

# SouthWest Sage

April 2009

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

## *Celebrate National Poetry Day*

### ***SouthWest Writers April 11 Poetry Reading***

Poet Billy Brown has organized the premier SWW event devoted entirely to poetry reading. It will be held on Saturday, April 11 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle Blvd. SE, (1/2 block south of Central, east side of Carlisle).

Members of SouthWest Writers and the New Mexico Poetry Society are invited to read their work. The reading time limit will be about 4 minutes and allow for 60 poets. The time limit is subject to change with notice to be given at the beginning of reading. Walk-ins will be accommodated if time allows. Readers should arrive from 9:30 to 9:45 to confirm their registrations to read or to sign-up as walk-ins.

Bring your poetry books for an exchange table. There will also be an authors' table for poetry book sales, and a table with brochures of upcoming poetry workshops and events. Please bring snacks to share: coffee will be provided.

To sign up to read, to make suggestions, to help with organization, or to ask questions, please contact Billy Brown: 401-8139, [welbert53@aol.com](mailto:welbert53@aol.com). Please include your name, phone number, and email address.

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**The Fixed and Free Poetry Reading** group meets the fourth Monday of each month at F Gallery, 114 Tulane SE. The F Gallery is part of Fixed and Free Bike Shop behind Nob Hill's Starbucks on Central. Come at 6:30 p.m. to sign up to read. Reading is from 7:00—8:45 p.m. The featured poet on April 27 is Deb Brody from Santa Fe. Pastries are available for purchase. Contact Billy Brown: 401-8139, [welbert53@aol.com](mailto:welbert53@aol.com) for more information.

Billy Brown and Sandi Blanton also hold a quarterly poetry open house in their home at 2909 Monterey Ave SE. The next one is April 25 from 1:00 — 4:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Billy as above.

### ***2009 SouthWest Writers Annual Contest***

***Enter now. Deadline is May 1.***

***Complete rules and entry form are on page 10 and 11.***

### ***Longing for April***

*by Jeanne Shannon*

Month of poetry and rain  
of yellow bell-flowers  
and orchards drifting into bloom

But now  
in the first days of March  
dry, flinty winds  
dun landscapes  
under the leafless trees

A gibbous moon rises at midday  
and at night  
Saturn rides  
through the bright stars of eastern Leo

Let April come  
with rain  
and lilac  
and the star-fields of early summer

Let sonnets be written  
and villanelles, pantoums

Let poetry  
pour its green music  
on the spicewood air

## President's Message



### *Read voraciously.*

Saul Bellow said "a writer is a reader moved to emulation." While that's probably true in many cases, I've found that many of my writing students are not reading at levels necessary to support writing excellence. A quote that I believe is more germane comes from novelist Jayne Anne Phillips. When asked what was the greatest difficulty among her writing students, Phillips said, "They don't read enough." Amen.

So, what should writers read? Simply put, everything -- newspapers, magazines, nonfiction books, novels. But more precisely, writers should read heavily in their genre. If you're writing a memoir, read all the memoirs you can get your hands on, especially those books receiving significant praise and awards. Read the contemporary work in your genre as well as the classics.

Reading heavily is part of what it takes to be a writer. It's the easy part, which makes it strange that it's the part that is so often neglected.

I also recommend reading classics; Dickens, Faulkner, James. Your diet of reading needs to include the vitamin-rich, high-protein substance that lasts decades, even hundreds of years. I realize reading the classics can be demanding, but it exercises the brain and keeps your writing muscles limber.

Whatever you're writing, read, read, read. It's part of the work of good writing.

Rob Spiegel

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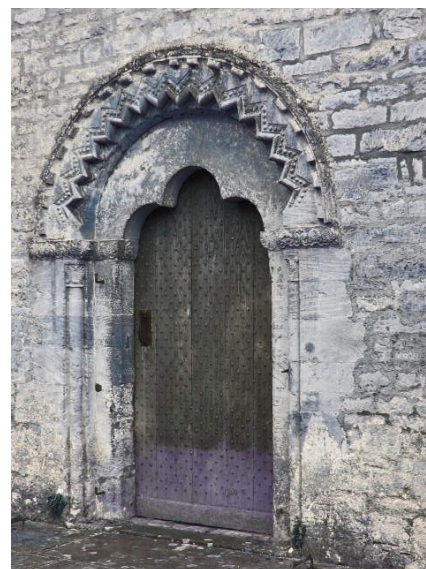


Photo by Ruth Friesen

### SouthWest Sage Advertising Rates

#### Worldwide Internet Circulation

The SWW website receives hundreds of thousands of page requests every month.

Business card size: \$16

1/8 page: \$24

1/4 page: \$36

1/3 page: \$45

1/2 page: \$75

15% discount for 3 mos.

20% discount for 6 mos.

**Deadline:** 1st of each month for the following month.

Payment due with camera-ready ad copy.

### Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

Individual: \$60 (\$100 for 2 years), Two people \$50 each,

Student over 18: \$40, Under 18: \$25

Requires proof of student status

Outside U. S.: \$65, Lifetime Membership: \$750

Download the Sage from [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com)

**Join us first Saturday: 10 AM-Noon: Third Tuesday: 7-9 PM**

**New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**



### SouthWest Sage

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## Setting Up a Booksigning

By Jonathan Miller

Treat a booksigning in the same way as you would a job interview. Essentially, you are working for the bookstore for a few hours, so ask yourself -- would you hire you?

First call the book store and ask for the number of the community relations manager or the manager in charge of book signings. Chances are that they won't be there, so leave a message. Then go down to the store in person, the next day, even before you've heard back. Take a copy of your book, as well as a one page sheet describing it. Offer references from other stores if possible. If this is your first signing, have a professional reference of a speaking engagement, so they know you aren't right off the street.

Try to set up a signing a few weeks in advance. I've decided that Fridays are best for Hastings, Saturdays for Barnes and Nobles. Try to avoid signing against the Super Bowl, Academy Awards or even a popular TV show. That's why Thursday can be a bad day to sign.

Have the payment arrangement before hand. Generally, you keep 60 percent and the store keeps 40 percent. Some major independent stores make you pay for advertising up front. If you do that, make sure that they do in fact use the money to advertise.

You must have the books in time. Books can be ordered through your distributor, or make sure that you have books to bring on your own. Make a poster of the book that is big enough to see from the street.

E-mail everyone you know beforehand, to get a crowd. Have your friends come early and ask for your book. Then sell, sell, sell!

*Jonathan Miller has done several hundred booksignings all over America. He's the author of Rattlesnake Lawyer and the upcoming La Bajada Lawyer. His book Amarillo in August, an Author's Life on the Road, tells why all authors must go to Amarillo in August.*

SouthWest Writers offers a free writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center every Monday from 2:00—3:15 p.m. Taught by Larry Greenly and Rob Spiegel, classes are free to members of any Albuquerque Senior Center. Membership is open to anyone over 50 and annual dues are \$13. Bear Canyon is two blocks north of Montgomery, one block east of Eubank.

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*Writers are not just  
people who  
sit down and write.  
They hazard  
themselves.  
Every time you  
compose a book  
your composition of  
yourself is at stake.  
E. L. Doctorow*

## Dialogue Compression, the Key to Realistic Dialogue

by Kirt Hickman

Realistic dialogue is one of the most important things to achieve in your writing. It's also one of the most difficult. When people talk, they ramble, they pause, they repeat themselves—they say all sorts of unnecessary things. Written dialogue that includes all this stuff will be cumbersome. Your reader won't have the patience for it. The objective of dialogue is to make it more efficient than normal speech yet still have it sound realistic. This is what makes dialogue a challenge.

The single most effective thing you can do to make your dialogue realistic is to compress it.

### Wordiness

Cut any line of dialogue down to as few words as possible. Consider the following passage, excerpted from a critique submission with the author's permission. The viewpoint character observes this exchange between a young woman in a tavern and a druid who has just walked in.



One of the girls suddenly stood and waved at the shrouded figure. "Hey, Cuddles, it's Nancin! What are you doing here? Hey, this might just turn out to be some fun after all. We have to get together later on and catch up on old times. I haven't seen you since that party at Sister Hillary's Nunnery and Bawdy House back in '65. Come on up to my room when we get through with this rah-rah what-ever-it-is that's going on here and we'll crack a bottle or three and talk about old times - and more. Hot Damn, Cuddles is back, WHEEEE!!!"

"Silence Woman! Hold your tongue. There is serious business afoot—and many unanswered questions. We will surely talk, later, and in private . . ."

"Okay. I can wait for you to finish playing those 'serious business' games that you little boys insist on playing. Just don't forget that you and I have more important things to do." The soft purr of the reply held the promise of interesting times ahead.

This passage can and should be greatly compressed. In the first paragraph, Nancin rambles for far too long. The druid, a man of some renown, would probably be embarrassed by Nancin's outburst. He would likely stop her. The rest, I'd compress as much as possible *without sacrificing the essential voice of each character*.

One of the girls stood and waved at the shrouded figure. "Hey, Cuddles. What are you doing here? This might just turn out to be some fun after all—" "Silence, woman," the druid said. "We'll talk later."

"Okay," came the soft purr of her reply. "Just don't forget that you and I have more important things to do."

Decide for yourself which passage is more engaging.

Compression can make dialogue more crisp and realistic even in less extreme cases, as in this example from my science fiction novel, *Worlds Asunder*.

"Randy performed the preflight checks according to protocol."

"Randy did the preflight checks correctly."

### Meaningless Words

Eliminate expressions that don't carry meaning, such as:

"Well," "Hey!" "Um," "Aw, geez." "Oh my gosh." "Right?"

Phrases like these make dialogue sound rambling and unimportant. They reduce tension. These types of expressions can be useful in making each character's speech distinctive, but use only one per character and use it sparingly.

### Sentence Fragments

Consider the following dialogue exchange:

"Have you had lunch?"  
"No, not yet."  
"Do you want to go to Stuffy's?"  
"That sounds good."

People don't generally speak in complete, grammatically correct sentences. Look for opportunities to use sentence fragments to emulate real speech patterns:

"Had lunch?"  
"Not yet."  
"Stuffy's?"  
"Sounds good."

It not only makes your dialogue more natural, it makes it more crisp. It quickens the pace.

### CONTRACTIONS

Use contractions wherever possible. Otherwise your dialogue will sound clunky and mechanical:

"We will need results on this one," Snider told Chase. "And we will need them fast."

Contractions make dialogue more natural:

"We'll need results on this one," Snider told Chase. "And we'll need them fast."

Use these tips to compress your dialogue, to make it realistic, taut, and engaging.

*Kirt Hickman has Bachelor and Master degrees in Electrical Engineering from UNM. He has worked with high-energy laser optics, microelectronics, and other technologies relevant to science fiction, and leverages his knowledge and experience to enrich his stories. Worlds Asunder is his first novel.*



## Self-Publishing

by Sherri Burr

The economic crisis that began in real estate has negatively impacted the publishing industry. Major houses have announced layoffs, lowered royalty rates, delayed or canceled the publication of books, and curtailed advances. If you have written a book and tried unsuccessfully to get it published or find an agent, you are not alone. While these activities have always been a challenge, they are now more so. What's a writer to do?

Consider other options such as print on demand or self-publishing. With print on demand (POD), authors pay a setup fee that includes a complimentary copy or several copies of their books. They can also purchase their books at a 40 percent discount and receive royalties when other people buy their books. This route to publication is unlikely to produce significant revenue for writers. In 2004, *The Writer* magazine reported that Xlibris has sold an average of 33 copies of its over 9,000 printed titles, and of iUniverse's 17,000 titles, only 84 have sold more than 500 copies. Those who go this route should plan to market, market, and market.

Marketing is also required for successful self-publication. Recently, I had an opportunity to talk to Kimberla Lawson Roby, a *New York Times* best-selling novelist who self-published her first novel in 1997. Roby sold out her initial 3,000-copy print run within the first two months and sold 10,000 copies within six months. She found an agent, and had her books picked up by Kensington Publishing, an imprint of Harper Collins. She currently has 12 books in print and is being published by William Morrow, another imprint of HarperCollins. In total, she has sold over 1,700,000 copies. How did she do it? Here are a few tips that Roby offers struggling writers.

Tip 1: Follow all of Dan Poynter's advice

Dan Poynter is the guru who wrote a best-selling book *The Self-Publishing Manual* and spoke at a SWW sponsored workshop last year. Roby, a financial analyst by trade, said she read several books on self-publishing but if she had to recommend only one it would be Dan Poynter's. She also advises authors not to skip a single step. Sometimes people want to save money by cutting the production value of their book. She said it helped that her book looked like a regular book that could be found in any store.

Tip 2: Invest in your writing career

Roby used her business background to develop a business plan focused on distribution and marketing. She invested \$20,000, and launched her self-published work with a party in her home. It was so successful that her husband suggested she quit her job that evening. She made her book available through the major distributors such as Ingram. She contacted independent book stores who report to best-seller lists. Within three months of self-publishing, she had made the best-seller's list of a major women's magazine.

Tip 3: Become Open to New Opportunities

Roby initially gave away books to approximately 300 independent booksellers to get them to read it. They liked what they read and ordered copies. With independent bookstores shrinking in number on a yearly basis, Roby became open to conducting book-signings at unusual places, like Wal-Mart. Some writers boycott Wal-Mart because of alleged unfair labor practices. With such a small book section, one might think Wal-Mart can be ignored. Roby says that Wal-Mart now accounts for approximately one-third of all of her book sales. About a month before she appears at a Wal-Mart to sign books, the store will advertise in a prominent place. Upon arrival, Roby has been greeted by lines exceeding 250 people. Compare that to the average book-signing generating fewer than 10 sales.

As writers, we have to take note of the trends in our business and adjust accordingly. Happy publishing!

*Sherri Burr is a long-time member of Southwest Writers and the author of 11 books. She is a tenured professor at the University of New Mexico where she teaches Entertainment Law. This column "Minding Finances for Writers" recently won first place in the New Mexico Press Women contest for advice columns.*



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Program Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque

**Saturday, April 4**  
10:00 a.m. to noon

**Jonathan Miller**

***Writing Pain into Gain: Using Your Personal History to Create a Successful Writing Career***

Attorney/Author **Jonathan Miller** will offer techniques on how to convert your life stories into fiction and non-fiction. In addition to discussing motivating yourself to finally finish your manuscript, Jonathan will discuss how to edit, sell, and ultimately market your story. Most importantly, he will offer some safeguards so you'll avoid getting sued by your friends (and enemies).

Jonathan is the author of five successful books, including the just released *La Bajada Lawyer*. He is a graduate of Albuquerque Academy, Cornell University, University of Colorado Law School and the American Film Institute. He also wrote on the nationally syndicated show "Arrest and Trial." He has lectured at USC, Cornell, as well as several times at Southwest Writers meetings.



**Saturday, April 11**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Poetry Reading**

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle Blvd. SE  
(1/2 block south of Central, east side of Carlisle)  
**Contact: Billy Brown**, 401-8139, welbert53@aol.com  
**See story on front page**



**Tuesday, April 21**  
7 to 9 p.m.

**Steve McKee**

***When Growth Stalls***

Steve McKee knows that regardless of what's going on outside of an enterprise, it's what is inside that counts. His new book, *When Growth Stalls* (Jossey-Bass/Wiley) grew out of an eight-part series he wrote for BusinessWeek.com focusing on how and why companies lose their way and practical advice about how they can rekindle growth. Come hear Steve speak on how writing what you know can unexpectedly turn into a book.

**Steve McKee** is the president and co-founder of McKee Wallwork Cleveland, a full-service advertising agency that has been recognized by the American Marketing Association with two Effie Awards, one of the industry's highest honors. A marketing strategist for over 20 years, Steve has been a columnist for BusinessWeek.com since 2005.

**Saturday, May 2**  
10:00 a.m. to noon

**Irene Blea**

***The Secret:***  
***Vision Boards for Writers, Not for Women Only***

There is a secret dialogue predominant among women. Irene Blea will reveal the secret, demonstrate it and extend it to writers. She will discuss the abstract and the visual elements of writing, how to use Vision Boards as a motivational tool, an outline for plotting your narrative and breaking through that thing that cannot let you start or complete the writing to a finished published product. Blea will present two examples of how the boards assist her in goal definition and in "flushing out" the story.

**Dr. Irene I. Blea** is an award-winning scholar, poet and public speaker with areas of specialization on the Santa Fe Trail. Irene has written well over 30 articles and 7 university classroom text books with an emphasis on women. Her first historical novel, *Suzanna*, will soon be released this Spring.



**Tuesday, May 19**  
7 to 9 p.m.

**Molly Evans**

***Ruthless Revisions Leading to a Sale***

**Molly Evans**, medical romance author, offers a variety of techniques to take finished manuscripts from stale to sale!

- get ruthless about your own manuscript
- add emotion at the right time and in the right amount
- pacing--where good manuscripts go bad
- recognize when and where to revise
- hands-on tricks that sharpen your prose and build emotional content
- how your critique group/partner can help you identify problem areas
- how a good editor can get you to your first sale

**Molly Evans** writes Medical Romances for Harlequin Mills & Boon, London. As a nurse for over twenty-five years she has many experiences to draw from. Her fourth book, *The Greek Doctor's Proposal* will be out in hardback in April and paperback in July. Molly lives in Albuquerque with her family.

**PUTTING WORDS ON PAPER: HOW TO WRITE****Melody Groves****April 8 through May 13, 2009**

Wednesday Evenings 6 weeks

6:30-8:30 pm

Location: SWW office, 3721 Morris NE, Ste A  
(northwest corner of Comanche and Morris)

Register: SWW (505) 265-9485

\$79 members

\$89 non-members

Class Limited to 14 Students

Do you want to write? Don't know where to start? Have you become "stuck?" Know what you want to say, just don't know how? This class will cover the beginnings and basics of fiction writing:

- Finding An Idea
- Creating Believable Characters
- Building Unforgettable Scenes
- Writing Realistic Dialogue
- Putting It All Together
- Revising Painlessly

**Melody Groves**, 2008 SWW Parris Award winner, is author of three published novels, two non-fiction books, and many magazine articles. Her novel, *Arizona War*, won the 2008 New Mexico Book Award for Historical Fiction.

**SCREENPLAY CONFIDENTIAL****Rick Reichman****Saturday, May 23**

9:00 to 4:30, including a lunch break

\$75 for members, \$95 for non-members.

Workshop price includes lunch.

Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE

Learn to structure and create screenplays and even improve your novels and short stories in this all day workshop. The workshop will take you through:

1. Making the Scene—the importance of knowing and using scene structure and the seven elements that each scene must have.
2. Character Counts—the difference between literary and dramatic protagonist and antagonist and how to use that difference to develop characters and enhance your plot
3. Acting Out—the use of the three act structure and its eight major turning points, three minor turning points, and contact point and ending.

4. Opening Up—How to write dynamic opening scenes by knowing and using the thirty elements of the first scene.
5. Marketing—Learning and practicing the short pitch and finding and working with an agent.

Rick Reichman, who graduated with an MFA from the University of Southern California, has taught screenwriting for a number of years. His students have sold to Warner Brothers, Fox, HBO, Showtime, all the major networks, and to TV shows including *Friends*, *Home Improvement*, and more recently *Crossing Jordan*, *Strong Medicine*, and CBS' monster hit *The Mentalist*.

Rick has won several screenwriting awards and has optioned two screenplays. His first book on screenwriting *Formatting Your Screenplay* has sold over 13,000 copies and his second book *20 Things You Must Know to Write A Great Screenplay* was recently a finalist in the ForeWord magazine's best book of the year for writing instruction.

**TRAVELING THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF POETRY****Jeanne Shannon**  
**Constance Hester****Saturday, June 20**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All prices include lunch

\$59 register by May 1 (early bird special)

\$69 register by May 31      \$75 register at door

Non-members add \$10

Location: New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE

Whether you want to write poems or would simply like to be able to read poetry with more pleasure and deeper understanding, this workshop is for you. We will look at the work of well-known poets and less famous poets and try our hand at writing in various poetic forms. Writing prompts will help free our imagination and stimulate the flow of creativity.

**Jeanne Shannon** has been writing poetry since childhood. She has published three full-length collections of her poetry and ten chapbooks. Her work has appeared in numerous small-press and university publications. She is currently the editor/publisher of *The Wildflower Press*, a small-press book publisher in Albuquerque.

**Constance Hester** has published many poems in poetry journals and anthologies and in 2004 published her first book, *Call Me Myriad*. She helped found *Fresh Ink*, New Mexico and has taught several all-day workshops.

## Madge Harrah Recognized

Madge Harrah has received an Outstanding Achievement and Meritorious Service Award from the University of Missouri College of Education.

Madge studied playwriting with Rod Serling and won several international playwriting competitions. She has published over 400 articles, stories and short pieces in magazines and published 12 books. She has taught writing seminars for over 30 years.



A long-time member of SouthWest Writers, she attended the third meeting of the organization in 1982.

## The SWW International Quarterly Writing Competition

The Best Hook

Both fiction and non-fiction books and articles use a "hook" in the first paragraph or so to draw in the reader. Write the opening page of an article or book, using your best hook. The best ones to grab the judges will win the prizes below. Wind up your imagination and let 'er rip. Double-spaced, one-page maximum. Postmark deadline: Tuesday, June 30. All entries \$10. Prizes: \$150/1st prize; \$50/2nd prize; \$25/3rd prize. Mail entries to SWW Quarterly Contest, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, 87111

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Mixon	Amy Lindquist
Mary Pruess	Tom Chelmowski
Ross Dusen	Natalie Sanchez Campos
Alicia Touche	Carla Aragon
Susan Smith	Jim Cunningham
Dennis Carroll	Phyllis Skoy
Alia Munn	Shirley Gallegos

### FOR SALE

Western Book Collection

More than 100 books

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Make offer: **881-4582**

## The Novel Conference

By Sandra Toro

**SAVE THE DATE!!** The SWW Novel Conference is scheduled for Saturday, August 15 at the CNM Workforce Training Center. Speakers at this conference will discuss writing and selling novels in all genres.

JO-ANNE POWER, a novelist with 17 novels to her credit, the most recent one being *Bare Bones* published by St. Martin's Press, will be our keynoter. In addition to being multi-published as a novelist, Jo-Anne has been a literary agent and is currently a publicist working with numerous authors and publishing houses.

MICHAEL MCGARRITY, well known New Mexican novelist, will also speak. His dozen novels have garnered a staunchly loyal and growing group of fans for his New Mexico-based mysteries/thrillers which also portray the two-generation family dynamics of Anglo ranchers with a son who is Apache. McGarrity writes what he knows well: he is the retired deputy sheriff of Santa Fe.

In addition, we intend to have several editors and agents from New York City who will take pitches from the first forty persons who sign up for the conference. Registration will open May 1. Watch SAGE for the registration blank.

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Call Steve at **505-417-0772**, visit **ProofPerfectNM.com**  
or e-mail: **Steve@ProofPerfectNM.com**



## Successes

**Karen Walker's** book *Following the Whispers* was released in February by Bascom Hill Publishing Company.

**Jeanne Shannon** had four poems published in *The New Mexico Breeze* and one in *Sage Trail*.

**Lola R. Eagle** has written three articles for the Enchantment Heritage page of the *New Mexico Breeze*.

**Jonathan Miller** was interviewed by the *East Mountain Independent* and has a booksigning for *La Bajada Lawyer* on April 4 at Barnes and Noble in Coronado Mall.

**Ruth Friesen** has an essay in the anthology *Going Green: True Tales from Gleaners, Scavengers and Dumpster Divers* released by the University of Oklahoma Press on April 22, Earth Day. She will participate in a booksigning at Bookworks on May 12.

**Nancy Sellin** has published *Avoid Mosquitoes—and other Impossibilities*, a memoir of her Peace Corp experiences.

**Keith Pyeatt's** book *Struck* will be published in paperback in July. *Dark Knowledge*, an e-book, was published by layri-calpress.com in six days.

**Larry Greenly** was contacted by an agent at Curtis Brown to write a biography. He also spoke at a meeting of the NM Book Coop.

**Edith Tarbescu's** one-woman play *Suffer Queen* will be performed at the Algonquin Theatre, 123 E. 24th St. New York, N.Y. April 18, 19 and 20. Reservations: (212) 769-7973.

## Contests and Announcements

**Melody Groves** is speaking on "Taking the Mystery out of Westerns" at the Croak & Dagger Mystery Writers' meeting on April 28 held at 7:00 p.m. at the James Joseph Dwyer Substation on Montgomery and Tramway.

**Kirt Hickman** has opened Quillrunner Publishing, and is seeking submissions of any genre. For further information visit [www.quillrunner.com](http://www.quillrunner.com) or contact Kirt at 890-0723.

**New Mexico Tech's Biology Department** needs **detective-type short stories for crime scenes** that link characters, motive, and evidence for use in their new Virtual CSI: DNA course devoted to teaching high school students genetics in the context of crime scene investigation. The entire course will take place online. Full contest guidelines are available at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~biology/CSIWeb/>. Prizes are \$100 first place, \$50 second place, and \$25 third place. Contest deadline has been extended to June 1, 2009.

WritersRetreat.com and Lowcountry Writers Studio will present a three-day spiritual writing workshop called **"Writing is Good for the Soul"** in Santa Fe on May 1-3, 2009. For more information or to register, call 843-437-1934 or email: [LowcountryWritersStudio@comcast.net](mailto:LowcountryWritersStudio@comcast.net).

**The Rebecca 2009**, a writing contest for romance, will accept the first 30 entries in each of five categories. Entry deadline is May 30. For more information, visit [www.leranm.com/contest.html](http://www.leranm.com/contest.html).

The **Athena Award Screenwriting Competition** sponsored by the NM Women in Film Writers' Group is open to all NM residents. The screenplay must have a female protagonist and/or female theme and may be a maximum of 5 pages. DEADLINE: April 15, 2009. The Contest will be judged blindly by a panel of top industry professionals, including Kirk Ellis. Application forms may be downloaded at [mwif.com](http://mwif.com). Please address all questions to [AthenaAward@gmail.com](mailto:AthenaAward@gmail.com).

**Liliana Valenzuela**, who is one of the foremost English-to-Spanish translators in the world as well as a poet, will present a workshop at The Port Townsend Writers' Conference in Washington the week of July 12-19. The workshop will focus on the words that we use in our writing. For more information, go to: <http://www.centrum.org/writing/2008/12/boundless-curiosity-the-work-of-liliana-valenzuela-.html>

**The Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference** will be held June 13-19 in Lincoln. Visit [www.NSWC.org](http://www.NSWC.org).

**The Northern Colorado Writers Conference**, "Rev Up Your Writing in the Rockies" will be held April 3-4, 2009 in Fort Collins. For more information visit [www.ncwc.biz](http://www.ncwc.biz).

**Colorado Christian Writers Conference** will be held May 13-16 at Estes Park. Visit [www.writehisanswer.com/Colorado](http://www.writehisanswer.com/Colorado).

### Websites for Contests

<http://www.firstwriter.com/competitions/>  
<http://www.writers-editors.com/Writers/Contests/contests.htm>  
<http://www.placesforwriters.com/contests/>



**Land of Enchantment Romance Authors** (LERA) will hold their annual conference "Write from the Heart" on Saturday November 14. For more information visit [www.leranm.com](http://www.leranm.com)

## 2009 SouthWest Writers Annual Contest Rules

The 2009 SouthWest Writers Writing Contest encourages and honors excellence in writing. In addition to competing for cash prizes and the coveted Storyteller Award, contest entrants may receive an optional written critique of their entry from a qualified contest critiquer.

SouthWest Writers also has a critique service staffed by professional critiquers for any writers wishing an optional critique to help polish their manuscripts before entering this or any other contest. The SWW Critique Service is completely independent from the contest, has different staff, and its use has no effect whatsoever on contest eligibility or judging. See [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com) for details and prices.

### Categories

You may enter as many manuscripts as you wish in any of the following categories. Each entry must be mailed separately with an entry form and proper entry fee.

**Mainstream or Literary Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

**Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

**Romance Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

**Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

**Historical/American Frontier/Western Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

**Middle Grade or Young Adult Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

**Memoir Book:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced, no synopsis.

**Memoir Article:** 1,500 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.

**Mainstream or Literary Short Story:** 5,000 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.

**Middle Grade or Young Adult Short Story:** 1,500 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.

**Nonfiction/Essay Article:** 1,500 words maximum, double-spaced, with word count.

**Nonfiction Book:** First up to 10 pages of book double-spaced + up to 10-page book proposal, double-spaced.

**Children's Picture Book Fiction/Nonfiction:** Entire manuscript, 5 double-spaced pages maximum.

**Screenplay:** 1st 20 pages + 1 page synopsis (using industry-standard formatting, Courier font, brad-bound).

**Poetry:** Any form, format, spacing or number of poems, 5 pages maximum.

**Christian Novel:** 1st 20 pages double-spaced + single-spaced synopsis, 2 pages maximum.

### Rules/Deadlines/Judging

Each entry must be in a separate envelope accompanied by an entry form and entry fee. **No certified mail (SWW will not go**

**to the Post Office to sign receipts; such mail will be returned).** Enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you want notification of receipt.

Mark entry category number on envelope below return address. Your entry must be written in English, original, and unpublished or un-optioned at time of submittal.

If your manuscript previously won 1st prize in a particular category, it is ineligible for that category.

Using standard manuscript formatting, your manuscript must be printed on one side of 8-1/2 x 11 or A4 white paper in 12-point Courier or Times New Roman. Synopses are single-spaced; poems and scripts are any spacing; all other categories and book proposals are double-spaced. Your name may not appear anywhere on the manuscript, synopsis or book proposal.

**Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2009. Late entries must be postmarked by May 15, 2009 and accompanied by an additional \$5.**

Entries without critiques will not be returned. Submit 2 copies of entry, following specified rules. No return envelope is needed.

Entries with optional, purchased critiques will be returned. Submit 3 copies of entry + a large, self-addressed envelope with enough postage stamps affixed to return materials. **NO METERED POSTAGE.**

Entries with an optional, purchased critique will be critiqued by a well-qualified contest critiquer in the category entered. Critiques will be returned in August, 2009.

All manuscripts will be screened by a panel and the top 15 in each category will be sent to appropriate editors or literary agents to determine the final top 3 places. The top 3 winners will also receive a critique from the judging editor or literary editor. Contacting any judge about an entry is an automatic disqualification.

Entrants retain all rights to their entries. By entering this contest, you agree to abide by the rules, agree that decisions by the judges are final, and agree that no refunds will be awarded.

Winners in each category are notified in August, 2009. 1st Prize, \$150; 2nd Prize, \$100, 3rd Prize, \$50. 1st place winners are eligible for the \$1,000 Storyteller Award. A contest banquet in September, 2009 (tba) will be held to announce and honor the top 3 winners in each category. Winners will be posted on the SWW website following the awards banquet.

**Note:** If you join SWW simultaneously with your contest entry by including an additional \$60 for a year's membership (or \$100 for two years) with your entry, you may enter the contest at the SWW member rate. If you have multiple submissions, mark on all submission forms that one of your entries includes a membership check or credit card number.

## 2009 SouthWest Writers Annual Writing Contest Entry Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear of contest? \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Title \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Category Number: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Circle appropriate entry fee:

\_\_\_\_\_

May 1 deadline **SWW member/no critique** \$20

May 1 deadline **SWW member/with critique** \$45

May 15 late deadline **SWW member/no critique** \$25

May 15 late deadline **SWW member/with critique** \$50

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May 1 deadline **Non-Member/no critique** \$30

May 1 deadline **Non-Member/with critique** \$55

May 15 late deadline **Non-Member/no critique** \$35

May 15 late deadline **Non-Member/with critique** \$60

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### Method of Payment:

\_\_\_\_ Check or Money Order (no cash) US\$ payable to SouthWest Writers

\_\_\_\_ Charge my \_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ Mastercard

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed entry form, entry and fee to:

**SouthWest Writers Contest 2009**

**3721 Morris NE Ste A, Albuquerque, NM 87111-3611**



SouthWest Writers is a nonprofit organization  
dedicated to encouraging and supporting all people  
to express themselves through the written word.

## SouthWest Sage

### SouthWest Writers

3721 Morris NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

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

[SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Label shows your SWW Membership expiration date.

Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.

#### Wanting to Start Groups/Looking for a Group

##### **Memoirs, Santa Fe**

*Leona Stucky-Abbott*

505-820-2433

##### **Any Genre, Albuquerque NE Heights**

Meet every other Friday

*Krys Douglas* 505-830-3015

##### **Any Genre, Las Cruces**

*Barbara Villemez*

505-522-5734

##### **Poetry**

*Billy Brown* 505-401-8139,

[welbert53@aol.com](mailto:welbert53@aol.com)

##### **Short Story, Poetry, Screenplay**

Santa Fe

*Robert Evans* 505- 690-6651

[reevans1@mac.com](mailto:reevans1@mac.com)

##### **Children's Books Santa Fe**

[ldiemand@cybermesa.com](mailto:ldiemand@cybermesa.com)

##### **Nonfiction**

*Peggy Spencer*

505-270-8914

##### **Screenwriting**

*G. Hathaway* 249-7957

##### **Nonfiction, Valencia County**

*Karen Keese* 505-261-0040

[skywriter@wildblue.net](mailto:skywriter@wildblue.net)

##### **Memoir, contemporary culture, non-fiction**

*Anna Redsand* 872-3277

#### Groups Seeking Members

##### **Any Genre**

##### **Estancia Valley Writers Group**

Moriarty Community Library

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

*Tina Ortega* 505-832-2513

##### **Any Genre**

##### **Albuquerque Press Club**

201 Highland Park Cir. SE

First Tuesdays 7 pm

*Samantha* 401-1561 or

[sclark.abq@earthlink.net](mailto:sclark.abq@earthlink.net)

##### **Mystery**

[www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com)

#### **Critique Groups**

Submit requests to

[SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com)

##### **Any Genre, Rio Rancho:**

*Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley*

505-867-1408

[riversedgebob@cableone.net](mailto:riversedgebob@cableone.net)

[riograndema@cableone.net](mailto:riograndema@cableone.net)

##### **Land of Enchantment**

##### **Romance Authors**

Second Saturdays at noon.

[leranm.com](http://leranm.com)

##### **The Screaming Ninja Screenwriters**

Every other Thursday,

Flying Star on 7th and Silver.

*Marc Calderwood*

505-897-6474

[skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com](mailto:skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com)