

# SouthWest Sage

November 2011 [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com)

## Luise Putcamp Jr. Wins Storyteller Award

by Kathy Wagoner

Luise Putcamp, Jr. received the Storyteller Award in the Southwest Writers 2011 annual writing competition, as well as first place in the Personal Essay category for "Confessions of a Card-Carrying Cadaver."

"Confessions" had previously won 2nd place in 2009 for Best Hook in the SouthWest Writers 2nd Quarterly Contest. Even with that win, Putcamp thought the topic of her essay was too macabre, that her personal experience with signing up to donate her body to science in the event of her death didn't have much chance of placing in the annual competition. When she won, she was surprised and touched by the judge's comments. Personal Essay judge Stephanie Hainsfurther of *Ampichellis E-Books* said, "I especially appreciated the matter-of-fact tone coupled with the emotional, even grim, subject. You let the reader go along on the journey, showing (not telling) all the while."

For Putcamp, her writer's journey began with composing poetry at the age of six. "Then in grade school, I wrote the usual kid 'papers' on assigned subjects. Several times my teachers couldn't believe I wrote what I handed in and kept me after school to write under their gimlet gaze. So I gathered that writing was something I was good at," says Putcamp. But she seldom attended grade school. Growing up during the Depression,

she and her siblings wore shoes with cardboard soles and lived too far out in the country to be picked up by a school bus. Instead, every Saturday the family drove into a small, nearby town to see a 10-cent matinee and visit the library. Each week she devoured the books, hardly able to wait until the next trip into town for another pile, and in the process she learned spelling and grammar.



Luise Putcamp, Jr., cub reporter for *The Arizona Republic*, 1942.

In 1939, at the age of 15, Putcamp went to work as a reporter for *The Anniston Times* in Alabama. She shared the same name with her mother who also worked for the newspaper. To avoid confusion over future bylines, they made it a contest to see who sold the first freelance story. The winner got to keep her unadorned name. Her mother won, and Putcamp held on to the Jr. designation over a 70-plus-year career as an investigative reporter, freelance writer and editor, accumulating bylines across the United States from Washington DC to Florida, and Indiana to Arizona. Her résumé, too extensive to list every detail

in this space, includes eleven years of writing a syndicated series for The Associated Press.

Despite winning third place (2008) and second place (2010) for rhyming poetry in Writers Digest annual writing competitions, penning a personal essay is the only kind of writing Putcamp does now. Essay writing inspires her "to try to make some sort of sense of [her] 87 years of life," she says.

Over the years, she never lost her reporter's eye for detail. When not writing, playing computer solitaire or working the *New York Times* "big, baffling" Sunday crossword puzzle, she confesses to being a people watcher. She loves observing how people move, what they wear, and tries to guess their mood.

And what has she read that she wished she had written? This from a birthday greeting card: Forget the past, you can't change it. Forget the present, I'm not giving you one.

### Save the Date

SouthWest Writers Conference  
Screen and Script 2012  
Saturday, February 25

## President's Message: The Power of the Pen *by Melody Groves*



**N**ovember is always a month where we sit back and think about our lives and what we're grateful for...or not. So let's do that for a moment. Let's think about our writing lives and what good things have happened to us this year.

**Newspapers and magazines.** While many have written their own obituaries, many more have popped up on the internet. There are still places and people who crave our written words. We are the ones who tell the stories people want to read. And read them they do.

**Books.** More books than ever before are being printed every day thanks to modern technology. And because of that, the larger publishers are being forced to rethink their marketing and the overall way they do business. These are good things for a writer, maybe not so good for a publisher.

**Music.** While many of us don't think of music in association with writing, we should. Guess what? Somebody wrote those terrific lyrics...they didn't just spontaneously appear on the page at the bottom of the score, the musical notes. Somebody sat down and put words to "Row, row, row your boat..." All right, so not *all* lyrics are outstanding, but some are.

And with today's technology, in particular e-books, our words are more available, quicker. I've had several discussions with writers, especially those not published by large companies, and they pretty much say the same thing — why sit around for months, years waiting to be anointed by a New York publisher when there are numerous other ways to get their work "out there." Out there being a relative term — the internet, book stores, even the air waves.

Indeed, it's an exciting time to be a writer, and I'm so very grateful for this chosen profession. Being a freelance writer has sent me all over the Southwest, literally, and I've met people I wouldn't have met otherwise. I've been given free food, lodging and concert tickets all because of my words. That's a pretty powerful and heady feeling — people care *that* much about what I have to say. As my daughter would say: "Awesome!"

So as we sit together at Thanksgiving turkey, or just sit, think about your writing life and written words and be thankful. I know I am. Facebook page...I bet somebody'll respond to that.

Happy October.

*Melody*

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*Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader — not the fact that it is raining, but the feeling of being rained upon.*

*~ E.L. Doctorow*

#### SouthWest Sage Advertising Rates Worldwide Internet Circulation

The SWW website receives thousands of page requests every month.

Business card size: \$20    1/4 page, vertical: \$40    1/3 page, horizontal: \$50  
15% discount for 3 mos.    20% discount for 6 mos.

**Deadline:** 1st of each month for the following month.  
Payment due with camera-ready ad copy in .jpg format.

#### Annual Membership in SouthWest Writers

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

Requires proof of student status

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

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

**Join us first Saturday: 10 AM-Noon: Third Tuesday: 7-9 PM**  
**New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE,**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**



## **SouthWest Sage**

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## **A Note from the Outgoing Editor** Ruth Friesen

I've enjoyed editing *SouthWest Sage* for the past three years. The marvelous thing about editing a publication for writers is that it is not difficult to get someone to write an article, and if I have a question on how to do something, I just ask someone to write an article about it. Thank you to all the contributors and columnists who have been so willing to educate SWW members about various aspects of writing.

I've also learned a lot about web design and editing, and am pleased that we have a well-functioning, modern website. So it's been a great ride, but it is time for me to move on.

I have accepted the challenge of editing two historic trail journals, one for the Santa Fe Trail Association and the other for the Old Spanish Trail Association. Both are composed of association news as well as scholarly research articles. I'll be learning a lot about history in the 1800s.

I'm pleased to announce that Kathy Wagoner has agreed to become the next *Sage* Editor. Having worked as a typesetter for Albuquerque Living Magazine, she is experienced with the design and printing process required to create the *Sage*. I'm confident she will continue providing a quality publication for SouthWest Writers. You can contact her at justwritessww@gmail.com.

Welcome aboard, Kathy.

### **Congratulations to the Winners of the Fourth 2011 SWW Bi-Monthly Writing Competition "Flash Fiction"**

- 1st: Alice Hurst, Albuquerque, NM, "Mango"  
2nd: Dennis Kastendiak, Albuquerque, NM, "The Professional"  
3rd: Barbara R. Duchek, St. Louis, MO, "Chatty Kathy"

#### **Honorable Mention:**

Suzan E. Boyer, Running Springs, CA, "The Magic Swing"  
Karen Higgins, Albuquerque, NM, "Not Again"  
Maralie W. BeLonge, Albuquerque, NM, "Bears"  
Elizabeth Rose, Galisteo, NM, "...it's hot enough"  
Katherine B. Hauth, Rio Rancho, NM, "White Cloth, Cold Room"  
Bruce A. Mann, Albuquerque, NM, "Sanguinity"  
James H. Brooks, Abilene, TX, "Eating Out"

*The First Place winning entry is printed on page 4, Second and Third places are on page 14.*

## Fourth Bi-Monthly Writing Competition

### First Place Winner Flash Fiction

Mango  
by Alice Hurst

Early morning. Haleiwa, Hawaii on Oahu's north shore. I woke up. He was gone. I knew he would be.

I was twenty-two. Brandon, eleven months, toddled on the grass, bare fat toes curling and spreading with each step. The air was full of sea and mango and the smell of sugar cane ash. I wore shorts and a bikini top, long hair moving with the trees, slicing one of the mangos that had fallen from the tree that grew over the house, with the paring knife I'd found. The sweet carrot-peach flavored juice rolled around my teeth, filled my nose, gave me mango eyes. A bite for me, a slice to him as he toddled over, chubby fingers moving open, close motioning 'more.' I sliced another mango sliver and helped him balance it like a slithery fish. He turned, waddled away with hand to mouth, cheeks round, sticky mango juice dripping from corners of his pink butterfly lips. Black and orange mynah birds squawked around him, telling me I'd had no choice.

It was just us now. We had nothing. But mangos fell from the tree each night. Twang, twang on the tin roof. Thud, on the ground.

### *We Got Mail*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was the First Place winner in the 2006 Southwest Writers annual novel contest in the historical fiction category. I wanted to let you know that my novel *Flaherty's Run* recently has been published by Lachesis Publishing. The e-book version currently is ranked #8 in the historical fiction category on the fictionwise.com website. The print version has just been released. It took some time to reach publication but the result has been highly satisfactory.

Winning your contest was a great boost to my career and I wanted to let you know how appreciative I am of your contest.

Sincerely,

Bill Hoffman  
aka Henry Hoffman  
*Flaherty's Run*

## New Executive Administrator Needed

New Mexico Book Association (NMBA) is looking for an executive administrator, effective October 31, with word processing, spreadsheet and other computer skills; internet communication; strong written and verbal communication abilities; and experience with organizing and maintaining systems and procedures. Knowledge of the aspects of book publishing is helpful.

The job involves:

- coordinating volunteer activities
- overseeing finances
- overseeing membership matters
- assisting with events
- communications
- general office matters

NMBA is offering a modest stipend, plus a free business ad in *Libro* and on their website.

For more information or to apply, please contact:

Jim Mafchir, (505) 988-7214  
[westernedge@santa-fe.net](mailto:westernedge@santa-fe.net)

## 2011 Sixth Bi-Monthly Writing Contest

### A Poem About the Southwest

Enter a poem of any form, double-spaced, no page limit. You don't necessarily have to write "about" the Southwest. You just have to make sure there is at least some Southwestern imagery in the poem. **Postmark deadline: December 31, 2011.** Please include your contact information (address, phone and email) and permission to publish or not on a separate sheet. Do not include any identifying information on the manuscript itself. All entries \$10. Prizes: \$150/1st prize; \$50/2nd prize; \$25/3rd prize. Mail entries to SWW Bimonthly Contest, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

CYNTHIA BARBER

GHOSTWRITING  
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RESEARCH

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**M**any writers treat theme as something that just happens, so they don't try to control it. But this can lead to a story with a confusing theme, or even one that accidentally contradicts the author's beliefs.

You don't need to know your theme right away. Sometimes, you may discover your message as you write the story. Or you may start with one idea in mind, and change it as you go. Writing the story may help you explore new aspects of an idea, uncovering complexities and contradictions. This can result in a deeper, more meaningful story, so let that process unfold. But you should definitely know your theme before you finish your final draft, and edit to make sure your story best supports your theme.

When trying to identify your theme, start big and then narrow your focus. Can you define your theme in one word? Is it about love, hope, courage, sacrifice? Once you've identified that word, try to state your theme as a single, clear sentence. What do you want to say about that word? For example, if your novel is about sacrifice, is your character making sacrifices for her own future, for a loved one, for her country, for an ideal? What does she have to sacrifice? Narrowing in on the specifics can help you pinpoint your theme.

Then work backward. Does your novel truly support your message? Maybe you've decided that your theme is "The greater good is more important than the individual's desire." In that case, your main character should be giving up a desire in order to help a larger group. But perhaps you liked your character so much that you ended with her helping the group and getting what she wanted as well. That weakens your message, and suggests a different theme, "Good will be rewarded." You might want to reconsider your ending.

Find people to read your story and ask what message they take away. Make sure their response is in line with your ideals. Don't expect your readers to all pick out your theme exactly, however. If they do, you're probably not being subtle enough. Just make sure they find a valuable message. In my Mayan historical adventure, *The Well of Sacrifice*, I knew my main theme: make your own decisions and stand on your own. One young reader wrote me and said, "The book...helped me think to never give up, even in the worst of times, just like what happened to Eveningstar." I'm happy to inspire a reader to "never give up," even if that wasn't my main theme. And perhaps readers will be subtly influenced by my primary message, even if they don't recognize it while reading.

### Too Many Messages?

For younger readers and short stories, you need to keep the theme simple. The longer the story or novel, and the older the reader, the more complex and subtle you can be. At first a book may appear to be a humorous romance, but as the

story unfolds, it may reveal a theme about honesty in relationships. The theme may only be clear from the final twist in the story. The theme can be revealed through what the main character learns, how she changes, what she gains or loses.

As part of your revisions (or in the planning stage, if you are really organized), work on your character in order to set up your theme. Use her virtues and vices. How will her strengths help her? What weaknesses does she have to overcome? Make sure these tie into the theme. If your character must learn about honesty, make sure that it will be possible but difficult for her. Maybe she craves intimacy, but is afraid no one will like her if she shows her true self.

For longer works, think about how you can use other characters or subplots to support or expand on your theme. Maybe your main character learns to be honest in her relationships, and so develops a loving connection with her boyfriend. In contrast, her friend might keep lying in order to make a good impression, and get dumped, or wind up with a shallow, dissatisfying relationship. A subplot about the main character's relationship with her parents could explore the theme in yet another way.

Multiple themes can give a novel extra depth and power. However, don't let your story get cluttered with too many themes, especially wildly different ones. If you try to share everything you believe about life in one story, it will feel cluttered and confusing. Focus on one primary theme, and save the others for different works.

In your theme, you can find the heart of your story. It's your chance to share what you believe about the world, so take the time to identify and clarify your theme, and make sure your story supports it.

*For more on theme and other writing topics, visit Chris's blog at <http://chriseboch.blogspot.com/> or order her book *Advanced Plotting*.*



*Chris Eboch is a popular teacher with SouthWest Writers, SCBWI, and the Institute of Children's Literature. Find more advice on hooking your reader in Chris's book *Advanced Plotting*, with over a hundred pages on how to make your plots stronger, or get more craft advice at the Write Like a Pro! blog: <http://chriseboch.blogspot.com/>.*

## For Who/Whom The Bell Tolls *by Dodici Azpadu*

**W**ho and whom are easy to use correctly in sentences with clear subjects, verbs and objects. Use who for subjects and whom for objects, including direct and indirect objects and objects of prepositions [*For whom the bell tolls*]. Unfortunately, not all sentences are simple, and not all prepositions can be trusted to signal objective case whom.

*Who are you visiting this week?* [Incorrect]

Mentally re-construct the sentence. You are visiting who/whom?

Clearly, the pronoun is the object of the verb. It requires the objective case.

*Whom are you visiting this week?* [Correct]

Likewise,

*Whom was responsible for the deficit?* [Incorrect]

Mentally reconstruct the sentence. The only possible subject is the pronoun. Therefore, subjective case is required.

*Who was responsible for the deficit?* [Correct]

When sentences have subordinate clauses, whom and whomever still suffice for all objects, and who and whoever are required for subjects and subject complements. In subordinate clauses, the pronoun case is determined by the pronoun's function in the sentence.

*She is a singer whom earns millions.* [Incorrect]

Many of the who/whom problems occur because writers and readers are accustomed to the order of Subject-Verb-Object. If the familiar order is altered, the syntax can be challenging.

The pronoun in the sentence comes in what is often the object position: *She is the singer who/whom . . .* However, the pronoun introduces the subordinate clause, and the verb earns in that clause requires a subject.

*She is a singer who earns millions.* [Correct]

In the following example, the preposition signal *for* leads the writer astray.

*Catcher in the Rye is standard reading for whomever is interested in boys facing adult hypocrisy.* [Incorrect]

The entire phrase *whoever is interested in boys facing adult hypocrisy* is the object of the preposition, and the phrase requires a subject of the verb *is*.

*Catcher in the Rye is standard reading for whoever is interested in boys facing social hypocrisy.* [Correct]

Subject complements re-name or describe the subject. They occur with linking verbs, usually forms of the verb *to be*. When *who* is the subject complement, it occurs before the subject and verb of the sentence.

*From your Facebook profile, lawyers can tell whom you will acquit.* [Incorrect]

Typically, a writer might assume that *whom* is correct because it appears in the object position. Lawyers can tell what? Another way to misconstrue the syntax is to re-construct the sentence as, *You will vote for whom*. Notice the unreliable prepositional signal.

*From your Facebook profile, lawyers can tell who you will acquit.* [Correct]

When *whom* or *whomever* functions as an object in a subordinate clause, it will also appear out of order (before the subject and verb). In this case, the writer must mentally reconstruct the sentence.

*You will be assigned a mentor, who you will meet later.* [Incorrect]

*You will be assigned a mentor, whom you will meet later.* [Correct]

The clause already has a subject and verb, *you will meet*. The direct object *whom* is required.

Finally, a nasty little rule to give writers nightmares. Use whom for subjects and objects of infinitives.

Writers readily accept using *whom* for objects of infinitives. That is what this month's tip is about. But using *whom* in the subject position? Yes. That is the rule. See *The Bedford Handbook* or *The Elements of Style*, or any current grammar book.

*Continued on page 13*



*Dodici Azpadu, MFA, PhD is the author of three published novels, numerous short stories, and many poems. Her third novel, Living Room, was a finalist for the 2010 NM Book Awards in Fiction. Visit her website at [www.dodici-azpadu.com](http://www.dodici-azpadu.com). Her novella Saturday Night will be out this fall.*



**Find SouthWest Writers  
on Facebook**

## Meetings

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

**Saturday, November 5**  
**10:00 a.m. to noon**  
**Members free, guests \$5**

### **From Inception to Completion: a Writer's Journey**

**Joanne Bodin**

The writing process can often become tedious and discouraging but the actual journey is as important as the final product. Joanne Bodin will discuss how she turned her novel from a "glimmer of an idea" into an award-winner. She will explain how the creative process can survive the rigors of self-imposed discipline, writing schedules and re-writes, the need for copy editors, the changing publishing industry, and the ever-present self-doubt.

**Joanne Bodin, Ph.D.**, a retired APS teacher who taught special education for thirty-four years, co-authored *Step By Step Storytelling: a Narrative Language Curriculum*. Her novel, *Walking Fish*, received the EVVY Award nomination through the Colorado Independent Publisher's Association, was a Finalist in the Santa Fe Writer's Project, and won the International Book Awards in two categories. Her latest book of poetry, *Piggybacked*, is a tribute to her late grandfather, also a poet. She is working on another novel, a psychological thriller about the esoteric world of orchids, and serves as vice president of the New Mexico Orchid Guild.



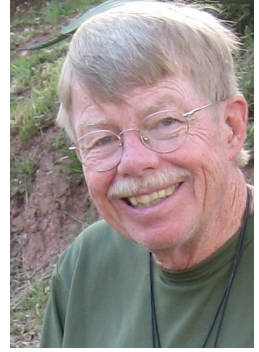
**Tuesday, November 15**  
**7 to 9 p.m.**  
**Members free, guests \$5**

### **How a Nonfiction Writer Left a Happy Long-term Relationship and Took Up with a Sexy Young Novel**

**Bob Julyan**

This presentation is about stagnation, change, and growth for writers.

**Bob Julyan's** career as a non-fiction writer began more than 40 years ago when he became a newspaper writer and editor, and since then he's written numerous magazine articles and nine books of non-fiction. These have included *The Place Names of New Mexico*, *New Mexico's Wilderness Areas*, *The Mountains of New Mexico*, and *Mountains of New Mexico*. About four years ago he went through a classic midlife crisis regarding his writing, so he sought no new non-fiction writing projects and instead began working on a novel. This talk will be the gut-wrenching and sometimes heart-warming story of how it all worked out (so far). More importantly, it will encourage participants to share their own stories about changing directions.



**Saturday, December 3**  
**before the meeting**  
**8:30 to 10:00 am**

### ***Holiday Brunch***



Join us again this year as we gather with lots of goodies to celebrate another year of SouthWest Writers. Bring your favorite yuletide treats to share and help us ring in a new writing year!

### **Reminder:**

*There will be no Tuesday evening meeting  
in December due to the holidays.*

**Saturday, December 3**  
**10:00 a.m. to noon**  
**Members free, guests \$5**

### **Adaptation: How to Turn Your Novel Into a Screenplay Without Having a Nervous Breakdown**

**Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez**

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of many novels. Her work is published in 11 languages and she has more than 1 million books in print. Alisa was named one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanics in the United States by *Time* magazine; *Latina* magazine named her a Woman of the Year. *Entertainment Weekly* hailed her as a Breakout Literary Star, and *Hispanic Business* magazine has twice named her among the 100 Most Influential people in the nation. Alisa is a former staff writer for the *Boston Globe* and the *Los Angeles Times*, and holds a master's in journalism degree from Columbia University.



## January/February Classes

### CREATIVE MARKETING FOR AUTHORS

By Loretta Hall

January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2 pm - 4:00 pm

\$160 members and \$190 non-members

Whether your book is self-published or produced by a publishing company, you will be its primary marketer. Learn a variety of strategies and techniques to market your book.

**Loretta Hall** is the author of five nonfiction books, two of which she actively markets. Only 30 percent of published books earn back their advance, and Loretta's book, *Underground Buildings: More than Meets the Eye*, is about to achieve that milestone. *Out of this World: New Mexico's Contributions to Space Travel*, published in 2011, appeals to a very different audience, but she is adapting the strategies she learned with the earlier book, adding some new twists.

### SURFING YOUR ENTHUSIASM: Make Writing Goals Work

By Sue Sullivan

January 23 and 30 and February 6, 6 pm - 7:30 pm

\$90 members and \$120 non-members

Do you get enthusiastic and determined to write, but you aren't writing anywhere near as much as you'd like? Or have you done a lot of writing in the past, but you don't actually finish the work? In this class you'll work with writing goals that support you in developing your internal motivation so you don't have to force yourself to sit down to write.

**Sue Sullivan** has been actively involved in personal development for nearly 30 years. At one point, she found she hardly wrote any more and couldn't find the motivation to continue. She explored what was happening and discovered the underlying issues. She now enjoys writing again and is excited about where her writing is leading her. Visit her blog at: [www.surfingyourenthusiasm.com/blog/](http://www.surfingyourenthusiasm.com/blog/)

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**For more information and to register for classes and workshops sign up at SWW meetings, register online at [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com) or call the SWW office at 265-9485**

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### Workshop And Class Refund Policy

If you cancel one week before the workshop or class beginning date you will receive a full refund. Cancellations less than one week prior up to 24 hours prior to the beginning of the workshop or class will receive a credit only toward a future workshop or class of your choice. If you do not cancel or don't show up for the workshop or class you will receive no refund and no credit. For multi-session classes, if you miss a class, you receive no refund. We pay our instructors based on how many students enroll, so you are part of that roll count if you don't cancel as detailed above.

### DAZZLING DESCRIPTION: How to Show-Not-Tell

By Chris Eboch

January 24 and 31, 2 pm - 4 pm

\$80 members and \$110 non-members

You've been told, "Show, Don't Tell." Now learn how. Learn Chris' secrets in this fun, hands-on pen workshop. We'll discuss facts versus opinions, sense data, body language, showing through dialog, and what point of view really means.

### EXPLORE INDIE PUBLISHING:

**Develop Your Own Business Plan**

By Chris Eboch

January 24 and 31, 6 pm - 8 pm

\$80 members and \$110 non-members

You've heard the buzz about self-publishing. But is it right for you? And if so, how do you make it happen? We'll discuss who should and shouldn't self-publish (and why), explore the pros and cons, and study an overview of the process. Then we'll develop step-by-step business plans with timelines. You'll receive resources for editing, proofreading, cover art, and more, plus information on how to get the word out about your book.

**Chris Eboch** teaches writing workshops around the world. Her book *Advanced Plotting* helps writers fine-tune their plots and her *Write Like a Pro!* blog offers free writing advice at <http://chriseboch.blogspot.com>. Chris is the author of 13 books for young people ([www.chriseboch.com](http://www.chriseboch.com)) and writes for adults as Kris Bock ([www.krisbock.com](http://www.krisbock.com)). She has 12 traditionally published books and two self-published books, with one more of each on the way.

### X-RAY, MACHETE AND SCALPEL: Shaping the Novel

By Betsy James

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & March 7, 14, 21, 6 - 8:30 pm

\$320 members and \$370 non-members

You've got a draft. What now? This class will help you whip that puppy into shape. With a focus on structure, we'll use respectful peer critique to consider aspects of the novel such as plot and pacing, characterization, dialogue, word-pruning, and the infamous "show, don't tell." For special requirements for Betsy's class, go to the SWW website at [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com).

**Betsy James** is the author of sixteen books and many short stories for adults, young adults and children. Her most recent title, *Listening at the Gate* (Atheneum 2006), is a James Tiptree Honor Book and a New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age; her short stories appear in *Realms of Fantasy*. Visit her at [www.listeningatthegate.com](http://www.listeningatthegate.com) (adult) or [www.betsyjames.com](http://www.betsyjames.com) (juvenile).



## Writing Lab

### MEMOIR WRITING LABS: The Craft of Writing Memoir

Connie Josefs, MFA



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
**9 am - 4 pm**

**AM Lab** In the Moment:  
Crafting Effective Scenes

**PM Lab** As Time Goes By:  
The Shape of Time in Memoir

Tuition per lab:

\$45.00 discounted rate for SWW members

\$55.00 Courtesy rate for Osher Institute Members

\$90.00 Non-Member rate

Tuition two labs same day:

\$80.00 Discounted rate for SWW members,

\$95.00 Courtesy rate for Osher Institute Members

\$170.00 Non-Member Rate

Lunch Included

New Life Presbyterian Church

5540 Eubank NE (just north of Spain), Albuquerque

Each interactive lab will offer concrete tools and strategies for transforming memory into compelling narrative. Attendees are invited to bring their written material. **Minimum class size: 20.**

Unlike autobiography, which takes readers through a life from beginning to end, memoir circles a thematic center and provides a prismatic glance at some seminal piece of life. These labs will offer concrete tools and strategies for transforming memory into compelling memoir.

Each lab will focus on a particular element of craft, including writing in first person (also a great class for fiction writers), creating dynamic characters, crafting effective scenes and working with time and point of view.

**LAB #1 SATURDAY, OCT. 29th, 9:00 - NOON**

#### **In The Moment: Crafting Effective Scenes**

Scene is the building block of memoir. But how do we determine when to move from scene to exposition? This lab will examine the effects of scene and exposition upon the reader and explore how they can be used effectively to recreate experience.

**LAB #2 SATURDAY, OCT. 29th, 1:00-4:00 PM**

#### **As Time Goes By: The Shape of Time in Memoir**

The memoirist is required to view events from two vantage points: then and now. How do writers accommodate this shifting narrative stance? This lab will examine how memoirists organize time and point of view to structure scenes and create coherence.

Each half-day lab is offered for separate enrollment. Two different writing labs are offered in one full day. Participants may choose from one of two labs or enroll for full-day labs. Not a member of SWW? [Join for \\$60.00 Online](#) and enroll at the member rate. SWW Membership Registration information is also on the Memoir Labs [Registration Form](#).

**Connie Josefs** has been a writer, teacher and literary consultant for more than 20 years. A native New Yorker, Josefs moved to Los Angeles in 1980, where she was a writer/producer for television and independent video productions, and a story analyst for Tristar Television and Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. She taught memoir at The Writing Circle and for the Emeritus Program at Santa Monica College, where she was founding editor of the literary journal, *E-33: Writings from Emeritus*. She was a guest artist in the creative writing program at UNM Taos, and led memoir workshops for Yaxche School and the Chesed Project. She currently teaches memoir at the Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning at UNM. Her fiction and essays have appeared in numerous magazines and literary journals. Ms. Josefs received her MFA in fiction writing from Antioch University.

More Info: Contact: Connie Josefs: [conjo@writingcircle.com](mailto:conjo@writingcircle.com)  
or Terry Civello: [Terryrose150@yahoo.com](mailto:Terryrose150@yahoo.com)

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*Check This Out:* Online Name Generator (<http://online-generator.com/index.php>)

This is a great website for creating names. As an example, The Fake Name/Random Name Generators make names based on the 3000 most common multi-ethnic American names to create realistic and believable random names. Popular names are saved in different arrays, and the male, female and surnames from the arrays are merged to make the new, fake name. The random functions make more than 6 billion different and unique name combinations. Among other things, the random formulas control the length of the fake names and decide whether or not to include a middle name. The random algorithms are responsible for creating the huge variation in the output. If you don't like the generator's naming, just hit the button again and get another one in a split second.

Besides "normal" names, the site also generates names for elves, pets, bands, clans, businesses, teams, fantasy characters, superheroes, vampires, pirates, as well as evil names and code names (and more!). Check it out.

## How to Discover if Your Book Project is a Good Idea *by Patricia Fry*

**H**ow do you know that your nonfiction book idea is a good one? Have you thought it through? Or have you become attached to writing and publishing this book no matter what? Perhaps you've never thought about checking the validity of the book before writing it—you planned to wait until it was published to find out if it was a good idea. If people buy it, then yes. If it sits on the book shelves or in boxes in your garage, then no.

Producing a book can be an expensive way to discover whether it is a worthwhile project. And if you just forge ahead without appropriate study, you may miss the opportunity to create a book that will make a difference and actually sell. Doesn't it make sense to do a little research prior to the writing and publishing? For example:

- Identify your target audience and determine how extensive it is. This is no time to use wishful thinking. Consider only those people who would most likely need or want this book.
- Study books similar to the one you have in mind and find out what is missing from them.
- Read readers' comments on these books' pages at Amazon to discover what readers are asking for—more case histories/anecdotes, a stronger self-help aspect, more resources, etc.
- Locate book reviews for these books and see if you can get a sense of what improvements, additions the reviewers would like to see.
- Study reader testimonials at the books' websites to learn what they appreciate most about these other books.
- Visit forums on this topic and "listen" to what your potential audience needs/wants.

- Sign up for discussion groups dedicated to this topic and participate.
- Go out and speak to your audience and present workshops. You'll soon discover what information and resources your readers desire/require.
- Write articles, a newsletter and a blog on this topic and encourage feedback.
- Get involved in other websites dedicated to this subject and pay attention to what visitors are asking for.
- Create your own interactive website focusing on the theme of your book idea.
- Develop or locate an opportunity to write an advice column related to this subject. You will attract just the sort of questions and comments you need to help you design the right book for the right audience.

In this incredibly competitive publishing climate, it makes no sense to rush a book into being or to wish a book toward success. The fact is that more books fail than succeed and the reason for this is often lack of preparation on the author's part.

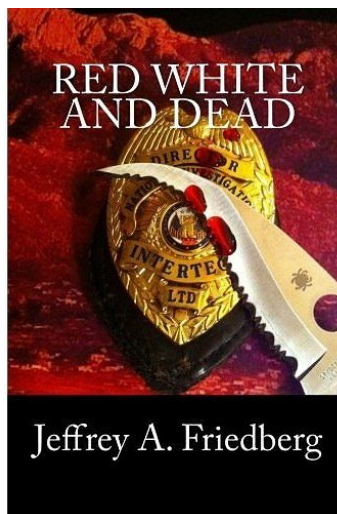
Before you finish writing your nonfiction book, follow these 12 tips. With the knowledge you'll gain from these exercises and a total understanding and acceptance of the major task that follows publication—book promotion—you just might be one of the few who experience a measure of success with your nonfiction book.

*Patricia Fry is the Executive Director of SPAWN (Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network), [www.spawn.org](http://www.spawn.org). She is the author of 31 books including several on publishing and book promotion. She also works with other authors on their book projects. Visit her websites: [www.matiljiapress.com](http://www.matiljiapress.com) and [www.patriciafry.com](http://www.patriciafry.com), and blog, [www.matiljiapress.com/publishingblog](http://www.matiljiapress.com/publishingblog).*

New Mexico private eye Jack Vane had no choice. The Mob decreed either he take the case and succeed in finding the lost treasure of Spanish Conquistador Francisco Coronado, worth billions – and probably only a legend – or Jack dies.

The situation becomes worse when Jack discovers a mysterious international cabal also seeks the treasure with the goal to finance a vast conspiracy to steal New Mexico's energy riches. This scheme will wreak environmental havoc and destroy Indian sacred lands.

Suddenly suffering strange blackouts, Jack is accused of brutal murders. He must find the treasure and the killer – even if it turns out to be himself. The clock is counting down as powerful forces gather in a relentless death-race to destroy him. What path should Jack take?



### The Exciting New Prequel To Lost Relic Of The Gods

*"An updated, TODAY kind of private eye thriller...Riveting verisimilitude reminiscent of Thomas Harris, Michael Connelly, and Elmore Leonard...plot twists and surprises galore kept me delighted and reading onward!" – CJ Cole, WVES AM, 99.3*

**Available on Amazon  
and Barnes & Noble**

## Member Successes

**Judith Avila** and Chester Nez have enjoyed the buzz around their memoir *Code Talker*. Their book signing at Barnes and Noble attracted more than 500 people — the biggest book signing ever at the book seller in Albuquerque's Coronado Center. *Code Talker* has been in the #1 percentile for books for 4 weeks on Amazon.com. Chester is thrilled that readers will know how his Navajo people helped protect their country in WWII.

**Dodici Azpadu** is having a book signing and reading from her new book *Saturday Night* on Sunday, October 30, from 3-4:00 pm at Casa Clara Community Center on Vassar just south of Indian School NE near Girard NE in Albuquerque.

**Frank Carden's** short story *Iwo*, the winner of the North Texas Writers Organization short story annual contest, was published in the September issue of *The Storyteller* magazine. His new novel, *Billy Bonney aka The Kid*, is available as an ebook at Amazon.com.

**Katherine B. Hauth's** *What's for Dinner?: Quirky, Squirmly Poems from the Animal World* is on the 2012 NM Battle of the Books list and is a 2011NM Book Award Finalist for picture book and for juvenile literature.

**Sue Houser's** *La Conquistadora: The Story of the Oldest Statue of the Virgin Mary in the United States* (Sunstone Press) is available from the publisher, at Treasure House Books in Old Town Albuquerque, and on Amazon.com. This book contains color photographs, some from La Conquistadora's wardrobe taken by Roger Blake and Larry Greenly.

*Birding Hot Spots of Central New Mexico*, by **Judy Liddell** and Barbara Hussey and published by Texas A & M Press is available in local bookstores at the end of October. Judy and Barbara will discuss and sign books at the Rio Grande Nature Center at 10:30 am Nov. 5 and at Bookworks Nov. 12 at 3 pm. <http://birdinghotspotscentralnm.com/>

**Shirley Raye Redmond's** 24th book title, *Golem*—about a popular figure in Jewish folklore and legend—was released in September by Thomson Gale/Cengage.

**Jeanne Shannon's** *In a Rose Wood Wandering* is now available on Amazon.com and The Wildflower Press website ([www.thewildflowerpress.com](http://www.thewildflowerpress.com)). Her new book is a collection of poems, stories, meditations, and reveries about roses, the rose family of plants in history and mythology, women named Rose, and even rose-patterned china and silver. Stewart Warren's Mercury HeartLink Publishing.

If you are a SouthWest Writers member and you'd like a success or announcement included in the Sage, send it prior to the 15th of the month to Kathy Wagoner, SWW Sage Editor, at [justwritesww@gmail.com](mailto:justwritesww@gmail.com).

## New Mexico Book Award Finalists

Finalists in the **2011 New Mexico Book Awards** have been announced. SouthWest Writers members on the list are:

**Bodin, Joanne** *Walking Fish*, Outskirts Press • Fiction, Adventure/Drama; Fiction, Other; Gay/Lesbian; First Book

**Corwell, David** *Dia de los Muertos*, Elektrik Milk Bath Press • Fiction, Other; Fiction, Sci Fi & Fantasy; Anthology

**Corwell, David** *Daily Flash 2011*, Pill Hill Press • Fiction, Sci Fi & Fantasy; Anthology

**Davis, Jerry** *Michigan Barns*, Artemesia Publishing • Nonfiction, Other

**Groves, Melody** *Hoist a Cold One: Historic Bars of the Southwest*, University of New Mexico Press • Travel

**Hall, Loretta** *Out of this World: New Mexico & Space Travel*, Rio Grande Books • History, New Mexico subject; New Mexico Centennial; Nonfiction, Other

**Hauth, Katherine** *What's for Dinner?*, Charlesbridge • Children's Picture Book; Juvenile

**Hickman, Kirt** *Fabler's Legend*, Quillrunner Publishing • Fiction, Sci Fi & Fantasy

**Nevin, Jean** *Mindscales: Poems for Paintings*, Dryad Studio • Poetry

**Powers, Marianne** *Doing the Right Thing*, Quillrunner Publishing • Business; Philosophy

**Rhetts, Paul** *Contemporary Hispanic Market*, Rio Grande Books • Art & Photography; Multi-cultural subject

**Rubin, Gail** *A Good Goodbye: Funeral Planning*, Light Tree Press • Nonfiction, Other; Parenting/Family Issues; Reference; Religious; Self-Help

**Tessler, Margaret** *Tangled Web*, BookLocker • Fiction, Mystery/Suspense; Fiction, Romance

**Tyson, Scott** *The Unobservable Universe*, Galaxia Way • Science & Math

**Wright, Sandi** *The Adventures of Santa Fe Sam*, Art Academy de los Ninos • Children's Picture Book; Young Readers; Juvenile; New Mexico Centennial; Multi-cultural Subject; First Book

**Wyatt, Susan Clough** *Arabian Nights & Daze*, New Academia Publishing • Biography; Multi-cultural Subject; Nonfiction, Other; Political/Current Events

Winners will be announced at the 5th Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, November 18, at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque. To reserve a seat at the banquet go to: <http://www.nmbookcoop.com/page8/page2/page2.html>



## Announcements

**National Novel Writing Month** (NaNoWriMo) begins at midnight on **November 1**. If you're ready to take on a 50,000 word challenge that will silence your inner critic and get your creativity flowing, sign up at [www.nanowrimo.org](http://www.nanowrimo.org).

The **Tony Hillerman Writers Conference** will be held **November 10-12** in Santa Fe. [www.wordharvest.com](http://www.wordharvest.com)

The **Land Of Enchantment Romance Writers** holds its conference on **November 12** featuring Margie Lawson. Deep Editing Power will be discussed in the morning and Writing Body Language and Dialogue Cues in the afternoon. <http://leranm.com/conferencepage.html>

**Glimmertrain Press, Inc.** is accepting entries for its Short Story Award for New Writers category, **deadline November 30**. The reading fee for original, unpublished stories is \$15 per story. Prizes: 1st place wins \$1,200, publication in *Glimmer Train Stories*, and 20 copies of that issue. 2nd-place: \$500, 3rd-place: \$300. Open only to writers whose fiction has not been presented in a print publication with a circulation over 5,000. Most submissions to this category run 1,500-6,000 words, but can go up to 12,000 words. Click on Writing Guidelines at [www.glimmertrain.com](http://www.glimmertrain.com).

The **Narrative Fall 2011 Story Contest** opened September 1. \$3,250 First Prize; \$1,500 Second Prize; \$750 Third Prize; and ten finalists receive \$100 each. Open to fiction and nonfiction. All entries considered for publication. **Deadline: November 30**. [www.narrativemagazine.com/](http://www.narrativemagazine.com/)

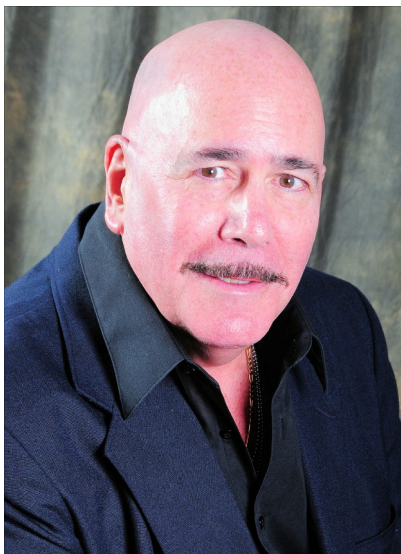
The **Sarasota County Film & Entertainment Office** announces a call for entries for the 2012 TV ME! Contest -- the nationwide innovative writers' competition seeking fresh, creative content ideas for television programming. Entries may be submitted **through December 30**. Unlike

most competitions that require submission of full length screenplays for movies, scripts for television, or manuscripts for novels (which can range from 90-350 pages), this contest requires only 5-15 page pitches of a concept for television programming. [www.TVMEcontest.com](http://www.TVMEcontest.com)

**Glimmertrain Press, Inc.** is accepting entries for their Fiction Open contest. Open to all writers, all themes. Submissions accepted **starting December 1. Deadline January 2, 2012**. Reading fee is \$18 per story. Prizes: 1st place wins \$2000, publication in *Glimmer Train Stories*, and 20 copies of that issue. 2nd-place: \$1000, 3rd-place: \$600. Word count range: 2,000 - 20,000. (Don't worry: A great 2,000 word story *can* compete against a great 20,000 word story. It's the story that counts.) Go to [www.glimmertrain.com](http://www.glimmertrain.com) and click on Writing Guidelines.

The **New Mexico Press Women** are accepting entries for the 2012 Zia Award, which will be given to the author of an outstanding nonfiction book published in 2009, 2010 or 2011. The contest is open to all subgenres of nonfiction, from memoir to textbook. The writer must be a woman who lives in or has a strong connection to New Mexico. The book may be published anywhere. The **deadline is January 13, 2012**. <http://newmexicopresswomen.org/2011/08/29/nonfiction-book-entries-sought-for-n-m-women-writers-contest/>

Nominations are now being accepted for the **William Saroyan International Prize for Writing**. Two prizes of \$5,000 each are given biennially for works of fiction and nonfiction. The awards are intended to "encourage new or emerging writers and honor the Saroyan legacy of originality, vitality, and stylistic innovation." **DEADLINE: January 31, 2012**. [saroyanprize.stanford.edu](http://saroyanprize.stanford.edu)



### A Short-Cut Pamphlet On Writing

By the Amazon E-books

Best Selling Author

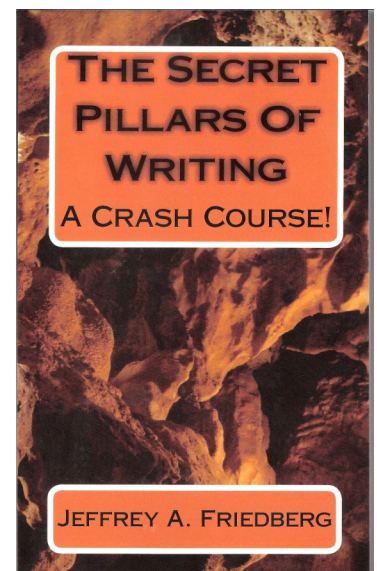
Jeffrey A. Friedberg

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

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

Available On Amazon as E-Book (\$3.99) and Paperback (\$5.39)

Amazon Bestsellers Rank, #19 in Kindle Store:  
Reference, Publishing & Books





## SWW Officers Elected

On October 1 at the SouthWest Writers annual meeting, officers for 2012 were elected. They are **Kathy Kitts**, President; **Larry Greenly**, Vice President; **Terry Civello**, Treasurer; and **Susan Alexis**, Secretary.

## Welcome New Members

Barbara Heming  
Nancy Wood  
Lisa Hase  
Talia Freedman  
Marcia K Coty  
Caren Phillips  
Rhoda Parker  
Dawn Matson  
Rachael Shams-Avari  
Kathleen Atchley  
Susan Feil

## SWW Annual Contest Winners

Winners of SouthWest Writers annual contest are listed on the SWW website at [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com).

### Mentor Wanted

La Cueva High School Gifted Mentorship class is looking for a writer who would be willing to mentor an aspiring writer a few hours a week. Amber Arquitola is a very responsible and focused sophomore who enjoys writing short stories with an emphasis on fantasy. We have had several SWW mentors in the past several years and it has always been a very rewarding experience for both individuals. Including writing assignments/exercises, one short meeting a week would easily facilitate her requirements for our course. If you would like to assist in this endeavor, please contact Melody Groves ([MelodyGroves@comcast.net](mailto:MelodyGroves@comcast.net)) or Flip Knutson at [knutson@aps.edu](mailto:knutson@aps.edu) or call La Cueva High School, 823-2327 ext 278.

## You Can Write for the Sage

Submissions focusing on all aspects of researching, writing and publishing any genre are welcome. Suggested topics include interviews with writers, agents, editors, publishers and producers, news and trends related to writing, and articles addressing the writing life, such as, balancing work and family, overcoming writer's block and increasing creativity and productivity. See past issues of *SouthWest Sage* for the type of article we publish.

Payment is made in bylines and clips. All rights remain with the author. Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length.

Announcements, success stories, book signings, critique group info and other brief items may be submitted in the body of your e-mail. Attach longer articles and stories in files formatted in .txt, .rtf or doc. MS Word 2007 format is acceptable.

Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to issue date, for example, June 15th for the July issue. Article lengths from 200 to 800 words -- full page: 800 words; 1 column: 450 words.

### E-mail submissions and questions to:

Kathy Wagoner at [justwritesww@gmail.com](mailto:justwritesww@gmail.com) Queries are optional, and our average response time is 1-2 weeks. If you haven't heard back in ten days, feel free to follow up.

### For Who/Whom the Bell Tolls continued from page 6

*When it comes to grammar, I know who to trust.*  
[Incorrect]

In addition to fighting off misleading prepositions like *to* and *for*, writers also need to be alert for the word *to* as part of an infinitive. Also, writers must sift the sentence to see if they are dealing with a subordinate clause that requires a subject of the phrase that is object of a preposition. In the case of the infinitive rule, however, confusion might help the writer select the correct pronoun case if the mental reconstruction results in *I know to trust whom*.

*When it comes to grammar, I know whom to trust.*  
[Correct]

But the rule, remember, is *whom* in subject and object positions with an infinitive.

Isn't grammar grand?

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## Fourth Bi-Monthly Writing Competition Winners: Flash Fiction

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### Second Place

The Professional  
by Dennis Kastendiek

"Oh, wow!"

"What is it, Ozzie?"

"This *Journal* ad. Listen, Cal. 'Seeking Professional Day-dreamer.'"

"That's you to a T."

"Up-and-coming corporation seeks college graduate open to imagining a universe of possibilities."

Callie circled the table, caressed palms to Ozzie's neck. He continued: "Six figure beginning salary with full health and dental..."

She squealed in delight, dancing back toward sunlight pouring from the window over the kitchen sink. "I knew our ship would come in, but I never imagined it so soon or so... read more," she cried, reclaiming her seat in the glow from the sun at her back.

"No work experience necessary, but a strong dream ethic and a vivid grasp of reality are musts."

"I love you," Callie said.

"Unlimited opportunities for advancement..." Ozzie continued, and then froze, a pall replacing the glint in his blue-green eyes. "Damn it!"

"What?"

Ozzie gruffly folded the paper, slapped it to the table, rattling the plate beneath his oatmeal and the small pitcher of Cremora alongside. He poised his spoon, then jabbed helplessly into the bowl as if jousting with Fates. At length, his gaze rose and met Callie's.

"Second shift," he sighed. "I'd have to miss 'The Biggest Loser.'"

### Third Place

Chatty Kathy  
by Barbara R. Duchek

The last time I saw my mother she was stealing the money I was saving for a Chatty Cathy doll. She called me her chatty Kathy because I was always talking. Mom slipped the money into her jeans and left.

My dad bought the doll for me when Aunt Bertie moved in. I became her focus. This was different because with my mother, I knew my place. It was after her TV program or after she finished her cigarette.

At school, I found out Mom and Kevin Hampton's dad had run off together. Kevin called me names and hit me whenever the nuns weren't looking. I was confused since I figured we were brother and sister now. One day he followed me home from school and threw rocks that cut my legs. When I got home, Aunt Bertie was busy, stirring fudge. I washed off the blood and hid my stained socks.

Chatty Cathy and I sat on my bed. I pulled her ring. I wanted her to ask me to play. Instead she said, "Please take me with you."

I lifted up Cathy's dress, pushed the scissors into her back and then chatty Kathy was silent.

