

SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

Vol. 38 No. 08

August 2022

SWW: Now With More Than 4,000 Social Media Followers!

SWW Social Media volunteer Silver Vanus has been busy enhancing our presence on social media and growing it by leaps and bounds.

You can support SWW's vast Social Media efforts by liking and sharing our posts on Facebook, especially posts about our YouTube videos; posting on SouthWest Writers Online; liking and sharing other members' posts; and retweeting SWW tweets.

Here's what can happen with just two posts a day (numbers are from a three-week period in June):

- **Twitter** 4,265 followers, up from 3,785 Followers
- **Facebook**
Facebook Group - members up to 609, from 579
Facebook Feed reach - 1,069
Facebook Page "Likes" - 1,281
(A single post from Jim Tritten reached 407 people - thanks Jim!)
- **Meetup Group** - 512 members, up from 487
- **LinkedIn** - 14 people viewed latest post
756 followers, up from 751
- **Instagram** - 36 followers, up from 27



Volunteers – The ❤️ of SouthWest Writers

by Cornelia Gamlem

I've had the pleasure of working on a number of volunteer boards throughout my career. One was for a large, professional member association representing over 200,000 members. It had paid staff, so the work of the board was largely strategic.

The rest were smaller working boards, like SouthWest Writer's (SWW's) board, where the work is tactical. In these cases, I always marveled at how board and individual members came together to make things happen. It wasn't about who was the star—the person in the center of the stage. There were so many roles to play—just like in a ballet. The dancers on the sidelines don't call attention to themselves but their presence adds to the scene and it wouldn't work without them.

I remember the first SWW's meeting I attended in March 2018. I'd lived in Albuquerque for about five months at the

time, and I was amazed at the energy in the room. It was clear that this was a well-running organization that thrived because of the contributions and passions of its members.

SWW is like any professional network. It's made of people from different backgrounds with experience writing in different genres. Equally important, it's a network of people with different skill sets, expertise and interests. Like any good network, expertise and skills have to be shared.

Since I write about business-related topics, I spend time studying and researching topics about business and change. When Covid struck in 2020, businesses and organizations scrambled to make things work—to find new ways of doing things so they could survive. SWW was no different. While membership initially fell, the board became innovative and worked to retain old members and attract new ones. Membership grew to its present level

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SouthWest Sage

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ATTEND SouthWest Writers MEETINGS IN-PERSON or ONLINE

SouthWest Writers meets the second Saturday (Zoom/in-person hybrid) and the fourth Wednesday (Zoom only) of each month. Directions and log in information at SouthWestwriters.com.

From the President

We've settled into what my grandmother used to call the "dog days" of summer. I always understood this to mean - take your direction from your dachshund. I was pretty much raised by a pair of dachshunds. Fritz was a huge, standard black and tan who thought I was his puppy, while Suzy was a little miniature red. Most of the year they were always up and getting into things, but come July in Iowa, they barely moved if the sun was shining.



BRENDA COLE

My mom came up with the idea of using them as reading prompts. When I was little, I couldn't read due to my vision. Once it was corrected, I was reading everything, to everyone. When it got too hot to move, Mom had me curl up with the dogs and read to them. This kept everyone occupied.

It seems we've reached a similar time this summer. Supposed to be 94 today with 25 percent humidity so working in the yard is out. If you want to be mindful of your electric bill, cooling the house to subarctic temperatures is unlikely as well. So, once your work for the day is complete, it may be the perfect time to curl up with a good book or the latest draft of your writing.

Earlier this week, I realized I needed to get new copies of six of my favorite paperbacks as I had literally worn them apart. There is nothing like the panic of turning the page of a cherished book only to have the page fall out, so I've ordered the six books. Hopefully, my bookstore can get them from the publishers.

Which are you up for—writing or reading—to cope with the heat? I have a couple rough drafts on my desk that desperately need work, but my old historical romances are calling louder. I think I'll grab a glass of iced tea, flake in the chair and drift back to 1802. Sure beats contemplating the explosion of weeds in my front yard.

Brenda

VOLUNTEERS, cont'd from page 1

of 404. Volunteers stepped up to support new ways of conducting meetings and delivering content. We not only survived, we thrived due to the innovation, creativity and contributions of our members and their varied talents.

When change occurs, it's often uncomfortable. However, change also brings a new level of energy to organizations—even volunteer ones like ours. Change opens up new opportunities, offering a chance to learn new things and to learn more about the organization. It's also an opportunity to meet other members and learn from them.

Look at the opportunities that exist right now within SouthWest Writers:

Meeting and Workshop Support:

- **Zoom Meeting and Workshop Hosting.** Offering meetings virtually was one of the reasons we expanded our membership. How wonderful to have members outside of central New Mexico. In order to continue offering virtual and hybrid meetings, we need to add to our cadre of Zoom hosts. Don't worry if you don't know how to do this. If you want to learn how, we're happy to teach you!
- **In-person meeting support.** If you've attended an in-person Saturday meeting since October, you've been greeted by ReVaH Loring, our Office Administrator, and a board member or two. We'd love to have additional support, especially if one of us is unavailable, to check in members and visitors and help with the Swag Table. It's a great way to get to know the members.
- **Sharing your expertise.** Our membership is so diverse when it comes to all things associated with writing. Why not share your writing experience/expertise/tips at a meeting. If you have a lot to share, consider conducting a workshop or a class. Of course, if you know a great speaker, tell us about them.

Board Support:

- **Board Nominations Committee.** It's time for a nominations committee to assemble to recommend individuals for next year's executive committee. There are two open positions for 2023: President and Vice President. The nominations committee is composed of three members, only one of which must be a board member. This is an opportunity to help set the direction of SWW for the coming year.

- **Fund Raising Coordinator.** Our former fundraising guru, accepted a position out of state. Before she left, she put a number of fundraisers in place, like Amazon Smile and Swag sales through Red Bubble, which generate passive income for SWW. If you've got fundraising experience, or just want to help out coordinating these efforts, this is a perfect opportunity for you.
- **At-Large Board Member.** Conflicts—personal and work-related—often get in the way of volunteerism. An At-Large member experienced this very thing this year and had to step away leaving a vacancy. This is a great opportunity to learn about how SWW's board operates. At-large board members, like all board members, attend regular board meetings, carry out the objectives of SWW, vote on motions, and may take on special responsibilities as needed.
- **Accept an Advisory Board position.** Advisory board members are non-voting members. They offer their experience and expertise to the board of directors and are invited to attend all board meetings.

Other Support:

- **SWW Office Help.** ReVaH Loring, our Office Administrator, is great, but she can always use some helping hands.
- **Help build the SAGE newsletter.** The SAGEnewsletter editor appreciates contributions, such as articles. If you are good at proofreading, extra sets of eyes are always appreciated. Learn how our award-winning newsletter comes together each month.
- **Learn how the SWW website is managed.** If you've got expertise managing your own website, why not share it with SWW? Our webmaster is always grateful for any assistance.

Periodic or future needs:

- **Help with contests and conferences.** This year's writing contest is over, but next year's will come before we realize it. Consider being a judge or otherwise helping as needed. There are no immediate plans for a conference in 2022, but 2023 might bring an opportunity for one. Successful conferences are the result of the people who plan and manage them.

Share your own unique talents. Keep this organization thriving. Remember the old adage: Many hands make light work.

Please send interest about volunteering to info@swwriters.com

The Sage Writing Challenge

SEPTEMBER

Write a story of no more than 1000 words in which the main character is involved in an unusual animal encounter.

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.

Petrichor

by Rose Marie Kern

Petrichor – noun - a pleasant smell that frequently accompanies the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather. (pe, trī kôr)

Heat, dry heat, the soil	Gaia's breath exhales
Binds all its elements tightly	And her skin relaxes
Enduring torture from	The scent released
Its distant ally	Touches my soul
Which reigns unrestricted	Which then inhales
Over the day	Her gratitude.

I take pity on the small
Green things.
Cascading cooling fluid
Across drooping limbs,
And cracked brown
Surfaces.

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 SAGE Challenge for this month was to write about rain after a drought.

Monsoon Medley

by Sam Moorman

Oh, such stormy dance
gray garments swirl as droplets twirl
patter of wet feet
drum beats on tin

Oh, wind blows in windows
applause roars at waterfalls
then cellphone buzz
puddle splash through highway rush

The Tourists

by Cornelia Gamlem

The clouds clinging against the mountains create a Tolkienesque scene evoking a picture of Mordor, dark and eerie. Tourists wonder, is Mount Doom lurking in the distance?

On the brewery patio, there is a celebratory atmosphere among the local crowd enjoying good food and drink. Their jubilation, however, is tempered. They've experienced this too many times before. The threatening scene that delivers nothing.

The tourists, urban dwellers, frown at the sight of the ominous sky above. *We don't have umbrellas with us. We can make a mad dash to the rental car if we must. Will our day be ruined?*

The sound of distant thunder captures the crowd's attention. Anticipation—it often devolves into disappointment. The children are making gleeful noises. Some are dancing to the music from the songs they are making up and singing. Adults raise their glasses of local brew in toasts. *Hopefully they are doing rain dances.*

The parched earth below the deck does not go unnoticed by the urban dwellers sitting at the edge of the patio. *We could see a real gully washer—flooding. It's not like there are storm drains out here.*

Dampness is in the air. The smell of humidity can't be ignored. It permeates the nostrils of every patron at the brewery. The sky is growing darker bringing a threat and a promise.

It's raining in the south, a local observes. *No, it's just virga. No. Look. It's hitting earth. The urban tourists look south. How do they know it's raining? What's virga?*

Plop. Plop. Plop, plop, plop. The sound bounces off the patio's canvas roof. Conversations stop. Is that rain dancing above? Pause. Then comes the musical melody. Not a pounding sound, like bullets assaulting overhead, that accompanies a downpour. It's the sound of rain falling steadily and evenly, allowing the earth below to slowly absorb it.

The dark sky delivers. The clouds and the rain roll in without any help from the wind, bringing hope that it will linger awhile. Too much wind this spring, a local observes. Wind has fanned the flames of wildfires that



scorched the earth to the north. *We've had fire. We need rain.*

The jubilant mood among the patrons turns contemplative. People linger along with the rain, enjoying the sight, the sound, and the smell of it. Some whisper prayers of thanks. Others order more food and drink and offer toasts to the rain gods. Older children slip away from the shelter of the covered deck to play, hoping to catch rain drops in their hands.

To the east, the clouds leave the mountains and the rain there stops. Look, shouts one of the awestruck tourists, pointing. A double rainbow forms a perfect arc that frames the mountains. It's a sight the tourists have never seen living among skyscrapers. They will never experience rain the same way in the future.

Curiosity

by Larry Kilham

I was curious –
Why is the sky blue?
I was curious –
Why am I me and you you?
I was curious –
about everything I could do.

Now my aged curiosity slumbers
muffled by the trivial and the trite.
I want to be stirred
by some revealing exploration
to lead me from the loneliness of the night.

NO SWW VOLUNTEERS?

No SWW.

The Writing Life: **ELVIS**

by Sherri L. Burr

During my professor life, I brought Elvis Presley's will into classes on Wills and Trusts to illustrate legal issues and wrote Elvis into exam questions and books. I had seen several of his films as a child and a documentary about him as an adult. I also visited Graceland in Memphis and his childhood home in Tupelo. Yet, I did not comprehend the magnitude of Elvis as a creative spirit until I watched the 2022 Baz Luhrmann film, *Elvis*, starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks.

The film blew me away and I saw it at the theater twice. Butler, a dramatic movie actor, did not impersonate Elvis. Rather, he so completely embodied him as if Elvis, who died in 1977, had been reincarnated as Butler, who was born in 1991, to play himself. In interviews, Butler describes his research into how Elvis's speaking and singing voice evolved and deepened over the decades. He also acquired Elvis' movements, which were not choreographed dance, but steps inspired by musical beats.

The film shows how Elvis was inspired by the music he was exposed to while living in a black Memphis neighborhood. There he experienced gospel music and The Blues while attending tent revivals and peeking into speakeasies. I remembered attending tent revivals as a child with my grandmother. The film's depiction of one these resonated with me because the music, the dancing, the laying of hands, and people falling out after being consumed by the Holy Ghost accurately captured the experience. Indeed, the film presented how listeners hearing Elvis' original records assumed he was Black.

The film's storyline evolves from Colonel Tom Parker's viewpoint. Played by Tom Hanks in perhaps his most snarly, despicable, creepy character creation, Colonel Parker both elevates Elvis by helping him obtain a contract with RCA and destroys his spirit by clipping his creative wings when Elvis wanted to fly. The curtailing of Elvis's essence began early in the relationship when censorship types wanted him to stop moving his pelvis in such a provocative manner and the "New Elvis" was born. The problem was no one wanted the "New Elvis" and Elvis didn't want to be "New" so he rebelled. Late into the relationship with Colonel Parker, Elvis wanted to perform internationally while the Colonel connived to keep him in Las Vegas chained to an entertainment corporation that enabled the Colonel's gambling habits.

The film shows how Colonel Tom Parker, who was neither a colonel, nor named Tom Parker, had concealed his true identity as an illegal immigrant from Holland named Andreas Cornelis van Kuijk who never became a U.S. citizen. Watching the Colonel manipulate Elvis feels so disgraceful that I could use the scene to teach the dangers of artists signing management contracts without having a lawyer review the document and explain the terms. Elvis became stuck, with death as his final flight to freedom.

What are the film's implications for the writing life? Are there people clipping our creative wings by guiding us in a direction that protects them and not us? Are there folks encouraging us to craft documents that don't interest us but will make them money? Are we clipping our own wings by playing safe?

As I watched Elvis grapple with his desires to become a dramatic artist only to be told no one wanted to see him in a movie where he doesn't sing, my heart grieved for him. Yet I knew he was not the first, nor the last, to face this dilemma. Some action stars take dramatic roles at a deep pay cut to prove they can act. Usually, this has turned into a one film digression. Had Elvis had been permitted to do what he wanted, such as pursuing dramatic roles and performing internationally, maybe he wouldn't have died at age 42.

Possibly the most important lesson from Elvis's life: Take creative flight, and fire the Colonel Parkers who clip your wings.



SHERRI L. BURR has authored over two dozen books. Her 27th, *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 the 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.

SWW CLASSES STARTING SOON

Writing Your Family History

Class Instructor: Margaret Shannon

3-week Course

Saturdays: August 6, 20, and 27

10 am – Noon

Platform: In person at the SouthWest Writers office classroom. The second class is a field trip.

\$120 SWW members, \$150 Nonmembers



Class details, descriptions, and enrollment are on the SWW website [Classes page](#).

To Register:

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m.– noon), or use the [online registration form](#).

Self-Publish Your Book with KDP Amazon

Class Instructor: Rose Marie Kern

3-week Course

Thursdays October 14, 20, and 27

3 pm - 5:30 pm

Platform: In person and via Zoom

\$120 SWW members, \$150 Nonmembers

*NOTE: Classes will be recorded so if someone cannot make a session they can view it later.

MEETINGS IN AUGUST

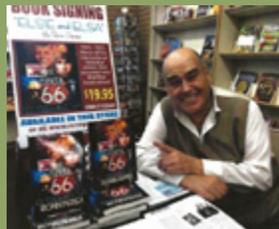
Public Speaking To Sell Your Writing

with Ronn Perea

Saturday, August 13

10:00 am – noon

In Person & Zoom



Writing About Talking: Making Dialogue Sing

with Johnny D. Boggs

Wednesday, August 24

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Via Zoom

Attend and Join!

SouthWest Writers meetings are free to everyone. We ask individuals who have attended up to three meetings to please join our organization. Memberships enable us to continue bringing high quality speakers to meetings. Details for these and other meetings on the [SouthWest Writers Website Meetings page](#).

JULY WORKSHOP

Rose Marie Kern

Self-Publishing E-books on Amazon

Saturday: August 13

12:30 – 2:30 pm

In Person or Via Zoom

Members: \$20 ♦ Non-members: \$30



Register online through the [SouthWest Writers Workshops page](#) or call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–noon).



SouthWest Writers is proud to serve writers in our community through classes, workshops, conferences, and monthly meetings, as well as an annual writing contest and monthly newsletter.

We're a volunteer organization, grateful for donations from supporters who share our love of writing and reading. Donate on the Website on the [Help Support SWW page](#) or by calling the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday -Thursday, 9 a.m. – noon). Thank you.



SouthWest Writers

Upcoming Events in 2022

Saturday Morning Events

Meetings 10am-Noon – Workshops 12:30-2:30

August 13

Meeting: **Ronn Perea** – Public Speaking for Authors
Workshop: **Rose Marie Kern** – Self-Publish Your Ebook on Amazon

September 10

Meeting: **Anne Hillerman** – Novel Writing Lessons
Workshop: TBD

October 8

Meeting: **Annual Meeting & Contest Awards**
Workshop: **John Gilstrap** - TBD

November 12

Meeting: **Robin Perini** – Taking It to the Next Level
Workshop: **Lisa Taylor** - Wildness in Writing

December 10

Meeting: **Authors Promote Your Books**
Workshop: **Cornelia Gamlem & Rose Marie Kern**
– Going from Writer to Author

Wednesday Evening Meetings

6:30pm-8:30pm

August 24

Johnny Boggs – Making Dialogue Sing

September 28

Marika Flatt – PR by the Book

October 26

Dan Klefstad – DIY Marketing

November 23

Judith Avilia - TBD

December

Happy Holidays. No Wednesday Meeting

Upcoming Classes

August **Elizabeth Layton** - Social Media **CANCELLED**

October **Rose Marie Kern**
Self-Publish with KDP Amazon

August **Margaret Shannon** - Genealogic Research

November **RJ Mirabal** – Print Ready PDFs

Look Who JOINED SWW in JUNE!



Carolyn Stein

Welcome!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership Chair Jacqueline Loring reports that SWW has 404 members as of July 12.

Winning!

SWW Members Share Their Writing Success

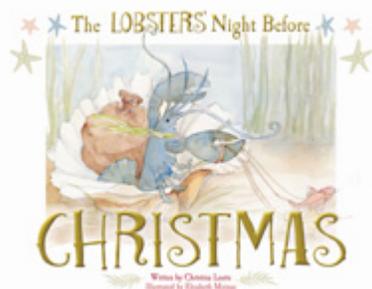
Linda Wilson's book, *A Packrat's Holiday: Thistletoe's Gift*, won first place in the New Mexico Press Women's Association Communications Contest in fiction for 3-8 year-olds, and went on to win first place in the National Press Women's Association contest. The national award was announced at the NPWA conference, June 25 in Fargo, North Dakota. Purchase your copy at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



New Member **Christina Laurie** of Cape Cod, MA, is excited to share that her book, *The Lobsters' Night Before Christmas*, has been nominated for the 2021 Readers Choice Awards contest by TCK Publishing.

Vote for Christina's book [HERE](#)

Go to #11 - Children's category, scroll down to the next-to-last book, and click on the cover. You just voted!



The Business of Writing: Taxes and Royalties

by Rose Marie Kern

This month we need to go over a couple of timely questions related to the money side of writing: Amazon e-book royalties and recent changes to the IRS rules regarding 1099's.

Recently SWW was notified that the IRS has changed its 1099 rules. Until now, the blanket rule for any type of business transaction where money changed hands was that 1099's were required to be sent out annually when a company paid \$600 or more to anyone. This included payouts by publishers to authors for royalties.

Of course, this meant that if someone only got \$599 or less in royalties the government would only know about it if the author reported it on their taxes.

As of 2022, any entity paying out \$10 or more in royalties must send the recipient a 1099. Wow! There will be thousands of authors now required to report smaller royalty amounts on their annual federal taxes. This also means that indie publishing companies like Amazon, Ingram, Bookbaby, etc... will be mailing or emailing a lot more end-of-year documentation.

This change is specific to ROYALTIES – and does not pertain to other goods or services.

General Royalty Information (IRS Website)

Royalty proceeds from the sale of intellectual property are considered earned income. An author/creator of work may receive extended royalties from the result of their personal services.

Royalty income is reported on **Form 1099-MISC, Box 2, Royalties.**

For more information go to: [About Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](https://www.irs.gov/individuals/about-irs/about-form-1099-misc)

Recently, several people have asked me about a rumor they'd heard where Amazon was refunding money to customers who bought e-books then returned them within 7 days. Since I, and many others I know, can easily read most books in just a couple days this seems like a good way to cheat the system.

I contacted Amazon and the customer service manager there asserted that this is not true – though a couple SWW members have indicated they had experience to the contrary.

According to the Amazon manager, their policies on e-books do allow customer refunds – but only if the customer can prove that they did not mean to buy that book to begin with. Accidental purchases may occur when a book has the same title as another. When the customer starts the process of “returning” an e-book they have to assert that this purchase was in error.

What most customers don't know is that Amazon's computer can tell how many pages of the book were read by the customer prior to their attempt to “return” it. Amazon will allow up to about 10 percent to be read – but if the customer

continued on next page

has read over 95 percent of the book and they assert they made a mistake in its purchase the refund probably won't be allowed. If, for some other reason, it is allowed, Amazon keeps tabs on who is doing this and will cut them off in the future.

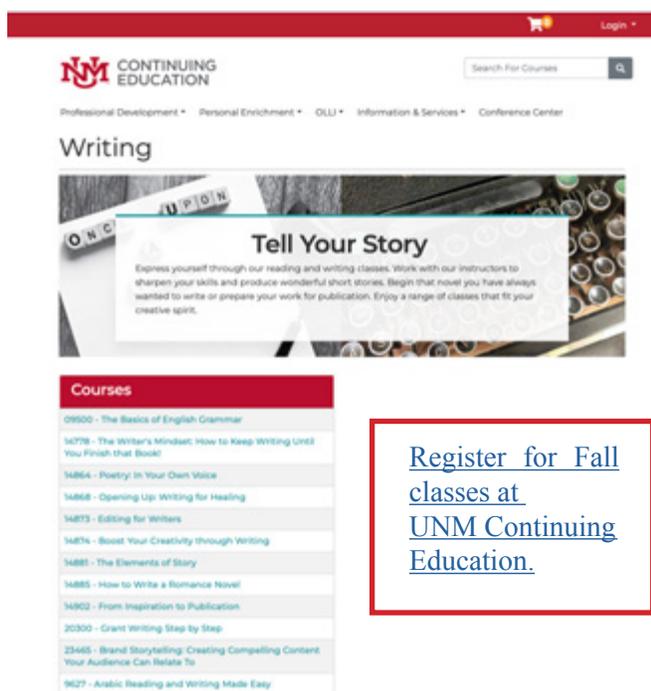
After all, like many of us, Amazon is in this to make money.

For those who want to know more about Amazon ebooks and the many ways you can use them to market yourself or your other books, check out the workshop I will be giving after the August 13 SWW meeting.

[Workshops/Seminars – SouthWest Writers](#)

ROSE MARIE KERN is the author of more than a thousand articles published in national and regional magazines and has written five books. She works with authors who want to learn how to self-publish, and has given a number of classes and workshops for SWW. Rose has been a member of SouthWest Writers since January of 2006. She currently serves as Treasurer and Immediate Past President.

CONTESTS and OPPORTUNITIES for WRITERS



The screenshot shows the UNM Continuing Education website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Professional Development', 'Personal Enrichment', 'OLLI', 'Information & Services', and 'Conference Center'. Below that is a 'Writing' section with a banner that says 'Tell Your Story' and a list of courses. A red box highlights the text: 'Register for Fall classes at UNM Continuing Education.'

Publishers of the popular *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books want your submissions. There's no charge to send your work to CSFTS.

Between now and August 31, you may submit work on topics like:

- Cats
- Dogs
- Funny stories
- Impact of a Chicken Soup for the Soul story on me
- The advice that changed my life
- The power of positive thinking



Check out the [Possible Book Topics](#) page on the CSFTS website for full details of each topic and a link to the [Submit Your Story](#) page where you'll find the publication guidelines.



Each year, tens of thousands of poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers access P&W's programs, which include its magazine; website, including a database of writing contests; financial support for readings and other literary events; and sponsorship of writing prizes and awards. Below are just two contests gleaned from the 100's found here: <https://www.pw.org/grants>

St. Lawrence Book Award

Deadline: August 31, 2022

Entry Fee: \$27

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: <http://blacklawrence.com/submissions-and-contests/the-st-lawrence-book-award>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication by Black Lawrence Press is given annually for a debut collection of poems, short stories, or essays. The editors will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a poetry manuscript of 45 to 95 pages or a prose manuscript of 120 to 280 pages with a \$27 entry fee by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Dogwood Literary Awards

Deadline: September 5, 2022

Entry Fee: \$12

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: <http://dogwoodliterary.com>

Three prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in Dogwood are given annually for a poem, a short story, and an essay. Submit up to three poems totaling no more than 10 pages or up to 22 pages of prose with a \$12 entry fee by September 5.

Visit the website for complete guidelines.

SWW Board Meeting Summarized July 2022

- SWW's social media footprint is increasing. Numbers are up across all platforms. Twitter and Facebook account for the most hits. Currently, we have more than 4,000 followers on Social Media.
- For those wishing to self-publish via Ingram Spark, they've agreed to waive their \$50 set-up fee—for up to five titles per month—for members of Southwest Writers. Thank you, ReVaH, for making that happen!
- The annual contest anthology is being assembled, with proofing to follow, for availability at October's Saturday meeting.
- Membership is up to 404. Net revenue is up \$535 for the year.
- Remaining copies of *Kimo Theater: Fact & Folklore*, the history of the Kimo Theater will be donated to the theater for an upcoming anniversary celebration.

The Dog Days of Summer?

On page 2, President Brenda Cole references the “dog days” of summer, which are defined as from July 3 - August 11 each year. How did this annual period get such a label? Did it, as Brenda infers, have something to do with the activities of hot wiener dogs? Nope, that's not it. As it turns out, like a lot of our language, it started with the Greeks and Romans and their fascination with the stars.

The “dog days” occur around the time Sirius (the Dog star) appears to rise alongside the sun, in late July in the Northern Hemisphere. The Greeks and Romans believed the heat from the two stars combined to make these days the hottest of the year, a period that could bring fever or even catastrophe.



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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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