

# SouthWest Sage

*The Voice of SouthWest Writers*

## UNM-CE Crafts Fair

*A Good Day for SWW and Authors*



A well-organized day of book sales, quality art and crafts, and member camaraderie highlighted SWW's participation in the November 19 crafts fair hosted by University of New Mexico Continuing Education. The well-attended event proved such a huge success for SouthWest Writers that participants and volunteers say they hope it is repeated next year. Office manager, ReVah Loring (below), who coordinated the sales and managed payments, shared the available numbers with the SAGE:

- 28 SWW members participated.
- 95 books were sold during the 6-hour event, including 25 copies of SWW anthologies.
- \$1,176.00 in sales!



SWW occupied a prominent corner at the Nov. 17 Crafts Fair event hosted by UNM-CE. Some dedicated SWW volunteers—LYNN DOXON (standing left and above), PATRICIA WALKOW (left, behind Lynn), JASMINE and JIM TRITTEN (upper right, seated next to Brian Griffin, one of the many members who took advantage of a scheduled hour of book-signing), and BRENDA COLE (upper left)—worked the fair from start to finish to bring this unique sales opportunity to members.

## INSIDE

- 4 • **Winning!**  
*Members Share Their Writing Success*
- **RAINBOW CHALLENGE**  
Evelyn Neil will match up to \$3,000!

### The SAGE Writing Challenge

6 *Little Brother and the Injured Bug*  
by Lynn Andrepont

*Bugged No More*  
by Sam Moorman

7 *The Life in a Day*  
by Dan Wetmore

9 *The Writing Life: Traditions*  
by Sherri L. Burr

10 *Leveraging Marketing Efforts*  
by Cornelia Gamlem

#### DEPARTMENTS

From the President.....	3
Meetings/Workshops/Classes.....	5
Look Who Joined .....	3
Contests and Opportunities.....	11,12
Board Minutes Summary.....	13

#### *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 login information at [SouthWestWriters.com](http://SouthWestWriters.com).



## Board of Directors

**Brenda Cole**, President  
**Joe Brown**, Vice President  
**Rose Marie Kern**, Treasurer  
**Dan Wetmore**, Secretary

Cornelia Gamlem, Marketing/PR  
Jacqueline Murray Loring, Membership  
Léonie Rosenstiel, Print Media  
Kimberly Rose, YouTube  
Kathy Louise Schuit, SAGE Editor  
Lynn Sturtevant, Member-At-Large

ReVaH Loring, Office Manager

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.



## From the President

As the years progress, time seems to defy the laws of physics. For me, this year seemed to crawl by on leaded feet for the first few months. Now, as my head is thinking we're just entering September, the calendar is screaming that one week from today I have an engagement with a turkey and some cranberry sauce. Even more mystifying is the knowledge that this will be my last letter for the SAGE as your President.



BRENDA COLE

This has been an amazing year of growth for me as well as for SouthWest Writers. We have a full year of hybrid and Zoom meetings under our belt. I can't say enough kind words about everyone involved in making the Zoom portion of our meetings a viable option. We have a cadre of 6-8 people who host or co-host our bi-monthly meetings on the Zoom platform. Without these individuals, we would not have been able to provide speakers, workshops and classes for all 400 SWW members across the country and internationally, as it's Zoom that enables us to bring in speakers from across the globe.

SWW members stepped forward to provide their help, expertise and goodwill in many ways this year. When we asked for members to help with our website or to judge for this year's writing contest you volunteered. You helped form a committee and worked at the UNM Craft Festival so we could market members' books. SWW's mission is *Writers Helping Writers*. In all the ways that mattered you, our members, have shown your willingness to help your fellow writers and our organization.

As we close out this year, we have nearly 400 members. We had an impressive array of winning prose, poetry and artwork published in *A Diversity of Expression*, the writing contest anthology, in October. Ten SWW members also won the NM-AZ book Awards. Our finances are still recovering from the pandemic, but thanks to the amazing generosity of Evelyn Neil's Rainbow Challenge Match, they are looking considerably brighter. Evelyn will match donations made to SWW from now through Christmas, up to \$3,000.

I will leave all of you in very capable and familiar hands for 2023. Rose Marie Kern will be returning as President of SWW along with a strong board to support her and the rest of the membership. I have a good feeling about this next year and look forward to the innovative ways we can all help our fellow writers improve and succeed.

*Brenda Cole*

## Look Who JOINED SWW in OCTOBER!

Regina Griego

Jean Stouffer

Donald Schmit

Marilyn O'Leary

Sondra Diepen

Lynn Barker

Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola

Ron Mimick



*Welcome!*

Now with 393  
members  
WORLDWIDE!

## SWW LIKE-ed On Social Media Platforms

Silver Vanus, SWW's social media guru, reports that our posts and pages get plenty of likes, views and followers. Here are the numbers for each platform:

Twitter - 4,562 followers, up from 4,496 in Oct.

Facebook Feed – 1.3K

Facebook Group – members up to 653 from 640

Meetup Group – 548 members, up from 536

LinkedIn – 751 connections

Instagram – 38 followers, down from 39

Facebook: Post Reach – 996

Post Engagement – 826

New Page Likes – 8

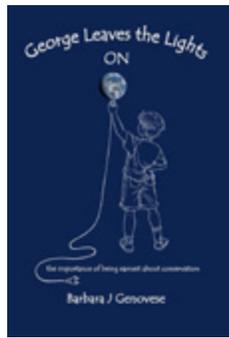
# Winning!

SWW Members Share Their Writing Success

Lovers of rhyme, puzzles, and whimsy—look for an imaginatively illustrated, middle-grade fiction chapter book on conservation arriving late November: *George Leaves the Lights ON – The Importance of Being Earnest About Conservation* by **BARBARA J. GENOVESE**. The book is 7,300 words, written in anapestic tetrameter with 25 chapters, a prologue, and a postscript.

George leaves lights on wherever he goes. His parents worry that he'll blow power grids up and down both Coasts!

[Buy Copies NOW on Amazon!](#)



In 2022, **DIANNE LAYDEN** published six articles—four in state and national newsletters and two in the upcoming anthology—*Millicent Unplugged: 125 Tales Of Art and Life From Northern New Mexico, the Four Corners, and the West*, edited by fellow SWW member Sara Frances.

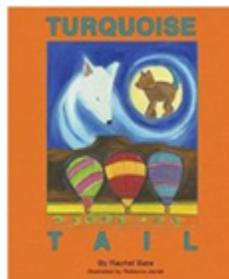
Dianne's essay titles include "Juan de Oñate and Acoma Pueblo" and "Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the Santa Fe Opera." She also completed several speaking engagements and presentations this year on the topics of Oñate and RBG.

[dlayden@earthlink.net](mailto:dlayden@earthlink.net)

*Turquoise Tail*, a children's book by **RACHEL BATE**, was a Children's Legacy finalist in the recently announced 19th Annual Best Book Awards sponsored by American Book Fest.

A little coyote pup is born looking very different from her siblings. The desert critters of the night laugh and make fun of the way she looks, hurting her very deeply. When a bright comet streams across illuminating the moonlit New Mexico sky, what will happen?

[Buy it on Amazon now!](#)



Evelyn Neil's

## RAINBOW CHALLENGE

EVELYN NEIL, author of *Dancing to the End of Our Rainbow*, will match the total of donations made to SWW between now and Christmas—up to \$3,000!



### MAKE ME PAY!

We've passed  
50%!

Make a BIG difference, [DONATE NOW!](#)

Message from Evelyn:

In March of 2022, on the seventh anniversary of my husband Don's death, my memoir *Dancing To the End of Our Rainbow* was published.

Without the support and encouragement of so many members of the SouthWest Writers community this would never have been possible

With the gift of great opportunity to achieve, comes the responsibility to give back. That said, I urge you all to get on board with my DANCING TO THE END OF OUR RAINBOW challenge and make sure I am forced to put my money where my mouth is.

## RAINBOW CHALLENGE

[DONATE NOW!](#)

## DECEMBER MEETING

**SATURDAY, December 10**  
**10 a.m. – noon**  
**In Person & Zoom**

**Parris Afton Bonds**  
**First, The Plot**

**More Information On The**  
[SouthWestWriters.com Meetings Page.](#)



**THERE IS NO  
WEDNESDAY  
MEETING IN  
DECEMBER.**

*Happy Holidays!*

### 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 [SouthWestWriters.com Meetings Page.](#)

## DECEMBER WORKSHOP

### The Steps From Writer to Author

with Rose Marie Kern & Cornelia Gamlem  
*There's more to being an author than just finishing your manuscript.*

**Saturday December 10**      • \$20/SWW members  
**12:30 pm-2:30 pm**      • \$30/non-members  
**Zoom or in person at**  
**UNM Continuing Education.**

#### To Register:

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday–Thursday, 9 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 register. Please contact the class/workshop coordinator at [Info@SWWriters.com](mailto:Info@SWWriters.com) for more information.



## CLASSES STARTING SOON

### Using WordPress to Build and Maintain Your Web Page

Instructor: Jamii Corley  
Three-Week Course, Saturdays: January 21, 28 and February 4, 2023  
12:30 pm to 2:30 pm Mountain Time  
Platform: IN PERSON CLASS and VIA ZOOM  
\$120 SWW members, \$150 Nonmembers

More information on the [SouthWest Writers Classes Page.](#)

Register: by calling the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9 am – noon), or by using 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.)



# Little Brother and the Injured Bug

by Lynn Andrepont



After my softball game, my family stopped for burgers before heading home. I'm on a little league team, 7- to 13-year-old girls. I'm 10. I got a hit my first time up to bat on the first ball pitched to me, a double. I brought home two runs! But we still lost.

We sat outside, the only customers on the patio – me, mom and dad, my little brother (he's almost 8), my grandma, and my uncle.

After we finished ordering and the waitress left, my uncle suddenly yelled, "Hey, did you see that bug?"

We all turned to the wall where he pointed. I didn't see anything.

"Yeah, I saw it," said Dad. "It crashed and then fell to the ground."

I ran over to get a closer look, my brother following close behind me. There it was, the strangest looking bug I ever saw in my whole life, rainbow colored, with wings like striped spider webs. Kind of like a beetle, only bigger, or a roach, but rounder and not so disgusting. It landed upside down. Legs waving, it tried to turn itself over.

Dad pushed it back on its legs with the toe of his shoe. He called it a cicada.

"It hit that wall hard. I bet it's injured," said my uncle.

The bug limped to the wall and started climbing up the side of it.

"He's so cute," said my brother.

We all gathered 'round it. I moved in closer, trying to get a better look, when it suddenly flew up to the ceiling, but then fell right back down to the ground.

"Yep," said my uncle, "seriously wounded, I'd say. I think I'll squash it, and put it out of its misery."

"No!" My brother yelled, trying to push him away.

He's a bit of a cry baby, my little brother. Mom says he has a tender heart. I remember Mom saying that my great-grandmother wasn't hurting anymore after she died. She was really old and sick. I thought about telling this to my brother, but I didn't think that would make any difference to him. He really didn't want our bug squashed.

Grandma said that Buddha wouldn't like it if we killed the bug, any bug, on purpose because maybe it was someone important in its previous life. I don't know who this Buddha is or what my grandma meant by, *some*

continued on next page

## The Sage Writing Challenge

JANUARY

Using no more than 1,000 words, write a story or poem about a swimming adventure in January.

To submit your Challenge entry for possible publication in the January SAGE read, understand and follow the submission guidelines on page 13.

The Challenge for publication in the December SAGE was to write about an insect in December. Only one submission met the parameters for a story about an insect in DECEMBER, but we liked all of these so, invoking our editorial discretion, decided to allow it.

Send submissions or questions to:  
Kathy Schuit  
SouthWest SAGE Editor  
[sage@swwriters.com](mailto:sage@swwriters.com)

## Bugged No More

by Sam Moorman

At age seven I was assigned house pest control to earn my weekly allowance, fifty cents, which kept me in marbles and penny candy like Bazooka bubblegum and Jujubees. I tracked and whacked any fly that got in our home and, on my own, expanded the duties to outside by blowing up ant mounds in the yard. I'd jam a firecracker in the top entry hole, and when ants streamed out I would spray them with a different firecracker, one that spewed sparks like a flame thrower.

One day, I faced a huge new challenge outdoors; an entire end wall of our house was crawling with bugs. They looked like big ants but had long wings, and they didn't dash around like ants either. They only crawled sluggishly up the siding to sunlight where they stopped, maybe to dry glistening wet wings.

I knocked them off the wall with a jet of hose water.

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*previous life*, but I didn't want to see my uncle squash the bug either.

"If it was a roach, I'd kill it this instant," said my dad as we all sat back at our table, "especially if it was one of those that fly right at you. Those things are nasty and shouldn't be anywhere near a restaurant."

I watched the poor little guy limping around, lopsided, near our table. It didn't try to climb the wall or fly away again.

After a while we forgot about the bug. I was hungry, and it seemed to be taking a really long time for our food to come. Finally, the waitress brought our burgers.

Then I heard my uncle say, "Oh-oh."

The waitress looked at him.

"I think I heard something go *crunch*," he said.

She looked down at her feet...and so did all the rest of us. She had stepped on our bug!

My brother started crying. He put his head down on the table and refused to eat. We all tried to tell him it wasn't the waitress's fault and that she didn't mean it, but he just got more upset and moved away to another table to be alone.

"Really," said my uncle. "It was going to die a slow, painful death anyway."

"Bugs don't live very long," said my mom, "even when they're not injured."

Great-grandma was sick for a long time. That made me sad. Everyone cried when she died, but they said at least she lived a long life and wasn't hurting anymore. Maybe it is better this way, especially since our bug seemed too hurt to ever fly again. I felt a tear on my cheek and wiped it away. I guess death makes you cry... but so does life sometimes. I used to cry when I couldn't catch a fly ball or I'd strike out and we lost the game, but Dad said, "there's no crying in softball," something he said he heard in a movie, so I guess I've learned to become tougher and not cry so much.

Little brother will learn this too...someday.

## The Life in a Day

by Dan Wetmore

The merest wisp of a winged thing lilted through the dawn, neither knowing (having had no nurturing parent to instruct what the bracing air and burgeoning light portended) nor savoring (possessing no previous morning to compare this one to) nor any understanding first would be last.

For he was a Mayfly, most bit player on Earth's stage;

But they kept coming out of a hole in the ground by the gas meter. It was an inch-wide, dark hole, so round it seemed drilled into summer's flat, baked soil.

I may have been out of firecrackers, or plain instinct may have warned me against blowing up things by the gas line. Instead, I got jugs of Mom's cleaning supplies from under the kitchen sink and poured everything in that hole—dish soap, bleach, vinegar, ammonia. When white smoke curled out I capped the hole with a big rock, then stomped any bugs still wriggling on the ground.

In those busy childhood days I quickly moved on to other important things. My big brother was teaching me to play catch so I'd be ready for Little League ball the next year. And on most summer days I'd inspect a nearby dump to find neat stuff.

After a year, our family moved from that house. Moving happened often because Dad was career Army and regularly reassigned to a new post. After his retirement, my folks finally settled in one place, and that's where I visited them during a college break. The Vietnam War was raging and I was full of campus protest ideas when I proudly announced, "I'm a pacifist now."

It was not Dad's way to argue with me or try to direct my thinking, but I clearly remember him growling, "You sure weren't as a kid."

That statement baffled me, like others I was hearing then on campus from teachers and student pressure groups. But it was not my way to confess ignorance by asking people what they meant. So I stuffed the comment, along with other puzzles, in a memory cubbyhole reserved for time and life to figure out, or not.

Fifty years passed, and my parents passed too, before I saw any sense in Dad's old remark. And that happened by writing this.



knowing least time on the boards, affecting fewest arcs, enjoying no lines. His lot was to find another, make another, and make peace with Nothing More. He was nature's quintessential Xerox machine, his existence merely a predecessor's pilfered, perfect echo.

Devoid a Past, denied a Future—even the phantom protension of remembrance by a fellow fly (every contemporary being co-terminal)—made even his sole possession of a Present seem pretense. But nature gives

continued on next page

as she takes. Ineluctable ignorance begets forgivable apathy, so he enjoyed the special contentment of no comparison.

Except... he didn't.

As expected, dim gave way to light, which surrendered to dark and unknowing. But then, for this Mayfly... light again. And another dark. Then more dim. And subsequent light. Uncounted times.

This was lost on his fellow flies. In witness to just the one day any shared with him, none could comprehend his situation. And subsisting in series as they did, never overlapping their folks or their fry, none could have been told or telegraphed this anomalous kin's uncommon status.

But the other critters took note. The more discerning could tell one Mayfly from another, and this one began taking on routine and its trappings, recognizing them and their patterns, learning their languages, communicating. And as this one alone possessed time—the currency of relationships—they deemed him worthy of knowing, and sought to, inviting him to participate in their labors and leisures.

This development was doubly surprising, given his kind's universal status as meal, food on the wing. After all, these self-delivering delectables put the “grub” in Grub Hub. But as the trout and newts and wrens which call them lunch had only ever experienced the tender new-born nymphs and freshly-emerged imagos, none were willing to jeopardize that gastronomic memory by risking ingestion of the possibly grizzled and dessicated. And as hesitation opened the door to familiarity, and familiarity to admiration, this fellow's fate was secured.

Unlike his brethren, whose mouth parts were now vestigial, his remained functional.

His meteorological vocabulary quadrupled; *sun* gaining the company of *wind*, *cloud*, *rain*.

His days (plural) spawned recollection. Which birthed reflection. Which sired speculation. Which augured greatest progeny—aspuration. He dreamed of a future, defining it “preservation of the good got, change of the would not.”

But as bitter to that sweet, he sensed the morte lurking in mortal, sometimes growing lugubrious, mulling his name:

“Mayfly.

“May fly.

“Because time may fly.

“Pff.

“More like... time must fly.”

He noted sadly that those having only one date on their final, marbled page are denied proper punctuation of a dash; a line to underscore a span and strike through the lie of an implied insignificance; a numbers-bridging ribbon signifying a period—a duration—creating the condition for a different period—conclusion, because comprised of those.

Each day's a discrete, iterated occurrence, whole unto itself, a dot of a jot within a larger living. And taken together, moving at the speed of experience, they blur into a dash, as, in geometry, a sufficiency of pips strung together somehow succeed in comprising their opposite—a furrow with arrowed ends; infinity belying the numerous finitudes of which it's woven.

(Understandably, his acquaintances forbade him imbibing at festive events.)

So he hoped to be in a substantive way, one which might elevate him to the status of having been; known not just to himself, but by others; to rise—by pluck or luck—from existing to extant.

Months passed. He aged, accepting the bill come due for living. He saw the color wheel turn, his garden of encompassing green stretch polychrome as nipping colds killed chlorophylls A & B, xanthophyll and carotene emerging from siblings' shadows to enjoy ascendancy.

Acquaintances began to refer to him as Maythuselah, a name taken up by even the grand old man of the insect set, the seventeen-year cicada, who spoke it not with irony but affection.

And rising to their expectation, he began to take on that eponym's wisdom, discerning the gift not only in giving, but giving way, stepping aside, that as good and as much might be preserved and passed to those waiting, in the wings, for theirs.

So as a December arrived and the slender solstice approached, he at last acquiesced, bequeathing his light to those needful days, that they might again grow fat on its sustenance and, by their munificence, sponsor others; each a singularity.



**RAINBOW CHALLENGE**

Join the challenge, **DONATE NOW!**

Details on page 4.

# The Writing Life: Traditions

by Sherri L. Burr

Holidays present opportunities for practicing traditions in both writing and personal lives. Many writers participate in NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month, to gush forth a first draft with at least 50,000 words during the month of November. With 30 days in November, that averages to 1,667 words, or about six or seven typewritten pages, per day. Author Jonathan Miller (*Rattlesnake Lawyer*) says he likes to start new novels the day after Thanksgiving and finish by December 31. For Miller, his first draft flows from his unedited pen to capture the essence of a story.

I have always found the month of December, my birthday month, to be particularly auspicious. In 2003, I sold my first book during the last month of the year. My co-author and I prepared a solid first draft of the entire nonfiction book before we started pitching our proposal. Our eventual publisher wanted the book delivered 30 days after contract signing.

If luck is where preparation meets opportunity, we were in a good position to capitalize on it. Because we had completed a solid draft before our query letter hit editors' desks, we could easily respond to the request for a full manuscript. The lesson: only make promises in your query that you can deliver.

As Jonathan Miller and NaNoWriMo authors have found, this time of the year, with its cold days and unpredictable weather, can curb outdoor adventures. Why not head to your favorite desk and chair and let your fingers fly over a keyboard. Resist the urge to check email or scroll the Internet until you have achieved the task you most seek to accomplish that day. If you turn off your phone, you will not be constantly interrupted by the dings announcing text messages or undesired phone calls from scammers.

The challenge for writers involves blending the professional with the personal. NaNoWriMo assumes you will write every day in November, but what about Thanksgiving or the Sabbath for people of faith? The answer might be to subtract five days and divide the expected output over 25 days. Plan to produce 2,000 words, or about eight pages a day. This permits you to potentially meet a goal of 50,000 words while keeping your family holiday and religious traditions.

What do you do with these end-of-year drafts? Do NOT immediately send them to an agent or editor. This stream of conscious writing tends to be unpublishable. I read my friend Carolyn Wheelock's NaNoWriMo novel

one year and pointed out that her main character's name had been spelled four different ways and her plot was a maze. During one less feverish holiday break, I collaborated with Carolyn for an article on hats, published in Albuquerque Woman magazine. That was fun!

While the NaNoWriMo tradition might work to produce a first draft, know that the next step is editing. Consider letting the draft sit for a while. When you are ready, start by producing an outline from the draft and analyzing how to finesse a tell-able story with correctly spelled character names. Correct all typos. There are bound to be many of them.

During the interim between draft and editing, make the month of December fun by reconnecting with family, friends, and acquaintances. I love shopping on Black Friday following Thanksgiving and participating in Giving Tuesday. Since New Mexico Press Women raises money for two scholarships on that day, I set aside the first week of December to write handwritten notes to all who participate. While some might consider that method of expressing gratitude old fashioned, Dear Abby wrote in her column that the physical letter remains the "gold standard." That has become a writing tradition for me during my presidency of New Mexico Press Women.

Whatever your traditions, honor them with smiles and prayers of thanksgiving. As long as we can write, all is well.



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.

# Leveraging Marketing Efforts

by Cornelia Gamlem

That podcast interview you just finished. The radio spot you did last week. The guest blog that you wrote or the article you were invited to submit. All are golden opportunities to get the word out about your book—whether you're just launching it or it's been on the market for a while. Are these one-and-done events? No, keep them going.

It's sometimes serendipitous how the marketing chain evolves and presents other opportunities. Two years ago I received a

It's sometimes serendipitous how the marketing chain evolves and presents other opportunities.

LinkedIn connection request from a woman in India who writes about Amazing Workplaces. This request, which I accepted, led to a podcast interview for me that year, and one with my coauthor this year. These two interviews, which she posted on YouTube and promoted on LinkedIn, resulted in several positive reviews for more than one of our books—all from her followers in India.

Last January, as part of the launch campaign of a new book, I did a radio interview with a station in Massachusetts. The Executive Director for a local Chamber of Commerce happened to be in the studio, saw the book, and reached out to me. She invited me to be part of a series of educational events for her members. Several months later, my coauthor was invited to be a podcast guest because another radio host made the referral.

If only every radio and podcast interview led to more publicity. They can, if you keep the magic going. Here are some ideas of ways to do that.

**Cross Promote.** Most interviewers, especially podcasters, will post notices about their show and your interview on social media. Like, comment and share their posts. And don't forget to post messages on your social media platforms as well.

**Share the Messages A LOT.** There is one podcaster who's interviewed both my coauthor and me many times over the years. We are always delighted to see her continuously reposting messages about our interviews and those of others. You can do the same. For example: *ICYMI* (In Case You Missed It), *listen to my interview with Hanna*, with a link to the interview. Do the same for guest blogs and articles.

**Create Blog Posts.** During an interview, you don't often have the opportunity to deeply explore the topic. Follow up with a blog post where you can expand on the infor-

mation and include a link to the original interview.

**Write a Blog That Showcases Your Host.** We've been invited to participate in one company's podcasts on several occasions. Subsequently, we've blogged about relevant topics that they've featured with other guests. It was great content for us and a way to promote them.

**Add a Link to Your Website.** If you have a dedicated spot on your website where you highlight your ongoing influence to your community, be sure to post a link here. This also helps establish your credibility.

**Generate More Media Coverage.** If you don't have that dedicated spot on your website, be sure to add it. It shows other potential media outlets your energy, enthusiasm for your topic, and proves you are an experienced speaker and interviewee. If you're pitching to news outlets, direct them to this site.

**Use Excerpts from the Interview.** Not only is this a great way to link back to the story, but it can give you additional material for social media posts. Many audio interviews today are transcribed and show notes are posted along with the link to listen.

**Pull Quotes from Show Notes.** They can be added to your newsletters, blogs and website. These quotes can showcase your expertise. Show notes can also form the basis for blogs and articles that you can write for other platforms.

Every interview, guest blog post, or article is an opportunity to build a meaningful relationship with people who share your interests. It's important to **stay in touch** with them. When these contacts are part of your social media network, it's easy to like, comment or share, even if they are posting about someone else's interview. It lets them know that you are paying attention, and someone in their network may take notice and further spread the word. If it's possible, meet with them in person, or by phone or a video chat to keep the connection going. Yes, it requires some effort but the payoff can be priceless.



CORNELIA GAMLEM is an author and consultant with years of business experience. Her books include:

- *They Did What? Unbelievable Tales from the Workplace*,
- *The Manager's Answer Book* - 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Award Winner.
- *The Big Book of HR*
- *The Essential Workplace Conflict Handbook*
- *The Conflict Resolution Phrase Book*

[www.bigbookofhr.com](http://www.bigbookofhr.com)

Twitter: @bigbookofhr

## CONTESTS and OPPORTUNITIES for WRITERS



Indignor House Publishing is proud to introduce year two of our annual writing competition with the second award and publication in fall of 2023.

Submissions are accepted from September 01, 2022 to March 31, 2023. All authors are encouraged to write and submit. We are excited about our first publication with over twenty short stories. Be sure to pick up your copy soon. Release is anticipated within the next few weeks.

The theme for 2023 is a quote:  
*Finding the good through the rain.*

Maximum word count is up to 5,000 words. All genre accepted.

Cost for submission is \$20 USD to cover administrative and production costs. There are three levels of award: First Place – \$500, Second Place – \$250, and Third Place – \$150. Medal prizes will also be awarded.

Visit [IndignorHouse.com](http://IndignorHouse.com) for details and registration.  
Help us to spread the words ...



### CONTEST INFORMATION

*Sponsored in part by the New Mexico Higher Education Dept.*

## [32 Magazines That Accept Longer Fiction](#)

Written by S. Kalekar for Author's Publish,  
[AuthorsPublish.com](http://AuthorsPublish.com)

*Authors Publish*

There are many literary magazines that accept stories of up to 5,000 words, or shorter; this list, however, has magazines/outlets that take longer fiction, of up to 6,000 words or more. Many also accept other genres, like non-fiction and poetry. Some of these pay writers. Not all of them are open for submissions now, but many are. Here's a sampling:

### **Black Moon Magazine**

They publish fiction, poetry, interviews, reviews, and art, and they like experimental work. "We will accept up to 3 short stories between 1,000 and 8,000 words. We will also accept up to 5 flash fiction pieces (1,000 words or less). You may also send a combination of flash/full length stories. Please do not send us more than 5 stories at once." Their first issue was in January 2021. They publish quarterly, and accept work on an ongoing basis; the deadline for their next issue is 31 December 2022. Details [here](#).

### **Blue Mesa Review**

This magazine is associated with the University of New Mexico. They accept fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and art. Send prose of up to 6,000 words. They have a rotating editorial board. They pay \$25, and can accept submissions from all over the world, but they can only process payment to US-based contributors. The deadline is 28 February 2023 for their Spring issue. Details [here](#).

### **Press Pause**

Their website says, "Press Pause is a literary magazine with zero social media presence. No Facebook. No Twitter (#amwriting). No Insta, no Snapchat, and none of whatever that TikTok thing is. We want to create an online (and real-life) place away from the usual spaces—a primarily quiet place." They publish fiction and nonfiction up to 20 pages, poetry, art, and music. They also publish work by writers under 18 years. They have ongoing submissions. Details [here](#).

### RAINBOW CHALLENGE

Join the challenge, [DONATE NOW!](#)

Details on page 4.



## The 2023 CONTEST is OPEN!

*The annual National Federation of Press Women's communications contest has officially opened!*

The contest is open to writers, authors, copy editors, public affairs professionals, photographers, publishers or others in the communications field.

Entries must be published in 2022 and entries are open to writers of all ages.

The early deadline to submit entries—and avoid a one-time additional fee of \$25—is Jan. 18, 2023. The final deadline for books is Feb. 1, 2023, and the final deadline for all other entries is Feb. 8, 2023.

The contest is sponsored by NFPW affiliates, and people living in states without an affiliate hosting a contest are eligible to enter the NFPW at-large contest.

First-place winning entries in the affiliate and at-large contests are eligible to advance to the national competition. To enter the national contest, the entrants must be NFPW members or must join by March 15, 2023.

National winners will be notified in late April, and the results announced during an awards dinner on June 24, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Details and entry available through the [New Mexico Press Women website](#).

## ZIA BOOK AWARD CONTEST OPEN

Women authors of children's and youth books who have a significant connection to New Mexico are encouraged to enter the New Mexico Press Women's Zia Book Award contest to select the outstanding book for children or young adults.

The award is given each year by the New Mexican Press Women at their annual spring conference. Entries are considered on a rotating three-year cycle. Adult nonfiction books will be eligible in 2024, and adult fiction books will be considered in 2025.

The 2023 Zia Award will be given to an outstanding children's and young adult book published in 2020, 2021 or 2022. Two categories will be considered: books for children from birth to 12 and young adult books for ages 13-18.

To be eligible to receive the award, the selected finalists must be available to read at the annual award luncheon during the 2023 conference, April 8, at the Isleta Resort, Albuquerque, NM.

Details and entry available through the [New Mexico Press Women website](#).



### SWW Board Meeting Minutes Summarized

#### October

- Having concluded a six-month trial period, SWW's accounting platform will shift from QuickBooks to Excel for 2023.
- For an end-of-year fundraiser, Evelyn Neil has graciously offered to match up to \$3,000 in pledges by other members.
- A 2023 writing competition is contingent on someone volunteering to chair it. A recommendation was made to award medals instead of cash prizes if a contest is held. If we're unable to host a contest, a compilation of SAGE Challenge submissions might be published in lieu of a contest anthology.
- A volunteer coordinator is being sought to maintain a master list of 1) areas where help is needed and 2) the names of those members willing to volunteer their time and talents. A kick-off meeting for all interested is slated for early December.

#### November 2022

- 2022's income and expenses through October were \$34,700 and \$36,800, respectively. 2023's income is expected to be \$44,100. A matching budget has been proposed, which will be voted on at the 13 Dec. board meeting.
- As of the first week in November, \$700 had already been donated in Evelyn Neill's \$3,000 Matching Challenge fundraiser.
- Mike Hayes is the new focal point for helping SWW writers organize critique groups. He's happy to provide guidance and to host the initial meeting for new groups. One group was formed in October and is now meeting twice a month.
- Since Rose Kern will become President in January, Cornelia Gamlem will be appointed Treasurer to serve the remaining year in the current term.
- Increasing the pool of eligibles to serve on the Executive Committee was discussed, via changes to the By-Laws (through Board recommendations and Membership approval). No such changes would take effect prior to 2024.

