

September 2012 www.southwestwriters.com

Congratulations to the finalists in the SouthWest Writers 2012 Annual Writing Competition. Below are the top three finalists listed in alphabetical order in each of the twelve contest categories. The place standings will be announced at the Awards Banquet on September 15.

- **Title changed at the editor's discretion.

**SWW Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 6, 2012
10:00 am - Noon**



I have to write this month's President's letter and I don't wanna. I could use writer's block as an excuse, but that would be baloney. From my early childhood on, my dad ran his own auto repair shop. Did he ever wake up in the morning and suffer repairman's block? Nope. He headed out the door and to the shop. So, that's what I'm doing, sitting down to the business of writing.

But I'm not above procrastinating. So I ask myself, what do other writers say about overcoming our resistance to writing? In Donald M. Murray's book *The Craft of Revision* (5th ed.), he makes his point eloquently, "*Nulla dies sine linea*" or never a day without a line. My translation is more prosaic and simpler: ass-in-chair. Writing begets writing. Like my father, sometimes you just have to show up.

Murray also suggests keeping a journal (or daybook for those too macho or too cool for a frou-frou journal). This enables an author to sneak writing in doses so small the censor has nothing to gripe over. Another advantage to having a notebook handy at all times? Revenge. That rude lady who ruined your day at the DMV? She goes in your book and she dies badly, very badly.

Barbara Sher in her book *Wishcraft*, counsels that all big tasks should be broken down into smaller chunks. Think of the old bromide, how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. The burden of writing the next Great American Novel weighs heavily, but two hundred words before allowing yourself to watch more Olympics coverage, not so much.

Sher and Murray both recommend that writers identify their writing task for the next day before leaving the page. This serves three purposes: 1) to set the intention to write, 2) to make room in an already over-scheduled day, and 3) to allow the subconscious to work on the problem at hand. Stephen King, in his book *On Writing*, calls this right brain contribution "the guys in the basement." Let them work on that thorny plot problem, character motivation, or clunky verse while you make money at the day job.

Last but not least, I take two additional lessons from National Novel Writing Month or ([NaNoWriMo](#)): due dates and accountability. For those not familiar with NaNoWriMo, their mission is to encourage people all over the world to write 50,000 words in a month. They do so by coordinating local write-ins and providing an online venue for writers to interact and support each other. If I'm writing something on spec and I don't have an actual due date, I tell family, friends, my critique circle folks, random strangers in the grocery line, anyone who will listen about my writing goal. Inevitably, someone will check to see whether I made my word count or not. However, today, I have plenty of external motivation. This letter is due on the fifteenth and the *Sage* editor is giving me the eyeball.

Happy "Unblocked" Writing!

Kathy

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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 (\$55 renewal if paid two months in advance)

Student: 18 and over, \$40; under 18, \$25

Requires proof of student status

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

Download the *Sage* from www.southwestwriters.com

Join us first Saturday, 10 am-Noon and third Tuesday, 7-9 pm
New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank NE,
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SouthWest Sage

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Members Seeking Critique Groups

Fantasy/Sci-Fi

Linton Bowers, lbowers27@gmail.com
prefers: an online/email group

Genre/Mainstream Fiction

Mike Zimmerman, mikeyzman@gmail.com
prefers: Rio Rancho/Albuquerque
Mon-Thu evenings

Mainstream Fiction

Stephen Gregg, sgregg5@cableone.net
Prefers: Rio Rancho/Albuq./Bernalillo
Flexible: day/time

Memoir

Terry Wright, Terry_w38@yahoo.com
prefers: anywhere near Montgomery Blvd
11:00 am, Mon-Fri

Mystery/Suspense

Pete David, cp_david@msn.com
prefers: NE Heights
flexible: day/frequency

Young Adult Fiction

Damita Butler
deneemarieb@yahoo.com
prefers: any day, after 4:00 pm

Critique Groups Seeking Members

Mainstream Fiction

Contact Christie Keele
ckeele10@hotmail.com
Online/email critique group

Nonfiction

Contact John Egbert or Wally Gordon
egbertenator@gmail.com
wallygordon@q.com

Sci-Fi

Send name/writing experience to:
Cosmic_Connections_SF_Critique_
Group@yahoo.com
Visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
Cosmic_Connection_SF_Critique_Group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cosmic_Connection_SF_Critique_Group/)

Screenwriting

Duke City Screenwriters
Every other Thursday, 6-8 pm
UPublic Station on 3rd St
Contact Marc Calderwood
SkatingKokopelli@hotmail.com

Congratulations to the Winners of the Third 2012 SWW Bi-Monthly Writing Competition

~ Anything Goes Poem ~

1st Place

Sally Clark • Fredericksburg, TX
"Rear View Mirror"

2nd Place

Yoko Nagamune • Albuquerque, NM
"Chest Drawer Handles"

3rd Place

Amara Cudney • Waikoloa, HI
"Anger Flash Song"

Honorable Mention

Jay Brooks, Placitas, NM
"Rick's Lament"

Amara Cudney, Waikoloa, HI
"Venus Transit"

Anna Griego, Albuquerque, NM
"Meditations of What Has Become Religion"

Katherine B. Hauth, Rio Rancho, NM
"In Time"

Marie Toole, Delray Beach, FL
"My Grief"

2013 SOUTHWEST WRITERS OFFICER NOMINEES

President

Dr. Kathy Kitts, current SWW president, is a recently retired geology professor who served as a science team member on the NASA Genesis Discovery Mission. Before that, she directed a planetarium for nine years. Having been born and raised in the Southwest, she always planned on moving to Albuquerque and joined SWW before leaving Northern Illinois University. She has dozens of non-fiction publications encompassing everything from professional papers to general interest articles to textbooks. However, she no longer wishes to talk about “what is” but rather “what if.” To that end, she has moved to writing both short literary fiction and novel-length science fiction.



Vice-President

Dr. Larry W. Greenly, current SWW vice-president and office manager, has been a member since 1992 and has held every position on the board except treasurer. Greenly is a recipient of the SWW Parris Award and several Service Awards. He has published hundreds of articles, has won awards as a writer and editor, and has a YA biography book coming out soon. In an outreach program for SWW, Greenly taught writing classes as a volunteer at Bear Canyon Senior Center for eight years. Greenly, a three-time SWW president, is aiming to improve SWW's financial status and to maintain the highest standards of ethics in the organization.



Secretary

Susan Alexis, current SWW secretary and historian, was born and raised in Minnesota, the heart of Swede country. She came to Albuquerque to earn a Master's degree in Spanish, taught in Colorado, lived seventeen years in Mexico, and since returning to Albuquerque in 1995 has traveled as interpreter with thirteen medical missions to Latin America. She has authored various articles for *Guideposts*, *The World & I*, and *Grit* as well as two books on short-term volunteer missions: *Healing the World One by One* and *Caring Hands*. Her introduction to SouthWest Writers came in 1999 when she took a class on book proposals, and she has been an active member ever since. Susan became a Board member in 2011, serving first as historian, then as membership chair. She hopes to continue to serve SWW as secretary in 2013.



Treasurer

Terry Hicks, current SWW treasurer, was appointed to the SouthWest Writers board of directors in 2012 as the fundraising chair, and took over the responsibilities of treasurer in April. She looks forward to this opportunity to continue serving the membership. Terry has a great love of adventure and a longstanding passion for bringing people, places, and concepts together. Her life as a Spiritual Ecologist began as a child in the Himalayan foothills and has expanded through her exploration and study of plant-soil-water relationships in remote western US ecosystems. She has moved from writing numerous technical and scientific papers to storytelling focused specifically on screenplays, essays and short fiction pieces, bridging her two loves of science and the Divine.



ELECTION SWW 2013 OFFICERS

The election will be held at the annual meeting on October 6, the first Saturday meeting of the month. Nominations of candidates were received from the general membership through May 31, 2012. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the October 6 meeting. You must have the consent of the candidate whom you are nominating and they must meet the qualifications as stated in the SWW by-laws.

To be eligible for either of the offices of president or vice-president, a person shall have been a member of SouthWest Writers Board in the past five years. The secretary and treasurer shall have been a member of SouthWest Writers in good standing for no less than one year immediately preceding the date of nomination, unless waived by the Board, and have the necessary qualifications for the job.

If you or someone you know is interested in one of the four officer positions, please contact Dodi Azpadu, Nominating Committee Chair, at SWWclasses@gmail.com.

I have a brilliant idea for a blog. Well, I think it's a brilliant idea at the moment, anyway. So I have been passionately researching for about a month now. At first I wanted to be sure that there was enough material to sustain a regularly updated blog. Then I wanted to know enough about the topic to ensure that even if I approach the topic as a novice, I don't look like a ridiculously ignorant nincompoop. Then I just became completely obsessed with the research and kind of forgot that all the reading and note-taking was supposed to be leading somewhere.

This is what I do: research an idea to death. Quite literally. I spend months swimming deep in something I'm passionate about and when I resurface, I towel off, see a shiny object twinkling in the sun and I'm off on another obsession. The part I don't have down yet is the actual use of the research.

In a number of ways, I have found research to be a perilous proposition. I submit for your approval:

Peril 1: Excessive book acquisition. I am a mid-Gen-X-er. This means that I learned to type on a typewriter and I learned to compute on an Apple IIe. I'm not a fan of online research. To quote Giles, the librarian in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer": "Books smell... musty and rich. The knowledge gained from a computer... has no texture, no context. It's there and then it's gone. If it's to last, then the getting of knowledge should be tangible. It should be, um... smelly." My smelly getting of knowledge has resulted in an eclectic—but not inexpensive—collection of books on the following topics: fatal commonplace plants, psychopathology of criminals, traditional herb gardens, Ireland's Magdalen laundries, solo travel for women, women's experiences in asylums and Victorian housekeeping.

Peril 2: Knowledge mismanagement. While I find file management a challenge—apparently tossing papers on top of a filing cabinet does not constitute "management"—this peril doesn't actually refer to file management, but to brain capacity. I used to be able to remember all kinds of things: the standard deviation formula and the words to "O, Fair New Mexico," to name but two. And I used to have room in my brain to store these very important bits of information and new, equally important bits. Now, however, my brain seems to be at critical density and about to implode. I have no control over what leaves my brain in order for new information to fit. My husband's cell phone number is gone with the wind and yet I know that Iowa has 7 electoral votes.



Bentley McGrath has been waiting nearly a year to quote Rupert Giles in this publication. Feel free to chastise her for doing so at www.BentleyMcGrath.com

Peril 3: Disinterest in the research. This can go one of two directions: 1) I get neck deep into research only to discover that I abhor traditional herb gardens, or 2) I realize that I really just wanted an excuse to learn about them. Either way, no writing comes of the research. And while the research isn't necessarily a waste of time, I probably could build an internal combustion engine in the same amount of time and with an equal number of words not written.

Peril 4: Extraneous expertise. Okay, I'll admit it, I'm kind of interesting. And not solely because of my unnatural talent for making hospital corners on beds. But once I've researched a thing, I am downright fascinating. And, really, who wants that sort of burden?

Peril 5: Disappointing results. Trust me on this one. What I think I know about a thing is always far more interesting than the truth

about the thing. Let's take for example, spice and tea blends from around the world. I spent a couple of weeks on that one. Turns out, not very interesting at all. Actually, pretty damn boring. So, why spoil the fun with facts and figures? Besides, it is embarrassing to discover how little you actually know about something. Ignorance is bliss, I always say. (Not really, though. I heartily discourage ignorance.)

Peril 6: Implied commitment. If I don't give in to Peril 3, and I begin writing about what I've researched, I begin to expect the same work-product I created during research. It goes something like this: "I spent three months outlining the information in a 1,109-page book. By God, I will write 1,110 pages if it kills me." And the result of that, my friends, is literary tripe.

Peril 7: Purposeful procrastination. No. Wait. That's not a peril. That's my number one reason for research.

*"People on the outside
think there's something magical about
writing. That you go up in the attic at
midnight and cast the bones about and come down
in the morning with a story.
But it isn't like that. You sit in the back
with a typewriter and you work.
That's all there is to it."
~ Harlan Ellison*

Some of you may have come into this fantastic world of writing on a logical path; you aced junior high grammar, paid close attention to high school composition instructors, earned degrees in creative writing, and then wrote your first novel. For the rest of us, the whole experience has more closely resembled a headfirst dive into Alice's rabbit hole.

I started writing fiction on the internet in the mid-'90s, and went to work on my first novel a few years later. Between the time I saved chapter one of "Book One" on my laptop in 1997 and this past year when I signed my twentieth book contract, I learned lessons in ways I wouldn't want to repeat. I'm still learning lessons daily, but few of them leave as many bruises as those first dozen or so.

One thing I discovered is that writers tend to share **too much information**. I don't mean about ourselves, necessarily, but about our works. When someone asks what you're working on, they are rarely looking for a detailed outline of your novel. They expect a sentence or two. A paragraph at most. This is especially important to know when the person asking is an editor or agent.

In the same way that you'd never start a pitch to an editor with, "My main character, George, was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he had a normal childhood, even though his father was a little strict, and when he was eighteen, he left for college..." you don't want to start your book with everything there is to know about your characters. One of the joys of reading is discovering the hidden parts of a story, the delicious history that motivates characters to do what they're doing. If you reveal all up front, there are no surprises left, and readers will quickly lose interest.



But loading a manuscript with backstory is natural. We're excited about our new story; we want to reveal everything right away. The tough part—the part that comes with experience—is recognizing backstory and knowing what to remove. Was George convicted of killing his college roommate because he was framed by another student who thought George had witnessed a major drug deal? Don't tell me in chapter one that George is innocent. Maybe you don't even want to tell me that George was in prison. Let me guess why he won't answer questions about his past. Make me worry about Susan when she's alone with him. You'll keep me interested.

Equally as important as knowing that you must sprinkle backstory throughout your book is understanding how to do it. Less is better, and showing is better than telling. Are you ready to divulge that George was in prison? (Disclaimer: I'm not saying this is great writing. These are only examples.) "Metal bars clanged into place. George sat up, his hands clenched into fists and his heart racing," will be more effective than telling me, "George had spent fifteen long years in San Quentin. Even after all this time, he still woke to the horror of the door sliding shut on his cell." While there's nothing technically wrong with the second excerpt, it lacks the feel of action of the first one.

We, as writers, not only want to tell you everything about our characters, we also want to use all our wonderful research. If George grew up in Albuquerque, would he really be thinking about the fact that Sandia Crest is 10,678 feet high as he's driving around town? Or that the population was

(Continued on page 17)

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Meetings

Members are free, Guests \$5

Saturday, September 1
10:00 am to noon

Get Off the Map to Get on the Map: The Art of Originality in Writing

Carolyn Flynn

Carolyn will discuss fresh techniques for telling timeless stories in original, startling, and memorable ways. She'll give practical tools of craft, as well as insights into how to create a writing life that cultivates originality.

Carolyn Flynn is a recent graduate of Spalding University's brief-residency MFA in Writing program and longtime editor of the *Albuquerque Journal's Sage* magazine. She is the winner of the Renwick-Sumerwell and SouthWest Writers fiction prizes, has had literary short stories published in *Ellipsis* and *The Crescent Review* and was featured in the German anthology *Wilde Frauen*. Her creative nonfiction piece "Pound of Flesh" was published in 2011 in *The Tampa Review* and received a glowing review in *The Review Review* for its inventive take on the spiritual cost of rampant capitalism. She also won the *Albuquerque the Magazine* 2010 short fiction prize for "Blood." She has been short-listed for the Tom Howard Prose Prize in creative nonfiction and the Danahy Prize in fiction. Find out more at www.carolynflynn.com.



Saturday, October 6
10:00 am to noon

Engaging Readers: Seven Ways to Hold Attention

Harvey Stone

People have shorter attention spans. There is a proliferation of books, e-books, blogs and more. Those of us who write are more challenged than ever to gain and hold our readers' attention. Based on several years of research to determine "what works to hold attention," there are seven content areas that effectively pull readers in and keep them turning pages.

Harvey Stone, Ph.D. has spent more than 30 years specializing in communication. He has written speeches for executives at Apple, Visa and other companies. He's written business articles, hosted a weekly radio show and conducted large-group workshops. Most recently, he authored *Melting Down*—a "Jason Bourne meets climate change" thriller novel. Currently, he is co-writing "Fed Up with Congress" with a former 5-term Congresswoman.



Tuesday, September 18
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Find Your Story, Write Your Memoir

**Lynn C. Miller
and Lisa Lenard-Cook**

Using the *Fiction Writer's Toolkit*, Lynn and Lisa will talk about the catalyst in writing a memoir, which they call "the occasion of the telling." This presentation is based on the first chapter of their new book *Find Your Story, Write Your Memoir* due for release in March 2013 from University of Wisconsin Press.

Lisa Lenard-Cook has two award-winning novels, *Dissonance* (UNM Press, 2003) and *Coyote Morning* (UNM Press, 2004). Her nonfiction book, *The Mind of Your Story*, was a main selection of the Writer's Digest Book Club. **Lynn C. Miller** is the author of *The Fool's Journey* and *Death of a Department Chair*, and co-editor of *Voices Made Fresh: Performing Women's Autobiography*. Lynn and Lisa co-founded ABQ Writers Co-op. Visit their website www.abqwriterscoop.com.



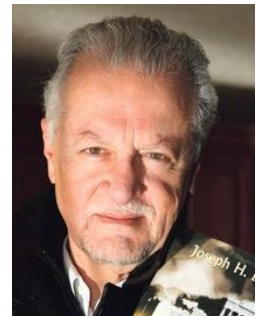
Tuesday, October 16
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Joe Badal's Writing Tips and the Real History Behind His Fiction

Joe Badal

Joe Badal, the author of five thrillers, will offer some tips on writing and promoting your work. He will also share the real life stories and historical events behind his novels.

Joseph Badal has had five suspense novels published. His next thriller, *The Lone Wolf Agenda*—the fourth in the Bob Danforth series—will be released in early 2013. Joe is also completing a non-fiction book about Relationship Selling. His short story "Fire & Ice" will be published this fall in the anthology *Uncommon Assassins*. Joe has had a long career in the banking and financial services industries. Prior to his finance career, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army in critical, highly classified positions in the U.S. and overseas, including tours of duty in Greece and Vietnam. He earned numerous military decorations. Joe has also written dozens of articles that have been published in a variety of business magazines and trade journals, and is a frequent speaker and instructor at business and writers' events.



September/October Classes

Classes are held at the SWW Office, 3721 Morris NE, Albuquerque 87111

THE DIVINING PEN: WRITING INTO THE SPIRIT By Kathryn Johnson Cameron & Sarah Kotchian

4 Sessions: Sept 6, 13, 20, 27

Thursdays: 3 - 5:00 pm

\$160 members, \$200 non-members

Limited to 10 students

This interactive class is for those who, through writing, seek to come closer to the truth of who they are and what it all means—a way of writing that humans across cultures, genres and throughout history have been engaged in. Using prompts from literature, pictures, memories, and shared insights, we will write in class and share our writing to explore a spiritual path through writing.

Kathryn Johnson Cameron completed her Masters work at Yale in the study of art, religion and literature and her doctorate at Columbia Seminary in the study of sacred writing and culture and has published theological writing and poetry. She has traveled and lived in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North America where she has also taught seminars. Her first book of collected poetry will be published in the fall of 2012. She checks her email at dkkwcam@gmail.com.

Sarah Kotchian is a graduate of the Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction, and has taught classes on incorporating spirituality into every day life. With earlier Masters degrees in education and public health, her doctoral work in American Studies was in the area of faith, leadership and corporate environmental performance. Sarah recently completed a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago Compostela in Spain, writing her way on the journey. Email her at skotchian@comcast.net.



HOW TO WRITE FOR MAGAZINES: OR HOW YOU CAN BAG YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE ASSIGNMENT

By Melody Groves

4 Sessions:

Sept 10, 17, 24, Oct 1

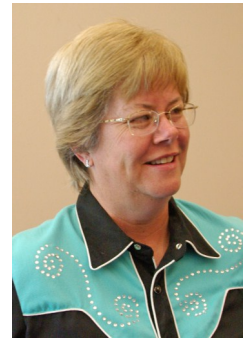
Mondays: 6 - 8:00 pm

\$160 members, \$200 non-members

Limited to 14 students

In today's writing world, the opportunity to write for magazines is almost endless. With over 9,000 published yearly, in addition to online magazines, the world is your oyster. But there are tricks to bagging an assignment. Finding the right market and the right editor, finding out about the competition—all tricks of the trade. So if you've got a good idea but don't know where to go and how to start, look no more. This class is for you. In four short weeks, the class will cover finding your story, finding the market, tweaking the same idea for different magazines, photo requirements, and approaching an editor. And that's just for starters.

Melody Groves writes for *New Mexico Magazine*, *True West*, *American Cowboy*, *Enchantment*, *Chronicles* (on line), *Albuquerque the Magazine*, *abqARTS* and *Desert Exposure*.



MAKING YOUR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION-READY!

Master Classes with Joe Badal

4 Sessions:

Oct 13, 27, Nov 13, 17

Saturdays: 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Tuesday: 6:00 - 9:00 pm

\$240 members, \$300 non-members

Limited to 8 students

Students will submit to the SWW office by noon October 5, ten (10) ms pages that the instructor will read, edit, and comment on for the first class. The course will involve sequences of re-writing, revision, and feedback from the instructor and other participants. Students will learn to sharpen their manuscripts to improve the chances of finding an agent, a publisher, and, ultimately, more readers. This is a hands-on course for serious writers who want to hone their craft and who are willing to accept constructive criticism. You must have a thick skin and want to learn how to be a better writer.

Joseph Badal has five published suspense novels: *Shell Game*, *Evil Deeds*, *Terror Cell*, *The Nostradamus Secret*, and *The Pythagorean Solution*. Joe's next novel, *The Lone Wolf Agenda*, will be released in 2013. He is also completing a non-fiction book about Relationship Selling and writes a monthly blog titled *Everyday Heroes*. He has written dozens of articles published in a variety of business magazines and trade journals. Joe has worked for thirty-eight years in the banking and financial services industries, and served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. Visit www.josephbadalbooks.com.



SOUTHWEST WRITERS MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held at

**New Life Presbyterian Church
5540 Eubank NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111**

For more information,
call the SWW office at 265-9485.
To register for classes and workshops:
sign up at SWW meetings or register online at
www.southwestwriters.com

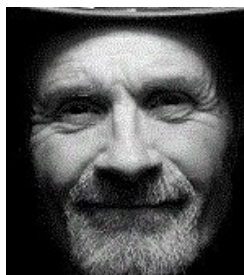
September/October Workshops

Workshops are held at Bear Canyon Senior Center or the SWW Office. Call (505) 265-9485 for more information.

WIELDING THE ACTS: POWERING THROUGH THE STRUCTURAL IMPERATIVE OF THE AMERICAN SCREENPLAY By Marc Calderwood

Saturday, Sept 8 • 9:00 am - Noon

See Half-Day Workshop Prices Below



This workshop will explain required screenplay structure and how to wield it to your advantage through three acts, as well as character and story structure, and how to blend them for a successful outcome. Application of structure in action will be shown through film clips. Do's and don'ts in terms of how to approach the business of screenwriting will also be discussed. This workshop helps screenwriters at any level, and the topic of character and story structure is broad enough to aid those writing longer pieces of fiction and those who simply want to gain a greater enjoyment of the craft of film.

Marc Calderwood is an award-winning screenwriter and a screenwriting consultant.

WRITING YOUR MYSTERY NOVEL By Steve Brewer

Saturday, Sept 29
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

See Half-Day Workshop Prices Below



Mysteries and thrillers lead the best-sellers lists, always among the most popular genres. Writing crime fiction requires a disciplined, organized approach, with special attention paid to the solution of the mystery and the big payoff at the end. Veteran mystery author Steve Brewer discusses research, outlining, writing and re-writing in this half-day seminar, including a four-arc story structure that works best to build suspense.

Steve Brewer is the author of more than two dozen books—17 published the traditional way, and the rest self-published as e-books. His first novel, *Lonely Street*, was made into a Hollywood movie, released in 2009. Two other crime novels are currently under film/TV option. Steve turned to crime fiction full-time 15 years ago after a long career in the news business. Visit his blog at www.stevebrewer.blogspot.com.

New Workshop and Class Refund Policy

Full refund if cancellation is received more than 7 days before class. From one week out to 24 hours before class, participant is entitled to select another class. Inside of 24 hours, participant receives no refund or class. 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.

THE ELUSIVE VOICE By Chris Eboch

Saturday, Sept 22
9:00 am - Noon & 1:30 - 4:30 pm

\$80 SWW Members

\$90 Osher Members

\$140 Non-members, \$150 at the door



Ask editors what they're looking for, and the top response may be "a strong voice." But what does that mean? How do you know if you have one—and if you don't, how do you develop one? Voice can be taught. This **full-day workshop** helps you find your own true voice. Dozens of hands-on exercises give specific techniques to make your writing stronger without losing the special element that makes it yours.

Chris Eboch's novels for ages nine and up include *The Eyes of Pharaoh*, a mystery in ancient Egypt; *The Well of Sacrifice*, a Mayan adventure; and the *Haunted* series. Her book *Advanced Plotting* helps writers fine-tune their plots. Learn more at www.chriseboch.com. Chris also writes action-packed romantic suspense for adults (as Kris Bock), including *Rattled*, *Whispers in the Dark*, and *What We Found*. Read excerpts at www.krisbock.com. Check out her writing tips at her Write Like a Pro! blog: <http://chriseboch.blogspot.com>.

EXPANDING YOUR WRITING HORIZONS WITH DIGITAL MEDIA By Carolyn Handler Miller

Saturday, Oct 13 • 1:00 - 5:00 pm

See Half-Day Workshop Prices Below



This workshop will introduce writers to the diverse and surprisingly creative universe of story-based content made possible by interactive digital technology. These new kinds of stories include works written for the Internet, video games and mobile apps, and other less-familiar forms. Participants have the chance to develop interactive digital media projects. The workshop also covers how writing for digital media is similar to and different from writing for traditional media (films, TV, print). Discover new techniques needed to work in this field and special considerations the writer must keep in mind. This class is suitable for those seeking to expand their writing horizons who have a sense of adventure about exploring new opportunities. No special technical abilities are required.

Carolyn Handler Miller is the author of *Digital Storytelling*, *a Creator's Guide to Interactive Entertainment*, and one of the pioneer writers of digital media.

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP PRICES:

\$40 SWW MEMBERS • \$50 OSHER MEMBERS w/CARD
\$70 NON-MEMBERS • \$75 AT THE DOOR

More October Classes & Workshops

Classes/Workshops are held at Bear Canyon Senior Center or the SWW Office. Call (505) 265-9485 for more information.

SPECULATIVE FICTION:

ADVANCED COURSE

By Betsy James

8 Sessions:

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, Nov 7, 14, 28, Dec 5

Wednesdays: 6 - 8:00 pm

\$320 members, \$360 non-members

Limited to 10 students

Applications must be received no later than September 25, 2012. Payment to SWW by check or credit card due immediately following acceptance.

Speculative fiction—science fiction, fantasy and its relatives—is the world's oldest literature, and is currently evolving at a spectacular rate. This class is an advanced version of Betsy James's popular speculative fiction course, and features rigorous, entertaining sessions that pull weekly assignments of 1000 words or less into discussion, mini-lessons, and professional-level editorial feedback.

Prerequisite for the class is either successful completion of any one of Betsy's classes through SWW, or the first ten pages of a speculative fiction work in progress, submitted directly to Betsy (betsy@betsyjames.com). Please register early; class is limited to 10 students.

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



BE A (PUBLISHED) PRO!
A Workshop By Sarah Storme
Saturday, Oct 27
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

See Half-Day Workshop Prices on Previous Page

Want to avoid "beginner" mistakes, even if you are new to writing fiction? Wonder if your romance, mystery, or erotica manuscript is ready to submit? Curious about those first steps toward publication? This class will help move you along the road to becoming a published fiction author. We'll look at mistakes common to beginners, discuss the elements a genre fiction manuscript needs in order to catch an editor's eye, and talk about the steps you'll go through to get published by a major publishing house. The workshop will be interactive, so bring your questions. Included is a review of the first three pages of your manuscript—the most you have to get an editor's attention.

Sarah H. Baker (aka Sarah Storme) is published in romance, mystery, and erotica with publishers that include Harlequin and Kensington, and has even worked as an acquiring editor for a small press. She has more than 14 novels in print, and appears in a number of anthologies. Sarah, who enjoys working with writers, teaches classes for Osher Institute, speaks at writing conferences across the country, and has served as president of the Land of Enchantment Romance Authors. As an author who learned many lessons the hard way, Sarah is happy to share those lessons with others on the road to publication. You can visit Sarah at her websites:

www.SarahStorme.com, www.SHBaker.com, and www.LydiaParks.com.



Illustration by Betsy James

For many writers, putting pen to paper includes a spiritual aspect, as writing is one way of divining what being human means and communicating to others thoughts that have meaning for us.

There are many paths to access the spirit, the divine, that essence in which we are most ourselves and in which we lose ourselves at the same time. The poet William Wordsworth described words as "thin veils" thus suggesting how writing simultaneously reveals and hides. Through writing, we can seek deeper knowledge and awareness of that mysterious presence which is ultimately beyond words.

Spiritual memoir is one practice of spiritual writing that can help us discern and divine the spirit that animates us. It is both similar to and different from other writing—similar in that, as in all writing, we seek to discover, explore, and communicate human nature and the human condition in the context of the larger world. It can be different in that it becomes a practice of interior exploration, of spiritual discovery, when done with the intention of seeking to know more clearly our own spiritual path.

In a practice of "writing into the spirit," the writer holds the intention of being open to this discovery. The time of writing is often preceded by a period of silence and stillness, a practice in itself. *Lectio divina* is an ancient practice of reading and re-reading a passage, letting the words sink in during meditation, paying attention to what phrases in the passage resonate most, and then reflecting on that in further meditation or prayer. A similar practice of spiritual writing, *scriptio divina*, refers to writing that has been inspired through a contemplative process.

Spiritual memoir is the written expression of one's spiritual life—similar to memoir in that it is a reflection on the experiences of one's life, but with the added intent of seeing the pattern of one's spiritual development and growth over time. Perhaps you can see a pattern of understanding or a pattern of love. Thich Nhat Hanh came to see these as related. He wrote, "Understanding is another name for love. Love is another name for understanding." Depending on one's point of view, perhaps all memoir is spiritual memoir, if it leads the writer to understand more clearly the basic questions of "why am I here?" and "what am I to do or be?"

Since life is so rich and varied, almost any prompt can take a person into spiritual reflective writing—a smell, an object that triggers memories, a photograph, a piece of music.

Certain attributes are helpful and may also grow through a practice of spiritual writing—desire for and openness to new insights; acceptance and blessing of whatever comes, whether fear, tears, or joy; a commitment to developing a regular practice; patience and forgiveness of the inevitable obstacles that arise; gratitude for the time spent in contemplation and writing and for the fruits of the practice. Rick Hanson, author of *The Mind of Buddha*, writes, "we aspire to write without an attachment to a particular outcome to know our own mind." As in all paths toward growth, the destination is never fully reached; the richness and the rewards are in the journey.

Kathryn Johnson Cameron and Sarah Kotchian are teaching a SWW course on *The Divining Pen: Writing Into the Spirit* on Thursday afternoons in September from 3:00-5:00 p.m. **See page 8 for more details.**

Barri Evins presents
The Big Idea Screenwriting Seminar
November 2 – 4, 2012

- Create Concepts that Ignite Industry Interest • Harness Your Screenwriting Super Powers
- Master Pitching as the Fast Track to Success • Transform Structure into Your Best Friend
- Accomplish Far More with Less Rewriting • Includes Mentorship for One Year

Friday Evening, Nov 2 – 7 PM to 10 PM

The Three Ingredients for Career Rocket Fuel and how to use them to catapult your career. What makes a great idea and how to tell when you have one. The Essential Story Elements.

Saturday Evening, Nov 3 – 8 PM to 10 PM

Pizza and a movie! Structure Breakdown of the movie using Industry Insider vocabulary. My One-Pager Template enables you to explore possibilities and solve problems on a single piece of paper so you spend less time rewriting.

Saturday, Nov 3 – 9 AM to 7 PM

The power of personal theme to drive stories and draw audiences. Identify your screenwriting strengths. Learn to pitch like a pro and to use pitching as a fast track to Story Solutions.

Sunday, Nov 4 – 9 AM to 7 PM

Pitch your top contenders and get constructive feedback. Step out to work on your story; then get added input. By the end of our weekend, you have a Big Idea that can take you places and a roadmap for your script. And if you have questions on your journey – you have **my mentorship** for a year!

\$395*

Barri Evins has sold projects to all the major studios and teaches budding writers.

Limited to 10 participants. Contact Marc Calderwood at 553-5591 or skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com.

*\$40 additional supplement for meals, drinks, snacks.

Member Successes

Fred Aiken was one of twenty-two judges for the LERA writing contest and completed his ten assigned entries. During the process, he learned how far he has developed as a writer and better understands the errors beginning writers make, and how better writers turn out publishable works.

Irene Blea published "Doña Tules: Lady Gambler of Santa Fe," an article in the Spring, 2012, *Journal of Nuestras Raíces*. The journal's circulation includes the southwest, fourteen other states, countries in Central and South America, plus Spain and Great Britain; including twenty public and/or genealogical libraries and societies, who make the journal available to the general public. Blea's article was further included in the May, 2012 Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Conference program held in Santa Fe.

Join **Sue Boggio** and Mare Pearl in celebrating the launch of their new novel *A Growing Season* at 3:00 pm on Saturday September 15 at Bookworks. *A Growing Season* is being published by UNM Press, who is also re-releasing their first novel *Sunlight and Shadow*. For more information about their work and to see their new book trailer, please visit their website at www.boggioandpearl.com.

2012 Fifth Bi-Monthly Writing Contest Your Most Memorable Character

Write a story about the most memorable character in your life. It can be about someone in your family, a friend, or even a stranger who made a significant impression upon you. Perhaps that person changed your life, or you think about that person frequently, or perhaps you remember that person's advice to this day. You get the idea. Double-spaced, 750 words maximum. **Postmark deadline: October 31, 2012.**

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 Bi-Monthly Contest, 3721 Morris NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

Janet K. Brennan was newly elected to the NMBA Board of Directors in June, 2012. Her publishing company, Casa de Snapdragon Publishing LLC, took finalist in the Southwest Cover and Production Design for *Hooked* author Jamie Smolen, a novel of teenage pill addiction in the Mind/Body/Spirit category.

Wally Gordon will discuss and sign his new nonfiction book of essays and personal journalism *A Reporter's World* at the library in Estancia on Saturday, Sept 15, 1:00 - 3:00 pm. For questions or to purchase a copy, email wallygordon@q.com. His blog includes excerpts from the book and recent weekly columns in *The Independent* at www.areportersworld.com.

J. L. (Janet) Greger asks in her novel *Coming Flu*: Who's more dangerous, a neighbor infected with a lethal virus or a drug kingpin? This medical thriller, based on real science and set in the Albuquerque area, won an award from the Public Safety Writers' Association in July. She will speak on "Making Harry Potter's Invisibility Cloak Real" and signing copies of *Coming Flu* at East Mountain Library in Tijeras on Saturday, Sept 22 at 3:00 pm and at Page One Bookstore (on Montgomery) on Sept 29 at 2:30 pm. www.jlgreger.com.

Shirley Raye Redmond's new book *Norse Mythology* was released in June 2012. It's part of the Gale Cengage new Mythology and Culture Worldwide series. The book is aimed at high school students and contains everything from maps to genealogies of the Norse gods, goddesses, and monsters.

Sue Sullivan was honored to have a journalist friend call her one of his favorite writers in a recent blogpost. Read the post at <http://foxvalleynotes.blogspot.com/2012/07/sue-sullivan-blogs-on-surfing-your.html>.

Jim Tritten won 2nd Place and a Silver Medal in the Humorous Essay category for his essay titled "So Why Did They Invent Pink Duct Tape?" in the 2012 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.

You Can Write for *SouthWest Sage*

Would you like to add a *Sage* byline to your portfolio? We welcome submissions focusing on all aspects of researching, writing, and publishing any genre. See past issues of *SouthWest Sage* for the type of article we publish. Payment is made in bylines and clips. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Article lengths from 300 to 1000 words. Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length. Send questions or submissions to Kathy Wagoner, *Sage* Editor, at JustWriteSWW@gmail.com.

If you are a SouthWest Writers member with a success or announcement you would like to share with newsletter readers, send it to Kathy Wagoner, SWW Sage Editor, at JustWriteSWW@gmail.com.

Announcements

Scare the Dickens Out of Us ghost story contest offers cash prizes and trophies for ghost story entries of 5,000 words or less. Entry fee \$20.00. First place: \$1000.00 and a trophy. Second place: \$500.00 and a ribbon. Third place: \$250.00 and a ribbon. Also a Junior contest for ages 12-18. Entries accepted from **July 1-October 1, 2012**. Full rules and entry forms are at www.clarklibraryfriends.com.

Story Quest Short Story Contest is open for submissions **August 1-October 31**. Stories must be written with an emphasis on speculative fiction genres (horror, science fiction, and fantasy). Submissions must be 1000–3000 words in length. No children's stories. This year's theme is "disaster." The judges will be looking for fresh, character-centric stories with depth of skill in theme and plot construction. Zombies, vampires, elves, hobbits, and orcs are unlikely to get past round one. No entry fee. See contest rules regarding content. www.ifwgpublishing.com

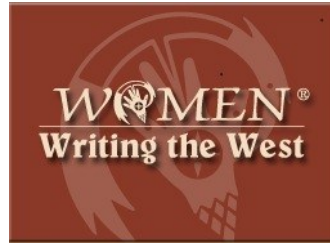
OakTara Publishers is looking for new authors with a flair for writing heart-warming and inspiring romance short stories. They'll publish the best of the best in a special romance anthology. Deadline: **October 1, 2012**. www.oaktara.com/tellusabout

Shelf Unbound book review magazine announces the **Shelf Unbound Writing Competition for Best Self-Published Book**. Any self-published book in any genre is eligible for entry. Entry fee is \$10 per book. The top five books, as determined by the editors of *Shelf Unbound*, will receive editorial coverage in the Dec/Jan 2013 issue of *Shelf Unbound*. The author of the book named as the Best Self-Published book will receive editorial coverage and a year's worth of full-page ads in *Shelf Unbound*. Deadline: **October 1, 2012**. See the contest rules page at www.shelfmediagroup.com. *Shelf Unbound* book review magazine reaches more than 125,000 readers in the U.S. and around the globe. Subscriptions to *Shelf Unbound* are free.

SCBWI-NM announces a working **Children's Writers Retreat**, **November 9 - 11**, at Hummingbird Music Camp near Jemez Springs. Experienced authors will lead small groups in a weekend of intensive critiquing, revising and writing. Setting is rustic and space is limited. www.scbwi-nm.org/home/2012-fall-retreat.

Open to Interpretation brings together photographers and writers—photos become the literary inspiration for writers' submissions. Your poems and stories may include the literal description of the work, personal memories, metaphorical associations, or your mood inspired by the image. All genres are acceptable. Theme: Fading Light. Deadline: **November 13, 2012**. Go to www.open2interpretation.com/submit_writing_fading_light.html

200 New Mexico Poems: 100 Celebrating the Past, 100 More for the Future is still accepting submissions of New Mexico-themed poems of 40 lines or less. For submission guidelines: www.200NewMexicoPoems.wordpress.com.



The 18th WWW (Women Writing the West) Annual Conference 2012, **October 19-21**, will meet in Albuquerque's historic Old Town, honoring New Mexico's one hundred years of statehood.

Because New Mexico has such a large number of nonmember writers, they may sell out, so register early. www.womenwritingthewest.org/currentWWWConference.html

Albuquerque Area Writing Groups

The **Albuquerque Croak & Dagger** chapter of Sisters in Crime welcomes mystery fans who enjoy felonious fun, absolutely criminal companionship and sensational speakers. Fourth Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 pm, police briefing room, James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Substation, (one block east of Tramway on Montgomery). www.croak-and-dagger.com/

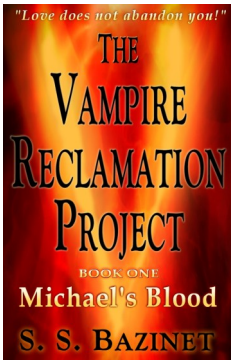
Bear Canyon writing group: Don Morgan & Dennis Kastendiek moderate, all genres welcome, Mondays 2:30-3:45 pm, Bear Canyon Senior Center, 4645 Pitt St NE, 291-6211. Must be 50+ and a member of a senior center.

Duke City Screenwriters meets at UPublic Station on 3rd St, every other Thursday (email for next date) from 6:00-8:00 pm for valuable critique, education and lots of fun. Contact Marc Calderwood at skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com for more information.

SCBWI: Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators has monthly schmoozes in Albuquerque on the second Tuesday of each month, from 7:00-8:30 pm at Alamosa Books, 8810 Holly Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122, phone (505) 797-7101. Schmoozes feature short workshops /discussions, followed by social time. Pre-schmooze dinner at the Dion's on Wyoming and Paseo from 5:30-6:45 pm. Contact schmooze@scbwi-nm.org for more information.

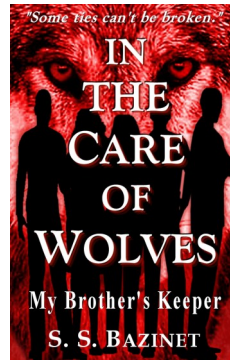
Writers2Writers meeting, the second Monday of every month, 6:30 pm at the west side Hastings at Coors and Montaño. Monthly speakers. All genres welcome.

Member Books



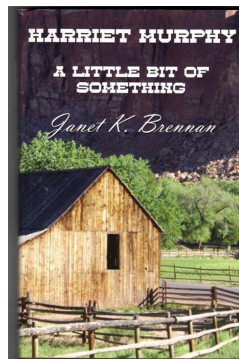
How can a loving angel create a disaster? Michael, an incarnate angel, shares his blood in an effort to purge vampire Arel of his dark curse. Facing death instead of redemption, Arel is left wondering if he's been cursed a second time. Published by Renata Press. Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Visit Sandy Bazinet: www.ssbazinet.com

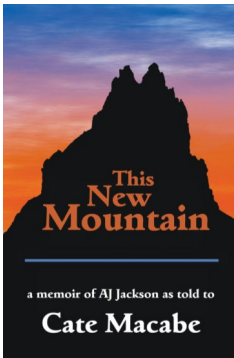
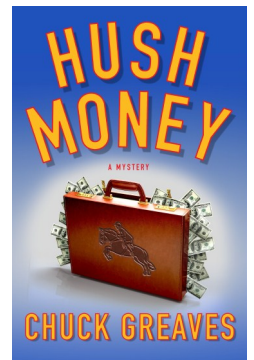


Is sixteen-year-old Theodore a secret weapon, programmed to destroy his lost family? Reunited with them and learning that they're werewolves, he helps them escape from those who are hunting them to extinction. He learns about loyalty and devotion. But in the end, will he unwittingly betray them? Published by Renata Press. Available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Visit Sandy Bazinet at www.ssbazinet.com

Come in, enjoy a cup of coffee, and sit a spell with Harriet Murphy as she regales you with her tales of family, life, and love in the early 1900's in the former gold mining town of Old Pine near Lake Tahoe in Northern California. Her tales revolve around a woman living alone in the hills of the Sierra Nevada with her horse, Pager, and a myriad of other wonderful and colorful characters. www.casadesnapdragon.com



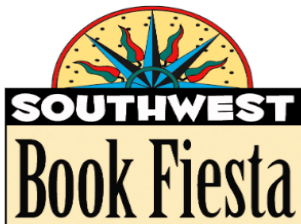
Praise for SWW's 2010 Storyteller Award winner: "Take John D. MacDonald's Travis McGee, Jonathan Kellerman's Alex Delaware, and the best of John Grisham's protagonists, shake and serve, and you'll have the hero of *HUSH MONEY*. Chuck Greaves has written a confident, cool, and totally engrossing legal thriller with the pop and sizzle of some of the greats of the genre. It's a hell of a debut." CHELSEA CAIN



Like most private investigators, AJ Jackson has more than one foot in the fire to make ends meet, but not every PI is a grandmother, an ex-gun dealer, a former mental patient, or a descendant of a Choctaw chief. These are the real-life adventures of a country girl with a go-to-hell attitude who faces her fears to make a future for herself. Casa de Snapdragon Publishing. Paperback/ebooks. www.ThisNewMountain.com

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Include your cover art plus a blurb of 50-60 words. Only \$10 per month or \$25 for three months. Contact Kathy Wagoner, Sage Editor, JustWriteSWW@gmail.com



The first Southwest Book Fiesta will be at the Albuquerque Convention Center on Mother's Day weekend, **May 10-12, 2013**. In addition to the trade area of booths and tables, the floor will also have a food stage and another stage to feature poetry and children's books. There are five workshop areas that will have talks by WordHarvest, SouthWest Writers, New Mexico Book Co-op, and will feature topics on ebooks, marketing, Centennial Authors, writing, children's books, poetry, publishers' panel, and authors. The Convention Center is hosting a Mother's Day Brunch during the festival. This will be a true family activity to celebrate the book and reading. Show management is handled by Sunbelt Shows, the producer of the National Fiery Foods & Barbecue Show, the largest show in New Mexico for 24 years. Proceeds from the event will be donated to

literacy groups and the New Mexico Library Foundation.

If you want to show off your books at the Southwest Book Fiesta next year, now is a great time to make a reservation for a booth. If you are thinking about participating, you can save 10% if you sign up between now and **September 1**. Plus, you only have to pay for half of it now (the remaining balance will be due no later than March 1, 2013). Tables start at \$150 for authors/booths just \$400. Space sharing is permitted. www.swbookfiesta.com

When Anne-Marie Slaughter wrote “Why Women Still Can’t Have it All” in the July/August 2012 issues of *The Atlantic*, she caused quite a debate among women nationwide. Anne-Marie, a colleague from International Law circles, discussed her challenges of trying to balance being the first woman director of policy planning at the State Department in Washington, D.C., while her husband and 12- and 14-year-old sons remained in Princeton, New Jersey. Taking a government job proved so much more difficult for her work-family balance than her Princeton academic job of teaching, writing books, and giving speeches.

The work-family balance can challenge all of us, both women and men, whether we are married or single and whether we have children or not. It is of particular concern to anyone responsible for the bulk of the house chores necessary to keep families functional. What tipped Anne-Marie over the edge was when she took a job described as “typical for the vast majority of working women (and men), working long hours on someone else’s schedule.” From reading Anne-Marie’s article, the challenges of balancing work and family life seem to boil down to an issue of how much control you have over your time.

Unlike government, corporate or many traditional jobs, the writing life has the advantage that writers completely schedule their own hours. Even when they are on a deadline, writers decide how and when to meet the deadline.

Lucky writers can produce full-time and earn a living from it, or a sufficient living combined with other income. They have the flexibility to write in the early mornings, get kids off to school, write while the kids are gone, and do household chores. If a writer has a part-time job, he or she still has a great deal of flexibility to set their own schedule.

Writers with full-time jobs where the hours are set on someone else’s schedule face a more difficult situation. They often have to arise early in the morning or stay up late to produce their work. They have to accept that producing an article or book is going to take much longer than if they could write full-time. This requires discipline to write on the fringes of the day when you may be thoroughly exhausted. This kind of commitment demands a project that the writer feels called to produce. Nothing short of a feeling of a calling, and the accompanying stick-to-it-ness, will get a project done for those writers with full-time jobs and families.

I had to face this challenge head on when my nephew Terrence moved in with me for two years to attend middle

school, at a time when I had received a contract for my first book. About a month into his stay, he looked at me over dinner one day and said, “You look like you need a vacation.” *From you* were the words that immediately surfaced in my head. I was completely exhausted.

Soon thereafter, I spotted an ad for two seminars by parenting guru John Rosemond. I signed up for both of them, and bought his book. After listening to Rosemond extol the virtues of 1950s parenting for several hours, I came home and announced to Nephew that he would now have chores. I made a list of everything it took to keep the house running, including cleaning the house, car, and yards. I explained to Nephew that since he now lived with me he would be responsible for half of all the chores. He protested initially, but agreed after I said I would pay him a weekly allowance.

After Nephew forgot a chore, I just deducted an appropriate amount from his allowance and did the chore myself. Once his paycheck shrunk, Nephew became more careful about his responsibilities. I also taught Nephew how to cook and made him responsible for preparing several meals a week. If I got really busy, I offered to pay Nephew more if he would do some of my chores. He gladly accepted. Nephew’s help proved invaluable, and I ended up publishing two books during his stay.

Can women have it all? Can any parent have it all? It depends on how much control you have over your work and family life. A writer with a full-time job who is also the maid, cook, nanny, and gardener for the family is in for a challenge. The more help you can get both internally (by giving all able-bodied occupants chores) or externally (by hiring help), the more likely you can produce great works.



Sherri Burr is a Yale Law School-educated law professor at the University of New Mexico. She has received several awards for her interviews, most recently earning First Place in the NM Press Women Contest for Television Talk Show for an ARTS TALK interview she did with Actor John Corbett (“Sex in the City” and “Northern Exposure”). These interviews are available through her website www.sherriburr.com and on www.youtube.com.

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Psychologists tell us there are two types of people when it comes to achieving things: some folks are goal oriented, others are process oriented. The goal oriented couldn't care less about how they get where they need to go, they just want to get there. They make the process folks a little crazy. The process oriented focus on the how and why, figuring the goal will naturally follow their well-laid plans. These people drive the goal oriented folks absolutely bonkers. Both styles have merit. Both have drawbacks. But both are necessary to make things work well. I've come to believe it's no different with writing.

Me, I have a goal-oriented personality. It could be genetic, given my Pop's driven nature, but I want to get to the end line—I want to achieve the goal. I hate, with a capital aich, the whole process: let's talk about how we're going to do it, let's make a list, then let's talk some more, then maybe sometime next year we'll get around to doing something. I just want to, to quote Larry the Cable Guy, git 'er done.

Of course, my goal-focused personality drives my writing. I can write a five-hundred-word hook, and then go straight for the jugular. None of this "how do you feel about that?" or "let's get everyone's feedback and then make a plan," stuff.

However, lately I've been suspecting there's more to the whole *process* approach than I'd originally thought. Some of my characters are beginning to show their teeth, insisting I take a deeper look at the why's and how's.

Ever the lifetime learner, I've decided to massage the tiny, raisin-like part of my brain that makes plans. We'll see where that takes us. Who knows, maybe I'll even craft an outline of my next novel. Maybe.



A retired educator, **Olive Balla** is a professional musician who lives in Los Lunas with her husband Victor and their puppy HalfNote. Ms. Balla has authored one suspense novel entitled *An Arm And A Leg*, and is nearing completion on a second. The first chapter of *An Arm And A Leg* is posted on her website: www.omballa.com.

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15% discount for 3 months/20% discount for 6 months

SouthWest Writers Statement of Financial Condition (Balance Sheet) June 30, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Checking/Savings

Sandia Area Credit Union CDs \$ 43,060.10

Sandia Area Credit Union \$ 17,563.80

Petty Cash \$ 280.00

Total Current Assets \$ 60,903.90

Total Fixed Assets

(property/equipment) \$ 0

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 60,903.90

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities:

Taxes (payroll) \$ 323.64

Equity

Restricted (scholarship) \$ 185.00

Opening Balance Equity \$ 30,815.71

Unrestricted (retained earnings) \$ 21,735.84

Net Income \$ 7,843.71

Total Equity \$ 60,580.26

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 60,903.90

Terry L. Hicks, SWW Treasurer

Looking for a Critique Group?

If you're a current member of SWW and are searching for a critique group, or are looking for another member to join your already existing circle, email your request to Kathy Wagoner, *Sage* Editor, JustWriteSWW@gmail.com and we'll get it posted. Please include in your email:

1. Your name
2. Email address and/or phone number (this will be posted publicly in both the *Sage* and on our website)
3. Whether you prefer fiction/nonfiction or a mix of both
4. Which genres you are looking for
5. Geographic location (Belen, NW Heights, near UNM, etc.)
6. Anticipated frequency and date of meetings, if known (i.e. second and fourth Tuesday, evenings)

Welcome New SouthWest Writers Members

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Edward Anderson | Frost McGahey |
| Lynn Bulten | Teresa Meleski-McGuire |
| Dyannah Byington | Desiree Perriguet |
| Chris Dunkle | Beverly Salas |
| Lucille Friedland | Elaine Schaffner |
| Marty Gerber | Susan Spensley |
| Anthony P. Gurule | Rosemary Starr |
| Carla Heinecke | Gail Summers |
| Adrienne Mathewson | |

TMI

(Continued from page 6)

535,239 in 2010? That would be a little absurd, wouldn't it? But maybe he would tell Susan, a newcomer, that Sandia is always on the east side of downtown, or that the city is home to about a half-million people. If your character doesn't have a reason to consider something, don't force it on your readers. They won't appreciate it.

The first editor I spoke to about my first manuscript told me my story started in chapter eight. I was hurt and horrified, but realized before long that she was right. I had way too much backstory and no action in the beginning of the book. I feel better now when my own first edit is full of red ink where I've sliced away all that extra information.

My advice to relatively new writers? Question every line; be brutal with the red pen. There's nothing more wonderful than putting together a page turner. And practice a one-paragraph pitch. You never know when you're going to run into an editor or agent who is looking for your book.

Good luck out there, and enjoy the next Mad Hatter's tea party.

Sarah H. Baker, author of 17 novels, stories in three anthologies, and numerous novellas, writes mysteries as S. H. Baker, romance as Sarah Storme, and erotica as Lydia Parks. Sarah, an engineer who lives in Albuquerque, enjoys sharing with other writers the lessons she has learned along the road to publication. **She will conduct a Southwest Writers workshop, Be a (Published) Pro!, on Saturday, October 27. See page 10 for more details.**

SOUTHWEST WRITERS CRITIQUE SERVICE

An experienced critiquer, picked from a panel of professional writers and editors, will be matched with your genre and will critique your manuscript for a reasonable price below the usual market rate.

The SWW Critique Service accepts all genres, including:

- Query letters
- Synopses
- Articles
- Essays
- Nonfiction books
- Book proposals
- Short stories
- Mainstream/literary fiction
- Genre fiction
- Children's/middle-grade/YA
- Screenplays/stageplays
- Poetry

COST

\$15 - Poetry of no more than 3 pages

\$15 - Query letter of no more than 3 pages

\$25 - Synopsis of up to 3 pages
- additional pages are \$3.50/page

\$35 - Minimum charge for up to 10 double-spaced manuscript pages
- additional pages are \$3.50/page

SWW critiquers follow genre-specific guidelines, but feel free to include specific questions you want answered and any points you want the critique to focus on (such as point of view, plot structure, etc.).

Go to SouthWestWriters.com for guidelines and information on how to submit your manuscript to our critique service.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

SouthWest Writers is seeking deserving high school or college students for one-year scholarship memberships in our organization. Four scholarships remain to be awarded.

To be eligible, an applicant must be enrolled in high school or college.

If you know someone with the interest and desire to pursue a writing career or if you wish to apply yourself, please print the application form on the next page and mail it to:

SouthWest Writers
3721 Morris NE Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87111-3611



Address: _____

Current School: _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Contact (phone/e-mail): _____

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SouthWest Writers Annual Awards Banquet September 15, 2012

The winners of the 2012 Annual Writing Competition, including the StoryTeller winner, and the Parris Award recipient will be announced at the SouthWest Writers Annual Awards banquet on September 15, 2012 from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. **Dinner will begin promptly at 6:00 pm.** The banquet will be held at the Fez Club, Ballut Abyad Shrine Center, 6600 Zuni Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 (located west of Louisiana Blvd, east of San Pedro Dr, between Dakota St and Florida St, enter the parking lot from Florida St).

The banquet menu includes tossed salad, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable medley, roll and butter, apple pie, coffee, iced tea, and your choice of entrée:

1. Roasted Pork with Chipotle sauce
2. Baked Chicken
3. Eggplant Parmesan



The price is **\$40 per person**, payable by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard at the SouthWest Writers office, 3721 Morris St NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87111; at regularly scheduled meetings; and by phone (505) 265-9485. Choose an entrée for each person attending and note any food allergies. Reservations are accepted until noon on September 10, 2012.

Business attire. Cash bar available. Two provost marshals will be on duty in the parking lot during the banquet.

Name _____ Entrée # _____

Guest 1 _____ Entrée # _____

Guest 2 _____ Entrée # _____

Guest 3 _____ Entrée # _____

Food Allergies _____

Contact Info (phone/email) _____

Check _____ M.O. _____ Visa _____ MC _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____