



Vol. 23, No. 12

December 2007

Conference for Mystery Writers and Fans: Saturday, February 16, 2008 Mystery, Mayhem and Murder

by **Wendy Bickel**
SWW Conference Chair

Croak & Dagger, the Albuquerque branch of Sisters in Crime, and South West Writers will present an exceptional one-day conference on Saturday, February 16, 2008. A festive banquet featuring award-winning mystery author **Susan Dunlap** will follow.

The daytime conference and evening banquet are separate activities, but the price is friendly, so why not sign up for both?

Those attending the conference may choose among a variety of sessions and speakers:

Associate editor **Toni Plummer** (Thomas Dunne Books, a division of St. Martins, New York) and literary agent **Zoe Fishman** (Lowenstein-Yost Associates, New York) will provide insight into what editors and agents really want to see. Mystery writers will have the opportunity to request a one-on-one pitch session with either Plummer or Fishman. *Pitch sessions are limited and will be assigned on a first-come basis.*

Book doctor **Dianne O'Connell** will show how mastering point-of-view can help turn a lackluster novel into a page-turner.

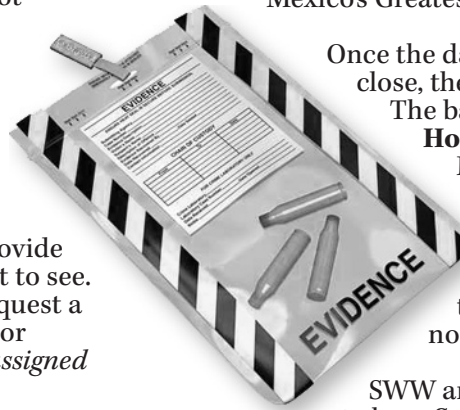
Award-winning author **Shirley Raye Redmond** will tell her audience how to "Hatch a Mystery Plot and Make it Chirp."

Dr. Michelle Barry, UNM Office of the Medical Investigator, will take her audience into the world of homicide autopsies.

Dr. Jess Benson, Director of the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center and Associate Professor at the UNM College of Pharmacy, will present "A Writer's Guide to Creating a Perfect Poisoning."

Phil Young, retired National Park Service special agent, firefighter and archeologist, will discuss murder and other mayhem that go on every day in our national parks.

Lucinda Schroeder, former special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and author of *A Hunt for Justice*, will reveal how real cops question suspects and detect deception in her presentation, "The Language of Liars." While conference attendees enjoy lunch, **Larry Barker**, investigative reporter with KRQE News 13, will regale them with the tale of "The Case of the Missing Tourists: New Mexico's Greatest Murder Mystery."



Once the daytime conference has drawn to a close, the evening festivities will begin.

The banquet at the **MCM Eleganté Hotel** will feature a choice of Mediterranean Stuffed Chicken Breast--stuffed with spinach, pine nuts, sundried tomatoes and feta cheese and topped with a wild mushroom sauce--or a tempting Vegetarian Lasagna. A no-host bar will be available.

SWW and Croak & Dagger are fortunate to have **Susan Dunlap** as our keynote speaker for the banquet. A founding member and past president of Sisters in Crime, Dunlap is an Anthony-winning author of numerous short stories and novels, including the mystery series featuring Berkeley cop Jill Smith and a series featuring medical examiner turned private investigator Kiernan O'Shaughnessy. Dunlap's latest offering is *A Single Eye*, the first book in a new series featuring Darcy Lott, a stunt woman with a secret. For those who would like to indulge, Dunlap's books will be available for purchase and signing at the banquet.

The conference will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the **UNM Continuing Education Building**. The banquet will be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the **MCM Eleganté Hotel**.

Ready to sign up? More information and the registration form are on pages 12-13 inside.

to
create
or not to
create
is that
really a
question?

From the Editor

Our upcoming February conference co-sponsored with **Croak & Dagger** is the big news this month, of course--as if you could have missed it on the cover. When you see the details about the presenters on page 13, I'm sure you'll agree that it promises to be a killer conference.



Kudos to all the talented SWW members whose articles are published in this issue. Count 'em up. It must be a first!

Looking for a creative stocking stuffer or holiday gift--and who isn't?--turn back to the cover of this issue and consider the mouse pad shown in the bottom, right corner.

to **create** or not to **create**
is that really a **question?**

Wendy Bickel, SWW Conference Chair, will be on hand at the December 1 meeting to answer questions, so bring yours along with a tasty dish for the annual **Holiday Pot Luck**. We'll munch through the morning, and **Rob Spiegel's** delicious egg-salad sandwiches are sure to be complemented by leftovers as we move from journaling to memoirs during the afternoon workshop. If it's anything like our other Pot Lucks, we'll certainly not go home hungry.

I ran across this little beauty online and couldn't resist ordering a couple from Cafe Press at www.cafepress.com/carrieowens.54676517. (Alas, I don't get a commission.)

Speaking of the holidays, be sure to take time out to write during even the busiest days this year. If your muse is waiting for Spring, write and send me e-mail about the topics you'd like to see addressed next year in *SW Sage*. Or send me an article. Member submissions in 2007 were wonderful. Help make that a tradition.

This is my eighth issue of the *Sage* and I'm looking forward to bringing them to you throughout next year. Just realize that I can't do that without your support and contributions. Thanks to everyone who so generously gave of their time and talent this year including my great assistants--**Harold Burnett, Lola Eagle, Larry Greenly** and **Jeanne Shannon**. Let's make 2008 even better.

Do have the happiest (and safest) of holidays!

Peggy



Award-winning young adult author, **Carolee Dean**, autographs one of her books following her presentation last month.

SWW member **Rose Marie Kern** writes, "Submitting work to magazines has to be one of the most frustrating and surprising of experiences. Though I do not always charge for my articles, I do expect that a national magazine of any repute will communicate in a timely manner. Wrong! Last March I submitted an article to *Countryside and Small Stock Journal*—a nationally recognized magazine for rural homesteaders. The article concerned various types of earth building options such as adobe and rammed earth. In April I submitted an article to *Homepower* magazine—another nationally known publication dealing with solar, wind, hydroelectric and other types of electrical power generation. Time passed. At the end of September I received my usual monthly issue of *Countryside*, and there was my article—three pages worth with pictures! The following week I was contacted by *Homepower* saying they love my article and want to publish it, but could I expand it from 625 words to 2,500 words by next week and send more pictures? Insanity! I made the deadline, even though the article will not come out until January. So, for anyone just breaking into magazine writing, my advice is to be flexible and expect anything!

Call for Articles and Writing Tips!
SouthWest Sage needs your words! Writers
Guidelines are on the *Sage* page at
SouthWestWriters.org.



Girls' night out? No, a clutch of creative beauties at the November SWW meeting.



SouthWest Sage

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Holiday Wishes
By Joanna Fuchs

*We wish for you a holiday
That's better than your dreams,
Filled with peace, good will and hope
And firelight that gleams,
Overflowing with holiday spirit
Good food and holiday laughter;
And when it's done, we hope that you
Live happily ever after!*

SWW

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Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

Individual: \$60 (\$100 for 2 years), Two People: \$50/each, Student: Over 18* \$40, Student: Under 18* \$25, Outside U.S.: \$65, Lifetime Membership: \$750
*Requires proof of student status. Download the Sage from SWW Website.

Join us! First Saturday: 10am-Noon; Workshop: 1-4 pm. Third Tuesday: 7-9 pm. New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Posole or Chicken Noodle Soup?

Saturday, December 1, marks our **Annual SWW Pot Luck**, so remember to bring something yummy with you that morning.



SWW December Classes

Classes are held at the SWW conference room at 3721 Morris St. NE Suite A in Albuquerque, which is available to members wishing to teach about writing. SouthWest Writers is not responsible for the opinions and teaching methods of the instructors. However, we welcome constructive criticism or comments on any class, and these should be forwarded to the office. Classes are limited to 14, and are tax deductible. Register by calling SWW (505) 265-9485 between 9 a.m. and noon weekdays.

How to Get Your Book Published

January 7-February 4—Non-Fiction
Monday Evenings 6:30-8:30pm
Cost: \$69 members, \$79 non-members

Ready to get your non-fiction book published? Rob Spiegel and Melody Groves will propel you on your way to fame with this series of 5 non-fiction classes that cover finding markets, writing queries (critiqued by Rob and Melody), writing proposals (critiqued and shared with the group), attending conferences (why that's crucial), and finding an agent.

Rob is the author of six published non-fiction books. Melody has authored one published non-fiction book and two fiction books (with two more non-fiction and a fiction book under contract).

Free Writing Class for Seniors

SWW offers a free writing class at Bear Canyon Senior Center every Monday from 3:00- 4:15pm. 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.

Book Signings

Saturday, December 1 at 3 p.m. Children's book author Anne Weaver and illustrator George Lawrence, authors of *The Voyage of the Beetle*, will host story time and book signing at Borders, West Side, 10420 Coors Bypass NW. *The Voyage of the Beetle* is the whimsical story of Rosie the Beetle who assists Charles Darwin on his trip around the world as he develops his Theory of Natural Selection.

Friday, December 7 Noon to 2 p.m. UNM Bookstore's annual Faculty & Staff Appreciation Holiday Book Signing will include UNM Press authors Carolyn Dodson and William Dunmire (*Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies*), V. B. Price (*Broken and Reset*), Basia Irland (*Water Library*), and John Martin Campbell with contributors (*The Great Houses of Chaco*). Additional authors TBA.

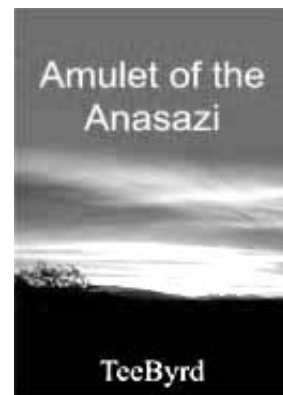
Saturday, December 8 at 1 p.m. Children's book author Anne Weaver and illustrator George Lawrence, *The Voyage of the Beetle* storytelling and book signing at Borders Uptown, 2240 Q Street NE.

Saturday, December 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. Will Davis, author of *Bell County Bushwhackers* will host a book signing at Hastings on Tramway NE.

Friday, December 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. Mark David Gerson will hold a book signing for *The MoonQuest: A True Fantasy* on Friday, at Hastings on Tramway.

Member Successes

SWW member TeeByrd reports the publication of her historically correct romance novel, *Amulet of the Anasazi*, by wordclay. "While this is a self-published book, wordclay offers the opportunity to submit your work. There are some good books with the bad. I hope this will encourage others to try self-publishing as it is fairly easy at reasonable rates."



Shirley Raye Redmond's 12th book, *Mermaids*, was released in September by Thomson Gale, as part of its popular Monsters series.

Sue Houser was interviewed about her book *Hot Foot Teddy: The True Story of Smokey Bear* on blogtalkradio for the National Writing for Children Center Book Bites for Kids portion of the show. Interviews of children's book authors are scheduled daily at 1:00 p.m. MST.

Judy Post, SWW member, reports that *Like Charms on a Bracelet*, a personal account of a biking trip in middle Dalmatia, was published in the October issue of *The Traveler* (www.touristtravel.com).



SWW Member Mark David Gerson reports that his title, *The MoonQuest: A True Fantasy* has placed as a Finalist in USA Book News 2007 Best Books Award, Fiction & Literature: Visionary Fiction category. Way to go, Mark David!

Randy Shamlian's new culinary memoir, *A Slice of Apple Pie*, published by Infinity Publishing, is now available through Amazon and at www.asliceofapplepie.com. Also, BookWorks on Rio Grande is carrying signed copies. Randy indulges the reader with his numerous anecdotes and humorous foibles while he stampedes through life to become a pastry chef.

SWW member and nonfiction writer Nigel Hey has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science "for meritorious service in the communication of science through four decades of sustained accomplishment in public affairs, science writing, editing, and publishing." His latest book, *The Star Wars Enigma*, was published in hardback in 2006 by Potomac Books and in paperback in October 2007. Each year the AAAS council elects members whose "efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished."



Perplexed by Ron Schultz

SWW Volunteer Coordinator

I'm struggling. Is it writer's block or just a vacuum of ideas? Nothing comes forward worthy of putting on paper. For any purpose. Does it help to describe the problem, the mind-set? I'm trying. Struggling.

The first word that jumps to mind is "perplexed." It's a lip-popper that feels good. Almost a narcissist's self-indulgent self-kiss. It's not the first pop, it's the second, like a quick, self-congratulatory peck to the ego. A powerful surprise, a profligate gift from nowhere.

Say the word and see if it feels good to you, too. Does it give a hint of an almost-real feeling, an emotional moment of even... maybe... unconditional love?

Merriam-Webster online gives a simple meaning:

- 1: filled with uncertainty; puzzled
- 2: full of difficulty

Okay. In my present mood, it's close, but doesn't satisfy a need for a more specific explanation of my writer's block. Still, I want to use that word—*perplexed*.

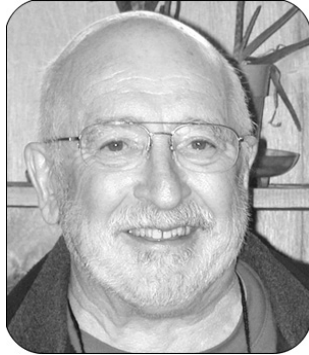
When I think about it, the kissing, the popping "Ps" do stimulate me to heightened self-awareness—just short of pulmonary panting. This propagates a sense of pride and a potentially pleasing new confidence from which a word or two worthy of some brief perpetuity might be put on paper. This is, after all, an age promiscuously propelled by its priority of pinching meaningful, pulchritudinous pleasures into, sometimes, puny sound bytes and pixels.

Suddenly, I am feeling a *bit* better. "Bs" may be a pleasing replacement? It pleases me that my block appears to be partially passed... or is that "past?" Can you, please, indulge me in a few more "Ps?"

"Puzzled." Microsoft Word oftentimes, if not perpetually, presents itself as a particularly patronizing program with a "Help" that pummels a person with pomposity. Most pertinent, it doesn't permit putting the paragraph-symbol after the copy-and-pasted "puzzled." It keeps reading my pressing "enter" as a pretext, a plea, to place before me, pull forward, not requested, a link, Merriam-Webster's Internet page providing *again and again* the meaning of "puzzled!"

It provides proof of impropriety with its presuming ability to presuppose my purpose. Improperly, maybe even imprudently, I'm prompted to politely proffer that this pushes me to be more than parsimoniously *pissed*. Still, there's some paltry profundity in knowing that being *pissed* is a propitious propellant.

It's stepping this writer forward, apart from the blocked, and plentiful paces from... the perplexed.



The Genre of Science Fiction by Rose Marie Kern

During the recent Annual Writing Contest awards banquet, I was privileged to be sitting at the same table as **Scott Micheel**, winner of the coveted 2007 SWW Storyteller Award, for his science fiction/fantasy novel *Blood Ruby*. I found Scott to be a low key, intelligent conversationalist with whom I shared tastes in authors and genres.

After the awards and speeches were finished, several people came up to congratulate Scott. One lady, a category winner herself, said that she never thought they'd give the highest award to a science fiction fantasy.

The implied insult indicated that science fiction was somehow inferior to other forms of writing. Did she perhaps think that children's books, poetry, self-help, romance novels, or whatever things she wrote were superior?

Science fiction has been the inspiration of much of today's technology. When Jules Verne wrote *From the Earth to the Moon*, space travel had not even been imagined as possible in the conservative scientific circles of the day. Yet his novels all contained ideas that have since become realities—submarines, subterranean and oceanographic exploration, and around the world travel.

Isaac Asimov wrote hundreds of technical books in many fields of science in addition to SF novels. His works proposed designs for robotic and computer intelligence. Robert Heinlein's works challenged accepted lifestyles and sexual mores. Marion Zimmer Bradley and Mercedes Lackey created worlds and civilizations that accepted homosexuality as normal.

Gene Roddenbury's *Star Trek* not only continues to be popular long after his death, but it painted a picture of humanity's future wherein we are truly one human race working together to achieve mutual respect and progress on a planetary and intergalactic scale. Only in this format on television in the 1960s could a white man kiss a black woman without censorship, and other issues relating to race and gender be successfully insinuated between the "cowboys in space" action/adventure scenes required by the studio heads.

Science fiction can do what no other genre can—it can create a reality and interject into it ideas, beliefs and philosophies that are so far away from the norm that they would not be accepted by the general public in any other format.

Personally, I am looking forward to seeing Scott Micheel's story in print. I wonder if perhaps he will be the next pied piper for humanity's future.



Scott Micheel

The Story Telling Art: Conclusion

by **George Terrell**

"It is good to see you again. You are looking so well."

Gunther was taken aback at the warmth of her greeting in spite of their disagreements. He wondered if her attitude was beginning to change. But, unsure, he decided to be cautious in his remarks. He shrugged. "I have been doing quite well. As you can see from my uniform, I have won a promotion. I now hold the rank of Sturmbannfuhrer."



"And what did you do to be so honored?"

"I have been in Vienna. I was assisting the Minister in, ah, arranging things."

The baroness' smile faded, and her face assumed a pensive look. "It is a sad business what is going on in Austria now."

Gunther was puzzled by this change in his mother's attitude.

"I do not understand. Why sad? The Austrian people are quite happy with the outcome. They have long wanted to be part of the German Reich."

Maya shook her head sadly. "You have not heard what is going on?"

"What do you mean? I have heard of nothing but parties and celebrations."

"But not of the arrests and executions?"

Gunther shook his head. "Certainly nothing of any consequence. Perhaps a few die-hard enemies of the State. Those who oppose the new order cannot be permitted to stand in the way of progress."

"Not just few. There are rumors that your S.S. is building a huge camp at Mauthausen and are rounding up Jews by the tens of thousands."

Gunther frowned at this. "Where have you heard such nonsense?"

"It is not nonsense. I met one of those who has left Austria. Your Obergruppfuehrer Heydrich takes money from those who can afford it to let them leave Austria. If they cannot pay, they go to the camp."

"I saw nothing like this while I was there."

"Perhaps you left too soon, then."

Gunther's spirits sagged. He could see that his mother was agitated over these things she was hearing. Besides, they could be nothing but rumors. She still didn't understand that in order to have progress things had to change. Was she blind to all the improvements taking place all around her?

Gunther was beginning to get tired of having the same arguments over and over, but he still believed it was necessary in order to make the point.

"Look, Mother. I will say it again. Ten years ago our country was the footstool of Europe. We were bankrupt. The nations of the whole world would walk on our faces, and what could we do about it? Nothing! We were pathetic. Now we are being looked at with respect. The Fuehrer knows what to do to get results. Why do the methods matter as long as the results are what we want?"

"As you sow, so shall you reap, Son. On the road that Hitler travels now, Germany will not always be on top. There will be a day of reckoning. And I fear that, for us, that reckoning will be retribution. If you are wise, you will get out now. There are many good Germans who cannot stomach the methods that Hitler seems to find acceptable. He does not execute only his enemies. Remember Ernst Roehm? Our chancellor will even gun down his friends if they dare to disagree with him."

This echo of the very thoughts that he himself had harbored caused his breath to catch. This impassioned outburst from his mother caused him to glance about the restaurant anxiously. If such remarks were overheard by the wrong people and reported, his mother could very well wind up in a concentration camp herself. He put a finger to his lips to encourage her to tone down her remarks.

Catching his message, she leaned forward and spoke in low tones. "I am sorry if what I say is a problem for you, but you need to know what I think."

What frustrated Gunther was his inability to make her see that these steps were necessary at this time. Once the job was completed and all the enemies who stood in the way of progress were eliminated, the nation purified and secured, all the ugliness would cease, and there would be calm and serenity once more.

"And I am sorry you feel the way you do," he said, "but I am convinced that our Fuehrer is leading us in the correct ways. I have dedicated myself to do everything I can to help restore our country to the ancient grandeur where it can stand tall among the nations of the world and bow to none of them." He leaned over the table as though to impress her with the earnestness of his convictions. "And just consider, Mother, when all this is finished, I will be in a position to get back for us our home in Schwann. It is not for nothing that I do all this."

"In that case, I think it would be advisable that from now on we should see as little as possible of one another. I will find it very difficult to conceal the hostility I feel, and there is no point in putting you in danger by my attitudes. You will have problems enough without that. But you should know, for whatever good it will do, that I will still consider you my son, and I will pray constantly for your well-being and that you will some day shed the blinders you wear now."

I've Got it Bad and That Ain't Well

by **Barbara DuBois**

Even though my students sometimes complained about being teased about the careful usage they learned in my "charm school," I still taught *good* versus *well* and *bad* versus *badly* because I had such fun with the lessons. I can explain the concepts with or without parts of speech, and my fun comes partly from advertisements and partly from student responses.

To explain with parts of speech, I start with *good* because it is the simplest. *Good* is never an adverb. If a writer does not know the difference between an adjective and an adverb, I recommend a formula—an *adverb* equals *in an adjective way*. Well equals *in a good way*.

The other part of speech that *good* can be is a noun. A *good* may be economic or philosophical, something of value, or it may in the plural mean material as in *dry goods* but the more common use is with *do, to do good* or *to perform charity*. If you say you did good, you say you are a do-gooder!

I like to use an ad as an example to show that people really know what sounds right. Ford used Bill Cosby praising Ford parts that are good-built. Some might say, "Engines are built good," but never good-built. Everyone agrees to *well-built*. I wrote to Ford to complain, said that I assumed that they were having Cosby the comedian use poor English because it is part of his act, but that *good-built* is anomalous, not like *built good*. Ford answered politely that they knew it was bad grammar, but bad grammar is part of Cosby's act. Although they did not offer to shut me up by giving me a new car, I never saw the ad again. Probably Cosby, with a doctorate in education, saw the flaw also.

Now to explain *well*, which is more difficult because it can be an adjective or adverb. When an adjective, it gives little trouble because it can interchange with *good*. And one of our most troublesome words, *feel*, is no bother here because both words are correct. "I feel good" means "I feel happy" and "I feel well" means "I do not feel ill." The cliché "alive and well" means "alive and in good health."

Trouble arises when we must choose between *good* and *well*, adjective versus adverb. Practice sentences help: "what kind of job did you do?" requires the answer "Good" because the word must apply to "job." We do not do a *well* job. But "How did you do on the job?" requires "Well" because the word must apply to "do" and "do good" means "be charitable." "They dress well" means that "They dress in a good way." They may be good dressers or have good taste or good clothes. If *good* is not in itself a noun, it needs a noun to accompany it. You can use both words correctly in the same sentence: "If the light is good, we can see well."

A sports story is fun. I always complain about sports personalities because they tend to speak carelessly, partly intentionally, of course. You might try counting the "You knows" sometime. The only sports figure that I ever heard use *well* was a University of New Mexico coach. When asked, "How did the game go?" he answered, "Pretty well." That was Friday. On Monday, I heard that his contract had not been renewed. A coach should know better.

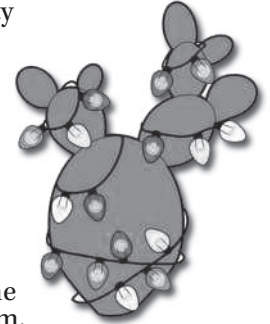
Bad and *badly* are not nearly so difficult because *bad* is only an adjective and *badly* is only an adverb. I do not worry too much about the "I feel badly" that results from the attempt to be supercorrect.

In the real world, if you want to say that instead of arguing, go ahead.

But if you want to argue, try substituting other words.

Would anyone say, for instance, "I feel unhappily"? "I feel sadly"? My favorite example is

blue: no one would say, "I feel blue." This "feel bad" is the opposite of "feel good," so you can think of them as a pair. Perhaps the best solution, if you have a problem, is to avoid *feel* altogether. Use "I am sorry" or "I am unhappy."



More important is the *bad* that should be *badly* as in "She wants a job so bad that she'll take anything." The sentence needs the adverb to say that she wants the job "in a bad way," not a bad job. Sports make trouble here, too: "How did the game go?" elicits the careless response "Not too bad." If you want to sound sporty, you may compartmentalize your head to use careless language at games as long as you write precisely.

Recent SWW Board Highlights

Sandy Schairer, SWW Secretary

Although our Annual Writing Contest is over for 2007, advertising for next year's contest is underway. The *SW Sage* issue covering the Awards Banquet was complimented, especially the photos.

Monthly workshops continue to be successful with benefits to SWW at \$2,870.00 so far this year. The Critique Service has had 14 submissions YTD with \$140 net.

Membership goes up and down because of late renewals even though the office coordinator emails people in plenty of time. Membership stood at 546 or 525 (if renewals come in) on board meeting night in October.

New brochures for SWW are being designed and printed. They will be available for distribution soon.



HE SPENDS HOURS WAITING FOR HIS MUSE TO STRIKE...I DON'T KNOW WHY HE CAN'T JUST WRITE "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

December

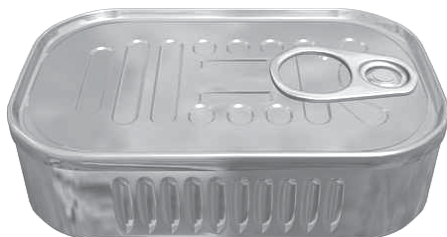
SWW Events & Workshops

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

December 1st Pot Luck

Don't open that can! Whip up your tastiest recipe for the SWW Holiday Pot Luck. All kinds of goodies are welcome, not "just" breakfast. (Though that, too!)

Enjoy everyone's favorite holiday entree and dessert. And bring yours to share!



SWW programs are rarely cancelled, except for weather. If you have doubts about a program taking place or the time or topic, call the SWW office (505) 265-9485 during business hours, M-F, 9 a.m. to noon.

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

The Journal as Storyteller

The world's only Journal Whisperer, Cindy will talk about how a diary/journal becomes the custodian of details, the revealer of old and on going patterns. Journals hold many histories, and Cindy will also talk about how recorded events can so often weave themselves into any writing genre.

Cindy Bellinger's third book *Journaling for Women: Write, Doodle, Scribble! and Meet Yourself Up Close* (Sunstone Press) brims with oddball ways to make daily events sparkle with significance. A journalist for 30 years, she's been teaching and writing in the Santa Fe area since 1979. Four years ago she started an online column "My Little Garden Patch" that is gathering an international audience. Many of her popular columns about remodeling her own home are compiled in her book *Someone Stole My Outhouse* (High-Lonesome Books). "Everything I do in my life, in my work, in my garden, ends up in my journal. I've kept one since I was 10, for 47 years," she says.

For information about benefits for SWW members contact:
Cheri Eicher

INDEPENDENT MEANS

Group Benefits
(505) 890-0358
(800) 883-4310

Independentmeans@comcast.net

Saturday, December 1, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
\$20 for members, \$30 for non members
No registration. Pay at the door.

My Turn: Crafting the Memoir for Magazines

Magical everyday moments make great stories. Learn how to turn those events into tidy memoir submissions for magazines and journals. Bring your favorite publications that feature short memoirs, and we'll spend the day corraling your stories and practicing the craft that makes them dance across the page—authentic voice, vivid characters, suspense, and the aha! moment. Come prepared to mine your memory and seek the universal in individual experience.

Lisa Dale Norton's book *Hawk Flies Above: Journey to the Heart of the Sandhills* (Picador USA/St. Martin's Press) won comparisons to the writing of Annie Dillard and Terry Tempest Williams. Her book *Shimmering Images: A Handy Little Guide to Writing Memoir* will be out soon. She serves on the faculty of the UCLA Writers' Extension Program, the Gotham Writers' Workshop in New York City, and coaches writers around the country on the completion of book projects.

Welcome New Members

Cindy Bellinger
Lee Moberly
Ginny Sonne
Lesley Goddin
Francoline Czerner
Kempton Lindquist
Roberta M. Jarrett
E. John Fuhr
Nan Horcasitas

Kevin Getchell
Linda Tripp
Irene Chitwood
Russell Maynor
David Gardner
Marie Keller
Caroline George
Kris van Hofwegen
Janet Weeden

Reminder: In honor of holiday activities, there is no SWW third Tuesday evening meeting in December.

Happy Holidays!

January

SWW Events & Workshops

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

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

Get Your Bilingual Characters Right

Culture is ingrained into every character and is a social phenomenon that is a developmental process. **Dr. Irene Blea** will explore why many southwest writers have difficulty developing native Hispanic characters and fall into the realm of stereotype. She will demonstrate how to avoid this by familiarizing oneself with the developmental stages and rituals associated with ethnic characters. Also to be discussed are behaviors at various ages for both females and males, when to code switch from English to Spanish when writing dialogue and how to reach a diverse audience.

Dr. Blea's latest book, *The Feminization of Racism: Promoting Peace in America*, contains a critical review of the early feminist movement's failure to make racism a feminist issue, chapters on the social history and statistics on Native American, African American, Asian women and Chicanas/Latinas.

Saturday, January 5, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

No registration. Pay at the door.

Good Cop, Bad Cop

Interrogating your Characters Until They Spill their Guts

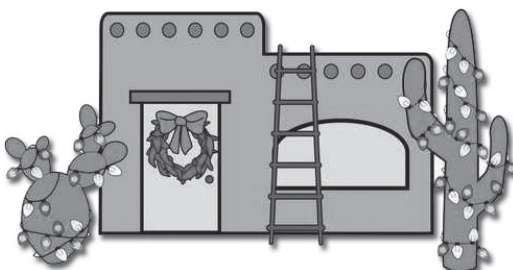
Here's the equation: Character  Conflict  Plot  Resolution = STORY.

Ta-dah! If only math were that simple, we'd all be at MIT. But we writer types tend to do words, not numbers. So it would be criminal not to throw light on the dark corners of our characters' lives until they confess their misdemeanors (and their true hearts) and rat on their accomplices (and their true guides). Raise the stakes a little, toss in a few stumbling blocks, and before you know it, the whole sordid, glorious story comes tumbling out.

Beware. This isn't a "writing crime fiction" workshop. It's about character-mining. I'll supply thought-provoking portraits for each writer. We'll write through a series of questions designed to describe, probe, and extract truth from these characters. We'll work on sharp dialogue, punchy beginnings, and satisfying endings. Then jump out of the path as the story virtually writes itself.

Lois Ruby is a former librarian, the author of 13 novels for middle graders and teens, and a frequent presenter in schools, libraries, book festivals, and conferences. She and her husband Tom moved to Albuquerque in 2003, after 30

years in the heartland of Kansas. Their three sons are grown, married, and have generously provided grandchildren.



Tuesday, January 15, 7 to 9 p.m.

So You Think You Want to be a Travel Writer

Traveling and getting paid for it— what could be better? Despite seeming glamorous, travel writing is hard work and, like every other genre, it isn't easy to get into good publications. **Kay Grant** will discuss the pros and cons of travel writing, how to find editors, determining what the editor wants, making the pitch, dealing with lead times, the ethics of taking free trips, and more.

Freelancer Kay Grant's travel and history pieces have appeared in more than 60 different publications, including *The American Legion Magazine*, *SkyWest*, *New Mexico Magazine*, *New Mexico Journey*, *GuestLife New Mexico*, *Wild West*, *Highways*, *Sunset*, *Copley News Syndicate*, and the *San Jose Business Journal*.

Her article, "Yosemite by Model T," won first place in the Newspaper Travel Article division of Bay Area Travel Writers 2005 awards. Her article on films made in Half Moon Bay was selected for distribution at the 2005 California State Fair. Her 2006 article on the historic Ahwahnee Hotel at Yosemite National Park was chosen to be used as part of the Park's marketing program.

She has a B.A. in English from San Francisco State University, completed all courses for a master's in Broadcast Communication Arts from SFSU, and has a certificate in Technical Communication from San Jose State University.

Donations of refreshments at regular SWW meetings are gratefully accepted! Please consider providing this service.

George Terrell

**Novel, Short Story
Author and
Playwright**

See My Web site:

www.George-Terrell.com

Minding Finances for Writers: Stages of Writing Achievement

by **Sherri Burr**

How do you determine when you are making progress as a writer? I submit that there are at least 10 stages to measuring writing achievement.

Stage 1: Conceptualize an Idea

Ideas emerge from an infinite number of sources, from reading books and going to movies to walking with friends or dreaming. When you get a promising idea, write it down and rejoice because your imagination is working.



Stage 2: Express the Idea

Copyright law protects the expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves. Your reward for fixing your ideas in a permanent form, such as an article for a magazine or a chapter in a book, is that you can place copyright notice (© 2007 by writer) on your work or register it with the U.S. Copyright Office at www.copyright.gov.

Stage 3: Expose Your Writing

Sending your work to magazine editors, agents, book publishers, or print on demand websites indicates you are ready to share your words with the world. You must risk rejection to reap rewards.

Stage 4: Receiving Personalized Rejection Letters

There are three types of rejection: (1) silence; (2) form letters; and (3) personalized rejection letters. You learn to be grateful for the third because they signify that your work resonated enough with outside sources willing to spend time telling you how to fix it or recommend another publication. If the rejection letter is nasty, use it as inspiration and ultimately get the last laugh.

Stage 5: Acceptance with No Pay

Some writers start out by publishing works in newsletters connected to social networks. This accomplishes the goal of seeing your words in print.

Stage 6: Paid Enough for Coffee at Starbucks

When you receive that first check, no matter how small, celebrate and dance to the music. I once received a check for \$4. Do you cash or frame a \$4 check? I recommend cashing it because it proves that you are indeed in the business of writing. Count the \$4 as income on your Schedule C and deduct all your writing related expenses.

Stage 7: Paid Enough to Afford a Meal

When the checks come in for \$50 or hundreds of dollars, you've attained another milestone. Treat a friend to lunch or a loved one to a gourmet dinner. Toast your success!

Stage 8: Paid Enough to Fund a Vacation

If you grossed enough revenue to fund a vacation, you've climbed to another echelon of freelance writers. Enjoy your trip.

Stage 9: Paid Enough to Live On

You've truly arrived as a creative person when you can live

on the proceeds. Writers at this level often have steady gigs as columnists or contributors to a number of publishers, or write books, or both. Since you now benefit from a steady income flow, be careful to mind your expenses and do not spend more than you earn.

Stage 10: New York Times Best Selling Author

Congratulations, you've hit the jackpot by joining the likes of John Grisham, David Baldacci, and Janet Evanovich. When your writing income substantially exceeds your living expenses, it's time to think seriously about giving back. David Baldacci (*Absolute Power*, *The Camel Club*) and his wife started the Wish You Well Foundation to increase literacy rates in this country and abroad. Whatever your cause, you can really make a difference. Ultimately, that's what the writing life is all about.

Professor Sherri Burr has taught copyright law, art law, entertainment law, and intellectual property law at the University of New Mexico for almost two decades. She is the author of six books, four of which relate to art law and entertainment law.



Such A Deal!

by **Harold M. Burnett**

Have a book or a business to promote? How about a website? If you answered "yes," then you should consider the opportunities of sponsoring a display advertisement in the *SouthWest Sage*.

Curiosity led me to do a little investigating. I entered "SouthWest Writers" (including the quote marks) in Google and found 22,800 pages, search time 0.29 seconds. First came www.southwestwriters.com. Outstanding result. I continued my search with a new entry "SouthWest Sage" to find 609 pages, search time 0.22 seconds. In the number one position was www.southwestwriters.com/the-southwestsage.php. The second listing was www.southwestwriters.com. The third and fourth entries went to the birds—Southwest Sage Grouse.

If you want to know about the technology that makes Google so smart, I recommend a book *The Wisdom of Crowds* by James Surowiecke. For now, I'll just say that it's a secret and is buried in a PageRank algorithm. When I entered my terms in Google, it asked the entire Web to decide which page contains the most useful information. The "crowd" determines the result. The book covers hundreds of subjects with stories to illustrate "why the many are smarter than the few and how collective wisdom shapes business, economics, societies, and nations." In fact, the words in quotes are the subtitle of the book, which was published by Doubleday in 2004.

Every issue of the *SouthWest Sage*, which is available from the SWW Website in full text with graphics, is downloaded all over the world. Outstanding result. Details for placing your advertisement are on page 15.

November Poetry Workshop by Peggy Herrington

Five Easy Pieces,” SWW’s fantastic November workshop, was hosted by Billy Brown, poet, singer, chef, and professional mathematics educator with a large mathematics and statistics tutoring business. Billy began writing poetry shortly after the death of his daughter, Elizabeth, then 18, in a tragic auto accident. His presenters included:

Aaron Trumm, nationally recognized poet/musician, asked participants to listen to a repeated rhythmic track and let the words come as they may, perhaps in rap form. Aaron holds a Masters from Stanford, is founder/owner of NQUIT Records. A member of the 2000 Albuquerque Poetry Slam team, he captained the 2002 Houston team, ranked 8th at Nationals.

Patrick Houlihan challenged participants to write about “Joy.” (See Jeanne Shannon’s poem.) CNN English/Poetry instructor, he holds a PhD, likes invented words but is a musician at heart: Pat’s a singer/guitarist in the Watermelon Mountain Jug Band and The Great Blue Wales.

Merimee Moffitt, English/Poetry instructor at CNM, introduced participants to the Middle Eastern poetic form, the Ghazal. Several participants’ Ghazals were beautiful—see Constance Hester’s.

Greg Candela, English/Poetry instructor at UNM, Valencia campus, used a folding chair as a prop, suggesting we consider these many ways of seeing a chair. Greg holds a PhD in American Lit, teaches writing and theater, has written six produced plays and is a singer/guitarist.

Hakim Bellamy, a two-time poetry slam champion team member, encouraged us to write an “I’m a ... You’re a ...” poem, with fascinating results. (See John Candelaria’s below.) A well known poetry slammer, Hakim was on Albuquerque’s 2005 Championship team, and UNM’s 2006 championship team at the College Unions Invitational Slam Championships.

Example poems here were written as exercises during this workshop. I’m no poet and I loved this workshop. I urge you to seriously consider attending the next time something like this is presented by SWW.

Chair (A Ghazal)* by Constance Hester

A child’s first perch is often a knee.
The second may be a high chair.

A grandfather builds a tiny rocker.
His grandbaby’s toy is a red chair.

There’s a first order of business at board meetings.
It’s the appointment of a Chair.

In Borneo orangutans frolic happily.
None of them ever sit in a chair.

Constance, why do you write about trivia?
Is there something sacred in a chair?

Camping in the Adirondacks brings cold nights.
A stump or a log is used for a hard chair.

Kings and Queens sit on golden thrones.
Don’t be fooled, they are only chairs.

*A poetry form from India/Persia composed of from five to seven couplets that end with the same word. Each couplet is a separate thought and in one of them the writer’s name is mentioned.

I’m a crow,
Eat me.
by John Candelaria

Joy by Jeanne Shannon

‘twas trembleberry beautiful
and coolfrost elegant

when music dwimbled from its
paws

and fell rainsweet and snowfluff
soft

on earthstone riverscapes
and foamdrift surf

Joy
red as cochineal and
swift as swifts

glowed allwheres
in the blackgloom corners
of the moon-starved night

and declared,

“I am! I am! I am!”

36 poets attended this workshop!



SWW member,
Chase Kolozy



Hakim Bellamy



Greg Candala, chair man



Presenters: Aaron Trumm (front),
Billy Brown, Merimee Moffitt,
Patrick Houlihan (left to right)



MYSTERY, MAYHEM and MURDER



SOUTHWEST WRITERS and CROAK & DAGGER



present A Conference for Mystery Writers and Mystery Fans
Saturday, February 16, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
 Are you a current member of SouthWest Writers? _____ YES _____ NO
 Are you a current member of Croak & Dagger? _____ YES _____ NO
 How did you learn about this conference? _____
 I am most interested in (please rank): The craft of writing mysteries _____ Forensic information _____

THE CONFERENCE AND THE BANQUET ARE SEPARATE.
YOU MAY REGISTER FOR ONE OR FOR BOTH.

Conference (non-member registration includes a one-year membership in both SWW and Croak & Dagger):

_____ @ \$99.00 member cost, if a member of **either** SWW or C&D (early bird rate) \$ _____
 _____ @ \$109.00 member cost, if a member of **either** SWW or C&D (registered after 2/1/08) \$ _____
 _____ @ \$159.00 non-member cost - includes one-year memberships (early bird rate) \$ _____
 _____ @ \$169.00 non-member cost - includes one-year memberships (registered after 2/1/08) \$ _____

Banquet:

_____ @ \$35.00 (early bird rate) \$ _____
 _____ @ \$38.00 (registered after 2/1/08) \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Indicate method of payment:

_____ Check or money order (made out to SouthWest Writers)
 _____ MasterCard _____ Visa (The only credit cards we accept are MasterCard and Visa)

If paying by credit card: Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____ (last 3 digits of the number near your signature)
 Billing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

LUNCH PREFERENCE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE DAYTIME CONFERENCE:

_____ Chicken wrap
 _____ Vegetarian wrap

Please tell us if you have special diet requirements or allergies: _____

BANQUET PREFERENCE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE EVENING BANQUET:

_____ Mediterranean Stuffed Chicken Breast
 _____ Vegetarian Lasagna

Please tell us if you have special diet requirements or allergies: _____

IF YOU ARE A MYSTERY WRITER AND WOULD LIKE A 10-MINUTE PITCH SESSION, PLEASE INDICATE YOUR FIRST AND SECOND PREFERENCE:

_____ Toni Plummer, associate editor, Thomas Dunne Books, a division of St. Martin's Press, New York
 _____ Zoe Fishman, literary agent, Lowenstein-Yost Associates, New York

NOTE: The number of pitch sessions is limited. We will try to accommodate everyone, but pitch sessions will be assigned on a first-come basis and we cannot guarantee that everyone will get a session. Early registration will increase your chance of getting the pitch session of your choice.



MYSTERY, MAYHEM and MURDER

SOUTHWEST WRITERS and CROAK & DAGGER
 present A Conference for Mystery Writers and Mystery Fans
 Saturday, February 16, 2008



WHERE: The Conference will be held at the UNM Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd. NE (just north of Indian School Road), Albuquerque, NM. The evening Banquet will be held at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE, Albuquerque, NM.

WHEN: February 16, 2008. Conference check-in (at the UNM Continuing Education Building) will be from 8:00-8:30 a.m. followed by the conference from 8:30-5:00. The Banquet (at the MCM Elegante Hotel) will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

WHAT: Conference Registration includes conference presentations and materials, lunch with featured speaker Larry Barker, refreshments, and the possibility of a 10-minute pitch session with either an agent or an editor. **The number of pitch sessions is limited, and the sessions will be assigned on a first-come basis.** Banquet Registration includes dinner at the MCM Elegante with keynote speaker Susan Dunlap.

WHO: Speakers for the daytime Conference include:

- Toni Plummer, editor, Thomas Dunne Books - "What Every Aspiring Mystery Writer Should Know"
- Jess Benson, Poison & Drug Information Center - "A Writer's Guide to Creating a Perfect Poisoning"
- Zoe Fishman, literary agent, Lowenstein-Yost Associates - insight into the agent/author relationship
- Dr. Michelle Barry, UNM Office of the Medical Investigator - speaking on homicide autopsies
- Larry Barker, investigative reporter, KRQE News 13 - "New Mexico's Greatest Murder Mystery"
- Dianne O'Connell, book doctor - "The Key to Writing Success: Mastering Point of View"
- Lucinda Schroeder, former special agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - "The Language of Liars"
- Shirley Raye Redmond, award-winning author - "How to Hatch a Mystery Plot and Make it Chirp"
- Phil Young, former special agent, National Park Service - "A Grand Canyon Divorce"

The keynote speaker for the evening Banquet is **SUSAN DUNLAP**, founding member and past president of Sisters in Crime—and Anthony-winning author of numerous books and short stories, including the Jill Smith mysteries, the Kiernan O'Shaughnessy series, and *A Single Eye*, the first book in a new series featuring stuntwoman Darcy Lott—speaking on "Sisters in Crime: Twenty Years of Mystery."

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1, 2008 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD RATE

By mail: Fill out and mail the REGISTRATION FORM with your check or credit card information to SouthWest Writers, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111 (postmark by 2/1/2008 for early bird rate).

By phone: Call the SWW office at 505-265-9485 between 9:00 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday (credit card only).

Online: Visit the SWW website (www.southwestwriters.org) to register online (credit card only).

The number of spaces at the Conference and the Banquet are limited, as are the number of pitch sessions. We will try to accommodate everyone, but early registration is encouraged.

HOTEL: For hotel reservations, you may call the hotel of your choice or call the MCM Elegante Hotel (505-884-2511 or 1-866-650-4900) and ask for the Mystery Conference special rate (\$79.99 plus tax per night), which includes Complimentary Full Hot Breakfast Buffet, Complimentary Beverages in the evening, high speed internet in all guest rooms, and free shuttle service to and from the airport.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit the SouthWest Writers website at www.southwestwriters.com or call the SouthWest Writers office at 505-265-9485 between 9:00 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday.

SWW International Monthly Writing Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the September 2007 SWW International Monthly Writing Competition, Children's Critter Column:



1st Prize: Maggie Parks, Tijeras, NM for "Power Defense"
2nd Prize: Marc Calderwood, Albuquerque, NM for "My Favorite Pet"
3rd Prize: Sue Sullivan, Rio Rancho, NM for "Living on Their Ancestors' Bones"

Honorable Mention:

Susan Alexis, Albuquerque, NM for "The Combination Creature"
Druanne Cushman, Altadena, CA for "Neighbors"
Vicki Moss, Chattanooga, TN for "Einstein"
Charles R. Powell, Albuquerque, NM for "Mozambique Mouth Breeders"
Charles R. Powell, Albuquerque, NM for "Alike but Different"

Critique Groups

Submit your requests to SWWriters@juno.com.

Groups Seeking Members

Any Genre

First and third Wed. each month
5:30pm at the Moriarty Library
Tina Ortega 505-832-2513

Any Genre, Rio Rancho:

Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley
505-867-1408
riversedgebob@cablone.net
riograndema@cablone.net

Land of Enchantment

Romance Authors:

Meets the second Saturday of each month at noon. Potential members: attend three meetings to try it out.
leranm.com

The Screaming Ninja

Screenwriters:

Meets every other Thursday,
Flying Star on 7th and Silver.
Marc Calderwood
505-897-6474
skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com

All Facets of Writing

Tuesdays 3-5 p.m.
Northeast Albuquerque
Leave message for
Len Hecht 977-3178

Wanting to Start Groups/ Looking for a Group

Memoirs, Santa Fe

Leona Stucky-Abbott
505-820-2433

Any Genre, Albuquerque:

Meet every other Friday
NE Heights
Krys Douglas
505-830-3015

Any Genre, Las Cruces:

Barbara Villemez
505-522-5734

Poetry:

Billy Brown 505-401-8139,
welbert53@aol.com

Memoirs, Albuquerque

John Ward 505-822-0717
Johnrward2@aol.com

December Contest Surprise Short Story

Write a children's or young adult short story. Points added for clever, O'Henry-type surprise endings. Up to 2,000 words. Winner has choice of cash prize or transferable one-year membership in SouthWest Writers.

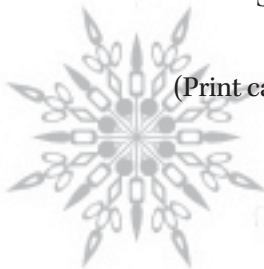
Postmark Deadline: Monday, December 31, 2007

Instructions

- Open to any writer in the world.
- Original, unpublished work only.
- No cover sheets.
- Print the following on first page: Name; Address; Phone; E-mail (if any); Category Name.
- Manuscripts prepared in standard format: 1" margins, double-spaced unless otherwise specified.
- Entries are not returned, so no need for an SASE.
- \$5 entry fee for SWW members; \$10 non-members.
- You may enter more than once, but an entry fee must accompany each entry.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Prizes: \$50 1st Prize; \$30 2nd Prize; \$20 3rd Prize and certificates.
- Mail entries to:

SWW Monthly Writing Competition
3721 Morris St NE, Ste A
Albuquerque, NM 87111

(Print category name under your return address)



SouthWest Sage Advertising Rates

Worldwide Circulation on the Internet

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

Full page: \$100

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.

Contests

This information is provided as a convenience. Before entering, be sure to check the listed website information or write the sponsors to make sure a contest is right for you. And don't forget to enter SWW's International Monthly Contest.

Deadline: 12/15/07 (postmark): Poetry. John Lennon Songwriting Contest. Entry fee: \$30/song. Prize: \$1000 to \$20,000 plus recording contracts. Submission guidelines and information can be found at: jlsc.com/rules.php

Deadline: 12/15/07 (postmark): Poetry and fiction. Lynda Hull Memorial Poetry Prize/Crazyhorse Fiction Prize. Fee: \$15 for new entrants, \$12 for renewing entrants. Prize: \$2000 and publication. Mail a manuscript of up to twenty-five pages of fiction or up to three poems (up to 10 pages poetry). All manuscripts must be original and unpublished. Submission guidelines and information can be found at crazyhorse.cofc.edu/prizes.html.

Deadline: 12/10/07 (postmark): Poetry. Ruth Stone Prize for Poetry. Entry Fee: \$15. Prize: \$1000. Submission guidelines and information can be found at tui.edu/hungermtn/index.asp.

Deadline: 12/15/07 (postmark): Scripts/Screenplays. John Templeton Foundation Kairos Prize for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays. Entry Fee: Early: \$50/Late: \$75. Prize: \$25,000; \$15,000; \$10,000. Eligibility: First-time writers, 18 years of age or older Objective: To further the influence of moral and spiritual values within the film and television industries. Seeking to promote a spiritually uplifting, redemptive worldview that will help inspire first-time screenwriters to produce compelling, entertaining, spiritually uplifting scripts that result in a greater increase in either man's love or understanding of the one true Triune Creator God. Submission guidelines and information can be found at www.kairosprize.com or e-mail contact@kairosprize.com.

Deadline: 12/31/07 (postmark): Books. Jefferson Press Prize. Entry Fee: \$35. Prize: \$5,000 cash award publishing contract; four runners-up will win \$500 each. Recognizing a novel or collection of short stories of outstanding merit. The prize is open to any work of book-length fiction, by any writer who has never published a book and who is not under contract to do so. Self-published titles accepted. Submission guidelines and information can be found at jeffersonpressprize.com.

Deadline: 12/31/07 (postmark): Poetry. Lee Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award. Entry Fee: none. Prize: \$500. Given every three years. (Held 2007; next competition will be 2010.) Submission guidelines and information can be found at www.reading.org/awards/Lee.html

Deadline: 12/31/07 (postmark): Poetry. Perigree Poetry Contest. Entry Fee: \$10 for three poems, Prize: Publication and nomination for the Pushcart Prize. All poems must be original and unpublished. Perigree does not accept simultaneous submissions. Submission guidelines and information can be found at

www.perigree-art.com/frames/poetry_contestssubmit.php

Deadline: 12/31/07 (postmark): Poetry. Thomas Merton Prize for Poetry of the Sacred. Entry Fee: None, limited to one poem in English, unpublished. Prize: \$500; three honorable mentions of \$50. What is poetry of the sacred? Poetry that expresses, directly or indirectly, a sense of the holy or that, by its mode of expression, evokes the sacred. The tone may be religious, prophetic, or contemplative. Please limit the poem to no more than 100 lines. Poems will be judged on literary excellence, spiritual tenor, and human authenticity. Submission guidelines and information can be found at www.mertoninstitute.org/merton_prize.php.

Deadline: 12/31/07 (postmark): Short fiction and poetry. Dream Quest One Poetry & Writing Contest welcomes anyone who loves to arrange words into beautiful art or write a short story that is worth telling. Prizes: Fiction \$500, \$250, \$100. Poetry \$250, \$125, \$50. Entry fees: Fiction \$10, poetry \$5. Multiple entries accepted. Submission guidelines and information can be found at www.dreamquestone.com.

Happy Hanukkah



Optima
Body Therapy

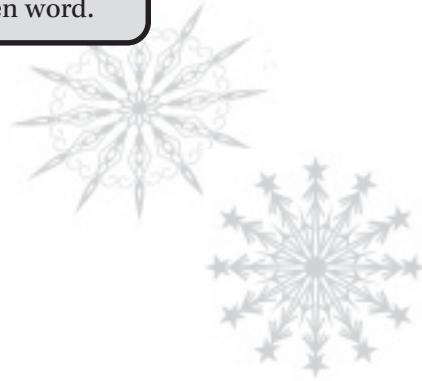
Karen Diane Harrison
LMT 136/RMTI S-0286

505/293-1569
Massage/Facials
By Appointment



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.org
SWWriters@juno.com



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



**Come hungry and bring something
tasty 9 a.m. Saturday, December 1,
for our annual Holiday Pot Luck.**

**Get the inside scoop on the
February 2008...**

**Mystery,
Mayhem and
Murder Conference!**

