

South West Sage

The Voice of South West Writers

Vol. 36 No. 8

August 2020

Members Pay Tribute to Rudolfo Anaya

The "Father of Chicano Literature"

I can still recall seeing the child-like wonder on Rudy's face, glowing in the reflection of the flames of celebration, triumph and love of community.

- Rudy Miera, p.14

He offered to reimburse me for my expenses in taking pictures, making slides, and preparing a set of color pictures of the slides for his files. I declined, and he insisted I accept a bottle of wine.

- Dianne Layden, p. 13

Rudolfo walked into my home and immediately asked, "Where are your books?"

- Sherri Burr, p. 11

"You've been a busy woman." He said and smiled. In that smile was a large compliment.

- Irene I. Blea, p. 12

A Message From the President

Greetings Fellow Writers!

Like myself and the rest of the South West Writers board members you are probably missing being able to get together and just enjoy a supportive community of like-minded individuals. We know that some of you are unable to join our zoom meetings, or perhaps your email addresses have changed and you are not able to get the alerts that are being sent out twice weekly. Nonetheless, we have been actively endeavoring to find ways to stimulate and entice the literary potential locked within this enormously talented group.

First, the bad news. The Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living, where we have been meeting, has informed us that they do not envision being able to open their doors possibly through the end of the year. Other venues are much more costly or they are restricting the numbers allowed inside. As you are aware, we are a VERY large group. As frustrating as this is, we do have some good news and some requests that you, as a member of SWW, are encouraged to participate in.

In this newsletter you will discover what the volunteers on your board of directors have been up to and what we are planning. With luck, our ideas will appeal to you and you'll be able to participate. We know that some of you have difficulties with online meetings and classes...

we are looking for options to help with that.

For those who embrace the online culture and opportunities, one of the advantages of moving to an online meeting component is the ability to access the talents and knowledge of speakers and instructors from areas outside of central New Mexico. This broadens our scope enormously. We are also opening our larger resource pool to other, smaller, writing groups locally. The City of Albuquerque's Urban Enhancement Trust Fund gave us a grant which allows us to purchase the equipment we need in order to offer more classes and workshops, and to keep our office open.

This has been a concern since some members feel that without the stimulation of personal gatherings they do not wish to continue paying their membership. SWW needs the support of its members now more than at any time in its 30-plus year history. We are 95 percent supported through membership dues and class fees. As your annual membership comes due, please renew knowing that in doing so you are the light that lifts us past this momentary darkness.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie Kern

President



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Remembering Rudolfo Anaya

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WHICH/WHAT WORD?

*I saw it
in the SAGE!*

What's Inside?

Though COVID's effect on our organization remains near the top of the list of *news* topics, SWW and it's members have

lots of other things to talk about.

The passing of Rudolfo Anaya, gave us pause and heralded a time for reflection. Many members knew him. Some, like those members who President Rose Marie Kern asked to tell their stories of "Rudy," knew him well. These stories start on **page 11** with Sherri Burr, who dedicated her regular column to remembering Rudolfo, but each of the tributes provides a window into the life of a simple man who told great stories that changed people's minds.

The writing contest is over and the winners have been notified. The list appears on **page 3**. It's disorderliness is intended, so there's no possibility to presume a placing. Awards will be given at the October 3 membership meeting, which will be held via ZOOM.

Speaking of ZOOM, you might want to start consider-

ing it your new meeting tool. It's here to stay for awhile. For anyone who hasn't yet given in to the inevitability of online meetings, Rob Spiegel explains on **page 5** how to get logged in to ZOOM and make it your best friend for connecting with SWW meetings, live speakers, workshops, classes and, now, the sharing of your successes (**page 7**).

Classes that had been postponed from earlier in the year are back on the schedule. Details are on **page 8**.

Some members had fun with this month's Sage Challenge (**pages 15-16**), others just had fun writing and shared with the Sage. You can always do that, you know - share your writing with the Sage. We can't promise to publish everything we receive, but we can't even consider publishing that which we never receive.

Sage@swwriters.com

SouthWest Sage

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

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SWW 2020 Writing Contest *SEEING* the *WORLD* in 20/20

THE WINNERS ARE....

List is deliberately presented with no particular order.

Title	Name of Author	Category
<i>Nuestra Senora de Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows)</i>	RJ Mirabal	Thriller/Suspense/Horror
<i>Payback</i>	David Knop	Mystery/Crime
<i>The Visitor</i>	Nathan McKenzie	Thriller/Suspense/Horror
<i>The Dales Of Zin</i>	Bob Montgomery	Sci Fi/Futuristic/Fantasy
<i>Welspryng</i>	Frank Stephens	Spiritual/Philosophy/Self-Help
<i>WheelChair Liberty</i>	Robert Stuart	Biography/Memoir/Travel
<i>Deadly Envy</i>	Sherene Gross	Mystery/Crime
<i>An Extraordinary Incident</i>	Jennifer Trotter	Social Consciousness
<i>Eye of the Hurricane</i>	Joanne Bodin	Poetry - Social Consciousness
<i>The Sun Rises</i>	Carl Hitchens	Poetry - Spiritual/Phil./Self-Help
<i>Sidelights on the WACs during World War II</i>	Leonie Rosenstiel	Cultural/Historical
<i>The Lamb Cake</i>	Rose Marie Kern	Humor
<i>One Good Trick</i>	George McFall	Romance
<i>Meeker Has Rights</i>	John Cornish	Sci Fi/Futuristic/Fantasy
<i>Descansos</i>	George McFall	Social Consciousness
<i>Hey Coach</i>	Joe Brown	Biography/Memoir/Travel
<i>Teaching and Learning Online in a COVID-19 World</i>	Lisa Durkin	Spiritual/Philosophy/Self-Help
<i>Goodnight Moon</i>	Desiree Woodland	Spiritual/Philosophy/Self-Help
<i>The cat and I</i>	Jesse Ehrenberg	Poetry - Animals
<i>We Were</i>	Nathan McKenzie	Poetry - Cultural/Historical
<i>Once Upon A Time...When We Could</i>	Mary Dorsey	Poetry - Social Consciousness
<i>Can Not</i>	Charles Powell	Poetry - Humor
<i>A General's Dilema</i>	Lynn Doxon	Historical Fiction
<i>Cows</i>	Dodici Azpadu	Poetry - Animals
<i>Night of the Bells</i>	Linda Triegel	Historical Fiction
<i>Children in the Cave</i>	Princess Miller	Poetry - Cultural/Historical
<i>Reflections in Rosewood</i>	Larry Greenly	Thriller/Suspense/Horror
<i>Splits</i>	John Cornish	Poetry - Biography/Memoir/Travel
<i>Depth</i>	Kimberly Rose	Sci Fi/Futuristic/Fantasy
<i>To See Where You're Going, Look To Where You've Been</i>	Sylvia Ramos Cruz	Poetry - Biography/Memoir/Travel
<i>We're Not Talking Sesame Street Here</i>	Donald De Noon	Animals
<i>Evolution</i>	Sara Gray	Poetry - Social Consciousness
<i>The Visitor</i>	Paula Nixon	Animals
<i>Zsoft</i>	Mary Candace Mize	Romance
<i>Southwestern Spectral Spectacle</i>	Bonnie Hayes	Humor
<i>Hills and Valleys</i>	Dana Starr	Historical Fiction
<i>The Girl in Patan Durbar Square</i>	Melinda Smith	Biography/Memoir/Travel
<i>Jeremy's Journey</i>	Francis Rose	Spiritual/Philosophy/Self-Help
<i>Marked-down Dog</i>	Patricia Walkow	Animals
<i>Is 1960 Epic "Exodus" Lost in Time?</i>	Jonathan Chisdes	Cultural/Historical
<i>Once Upon A Time In The Garden of Eden</i>	Robert Speake	Humor
<i>The Urn</i>	Mary Therese Ellingwood	Social Consciousness
<i>In The Time Of The Great Pandemic</i>	Jesse Ehrenberg	Poetry - Cultural/Historical
<i>How Cold is it?</i>	Charles Powell	Poetry - Humor
<i>Bad Wants Company</i>	Charles Powell	Poetry Spiritual/Phil./Self-Help
<i>Rental</i>	John Cornish	Poetry - Biography/Memoir/Travel
<i>Dreaming of Yew</i>	Gregory Walke	Cultural/Historical
<i>Stranger in Town</i>	Linda Triegel	Mystery/Crime
<i>The War Within</i>	Barb Simmons	Romance

Awards and Winners Anthology information on next page.

Writing Contests You Can Enter NOW

Virus Poems Poetry Contest



For “Virus Poems” we’re asking for your response to the pandemic and the times we’re in now. While we’re hunkered down, we can also be productive, allowing ourselves to reflect and clean out some of the cobwebs that cling to us – all good stuff for writing poetry. Maximum 40 lines. Ends August 31, 2020.

<http://www.publicpoetry.net>

Sunspot Literary Journal

Sunspot Literary Journal amplifies multinational voices. Editor’s Prize of \$50 for the annual edition, and artwork selected for a cover will be paid \$20. Visit SunspotLit.com to download digital editions for free.

All types of prose from flash fiction and poetry to stories and essays, including scripts and screenplays, are welcome from 10 to 49,000 words. Translations welcome. The Fast Flux options offer a two-week turnaround.

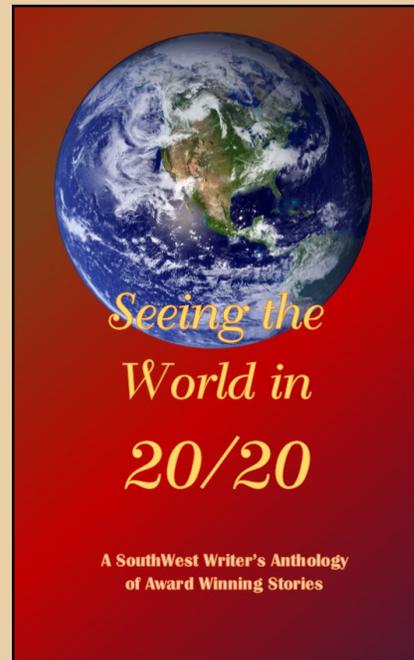
Closing date: August 31, 2020
To submit: <https://sunspotlit.submit-table.com/submit>



Seeing the World in 20/20 Winners Anthology

The cover for the anthology of winning stories from the *Seeing the World in 20/20* writing contest was created by Rose Marie Kern, who will also compile the anthology.

With permission from the writers, all the winning stories listed on the previous page will be included in the anthology. Copies should be available for purchase by the October 3 membership meeting. The announcement of placings and presentation of awards will also happen at that meeting, which will occur via ZOOM.



The Bedford Competition

(International Short Story & Poetry Awards)

The Bedford Competition is a non-profit organization, based in the United Kingdom, which runs international writing competitions that should appeal to anyone with an interest in creative writing.

All the entries are entered in the main story and poetry competitions which have prizes of £500 first place, £150 second and £100 third. Overseas entrants are often amongst the prize winners.

A Young Writers’ Award is given for the best poem and short story received from a person in the age group 17 to 25, inclusive.

Inspired by the affects of the current COVID-19 pandemic there is, for this year only, a special Rainbow Prize for short story en-

trants aged 70 or over. We have chosen this age group for this one-off prize as they are not only deemed to be the most vulnerable, but are most likely to be suffering lockdown blues as they have been prevented from pursuing social activities and interacting with their children and grandchildren.

The twelve shortlisted stories and poems plus the prizewinners of the Young Writers’ Award and the Rainbow Prize will all be published in a paperback and electronic anthology, providing an opportunity to send their work into the outside world.

More details and how to enter can be found at:

<https://bedfordwritingcompetition.co.uk/BWC/php/homepage.php>

Want to watch a past SWW presentation?
Meeting and workshop videos are uploaded every month!

Links at www.southwestwriters.com.



Saturday, August 1 at 10 a.m. LIVE  MEETING!

“FLASH” FICTION: PICTURES and POEMS

with Hakim Bellamy

In 2019, a book I’d been working on for almost nine years was released. It was the maturation of my growth as a writer and my friendship with photographer Justin Thor Simenson. What began as a folder of image files shared with me, ended up a book of poems (read: short, short stories) that served as companions to the most haunting images. A neighborhood with no people, only stories of people. Unsure whether this was a book of made-up stories or lives left behind, our book *We Are Neighbors* began to take on a life of its own last year... right before a global pandemic stole our aesthetic and turned actual city streets into ghost towns. We’ll talk about the process, timing, and what happens when you write something that comes true.



Before being tapped by Albuquerque’s Mayor Keller to serve as the Deputy Director of the Cultural Services Department, HAKIM BELLAMY was the Inaugural Poet Laureate for the City of Albuquerque (2012-2014). Bellamy is a W. K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network Fellow, a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow, an Academy for the Love of Learning Leonard Bernstein Fellow, Western States Arts Alliance Launchpad Fellow, Santa Fe Arts Institute Food Justice Fellow, New Mexico Strategic Leadership Institute alum, and soon to be Citizen University Civic Seminary Fellow (July 2019).

Information needed to join this live, Zoom meeting is available on the SWW website: southwestwriters.com

Simple as one. . . two. . . three. . . ZOOM! by Rob Spiegel

Does ZOOM Make You Sweat?

Rob Spiegel Explains How to Lean Back and Log In

Since our SWW meetings are now on Zoom – and will be for quite some time – it’s time to learn this easy program. And it’s simple:

Go to Zoom.com

Click Join a Meeting in the upper middle of the screen.

It will ask for your meeting ID. This number is included in your SWW alert. (If you use the link in the alert, you don’t even need to do this part).

Put in the password. This six-digit number is listed in

the alert or on the SWW website on the “Meetings” page.

Once your numbers are in, you’ll be entered into the meeting space. You’ll see your window appear.

If you’re not seeing your face (and want to), look at the little set of three dots in the upper right corner of your window. You have to hover your cursor over the upper right corner to see the dots. Click on the dots and you’ll see choices such as “start video,” which will bring your smiling face into the meeting. You will also be able to rename yourself. Up in that corner, you will also be able to “mute” or “unmute” yourself. It’s best to stay on “mute” unless you’re called on to speak.

It’s that simple. Log-on and have fun.

Free and Extended-Range Wi-Fi at City Locations

The City of Albuquerque has extended the range of their free wi-fi to outside libraries, senior centers and other locations that usually have it. Free City of Albuquerque wi-fi can now be accessed in the parking lots and on the steps of closed locations. If you relied on public wi-fi for your SWW website, Zoom, email and class materials access but were shut out by the health restrictions, you may now make use of it again, for free!



Saturday, August 1, 12:30 P.M. LIVE



WORKSHOP!

Creating Book Covers

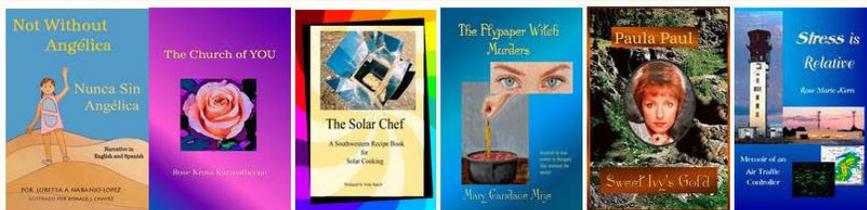
with Rose Marie Kern

Are you trying to figure out how to create your own book cover? Rose uses a variety of tools to format book covers for self publishing. Some of them she will discuss during the workshop are Photoshop, Elements, Paint Shop Pro, Paint and Publisher. The zoom presentation is such that if you have a wide computer screen you can mirror what she is doing during the presentation.



ROSE MARIE KERN works with art programs to create book covers, print ads, Powerpoint presentations, posters, web-sites, and newsletters. She's been working with computers since 1982 — before most people knew what they were! As the owner of RMK Publications, she helps authors bring their ideas and concepts to life in print.

Book covers designed by Rose:



Saturday, August 1
12:30 – 2:30 pm

Platform: Zoom Live Meeting
\$20 SWW members,
\$30 Non-members

To Register:

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–noon) or use the Online Registration Form. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

The Zoom invitation link and the password will be emailed to those who purchase this workshop. For more information, please contact the workshop coordinator at programs@swwriters.com.

NOW ACCEPTING Executive Committee Nominations

Nominations for the 2021 SWW Board of Directors Executive Committee are now being taken for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

All candidates must have been members of SWW in good standing

for at least one year immediately preceding the election. Additionally, candidates for President and Vice-President must have served on the board of directors for a year.

Any member of SWW can nominate, including self-nominations.

Submit names of candidates to the Nominating Committee chairperson: **Dan Wetmore** (tampadan1@gmail.com)

by August 31, 2020. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting, the first Saturday in October, with those elected beginning their terms on January 1, 2021.

For details on the duties of each position, contact:

Dan Wetmore
(tampadan1@gmail.com)

or the current officials:

President, Rose Marie Kern

(president@swwriters.com)

Vice President, Elizabeth Layton

(programs@swwriters.com)

Secretary, Patricia Walkow

(secretary@swwriters.com)

Treasurer, Jennifer Black

(treasurer@swwriters.com)



The 2019 (pre-COVID) SWW Board of Directors at work.

Want to watch SWW presentations from the past?



New meeting and workshop videos are uploaded every month!

Links at www.southwestwriters.com

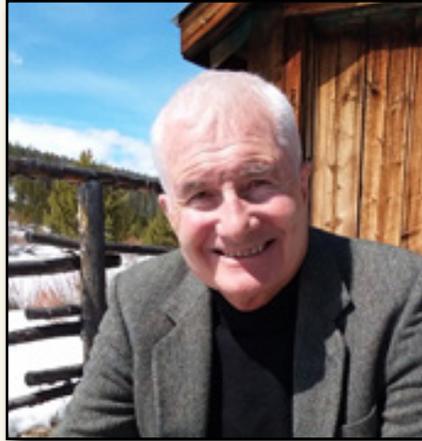
Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. LIVE  MEETING!

WRITING, TEACHING WRITING, and WORRYING ABOUT HAPPY ENDINGS AT THREE in the MORNING

presented by John Rember

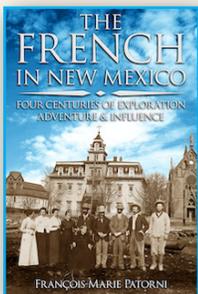
John Rember will be reading from his new book, *A Hundred Little Pieces on the End of the World*. Excerpts will come from a chapter that discusses when metanarratives fail, the British psychiatrist R.D. Laing, and a brilliant 7th-grade writing student, Darrel.

JOHN REMBER lives and writes in the Sawtooth Valley of Idaho. Recurring themes in his writing include



the meaning of place, the impact of tourism on the West, and the fragility of industrial civilization. John's latest book, *A Hundred Little Pieces on the End of the World*, joins *MFA in a Box: A Why to Write Book*, his memoir *Traplins: Coming Home to Sawtooth Valley*, and three short story collections: *Sudden Death, Over Time, Cheerleaders from Gomorrah: Tales from the Lycra Archipelago* and *Coyote in the Mountains*.

Information needed to join this live, Zoom meeting is available on the SWW website: southwestwriters.com



Francois-Marie Patorni
BOOK:
The French In New Mexico

My history of the French in New Mexico has been on sale and doing well since April.

Thousands of New Mexicans share a French ancestry. The book is for them and for those interested in the multicultural aspects of New Mexico's history and society.

Members' Success!

Manfred Leuthard
BOOK: *Broken Arrow*

Thanks to COVID, I managed to finish a Thriller that I had been working on for two years and get it published, with some great reviews on Amazon. The story is about a bunch of crooks that are going to steal a Nuke from Los Alamos.



To share YOUR successes read article below!

Keep Sharing Your Writing Successes - Your wins inspire others!

Even though they can't shake your hand or congratulate you in person, your fellow SouthWest Writers members want to know about your success. When all the dedication to your writing craft finally pays off for YOU, send word of your success to SWW and we'll help you tell the world what you've accomplished.

Here are three ways to announce your wins. Use one or use them all:

1. **E-LERTS.** SWW Office Manager, ReVaH, sends out "e-lersts" (emailed SWW announcements) twice weekly and, as a member of SWW, your success can be included in one of them. Email ReVaH the details of your win at info@swwriters.com. Or write her at 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114, Albuquerque, NM 87110.
2. **SouthWestWriters.com.** There are several ways to share success on the award-winning SWW website, southwestwriters.com. Submit a cover photo from your published book for the rolling website banner and check out all the author options under the "Membership" tab, and/or list your new and historical successes on the "Awards" page.
3. **SAGE Newsletter.** Publish word of your good news in the award-winning SouthWest Sage newsletter by following these guidelines:
 - Describe your great news in 50 words or less.
 - If you like, attach one low-resolution image. We'll do our best to include it with your announcement.
 - Email it to sage@swwriters.com. For inclusion in the September Sage, we must receive your news no later than August 15, 2020.

4. If you join a ZOOM meeting you can go to the Chat box and type in, "I have a success." At the appropriate time in the meeting you will be called on to share it. If you have a book to announce, hold it up to the screen for people to see the cover while you tell them where it can be purchased.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Enroll in classes at:
southwestwriters.com
or (505) 830-6034



The following classes are currently accepting enrollment.

AUGUST

Creating Websites for Writers

Instructor: Loretta Hall



\$105/\$115 (4 weeks)
Saturdays, Aug. 8, 15, 22 and 29
2-4 p.m.
Platform: Live via ZOOM

Why should you have a website? Because people say you should? If that's your only reason, you won't have a good one. In this six-hour series, you will learn how to plan a website and design one that will be attractive and effective. Topics include domain names, website design concepts, blogs versus websites, 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 class will prepare you to talk knowledgeably with that person about what you want. In-class demonstrations and take-home exercises will get you started establishing (or improving) your Internet presence.

Loretta Hall currently maintains five websites of her own creation. The oldest one, which she built in 2004, has received multiple awards and earned her the title of Female Architectural Author of the Year in 2016 by Build magazine. Loretta describes herself as computer literate but not a programmer. She is a former board member of Southwest Writers and winner of the 2007 Parris Award. In 2016, she was named Communicator of Achievement by the National Federation of Press Women.

SEPTEMBER

Writing your Family Legacy before you Croak

Instructor: Alexandra Dell'Amore

\$130/\$140 (5 weeks)

Tuesdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
3-5 p.m.

Platform: In person, SWW office,
3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite #114



Learn how to write your personal history in this two-hour, five-week class. Stories and your experiences are happenings that should not be lost. When you write your legacy, you will continue to live through the written word. This is not grammar oriented, but written in your own voice, so not to worry. It is a comprehensive class covering aspects of family, environment and what inspired you—how to live your life. It's going to be great fun. The month of September is a great time to remember all that stuff.

Alexandra Dell'Amore is a Registered Nurse and holds a degree in Fine Art Painting. Her career included directing a residential drug rehab program in the Bronx, working with the homeless mentally ill in New York City. She has received numerous awards for her painting. Her work has been featured in many gallery and museum shows and exhibitions, both in New York and Taos, New Mexico. As a poet she is cited in two poetry anthologies and as a writer in SWW's Storyteller's Anthology. Her interest in Jungian psychology and in art (as well as her experience in the medical field) inspired her to write her memoir, *Hush Hush and Other Veneers*, to tell how her often chaotic life became integrated. She presently lives in New Mexico where she continues to write and paint.



MAKE A SUGGESTION

Have an idea for a class or workshop you'd like SWW to offer? Email the Class and Workshop Coordinator at:

Info@SWWriters.com

*Changing world circumstances could result in updates to class locations, venue, platform, etc.
For information or enrollment, call the SWW office at (505) 830-6034.*

These CLASSES Also Open For Enrollment!

The following classes, originally scheduled for earlier in the year and postponed due to the COVID lockdown, are now rescheduled and ready for your registration. They will meet via ZOOM.

To Register: call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon), use the online registration form. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

Blogging Your Way to Success

Class Instructor: Rob Spiegel
5-week Course
Wednesdays: September 23, 30 and October 7, 14 and 21
3 – 5 p.m.
Platform: Live via ZOOM
\$130 SWW members, \$135 Osher, \$140 Nonmembers



Blogging can build your writing skills while creating an audience. This class will explore all types of blogging, from poetry to how-to instruction, from spirituality to memoir. Rob will explain how to choose a free blogging platform, how to determine the blog length and frequency, and how to build an audience. This class will explain how you can use a blog to create the backbone of a book, just as Julie Powell did to create her bestseller *Julie & Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen*, which went on to become a major movie.

ROB SPIEGEL has been writing for 40 years. He makes his living as a journalist, serving as senior editor for *Design News*, an international trade magazine. He has published fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. He has published six books with major publishers such as St. Martin's Press. Rob has taught writing at UNM, CNM, Osher, and at dozens of writing conferences across the country. For 10 years, he owned a magazine (*Chile Pepper*) and a book publishing company. His weekly writing output includes journalism, blogs, webinars, fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

Crafting a Nonfiction Book Proposal

Class Instructor: Loretta Hall
4-week Course
Sundays: October 4, 11, 18 and 25
2 – 4 p.m.
Platform: Live via ZOOM
\$105 SWW members, \$110 Osher, \$115 Nonmembers



Unlike novels, nonfiction books are offered to publishers in the form of a book proposal before the manuscript is completed. (Memoirs are also offered with a book proposal, but after the manuscript is completed.) In this class, you will learn what should be included in a book proposal and how to make that information compelling. Topics also include planning a marketable book and finding appropriate publishers to submit to. Even if you plan to self-publish your nonfiction book, it is important for you to prepare a book proposal to convince your publisher (you!) that the book has a reasonable chance of success.

LORETTA HALL has worked with four different publishers to produce her eight nonfiction books. The lessons she has learned from these experiences will give you a head start with your quest to get published. Loretta served on the SouthWest Writers board for four years and received the 2007 Parris Award. She was named Communicator of Achievement by the National Federation of Press Women in 2016.

C Comparison Shopping, Finding the Right Comparison

by Kirt Hickman

A picture is worth a thousand words (pardon the cliché—it's true). Good fiction draws the reader away from his mundane life and transports him to a world of wonder wholly different than his own. Whether this difference is physical, cultural, psychological, or situational, metaphors and similes can help bring your fictional world to life.

Description:

When you use comparisons, you draw a mental picture that relates an element of your story to something within the reader's realm of experience. In the following example, several characters in my science-fiction novel, *Worlds Asunder* cross an open expanse of the Moon's surface.

...the four of them made a dash for the building. They ran side by side. In the Moon's gravity, they rose slowly with each stride and returned to the ground just as slowly, only to bounce again and again until they reached their destination.

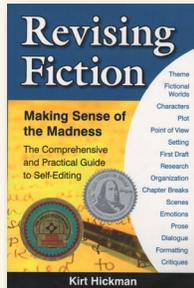
This passage contains a detailed description of how my characters run in low gravity. It tries to invoke an image that will bring my setting to life and show how the Moon is different than Earth. The problem is, I've used so many words that by the time the reader gets to the end of the description, he no longer cares about the image. He just wants to get on with the story. Comparing the characters' motion to something familiar can invoke the desired image more clearly, and with fewer words, than literal description:

...the four of them made a dash for the building, bounding up and down in a ragged line, like so many horses on a merry-go-round.

Taking the merry-go-round out of context, putting it on the Moon, and using it to describe running makes the comparison unexpected. I've used a familiar object to show how my setting differs from the reader's here and now.

Yet I can improve the passage further. The word "building" lacks description. How big is this building? What does it look like? I've missed an opportunity to remind the reader that I've taken him to another world. In an earlier scene, I described the building like this:

The habitation dome was maybe a hundred meters in diameter with the semicylindrical protrusion of the equipment garage on one side, the only obvious entrance to the structure.



Can you picture the building? What if I add this sentence?

From afar, it looked like a giant igloo on a vast stretch of dirty ice.

The comparison solidifies the image. In *Worlds Asunder*, I refer back to this description in the merry-go-round scene by changing the word "building" to "igloo":

...the four of them made a dash for the igloo, bounding up and down in a ragged line, like so many horses on a merry-go-round.

Emotion:

You can use comparisons to invoke emotion. The following passage describes the wreckage of a crashed space ship:

...the fuselage came into view, jutting skyward from the flat terrain, surrounded by sparkling debris.

Perhaps this invokes an image, but a couple of well-drawn comparisons will enhance the emotional impact.

... the fuselage came into view, jutting skyward from the flat terrain like a solitary tombstone in a garden of glittering metal.

When the fuselage becomes a tombstone in a garden, it forms the emotional image of death. It reminds the reader of something he already knows: a body lies here, probably inside the fuselage. The viewpoint character is approaching a grave.

Viewpoint:

Comparisons can express an idea or a character's viewpoint more effectively than direct narrative.

...a tremendous pop reverberated through the cavernous hangar from the huge doors in front of the cockpit window. The squeal of the unused rollers filtered into the cabin like a scream of protest against this change in military posture...

This passage doesn't specify what the change in military posture is. Nevertheless, when I use "scream of protest" to describe a simple sound, I don't have to tell the reader how the viewpoint character feels about the change.

Use Comparisons Carefully:

Look for opportunities to use comparisons in your fiction, but don't overdo it. A well-placed comparison that invokes the right image, at the right time, will enrich your story. But if every paragraph contains one, you'll force too many unrelated images upon the reader. Your own world will get lost among them.

Beware misused, imprecise, or cliché comparisons. Misused or imprecise comparisons can confuse your reader. Cliché comparisons will have no emotional impact.

Remembering Rudolfo Anaya

After I heard that Rudolfo Anaya had slipped peacefully into the Writing Heavens on June 28, 2020, I thought about the time he permitted me to auction a dinner with him and his wife Patricia to raise funds for the Arts Alliance. At the time I was a member of the board and we periodically held silent auctions where people could bid on donated auctions. Rudolfo walked into my home and immediately asked, "Where are your books?"

I explained that I had recently gone through a clutter clearing exercise during which I had donated thousands of my books to the libraries and charitable organizations. Those that remained were hidden in the closets of my home office and in my guest bedroom. "Why do you ask?"

Patricia chimed in, "In our home books are everywhere, in the living room, kitchen, dining room, bedrooms, and bathrooms."

Rudolfo's point was that writers read, and read a lot. It's crucial to mastering our craft. If you are not reading, you are not learning. If you are not learning, you have less to share with your audience. Rudolfo kept all his books by others, while I had shed many of mine once I had incorporated the knowledge.

By the time of his death, Rudolfo had written several dozen books. *Bless Me Ultima*, his first book, is still considered his most important. Because of his ability to capture Hispanics and their life in vivid human terms, he had often been deemed the Dean of Hispanic Literature. He sparked an entire category of fiction.

In the New York Times obituary following his demise, I learned that *Bless Me Ultima* had also been subjected to boycotts and book-burning. When an author's book generates that much passion you know that he or she has accomplished something truly remarkable. In Rudolfo's case, the obituary writ-

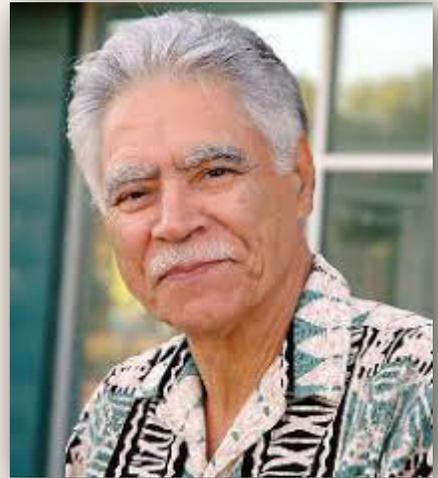
er said, "the tension between Roman Catholicism and the spiritual practices embodied by Ultima" had attracted the condemnation. Way to go Rudolfo!

He was also gifted at adaptation, or what is known in Copyright Law as the creation of derivative works. Rudolfo turned *Bless Me Ultima* into a film, an opera, and a play. The depth in the *Bless Me Ultima*'s characters lent themselves to these adaptations. Ultima and the other family members were nuanced within their souls and in their interactions with each other. They essentially leapt off the printed pages and onto the silver screen and certain stages as actors embraced the opportunity to portray these characters.

In both fiction and nonfiction, a writer can sometimes feel his characters live with him. Western novelist Melody Groves once remarked that she was so into her characters that she told her husband she had to cook grub for her entire crew she had on a cattle drive.

Not only did Ultima leap into our hearts, so did her creator, Rudolfo Anaya. His contributions to humanities were recognized in 2016 when President Obama awarded him the National Humanities Medal. Obama cited Rudolfo's "pioneering stories of the American Southwest."

Whether we write fiction or nonfiction, we can channel our inner Rudolfo and write stories beyond what is already known. He used the unique events in his life as his muse, and we can use ours. God speed, Rudolfo, to the Writing Heavens! You made a difference in the lives of your readers and all those who were blessed to interact with you.



Author of *Bless Me Ultima*



by Sherri Burr

The Writing Life

Sherri Burr is the author of 27 books, including *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia: 1619-1865* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019). A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University, and the Yale Law School, Burr transitioned from being a full-time law professor at the University of New Mexico to become a full-time author in 2017. She has been a member of Southwest Writers for over 30 years and currently serves as the President of New Mexico Press Women.

A Memorial to the Godfather of Chicano Literature

Irene I. Blea, Ph. D.

In the early 1980s, one of my male friends took me to visit Rudolfo Anaya. Rudy sat in the shade of his relatively new house high above the Rio Grande in Albuquerque and offered us a drink. There, in his small garden, we talked about our work and New Mexico.

“We’ve got a lot to do,” he said.

A few years later I saw him in Spain. We were on the same panel discussing Chicano literature.

“You’ve been a busy woman.” He said and smiled. In that smile was a large compliment.

Ten years later, I accepted a position at the University of New Mexico. At the end of my second year, he took me to lunch, and seemed to know that I was being recruited away from the institution by California State University, Los Angeles.

“Go where you can do the most good. New Mexico will still be here,” he said and smiled. In that smile was a *consejo*, a bit of advice without being direct. He and his wife, Pat, went to my farewell reception and gave me a pair of earrings. A few years later, I had a terrible accident, was recuperating, and fighting depression. Rudy called on the phone and asked me to accompany him to an opening of one of his plays.

“We need you back,” he said. “We got a lot of work to do.”

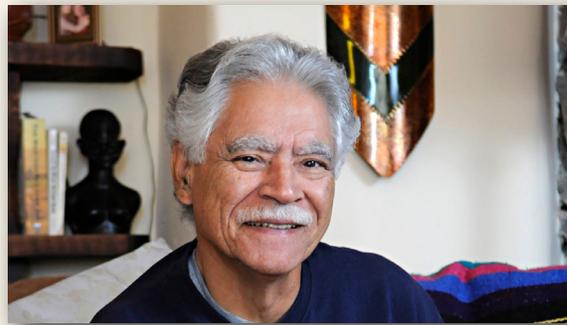
I returned and during the last 20 years we lived in the same neighborhood. I visited him and Pat and generally talked about our travels. We shared a love of touring and learning about many countries and different cultures. But, New Mexico was home. In fact, I’ve heard many say Rudy was New Mexico.

With the publication of *Bless Me, Ultima* in 1972, Rudy opened doors and windows for a substantial list of published authors and visual artists. He gave us Chicano protagonists, powerful female healers and spiritualists, and personal encouragement without preaching to us. He was entertaining and had a mischievous way about him. His way of mentoring worked.

Rudy worked at writing and teaching at UNM, where he initiated a creative writing program. He and Pat established a writer’s retreat in Jemez Springs to support and encourage aspiring authors to write. A few years ago, they invited me to stay there for two weeks in July. The list of former guests in Chicano Literature and Chicano Studies was long. Over the July 4th weekend they invited me to spend the afternoon and

evening with his extended family not too far away. Pat hurt her arm and could not attend. Rudy introduced me to his family and an hour later returned to Albuquerque to tend to Pat. He, however, encouraged me to stay, eat, drink and have fun.

Rudolfo Anaya received numerous awards. The first was the Premio Quinto Sol literary prize in 1972. It consisted of \$1000 and the publication of *Bless Me, Ultima*. Other honors include the Award for Achievement in Chicano Literature from the Hispanic Caucus of Teachers of English, the Mexican Medal of Friendship from the Mexican Consulate of Albuquerque, two New Mexico Governor’s Public Service Awards, the American Book Award, the Pen Center West Award for Fiction, the National Humanities Award for pioneering stories of the American Southwest, the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, and the NEA National Medal of Arts Lifetime Honor. In 2016, Rudy was awarded the National Humanities Medal for his pioneering stories of the American southwest, by President Barack Obama. Via his fiction, he introduced us to his Sonny Baca series, but he also wrote non-fiction, was included in several anthologies and was an anthologist compiling other author’s work. His words appeared in poetry, plays, children’s books, and in musical adaptations. In true interdisciplinary fashion he wrote about the ChupaCabra, the first Tortilla, *santeros*, roadrunners and the homeland.



Remembering Rudolfo Anaya

Rudolfo Anaya inspired two generations of Chicano writers to read, write and publish stories in which they saw Hispanic life reflected.

He spoke at conferences, colleges, and university campuses all over the country and because Chicanos are not celebrated in the fabric of American society, we celebrated when Rudy was on television and applauded the movie based on *Bless Me, Ultima*, which also is his most challenged work. Several school districts have attempted to ban the book because of its non-Christian spirituality, sexuality, violence and explicit language. During one scathing season of much criticism, I called him. He was not deterred. He stuck by his work, and it is at the forefront of American culture, a staple on high school and college reading lists.

The last time I saw him, Rudy did not look well. We talked, as usual, exchanged personal and professional digs, but he was sad. Pat had died and his health continued to decline. He accepted no public invitations, and those of us who knew him foresaw the sad occasion of his demise approaching. Yet, we grieved him profusely at his passing on June 28, 2020. He was 82 years old, had survived many criticisms, examinations and pain. His stick-to-it nature is what carried him through. It is what carries us through our loss. We have a lot of work to do.

Dr. Irene I. Blea is the author of several textbooks and academic articles, novels and poetry.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Irene I. Blea.

Adios, Rudolfo, y Gracias

by Dianne R. Layden

The first time I interviewed Rudolfo Anaya at his home, I was nervous. So I told him, “I’m going to just be myself.” And he said, “Who else can you be?” From that moment, I perceived him as a mentor. In my experience, Rudolfo was always at his best as himself.

I met Rudolfo in April 2008 at Bookworks bookstore in Albuquerque, where he introduced new books he wrote and spoke about his writing. In early 2008, I decided I would be a writer after I retired as a college professor. I began going to readings by notable authors to learn what it meant to be a writer.

Rudolfo was excited and happy. In March 2008, the City of Santa Rosa dedicated the Rudolfo Anaya – *Bless Me, Ultima* Landscape Park, with bronze features by Reynaldo “Sonny” Rivera – a statue of Rudolfo, a map of New Mexico with symbols from the novel, and pages with quotations from the novel were inset in the pathway to the statue. I was taken by his description, a sign that this would be my next project. In July 2009, at Bookworks, Rudolfo introduced me to Sonny, initiating a second project in 2011, a paper about Sonny’s two Juan de Onate statues in New Mexico and John Houser’s Onate statue in El Paso.

In 2009, compelled by the beauty of the Landscape Park, I had pictures taken and slides made of its features, interviewed Rudolfo and Sonny about its creation, and wrote an accompanying narrative. Since 2010, I’ve presented my narrative and slides many times at academic conferences and community meetings. My next presentation is in November 2020 at OASIS Lifelong Learning Adventure. Attendees always comment on the rarity of a public monument built to honor a living literary figure.

The award-winning coming-of-age novel, published in 1972, is also a play, film, and opera. Notably, in April 2012, its fortieth anniversary, the University of New Mexico held an all-day reading of *Bless Me, Ultima* by 48 students, faculty, staff, and administrators. I contributed a photo of the Landscape Park in Santa Rosa for display.

Bless Me, Ultima is controversial. Ultima, a curandera, or natural healer, is viewed by some as a witch. The novel is #32 on American Library Association’s list of most frequently challenged books for the decade of 2000-2009, up from #78 in 1990-1999. In Bloomfield, New Mexico, the book was banned and burned in 1981. Ironically, banning books increases sales.

Rudolfo’s scores of writings in his long career include novels, short stories, edited anthologies, essays, plays, poetry, an autobiography, and children’s books. His many awards include the Premio Quinto Sol for *Bless Me Ultima*, a national award for Chicano literature; Notable New Mexican Award; and National Humanities Medal, presented by U.S. President Barack Obama.

Since 2018, I’ve shown Dave Ellis’s 2015 documentary, *Rudolfo Anaya: The Magic of Words*, available from ellisfilm.com. Rudolfo said the film took years to make as Dave acquired grant money little by little to cover expenses. KNME, New Mexico PBS, also produced a film about Rudolfo, *From Curandera to Chupacabra: The Stories of Rudolfo Anaya*, which I’ve shown in my college English classes.

Rudolfo was a person of great character:

He offered to reimburse me for my expenses in taking pictures, making slides, and preparing a set of color pictures of the slides for his files. I declined, and he insisted I accept a bottle of wine. He appreciated my work all these years, as we stayed in touch by email. I sent him news articles with his name in them and articles about black holes – Rudolfo loved black holes.

At a tribute to Rudolfo at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in April 2011, poet and author Jimmie Santiago Baca told the audience gratefully of how Rudolfo and his wife Patricia took him in when he was going through a divorce.

He lived with the Anayas during this period.

In 2010, the Arizona legislature passed a law prohibiting courses “designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group,” i.e., the Tucson High School Mexican-American Studies program. Under pressure from the state, the Tucson Unified School District ended the program in 2012. In that year, Rudolfo welcomed to his home members of Librotraficantes (“book smugglers”), a Texas-based group opposed to censorship of Mexican American books. He provided them a large box of copies of *Bless Me, Ultima* for “underground libraries” of banned books in Tucson. In 2017, a federal judge ruled cancellation of the MAS program unconstitutional.

Rudolfo was a professor at UNM. In 2010, he and Patricia endowed in the English Department an annual lecture in their names on the literature of the Southwest. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The last time I saw Rudolfo was on March 15, 2018, at the dedication of the Rudolfo Anaya North Valley Library, formerly the North Valley Library. He was in a wheelchair.

My good friend Juan Vigil, a friend of Rudolfo, is responsible for the name change by the Bernalillo County Commission. Juan is a distinguished public administrator who has held executive positions at all levels of government, including service as Bernalillo County Manager (twice). I told Juan that if he hadn’t done so, I would have, as I had already made that decision.

Rudolfo is the fourth author to have an Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library named for him or her, along with Ernie Pyle, Erna Fergusson, and Tony Hillerman. Happily, as in the case of the Landscape Park, the library’s renaming took place before Rudolfo passed away. I was thrilled.

Rudolfo Anaya passed away on June 28, 2020. Adios, mi mentor, mi amigo, y gracias.



Remembering Rudolfo Anaya

Remembering Rudy Anaya

by Rudy J. Miera

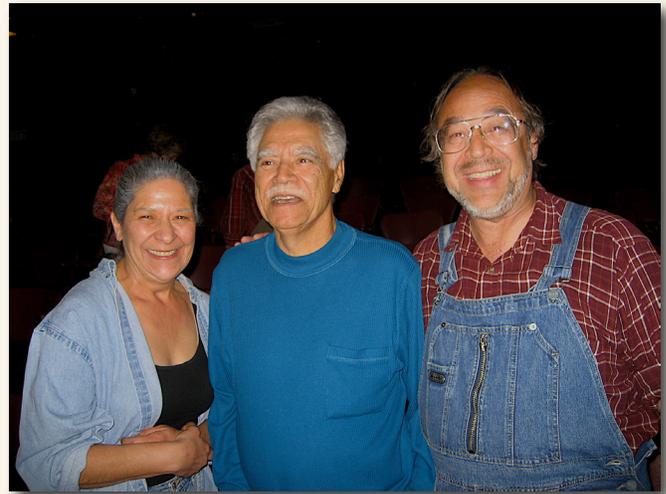
The last time I saw Rudy Anaya was at Halloween, and he invited me to celebrate his birthday (which was actually the day before, October 30), with a slice of pumpkin pie and vanilla ice cream. I had gone over to take him some *chicos*, (one of his favorite foods) and he was in a joyful mood, surrounded by *familia*, his niece, Belinda, granddaughter Kristan and her son, and his caregiver and cook, Nora. I will always carry the consoling memories of other joyful lunches of *enchiladas* brought over by his sister, Dolly.

He always enjoyed the presence of family and friends, talking and laughing and savoring *un trago de vino* (a small glass of wine) with those amiable meals. That is how I will always remember my friend and mentor, *mi tocayo* (namesake), Rudy Anaya. What we all will have forever are his stories of *la tierra*, his beloved Nuevo México, and the people of our mystical land who love, sometimes fight, learn from each other, sing for our beloved ones on birthdays, sing for Christmas, and remain in constant struggles for justice, peace, equality and dignity – qualities of *la gente* that fill his numerous short stories, novels, essays, poems and stage plays.

“The real fire from heaven is not the fire of violence, it is the fire of love,” Clemente Chavez declares in *The Heart of Aztlán*, another early novel. Throughout the decades, Sr. Anaya returned to the theme of the healing power of love, whether embodied by the main character in *The Adventures of Juan Chicaspatas* or the time-traveler Rosa Medina in *Chupacabra meets Billy the Kid*.

It was Anaya’s debut novel, *Bless Me, Última*, that blazed a trail for the genre of Chicano literature, a trail that generations of Latino writers continue to walk on. (“Última” was eventually made into a feature film and was the basis for an Opera!) When the Vortex Theater produced the stage play based on the famed coming-of-age book, every performance was sold out! Then a tour of major New Mexico cities and towns took place allowing myself and other fortunate actors the dream of speaking Rudy’s words in front of enchanted audiences, many of who came out to the theater for the first time. (For the revival production I was asked to put music to the lyrics of “The Corrido of Billy the Kid” and I feel lucky to have been the only person I know of to co-write a song with Rudy and I am blessed and humbled by that.)

What is not so well known are the numerous times that Rudy Anaya helped others out, through his personal encouragement and through opportunities for employment. When the producers of the National Endowment for the Arts literary project “The Big Read” came to Albuquerque, Rudy called and asked if I wanted a gig as a Production Assistant. My brother-in-law, Ruben Chavez, and I enjoyed working behind the scenes for the



Juanita Sena-Shannon, who played Última, Rudy Anaya, author of the Novel and Stage Play, Rudy J. Miera, musical director and actor.

Photo courtesy of Rudy J. Miera

filming at his house.

I can still remember a cool, late October evening in the South Valley, where ‘El Koo Kooey’ (the ‘Burque version of Zozobra) burned all of the previous years’ troubles in a bonfire accompanied by cheering children and adults. Rudolfo organized the annual event (which was a precursor to the ‘Marigold Parade’) that promoted literacy with a writing contest for students from Valle Vista Elementary, Ernie Pyle Middle School, Rio Grande High School, etc. After the awards were given at the South Valley Library, the symbol of gloom was gloriously torched. I can still recall seeing the child-like wonder on Rudy’s face, glowing in the reflection of the flames of celebration, triumph and love of community.

Near the conclusion of his celebrated first novel, young Antonio asks Última to bless him. Her last words are: “I bless you in the name of all that is good and strong and beautiful, Antonio. Always have the strength to live. Love life, and if despair enters your heart, look for me in the evenings when the wind is gentle and the owls sing in the hills. I shall be with you-“

Rudolfo A. Anaya blessed us with his artful gift of words, his heart-blessed encouragement, his passionate and fiery defense of the poor and marginalized, with his melodic laugh and his healing smile. Whether one lives in the city or the country, if we listen carefully, we can still hear him. He is still with us...

Rudy J. Miera is the author of *The Rise and Fall of Champagne Sanchez* and *After Hours in Aztlán*.



The Sage Writing Challenge

September

Write a Flash Fiction story of 500 words or less, in any genre, that begins with the words: **It started with a clatter in the...**
Keep it clean and nonpolitical.
Read and follow the guidelines below.

Email submissions to sage@swwriters.com

CHALLENGE AND ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Payment is in bylines and clips. **Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue.** Standard article lengths are from 300-1000 words; certain *Sage* Challenges may set more specific word count requirements (see the Challenge description box, above). Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length. Submissions must be tasteful; free from profanity, explicit sex or violence, etc.

Send all submissions as either standard text in an email or in a Word document in 12 pt. size. Single spaced. Do not get fancy with formatting or fonts.

Caught! by Elaine Montague

The city is busy enough that an observer could forget citizens are urged to limit outings to essential business. The sun is setting as I head home on foot after a strenuous workday. There are a few other walkers, the shufflers and rushers, averting their eyes and keeping their intentions private as if each is on a deserted island and the rest are figures to be ignored.

I am no different. My eyes stay focused on my path with quick glances right and left or up to see the clouds and down to avoid cracks in the pavement.

It is during one of these robotic glances to my left that a strange sight catches my eye.

A line, from a second-story window, is descending slowly, with something attached. I stop to stare then put on a pair of the disposable gloves I carry with me and

SouthWest SAGE

The *SouthWest Sage* newsletter welcomes submissions focusing on all aspects of research, writing, and publishing in any genre. See past issues of *SouthWest Sage* for the types of articles we publish.

Here are four ways you may be included:

- Write an article for the *Sage* related to the craft of writing, getting published, etc.
- Enter stories, poems, or articles inspired by the monthly writing challenge announced in each *Sage*.
- Send in a short story/poem/essay of your own—on any topic (inclusion in the *Sage* is subject to the discretion of the editor).
- Enter artwork/photographs related to writing in general or accompanying your stories.

Be sure to read, understand and follow the guidelines for submission. **Submissions that do not comply with the guidelines will not be considered.**

Send questions or submissions to:

Kathy Schuit
SouthWest Sage Editor
sage@swwriters.com



The August Challenge was: You are stranded on a deserted island. Write your message in a bottle.

approach it cautiously. A scan of the building shows no signage. What is this place?

My gaze follows the line up, where I see fingers outlined against a narrow opening on the second floor. The object slides down the building and lands with the line in sandy soil, making the minutest of sound. It looks harmless. I assess the vehicles whizzing by then reach to touch a plastic bottle which is smashed into an odd, slender shape, a bit thinner than the opening above.

The label is still legible: Drink daily to increase electrolytes.

Deformed so much that a cap could not fit, the bottle is sealed with slim sticky bandages. I remove the seal to examine what is inside. Augh! It looks disgusting. I shake the contents onto the sand and find a twig near the building's foundation. Poke, poke, poke. It looks like dried-out, shredded chicken and hardened spaghetti. A fragment of a used paper plate bears a scrawled plea.

"Help! I'm starving. This is what they feed me. They won't let me out. I get no sunshine. They won't let you

in, but they'll let pepperoni pizza in. Hurry! Call 911. Tell them to bring it now."

I hear a crackle, and my focus is drawn sharply upward, seeking the source of a voice. The traffic light changes. Screeching tires, horns, and road noise are loud at this major intersection as drivers go north and south, impatient, oblivious to me, the items in the sand, or sounds from the sill on the second floor. I strain to hear above the cacophony.

"What's the matter?"

"Hey, get me out of here! I need to go home and hold my babies. They locked me in. They make me eat by myself. They starve me. Get me pizza."

Are people really locked inside this place? Who is talking? The assumption I am in my own world is shattered.

My hand grips my cell phone, poised to call. But who can help?

Your Suggestions Wanted

In order to continue to support and encourage our members, SWW is looking for ways of increasing interpersonal communications and programs. Some of the suggestions so far include:

- Setting up Zoom critique groups by genre
- Initiating a "Pen Pal" writing group system where people are identified who prefer "snail mail" communication.
- Bring the "Successes and Announcements" back into our Zoom Meetings.

SWW is planning on expanding the number and frequency of its workshops and classes using Zoom technology. We'd like to know what topics YOU'd like to see included. We're also looking for suggestions on ways we can continue to help you attain your writing goals.

MAIL: SWW Office 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

PHONE: (505) 830-6034.

EMAIL: info@swwriters.com

The SWW Business Office IS OPEN!

Following the state's easing of COVID isolation protocols, the SouthWest Writers office at 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114, has reopened for regular business hours: M-Th 9 a.m. to noon.

In keeping with current COVID safety mandates, only a total of three people will be allowed in the office at a time. To avoid the possibility of encountering a wait to get inside, call ReVaH, our office manager, prior to your visit: 505-830-6034.

SOS! SOS!

by Donald DeNoon

To Whom It May Concern:

My cargo plane was forced to make a water landing and I'm the only survivor. Some cargo floated with me to this deserted island. No people here, but lots of vegetation. So I do have food. But I'm going crazy without human contact. If it weren't for Wilson, my volleyball friend, I would have given up.

PLEASE COME SOON!

It may be too late for me, but you can save Wilson.



THE MOUNTAIN LION

by Larry Kilham

The tawny cat stalks and searches,
but often on a cliff waits and watches.
He's a coiled spring on his haunches.

I pass below in the bright new snow
and there I see his paw marks in a row.
He's above, somehow I know,
and we are silent in our respect.

Larabee, a rescue mountain lion from Nebraska, now lives at the ABQ BioPark.

Photo Courtesy of New Mexico BioPark Society.

Look Who JOINED SWW in June

We Can't Wait To Meet You!

Hal Malchow
Judy Willmore



Southwest Writers Presents

WRITING IS A BUSINESS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living
2801 Louisiana NE

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION AT:
505-830-6034 or www.southwestwriters.com

Stay in touch with current information
through:
www.southwestwriters.com,
E-LERTS, and the SAGE Newsletter.

THIS LIVE CONFERENCE
POSTPONED TO
SEPTEMBER 25, 2021.

OPTIONS FOR 2020
ARE STILL IN THE WORKS, INCLUDING
THE POSSIBILITY OF TALKS BY THESE
SCHEDULED SPEAKERS VIA ZOOM.

MEET THESE EXPERTS:

Tax Questions answered by Dorian Johnson, N.M. Taxation and Revenue Audit Bureau Chief - We will discuss the tax questions that were presented to us from Southwest Writers with the attendees. We will explain your requirements of having to be a business, taxation, business requirements and do a question and answer session. AND Cabrini Sanchez

DORIAN JOHNSON, Audit Bureau Chief, 14+ years with New Mexico Taxation and Revenue, Audit and Compliance Division. Experience in many different industries, worked in manufacturing, companies such as IBM, Chevron Texaco, accounts payable audit firm, and was a stock broker with Bank of America Investment Services. Have coached Little League baseball for 38 seasons. <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov/>



Copyright Law for Writers, a presentation by Gina T. Constant, Intellectual Property Attorney
The presentation begins with an overview of intellectual property law and where copyright law fits in the big picture. The presentation will narrow to copyright law and then focus on copyright law with respect to literature. It will end with a brief discussion about infringement and how to prove it.

GINA T. CONSTANT specializes in intellectual property, civil litigation, and aviation law. She is a registered patent attorney. Ms. Constant prides herself on supportive and forthcoming client interaction with a common sense legal approach. She had a successful professional career before transitioning to law, now applying real world experience to each legal issue she encounters. www.ConstantLawLLC.com

Nuts and Bolts of Keeping Track of Your Business Expenses—the Practical Way to Keep Your Sanity, with panelists Gail Rubin, Cornelia Gamlem, Kirt Hickman

As The Doyenne of Death, **GAIL RUBIN** keeps track of her business with Quicken and a relentless updating of income and expenses. Anything with a skull counts as a business expense! Gail Rubin, CT, The Doyenne of Death®, is a pioneering death educator and speaker who uses humor and film clips to get end-of-life conversations started. She's the author of the award-winning books *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning for Those Who Don't Plan to Die*, *Kicking the Bucket List: 100 Downsizing and Organizing Things to Do Before You Die* (Rio



Grande Books), and *Hail and Farewell: Cremation Ceremonies, Templates and Tips*. She is also the coordinator of the award-winning Before I Die New Mexico Festival. <https://agoodgoodbye.com/>



CORNELIA GAMLEM is an author, consultant and speaker. She's co-authored four books *The Big Book of HR*, *The Essential Workplace Conflict Handbook*, *The Conflict Resolution Phrase Book*, and *The Manager's Answer Book* and co-writes a weekly blog, *Making People Matter*. She started her consulting firm in 2000 where she put into practice her HR expertise along with everything else she learned about business in college and during her career. www.bigbookofhr.com

KIRT HICKMAN, author of the award-winning science-fiction thrillers *Worlds Asunder* and *Venus Rain* has been a mentor in the SWW mentoring program, has spoken at numerous conferences, and contributes a monthly column titled *Revising Fiction* to the SouthWest Sage. He has also written *Mercury Sun*, the fantasy novel *Fabler's Legend* and two children's books. His writer's guide, *Revising Fiction—Making Sense of the Madness* won a New Mexico Book award for Best How-To and was a finalist in the international Ben Franklin Awards.



Will and Estate Planning, presented by James "Jim" Plitz - JAMES "JIM" PLITZ graduated magna cum laude and at the top of his class with his Juris Doctorate from the Phoenix School of Law. During school, he also enjoyed great success and honors as part of the Phoenix Law Review – both as an editor and a contributing writer. Jim has been with the Morris Hall law firm since 2009 and in 2016 was made a partner. He enjoys helping to protect the estates of each client, providing them with the peace of mind they deserve. Jim has provided education to many organizations around New Mexico, teaching the importance of proper estate planning and recently has co-authored two books: *Don't Go Broke in a Nursing Home*, and *Tax-Free Money for Long-Term Care*.



Business Planning, Start. Execute. Pivot., with Alexis Hassley, owner of Albuquerque Rage Room - Alexis Hassley's entrepreneurship as a millennial has taken many turns, which is the point of a journey. You don't have to have a plan to start, just an idea or a dream or an aspiration. Everything else you need to know you can learn along the way.

ALEXIS HASSLEY is also the owner of Duke City Estate Sales and helps consumers buy, sell and manage real estate with Couture Brokerage. She specializes in the online sale of items to create the most earnings for her clients. Most recently, she and her fiancé' opened the ABQ Rage Room, where they give consumers safety gear, weapons, glass and, literally, let them break stuff. Her largest motivation professionally is to help people and to add value to the state that doesn't or didn't exist prior.

Planning a Home Office, presented by Rob Spiegel - ROB SPIEGEL has been writing for 40 years. He makes his living as a journalist, serving as senior editor for Design News, an international trade magazine. He has published fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. He has published six books with major publishers such as St. Martin's Press. Rob has taught writing at UNM, CNM, Osher, and at dozens of writing conferences across the country. For 10 years, he owned a magazine (Chile Pepper) and a book publishing company. His weekly writing output includes journalism, blogs, webinars, fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.



Working With Accountants, presented by Brian Reinhardt, CPA - A partner with Mackie, Reid & Co. BRIAN REINHARDT is an expert in working with people who have home businesses. He is a CPA and a forensic accountant. Brian will go over how to set up accounting for your home business and what information you need to keep on hand for taxes or audits.



The Green Jacket

by R.H. Marshall

I woke up to the new millennium with the words *I will be a writer* tumbling out of my mouth. Maybe the ad in the Albuquerque Journal about a writers' conference coming up in a couple of days had triggered this certainty. I knew this about writing: I could not let it go, every time I tried it, I felt like a musician playing a one-string instrument, no rhythm there. This writing event was my ticket to find the missing strings.

Now, being a girl, my thoughts turned to what to wear. I had to feel good about my appearance, if not my writing ability. I looked at my limited collection in the closet, knowing that nothing special lived there. After deducting the conference and banquet fees, there was no money left to buy new clothes, so I went to second-time-around stores. Sorting through racks and mounds of clothing and becoming more dejected with each choice, I dug into the last pile, and there it was! A parrot green, long-sleeved jacket of flawless seams and perfect cut stood out from the rest. My size, please let it be my size, I whimpered and grabbed it before anyone else could get a glimpse of it—hard not to with that lovely color.

I arrived at the Marriott hotel on conference day feeling confident and put together in my glowing jacket, black slacks I had dipped in starch to give body to the old fabric and pressed in a crease sharp enough to look dangerous. To complete the outfit, I wore a 'pretend' silk blouse of a soft floral design. I won't digress into the

pretend part.

At the check-in table for unregistered guests, I paid the fees and was given a schedule and a hand-written name label. I entered the ballroom, found a seat at one of the cloth-covered round tables, nodded at the folks already there, and waited full of excitement knowing that I would come out of this conference ready to write my first book. Guest speakers and panels of writers, editors and agents kept information coming throughout the day, enough to make any head spin. Still, if it weren't for the urgent need, I would have resented the time spent on breaks.

It was almost time for the grand event of the conference, the keynote speaker at the banquet, Tony Hillerman. I couldn't wait to hear the music in his words. Suddenly, the people at the table stopped talking and stared at me, then looked away all in one direction. I followed their gaze, my information-bloated mind registering a flock of parrot-green-jacketed people from the catering service invading the room, and an officious looking man in a beautifully tailored green jacket heading toward our table. At this moment, I remembered the name label I'd been given and did the fastest peel and stick on ever, identifying me as a writer to be. Without missing a step, the man did a graceful half turn and headed back to his crew. My table companions were trying hard not to laugh. I looked down, embarrassed, and then saw the upside-down name label. I started laughing. Relieved, they joined me, and while we waited for Mr. Hillerman, I told them the story of the green jacket.

And in the telling, I found some of the missing strings.

WHICH/WHAT WORD?

by Kathy Louise Schuit

Help for confused, abused and misused words.

Affect vs. Effect

It's no wonder these two words so often end up in each others' places.

The most common usage for *effect* is as a noun: *The effect of eating too many cookies...* But it can also fall into sentences as a transitive verb.

Affect, most commonly a transitive verb, also has a few usages as a noun.

Even when these two are used correctly, they sound alike and, having heard what they hear, people become uncertain of what word is which when they go to write one or the other of them down on paper (or Instagram or Twitter).

In addition to all that, even the dictionaries, use *effect* to define *affect* and vice versa.

So, how do we sort it?

For me, the key to remembering when to use *affect* lies in the emotions. *Affect* is an emotive word. It is used to show how the events unfolding in your sentences **influence or change things or people**. Most particularly, *affect* is about changes in feelings. *His words did not affect her opinion of him*. Another definition of *affect* has to do with putting on false shows or even dressy clothes - think *affectation*, or artificial behavior.

Effect is far more left-brained. Cause and *effect*, quantifiable, scientific, cut and dried, that's *effect* - **to bring about or execute**. It's about putting things into motion - *The reg-*

ulations take effect tomorrow - or making a great impression or difference. *The new operating room lighting system had an immediate effect on the surgeons' success rate*.

The things that people, animals, chemicals, vitamins, etc, do that cause *effects* can be discovered, and recorded in a graph.

The effect of new operating room lights is easily measured. However, those results might *affect* individual surgeons in far more unpredictable ways.

Perhaps some synonyms (courtesy *American Heritage Dictionary*) will serve as a final highlighting of the differences:

Affect - influence, impress, touch, move, strike.

Effect - consequence, result, outcome, upshot, sequel.

SWW Board Meeting Summarized July 2020

- Bookkeeping responsibilities are now assigned to Office Manager ReVaH Loring, under the guidance of Treasurer Jennifer Black.
- ACSL (Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living) will not open until the end of 2020, or next year. This closure impacts any in-person meetings we might be considering, once groups are permitted to meet.
- For the foreseeable future, Saturday and Tuesday meetings will be via ZOOM, and the once-monthly board meeting will also be conducted via ZOOM.
- Membership ZOOM meetings will now include the “success” portion where people will have a minute or two to talk about their successes.
- The board has decided to send a letter to members who do not have computer access, which will outline the organization’s current status, future plans, and how members can stay involved.
- The Board asks if any members know of another member who does not have internet access, please let the Office know. SWW wants to keep in touch with them in other ways.
- Classes and workshops can be conducted in person at the SouthWest Writers Office in the basement conference room. There is enough space in that room to follow social distancing guidelines.
- The Board had a discussion on how to keep the organization relevant to its members. Several suggestions were offered and will be explored in the coming weeks and months.
- There has been some membership attrition since we have had to embrace virtual, rather than in-person meetings. Membership in April was 365 and is now at 329.
- The writing contest chaired by board member Brenda Cole has been completed. Finalists were sent letters letting them know they won an award. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards will be announced in 17 categories at the October 3 meeting.
- An anthology is being created for contest entries that won an award.
- Nominations for the Parris award, along with all supporting documentation, were completed on time and the recipient of the award is Jacqueline Loring.
- Nominees for Board officers were identified. Nominees for Service Awards were identified, and nominations can still be made.
- The in-person “Business of Writing Conference” scheduled for September 26th has been rescheduled for 2021.

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Board of Directors

Rose Marie Kern, President
Elizabeth Layton, Vice President
Jennifer Black, Treasurer
Patricia Walkow, Secretary

Michelle Auron, Meeting Media and Video
Brenda Cole, Writing Contest
Roger Floyd, Signage/Setup
Melody Groves, Classes/Conferences
Jacqueline Loring, Membership
Sam Moorman, Facilities Manager
Léonie Rosenstiel, Media/Public Relations
Kathy Schuit, Sage Editor
Camille Singaraju, Historian
Kathy Wagoner, Website
Dan Wetmore, Procedures/Awards

The SWW Board of Directors meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 - 8 p.m. Currently, meetings are being conducted via ZOOM.

