before he ascended to the Writer Heavens, I often drove author Tony Hillerman to First Fridays, a group he had co-founded in the 1960s to provide monthly opportunities for writers to discuss their work. One afternoon after taking him home, we were conversing in his study when he asked me, "What are you working on?"

"My next book is due in a couple of months, but I have writer's block," I replied.

"There's a four letter word for writer's block," he said, and then spelled out, "L-A-Z-Y."

I felt so guilty that I went home and wrote two chapters of my book that evening.

I am convinced that the phrase "Writer's Block" is an attempt to excuse lack of commitment. Instead of student pleas like, "The dog ate my homework," or "My printer broke," writers respond to the question of where's your work with "I'm blocked."

But are we really blocked, or is it that we are not sufficiently dedicated to putting our butts in our chairs and accomplishing tasks?

Where does dedication come from? I would submit from two sources, either a passion project where you are absolutely moved to work or a deadline.

Passion projects are the ideal motivator because excitement and enthusiasm draw you to your office space, wherever that may be. Imagine having an invisible hand grasp and lure you to your desk where you type and type until the deed is done. When a passion project feeds your soul, the words "I'm blocked" never escape your lips.

Similarly, deadlines entice people to their writing chairs. Due dates and times can be external or internal. Publishing contracts with a firm written month, day, year, and even an hour within a specific time

Continued Next Page

SouthWestWriters.com *

zone, are great motivators, particularly when money accompanies the submission process.

Another outward persuader to work can be critique group meetings. You produce because you have agreed to submit your work for feedback on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. With a good group, you look forward to receiving other people's comments on your work. Multiple pairs of eyes catch typographical or grammatical errors, and problems with logic. It is better to have critique group members find mistakes before submitting a book to agents and editors who may reject your opus for reasons that are correctable but escaped your review.

Internal deadlines are those you construct for yourself. They can be part of your daily or weekly to-do list. The most productive writers schedule time to write. They don't leave their creative process to chance, with statements like "I'll write after I've cleaned the house, fed the animals, or mowed the lawn." Instead, they make writing a daily priority. Even if you can just find twenty minutes to write what Julia Cameron referred to in her book *The Artist Way* as "morning pages," you should commit to those twenty minutes and don't let anyone keep you from producing during that time.



Without a passion project or a deadline, anyone can easily become l-a-z-y about writing, particularly on a warm sunny day in a place like New Mexico. Use the desire to be outdoors as stimulus. Consider committing to write for ninety minutes

before going for a hike, or planting flowers in the garden or hitting the links. Do the most important thing of the day--whether it's to draft a chapter or an article--and then do other things that are fun.

Another potential cure is "to fill the well" as Julia Camera says in *The Artist Way*. This can mean doing anything that inspires you and rejuvenates creative juices. I like reading novels, going to movies or taking in a museum exhibition. My writing colleague Judy Avila likes to research an issue when she feels stuck. Judy says, "No matter what you're writing about, you can always learn more."

In one of my many lunches with the legendary western writer Max Evans, I once asked him, "Do you ever get writer's block?"

"I don't believe in it," Max replied.

Max makes a great point. Before next uttering the words "writer's block," ask yourself are you blocked or just l-a-z-y and need a motivator to get going? Do you need a deadline? Be proactive, and don't succumb to the excuse.

Once you complete a project that wasn't particularly exciting, you'll be surprised how great it feels to type the last words, print the document, put it in a package, and ship it off to the publisher or editor. Hallelujah!

Sherrri 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.

"Words do not express thoughts very well. They always become a little different immediately as they are expressed, a little distorted, a little foolish. And yet it also pleases me and seems right that what is of value and wisdom to one man seems nonsense to another."

From *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse

The Big Wheel

By Scott Archer Jones



Robko Zlata is careening across America with a call girl—his ex-wife. Robko stole the wrong thing, a device that guarantees immortality. His wrathful target, a corrupt billionaire, wants the world's greatest technology back. Robko's new worst enemy unleashes his fortune in unrelenting pursuit. Throw in the underground world of drugs and punk clubs, five-star hotels and cheap motels and Robko is in for one hell of a crash.

www.scottarcherjones.com

President's Letter by Rob Spiegel

Campaign Promises



A year ago, the SWW membership elected a new roster of executive committee members: Bob Gassaway as VP, Edith Greenly as treasurer, Kathy Wagoner as secretary, and Rob Spiegel (me) as president. We didn't run as a slate, so I can't say that we committed to campaign promises as a group, yet the executive committee members all helped to energize SWW into delivering on goals that were articulated during the election process.

- ◆ So far, we've had a very good year delivering on those goals. The entire board and an army of volunteers delivered for SWW. In short, we did what we said we were going to do.
- ◆ We committed to bringing SWW onto solid financial ground. We expect to close 2015 by returning \$3,000 to \$4,000 to our savings.
- ◆ We reinstated the book table. Members now have a central location at meetings to display and sell their books.
- ◆ We brought back conferences. Our memoir conference in September was a success by any measure. The total attendance including paid attendees, volunteers, and speakers exceeded 90 members. Using the church as the location allowed us to keep attendee fees very low by comparison to other conferences in town.

In addition we made a number of other positive changes.

- ◆ We dropped visitor fees. We did this as an experiment, hoping that a new flow of visitors who could try us out at no charge would bolster our membership. Edith Greenly tracked the visitor names and found that member fees from visitors who became members exceeded what we had previously received from visitor fees. Letting visitors come for free turned out to be a financial plus.
- ◆ We launched a third SWW meeting – Rogue Writers – near UNM. For years we've asked ourselves "How do we attract younger members?" Winter Elise came up with the idea of taking a meeting closer to UNM and CNM. Thus the Rogue Writers was born. We meet at the Aux Dog Theatre every second Tuesday.

As a board, we've been busy. The overriding goal this past year and going forward is to keep SWW on solid financial ground while increasing member services and expanding opportunities for members to learn how to improve their writing and how to get published. Next year the plan is to offer two conferences, one in the spring and one in the fall.

On the first Saturday of October – during our annual member meeting – we will vote again on leadership for 2016. See you there.

Call for Nominations

The nomination process for the 2016 SWW executive board is underway. Each year SouthWest Writers elects four of its members to the board positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The election will be held at the SWW annual meeting in October. If you are willing to serve or wish to nominate an SWW member, please submit your nomination(s) to Larry Greenly at SWWriters@juno.com. For the duties of each position, see the SWW Bylaws found under the Membership tab at www.southwestwriters.com.

The next page highlights four people who have volunteered for positions on the Executive Board. Other nominations will be accepted right up to the time of voting on October 3rd.

Outside of these four positions there are many opportunities for SWW members to participate in running the organizations. The other board members are chosen by the acting president - who is always looking for people who can donate some of their valuable time and talents. If you want to be involved, please introduce yourself and let us know!

WE WANT YOU!

2016 Board Nominees Persons running for a position on the executive committee of SWW are offered a chance to post their bios in the August and September Sages. Posted below are those who have declared their candidacy.

Candidate for President

Rob Spiegel



This past year, I have headed up the SWW board of directors. We have accomplished a great deal in the six months that have passed as I'm writing this. We cut the office staff costs by more than 50 percent. By the end of July we will be in the black, and by the end of the year, it looks like we'll be putting dollars into savings.

We have beefed up programs. We launched a new monthly meeting near UNM – Rogue Writers. We re-launched the bi-monthly contest, and for the first time in many years, we will hold a one-day conference in September. The conference features an agent and editor who are actively seeking projects.

Our board eliminated visitor fees for the first half of 2015, then extended the policy through the end of 2015. So far, the paid memberships we've gained from those visitors have more than made up for the budgeted amount we expected from visitor fees.

We have much more work to do. We're contemplating running two conferences in 2016. We have reduced the overhead on conferences sufficiently to make them a low-risk venture. More than that, the conferences offer you the rare opportunity to meet with and network with leading professionals in the publishing industry.

So, I'm asking for another year of heading the SWW board. I am a journalist of 40 years. I also write and publish poetry, fiction and drama. SWW is my professional give-back.

Candidate for Vice-President **Larry W. Greenly**



Larry has been many things in his life—from physics teacher to civil engineer to doctor of chiropractic—but his favorite occupation is that of writer and editor.

Greenly has been a member of SouthWest Writers since 1992. He has held every position on the board (except treasurer), which includes multiple terms as vice-president or president. During his time with SWW, Greenly has been awarded the SWW Parris Award and multiple service awards.

Over the years, Greenly has been instrumental in improving the financial status of SWW, particularly during 2003 when, as president, he worked closely with the board of directors to yank SWW out of near financial catastrophe and to develop it to a fiscally solid organization with nearly \$60k in the bank.

As vice-president, Greenly will work closely with the elected president on financial matters and making SWW evermore member friendly. He's particularly interested in helping SWW gain more members. Greenly will also continue to schedule SWW speakers on subjects that are interesting and germane to members.

Candidate for Secretary

Jim Tritten



Jim is a current member of the Board and has served on the bylaws and policies review committee, the social media committee, and has recently taken over responsibility for public relations. He has written for the *Sage*, recruited for our speaker and workshop program, and made his own presentation at a SWW meeting. His efforts to share writing information on the SWW Facebook pages have been noted by many of our members.

Jim has served as a Secretary for two different volunteer organizations in the past and been a member of numerous boards and an officer on many local boards, as well as a national organization. Jim is a recipient of the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award. He has published five books and over 270 articles winning fourteen writing awards. Jim retired after working for forty-four years as a fed including as a carrier-based naval aviator and as a faculty member and department chair at the Naval Postgraduate School. Jim has been a member of SWW since 2009.

Jim is committed to the SWW motto "Writers Helping Writers." He has been helping writers all along his own writing career which started in high school. Since moving to Albuquerque in 2002, he has been active in the veterans writing group at the Raymond Murphy VA Medical Center, a number of writing groups at Sandoval County senior centers, and with the Corrales Writing Group. In addition, Jim has been an active member of Scribophile, an online writing group that nurtures new writers in launching and then polishing their work. Jim would like to see the full range of online possibilities made available to SWW members over the coming years.

Candidate for Treasurer

Edith Greenly



I am the current SouthWest Writers treasurer. This year I have been cleaning up the books. I have also instituted new reports of our financial status for use by the SWW Board of Directors so we can better strategize how to keep SWW in the black. We have already reversed a multi-year drain on our resources.

My background is 30+ years' experience as a licensed C.P.A. in Minnesota and New Mexico 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).

I have previously served on the SWW 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.

I look forward to continuing my service as treasurer for SWW and its members again. And I will continue to help SWW become more profitable.

Upcoming Speakers for SWW Meetings - October

Saturday October 3rd 10am to Noon

I Stayed Up Until Four AM: Creating and Maintaining Suspense

Robin Perini

As writers, we want to grab our readers on the first page and never let them go. Suspense is the key, and it's not just for mysteries and thrillers. Every novel lives and breathes suspense. In this hands-on, practical presentation international bestselling author Robin Perini will show you how to ramp up the tension in your story through character, conflict, plot, turning points, subplots, word choice, arcs and much, much more. Learn the skills she mastered in her own novels which *Publishers Weekly* call "refresh[ing] romantic suspense" and RT Book Review calls "edge-of-the-seat, gripping suspense ... with memorable and scarred characters who readers care about."

Award-winning, international bestselling author and RITA® finalist **Robin Perini** has hit the Top 5 on Amazon Bestseller lists in the U.S., UK and Germany. Devoted to giving her readers fast-paced, high-stakes adventures with a love story sure to melt their hearts, she invites readers to "Step into the Crossfire" with her romantic thriller novels. Robin's strong characters and tightly woven plots have garnered her numerous awards. After winning the prestigious Romance Writers of America® Golden Heart® in 2011, she went on to sell fourteen novels in a little over two years, which tests her sanity on a regular basis. Robin lives in Albuquerque and works for an advanced technology corporation as an analyst. You can find out more information at her website www.robinperini.com or visit her on Twitter @RobinPerini, Facebook (RobinPeriniAuthor), Goodreads or Pinterest. Her literary agent is Jill Marsal of Marsal Lyon Literary Agency.



Tuesday October 20 7-9pm

MYTH in Writing

By Shari Tarbet

Is there a connection between myth and writing? Is myth even important to fiction and nonfiction? The answer is yes. Myths were the carriers of the stories about people throughout time, and they continue to be part of our stories today.

Shari Tarbet will discuss how myth and dreams inform, inspire, and give meaning to our writing, whether it is fiction or memoir.

A secondary educator for 28 years in literature, creative writing, history, and mythology, **Shari Tarbet** earned her MA/PhD in mythological studies and depth psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. Her poetry has appeared in Pacifica Graduate Institute's "Beginning," the Southwest Women's Poetry Exchange and featured in her co-production of the Bal de Korai. Her papers include the "Trickster in Cinema" and the demonization of the Sacred Feminine in language and myth. Enjoying travel, making jewelry, and belly dancing, Shari currently lives in Albuquerque, teaches at Diné College on the Navajo Nation, lectures on myth topics at the Osher Institute at UNM, and is working on a book.



Rogue Writers



Second Tuesday of the month from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at Aux Dog Theatre in the UNM/Nob Hill area.

Rogue Writers at the Aux Dog

OCTOBER 13 5PM-6:30PM

TECHNICAL CAN BE CREATIVE



With **Juan Aranda**

Technical writing does not have to be dry and boring. It can be made creative by discovering its organic structure and natural flow. We'll explore different ways to create structure, a satisfying flow, and above all, simplicity.

Juan Aranda is a geeky engineer in the semiconductor industry where technical writing is the standard mode of communication. He's been an Albuquerque resident for 20 years.

Upcoming Speakers for SWW Meetings - November

Saturday, November 7
10:00 am - noon

Sharon Oard Warner

The Grand Scheme of Things: On Plot and Point of View in the Novel



Novelists are fascinated by fortune or fate; we are students of the grand scheme of things. In her excellent book, *Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel*, Jane Smiley explains that the “special appeal of the novel is the alteration of action and reflection.” Plot (of which action is one aspect) and point of view (which dictates the sort of reflection a narrative can offer) go hand in hand. For Sharon Oard Warner, the intersection between plot and point of view is theme. In this talk, she will explain her thinking and provide examples using specifics from her own life, as well as from her new novel, *Sophie’s House of Cards*.

Sharon Oard Warner has published a short story collection, *Learning to Dance and Other Stories*, and two novels, *Deep in the Heart* and *Sophie’s House of Cards*. She has also edited an anthology, *The Way We Write Now, Short Stories from the AIDS Crisis*. Warner is a professor of English at the University of New Mexico, as well as the founder and director of the Taos Summer Writers' Conference. She is currently researching a new novel, tentatively titled *Mrs. Lawrence*. Visit her website at <http://www.sharonoardwarner.com>.

Tuesday, November 17
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Grace Labatt

On Editing



Kingsley Amis wrote that an editor “prowls through your copy like an overzealous gardener with a pruning hook.” Yet the editorial pruning hook, when used conscientiously, can turn a draft into a strong manuscript—and eventually into an unforgettable book. During this talk, Grace Labatt will discuss editing: why everyone needs it, what it entails, how to find an editor, and how to make the most of the author-editor relationship. She will also look at a few examples of red-pen flourishing from literary history.

Grace Labatt is an editor and copyeditor who works with independent authors and trade and academic presses. She has been a senior acquisitions editor at Voyageur Press in Minneapolis and an acquisitions editor at Oxford University Press in New York. Her book reviews have appeared in *Kirkus Reviews*, *Pasatiempo*, and *Experience Life* magazine. Grace studied literature at Princeton and now lives in Albuquerque. Her website is labatteditorial.com.



Rogue Writers

Second Tuesday of the month from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at Aux Dog Theatre in the UNM/Nob Hill area.

Tuesday, November 10 • 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Screenwriting Demystified

Presented by: Stanley Ray

Stanley Ray is an award-winning screenwriter and filmmaker. In this presentation he will discuss his experiences writing and making movies in Albuquerque.



BROWN BAG SESSION

SATURDAY, NOV 7 AFTER
THE SWW MEETING

JEANNE SHANNON

WHAT MAKES A MEMOIR WORK

Do you enjoy looking back at your life experiences? Do you think about writing a full-length memoir but find the prospect daunting? Have you considered writing short memoir essays, and if so, do you know how to find a market for them? Whether you want to write short pieces or a longer work, it's important to consider what makes a memoir work. We will look at some of the elements of fiction and poetry that can be used in a memoir to make it a “page turner.”

Jeanne Shannon's memoir essays have been published in two small-town newspapers in southwestern Virginia, where she grew up. Her book *Stars Scattered Like Seeds* contains stories that are somewhat fictionalized recollections of events in her early life. Her poetry has appeared in numerous small-press and university journals and anthologies, as well as in chapbooks and full-length collections. She earned a master's degree in English (Creative Writing emphasis) from the University of New Mexico and worked for several years as a technical writer.



Find SouthWest
Writers on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter
@SW_Writers

Upcoming Speakers at SWW Meetings

Saturday, December 5 • 10:00 am to noon

THE DEVIL'S DUE — MUST WE SELL OUT TO SELL?

Lois Ruby

Lois Ruby has always written serious books for older kids—until a couple of editors seduced her into writing ghost stories. Easy. Fast. Popular. But do writers compromise too much in order to see their work in print? This talk will explore the advantages and disadvantages of writing to sell vs. writing to salve the soul.

Lois Ruby snuck in the back door as a writer for young people. That is, she was a Young Adult librarian for the Dallas Public Library, and after reading a thousand or so books in her department, she decided she could write the stuff herself. Why not? Her first book was published in 1977. Since then, eighteen more have seen print, and she's no longer a working librarian. Instead, her time is divided among her family, research, writing, navel-gazing, and visiting schools to energize children and teenagers about the joys of reading and the diverse world we call home. Oh, and she likes adults, too. Visit Lois at www.loisruby.com



Brown Bag Poetry Session

Dec. 5, 2015 12:30-1:15pm

Gayle Lauradunn



Poetry: Slam, Spoken Word, Rap

How do these forms/presentations differ? Or do they? How are they alike?

We will look at samples of each and discuss how they affect us. Do they make us laugh, cry, or hurt our ears? We will spend a few minutes writing in one of these forms then read to each other (or not, as each person chooses).

Gayle Lauradunn's debut poetry collection *Reaching for Air* was named a Finalist for Best First Book of Poetry by the Texas Institute of Letters. Her poems have been published in numerous local and national journals. Some have been adapted for the stage.



Above: Robert Vardeman talks about taking a story from idea to reality at the Sept 5th meeting.

Below: Michael Franco tells about publishing his book through *Smashwords* during the announcements.



And the Winner is...

The SWW Bi-Monthly Contest which ended in July was a challenge to write a short piece about the most unforgettable person in your life.

The winner, Jasmine Tritten, wrote a story from her childhood which she has graciously allowed the Sage to publish here for the first time.

Although it is October, we are inserting an early holiday gift for you in the form of her winning story ...*SANTA*.



Jasmine Tritten resides in enchanting Corrales, New Mexico with her husband and five cats, where she pursues her art and writing. Her memoir book *The Journey of an Adventurous Dane* will be available on Amazon.com in October both in a print and Kindle version.



SANTA

By Jasmine Tritten

Snow lit up an otherwise dark, cold and dreary Christmas Eve in Denmark. I was about seven years old. Large snowflakes fell from the sky and melted into a white blanket covering the ground. My two younger brothers and I kept glancing through the windowpane waiting for Santa. Had we been good enough in the past year to receive any gifts now? Real wax candles illuminated every window of the house. Flames of smaller lights on the Christmas tree flickered and caused shadows to dance on the wall of the living room. Heat radiated out from the fireplace.

We had just finished our traditional Christmas dinner; stuffed goose with apples and prunes, red cabbage, and small, golden-glazed potatoes. The aroma and taste of the supper still lingered. For dessert, Mom served rice pudding with a whole almond hidden inside the delicious substance. Whoever bit into the oblong nut would receive a present. Everybody gobbled down the white sticky goop until my youngest brother Carsten found the treasure in his portion. His reward consisted of a huge bar of chocolate with marzipan. He refused to share his fortune with anybody. Even me!

As we were about to walk around the Christmas tree singing carols the doorbell rang. Everybody jumped up and ran into the hallway. Dad carefully opened the massive oak door. Santa stood outside in all of his red Christmas glory, carrying a large burlap bag over his shoulder bulging with presents. Our eyes widened, and we smiled. Because it snowed heavily, my Dad invited Santa into the warmth of our home.

In Denmark, it's customary for Santa Claus to stop by people's houses to ask for money and later give the funds to charity. My Dad grabbed the wallet from his back pocket and donated some Danish *kroner*. Santa then reached out his arms to greet us children. I seized his hand and held it for a moment. The comfort and familiarity surprised me. I yelled,

"It's Grandma! I can tell by her hand. It's Grandma! I know, because she has the softest hands in the world. It's Grandma."

I jumped up and down since I had detected my favorite grandmother by her silk-like hand. We hugged and rejoiced. Tears rolled down my cheeks.

Dad's face dropped. He didn't recognize his mother. She had tricked him and all of us. However, how could we possibly imagine Grandma playing Santa? Both of my brothers acted stunned. Nobody was aware of my grandmother's astounding plan except for Mom. She told us later that she had discovered Grandma's intentions days ago.

The secret was out now and the evening continued with laughter and jokes. Flabbergasted, the three of us children received every present we had wanted. My grandmother as Santa became the most unforgettable character of my life.

Member Successes

Gayle Lauradunn was the guest of Sunday Chatter on August 23. She read from her poetry collection *Reaching for Air*

Joanne Bodin's poem, "Chicken Matzo Ball Soup," has been published in *The Poeming Pigeon: a Literary Journal of Poetry*. Her novel, **Shadow Dreamer: a dark psychological thriller**, will be out at the beginning of 2016. She will have a booth at the NM Library Conference on October 23rd with two other Cross Town Poets.

Jim Tritten published an essay about living with PTSD. See his "New Realities," *Blue Nostalgia: A Journal of Post-Traumatic Growth, 2* (Summer 2015), 82-85. <http://militaryexperience.org/new-realities/>

Jim also reports that the Military Writers Society of America awarded a Silver Medal to the *Corrales Writing Group 2014 Anthology* and a Bronze Medal for its 2013 Anthology. This publication has stories from several SWW Members.



Bob Gassaway has resigned as vice-president of SWW due to health issues. He has been instrumental in finding most of our speakers for the past year. All of us at SWW want to thank him and wish him a speedy recovery!

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

Announcements

Sequestrum, a literary journal of new prose and poetry, is holding a contest through October 15th for new writers (anyone yet to publish a book-length manuscript). The contest is open to short fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Our New Writer Awards will award over \$500 to up-and-coming writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Prose and poetry will be judged separately, with a first-prize winner and a minimum of two runners-up per genre. with winners for both prose and poetry. www.sequestrum.org/contests.

Announcing \$2000 Fall Fiction Contest with Jeff VanderMeer

The winning story will receive \$2000 and publication on the site. Second and third place stories will receive \$200 and \$100, publication, and all story winners will receive a letter from Jeff and Ann about their piece, and why it was chosen. 15 Finalists will be recognized online and have their stories read by the VanderMeers.. For more information go to <https://mastersreview.com/fall-fiction-contest-vandermeer-2000-publication>

The **Lumina Literary Journal** is holding their annual contest for Fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

- First Place: \$500
 - Second Place: \$300
 - Third Place: \$150
 - Submissions deadline – October 1st, 2015
 - Maximum Word Count: 5,000 words
- Cost Per Entry: \$12. <http://luminajournal.com/submission-guidelines/>

Can You Help?

I would love to join Southwest Writers but due to poor vision cannot drive myself to meetings. Could I find someone to ride with from Santa Fe? I live in the triangle area near the Pacheco Post Office.

Sandra Baker

chrisandrabaker@aol.com

MORE SWW SPONSORED EVENTS!
Classes by BETSY JAMES

Weirdness: Writing the Shadow Season

6 weeks Thursdays, 5:45-7:45 October 15, 22, 29 and November 4, 11, 18
Cost is SWW members \$240; Osher members \$250, non-members \$290



Strange things walk abroad...are you one of them? This is Betsy James's infamous six week course in otherworldly writing: science fiction, fantasy, horror, and anything else on earth or off it. Far from giving you nightmares, these rigorous, fun sessions get you thinking, critiquing, and working like a writer. In weird-and-weekly assignments of 1000 words or less you'll explore quirks and craft, learn respectful peer critique, and develop a writerly camaraderie with an assortment of fellow oddballs—who may become part of your support system, since you'll also learn how to conduct your own critique group. Register early! Class is limited to 10 students.

Betsy James is the author-illustrator of sixteen books and many stories for adults, teens and children. Her latest novel, *Listening at the Gate*, is a Tiptree Award Honor Book and a *New York Times* Best Book for the Teen Age. Visit her on the web at: <http://www.betsyjames.com> AND <http://www.listeningatthegate.com>.

Websites for Writers

Workshop with
Loretta Hall

Saturday, October 17th. 1-5pm

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." As the author of six nonfiction books, Loretta's passion is explaining technical concepts to nontechnical people

Location: SouthWest Writers Office Cost \$39 SWW Members, \$44 Osher Members, \$49 Non-members

Giving Voice to the People in Your Head

A workshop with **Sarah Baker**
Saturday, October 3
12:30 pm—2:30pm
After the meeting

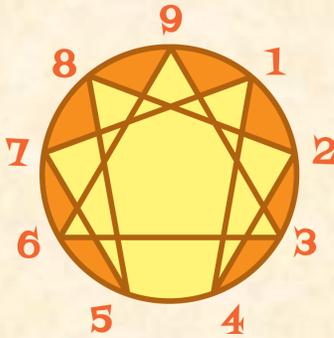
HOW do you make your dialogue special? How do you give each character a unique voice? And how do you develop the characters, define time and setting, and advance the plot through dialogue? In this workshop, we'll find the answers together.



Sarah H. Baker, author of more than twenty published novels, writes fiction as S. H. Baker, Sarah Storme, and Lydia Parks. She teaches classes for UNM's Continuing Ed and Osher Lifelong Learning, and for SouthWest Writers. More than anything, she enjoys helping other writers.

**Location: New Life Presbyterian
Cost: \$29 SWW Members, \$34
Osher Members, \$39 Non-members**

This is the first of a 3-part series on using an Enneagram in character development



Can the Enneagram Make You a Better Writer?

By Joycelyn Campbell

At a SouthWest Writers meeting several years ago, a fiction writer at my table mentioned she didn't always know what choice her character would make when faced with a decision, an obstacle, or a fork in the road. I had no opportunity to pursue the conversation with her, but I wanted to tell her about the Enneagram and how it could help her solve that problem.

I admire her for being honest about an issue many writers struggle with. Anyone who writes character-driven stories, real or fictional, must have a basic understanding of human nature. While some aspects of being human are common to all of us, we do differ from each other, sometimes in significant ways. The ways we're different aren't random, however. A writer can't just throw together a hodgepodge of attitudes, behaviors, and characteristics and hope to come up with a believable character. Discerning readers recognize poorly drawn characters, whether they are two-dimensional or too multi-dimensional.

Our characters don't just have to be believable to our readers; they also have to be believable to us. We have to know them better than they know themselves. Yes, we need to understand what they want and what's in their way, but we also need to know what they're afraid of, what they resist, what their unconscious motivations are, and what internal obstacles they must overcome in order to succeed. Having a good personality typing system to work with can make that so much easier. It can

also help your characters stay on track instead of swerving off the rails.

Cookie-Cutter Characters Need Not Apply

The primary objections writers have to typing their characters are no different from the objections many non-writers have to being typed.

Don't box me in.

Some people believe they're unique, so being typed diminishes them somehow. They think typing puts them into a box. But typing doesn't put people into boxes; it identifies aspects of the boxes they're already in. It points out what's inside the box and what's outside, both of which are equally important.

Typing equals stereotyping.

That's true. But stereotyping is just a form of categorizing, and categorizing is a function of the kind of thinking the unconscious part of the brain does automatically. We can't stop the brain from categorizing, which means we're already stereotyping other people. Understanding the elements of personality can result in *informed* rather than *uninformed* categorizing by the brain.

There's more to me (or my character) than my type.

It's true that personality type doesn't explain everything, but that's not a good reason to dismiss it. Humans have a capacity, called *mentalization*, that allows us to understand our own mental states or thought processes and—more importantly for writers—to attribute mental states to others. We can recognize that others have beliefs, intentions, fears, and desires that are different from ours. Without this ability, we wouldn't be able to get inside the heads of our characters. The better we're able to understand where other people (real or imaginary) are coming from, the more true-to-life our characters will be.

Why Choose the Enneagram?

The Enneagram isn't the only personality typing system available. What I like about it is that the surface simplicity makes the basic concepts easy to grasp. But it is also comprehensive and multifaceted, both broad and deep, which allows for plenty of subtleties and variations.

Enneagram is a Greek word that means "diagram of nine." The symbol consists of a triangle and a hexagon within a circle. The resulting nine points represent nine basic, or core, personality types, each of which has a unique perspective and approach to life. The theory of the Enneagram is that we tend to polarize at one of the nine points, overdeveloping the characteristics associated with that point, while leaving undeveloped many of

SWW Bi-Monthly Writer's Contest

Nov 1-30: **Love Poem** (one page max, can include bad romance)

Entry fee is \$10. Multiple entries will be accepted with \$10 payment for each. Prizes: \$100 (1st place), \$50 (2nd place), and \$25 (3rd place). Winners and Honorable Mentions will be announced on the website before the start of the next bimonthly contest, and in the next month's SWW Newsletter. For more information or to enter go to www.southwestwriters.com

the characteristics associated with the other points. So each type also represents a particular kind of imbalance.

An individual's core personality type remains the same over the course of a lifetime, which is why having a character change too much or too abruptly, or behave totally "out of character," usually isn't believable. But every character has the possibility for change, either positive (growth) or negative (deterioration). Any character can learn how to moderate and overcome his or her innate predispositions or be done in by them. In fact, that's the basic arc of just about any character-driven story.

The Nine Types

Very briefly, these are the nine types:

The Good Person, the Achiever, the Reformer, the Perfectionist. Principled and responsible, but can also be rule-bound and critical.

The Helper, the Giver, the People Pleaser, the Partner. Compassionate and altruistic, but can also be co-dependent and manipulative.

The Performer, the Succeeder, the Motivator, and the Status Seeker. Self-assured and accomplished, but can also be competitive and performance-driven.

The Individualist, the Tragic Romantic, the Artist, the Sensitive Person. Creative and inspiring, but can also be overly dramatic and fault-finding.

The Observer, the Investigator, the Knowledge-Seeker, the Thinker. Perceptive and curious, but can also be cold and detached.

The Loyalist, the Questioner, the Guardian, the Devil's Advocate. Organized and hard-working, but can also be indecisive and overly vigilant.

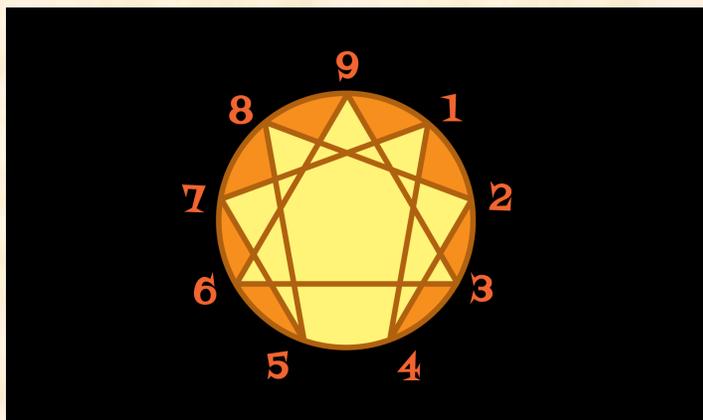
The Adventurer, the Epicure, the Generalist, the Enthusiast. Cheerful and multi-talented, but can also be acquisitive and thrill-seeking.

The Challenger, the Confronter, the Leader, the Asserter. Courageous and magnanimous, but can also be combative and domineering.

The Peacemaker, the Preservationist, the Mediator, the Universalist. Deeply receptive and serene, but can also be disengaged and inattentive.

You can probably identify a few people—real or fictional—who might fit some of these descriptions. Next month, I'll describe the nine types in detail and explain what motivates them, as well as what they want and what they avoid. The following month, I'll describe how to incorporate this information into your writing.

Joycelyn Campbell is a writer, a Certified Enneagram Instructor, and the owner of Farther to Go! LLC, which helps people learn how to use their brain instead of letting their brain use them. Visit her Enneagram website, www.ninepaths.com, or www.farthertogo.com for more information.



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

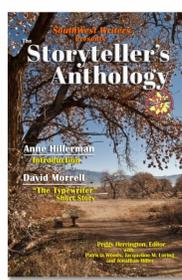
1/3 page, horizontal: \$50

1/2 page horizontal \$75

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

Deadline: 15th of each month for the following month.
Payment due with camera-ready ad copy in .jpg format.

The Storyteller's Anthology



is available to order in paperback on Amazon. 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!



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

Place Your Ad Here

Advertise your writing-related products and services.

Business Card Size only \$20.00

1/4 page, vertical: \$40 ! 1/3 page, horizontal: \$50

15% discount for 3 months/20% discount for 6 months

Scribl Expands Distribution and CrowdPricing Reach

Scriblotech, Inc. (Scribl.com), developer of the CrowdPricing™ system where readers set the prices of ebooks and audiobooks through their purchase choices, announced the launch of CrowdPricing Everywhere™. CrowdPricing Everywhere extends CrowdPricing from Scribl.com to include ebook distribution across most major ebook outlets, including Amazon, Apple, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, and hundreds of other general and specialty outlets.

Self-publishing authors can now post their books at Scribl.com to reach readers on all major platforms and still gain the benefits of CrowdPricing. Participating authors earn 70percent or more of the CrowdPricing price across all outlets. No major outlet pays more than this. Many, like Kindle's KDP, pay less in certain cases.

"For many authors, trying to distribute a book across even a few forums is too much of a hassle," said **Lee Higbie**, former President of SouthWest Writers and one of Scribl's founders. "We're excited to give authors a single place to go for distribution at hundreds of sites. Best of all, authors earn the same or more compared with doing the work themselves."

CrowdPricing Everywhere also helps readers find CrowdPriced content. Before today, readers needed to visit Scribl.com to find content priced by fellow readers. Now, with distribution at most major outlets, readers can identify CrowdPricing Everywhere books at a glance by the familiar orange cover extension bearing the company's \$CP mark.

"We've taken another step toward ensuring readers find books they want at prices they trust," said Colin Higbie, the company's Chairman. "With prices set by readers with similar preferences, customers feel more comfortable buying."

About Scribl.com

Scribl.com (Scriblotech, Inc., www.scribl.com) is a new digital publisher/distributor and creator of the CrowdPricing™ (\$CP) e-commerce business model. CrowdPricing provides order-of-magnitude revenue increase for digital works by independent authors and developers compared with traditional e-stores. Scribl.com is transforming the sale of digital content by providing consumers with the only system that fairly prices content while assuring authors the clearest path to commercial success. Scriblotech also runs www.podiobooks.com for free distribution of serialized audiobook content.

Empty Sky

I lean upon my window sill
My nose upon the glass
To see the things I long to see
The sun, the moon, the sky
The stars you talk about

I lean upon my window sill
My palms upon the glass
To touch the things my mind can dream
The trees, the rocks, the grass
The sand you talk about

I lean upon my window sill
My heart upon the glass
To sense the things I cannot see
The things that bring me joy and hope
The love you talk about

I lean upon my window sill
My hands upon the glass
I push the window free and fall into the sea
The clear blue water welcomes me
I now see and touch and feel those things I
longed to see

By Dino de Leyba

Inspired by: *All The Light We Cannot See* – Anthony Doerr, 2015 Pulitzer - Fiction

Jeff Herman of the Herman Agency gives hints on the best way to approach an agent.



Left to right: Peg Herrington, Joanne Bodin, Kathy Wagoner, Joycelan Campbell, Kim Mitchell, Bobbi Adams, Edith Greenly, Rob Spiegel and Rose Marie Kern take a break after setting up for the conference.



Left: Grace Menary-Winefield, assistant editor from Sourcebooks Publishing

Right: Judy Avila speaks on *Turning Life into Story*.



The Memoir Conference Sept 2015



Above: Sandra Toro gave a riveting perspective on how she turned the dramatic events of her life into a book.

Right: Miriam Sagan discusses the challenges of writing a memoir when people you know may be seen in a less than pleasing way.





ABOVE: Sandy Bazinet and Kim Mitchell set up the lunch boxes.
Below: Every seat was filled for the Conference!

A NOTE from Memoir Conference

Manager Bobbi Adams:

Our memoir conference on Sept 12 was a huge success! Including the volunteers, we had about 90 in attendance. Because of the volunteers, the conference ran very smoothly. We even stayed on schedule!

All of our speakers did a fabulous job. The attendees that I talked to had nothing but praise, not only for the speakers, but the conference as a whole. Everyone seemed very happy.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, attended or donated to the conference. All of you helped make it an exciting event and you are very much appreciated. Thank you for your support.



Comments sent from people attending the Memoir Conference.

“This was a great conference. I enjoyed all the speakers. Very educational, informative and relevant to my interest. The advice is helpful and inspiring. Thank you!”

“My first conference. I learned a lot. Loved the speakers and the interaction. Thank you.”

“Great job, Rob and Bobbi. Conference overall, fabulous. Wonderful attention to detail about operation and organization of conference. Speakers were overall excellent. “

Why I Can't Write

by Eva Newman

I suppose I can write words and sentences but I don't really know how to put them together, and I wonder, "Will my writings be of use even to me?" The ever-looming question, "Do I have anything to say?" "Do I have a story?"

Actually I write a lot of words, sentences, even pages. But where are they going? It is fun and I could call it entertainment. But is that true? It is and it isn't. While I'm being entertained, I want more than self-indulgence. I am goal-oriented, a compulsion I cannot avoid. So I am willing to learn, to improve my skill at writing, and hope as a result of my life experiences that I have something of value to say. In the meantime, oh, how I can babble. So, only persistence and time will reveal the truth. And I will babble on for awhile until I know, or think I know, the truth.

Writing is an adventure of the soul, but it is difficult to find it and describe it some days, to define the soul. It peeks out at night or plays hide-and-seek in moments unguarded. Just a quick glimpse and then its gone.

My lunch today as usual is at noon, and after that a nap, no longer than an hour or grogginess swallows the day until the cool night arrives. But now I'm in the garden, my hands warm and golden, crossed by red gashes from struggles with a rose bush. Brown freckles are sprinkled over the backs of sun-baked hands. The freckles change shape as skin wrinkles with movement. Yet abruptly above my wrists is porcelain-white smooth skin, where my arms are unexposed to the sun. These hands have known happiness. Lunch is fresh from the garden, vegetables sweetened by the sun, newly picked.

Every day one fights through life to survive just one more day. From this fight comes growth, life. One is only alive while in the fight.

Why be afraid of the unknown and the unknowable? The unknowable - such as death - is unknowable, so it's not worth worrying about. But the unknown can become known. And whatever is known can be dealt with. For instance, whether I can write or not is now unknown. But when I've tried for a year or six years it will become a known, and then I'll be clearer about what to do. I'm really not afraid of the unknown; I like the challenge of making it known.

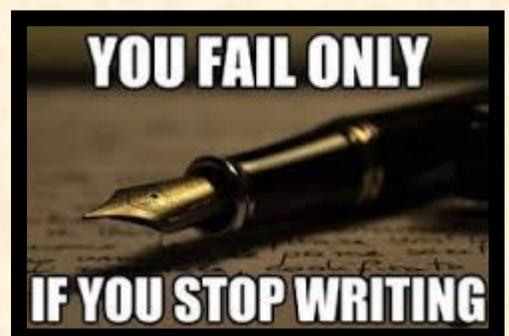
It's hard to be afraid when so many unknowns have been made known to me during my life. Afraid is not a word I use anymore. Worry, yes, maybe worry about the future. Worry about having to worry. My afraids have diminished to worries.



This brief account of writer angst was written by **Eva Newman**, the author of *Going Abroad* (Marlor Press) and the wife of SWW member Sam Moorman, before finishing her travel book that sold ten thousand copies. She died in 2008, but Sam felt Sage readers might like this perspective.

She is pictured above standing next to her husband and a couple of friends they met on their trip to Yemen.

Thank you, Sam.



In honor of last month's Memoir Conference, Mary Dorsey has written a Memoir in the form of a poem. Below is part one of her poem "The Wake"

THE WAKE

7:30pm on a late
September evening.
I am twelve years old.

I stand silent, in front of the
stately white home.
Behind me, an uncle and cousin;
family I've been sent to stay with
to give my mother some time...

The adults in my family had decided
I wasn't supposed to be here.
But in my 12 year old persistence,
insistence, I decided I had to be here.
Must be here.

The massive door opens.
I am greeted by a wide hallway;
Elegant, subdued...designed for and to comfort.
To my right a room,
large, dark, mercifully empty.

To my left--the reason for my presence.
The unmistakable scent...floral, sweet,
not quite cloying escapes the room.
Hushed voices punctuated by the occasional sob
floats into my ears.

I put on my armor called 'being numb'
and enter.
I am toward the back of a room over flowing
with people.
A tribute to the one reposing at the front.
Soft pink light washes over me.
I spot my mother sitting toward the back.
Surrounded by people trying to comfort.
She too bereft in uncontrollable crying to
notice.

I walk over and stand outside the circle of
comforters...
Silent, unnoticed...invisible.
Finally I turn and walk to the room's front.
Someone says I must be strong for my mom.
I nod but do not know how my 12 year old shoul-
ders
could possibly carry such a burden.

I see many faces--familiar and unfamiliar.
I spot neighborhood children.
My part-time friends and fulltime tormenters.
I wonder if now things will change but know
they will not.

In front of the rows of chairs, a small sofa,
reserved for the family.
I sit down.
I am family am I not?
No one tells me I must move.

I see him in restful repose--serene.
Something catches my eye.
A small round bouquet by his left shoulder.
Red roses and white carnations,
something else-- a midnight blue ribbon.
There is writing on it.
Something written in festive, silver glitter.

I approach the casket and
stand at the head, not the side.
I pull the glittery ribbon taut
freeing its sparkling message...five letters.
I catch the gasp before it escapes my mouth,
blink back tears that could melt the armor.

I glance around the room, back to the ribbon.
Five letters that change my life forever.
Five letters of unspeakable loss.
Five letters...D—A—D—D--Y
Five letters...
DADDY.

Mary E. Dorsey 8 /15



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

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.

New North Valley Critique Group

Fiction/Mystery/General

Raymond Sanchez Community Center (North 4th St.)

Just starting out, thinking early afternoons twice a

month on wed or fri. Contact Babs Langner

blangner@swcp.com

East Mountain

Calling East Mountain writers of any genre—let's start an EM critique group! Monthly, da/time TBA. Possibly meet at local libraries or another convenient location. Interested? Call Cody at 363-4175 or horde.of.one@gmailcom

All Genres

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

Genre. Novel Length

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

Sci-Fi

Send name and writing experience to: ccSFcg@aol.com



Albuquerque Area Writing Groups

The Wordwrights: Don Morgan and Dennis Kastendiek moderate, all genres welcome. North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Room 1, 1st 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. Pre-schmooze dinner, Flying Star, Wyoming & Paseo, 5:30-6:45 pm. schmooze@scbwi-nm.org

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/

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.

Changes to SWW Bylaws approved by the Board to be voted on by the members during the Annual meeting October 5th .

ARTICLE VI Nominations and Elections, Sec. 3A, Elections:

Old wording: "Voting shall be conducted in person at the SWW Annual Meeting." ...

New wording: "Voting may be conducted by U.S. Postal Mail, by electronic voting, or conducted in person at SWW's annual meeting as determined by the SWW Board of Directors."

Rationale: To modernize the voting process and make it easier for members to vote, especially those who cannot physically travel to the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V Officers, Section 5 Duties of Officers, Part A9:

Old wording: [The president shall] "Prepare, upon completion of the term served and no later than March 1, an annual report for publication in the subsequent April SWW newsletter."

New wording: [The president shall] "Prepare, upon completion of the term served and no later than March, an annual financial report for publication in the subsequent April SWW newsletter."

Rationale: To ensure the report published is consistent with its tacit meaning and what has been historically published previously during the lifetime of SouthWest Writers.



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

Welcome New SouthWest Writer's Members!

- James Bars
- Lance Albert
- Debra Speck
- Rebecca Powe
- Jim Frost
- Jennie Cooley
- Karen Klett
- Robert Vardeman
- Valerie Petersen
- Joan Berish
- Carl Eyman
- Kristen Gould
- Don Davis
- Martha spring
- Fanny Brewster
- John H Fohn II
- Robert Staub
- Lynn McKeever
- Hashim Zaki
- Zackery Rodehaver

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.



SouthWest Sage

Published monthly by the Board of Directors of SouthWest Writers, a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

2015 Board of Directors

President: Rob Spiegel robspiegel@comcast.net

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 swwpublicrelations@gmail.com

Workshops and Classes - Larry Greenly
SWWriters@juno.com

Conferences - Bobbi Adams
baadams23@msn.com

Joanne Bodin
jsbodin@msn.com

Harold Burnett
swwhmb@aol.com

Joycelyn Campbell
jcampbell8@msn.com

Jim Tritten
jimtritten@comcast.net

SWW Office:

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

Articles are copyright © 2015 by author. Facts, views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or opinions of SouthWest Writers. SWW does not necessarily endorse the advertisers.

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*

Member 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. Rogue Writer meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at Aux Dog Theatre near UNM, 3011 Monte Vista Blvd NE. All SWW members are encouraged to come together in celebration of the art of writing. At 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.

Frequently after the Saturday meeting, an additional brown bag session is held to provide members with training in a variety of areas.

Meetings are free of charge for everyone.

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 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.