

SouthWest Sage

April 2011 www.southwestwriters.com

Annual Contest Judges Announced

by Cynthia Boyd, Contest Chair

The list of judges for the SouthWest Writers' Annual Contest has been released. "Our judges were enthusiastic to serve this year," says Contest Chair Cynthia Boyd. "This was evident as early as the first week in December, when I started contacting them to come on board. We have an outstanding reputation for good writers and healthy competition." Contest participants should be aware that contacting any judge prior to winners being announced is immediate disqualification from the competition.

"We want to provide a healthy rotation in judges from year to year. So we looked at the academic base available to us in the Southwest," says Boyd. The first round judges are from the English department of a New Mexico University and also include all of SouthWest Writers' critiquers.

Final round judges are:

- Mainstream/Literary Novel: Diana Finch, Diana Finch Literary Agency
- Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure: Robert Brown, Ampichellis Ebooks
- Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror: Danielle Stockley, Penguin Group
- Historical: Katherine Pelz, Penguin Group
- Middle Grade/YA Novel: Rachel Abrams, HarperCollins Children's Books
- Mainstream/ Literary Short Story: Phong Nguyen, Editor, *Pleades*
- Memoir Book: Patricia Moosbrugger, Literary Agency
- Memoir Article: Tim McKee, *The Sun Magazine*
- Nonfiction Essay/Article: Ashley Biggers, *New Mexico Magazine*
- Personal Essay/ Column: Dan Mayfield, *Albuquerque the Magazine*
- Nonfiction Book: Brandi Bowles, Howard Morhaim Lit-

erary Agency, Inc

- Children's Fiction or Nonfiction Picture Book: Jayne Carapezzi, HarperCollins Children's Books
- Screenplay: Michael David Jensen, Producer
- Poetry: Ruth Moose, *The Rambler Magazine*

Now get out that old jewel of a novel and dust it off. Polish up your poetry and high gloss your haiku, because you now have a chance to submit the unpublished piece for competition. You don't even have to be a member of SWW to participate.

Complete rules and entry form are on page 10 and 11 of the *SouthWest Sage* and can also be found online at www.southwestwriters.com.

This year's Awards Banquet will be on the Saturday night of the three day SWW Conference, Falling In Love With Writing, September 16, 17 and 18 at the MGM Elegante. SWW offers rate reductions to members for both events.

SouthWest Sage

Going Online



In an effort to reduce the costs of printing and mailing the *Sage*, and also to provide more timely information to our members, the *SouthWest Sage* will become an exclusively online publication effective with the July 2011 issue. "We will have better control over when the *Sage* appears," says editor Ruth Friesen, "and that will enable us to provide information on events nearer to publication." Links for contests and events will also be active.

SWW members will be notified via e-lert when the *Sage* is posted online. To ensure that your correct email address is on file, please send a message to Larry Greenly at SWWriters@juno.com with the subject line e-lert update.

Why Should I Be A SouthWest Writers Member?

I recently joined the New Mexico Book Association, which got me to thinking: Why should I join an organization? That applies to SouthWest Writers. Why should *you* join, instead of just reading the Sage online or attending meetings free of charge? I'll be honest, the question of charging visitors after three meetings has been discussed by the board almost every year. The final decision of the board is: We want you to come to the meetings. Pure and simple. However, your membership dues are most welcome.



President Melody Groves

And what do you get for your membership? Good question. The Sage, which for the moment, comes to your house if you so choose. Starting July, it will be online only. But...as a member, you get to list your successes. You also receive a substantial discount on classes, workshops and the upcoming 3-day conference in September.

What happens to your dues? This question has been asked often, so I thought I'd let you know. No one on the board is paid—we're all volunteers. Your dues go toward paying the speakers at the bi-monthly meeting and supplying tea and coffee as well as the plates, cups, etc. Rental for the church comes out of your dues as does rental on our office, the electricity and water it takes to run it. Paper is a huge expense, one that we're looking to reduce. A small percentage of dues also goes toward the one salaried person, Larry, the office manager. Trust me, he is paid just a tad over minimum wage, but deserves ten times that amount.

So it comes down to: you should be a member because it feels good. SWW is chockful of talented, successful writers who willingly share their experiences and expertise. SWW offers educational opportunities beyond the classroom—the chance to network with published writers who can share the inside scoop, so to speak, of the publishing world.

For a mere \$5 a month, where else can you get education, camaraderie and a good cup of coffee? What a deal!

Thank you for joining SouthWest Writers.

Melody

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia L. Chavez	
Scott M. Tyson	
Elizabeth Patterson	★
Ana Sharma	
James Carroll	
Tonya Fallis	
Merle Faubion	
Frank Stephens	
	Gerald Cantrell
	Andy Paquet
	Susan Paquet
	Phyllis Hoge
★	Tracie Campbell
	Stewart S. Warren
★	Margarete Mayer

SouthWest Sage Advertising Rates Worldwide Internet Circulation

The SWW website receives thousands of page requests every month.

Business card size: \$20 1/4 page, vertical: \$40 1/3 page, horizontal: \$50
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 in .jpg format.

Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

Individual: \$60 (\$100 for 2 years), Two people \$50 each,
Student 18 and over: \$40, Under 18: \$25

Requires proof of student status

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

Download the Sage from 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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President Melody Groves
MelodyGroves@comcast.net

Vice-President Rob Spiegel
robspiegel@comcast.net

Secretary/Parliamentarian Larry Greenly
SWWriters@juno.com

Treasurer

Conference Chair Ann Marquez
amarq77@aol.com

Annual Contest Chair Cynthia Boyd
St.Boyd@comcast.net

Speakers Rob Spiegel
robspiegel@comcast.net

Public Relations Terry Civello
terryrose150@yahoo.com

Class Coordinator Kathy Kitts
kkitts@kkitts.net

Workshop Coordinator Joanne Bodin
jsbodin@msn.com

Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Bazinet
sandy@compuwing.com

Membership Rita Herther
RMHerther@aol.com

Special Events Don Dyer
dyerink@yahoo.com

Historian Susan Alexis
sjalexis@msn.com

SWW Sage Editor Ruth Friesen
ruthsw@comcast.net

E-lert Mistress Gail Rubin
Gail_Rubin@comcast.net

SWW Office:

3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87111

phone: (505) 265-9485

e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com

website: www.southwestwriters.com

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Grammar Tip: Pronoun Trouble Spots

by Dodici Azpadu

Here are two nasty pronoun twists. The first is an exception to the rule that subjects of sentences must be in the subjective case. Ordinarily, the correct form follows.

The walrus and I have whiskers. (I is in subjective case)

But look what happens with the subject of an infinitive. Does it surprise you that the following sentence is correct?

Alice asked the walrus and me to pour tea for the dignitaries and her.

Walrus and me are the subject of the infinitive **to pour**. The **dignitaries and her** are the object of the infinitive **to pour**. The objective case in the object position is what you expect. But how can **walrus and me** be the subject? Shouldn't the subject be in the subjective case?

Ordinarily, yes. That is why **The walrus and I have whiskers** is correct. However, in constructions that use the infinitive form, **to** and the base form of a verb, **to pour** in the example above, the rule requires the objective case for both the subject and the object of the infinitive.

Another annoying pronoun dilemma is how to modify a gerund. A gerund is a word that ends in **-ing** and functions as a noun or begins a noun phrase. Do not be tempted by the informal construction.

The odds of him winning an Oscar are favorable. (Incorrect)

The correct pronoun should be in the possessive case.

The odds of his winning an Oscar are favorable.

However, avoid the awkward use of the possessive with a gerund.

We voted for resumes being vetted by the HR department. (Correct, but awkward)

This example should be revised to avoid the clumsiness.

We voted to have the HR department vet the resumes.

Want to take a short quiz? Of course you do. Correct the incorrect sentences, and mark the correct sentences with "C".

Wendell liked me answering the questionnaire candidly.
The contractor wants you and I to paint the living room.
Agnes wanted the girls and she to win the relay.
The avalanche resulted in them being knocked down.
I appreciated them finding the package.

Answers:
Wendell liked my answering the questionnaire candidly.
The contractor wants you and me to paint the living room.
Agnes wanted the girls and her to win the relay.
The avalanche resulted in their being knocked down.
I appreciated their finding the package.

From Idea to Story

by Chris Eboch

People often ask writers, “Where do you find your ideas?” But for a writer, the more important question is, “What do I do with my idea?”

If you have a “great idea,” but can’t seem to go anywhere with it, you probably have a premise rather than a complete story plan. A story has four main parts: situation, complications, climax, and resolution. You need all of them to make your story work.

The situation should involve an interesting main character with a challenging problem or goal. Even this takes development. Maybe you have a great challenge, but aren’t sure why a character would have that goal. Or maybe your situation is interesting, but doesn’t actually involve a problem.

For example, I wanted to write about a brother and sister who travel with a ghost hunter TV show. The girl can see ghosts, but the boy can’t. That gave me the characters and situation, but no problem or goal. Goals come from need or desire. What did they want that could sustain a series?

Tania feels sorry for the ghosts and wants to help them, while keeping her gift a secret from everyone but her brother. Jon wants to help and protect his sister, but sometimes feels overwhelmed by the responsibility. Now we have characters with problems and goals. The story is off to a good start.

Make sure your idea is specific and narrow. Focus on an individual person and situation, not a universal concept. For example, don’t try to write about “racism.” Instead, write about one character facing racism in a particular situation.

Ask why the goal is important to the character. The longer the story, the higher stakes needed to sustain it. A short story character might want to win a contest; a novel character might need to save the world.

Ask why this goal is difficult. Difficulties fall into categories traditionally called man versus man, man versus nature, and man versus himself. You can even combine these. Your character may hunt bank robbers (man versus man) during a dangerous storm (man versus nature) when he is afraid of lightning (man versus himself).

Even if your main problem is external, give the character an internal flaw that contributes to the difficulty. This adds complications and also makes your character seem more real. For some internal flaw, see the seven deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride.

Test the idea. Change the character’s age, gender, or looks. Change the point of view, setting, external conflict, internal conflict. Choose the combination that has the most dramatic potential.

If a character solves his goal easily, the story is boring. To keep tension high, you need complications.

For short stories, try the “rule of three” and have the main character try to solve the problem three times. The first two times, he fails and the situation worsens. Remember: the situation should *worsen*. If things stay the same, he still has a problem, but the tension is flat. If his first attempts make things worse, tension rises.

For novels, you may have even more attempts and failures. In my first Haunted book, *The Ghost on the Stairs*, I made sure each ghost encounter felt more dangerous. As Tania tries to get closer to the ghost in order to help her, Jon worries that she will go too far and be injured or even killed. With enough variety, you can sustain this kind of tension indefinitely (witness the ongoing battle between Harry and Voldemort in the seven-book Harry Potter series).

You can worsen the situation in several ways. The main character’s actions could make the challenge more difficult. In my new mystery set in ancient Egypt, *The Eyes of Pharaoh*, a young temple dancer searches for her missing friend. But when she asks questions at the barracks where he was a soldier, she attracts dangerous attention from his enemies.

The villain may also raise the stakes. In my Mayan historical drama, *The Well of Sacrifice*, the main character escapes a power-hungry high priest. He threatens to kill her entire family, forcing her to return to captivity.

Secondary characters can cause complications, too, even if they are not “bad guys.” In *The Ghost on the Stairs*, the kids’ mother decides to spend the day with them, forcing them to come up with creative ways to investigate the ghost while under her watchful eyes.

Finally, the main character may simply run out of time. At her first attempt, she had a week. At her second attempt, she had a day. Those two attempts have failed, and now she has only an hour! That creates tension.

For each turning point in the story, brainstorm 10 things that could happen next. Then pick the one that is the worst or most unexpected, so long as it is still believable for the story.

Coming next month: how to build the climax and finish your story.

Chris Eboch writes a variety of genres for all ages. Her historical fiction includes The Well of Sacrifice, a Mayan adventure, and The Eyes of Pharaoh, a mystery in ancient Egypt.

April is Poetry Month

In My Library of Story *by John J. Candelaria*

I stand before my library bookcase; my eyes read titles of tomes elegant authors chose to write. I'm excited to enter a new narrative, navigate pages of a story full with emotion, immerse myself in works of lovely language, wrap my mind around words scripted by someone else, their writing fervor ever present.

A real life story yearns to be picked, a dramatic nonfiction work jumps into my hand, a tale untold by others, a superb account of the Comanche way of life—a picture painted of past lives in the Southwest, vivid storytelling only a strong writer can render. A tale discovered in clashes of cultures, with a charm of beautiful words amid a horrendous saga.

Two fiction novels vie for my attention: a fencing master's dream to perfect an unstoppable thrust, the other a science fiction tale, a thriller with explorers set on the moon, books full of words on pages I turn quickly, unfolding like a morning glory, images in plots sound writers write.

An anthology of New Mexico poets draws my attention, its poetic sketches bring rhythm and beauty to people, places, events—a tight display of words tuned to nuances among diverse cultures alive in rich narrative, dramatic, lyric poems everyone can read.

From the bookcase, I open a wise newsletter of features on writing. My senses are aroused to pen an erotic romance story; I'm enticed to turn an article on fountain pens into a book. Another piece cites the allure of e-books. I read how good historical research precedes any long array of words.

In this library of story, words breathe life into people and places, pages and books, as authors labored to bring readers polished language. For deep in the mind of readers and writers, they know exquisite writing is honored.

Begin Poetry Month with a poetry celebration entitled "A Nosegay of Love Poems" at the Juan Tabo Library, 1-2:30 pm, Saturday, April 2. The audience is encouraged to participate by bringing a copy of one favorite love poem. Five to ten poems will be selected at random to be read by the author or by one of the featured poets. The event is family-friendly. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Ann Galligan at galliganea@msn.com.

Come, Cricket, Come *by Elizabeth Galligan*

Come, cricket muse
I didn't choose
to me you came.

Come, cricket, thrum
the tangled thicket
of my brain.

Come, cricket guide
bring words untried
by me remain.

Come, cricket, friend
my tiny familiar
my songs sustain.

SouthWest Writers & New Mexico State Poetry Society **Joint Poetry Reading**

Join us at
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle SE
1 -3 p.m. on Saturday, April 9

Open Mic, needn't be a member
Free—donations accepted to pay for venue and pastries

Come early to get signed in and settled—doors will open at 12 noon. Bring your own beverages. Attendees are encouraged to bring chap books, etc., to sell and business cards to exchange. Fliers and announcements of other poetry events are welcome. A table for recycling used poetry books is provided—Bring a book, take a book!

Contact Billy Brown, welbert53@aol.com or 401-8138 to RSVP, volunteer to help set up, or with questions.

Meetings

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

Saturday, April 2
10:00 a.m. to noon

Bonnie Lee Black

Creative Nonfiction in a Nutshell

Can everything that could be said about the broad, relatively new genre of creative nonfiction (CNF) writing fit into a nutshell? Well, no. But CNF author and instructor Bonnie Lee Black will do her best to give you enough to get you going in this one-hour presentation. She'll highlight the fundamentals, provide helpful handouts, and read from her newest CNF book, *How to Cook a Crocodile: A Memoir with Recipes*.

Bonnie Lee Black earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in New York and an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University-Los Angeles. She was a professional writer and editor in New York for twenty years and has been an educator in the U.S. and overseas for over fifteen years. She is the author of the memoir *Some-where Child* (Viking Press) and most recently *How to Cook a Crocodile: A Memoir with Recipes* (Peace Corps Writers). Black's essays have appeared in a number of anthologies and literary journals. She lives in Taos and teaches English and Creative Nonfiction Writing at UNM-Taos.



Tuesday, April 19
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mary Lou Dobbs

Radical Ideas on How to Write & Get Published

- How to think out of the box when it comes to writing a book, manual or article.
- How to get past the fear of rejection and learn how to communicate with the publisher or editor to get your work accepted.
- What is the appropriate time to wait for a response and what do you say before hanging up that insures a follow-up call.
- What is the startling statement that will catch an agent, publisher or editor's attention?
- How to create an interesting story to hook interest in your project when starting to market nationally.

Mary Lou Dobbs has written two books: *The Cinderella Salesman*, and *Repotting Yourself, Financial-Emotional-Spiritual Flow*. She developed two trainer courses: The Five Step Customer Care Course which she taught in Wells Fargo Bank and throughout the country, and The Nuts & Bolts of Selling which she taught to major national companies.



Saturday, May 7
10:00 a.m. to noon

Joan Logghe

Reverberations: Who Inspires Us, Whom We Inspire

Joan Logghe will discuss influence, homage and inspiration from others. She will talk about forms, old teachers, and passing it on. She sees how things can be derivative in an original way.

Joan Logghe is Poet Laureate of Santa Fe 2010-2012. Her awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry Grants, A Mabel Dodge Luhan Internship, and a Barbara Deming/Money for Women grant. She has taught at numerous schools and taught poetry in Bratislava, Vienna, and Zagreb, Croatia in 2004.

Her books include *What Makes a Woman Beautiful, Twenty Years in Bed with the Same Man* (a finalist in Western States Book Award), *Sofia, Rice, and The Singing Bowl* from UNM Press. With Renée Gregorio and Miriam Sagan, she is a founder of Tres Chicas Books.



Tuesday, May 17
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Dodici Azpadu

The Foundation of a Writer's Life

How do we make our lives as writers more satisfying? This presentation will help writers identify personal writing goals by untangling thorny questions about motive, identify writing weaknesses, take steps to meet personal goals, identify professional writing goals by assessing needs for income and/or recognition and find publication, marketing and promotion strategies that suit individual personalities.

Dodici Azpadu holds a PhD in Language and Literature and earned an MFA at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. She has taught in the Honors College at UNM, and currently, she teaches writing at CNM. Her novels *Saturday Night in the Prime Of Life* and *Goat Song* were published in the United States and Great Britain. Her third novel, *Living Room*, was a finalist for the 2010 NM Book Awards in Fiction.

Classes

BEYOND THE GATES: PUSHING BOUNDARIES WITH SPECULATIVE FICTION

Betsy James

**Wednesdays April 13, 20, 27,
May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1**

5:30 pm -8:00 pm

\$240 members and \$300 non-members (includes one year of membership). Limited to 10 participants

SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris NE, Suite A
(NW corner Comanche and Morris)



Speculative fiction—a.k.a. fantasy or science fiction—is the world's oldest literature, and currently it is evolving at a spectacular rate. Its "what if?" envelope pushing and imaginary settings provide a forum in which we can wonder, ask questions, express love and rage and grief. Speculative fiction is a multi-verse in which we can give shape to who we are and who we are becoming.

Join author Betsy James for eight weeks of assignments designed to challenge your imagination. Each will be a maximum of 1000 words, followed by discussion, mini-lessons, professional-level editorial feedback and peer critique.

Betsy James is the award-winning author of sixteen books for young adults and children. Her most recent fantasy, *Listening at the Gate*, is a Tiptree Award Honor Book and a New York Public Library Best Book for Teens. Visit her on the web at www.listeningatthegate.com

BUILD YOUR WEB SITE

Loretta Hall

**Saturdays April 16, 23, 30 and
May 7, 1:30 to 3:30 PM**

\$70 SWW members. Non-members:
\$90

Limited to 14 participants
SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris St.
NE, Suite A, (NW corner Comanche
and Morris)



Learn how to design a web site that will be attractive and effective. Topics include domain names, web site design concepts, hosting options, search engine rankings, and inexpensive (or free) site-building software. We will explore options for creating and maintaining your own web site without knowing any programming language. Using the types of template-based programs and reliable but inexpensive hosts we will discuss, the cost of your site can range from \$0 to about \$10 per month. If you decide to have someone build your site for you, this class will prepare you to talk knowledgeably with that person about what you want. In-class demonstrations and take-home exercises will get you started establishing your Internet presence.

Nonfiction author **Loretta Hall** has built five web sites using template-based software. One of her current sites, SubsurfaceBuildings.com, is the top search result for "underground buildings." A Top 20 Architecture site and an Xmarks Top 10 Site, it also received a 2007 Regional Award of Excellence from the Society for Technical Communication. Her newest site, NMSpaceHistory.com, supports her upcoming book *Out of this World: New Mexico's Contributions to Space Travel*.

INTRODUCTION TO WRITING HISTORICAL FICTION

Lois Ruby

**Wednesday Evenings, June 8, 15 and
22, 6:00 pm -8:00 pm**

**\$90 members and \$120 non-
members (includes six months of
membership).** Limited to 14 Students

SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris NE,
Ste A, (NW corner of Comanche and Morris)



If you'd like to dip your toes and your pen into the past and make it breathe again in stories and novels, this class is for you! We'll explore how to research and hone another era through fascinating characters who populate the past and invigorate the present. And we'll try to answer the Big Question: how *true* does historical fiction need to be? While

there's no obligation, you're welcome to bring something you've been working on, or start something during the weeks of the class, that we can gently workshop together for a brief part of each session. Open to novices and pros alike.

Lois Ruby is the author of 14 books for young people, including historical novels set in such diverse times and places as the 1607 Virginia Colony, the Underground Railroad in 1856 Kansas, the 1901 Galveston hurricane, Shanghai refugees in 1937, and the 1953 red-scare McCarthy era. She ventured into an historical ghost story in her latest book, *The Secret of Laurel Oaks*, and her next book is even more of a departure -- historical nonfiction. An ex-librarian, she now writes fulltime between speaking at literature festivals, presenting workshops, and touting the joys of thought-provoking reading in schools around the country. Visit her website, www.loisruby.com, for more about her and her books.

Successes and Announcements

Voices of New Mexico, the first book published by the New Mexico Book Co-op, commemorates the Centennial of New Mexico with 39 differing views of life and history in New Mexico. It will be released on Saturday, April 16, 2011, 11a.m., at the Loma Colorado Rio Ranchos Public Library. 35 authors, including nine SouthWest Writer members, have written essays about New Mexico. The SWW members are **Shanti Bannwort, Irene Blea, David J. Corwell y Chavez, Stephanie Farrow, Ruth Friesen, Melody Groves, Loretta Hall, Sue Houser, Marilyn Stablein, and Lela-Belle Wolfert**. Many of the authors will be available to sign copies of the book available for sale and talk about the project. There will be light refreshments served and the event is free and open to the public.

Mark Conkling's new novel, *Prairie Dog Blues*, was published by Sunstone Press in February, 2011, and is available through Amazon.com or at www.prairiedogblues.net.

David Pauly's fantasy fiction novel *Icarus Rising* was recently published by Black Rose Publishing.

Odyssey is an internationally known, six-week workshop for writers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Held every summer at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH, it offers developing writers intensive, professional critiques and lectures on the major elements of genre writing. www.odysseyworkshop.org.

SOL: English Writing in Mexico is an on-line literary magazine that comes out quarterly in July, November, and March of each year. SOL is accepting nonfiction, fiction, and poetry submissions now for its July issue. Although much of the magazine's focus is on writing from or about Mexico, the editors have declared a special category called "we like it," which allows them to take a submission simply because it's good writing. <http://soliterarymagazine.com>.


Taos Toolbox, a master class in science fiction and fantasy, will be held July 10-23 in Taos Ski Valley. This year will be the fourth Taos Toolbox, and will feature award-winning instructors Walter Jon Williams and Nancy Kress, as well as guest lecturer Jack Skillingstead. <http://taostoolbox.com/>

The seventh annual **Writer's Conference** co-sponsored by **UNM Continuing Education** and **SouthWest Writers** will be held Saturday, April 9 at the UNM auditorium. Featured speakers are thriller novelist David Morrell; Thomas Colgan, Executive Editor of Putnam; Peter Hubbard, Senior Editor at Harper Collins; Whitney Ross, associate editor at Tor; Chuck Adams, Editor-in-Chief at Algonquin; and agent Amy Burkhardt of Kimberly Cameron Agency. If you wish a pitch session, register before April 1. www.dce.unm.edu

Professional Writers of Prescott (PWP) announces its call for entries for the 2011 Writing Contest for Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry. Monetary prizes will be awarded in each category for first, second and third place winners of original work, not previously published. All winners will be invited to read from their entries at the November meeting for Professional Writers of Prescott. Deadline is May 31, 2011. www.prescottwriters.com.

SWW Conference Coming in September

Fall in Love with Writing: A Conference for All Genres
and Awards Banquet
September 16-18, 2011
MCM Eleganté, 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque
The conference will focus on
writing and writing well in any genre.



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presents

**WET MOUNTAIN VALLEY
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A unique & intimate 6-day writing experience with

**ABIGAIL THOMAS
&
DOROTHY ALLISON**

AUGUST 7 – 13, 2011

COYOTE MOON LODGE
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(75 miles southwest of Colorado Springs)

For more information and registration, visit
www.TWINCOMPASS.COM

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505-453-5945

Successes and Announcements

The **2011 Compleat Biographer Conference** will be held on May 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Robert Caro and biographer Stacy Schiff, author of the best-selling *Cleopatra*, will be featured speakers. The conference features a daylong series of workshops focused on the practical aspects of biography ranging from research techniques to writing methods, from marketing to social networking. The conference will be preceded by a series of research workshops, at such important institutions as the Library of Congress and the National Archives, and a glamorous reception at the home of one of the city's leading biographers. www.biographersinternational.org

Paragraph Planet, the flash fiction website which asks for tales of (exactly) 75 words long is currently seeking new entries. See the current month's published tales at www.paragraphplanet.com/archive.htm and submit your entry.

The Bellingham Review is accepting flash fiction, prose poetry, and brief essays for online publication. The submission period runs through April 15th. Pieces can be up to 1000 words in length on any subject. Submit at <http://bhreview.submishmash.com/submit>.

The 2011 **Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition** accepts unpublished fiction up to 3500 words. Deadline is May 1. www.shortstorycompetition.com.

Writers Conferences and Workshops
<http://writing.shawguides.com/>

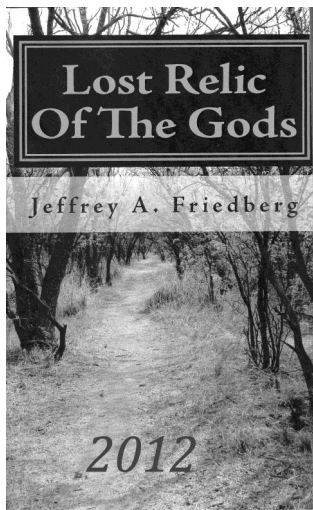
2011 Second Bi-Monthly Writing Contest

A Pet Anecdote

Let's hear a pet story -- can be funny, can be loving, can be a border collie, can be a toad. Submit no more than 500 words. Postmark deadline: April 29, 2011. Please note if you grant publication permission. All entries \$10. Prizes: \$150/1st prize; \$50/2nd prize; \$25/3rd prize. Mail entries to SWW Bimonthly Contest, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

Annual Contest Rules, continued from page 10

10. Winners will be posted on the SWW website. (www.southwestwriters.com)
11. SouthWest Writers reserves the right to disqualify any entry if contest rules are not followed. Common mistakes: (1) Writer's name on manuscript; (2) Incorrect fee enclosed; (3) Incorrect number of manuscripts submitted for critique; (4) No return address written on the SASE (See Rule 7).
12. You agree questions regarding the interpretation of these rules and any matters relating to the contest that are not specifically covered by the rules, will be decided solely at the discretion of contest officials. You will accept as final and be bound by all judges' decisions. You understand and agree that your manuscript will be subjectively evaluated, and SWW cannot accept liability for consequences arising from any opinion expressed. You agree to hold harmless and indemnify SWW, its agents, employees and volunteers for any and all losses, costs or expenses incurred from any dispute arising from your participation in the contest.

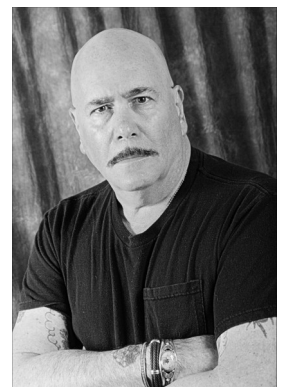


What if you could *live forever by moving heaven and Earth?*
...but heaven and Earth *suddenly moved by themselves!*

Private investigator Jack Vane is forced into a mythic journey by murder. Half-crazed, he is trapped by discovery of ancient secrets, vengeance—and a chance to save the world. Follow Jack through a labyrinth of doom-confronting situations, shadow-governments, the menace of a world overlord, and a climactic battle with an ancient Power—deep into the most terrible secret ever *not* known.

"Makes Indiana Jones look like child's play...action, love, magic, secrets, good and evil, and flat out outrageousness. Every surprise is topped by an even bigger, more unexpected explosion. Had me going right up to the end. ~Jenny Nathans, Book Review."

Amazon Bestsellers Rank: #15 Kindle Occult; #40 Kindle Science Fiction



Jeffrey Avalon Friedberg

<http://lostancientknowledge.com> a1.detective@gmail.com
Available at Amazon.com, and elsewhere online, or order at any bookstore

29th SWW Annual Contest Rules

The SouthWest Writers 29th International Writing Contest puts winning manuscripts in front of acquiring agents and editors. The contest is open to all original, unpublished work in the English language. Cash prizes are awarded to the top three entries in each category. First-place winners compete for the \$1,000 best-of-show Storyteller Award. **You do not have to be a SouthWest Writers member to enter.**

Deadline: Postmarked no later than **May 1, 2011**

Late entries: Postmarked no later than **May 16, 2011**
(\$5 late fee applies)

FICTION

1. Mainstream/Literary Novel

2. Mystery/Suspense/Thriller/Adventure Novel

3. Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Novel

4. Historical Novel (any locale and period)

5. Middle Grade (4-6th grade) or Young Adult (7th grade and up) Novel

For the above five categories, submit the first 20 double-spaced pages of the manuscript **plus** a single-spaced synopsis, two pages maximum. Number pages, starting with page two.

6. Mainstream/Literary Short Story. No more than 5,000 words. Manuscript must be double-spaced. Place word count on top of first page. Number subsequent pages.

NONFICTION

7. Memoir Book. Submit the first 20 double-spaced pages of the manuscript.

8. Memoir Article. No more than 2,500 words, double-spaced.

9. Nonfiction Essay/Article. No more than 2,000 words, double-spaced.

10. Personal Essay/Column. No more than 750 words, double-spaced.

For the above four categories, place word count on top of first page. Number subsequent pages.

11. Nonfiction Book. Submit the first 10 pages **plus** a book proposal of no more than 10 double-spaced pages **plus** a one-page, single-spaced query letter. Number pages, starting with page two.

12. Children's Picture Book. Submit the entire manuscript, double-spaced. Maximum 10 pages. Number pages, starting with page two. Do **not** submit illustrations. Target age: 4-7 years.

SCREENPLAY

13. Screenplay. Submit the first 20 pages in industry-standard format **plus** a one-page synopsis.

POETRY

14. Poetry. Submit **one** poem of up to three pages **or** up to **three**

haiku on **one** page.

OPTIONAL SOUTHWEST WRITERS CRITIQUE

You may purchase a professional critique from SouthWest Writers: Enclose the appropriate fee with your entry (see entry form); submit two copies of your entry; and enclose a 9x12 envelope with correct return postage (NOT metered postage). Poetry critiques may use a #10 envelope.

1. Each entry must be in a separate envelope accompanied by a completed Entry Form and Entry Fee. No certified mail. Enclose a **self-addressed, stamped postcard** if you want notification of receipt. Please provide an email address.
2. Write the Category Number you are entering on the outside of the envelope below your return address. Be sure to circle the Category Number on the entry form.
3. Your entry must be original, written in English and unpublished or un-optioned at the time of submittal. If your entry previously won 1st place in a particular category, it is ineligible for that category.
4. 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, double-spaced. Synopses and query letters must be single-spaced. Poems have no spacing requirements. Screenplays should follow industry-specific standards.
5. Your name **must not** appear anywhere on the manuscript, synopsis, book proposal or query.
6. **Submit one copy of the manuscript, synopsis, book proposal or query, as specified for the category you are entering. Two copies are required if you request an optional SouthWest Writers critique.** Manuscripts will not be returned except for those receiving a SWW critique. **IF YOUR ENTRY FEE INCLUDES A CRITIQUE FEE:** Submit **two (2) copies of your manuscript PLUS** a 9 x 12 self-addressed envelope with enough postage stamps affixed for return mail. **NO METERED POSTAGE.** Put YOUR Return Address on the SASE. The critiqued manuscript will be returned in your SASE in August 2011. Poetry critiques may use a #10 envelope.
7. Winners will be notified in August 2011. Prizes are as follows: 1st Place: \$150; 2nd Place: \$100; 3rd Place: \$50. All First Place winners compete for the \$1,000 Storyteller Award.
8. Contest judging takes place in two phases. A qualified panel of writers and editors selects the top 20 entries in each category. Those top 20 entries are then judged by an acquiring agent, editor or publisher appropriate to each category. The top three winners in each category receive a critique from the acquiring judge. Contacting any judge during the contest period about an entry is an automatic disqualification.
9. The professional editors, agents and/or publishers commissioned as judges are not employees of SouthWest Writers (SWW) and their opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SouthWest Writers.

2011 SOUTHWEST WRITERS WRITING CONTEST 5-STEP ENTRY FORM

Step

1

Name: _____ Phone: () _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____
 Email: _____

Entry Title: _____

Step

2

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

**SWW
Mem-
bers**

Step 3

SOUTHWEST WRITERS MEMBERS: Circle Fee Enclosed

Postmarked no later than May 1, 2011

Contest Only	\$20	Poetry Only	\$10
Contest & Critique	\$45	Poetry & Critique	\$30

Postmarked no later than May 16, 2011

Contest Only	\$25	Poetry Only	\$15
Contest & Critique	\$50	Poetry & Critique	\$35

**Non-
Mem-
bers**

Step 3

NON-MEMBERS: Circle Fee Enclosed:

Postmarked no later than May 1, 2011

Contest Only	\$30	Poetry Only	\$20
Contest & Critique	\$55	Poetry & Critique	\$40

Postmarked no later than May 16, 2011

Contest Only	\$30	Poetry Only	\$25
Contest & Critique	\$60	Poetry & Critique	\$45

Step

4

Method of Payment:

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

☐ Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code # _____ Signature _____

Step

5

How did you hear of contest? _____

Mail completed entry form, entry and fee to:

SouthWest Writers Contest 2011
 3721 Morris NE Ste A
 Albuquerque, NM 87111-3611

southwestwriters.com swwriters@juno.com (505) 265-9485

SouthWest Writers Workshop

3721 Morris NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

www.southwestwriters.com

SWWriters@juno.com

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

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SouthWest Sage



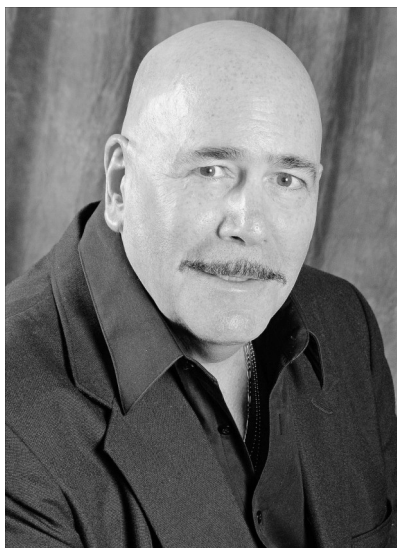
**National Federation of
Press Women
2010 Award-Winning
Newsletter**

**Label shows your SWW Membership expiration date.
Renew promptly to retain your membership benefits.**

Change Service Requested

**To register for classes and workshops go to
www.southwestwriters.com, sign up with credit card or
check at an SWW meeting, or call 265-9485.**

***The food at SWW meetings is provided
by the attendees. If you'd like to have snacks to
munch, please contribute.***



A Short-Cut Pamphlet On Writing

By the Amazon E-books

Best Selling Author

Jeffrey A. Friedberg

*You could spend hundreds of dollars on 20 or 30 books to
get all the great nuggets you get in Jeffrey Friedberg's
Secret Pillars of Writing! --Hank Magoo Reviews*

*Quite bluntly, Friedberg's book stands heads and shoul-
ders over Elmore Leonard's...If you want to be a writer.
Read this book. --Saint Dubricius Reviews*

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(\$5.39)**

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