

SouthWest Sage

August 2009

www.southwestwriters.com

Novel Conference for All Genres August 15

Program

The SouthWest Writers Novel Conference will be held Saturday, August 15 at CNM Workforce Training Center, 5600 Eagle Rock Ave. NE in Albuquerque. "We have stellar speakers, editors and agents so you won't want to miss this opportunity," says Conference Chair Sandra Toro.

Pitches will be taken by Liz Trupin-Pulli, Agent, JET Literary Associates, Inc; Gabe Robinson, Editor, William Morrow; Carrie Feron, Executive Editor at Avon Books, and one other agent or editor to be announced. They will also participate in the round table discussion led by Kirt Hickman. All pitch slots are full, but contact Sandra at storo32567@aol.com to be put on a waiting list in case of cancellations.

The focus of the speakers' presentations will be how to write for that genre; for example, the elements of a blockbuster science fiction book, and a discussion of the market for that genre.

You may register for this conference by filling out a registration form at our meeting on Saturday, August 1, register online at www.southwestwriters.com, or mail in the registration form from page 11 of the Sage. CNM does not allow sales at its facility, so registrations cannot be accepted at the door. Sign up now.



Celebrating July 4 by attending the SWW Saturday meeting are Melody Groves, Judy Avila, Kathleen Hessler, and Jack Hickman.

8:30-9:00	Check in – coffee, tea, pastries & fresh fruit
9:00-9:15	Welcome: SANDRA TORO , Conference Chair Introduction of MELODY GROVES , Mistress of Ceremonies
9:15-10:15	JO-ANNE POWER – Women's Fiction
10:15-10:30	Break – coffee, tea, pastries & fresh fruit
10:30-11:30	MICHAEL MCGARRITY – Western mystery and thrillers
11:30-12:30	WALTER JON WILLIAMS – Science Fiction
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-2:30	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH AGENTS AND EDITORS – MODERATED BY KIRT HICKMAN
2:30-3:30	JANE LINDSKHOLD – Fantasy
3:30-3:45	Break – cookies and soft drinks
3:45-4:45	SANDRA K. TORO – Historical Fiction
4:45	Closing Remarks – MELODY GROVES

*See Registration
Form on Page 11.*

Don't Forget Who You Wanted to Be



President Rob Spiegel

The title of this month's message comes from a bumper sticker. How many of you wanted to be a writer? Then life got in the way. A bread and butter job. Kids. Other people came first. And writing wasn't practical. Writing didn't pay the bills. Decades went by. Then one day you begin to remember who you wanted to be.

Gloria Steinem said "Writing is the only thing, that when I do it, I don't think I should be doing something else."

I wanted to write poetry and fiction. So what did I do? I spent 30 years as a journalist. Close, but no cigar. I happy'd a life with words, and paid the bills, and it's been quite the adventure, but something deep inside still needed to be scratched. So I returned to poetry and fiction – trying to remember who I wanted to be.

And, like Steinem, the time spent writing poetry and fiction was time spent doing something important enough that I didn't worry about whether I should be doing something else. I hope I'll be wildly successful with poetry and fiction, but success is hardly the point. That point is that I'm doing what I believe – somewhere deep inside – I'm supposed to be doing.

About two years into my return to poetry and fiction it occurred to me that success doesn't determine whether it's worthwhile. Writing poetry and fiction does something important for my life, something inexplicit. The process is often difficult, sometimes painful, but when I'm done writing each day, I'm somehow larger for the effort. And I no longer wonder whether I'm doing what I should be doing with my life.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Novel Conference
- 3 Officer Elections
- 4 Characterization Pitfalls
- 5 Book Expo
- 6, 7 Meetings
- 8 Classes
- 9 Successes, Contests and Announcements
- 10 Membership Survey
- 11 Novel Conference Registration Form
- 12 Critique Groups

Kirt Hickman
Sherri Burr



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Grant Bresett	Jerry Pomaikai
Barbara Seese	Deran McKeen
Karen Kalgren	Brian Herrera
Jenelle Hansen	John Richardson
Joy Garratt	Thea Skyer
Christel Hanson	Joseph Carraro
Mike Meriney	Ann Stinde
Michael Liptay	Megan Argo

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

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

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



SouthWest Sage

*Published monthly by the Board of Directors of
SouthWest Writers, a nonprofit, tax-exempt
501(c)(3) organization.*

Subscription is a benefit of membership.

President Rob Spiegel
robspiegel@comcast.net
Vice-President Larry Greenly
SWWriters@juno.com
Secretary/Parliamentarian Keith Pyeatt
keithpyeatt@comcast.net
Treasurer Harold Burnett
swwhmb@aol.com
Conference Chair Sandra Toro
storo32567@aol.com
Writers Contest Chair
Kathleen Hessler swwriters@juno.com
Critique Service Edith Greenly
SWWriters@juno.com
Speakers Rob Spiegel
robspiegel@comcast.net
Membership Jeanne Shannon
JSPOETRY@aol.com
Public Relations Melody Groves
MelodyGroves@comcast.net
Class Coordinator Dianne Layden
dlayden@earthlink.net
SWW Sage Editor Ruth Friesen
ruthsww@comcast.net
Workshop Coordinator Gary Ness
ness66@comcast.net
Volunteer Coordinator Bob Gassaway
bgassaway@gmail.com
Historian Peggy Herrington
peg@msn.com
E-lert Mistress Gail Rubin
grpr@flash.net

SWW Office:

3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87111
phone: (505) 265-9485
e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com
website: www.southwestwriters.org

*Articles are copyright © 2009 by author.
Facts, views and opinions expressed are
those of the authors and do not necessarily
reflect the viewpoints or opinions of South-
West Writers. SWW does not necessarily
endorse the advertisers.*

SWW Officer Elections to Be Held October 3

The nominating committee has chosen the following candidates for officers for 2010: Melody Groves, President; Robert Spiegel, Vice President; Larry Greenly, Secretary. Write-in votes will also be accepted at the meeting on October 3. The nomination of a candidate for position of Treasurer is still open. Interested parties should contact the chair of the nominating committee Gary Ness at ness66@comcast.net. According to the bylaws, "To be eligible for the office of treasurer, a person shall have been a member in good standing for at least one (1) year preceding the date of nomination or have this requirement waived by the Board, and have the necessary qualifications for the position."

Mail-in votes and email votes will be accepted and must be received at the SWW office by noon on October 2.

An SWW member for ten years, **Melody Groves** has been the public relations chair for four of those years. A native New Mexican, born and raised in Las Cruces, she uses the West as the focus of her two non-fiction books and four novels. She also writes for *New Mexico Magazine*, *True West* and *albuquerqueARTS*, and critiques and reviews manuscripts and books for UNM Press and individuals. Her awards include the SWW 2008 Parris Award, the 2008 New Mexico Book award for Historical Fiction Novel (*Arizona War*), a SWW writing contest first place win for magazine articles, and a first place win for fiction in a Deming city writing contest.



Groves' vision for SouthWest Writers is one of growth, not only in terms of members, but also in terms of reaching out to other writing organizations. Publishing is a tough business, and she firmly believes that writers should help each other whenever possible. She'd like to do this through more joint meetings with local groups, and a connection with others' newsletter and/or websites. She'd also encourage additional class offerings with a wider diversity of subjects. Groves sees her role as president as the leader of a "team effort" to keep SWW the powerhouse that it has become.

She is active in Western Writers of America, a group of professional writers who focus on the American West. Through those contacts, she's able to bring other points of view back to SWW. Known as "Mad Mel," Groves is also a member of the New Mexico Gunfighter Association. They perform comedic Old West skits in Old Town every Sunday afternoon (March-November). Although she brandishes her single action six-gun against the sheriff or bad guys there, she promises not to wield it at SWW meetings.



Among other things, **Robert Spiegel** is a magazine editor and book author. He has published thousands of magazine articles, scores of poems, dozens of short stories and many books, all with national publishers. For 10 years he owned the magazine *Chile Pepper* and a book publishing company. He is the current president of SouthWest Writers.

Larry W. Greenly, current SWW vice president, has been a member since 1992, and has held every position on the board except treasurer. Greenly is a recipient of the Parris Award and SWW Service Awards and is the SWW office coordinator. He has published hundreds of magazine articles and has recently won state and national awards as an editor. Greenly has been instrumental in improving the financial status of SWW.



Avoid Common Characterization Pitfalls

by Kirt Hickman

You've fleshed out your characters. You've given them flaws as well as virtues, internal struggles and external conflict, past lives and prior relationships. In short, they've become real people with real goals, real motivations, real relationships, and real emotions. Great! Now go back and make sure you've avoided the following characterization pitfalls:

CHARACTERS THAT ARE TOO SIMILAR

Make sure each character's personality is different from that of every other character. You don't want all your characters to behave in the same way or talk like one another. They're people, not automatons. If each is like the others, none will seem real. And if your characters don't seem real, your reader won't care about what happens to them.

WEAK-WILLED HERO

It's hard for your reader to relate to a wimp or a pushover. If your hero doesn't care enough about his cause to assert himself to achieve it, why should the reader care enough to read about it?

Make your hero a doer, not a watcher. If he just stands by while somebody else solves his problems and overcomes his obstacles for him, he's not much of a hero. Your reader wants a hero who rises to the challenge, faces his problems head-on, overcomes adversity, and either achieves his goal or becomes ennobled by his effort to do so. Put your hero in the driver's seat, literally and figuratively, at every opportunity.



CLICHÉD CHARACTER TRAITS

Go back through your list of traits for each character. Have you created a dumb blond, a mad scientist, a brutish albino hit man, a crooked sheriff, or any one of dozens of character types that have been done to death in books and movies? Take your dumb blond and make her not dumb or not a blond. Make your mad scientist not mad or not a scientist.

Consider a western with a stereotypical crooked sheriff. He owns the town, rules by fear, accepts bribes from criminal elements, and has the judge in his back pocket. Yuck! Too clichéd! When I find a clichéd character in my own writing, I play "What if..." or "Suppose..." These words help me brainstorm ideas to twist my character until he no longer feels clichéd.

For example, *suppose* the sheriff is a woman. *Suppose* she's corrupt in actions, but not in motivation. *Suppose* she was made sheriff by her father, a powerful and corrupt politi-

cian, who not only threatens her life, but that of her children as well. *Suppose* she must find a way to overthrow her father's influence in order to free herself from his web of corruption. You see how it works.

More subtly, do you have an otherwise-original character who exhibits a single trait that's a cliché for his character type? The brutish hit man who happens to be albino might fall into this category. Albinos are certainly rare, but in literature and movies, they almost always appear as brutish villains. Move this trait to a sophisticated good guy, maybe even the hero. How might that affect his life, the way people treat him, or his opportunities for social, political, or economic advancement? Is his society tolerant of such aesthetic differences? Does it hinder him in his quest?

Here I must make a distinction between realism and cliché. What if you create a 10-year-old boy who never cleans his room? Is he realistic or clichéd? Here's my test: Do most real ten-year-old boys live in dirty rooms, or do most keep them clean? I suspect the former. If so, a character with this trait is realistic. He should have some trait that's unusual for his demographic, however, so he doesn't feel to the reader like a cardboard cutout. If most *real* ten-year-old boys live in clean rooms but a high percentage of *fictional* ten-year-old boys are characterized by dirty rooms, a ten-year-old boy with a messy room falls into the realm of cliché.

By contrast, are most sheriffs really corrupt, or are they just portrayed that way too often? In this case, the latter is true. This is what makes the crooked sheriff, the dumb blond, the mad scientist, and numerous other character types clichés.

Apply this test to each of your characters. If you find a single clichéd trait in an otherwise-original character, one solution is to replace the trait with its opposite. Do what the reader won't expect.

FORGETTING SECONDARY CHARACTERS

The waiter, the cab driver, the shoeshine boy, and other characters who appear fleetingly need not be fleshed out as completely as your main characters, but that doesn't mean you should leave them as cardboard cutouts. Give each character at least one interesting trait.

It's not enough for your characters to be realistic. Make sure each is both unique and memorable.

Kirt Hickman has Bachelor and Master degrees in Electrical Engineering from UNM, and leverages his knowledge and experience to enrich his stories. Worlds Asunder is his first novel.

Minding Finances: Book Expo

By Sherri Burr

Attending Book Expo America is like browsing the book equivalent of a candy store where everything is free. Book Expo America is also a conference with some of the most brilliant minds and top authors in our business and you have to make choices on whom to see. Given both these aspects, Book Expo requires writers to discipline themselves by partaking of only what they really want to experience, read or share with others.

For these reasons I love Book Expo and highly recommend this conference to all my writing friends and acquaintances. The 2009 conference was held in New York, as will be the 2010 event. While attendance was down 14 percent from the 2007 conference held in New York, there were still 29,000 attendees. If you do decide to go next year, here are a few tips:



Tip 1. Attend the Free Lunches

Book Expo usually costs around \$110 for an industry professional such as a writer or author, \$70 for an educator, and is free to the press. I applied for a press pass and listed myself as a columnist for the Southwest Sage. I paid for some events and attended many free ones.

One book group hosted a complimentary "Meet the Best-sellers" luncheon with David Baldacci and Nicholas Sparks. They spoke, and all attendees received free autographed copies of their books. Although very different authors, they have each penned over a dozen bestselling books with 18 million copies in print. Baldacci described writing as the best job he's ever had. "I get paid to do what I love," he said. I appreciate his novels because of the nuanced characters. The bad guys are not all bad and the good people are not totally good.

As both speakers answered the same questions, I could see their varied approaches to writing, researching, and creating characters, and yet they both arrived at the top of the writing game. The lesson here is there's no one mode for writing. You can be yourself and still succeed.

Tip 2. Pay for some of the other events

The opening breakfast was led by Julie Andrews, the Academy Award winning actress and the bestselling author of children's books. It cost \$20 - \$40 to attend, depending on whether you choose to sit in the theater section or at a table that served continental breakfast. I skipped the breakfast

and thought the \$20 fee well worth it to hear Andrews and other children's book authors discuss their work. The complimentary copies of the authors' works more than made up for the fee. While I don't write children's books, I learn from exposure to other genres.

Another paid lunch featured Daniel Pink, the author of *A Whole New Mind* and the forthcoming book called *Drive: The Surprising Truth of What Motivates Us*. Pink said that while scientists have often focused on biological urges or carrots and sticks, intrinsic motivation comes from doing things we find interesting and fun. While it is rewarding to be paid to work, doing something because you want to do it is an even stronger inspiration.

Tip 3. Decide What's Most Important

This year, I most wanted interviews for my next book. I stood in line to obtain books from authors and then would point to my press badge that said "Sherri Burr, SouthWest Sage" and asked the publicist for an interview. James Van Praagh's publicist said, "I might be able to squeeze you in if you wait until after this signing." Fortune shined on me when Van Praagh's line finished early and I could interview him quickly.

Some of you may recognize the name of James Van Praagh as a medium who became a bestselling author and a TV producer. I asked him why he started writing and his quick reply was "To teach people and get the word out." Van Praagh sees television as one of the best media forms to reach large groups. He has starred in several shows and is the executive producer of *Ghost Whisperer*, starring Jennifer Love Hewitt. Van Praagh came up with the idea and then sold it.

If you would like to read Van Praagh's well written book, send me an email to sburr5100@aol.com and I'll send a free copy to the first responder. If you're interested in learning more about Book Expo America and possibly attending next year, please check out www.bookexpoamerica.com.

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.



Are you over 50? You are eligible to attend Larry and Rob's writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center, held every Monday from 2:00—3:15. Join any Senior Center for the grand annual fee of \$13 and the class is free. Bear Canyon is two blocks north of Montgomery, one block east of Eubank.

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



Newcomers Breakfast August 1

Join us before the regular first Saturday meeting on August 1 at 8:30 for the semi-annual newcomers breakfast. Breakfast goodies will be provided by SWW board members. Anyone who has not already attended a new member breakfast is welcome. Board members will explain the range of services and benefits available through SouthWest Writers.

Saturday, August 1
10:00 a.m. to noon

Mark Rudd

Switching from Essay Writing to Storytelling: Four Years to Write a Short Memoir

Mark Rudd will discuss his process of writing "Underground: My Life in SDS and Weatherman." He'll illustrate his editing and rewriting process with examples from drafts. He'll also read a passage from the finished work and answer questions.

Mark Rudd was one of the main leaders of the 1968 student strike at Columbia University. He subsequently became National Secretary of Students for a Democratic Society, SDS, and was one of the founders of the militant Weather Underground, which sought to overthrow the government of the United States using violence. He was a fugitive until 1977. His recent book, *Underground*, covers this period 1965-1977.

In 1978, Mark moved to Albuquerque and was an instructor at Central New Mexico Community College (TVI) until he retired at the end of 2006. He's been active in a variety of struggles in New Mexico: anti-nuclear, Native American land rights, solidarity with Central America, union organizing, anti-war organizing, and environmental justice work.

Tuesday, August 18
7 to 9 p.m.

Pati Nagle

The Secret Handshake

Is there a secret handshake that will help a new writer break into professional markets? A trick to getting the best agent? A way to rise above the slush pile? Since 1986, Pati Nagle has sold short fiction pieces to national magazines and anthologies, and six novels to New York publishers. She reveals some of the secrets of maintaining a career - not to mention personal sanity - in the vortex of chaos that is publishing.

Pati Nagle was born and raised in the mountains of northern New Mexico. An avid student of music, history, and hu-

mans in general, she has a special love of the outdoors, which inspires many of her stories.

Nagle's stories have appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, the *Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Cicada*, *Cricket*, and in various anthologies, including collections honoring New Mexico writers Jack Williamson and Roger Zelazny. She has also written a series of historical novels as P.G. Nagle. She is a Writers of the Future finalist and finalist for the New Mexico Press Women's Zia Award. Her latest novel is the romantic fantasy *The Betrayal*, released in 2009 by Del Rey Books.

Saturday, September 5
10:00 a.m. to noon

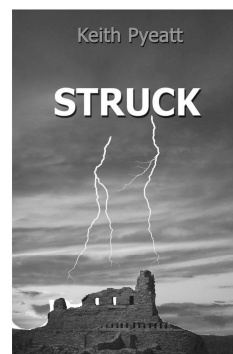
Keith Pyeatt

Small Presses - Are They for You?

Do you have a completed, polished novel or non-fiction book you'd like to have published? It's not always possible, or desirable, to get a contract with a major publishing house, especially in this market. Self-publishing isn't for everyone. Have you considered small presses?

Keith Pyeatt will discuss the different types of small presses, how to find appropriate ones for your book, what to look for, what to avoid, and what to expect. Keith has two novels being published by small presses. He will share experiences that led him to pursue this route to publication and reveal things he's learned along the way.

For more information about Keith and his novels, visit www.keithpyeatt.com or www.keithpyeatt.blogspot.com.



A POWER AWAKENS A DESTINY BEGINS

When lightning strikes Barry as he hikes among ancient petroglyphs, it's more than an accident of nature. It's a calling. Earth's fate is now tied to Barry's, and Barry's destiny is linked to the past.

To find out more about Keith Pyeatt's paranormal thrillers or to buy a copy of *STRUCK*, go to:

www.horrorwithheart.com

HORROR WITH HEART
Paranormal thrills, real emotion

Tuesday, September 15
7 to 9 p.m.

Virginia DeBolt

Should You be Using Twitter?

Learn what Twitter is, how to use it, and the potential value it might have to advance your writing career. You'll see specific examples of how to sign up and use Twitter. You'll learn how to find writers and people who share your interests on Twitter, and get tips on how to incorporate Twitter into your writing and marketing life.

Virginia DeBolt is a former educator who has found a second/third career as a technical writer. Virginia blogs regularly on her own blogs at webteacher.ws and first50.wordpress.com. She's a contributing editor on technology topics for blogher.com and the Internet expert at ehow.com. Virginia serves as the TGB Elder Geek for timegoesby.net. She has researched and written about Twitter for all those web publications.

Saturday, October 3
10:00 a.m. to noon

Steven F. Havill

Momentum — How to Get It and How to Keep It: Easy Ways to Avoid the Tarps of Writing

The talk focuses on the "tarps" that capture writers and hold fast, ruining any chance of finishing that novel manuscript. Havill offers fundamental tips for keeping momentum high, some of which may surprise you.

Steven F. Havill, in addition to stints as a newspaper reporter, photographer, and editor, has taught for 25 years at secondary schools in Grants and Ruidoso, NM, as well as writing classes at NMSU-Grants and Trinidad State Junior College. Havill's first novel, *The Killer*, was published by Doubleday in 1981. That was followed by 20 more. One of Havill's hobbies is the history of medicine, and his historical/medical adventure *Race for the Dying* will be released by St. Martin's Press in October 2009. Also coming in November 2009 from Poisoned Pen Press is the thoroughly New Mexican mystery, *Red, Green, or Murder*.

Havill has offered writing workshops around the Southwest for many years, including a continuing series of weekly workshops at the Arthur Johnson Memorial Library in Raton.

2009 Awards Banquet



Join the excitement as we celebrate the **WINNERS** of SWW's **2009 Annual Writing Contest!** See who receives the **SWW 2009 Storyteller Award** from among first place winners in all 16 categories.

Saturday, September 19, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

Marriott Albuquerque, 2101 Louisiana NE (Just North of I-40)

Reservation deadline: **September 1.**

Reserve by mailing this form or calling SWW at (505) 265-9485 with your credit card information.

Mail complete form & fee to: SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris NE Ste A, Albuquerque, NM 87111

Number of Reservations _____

Names: please print _____

Telephone where we can reach you _____

Method of Payment: \$30.00 (including beverage, tax, gratuity) — **Payable in advance.**

___ Check or Money order (no cash) US \$ payable to SouthWest Writers

Charge my ___ Visa ___ Mastercard Exp. Date _____ Card # _____ Security Code # _____

Signature _____

Entrees: (Check one or indicate number) _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian

*Need accommodations? Special rates at the Albuquerque Marriott are available.
Call SWW (505) 265-9485 between 9 a.m. and noon weekdays for details.*

PUTTING THE RIGHT WORDS ON PAPER**Bob Gassaway****Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1 and 8****Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at SWW office***3721 Morris NE (northwest corner of Morris and Comanche)***Cost:** \$79 for members, \$89 for non-members.

Class size limited to 14

To convey your message precisely to readers, you need to sharpen your language skills, brush up on your punctuation and choose the storytelling style appropriate to your message and your medium. Bob Gassaway, who has had a career as a journalist and as a journalism professor, will show you in a series of six weekly classes how to develop your ideas and communicate them clearly and precisely to your readers, whether you are writing fiction, non-fiction or memoir.

- Grammar review
- Punctuation review
- Getting words on paper
- Telling a story
- Creating fictional characters
- Writing non-fiction
- Choosing the right words
-

Bob Gassaway, Ph.D., has worked as a writer and editor for newspapers, magazines and The Associated Press. He is co-editor of a non-fiction book called *Dirty Work* and is writing his second mystery novel.

REVISING FICTION: MAKING SENSE OF THE MADNESS**Kirt Hickman, Mondays, August 3, 10, 17, 24,**

This class is full.

HOW TO SUCCEED WITH MAGAZINES WORKSHOP**Rob Spiegel and Larry Greenly****Saturday, October 17, 9:00 - 4:30 p.m.****Location to be announced****Cost:** \$69, \$119 for nonmembers (includes a one-year membership). Workshop price includes lunch.

This workshop will look at all aspects of writing for magazines. We will look at how to develop great ideas, write winning queries and draft great articles. We'll also look at the nuts and bolts of working with magazine editors. The class will include homework in writing queries, finding markets and developing article outlines.

Rob Spiegel has 30 years of magazine experience, both with consumer magazines and trade publications. He has been senior editor at *Ecommerce Business* and *Electronic News*. He is currently a contributing editor at *Design News*

WOMEN'S FICTION**Sandra Toro****Part 1: September 14, 21, and 28, plus October 5****Part 2: October 12, 19, and 26, plus November 2****Mondays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at SWW office***3721 Morris NE (northwest corner of Morris and Comanche)***Cost** for EACH part: \$65 members; \$70 non-members

Limited to 14 persons per session

Men who write women's fiction are welcome to attend.

The class will address the following sub-genres:

- Domestic realism
- Romantic suspense
- Mysteries/thrillers with female protagonist/heroine
- Family Saga, historical

The first two classes will be lecture and discussion; after that the first hour will be lecture, followed by critique of two student works, a half-hour each. Each student's work will be critiqued by the instructor as well as by all the other students. Two novels will be examined extensively: the contemporary/historical now on the best-seller list, *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana De Rosnay and the classic *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell. Both are available at the library and in paperback.

Sandra K. Toro is a published novelist with two novels to her credit: a World War II historical family saga and a contemporary romance. She has recently completed a family saga set in the 16th Century in Italy. She has taught creative writing, literature, composition, and business writing at the University of Nebraska and community colleges in Nebraska. She is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant, and her work has appeared in *Redbook*, *McCalls*, the *Platte Valley Review*, and *Environment*.

and *Automation World*. He also owned the consumer food magazine, *Chile Pepper*, for 10 years. Rob is president of SouthWest Writers and co-teaches a writing class with Larry Greenly at Bear Canyon Senior Center. He also teaches magazine writing part-time at the University of New Mexico.

Larry Greenly's career as a freelance writer of non-fiction articles began 20 years ago with a long-running medical column in an international peer-reviewed professional journal. Since then he has published hundreds of articles on various topics in magazines and other publications. Greenly has edited a number of books for other writers and was recently a recipient of state and national editing awards for his literary page in *albuquerqueARTS* magazine. Currently, he's vice president and office manager of SouthWest Writers, and the literary editor of *New Mexico Breeze*.

Register at a SWW meeting or by calling the SWW office at 265-9485.

Successes

Jonna-Lynn Mandelbaum's third novel involving Mozambique has been released by Outskirts Press. Information about *Unpredictable Crossing* and her other novels can be found at www.jonna-lynn.com. The third novel differs from the previous two based on the lives of real people since this one is completely fiction and transpires on a cruise ship during a transatlantic crossing.

Larry Greenly has won 1st place in the state National Federation of Press Women annual contest and 2nd place in the NFPW national contest for his *albuquerqueARTS* literary page in the "Page regularly edited by entrant, other than lifestyle or entertainment" category.

Elizabeth Ann Galligan was awarded Second Place for her poem "Eating Alone" and an Honorable Mention for another entry "Body Poetic" in the High Prairie Poets, New Mexico State Poetry Society Bi-Monthly Contest, May 2009.

Keith Pyeatt's horror short story "Finger Food" will be published in *The New Mexico Breeze* as their first serialized fiction. The first part of "Finger Food" will appear in the July 10th issue, so Keith's first published short story will come out the same day as his first novel, *Struck*. Keith welcomes visits to his website: <http://www.horrorwithheart.com>.

Survey and Chance to Win

Don't miss your chance to win a SWW membership. Everyone who responds to the SWW survey will be entered into a drawing to win. You also win by letting us know more about you and how we can better meet your needs. Are we providing the information and support you need? What is your expertise level and what do you need to advance to the next level in your writing? We want your ideas for speakers, classes and workshops, and are looking for ways to provide more opportunities for members to share their expertise.

To enter, fill out and mail the survey on page 10, complete the survey on-line at www.southwestwriters.com, or respond at one of the monthly meetings.

EMAIL SCAM ALERT

A member recently received an email that read in part: "We have read excerpt of your novel from the website. It is an engrossing novel. We are interested to publish this into Indonesia. We should be pleased if you would like send us the review copy. Do not hesitate to collaborate with us since we would be your business partner and many thanks for your prompt reply."

Websites for Contests

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

Announcements

Submissions for the **Roanoke Review's** annual fiction contest will be accepted from September 1 through November 13, 2009. First prize \$1,000; second prize \$500. Prize winners and runners-up will be published in the Spring 2010 issue. Send stories (maximum of 5,000 words) to Roanoke Review Contest, 221 College Lane, Salem, VA 24153. Include a \$15 check for each story, made out to Roanoke College.

The fourth quarterly **Poetry Open House** sponsored by Billy Brown will be held October 24, 2009 at 2909 Monterey Ave SE. Contact Billy at welbert53@aol.com or 268-0933 and leave your name and phone number.

Mark David Gerson's workshop **The Call to Write: Answering the Voice of Your Muse** will be held on August 8 from 1-5pm. This workshop offers a blend of tools, tips and inspiration. Cost is \$55 by Aug 4; \$75 after Aug 14. Registration limited to 10 people. Access the workshop flyer at <http://snurl.com/m1vyn>. His 3-week workshop **Spirit Writes: Opening to the Heart of Your Creativity** will be held Tuesdays, Aug 25 - Sept 8 from 6:30—8 p.m. For more information contact him at 505-795-1296 or www.markdavidgerson.com/contactmdg.html

Writing Resources Available

Wondering how to submit manuscripts, find markets, and fine-tune your work? Writing resource books are available for use in the SouthWest Writers office at 3721 Morris NE. Resources include *Writers Market*, back issues of *Writers Digest*, *Writers*, and *Byline*, books on the craft of writing, as well as thesauruses. (Or is it thesaurusi?) Larry Greenly, office manager as well as SWW Vice President, is at the office from 9:00 – noon Monday through Friday. If you'd like to verify that he will be there and not away at the bank when you arrive, give him a call at 265-9485.

SWW 2009 Third Quarter

Writing Competition

Anything Goes Poetry

Send us your poetry. Any style. Any meter. Any subject. Any spacing. Rhymed or unrhymed. Just fit it on one page. Contact information may go on either cover page or the page with the poetry. Postmark deadline: Wednesday, September 30. Please note if you grant publication permission. All entries \$10. Prizes: \$150/1st prize; \$50/2nd prize; \$25/3rd prize. Mail entries to SWW Quarterly Contest, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, 87111.

SOUTHWEST WRITERS SURVEY

MAIL TO: SWW, 3721 MORRIS NE, ST A, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, 87111

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

My writing status: ☐ just interested ☐ learning to write ☐ working on getting published ☐ publishedIf published, indicate types: ☐ magazines ☐ newspapers ☐ blog ☐ online contributor ☐ book

Genre: _____

Writing awards: _____

Would you be willing to serve as a resource for writers needing expert information? Examples: in-depth knowledge of a given country, occupation, hobby, unique niche such as accident investigation, crime investigation, medical knowledge.

Areas of expertise: _____

I learn about SWW meetings by ☐ Sage ☐ website ☐ email ☐ ABQ Journal _____ Other☐ I attend SWW meetings at least once a month. ☐ Saturday mornings ☐ Tuesday evenings ☐ Both☐ I attend at least three times a year. ☐ I have taken classes and workshops from SWW.☐ I have attended a conference by SWW. Topic of conference: _____☐ I rarely attend any SWW functions because of ☐ location ☐ schedule ☐ topics☐ I forget to go ☐ I don't need them Other: _____

What topics would you like to have addressed at SWW meetings or classes/workshops?

Please rank the topics below, with 1 being most desired.

☐ how to write ☐ critiquing ☐ finding markets ☐ editing ☐ publicity/marketing☐ finding an agent ☐ financial and legal how-to

Other: _____

I'd like to attend a conference on the following topics:

Are you interested in presenting a talk or class on the craft of writing for SWW? ☐ yes ☐ no

Topic: _____

Past experience in presenting: _____

I prefer to get the Sage newsletter: ☐ online ☐ on paper

Comments: _____

Please use a sheet of paper for any additional comments.

Registration Form for the SouthWest Writers' Conference**THE NOVEL—ALL GENRES****Saturday, August 15, 2009**

CNM Workforce Training Center, 5600 Eagle Rock Ave. N. E., Albuquerque, NM

Registration includes conference presentations, a box lunch Saturday, refreshments, and the possibility of a 10-minute pitch session with an agent or editor. The number of pitch sessions is limited and will be assigned on a first-come basis. Not everyone will get a session, but the earlier you register, the better your chances.

Conference times: Check in from 8:30-9:00 Saturday morning. Conference from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Are you a member of SouthWest Writers? ☐ YES ☐ NO

How did you learn about this conference? _____

Conference Cost (non-member registration includes a one-year membership to SWW):

_____ @ \$99.00 SWW member cost (registered by 7/15/09) = \$ _____

_____ @ \$129.00 SWW member cost (registered after 7/15/09) = \$ _____

_____ @ \$149.00 non-member cost (registered by 7/15/09) = \$ _____

_____ @ \$179.00 non-member cost (registered after 7/15/09) = \$ _____

Indicate method of payment (the only credit cards we accept are MasterCard and Visa)

☐ Check or money order (made out to SouthWest Writers)☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

If paying by credit card:

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____ (the last 3 digits of the number near your signature)

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I'd like a ten-minute pitch session with:

☐ an agent ☐ an editor

Saturday lunch preference (check one):

☐ Italian Chicken Focaccia ☐ The Awesome Veggie ☐ Ham and More Adventure ☐ Albuquerque Turkey

Special diet requirements or allergies _____

E-mail (SWWriters@juno.com) or mail this registration form to: SWW, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

For an update on speakers, check out our website: www.southwestwriters.com



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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALBUQUERQUE NM
PERMIT NO 1671

SouthWest Sage

SouthWest Writers

3721 Morris NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

www.southwestwriters.com

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

Any Genre, Albuquerque NE Heights

Meet every other Friday

Krys Douglas 505-830-3015

Poetry

Billy Brown 505-401-8139

welbert53@aol.com

Nonfiction

Peggy Spencer 505-270-8914

Screenwriting

G. Hathaway 505-249-7957

Nonfiction, Santa Fe

J. James Cunningham

grandpajimsf@peoplepc.com

Nonfiction, Valencia County

Karen Keese 505-261-0040

skywriter@wildblue.net

Children's Books Santa Fe

Idiemand@cybermesa.com

Fantasy/Sci-Fi

Tramway and Lomas

Abner Perez 505-363-1166

Abnerdontwanna@yahoo.com

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

Second Tuesdays 7 pm

Samantha 505-401-1561

sclark.abq@earthlink.net

Any Genre, Rio Rancho:

Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley

505-867-1408

riversedgebob@cableone.net

riograndema@cableone.net

Mystery

www.croak-and-dagger.com

Critique Groups

Submit requests to

SWWriters@juno.com

Duke City Screenwriters

Every other Thursday,

Flying Star on 7th and Silver.

Marc Calderwood 505-897-6474

skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com

Land of Enchantment

Romance Authors

Second Saturdays at noon.

leranm.com

Fantasy Writers

Borders Books, ABQ Uptown

Every other Saturday 4 PM

Ron Harrison

harrison653@hotmail.com