



Vol. 24, No. 1

January 2008

## Create a World That Rocks

by Kirt Hickman

Jake Scranton shifted in the driver's seat of the old stage-coach as his team's fidgeting grew more violent. "Easy, girls."

His partner, Buckshot Bill, gave him an uneasy glance—the company had already lost one coach in this canyon—and cocked both barrels of the shotgun cradled in his arms.

A tendril of dirt and pebbles trickled down the side of the sandstone cliff to their left.

Jake undid the clasp on his own holster. He scanned the ridge, but saw nothing more until a rifle shot echoed throughout the canyon.

The bullet slammed Bill against the back of his seat. The man slumped forward and fell from the stage. His shotgun tumbled to the floorboard and fired. The blast splintered the brake lever and Jake's startled team lunged forward.

Behind them, Bad Bart and a dozen of his worst men rounded the corner, whooping in anticipation. The thunder of hooves drowned out the racket of the stage and its valuable cargo.

Panic coursed through Jake's blood as he fumbled the reins and dialed the sheriff. *C'mon. Pick up. Pick up.*

"Forget it," Buckshot said from the seat beside him. "You'll never get a signal way out here."

The approaching bandits rode their animals up to surround the coach. All drew weapons of one sort or another. Bart raised his blaster. "Thou art mine!"

Where did this piece fall apart? When Jake drew a cell phone instead of his six-shooter? When Bill appeared beside him after tumbling from the stage? When the bandits' horses and guns became generic "animals" and "weapons of some sort or another"? Or when Bart raised a blaster and started spouting Shakespeare?



### Consistency

This story lost its credibility when you, the reader, detected inconsistencies in the world I created. Though this example is exaggerated, it makes my point. Build your world carefully, completely, and with consistency, or your reader won't buy into it.

Regardless of your genre, ask these questions about your world before you write<sup>[1]</sup>:

1. What are the moral codes? What are the predominant beliefs and values (even prejudices) of the various people who live there?

2. What is the economic state? Are people wealthy? Poor? Divided? How is commerce handled? Through money? Barter? Information? Something else?

3. What is the domestic political structure? Does it work for the people (particularly for your main characters)? Why or why not?

[1] Expansion of a similar list by Eileen Stanton in her critique of *Worlds Asunder*.

4. What is the world political environment? Is it stable? Are countries at war? Who is the dominant power and why?

5. What is the predominant religion (or religions)? Are people advanced enough to understand the difference between religion, philosophy, natural philosophy, and magic?

6. If there's magic, how does it work?

7. What is the level of scientific achievement? What are the preferred forms of transportation and communication? What is the state of medicine? Does your world have any unique technologies? If so, how do they influence the lives of your characters?

8. How does day-to-day life differ from that of your reader?

In science-fiction or fantasy writing, you'll largely make this stuff up. For historical writing, or for a piece set in another country or culture, you must do sufficient research to get the details right. Either way, these characteristics must mesh into a coherent whole. Your character, setting, props, and language must be consistent with that whole. Beware anachronism.

### Specificity

Finally, populate your world with specific, concrete details. Not just canyon walls, but sandstone cliffs. Not animals, or even horses, but green-broke mustangs. This is what will capture your reader's imagination. This will make your world real.

Consider the following passage:

Amanda moved away from the dangerous equipment to a safer location near the wall.

Does the word "equipment" invoke an image or emotion? Does it reveal anything about Amanda or the world in which she lives? Does it bring the story to life? No, because it's not specific.

Watch what happens when I replace the equipment and dangers in this scene with specific details:

Liquid helium whistled past the breached valve with the wail of a wounded banshee, 272 degrees below zero, cold enough to freeze human flesh in microseconds. Amanda dove for the far wall, where the stream of evaporating helium dissipated into the heat of the temperature-moderated maintenance chamber. Just beyond the bulkhead, super-heated gasses, the lifeblood of the terraforming project, roared through pipes as big around as a docking collar. An incessant, numbing vibration shook the floor.

A few well-chosen details, molded into the action of your scenes, can transform your world from a silhouette into living, breathing reality.

*Kirt Hickman has Bachelor and Master degrees in electrical engineering from UNM. He has worked with high-energy laser optics, microelectronics, and other technologies relevant to science fiction, and leverages his knowledge and experience to enrich his stories. A technical writer for 14 years before branching into fiction, *Worlds Asunder* is his first novel. He has the sequel, *Venus Rain*, a how-to titled *Revising Fiction*, and a fantasy trilogy in progress.*

## From the Editor

**R**eady or not: Welcome to 2008! (And I was just getting used to 2000.)

The New Year brings change, of course, and the SWW Board of Directors is no exception. Leaving after meritorious service are four long-serving board members: the Queen of Everything including Policies, Procedures & Audit, **Lela Belle Wolfert**; Book Table/New Member Breakfast chair, **David Corwell**; Historian, **Judy Ducharme**, and workshop coordinator, **Loretta Hall**. They will be missed.



Please join me in welcoming two new members to the board: **Gary Ness** and **John Candelaria** who, if not already, will soon be busy making SWW even better for the membership—in other words: you and me. While I'm at it, be sure to read the messages from SWW incoming and outgoing presidents on page 5.

### Networking

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary says it's the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions, *specifically*: the cultivation of productive relationships for employment or business.

I couldn't agree more. When I became active in SWW last spring, after a career centering on national ties, I did so knowing I needed local contacts. Which means I had a hidden agenda when I volunteered to edit *SW Sage*--and I figured networking would get me there. Sure enough, scant months later, two new contracts attest to the networking power of this group, and I encourage you to take advantage of it, just like I did. Don't be shy. Get involved, volunteer, talk, make friends and offer to help. Most of all, be sincere.

## Top 10 Books of 2007

Want to *be* on this list? Then read these books!

### Fiction

*Man Gone Down* by Michael Thomas. Black Cat/Grove/Atlantic, paper, \$14. This first novel explores the fragmented personal histories behind four desperate days in a black writer's life.

*Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. Translated by Anne Born. Graywolf Press, \$22. In this short yet spacious Norwegian novel, an Oslo professional hopes to cure his loneliness with a plunge into solitude.

*The Savage Detectives* by Roberto Bolaño. Translated by Natasha Wimmer. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27. A craftily autobiographical novel about a band of literary guerrillas.

*Then We Came to the End* by Joshua Ferris. Little, Brown & Company, \$23.99. Layoff notices fly in Ferris's acidly funny first novel, set in a white-collar office in the wake of the dot-com debacle.



*Tree of Smoke* by Denis Johnson. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27. The author of "Jesus' Son" offers a soulful novel about the travails of a large cast of characters during the Vietnam War.

Like most things in life, you get from networking (and SWW) what you give.

### Words from 2007

The aforementioned source, Merriam-Webster, recently announced that their word of the year for 2007 is the internet slang expression of joy or excitement, **w00t**. The site defines w00t (yes, spelled with two zeros) as: expressing joy (it could be after a triumph, or for no reason at all); similar in use to the word "yay."

And the New Oxford American Dictionary also made its big announcement of the year: Their choice for 2007 Word of the Year is (drum-roll please) **locavore**.

"The word 'locavore' shows how food-lovers can enjoy what they eat while still appreciating the impact they have on the environment," said Ben Zimmer, editor for American dictionaries at Oxford University Press. "It's significant in that it brings together eating and ecology in a new way." The "locavore" movement encourages consumers to buy from farmers' markets or even to grow or pick their own food, arguing that fresh, local products are more nutritious and taste better. Locavores also shun supermarket offerings as an environmentally friendly measure, since shipping food over long distances often requires more fuel for transportation.

What say we locavore, network and w00t at this month's meetings. Happy New Year!

*Peggy*

**Call for Submissions!**  
**SW Sage needs you! Writers**  
**Guidelines are on the Sage page at**  
**SouthWestWriters.org**

### Nonfiction

*Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone* by Rajiv Chandrasekaran. Alfred A. Knopf, \$25.95; Vintage, paper, \$14.95. The author, a Washington Post journalist, catalogs the arrogance and ineptitude that marked America's governance of Iraq.

*Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm during the Great Depression* by Mildred Armstrong Kalish. Bantam Books, \$22. Kalish's soaring love for her childhood memories saturates this memoir, which coaxes the reader into joy, wonder and even envy.

*The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin. Doubleday, \$27.95. An erudite outsider's account of the cloistered court's inner workings.

*The Ordeal of Elizabeth March: A Woman in World History* by Linda Colley. Pantheon Books, \$27.50. Colley tracks the "compulsively itinerant" Marsh across the 18th century and several continents.

*The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century* by Alex Ross. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$30. In his own feat of orchestration, The New Yorker's music critic presents a history of the last century as refracted through its classical music.





## 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

Sandy Schairer

SandySchairer@southwestwriters.com

### Treasurer Keith Pyeatt

k\_pyeatt@comcast.net

### Conference Chair Wendy Bickel

wendybickel@southwestwriters.com

### Writers Contest 2008 Chair

John Candelaria jjc-poet@comcast.net

### Critique Service Edith Greenly

SWWriters@juno.com

### Speakers & Membership Larry Greenly

SWWriters@juno.com

### Public Relations Melody Groves

MelodyGroves@southwestwriters.com

### Class Coordinator Bonnie Hayes

BonnHayes@aol.com

### SWW Sage Editor

Peggy Herrington peg@msn.com

Gary Ness

rness66@comcast.net

### E-lert Mistress Gail Rubin

publicity@southwestwriters.com

### Volunteer Coordinator Ron Schultz

RonSchultz@southwestwriters.com

### Historian Jeanne Shannon

jspoetry@aol.com

### SWW Office:

3721 Morris St. NE, Suite A

Albuquerque, NM 87111

phone: (505) 265-9485

fax: (505) 265-9483

e-mail: SWWriters@juno.com

website: www.southwestwriters.org

Articles are copyright © 2007 by author.  
Facts, views and opinions expressed are  
those of the authors and do not necessarily  
reflect the viewpoints or opinions of  
SouthWest Writers. SWW does not  
necessarily endorse the advertisers.

# Happy New Year!

## Holiday Feast

Susan Alexis adds her super  
Santa Bread to the fabulous  
pot luck spread at the SWW  
December meeting. Thanks to  
everyone who brought the  
outstandingly delicious eats!



Photo by Rose Marie Kern

## Features

- 1 Create a World that Rocks ..... by Kirt Hickman
- 4 Scrapbook Inspiration..... by Rose Marie Kern
- 5 10 Reasons to Attend the Mystery Conference..... by Wendy Bickel
- Out with the Old.... and In with the New
- 6 Ruth Randall's Back Door to Publication ..... by Kristin Litchman
- 10 Minding Finances for Writers ..... by Sherri Burr
- Markets: Preview of "From Start to Sales IV" ..... by Eileen Stanton
- 11 I Have the Right to Write ..... by Irene I. Blea, Ph.D.
- Joy ..... by Greg Candela
- 12 Mystery Conference Registration and Information

## Departments

- 2 From the Editor
- 4 Member Successes, Board Highlights
- 7 SWW Classes
- 8 January Events
- 9 February Events
- 14 Monthly Writing Competition
- Critique Groups, Ad Rates
- 15 Contests

### 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**

## Start the Year Out Write!

Get back in the writing mindset by attending our meetings on Saturday morning, January 8, and Tuesday evening, January 18. Topics are on pages 8-9. Sharpen your skills by catching a class or two taught by specialists who know their stuff. They're described on page 7.

Mysterious aficionados—wait, make that Mystery fans—should sleuth your way to pages 5, 12 and 13 for details on our February 16 Mystery Conference co-sponsored by Croak and Dagger. See you there!

## Member Successes

**Sherri Burr** will speak on "Anna Nicole Smith, James Brown, Elvis Presley and other Celebrity Will Writers: Lessons for Individuals" at Borders Bookstore West Side, 10420 Coors Bypass Road, on Sunday, January 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.

**Barbara Leachman** took First and Second Place with two of her short stories in a contest sponsored by Wizards of Words. Click **Read the Newsletter** at [www.wizardsofwords.org](http://www.wizardsofwords.org). They're on the last page. Barbara's novel, *The Demise of Bobby Mac*, is available from Amazon, Border's, Barnes & Noble and AuthorHouse.

**Lola R. Eagle** has published her third book, *More Visions in Verse*, which is currently available from the author.

Five poems by **Irene Blea** (our January speaker) were published in the Gathering of Nations newsletter at [www.gatheringofnations.com/educational/writings/index.htm](http://www.gatheringofnations.com/educational/writings/index.htm). Included are "This Place," "Mountain Women," "Land to the South," "Displaced," and "Blue-tailed Lizard." Dr. Blea teaches a poetry class at 1:15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho. The class is free and will complete its first in-house publication by the end of December. For more information call Ella at 896-3688. Also, see Irene's article in this issue on page 11.

**Ben F. Williams, Jr.** announces publication of his book, *Tales of My Southwest*. A third-generation native of Cochise County, Arizona, Ben's book contains observations of ranch life, law and politics along the Mexican-American border. It is available from Smokin Z Press, P. O. Box 13121, Tucson, AZ 85732, for \$22.00 including S&H.

**Eugenia Eberle's** new book, *American Pye*, autobiography/memoir of a cat, has sold over 350 copies since October 1st. Family history is revealed through the eyes of Eugenia's precocious cat "Pye," a Seal Point Siamese. It begins with her first five years at the restoration of the Historic Governor Simms territorial home in the heart of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque and her interactions with many animals and people. With humor and insight she weaves her "tail." Eugenia was an oral historian for many years. Details at [www.americanpye.com](http://www.americanpye.com).

## SWW Board Meeting Highlights

by Sandy Schairer

**B**udget and Finance: We are about 10 memberships behind projections. The Nov. 3rd program drew 11 new members.

The "pass-thru" workshop for Chris Vogler in Santa Fe worked well. ("Pass-thru" means SWW handled the registration for his workshop.) We received 4 or 5 new members from that.

**Membership:** 528 members year-to-date. New memberships are lower this year possibly because we didn't have spring or fall conferences. The automatic credit card renewal system will be on the website through PayPal.

**Critique:** Year to date: \$1019 income with \$832 expenses, netting \$188. There were 19 submissions so far. A member recently told Critique Service Chair that she was very pleased with her critique.

**Conference Coordinator:** Flyers and sign-up sheets are available for the Feb. 16th Conference with Sisters in Crime.

## Scrapbook Inspiration

by Rose Marie Kern

**W**hen my first husband and I divorced, I was supposed to get the scrapbooks I had labored over. These books contained pictures and information relating to the birth of our children and things we had been involved in for several years.

My ex-husband hid them and claimed he did not know where they were. Several years ago my daughters returned from visiting him and mentioned that they'd seen pictures of me in my twenties at his home. Since most of the angst and nastiness had finally dissolved between us, I asked if I could borrow the books, and he agreed.

It was amazing how many things I had forgotten! There was a picture of me performing in "Man of La Mancha" at a local community theater, an obituary for my grandfather, and tickets to a production of Godspell. I finally had photos of my daughters from birth to age five again. Stories and scenes long forgotten brought smiles and tears.

I got to thinking how even though I have since created other scrapbooks, we seldom have time to just look through them. How can you keep the joy and inspiration of the scrapbook at your fingertips instead of hidden in a box at the back of the closet?

So, I took digital photos of the pages and pictures and transferred them to my computer. Windows has a screensaver option that flashes pictures from the My Documents/My Pictures directory across your screen. I use that.

Now, as I wander through my days, if I turn my attention away from the computer for a few minutes, I may turn back to see my mother playing the piano, or my daughter at age 11 dressed in a NASA spacesuit, grinning ear to ear.

Every picture is the genesis of a story that waits for me to bring it to life. If you have writer's block or need to divert your mind from daily tedium, take out that scrapbook and remember.

Conference will feature an optional Banquet with keynote speaker.

**Book Table:** The book table did well at the November Saturday meeting.

**Workshops:** There were 33 paid attendees at the October Poetry Workshop with positive reviews, though some were not happy with the language in one of the slam recitations. Of the 33, 12 were not SWW members. More poetry events were requested. Income was \$750 with \$455 net.

**Classes:** Kirt Hickman has agreed to present a class about editing your manuscript. SWW is considering offering online classes.

**Co-sponsoring other organization's events** is giving good exposure to SWW throughout the writing community both locally and state-wide. SWW purchased a digital projector for \$700.



## Top 10 Reasons to Attend the Mystery Conference

by Wendy Bickel

**MYSTERY, MAYHEM and MURDER**  
A Conference for Mystery Writers  
and Mystery Fans  
Saturday, February 16, 2008

**Reason No. 10:** The Mystery Conference is in February. Brrr! Spend a fun day and evening *inside*, out of the cold weather.

**Reason No. 9:** Discover the secrets to spotting a liar with **Lucinda Schroeder**, former Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent, and hear stories of murder and mayhem in National Parks from **Phil Young**, retired Park Service special agent, firefighter and archeologist.

**Reason No. 8:** You don't write mysteries? Learn to inject a bit of mystery and suspense into whatever genre you *do* write.

**Reason No. 7:** Do you know the story of New Mexico's greatest murder mystery? Hear all about "The Case of the Missing Tourists" from KRQE News 13's **Larry Barker**.

**Reason No. 6:** Sign up soon and get the special early-bird rates: Only \$99.00 for an exceptional conference and \$35.00 for an elegant evening banquet!

**Reason No. 5:** Learn to hatch a plot that will "chirp" with award-winning author **Shirley Raye Redmond**, and discover how to use point-of-view to make your manuscript stand out with **Dianne O'Connell**—writer, editor, publishing consultant and writing coach.

**Reason No. 4:** CSI comes to you! Learn about perfect poisonings from UNM's Dr. Jess Benson and grim homicide autopsies from Dr. Michelle Barry of the Office of the Medical Investigator.

**Reason No. 3:** **Susan Dunlap**, keynote speaker for the evening banquet, is not only an award-winning mystery author with four different mystery series, several stand-alone novels and a plethora of short stories, she is also a founding member and past president of Sisters in Crime—an organization with over 3400 members world-wide! Enjoy dinner and a no-host bar as you listen to this exceptional author. Susan Dunlap's books will be available for purchase and signing afterwards, including her latest mystery, *A Single Eye*, featuring Darcy Lott, a stuntwoman with a secret. Indulge yourself and take home a mystery (or two or three) to savor.

**Reason No. 2:** Mystery writers: Don't miss the chance to meet with editor **Toni Plummer** (Thomas Dunne Books, a division of St. Martins, New York) or literary agent **Zoe Fishman** (Lowenstein-Yost Agency, New York). The earlier you sign up, the better your chance of getting a personal pitch session with either Plummer or Fishman. The number of pitch sessions is limited, so don't delay!

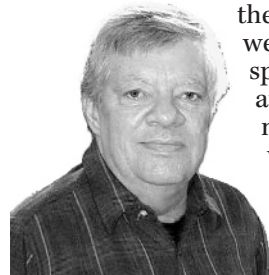
**Reason No. 1:** Give *yourself* a gift? You deserve it!

Ready to sign up? More information and registration forms are on pages 12 and 13. Or register online at the SWW website ([www.southwestwriters.org](http://www.southwestwriters.org)).

## Out with the Old...

A Message from Larry Greenly, outgoing President

When you read this, my term as SWW president is over, and vice-president Rob Spiegel is stepping up to the plate. I'd like to say it was an honor to lead one of the best writing groups in the country these last two years. They were two exciting years, with great speakers, ever-increasing attendance at meetings, writing classes, monthly writing contests, monthly workshops and so much more.



The board and I have tried to infuse the concept in our membership that a rising tide floats all boats. And I think we've succeeded. Members help each other, and we're all the better for it. In fact, many members have commented, "The vibes are good!"

I'll sign off with, "You haven't seen anything yet." More innovations are in the works, and any ideas from members are always carefully considered.

## ...and In with the New!

A message from Rob Spiegel, incoming President

We're heading into a wonderful new year at SWW. But first, I'd like to thank last year's board. Larry Greenly did a spectacular job as president over the past two years. He added new programs and services such as the monthly contest, web links, classes and a ton of new member discounts. He also built up our treasury so we now have a solid financial backbone. We are prospering and delivering a record number of programs and services—in great part because of Larry's dedication, both as office support and board duties. Thanks, Larry.



Looking forward, we will continue to offer outstanding speakers and workshop presenters. We look forward to four conferences. We also plan to introduce day-long genre workshops and expect to present two or three of them this year.

For information about benefits  
for SWW members contact:  
**Cheri Eicher**

**INDEPENDENT  
MEANS**

Group Benefits  
(505) 890-0358

## I Didn't Start Out to Write an Article Ruth Randall's Back Door to Publication

by Kristin Embry Litchman

Before she retired from the DOE, Albuquerquean Ruth Randall made a list of all the activities she wanted to pursue in her new free time. Writing was definitely not one of them. Family history was. And family history turned Ruth into a writer.

Ruth says she can't remember when she wasn't interested in family history, but she had no idea how to begin research. A friend took her to the LDS Haines Family History Center and the Albuquerque Special Collections Library, and together they attended a genealogy class taught by Bill Litchman. "I told people," says Ruth, "this is what I want to do."



**Ruth Randall**

She joined an informal seminar whose members write papers about their research for discussion and analysis. At first, Ruth admits, she was reluctant to write a paper of her own. But she tracked down a story about a great-grandfather on her mother's side, and found evidence leading to the identity of the man's unknown father. The story excited her and she wanted to share it. So she finally wrote a report—not an article—of her research.

"Ruth's a meticulous researcher," says Bill, "and a good writer." He persuaded her to submit her work to the highly respected *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

"I thought, why not? Maybe I can do this," says Ruth, and she could. *NGSQ's* then-editor Elizabeth Shown Mills contacted Ruth a few days after receiving the "report" and helped her polish it for publication. "An Interracial Suit for Inheritance: Clues to Probable Paternity for a Georgia Freedman" appeared a few months later as the lead article in the *NGSQ* June 2001 issue. In *NGSQ's* September issue, her work was cited as part of a "short and highly selective" bibliography of mixed-race slave genealogy.

Some time later, a friend showed Ruth a letter written in 1885 by an ex-slave in answer to a letter from his former owner's son. The freedman wrote about his early memories as a slave in Pennsylvania and asked after members of his master's family.

Ruth knew she had another article. She contacted Elizabeth Shown Mills, who said that for publication she should try to verify everything in the letter. "So that's what I did," says Ruth. "In addition, I studied about the history of slavery in Pennsylvania, so that I could put everything into context. They had to register the slaves in PA, so I found the registrations."

Few people know about Pennsylvania and slavery, or about post-Civil War connections between some former masters and slaves, and *NGSQ* quickly accepted Ruth's work. "Joseph Workman: Reflections of a Former Bondsman" was featured in *NGSQ's* June 2006 issue.

Ruth's passion for unearthing and sharing the stories of slaves and freedmen, along with her focus and tenacity in learning and applying research and writing skills, have made her open to the serendipitous coincidences she notices constantly

in her work. "These stories," she says, "I believe are truly meant to be."

She found the subject for her next article while searching a microfilm for information about a possible ancestor. Brief mention of a 3- or 4-year-old girl named Suzanne, sold as a slave in 1801, caught her attention. Ruth tracked down the sources of that short comment, found the bill of sale for the child, and began to piece together Suzanne's story—with the accompanying footnotes.

Writing papers on genealogical research is like writing other research papers. The source of each piece of information must be notated. Evidence is analyzed and conclusions drawn. Ruth is now familiar with *NGSQ's* editorial policies and emphasis on scholarship, readability and practical help in genealogical problem solving. While she is willing to listen to suggestions, she feels comfortable about standing firm on issues that she's carefully researched. She's even learning to deal with the numbering and footnoting systems demanded by a scholarly journal.

But those numbers and footnotes almost defeated her when, at the urging of seminar members, Ruth entered her story about Suzanne in *NGSQ's* annual Family History Writing Contest.

"The formatting's a real pain," says Ruth, "because they have special needs for the contest article, and the computer just doesn't cooperate when you try to put some entries in later. I had to go back and make sure the numbers didn't get all fouled up." That's no small task when you're dealing with dozens of footnotes and meticulously constructed family trees.

Perseverance paid off. Ruth earned an all-expense-paid trip to the National Genealogical Society's 2007 conference with her winning entry, "A Family for Suzanne," which was published in the December 2007 issue of the *NGSQ*.

She has many more writing ideas rolling around, and is researching other genealogical markets. Using new (and serendipitous) research about Joseph Workman, she presented a talk at this fall's annual conference of the African-American Historical and Genealogical Society, held in Boston. Currently she's working on an article based on the research for that talk, finishing edits for her contest-winning paper, and thinking about the lives of other long-ago people that continuously come to her attention.

"I've reached the point now," says Ruth, "where it's not necessarily my family, but it's reconstructing the lives of former slaves. I love the stories." She writes because she wants to share these stories. She is published because readers want to read them.

*Kristin Embry Litchman, long-time New Mexican, has written MG and YA novels and a number of articles for children and adults. Her latest publication, Let's Dance! Dances for Children from America's Melting Pot, is a manual for elementary school teachers.*

## SWW Classes

**C**lasses are held at the SWW conference room at 3721 Morris St. NE Suite A in Albuquerque, which is available to members wishing to teach writing skills. SouthWest Writers is not responsible for the opinions and 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 and two fiction books (with two more non-fiction and a fiction book under contract).

### Word4Writers:

#### Master Your PC and Word 2003

Series of 4 classes, 4 weeks each, starting February 6. Cost of each class series: \$49 for members, \$59 non-members plus \$10 materials—no materials fees if you attend all four series.

Get serious about using your PC for writing. In this series, **Peggy Herrington** takes you from hesitant user to confident master of your PC. You'll learn everything from taming Windows XP to writing books and articles with Word 2003 (or earlier) including organization, planning and research and set up for chapters and entire books using your PC. **Sorry: Trouble-shooting will not be offered during these classes since PC problems cannot be investigated at a distance.**

#### I. Mastering your PC

February 6-27 6:30-8:30 p.m., 4 Wednesday evenings

Maximize Windows XP, organize/find your files, use Microsoft Word 2003 and OneNote 2007 (the writer's best friend) for organization, planning, research, and learn how to search the Internet and get things done. Tips and secrets revealed.

#### II. Word4Writers Basic

March 5-26, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 4 Wednesday evenings

Master Word 2003 using fonts, headers/footers, margins, paragraphs, indents, tabs, keyboard shortcuts. Links and tips about free Word lessons online, introduction to styles and templates—the keys to everything!

#### III. Word4Writers Advanced

April 2-23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 4 Wednesday evenings

Master styles and templates and understand how they work, add images and captions, automate your table of contents and index. Necessary skills for all genre writers, but absolutely essential for creating eBooks and non-fiction.

#### IV. Managing Longer Documents

May 7-28, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 4 Wednesday evenings

Writing books with Word: more about tables of contents and indices, handling multiple chapters, master documents, outline view, section breaks, macro viruses, automating document summaries. Brief class series review.

**Peggy Herrington** worked for Microsoft from 1996 to 2001. A former technology journalist, she edits *SW Sage* and Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center's newsletter. Peggy also serves on the SWW board, writes for *albuquerqueARTS* magazine and offers writing, editing, coaching, and Web services at [pegboard.com](http://pegboard.com).

### Trade Secrets: Boost Your Career by Writing for Low-Profile Magazines

February 7–21, 2008

Thursday evenings, 7:00–8:30pm

Cost: \$39 members, \$49 nonmembers

You won't see them on most people's coffee tables, but trade magazines are the mainstay of many professional writers' careers. Writing for them produces income, generates clips, and develops professional experience. Thousands of trade magazines are published in this country, so there are bound to be some connected with your job experience, your hobbies, or your personal curiosity. This series of hands-on classes will help you identify potential markets for your work, focus your article ideas, and offer trade magazine editors what they want.

**Loretta Hall**, the author of four nonfiction books and more than 200 articles, has been writing for trade magazines for 15 years.

### Succeed with Magazines: How to pitch & write magazine articles

Feb. 28 through March 27, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

\$69 members, \$79 non-members

Don't miss this one! Sign up now!

This five-week course will teach you the ropes of finding magazine work and delivering articles that get you even more work. You'll learn how to find markets and write winning queries. Discover the strategies for getting regular magazine work. Find out how to move from local pubs to regional and national magazines. Learn how to write a dynamite article that keeps editors asking for more. Find out how to use internet writing to get more work with magazines. Discover how to create lasting relationships with editors. Learn the difference in writing for consumer and trade publications.

**Larry Greenly** is literary editor of AlbuquerqueARTS magazine. He also writes regularly for a number of consumer publications. **Rob Spiegel** is a full-time magazine writer and editor of 30 years. He writes regularly for a number of national trade magazines.

#### 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.



# 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 & #61664; Conflict & #61664; Plot & #61664; 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.

SWW programs are rarely cancelled, but it is possible depending on the weather. If you have doubts about a program taking place or about the time or topic, simply call the SWW office (505) 265-9485 during business hours, M-F, 9am- noon.

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

### So, 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.

## Welcome New Members

Susan Burns  
Lois Ruby  
Hope McVeety  
Elizabeth Galligan  
Kara McGee  
Renee Cathryn Crowder

Josephine White  
Sonja Stiefel  
John Narducci  
Carl E. Londene  
Barbara King

Type in Style,  
like FamousWriters!

For Sale: Antique multicolored,

1970s SMC Portable  
Electric Typewriter

& two manual with contoured keys.

All professionally re-conditioned.

E-mail: dulce88dulce@yahoo.com



# February

## SWW Events & Workshops

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

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

### The Writing Life of Writing Lives

For years biography has remained a popular staple of publishing. With the right approach, it also continues to be a promising field for most non-fiction authors. However, many writers struggle when it comes to choosing a subject, researching his or her life, and putting it all together in a readable form. Biographer James McGrath Morris, who has taught courses and workshops on this topic, will discuss the current promising market for biographies and review appropriate research and writing techniques.

**James McGrath Morris** is currently at work on a new major biography of Joseph Pulitzer to be published by HarperCollins. His previous book, *The Rose Man of Sing Sing: A True Tale of Life, Murder, and Redemption in the Age of Yellow Journalism*, was selected as one of the best books of non-fiction in 2004 by The Washington Post. Morris is also the editor of *The Biographer's Craft* ([www.thebiographerscraft.com](http://www.thebiographerscraft.com)), a monthly newsletter for writers and readers of biography. He makes his home in Tesuque, NM.

Saturday, February 2, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

No registration. Pay at the door.

### Turning Fact into Fiction:

### Bending the Truth to Make it Fit

An odd animal, fiction needs to have enough fact to make it believable, yet should incorporate a touch of fantasy, married with whimsy, that nestles with larger-than-life, to create a realistic, make-believe world. It's a tough job, but you can do it!

In this workshop, we'll take a look at what makes good fiction including great character development, creating plots that twist and turn, building scenes from a scrap of an idea, and how to revise without making you crazy. Bring ideas and/or books you're working on, and we'll see how we can add a modicum of fact to make your fiction sizzle.

**Melody Groves** writes for *AlbuquerqueARTS* magazine, *New Mexico Magazine*, *True West Magazine* and others. Her Western novel, *Arizona War*, is due out in March. *Ropes, Reins, and Rawhide: All About Rodeo* is her first non-fiction book. Groves is the public relations chair for SouthWestWriters, and publicity chair for Western Writers of America, as well as vice-president of New Mexico Gunfighters Association.

Tuesday, February 19, 7 to 9 p.m.

### So, You Think You Could Write Criticism

**Wesley Pulkka** will discuss his experience as an artist and critic and what goes into critical writing. Topics will include what constitutes a "good" review, background research, visiting galleries, studio visits and learning to trust your intuition. Pulkka will address the joys and tolls of weekly deadlines as well as working with editors.

Wesley Pulkka earned his BFA and MFA in sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore where he was awarded the Gold Medal for Excellence and a Rhinehart Fellowship in sculpture. He did graduate study at the University of Pennsylvania where he was a special graduate student and studio assistant to sculptor Robert Engman. Pulkka studied art history with Van Deren Coke at the University of New Mexico and earned his Ph.D in the history of sacred art at the Union Institute and University in Cincinnati. Pulkka's sculpture has been shown at the Maryland Institute Mt. Royal Galleries, Baltimore Museum of Art, University of New Mexico Art Museum, and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington DC. His drawings, paintings and prints have been shown at the Seattle Art Museum, University of Colorado, Yale University, Aldridge Museum of Contemporary Art and several private galleries. Pulkka writes feature articles, artist profiles, critical essays and reviews for *Architectural Digest*, *Southwest Art Magazine*, *The Santa Fean*, *Santa Fe Trend*, *Ministry and Liturgy Magazine*, *Elevation Magazine*, *THE Magazine*, *Art Santa Fe*, and *Crosswinds* and has contributed to several books on art and design. Pulkka has written a weekly column for the *Albuquerque Journal* for the past 14 years.

For nurses of all ages

### The Lamp is Still Heavy

A Memoir of Nursing School in the 1950s



by Roberta M. Jarrett

\$10.00 plus shipping and handling.  
To order, e-mail: [rmj444@lobo.net](mailto:rmj444@lobo.net)

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

## Minding Finances for Writers Why Writers Need Wills

by Sherri Burr

What do President Abraham Lincoln, actor James Dean, and business mogul Howard Hughes have in common? If you guessed that they all died without wills, you would be correct. In any given year, approximately one-half to two-thirds of all deceased Americans expire intestate, or without wills.



The reasons for not making a will are many. Some, like Abraham Lincoln and James Dean, just never got around to it. They both died suddenly. Others, like Howard Hughes, may be superstitious, afraid to give others incentives to wish or plan for their early exit to the business arena in the sky.

Whatever the excuse, to die without a will is to give the state the authority to decide how your estate will be divided. Your surviving relatives will either accept the outcome or contest it. The brawl between billionaire Howard Hughes' distant relatives was settled in 1996, 20 years after his demise. It cost \$20 million in legal fees.

So what does this mean to you as a writer? Simply put, some of your most important estate assets may be the copyrights in your work.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. can serve as an inspiration to other writers. King copyrighted everything, his speeches, editorials, books, and other writings. He may have anticipated that an early death would lesson his family's means of support. As a consequence, his estate, which was valued at \$66,492.29 after his assassination in 1968, is now worth several million.

Currently, copyrights endure for the lifetime of the author, plus 70 years. This means that you can plan to give away your copyrights for up to 70 years after your death. The copyright contains six rights: (1) the right to copy, (2) the right to adapt or prepare derivative works, (3) the right to economically exploit the work through sale, lease, rental, or other transfer, (4) the right of public performance, (5) the right of public display, and (6) the right of digital audio transmission.

You can assign all these rights to one person, or divide them up. A romance novelist, for example, could devise the movie rights to one child and the translation rights to a second, or all the adaptation rights to a third. A playwright could leave public performance rights to grandchildren.

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination. When meeting with an attorney to prepare your will, be sure to inform him or her that you are a writer and that you wish to make provisions for your copyrights. Even if you write your will from online software, remember your copyrights.

*UNM Law School Professor Sherri Burr is the author or co-author of 8 books, including the recently published Wills & Trusts in a Nutshell 3rd Edition (Thomson West 2007).*

## January Markets Preview of "From Start to Sales IV"

by Eileen Stanton

You already know it's a one-day seminar for writers who dream of selling their novels, screenplays, non-fiction books and articles. I'm giving you an early glimpse of this successful one-day conference sponsored by UNM Continuing Education in conjunction with SouthWest Writers. It takes place at UNMat 1634 University Blvd. on Saturday, April 19, 2008.



Several agents, editors, and a Hollywood director/producer/screenwriter will take ten-minute pitches from writers—even those who haven't finished their project, although they prefer complete manuscripts. Almost all literary genres, screenplays, and nonfiction books will be in demand.

Between the authors, agents and editors, almost every genre, including pop novels and timely nonfiction books are represented. An agent and two editors will also give talks.

Those taking 10-minute pitches include:

**Tara Gavin**, senior executive editorial director (New York), for Silhouette, Harlequin, Steeple Chase, and Luna

**Emily Haynes**, Dutton editor looking for pop fiction and pop nonfiction

**Katheryn Compton**, Editor-in-Chief of seven publications including *Grit*, *The Herb Companion*, and *Herbs for Life*

**Jonathan Wacks**, Hollywood screen writer/director, Chair of the Moving Image Arts program at College of Santa Fe

**Patricia Moosbrugger**, former New York literary agent who opened an agency in Albuquerque

**Mary Sue Seymour**, president of Mary Sue Seymour Literary Agency in New York

**Sally Van Haitsma**, an agent with Castiglia Literary Agency in Del Mar, California

Six authors plus an editor and agent will give talks:

**Stephen R. Donaldson**, whose fantasy and science books and series have won many awards

**Sarah Lovett**, author of forensic thrillers, murder mysteries, and 25 nonfiction travel & science books

**Sarah Baker**, writer of romance, mystery, and erotica, and next president of L.E.R.A.

**Stephanie Kuehn**, who writes and teaches stage plays and movies at UNM

**Jonathan Wacks**, former vice-president of the Samuel Goldwyn Co., will discuss New Mexico's film industry and how to get training in the various programs in the state

**Mary Sue Seymour**, agent, will give an inspirational talk;

**Katheryn Compton**, Editor-in-Chief of seven publications will also give an inspirational talk

**Raquel Troyce** will discuss how her screenplay was accepted and produced

I will offer several writing courses before the conference to help writers complete or edit manuscripts, create synopses, and polish queries and pitches. A breakfast buffet, lunch and handouts are also included in the \$130 cost. If you want to reserve your pitch session, e-mail me with your name, genre, and the person you choose. My email is: [estanton@cableone.net](mailto:estanton@cableone.net).



## I Have the Right to Write

by Irene I. Blea, Ph.D.

There is no need to suffer as a writer. It may take courage, but there should be no fear or guilt or feelings of illegitimacy when writing skills are being developed. Know that there is a time to talk about your writing and there are times when it is best to keep it simple. There is a skill to talking about your work and knowing what to say. For beginners, concentrate on developing your craft by simply following these suggestions.



1. Say aloud, "I am a writer. There is something I want or need to express." No one needs to know you have whispered these words to yourself, by yourself.

2. After claiming the title, claim it to others. Introduce yourself as a writer, "I am a writer," or "I am an author." The first time may be awkward, because what one writes may not be clearly defined. Therefore, do not try to answer, "Have I read some of your work?" How do you know what the person reads?

3. When asked, "What have you published?" Keep it simple, "I write ... (fiction, non-fiction, science fiction.)"

4. Unless asked, do not tell about your struggle with the work, your entire writing history, or too much about what you are writing if you are not clear about where you are in the process.

5. Do not be embarrassed and do not stumble or stammer. This places doubt about your ability to write, and you need not doubt yourself for more than a few seconds.

6. Practice some quick answers. Try this: "I have a work in progress," and "Excuse me, I need to get to the other side of the room."

There are many exhausting dilemmas for a writer. Defending your writing is not one of them. Spending time with those who do not care or cannot help takes time away from writing and most emotional traps take place within the writer. Stop it.

Have short answers for your family when they question what you write and why. Have a ready answer for the neighbors and your friends when they comment on not seeing you. When your children charge you with being selfish and taking too much time at the computer, or your spouse thinks your writing is a hobby, therefore not a serious endeavor, claim your right to write. Women often have difficulty giving themselves the right to write. Significant others do not like housekeeping, making their own dinner, washing and folding and storing their own clothes. Moms, wives or sweethearts rising early to do something not based on the needs of their significant others scares people. They may try to sabotage your writing, but write about it and get it published.

Being a writer leads to frustration, but beware; frustration can lead to anger and one day you may explode. Do not do it. Simply declare that you have a right to write:

**I have the right to write.**

**I want to write.**

**I have something to write.**

**I claim my time to write.**

**I have a physical space in my home where I write.**

**I am announcing that I am a writer.**

**I do not feel guilty.**

**I do not feel illegitimate.**

**I have a guaranteed right to write by the US Constitution.**

**I will write it.**

*Dr. Blea has written well over twenty articles on US Hispanics/Chicanos, with an emphasis on women. Her 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 of terrorism against women of color, and statistics on Native American, African American, Asian women and Chicanas/Latinas are contained in the university level text.*



Photo by Rose Marie Kern

**Lela Belle Wolfert and Bonnie Hayes** at the December meeting. Lela Belle, the eternal Queen of Everything, retired from the SWW Board of Directors at the end of 2007. Her smiling face will still be at the meetings.

**JOY**

By **Greg Candela**  
(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

Schnick dill arbae  
oranu tan leaferickson  
Brungalday tigers  
hang in mulberrytrees  
fruitless glash

Oh Shawnie, Oh Shawnie  
Garroosh

# 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 with side dishes & dessert  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian wrap with side dishes & dessert

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](http://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](http://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

**C**ongratulations to the winners of our October 2007 International Monthly Writing Competition: Memoirs.

**1st prize: Nancy LaTurner**, Albuquerque, NM for "Fueling an Invasion."



**2nd prize Bonnie Hayes**, Albuquerque, NM for "Rat Racers."

**3rd prize Anna Redsand**, Albuquerque, NM for "Government School."

Honorable Mentions (alphabetical):

**Susan J. Alexis**, Albuquerque, NM for "A Family, a Fair."

**Druanne Cushman**, Altadena, California for "The Road Trip."

**Amando Fanzo**, Tijeras, NM for "A Child and a Box with a Pretty Red Bow."

**Ruth Friesen**, Albuquerque, NM for "Lanterns in Landscheid."

**Charles J. Garcia**, Erie, Colorado for "A Voice."

**Tina LaTurner**, Albuquerque, NM for "Unorthodox Harvest."

**Vicki Moss**, Chattanooga, TN for "Strange Things That Swing in the Night."

**Diana Thurbon**, Keysborough, Victoria, Australia for "The Fall Fledgling."

### Critique Groups

Submit your requests to [SWWriters@juno.com](mailto:SWWriters@juno.com).

#### Groups Seeking Members

#### Any Genre

#### Estancia Valley Writers Group

Critiques and moral support  
Meets at Moriarty Community Library  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.  
*Tina Ortega* 505-832-2513

#### Any Genre, Rio Rancho:

*Alice Harpley and Bob Harpley*  
505-867-1408  
[riversedgebob@cableone.net](mailto:riversedgebob@cableone.net)  
[riograndema@cableone.net](mailto:riograndema@cableone.net)

#### Land of Enchantment

#### Romance Authors:

Meets the second Saturday of each month at noon. Potential members: attend three meetings to try it out.  
[leranm.com](http://leranm.com)

#### The Screaming Ninja

#### Screenwriters:

Meets every other Thursday,  
Flying Star on 7th and Silver.  
*Marc Calderwood*  
505-897-6474  
[skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com](mailto:skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com)

#### All Facets of Writing

New afternoon critique group, all genres, NE Heights. Starting January.  
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](mailto:welbert53@aol.com)

#### Memoirs, Albuquerque

*John Ward* 505-822-0717  
[Johnrward2@aol.com](mailto:Johnrward2@aol.com)

### January Contest Writing Article

**W**rite a short article for a writing magazine concerning writing tips, writing methods or writing experiences to educate other writers. Topics can range from personal experience to creativity to the mechanics of writing. Examples: "How to Get Ideas and Flesh Them Out," "What Not to Do When Submitting to an Editor," or "How to Research," or "Proofreading Tips." 600 to 800 words, double spaced.

Postmark deadline: Thursday, January 31, 2008

#### 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

**T**his 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: 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.** Fiction. WriteTheWay.com. Fee: \$5. Prize: \$50 to winner, \$50 to winner's charity of choice. Each entry must be between 100 - 5000 words, and must not contain profanity or graphic sexual content. Submissions can be written in any style or format, as long as they meet the criteria set forth in the Competition Rules and Regulations. Open to US residents only. Submission guidelines and information at: [www.writetheway.com/contest.html](http://www.writetheway.com/contest.html).

**Deadline: 1/10/08 (postmark).** Script/Screenplay. John C Gardner Prize for the Two Minute Play. Prize: first prize of \$750 and publication in *Rosebud*. Runner up receives \$250. Entry fee: \$10/script. Must be unoptioned, unpublished, unproduced plays in English. No longer than 2 pages. Submission guidelines and information at: [http://www.rsbd.net/gardner\\_prize.htm](http://www.rsbd.net/gardner_prize.htm).

**Deadline: 1/15/08 (postmark).** Best Lead. The Philip Mangelsdorf Award for Writing Excellence, for "the best lead" - the first 150 words (or less) of any fiction or nonfiction work, published or unpublished. Entry fee: \$10. Awards: 15 winners with a top prize of \$500 for 1st Place. Entrants retain all rights; however, Writing for Money reserves the right to publish winning entries on site. Submission guidelines and information at: John Clausen, Editor, Writing for Money, 128-A North Main Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792; [www.writingformoney.com](http://www.writingformoney.com).

**Deadline: 1/17/08 (postmark or e-mail).** Script. *JJ Express Magazine* Environmental Comic Script Contest. Awards: 1st Place publication in *JJ Express Magazine*, 2nd and 3rd place publication on *JJ Express* Web site. Authors retain the copyright of their work, but must agree to a Nonexclusive Publication Agreement. No Entry Fee. Write a script for an artist to do a comic on some aspect of the environmental crisis. Include descriptions of the characters, and descriptions of what is happening in each panel as applicable. Must be original work. Info: [www.writerscave.org/contests/3204/](http://www.writerscave.org/contests/3204/); Jenny Chen, Editor-in-Chief, PO Box 83848, Gaithersburg MD 20883; [Editor.jjexpress@gmail.com](mailto:Editor.jjexpress@gmail.com).

**Deadline: 1/20/08 (postmark).** Poetry. High Prairie Poets—New Mexico State Poetry Society Bimonthly Contests. Open to all poets. 25-line limit. Award: \$20 plus 2 honorable mentions; no poems published. Entry fee: \$2 first poem; \$1 each additional poem. Submission guidelines and information at: Send SASE to Carol Dee Meeks, 2010 W. Bullock Ave, Artesia, NM 88210; or e-mail [c\\_pmeeks@hotmail.com](mailto:c_pmeeks@hotmail.com).

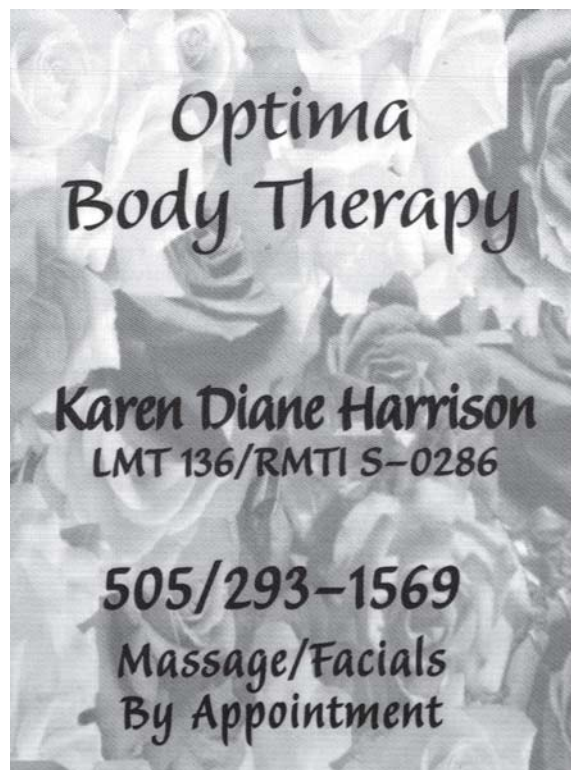
**Deadline: 1/31/08 (postmark).** Short story. 15<sup>th</sup> Dame Lisbet Throckmorton Fiction Contest. Prize: \$500 first, \$125 second, \$75 third, \$50 fourth. Outstanding entries considered for publication. Entry fee: \$15/entry. Critique fee: \$25. Send in original works of fiction (any genre, but they look for "disarming and original" work) up to 3,500 words. Submission guidelines and information at: [coffehousefiction.com](http://coffehousefiction.com).

**Deadline: 1/31/08 (online).** *Columbia: A Journal's* Annual Contest - Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction. Entry fee: \$12. Awards: \$500 each category plus publication. Online entries only. Submission guidelines and information at: [www.columbiajournal.org/contests.htm](http://www.columbiajournal.org/contests.htm).

**Deadline: 1/31/08 (postmark).** Fiction. Second Annual Per Contra Prize for stories of 1,000 to 3,000 words. Entry fee: \$10. Award: \$1,000 and publication first prize; top 10 stories will be published at our regular professional rates. Submission guidelines and information at: [www.percontra.net/8pcprize2guidelines.htm](http://www.percontra.net/8pcprize2guidelines.htm); Miriam Kotzin, Suite 10B, 250 South 13th St., Philadelphia PA 19107.

**Deadline: 2/1/08.** Fiction. *Blue Mesa Review* Short Story Award. Entry Fee \$10. Prize \$250 and publication in *Blue Mesa Review*. Only unpublished fiction manuscripts, max. 5000 words, will be considered. Judges Kimberly Witherspoon and Alexis Hurley are agents with Inkwell Management. Submission guidelines at: [www.unm.edu/~bluemesa/](http://www.unm.edu/~bluemesa/).

**Editor's Note:** This is a big year for *Blue Mesa Review*, the literary magazine of the University of New Mexico creative writing program. Their next issue will be the first under student editorship, putting *Blue Mesa* in league with *Indiana Review*, *Sycamore Review*, *Sonora Review*, and prestigious others.



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](http://www.southwestwriters.org)

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

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



# Happy New Year from SouthWest Writers!