

SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

Vol. 37 No. 08

August 2021

SouthWest Writers is pleased to announce—in one particular order (but not the one that counts)—

the **45** winners of **58** awards in our 2021 writing contest's **20** categories.

Congratulations to you all!

For the final reveal, make plans to join us on Saturday, October 2 for the awards ceremony during the annual SWW business meeting.

WRITING CONTEST FINALISTS



AUTHOR	TITLE	CATEGORY
Chris Allen	Life With Mags	Animal & Humor prose
Lynn Assimacopoulos	Someone Really Should	Humor poetry
Larry Baer	Origins	Historical prose
Heather Bennett	Amsterdam	Romance prose
Alane Brown	Canine Therapy	Animal prose
	Bone Listener	Fantasy/Futuristic/Sci-Fi
	The Escape	Historical prose
	Sol & Terra: A Romance	Romance prose
	Nocturnal Awakening	Animal poetry
	Catfish Reverie	Animal poetry
	Peters's Pickled Peppers	Holiday poetry
	Eighteen-wheelers	Humor poetry
Joe Cappello	The Secret of the Smiling Rock Man	Spiritual prose
John Cornish	Parade	Holiday poetry
Rebecca Dakota	Stain-Glassed Poppies	Memoir prose

continued on page 4

Looking Forward to Seeing You! IN PERSON

By Rose Marie Kern, SWW President

2020 and 2021 deprived us of the joy of meeting in person for a long time now. It did stimulate SWW to develop the ability to continue meeting in a virtual fashion. The Zoom meetings also encouraged a lot of folks who could not otherwise participate in our activities to join and learn. As the restrictions have loosened, the SWW board of directors began casting about for someplace we could afford that is already set up for hybrid meetings.

The UNM Continuing Education facilities are set up in a fashion where we can have in person meetings while still using Zoom to reach beyond the local area. They provide the room, the equipment and training by their technical staff, at a price lower than that we were paying at the previous meeting space.

The poll we did at the last meeting indicated 67 percent of the members want to start meeting in person.

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SouthWest Sage

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Look Who JOINED SWW in June

Elizabeth Hamm

Glenn Meizlesh

Fil Chavez

David Gottlieb

Patricia Cahill

Beth Sanchez

Ezra Worley

Donnell Ann Bell

Michael Chavez

Terre Reed

Christine Ottaviano Shestak



GIVE TO SWW!

Donating to SWW can be as easy as rounding UP your membership dues or going to the Website. Earmark your gift for a specific purpose if you like.



Donations accepted at the SWW office, 3200 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Suite 114, Albuquerque, NM 87110, or online through the SWW website:

www.southwestwriters.com (click the *Donations* tab and fill out the form to process your gift).

President's Corner

Greetings SWW Members,

Have you ever noticed that generous people always seem to find the time to give a part of their heart, time, and talents to those who need it? This organization has been blessed with an incredible number of intelligent, educated, successful people who selflessly share their gifts with us all.

Our writing contest chairman, Dan Wetmore, devoted hundreds of hours gathering qualified judges, setting up and running meetings, and frying his brain over all the ramifications of every decision in an effort to ensure this organization's decisions are fair. He and his team

have combed through hundreds of entries and made sure that each one has critique information that could be useful

to the author—a guidepost for developing their skills.

Another volunteer who is quiet about her own genius and time donation is Kathy Wagoner, our webmaster. Anyone who opens the website can immediately see its complexity—and the number of hits we



get monthly proves its draw and usefulness. She sets up Paypal links, sliders, informational pages, contest entry forms, membership sign up pages, meeting pages, YouTube links and so much more. During the pandemic, when our only option to meet was via Zoom, Kathy added the Zoom links to our website and now the board has asked her to create a whole new Members Only section.

Kathy does all this so fast and efficiently you'd think she was getting paid big bucks

for it. Yet, she does it out of the goodness of her heart and a conviction that SouthWest Writers is doing a great job of meeting its goal of helping anyone who wants to write succeed.

The first step in expanding literacy is to create a desire in others to participate. As a group, our organization is reaching out and saying "this is a wonderful space to be—come and join us."

The SWW voting board of directors contains 15 members and we are blessed with an advisory board of another 10 or so. This core group of volunteers organizes all of our events and meetings, and we enjoy working with all of you. I can't say thank you often enough, but always feel gratitude for them.

"Real generosity to the future lies in giving all to the present"

- Albert Camus

Rose Marie

What's Inside?

The BIG news, the news we've all been waiting for is, of course, the 2021 Writing Contest Results (pages 1 and 4). It was a great, big contest—the winners deserve everyone's CONGRATULATIONS. Can't wait to read your prize winning short stories and poetry in the next Winners Anthology.

Also, make sure you check out the plan for in-per-

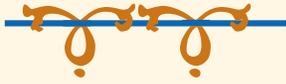
son meetings, which are scheduled to start October 2 (pages 1 and 5). This doesn't mean we'll be losing the Zoom component to meetings. If anything, it suggests we'll have lot's more options.

On page 5 you'll find the first announcement of the coming availability of SWW SWAG merchandise. Personally, I can't wait to see everyone attending an in-person meeting carrying their SWW tote bags and coffee mugs.

Kathy

I saw it in the SAGE!





WRITING CONTEST FINALISTS



continued from page 1

AUTHOR	TITLE	CATEGORY
Donald de Noon	Feeling So Grownup	Love poetry
Vanessa Foster	The Game	Crime/Mystery prose
Matthew Geyer	Corner Table	Love poetry
Jenny Hansen	Brotherly Love	Spiritual Prose
PK Hill	Night in Childhood	Holiday poetry
Lilian Hoines	Gray Boy	Fantasy/Futuristic/Sci-Fi
Kathleen Holmes	A New Mexico Love Story	Humor prose
Carlton Holte	In Memoriam	Loss poetry
Ed Lehner	Katie	Memoir prose
Laina MacRae	Will You Let My Name Die?	Travel prose
Conor McAnally	The Psychiatrist's Window	Social Consciousness prose
Tony Major	All in Your Mind	Horror/Suspense/Thriller
Marcia Meier	Santa Anas	Romance prose
Jennifer Mitchell	Faith	Spiritual poetry
Elaine Montague	The Matter of the Platter	Travel prose
Claire Murray	After the Rush Fades	Crime/Mystery prose
Matthew Nyman	Not Doubting That Pendulums Swing	Social Consciousness poetry
Sue Ann Owens	Kiss the Cook	Humor poetry
Laurie Pals	Snow Angels in Hell	Social Consciousness prose
Elise Phillips	As Always	Horror/Suspense/Thriller
Charles Powell	Crying Man	Social Consciousness poetry
Lucy M. Quinn	Dark Goodbye	Loss poetry
Dustin Ramsbacher	Party at My Hanging	Social Consciousness poetry
Carol Rawie	Would You Build a House	Nature poetry
Tisha Reichle-Aguilera	Cultural Inspection	Social Consciousness prose
Kimberly Rose	Birds of a Feather	Fantasy/Futuristic/Sci-Fi
Lois Ruby	Tender	Travel prose
Margaret Scherch	El Estado del Alma	Spiritual prose
	Covid Stream	Nature poetry
Lynne Sebastian	The Dude Abides	Animal prose
Avraham Shama	With Pens of Love and Grace	Biography prose
Michelle Smith	Bitch Wings	Humor prose
Anna Sochocky	An Annual Visitation	Biography prose
	Time Between Hours	Spiritual poetry
Dana Starr	What the Fork	Crime/Mystery prose
	To Jan, With Love	Memoir prose
Maggie Griffin Taylor	Joe the Dinosaur	Animal poetry
	Journey	Loss, Love & Spiritual poetry
Jennifer Trotter	Crossed Paths	Historical prose
Emmaly Wiederholt	Soaked	Nature poetry

A **HUGE** shout-out to all of our judges for giving of their time so freely to make possible our recognition of such writing excellence.

COMING SOON! SWW Merchandise

Ever since Fundraising Chair Kathy Kitts started thinking up new ways for SWW to raise money we've heard a lot about the benefits of using Amazon Smile when making purchases through the online retail giant and about donating for SWW gift memberships.

All of these efforts are geared towards helping SWW pay its bills and continue bringing quality programs to members.

Now Kathy's working to launch SWW merchandise (SWAG—from conventions, Suff We All Get). She told members present at the July 17 Zoom meeting that print-on-demand is no longer the exclusive bailiwick of book publishing. The printing of SWAG merchandise is big business for some print-on-demand companies.

Once it's set up, SWW merchandise will be available to anyone who cares to order it, but members who order through the Members Only section of the website will get a discount.

In the future, individuals who make a donation to SWW may be rewarded with specific SWAG items, like a pen or a key chain. Kathy said that, while she expects most people to order shirts and hats, the possibilities for items upon which to put an SWW logo are nearly limitless. "If you want to put SouthWest Writers on your shower curtain, you can do that."



Nominations Are OPEN!

Nominate yourself or someone you know for a position on the SWW Executive Committee ✿ Express your willingness/desire to service on the voting Board of Directors ✿ Volunteer to serve on the SWW Advisory Board.

Those eligible to run for Executive Committee offices must have been a member in good standing for at least one year (two years for President) prior to the nomination. Members who want to take a run at the office of President or Vice President must also have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year. Anyone aiming to become the SWW Treasurer must additionally have an "understanding of best business practices." (SWW By-laws, Article XVI, Section 2, Para. H)

Positions on the voting Board of Directors are filled by the incoming President. These Directors may chair a specific committee (Public Relations, Membership, Classes and Workshops, Conference, Contests, Critique, Fundraising, etc.) or take on the details of a recurring task (SAGE Newsletter, Social Media, Facilities, Scholarship, Volunteers, Website, etc.). To have your name forwarded to the incoming President for consideration, or for more information contact **Jacqueline Loring, Nominating Committee Chair**, at membership@swwriters.com.

IN PERSON, continued from page 1

The board of directors voted to use the UNM-CE facility for just our Saturday meetings beginning at 10 a.m. on October 2, 2021.

The Tuesday meetings will still take place via Zoom only. Check the September SAGE for more details.

The meetings, as usual, will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and in addition to being in person will also be broadcast via Zoom. The Saturday workshop taking place after the meeting will also be conducted both in person and via Zoom beginning at 12:15 p.m. and lasting until 1:45 p.m.

Please stay abreast of the alerts sent to you weekly from our office as should the Covid-Delta variant require further isolation we may be forced to alter our plans. Be prepared to wear masks to all in person meetings.

We are optimistic that this is the right time to move forward in creating the type of interpersonal writing environment we have all come to appreciate, while continuing to offer those who live at a distance excellent insights into all aspects of writing.

In Memoriam

Former SWW Board member PATRICIA SUTTON, 93 (1928-2021), peacefully passed away on July 17, 2021, surrounded by loved ones, after an unexpected and brief digestive illness. Pat was a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. You can view her full obituary [HERE](#).



Take a Class Via Zoom

REGISTER for classes by calling the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – noon), or by using the SouthWest Writers online registration form at SouthWestwriters.com. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

Revising Fiction — Making Sense of the Madness

Instructor: Kirt Hickman

Write your novel and revise it to sell. With all the books, talks, classes, and workshops available on writing and self-editing, a writer can quickly become overwhelmed by advice. “Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness” cuts through the clutter and offers an organized, practical approach to self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel, to first draft, through revision, to final submission-quality manuscript. Each class will include a lecture, discussion, prepared exercises, and (time permitting) class time to work on students’ own writing projects. This course is geared toward book-length fiction, but the vast majority of the topics are applicable to short stories and creative non-fiction as well. There are no prerequisites or required materials.

Week 1: World Building & Characterization

Week 2: Plot

Week 3: First Draft, Research, & Gross Manuscript Problems

Week 4: Chapter Breaks & Avoiding Information Dumps

Week 5: Scenes

Week 6: Polishing Prose

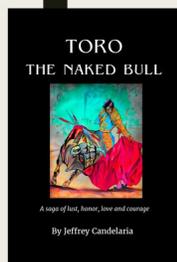
Week 7: Dialogue

Week 8: Finishing Touches & Critiques

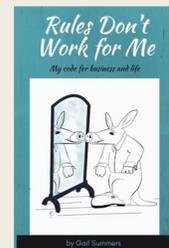
KIRT HICKMAN, author of the award-winning science-fiction thrillers *Worlds Asunder* and *Venus Rain*, was a technical writer for 14 years before branching into fiction. His methodical approach to self-editing has helped many make sense of the mass of advice available to the novice writer. He teaches self-editing classes through SouthWest Writers. He 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.



8-week Course
 Saturdays: Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 and
 Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25
 3 – 5 p.m.
 \$160 SWW members
 \$320 Nonmembers



SouthWest Writers Exclusive 3 week Class
Book Covers From Art to Finish
 Rose Marie Kern and Kathy Louise Schuit
 Thursdays 3pm – Oct 7 thru 21

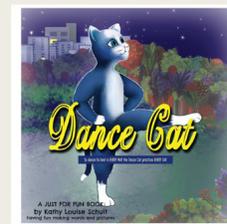
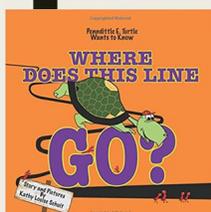


Are you planning to self publish? Need help creating the perfect book cover?

Kathy is an exceptional artist...Rose is a fabulous formatter. Almost everyone has MS Office on their computers. Rose and Kathy can show you how to create your masterpiece. This class covers artistic and technical aspects of designing a book cover that is ready to upload for self-publishing.

Class dates and times: October 7, 14 & 21 from 3-5 pm MT.

Register on the SWW website: southwestwriters.com/classes/



The Sage Writing Challenge

AUGUST

Where do you call HOME? In 500 words or less) show us around your home—town, community or group.
Read and follow the Guidelines (right).

SouthWest SAGE

The *SouthWest SAGE* newsletter is the professional publication of SouthWest Writers. Submissions focusing on all aspects of research, writing, and publishing in any genre are welcome. To familiarize yourself with the types of articles published in the *SouthWest SAGE*, read past issues at southwestwriters.com.

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.

Read, understand and follow the **guidelines** for submission, above.
Submissions that do not comply with the guidelines will not be considered.

Groundhog Day

by Dan Wetmore



“To all my burrowing mammalian buddies:
Condolences this (and every) Groundhog’s Day

Because a woodchuck shouldn’t have to be
scapegoat for the weather!”

Happy 65th Birthday!

by RMK



65 and still alive, don’t it feel good
To have Family, Faith and one true love
Exactly as it should.

Encouragement

by Linda Worley

If you live on the edge you can be swept away,
If you live in the heights you can fall.

If you live in the lowlands you must climb to get out
Life is a struggle for all.

Keep your eyes on your goal and move forward.
Take a deep breath and stand tall.

SAGE 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 300-800 words; certain *Sage* Challenges may set more specific word count requirements (see the Challenge description box, left). Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length. Submissions must be tasteful; free from profanity, explicit sex or violence, political commentary, 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. To ensure proper author credit, your name or pen name must appear within the document you submit. Submissions with no name will not be considered.
- Polish your work. Submissions should be professional in appearance and quality of writing, fully edited and ready for publication.
- Accompanying art/photographs are appreciated but proper attribution and permission is required.
- Inclusion in the SAGE is subject to the discretion of the editor.

Send questions or submissions to:

Kathy Schuit
SouthWest SAGE Editor
sage@swwriters.com



The Challenge for August was to create a
greeting card message.

Happy Birthday!

by K.L. Wagoner

I hope your
birthday’s
simply grand.

Get a suntan,
shave a lamb.

If that’s not
what’ll make your
day.

Do it anyway,
okay?

Saturday, August 7, 10 a.m. (MT) Zoom MEETING

The Power of Self-Publishing

with Robin Cutler

The last few years have seen a seismic shift of writers choosing to self-publish rather than navigate a traditional publishing path. Authors now have the tools available to make publishing both affordable and profitable. But more importantly authors are choosing indie publishing as a way to better realize their creative vision. In this session, learn why this shift is happening and how you can harness this power for your own work. Robin will discuss: The best thing about self-publishing; trends in what is selling now after a year of Covid; perspectives on traditional publishing; and things important to get right before you publish.



ROBIN CUTLER serves as President of LMBPN Worldwide Publishing and led the development of IngramSpark from 2013-2020. She has published over 1000 books at both USC Press and her trade imprint Summerhouse Press, and is an expert in the publishing industry. She is launching How To Publish Books.com, a consulting service for indie authors and publishers in Fall 2021.

Follow Robin on Twitter [@rcutlerbookpub](https://twitter.com/rcutlerbookpub) or contact her at robin.cutler@lmbpn.com.

Join the Zoom Meeting

Our Zoom log-in policy has changed due to recent disruptions to our free meetings. Non-members are now required to contact our office (505-830-6034 or info@SWWriters.com) or sign up for Elerts to receive a link to our upcoming meetings. SWW Members sign into the Members Only portion of the website. Once in the Members Portal, follow the Zoom log-in directions posted prior to the meeting.

Saturday, August 7, 12:30 p.m. (MT) Zoom Workshop

Taxes and Best Accounting Practices for Writers

with Brian C. Reinhardt

Finance and Tax Strategy for the Professional Author: Being a professional author means knowing how to keep track of your income and expenses and knowing what you can and cannot use as deductions on your income taxes. Working with an accountant can keep you straight with the IRS. Brian will cover all these aspects of being in business for yourself during his workshop.

BRIAN C. REINHARDT is a partner with Mackie, Reid & Company CPAs. (<http://www.mackiereid.com>) A graduate of the University of New Mexico, he received his CPA certificate in 1985. Brian began his career with a national accounting firm, spending 10 years serving financial institution and small business clients before serving the chief financial officer for a publicly traded bank. After leaving the banking industry in 2002, he returned to public accounting primarily serving small businesses and individuals.



SWW members: Free
◆ Non-members: \$20

TO REGISTER

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–noon) or use one of the online forms (Free-to-Members Registration or \$20 Non-Member Registration) on the website: southwestwriters.com, *Workshops* page. (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 SWW members, the link and password will be sent once membership is verified.

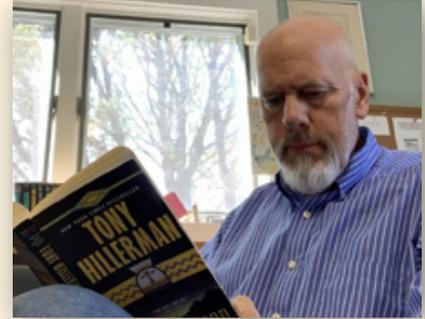
Tuesday, August 17, 6:30 p.m. Zoom MEETING

Researching Your Book

with James McGrath Morris

This presentation will cover researching your next book and how to use your discoveries to your best advantage in fiction and nonfiction.

JAMES MCGRATH MORRIS is an award-winning and New York Times best-selling author. His books include *The Ambulance Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War* as well as *Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, the First Lady of the Black Press*. His newest book, *Tony Hillerman: A Life*, will be published in October. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Visit his website at JamesMcGrathMorris.com.



Join the Zoom Meeting

Our Zoom log-in policy has changed due to recent disruptions to our free meetings. Non-members are now required to contact our office (505-830-6034 or info@swwriters.com) or sign up for Alerts to receive a link to our upcoming meetings. SWW Members sign into the Members Only portion of the website. Once in the Members Portal, follow the Zoom log-in directions posted prior to the meeting.

Poetry Fireside Chats in August

Wednesdays: August 11, 18, 25 🌸 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Via Zoom 🌸 FREE to members and nonmembers

Have you ever wondered where a poem comes from? What inspires poetry? How a poem should look on the page? Ever wondered if the poet writes for themselves or the reader? Four outstanding national poets will discuss three or four of their favorite poems and share with you the inspiration and style involved in writing and the meaning and importance to the poet of each poem and the poet's hope for the reader's understanding. There will be time for you to tell the poet about what the poem meant to you. This relaxed Zoom "Fireside Chat" will be informative and fun for experienced as well as new writers of poetry.

August 11: JACQUELINE MURRAY LORING is an award-winning poet, a produced playwright, screenwriter, and filmmaker. She compiled, edited and published Summer Home Review Volume I & II. In 2012, she won the Doire Press Irish International Poetry Prize for her collection *The History of Bearing Children* published in Galway. She was the 2020 recipient of the Parris Award, SouthWest Writers' most prestigious award. DAN WETMORE is a writer of poetry and short fiction who has one published volume of poetry (*My Mother's Gentle Unbecoming*), another in contest circulation for publication, and two more in the wings. He is also knee-deep in his first novel, and has been a member of SouthWest Writers for almost five years.

August 18: PRESTON H. HOOD III, a former Navy Seal, lives in Massachusetts. His poems have appeared in *Salamander*, *Nimrod*, *Rattle*, *Michigan Quarterly*, and *Prairie Schooner*. His books include, *A Chill I Understand*, (2006) and *The Hallelujah of Listening*, (2011). *Beauty Is a Cardinal* won the 2018 27th Poet's Seat Poetry Contest.

August 25: LISA C. TAYLOR is the author of four collections of poetry and two of short fiction, most recently *Impossibly Small Spaces*. She publishes in Ireland (Arlen House/Syracuse University Press) and in the United States. Her books have been taught in college classes in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

To REGISTER

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon) or through the SWW website: SouthWestwriters.com



UPCOMING SWW SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Meetings are **FREE** to everyone. Workshops are **FREE** to members; registration instructions below.
Via Zoom

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

MEETING: **Loretta Hall**
Elements of Nonfiction

WORKSHOP: **Loretta Hall**
Insider Tips for Using the Internet

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

MEETING: **Benjamin Percy**
The Ninth Metal, Reading & Craft Discussion

OCTOBER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

MEETING: **Rob Spiegel**
Scenes and Sequels in Novel Writing

WORKSHOP: **Kathy Kitts**
NaNoWriMo

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

MEETING: **David Corwell**
Horror and Suspense

MORE Free-to-Members Workshops Coming in October!

October Workshops - Tuesday evenings beginning Oct 12 thru Nov 2

The Worlds and Wonders of Speculative Fiction

Wildly popular, Speculative Fiction covers everything from Horror & Suspense to Science Fiction, Magic, and Fantasy of all kinds. Let's explore the topic in depth from published authors who live in those worlds!

- October 12 - Spec Fiction Genre definitions
- October 19 - Horror and Suspense
- October 26 - The many Realms of Fantasy
- November 2 - Purely Science Fiction

Featuring authors:

B R Kingsolver
D.E. Williams
Geoff Habiger
Natalie Wright
Joyce Hertzoff
David Corwell
Kirt Hickman
Vicky Murata
David Lee Simmons



TO REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon) or through the SWW website: SouthWestwriters.com. Full descriptions and online registration are forthcoming.

For SWW members, the Zoom invitation link and password will be emailed once membership is verified.

For all others, the Zoom invitation link and the password will be emailed to those who purchase workshops. Please contact the class/workshop coordinator at info@SWWriters.com for more information.

My COVID Year

In May 2020, I published “When Any Work Will Do” in the South-West SAGE to address my struggles with finding motivation. Weeks after New Mexico shut down to curtail the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, my productivity descended to leisurely breakfasts and reading newspapers, followed by even longer walks and listening to audiobooks. When I finally sat down in my office I browsed the Internet for the latest virus news, which I found depressing. Instead of working on my writing projects, I often walked downstairs for lunch over an episode of *Gunsmoke* reruns, and then baked. My “Somewhat Healthier Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe” was also published in that SAGE issue.

After such an inauspicious beginning, my productivity soared. My deadlines for several book contracts sometimes overlapped. A first draft for one book was due as the final draft for another was returned for indexing. I found my head spinning trying to keep up. I also became fearful that something would slip through the cracks.

While I wrote down the big deadlines, I was caught off guard by those that came with 24-hour notice, such as having to approve the covers. I take this seriously after, over a decade ago, a draft cover arrived with a misspelled title and name. When I asked for a correction, a new hire apparently protested to his supervisor. She responded, bless her heart, “I think she knows how to spell her own name.”

The company made the corrections and the supervisor fired the new hire. The publisher’s responsiveness over the years has sometimes amazed me. When I was sent an orange-y cover for the one book, I politely asked to have the color switched to a vibrant pink or purple. Within twenty-four hours, I was emailed four options.

After I picked one and the company made the correction, I sent the current supervisor a quote from the Elle Woods character in *Legally Blonde*, “Whoever said that orange is the new pink was seriously disturbed.” I

added, “Apparently my reaction to the proposed orange cover was more girl-y girl than I realized.”

His response was, “Ha!! That is CLASSIC!! You just made my day with that quote in relationship to your book cover... it’s perfect!”

After I expressed surprise at his reaction, he explained that he had two grown daughters and had not only watched *Legally Blonde* several times, but sometimes quoted from it.

In the midst of my COVID year, I became emboldened to request corrections not just about facts (spelling errors), but also about style (color). I experienced no colds, flus, and few allergies, for which I thanked mask wearing and physical distancing. Indeed, for the first time since purchasing my home in 2001, I spent over an entire year sleeping in my own bed.

I also experienced loss. After a second shut down in November 2020, my small critique circle stopped meeting and did not resume until six months later. Family members, friends, and distant acquaintances passed away. I spoke at a memorial service on Zoom. While I grieved the curtailment of research travel, with libraries and archives being closed, I embraced full-time authorship.

By reducing performance pressure to the mantra of “When any work will do,” I met my deadlines

and fulfilled my contractual obligations. I published *A Short & Happy Guide to Financial Well-being* (2nd Ed.), *Entertainment Law: Cases and Materials on Established and Emerging Media* (3rd Ed.), *Quick Review of International Law* (4th Ed.), and *Entertainment Law in a Nutshell* (5th Ed.). I also changed the name of my business from “legal consultant” to “author.”

My identity shifted as I graduated from decades of wearing suits to donning tee shirts and shorts in the summer and jeans and cashmere sweaters in the winter. My full-time author dream was achieved during the most unlikely of circumstances, a global pandemic.

The Writing Life

by
Sherri L.
Burr



Sherri L. Burr is the author of over two dozen books. Her 27th book, *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia: 1619-1865* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University, and Yale Law School, Burr has been a member of Southwest Writers for over 30 years. She currently serves as President of New Mexico Press Women and on the Board of Directors of the Authors Guild Foundation. In 2021, she was named the National Federation of Press Women Communicator of Achievement and received the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College Achievement Award.

Winning!

SWW Members Share Their Successes

SouthWest members **SANDI HOOVER** and **JIM TRITTEN** from New Mexico share their most recent success – *Mirth and Musings*, an anthology of 10 of their prize-winning short stories and essays. Their first full-length novel, *Panama's Gold*, will be released later this August by Red Penguin Books.

Mirth and musings in the same book? Join the award-winning writing team of Sandi Hoover and Jim Tritten in their fifth collaboration as they explore what makes us laugh and a few even serious essays on such subjects as running away from home when overwhelmed. You will never



again go into a sauna without feeling Jim's experiences after you read "Saunagus" nor have a stranger as an extended guest after learning Sandi's lessons in "There's a Diva in the House." These 10 chapters are sure to entertain you and perhaps challenge your preconceived notion of what makes the perfect woman.

Sandi Hoover has explored various settings for her publications while on extended birding trips throughout the world. She has written several prize-winning short stories, and Red Penguin Books will release her *An Eagle Eye's View* in the Fall of 2021. Jim Tritten is a multi-award-winning author with numerous book publications to his name. Their fiction has been published in many journals

and by Rhetoric Askew and Artemisia Publishing as a writing team. [Buy *Mirth and Musings* now](#)

The Raven

by Larry Kilham

The raven was drifting
across the sky
then suddenly I saw him
eye to eye
perched on an elegant
fountain
and he carried a slice of
pizza pie.



Then he dunks the pizza
letting it soak 'til it swallows well.
He looks at me as he gobbles
he's a smart bird I can tell.

Oh raven, oh raven, magnificent bird!
many stories about you I have heard.
So why do you perch there
without croaking a single word?

Then he flaps off, ever fainter,
to rest on a distant tree.
Some say ravens are ancestors –
is my family checking on me?

reedsy**blog**

Advice for Choosing a Print-on-Demand Publisher

In a 2019 blog post, Reedsy, the popular website for writers, compared the top five print-on-demand book publishing services. This side-by-side look at how each of the most popular services might help or hinder the goal of selling your book includes:

- Available Distribution Channels
- Price vs. Royalties
- Learning Curve
- Print Quality
- ISBN options

Regardless of where you are in the process of selecting a self publisher to print your book, this post supplies a lot of answers to inform that choice. You may even get answers to questions you didn't know you had.

Read the entire article on the [Reedsy Website](#).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS



The Austin Film Festival is looking for volunteers to join its team of readers for the 2021 Script Competition. Interested script readers should contact readers@austinfilmfestival.com for more information.



WRITE FOR GLOBE SOUP TRAVEL BLOG!

The Globe Soup Travel Blog is an online space for travellers, adventurers and explorers. A place to find inspiration for your next trip, to discover the hidden secrets of far-flung destinations and to hear incredible accounts of amazing journeys.

It's also a place for budding travel writers. We need help creating great content. Here at Globe Soup we pay for quality content. We welcome submissions of articles, photography, poetry, videos, short films and even fiction writing. We don't just hire established content creators, anyone can join our team!

So, if you've created something beautiful from your adventures, we want to hear from you.

Please email submissions@globesoup.net to contribute. Check out the [Submission Guidelines](#) before submitting.



Left Coast Crime #32

Southwest Sleuths

Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 7-10, 2022

Information and registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Registration for Left Coast Crime includes a Welcome Reception, two special Breakfasts (seating limited), the "Lefty" Awards Banquet, and admission to all panels and interviews.

Discounts apply on tickets purchased before January 1, 2022.

ABOUT THE "LEFTY" AWARD

The Left Coast Crime "Lefty" Awards are fan awards chosen by registered members of the Left Coast Crime convention. Nominations for awards to be presented at each annual convention are made by people registered for that convention and also the immediately prior convention. A ballot listing the official nominees is given to each registrant when they check in at the convention, and final voting takes place at the convention. The ballots are tabulated and that year's "Lefty" Awards are presented at the Awards Celebration.

Information about the "Lefty" Award and a list of past recipients [HERE](#).



The National Parks Arts Foundation (NPAF) works directly with select artists and The National Park Service (and their affiliates) to create unique Artist in Residency programs within the wonders of the National Parks. The NPAF also works closely with museums, galleries, and curators to keep the residency programs relevant to the Art World beyond the parks and bring the highest caliber of artists to the parks.

The NPAF has produced over 300 programs and supported over 120 artists (including writers, poets and songwriters) through our National Parks Artists in Residence programs. This work is done in partnership with the National Park Service, connecting the parks with real working artists who are inspired by and working in the parks.

Available residencies for 2022 include Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Fort Union National Monument, Big Bend National Park and many others farther from New Mexico. More information is available by clicking on the NPAF icon (top).

Questions? Call NPAF directly at (505) 715-6492 (leave a message) or email info@nationalparksartsfoundation.org.



El Paso Writers' League Border Tapestry Writing Contest

- 13 Categories
- Open to all writers
- Submissions must be original and unpublished
- Submissions must not have been awarded prizes in another EPWL contest
- Deadline: Saturday, September 11, 2021
- Email entries as attachment to bordertapestrycontest@gmail.com
- Indicate category
- Payment:
Members: \$25 for 1-3 submissions, \$5 per additional submission
Non-Members: \$45 for 1-3 submissions, \$10 per additional submission
- Two entries per category, per author



Guidelines, instructions and information [HERE](#).

7 DAY STORY WRITING CHALLENGES from [GLOBE SOUP](#)

PRIZE: £500 ENTRY: FREE

7 DAY STORY WRITING CHALLENGES take place throughout the year.

- Before a new challenge begins, all those who have registered will be randomly divided into 12 GROUPS. Each group corresponds to a different GENRE.
- When the challenge begins you will receive an email with your randomly assigned genre and the SECRET CHALLENGE THEME.
- All participants receive the same theme but must write a short story of no more than 2,000 words, inspired by the theme, written in the genre assigned to them.

You have exactly 7 days to write and submit your story.

THE NEXT CHALLENGE BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

[REGISTER HERE](#)

9th Ó Bhéal

Five Words
Poetry Competition

1st Prize €750
2nd Prize €500
3rd Prize €250

Have you tried the Five Words Poetry Challenge?
It's only €5 to enter ...

Every Tuesday from 13th April 2021 to 25th January 2022, five new words will appear on the Ó Bhéal website. Entrants have seven days to write and submit a poem which contains all five words.

The winners and shortlist of 12 entries will be announced in March 2022 and invited to read at Ó Bhéal in Cork on the 11th of April 2022.

visit www.obheal.ie/fivewordscomp
for this week's words, guidelines and submissions

Five Words



2021 Summer Contest

Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction

Open for submissions June 1 - August 31, 2021.
Guidelines and online only submissions [HERE](#).

Reading Fee: \$12

What We're Looking For:

Startling, compelling, and beautiful original work. We're looking for fresh prose and powerful poetry. Up to three poems or up to 6,000 words of prose. You may submit in all three genres, as well as submit multiple works per genre. Results will be announced via e-mail and posted on our website in early November.

<https://bmr.unm.edu/>

SWW Board Meeting Summarized July 2021

- Membership is approaching pre-pandemic levels. As of July 1, membership is at 343. Due to the wide-reach of electronic platforms, SWW has gained members throughout the US and in foreign countries.
- The Board is pursuing a contract with University of New Mexico Continuing Education (UNMCE) to rent space from them for future meetings. This space would permit SWW to conduct hybrid meetings (electronic and in-person).
- The Critique Group project is seeking new volunteers to be mentors to new critique groups. Contact Robert Speake.
- If you are a member, please visit the SWW website, select the Members tab, and request a Member ID. Your member ID will give you access to special content and members-only discounts.
- Officer nominees are being solicited for the 2022 Board of Directors. If you are interested, contact Jacqueline Loring, Nominating Committee Chair.



Board of Directors

Rose Marie Kern, President
Brenda Cole, Vice President
Jennifer Black, Treasurer
Patricia Walkow, Secretary

Sarah Baker, Zoom Coordinator
Roger Floyd, Bylaws/Signage
Cornelia Gamlem, Marketing/PR
Robert Kidera, Member At Large
Dr. Kathy Kitts, Fundraising
Jacqueline Murray Loring, Membership
Sam Moorman, Facilities Manager
Léonie Rosenstiel, Print Media
Kathy Schuit, Sage Editor
Kathy Wagoner, Website
Dan Wetmore, Writing Contest

The SWW Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Meetings are conducted via Zoom.

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phone (505) 830-6034
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