



# SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

Vol. 30, No. 12

December 2014



## South Broadway Cultural Center Hosts first SWW Reading

By Peg Herrington

SouthWest Writers' debut event at the South Broadway Cultural Center was held on Saturday, Nov 15. If you've never been to the SBCC, you're in for a real treat. They are assembling a fabulous city-wide home for all things literary, and the gorgeous facility is decidedly first class.

Readers performed on-stage in the beautiful SBCC theatre, near a room where several of the readers' books were sold. The event was organized and emceed by SWW Vice President, Peg Herrington, who introduced each reader with a tale from his or her background. Readers included:



**Copeland Neeley** read the first chapter of his unpublished novel, *The Haunt at Hauntington Elementary*. This kid-friendly mystery unfolds through a string of vignettes as each student in Mr. Morton's class takes a turn in the spotlight.



**Gayle Lauradunn** read from her freshly published debut poetry collection, *Reaching for Air*. She is working on a historical novel set in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland.



**Don DeNoon's** humorous poem, "Midnight on the Rio Grande" was read by John Candelaria as Don is recovering from Achilles tendon re-attachment surgery.



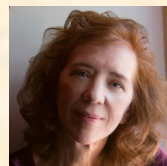
**Bobbi Adams' Happy Easter**, a hilarious short story taken from her memoir in-progress was read by yours truly because Bobbi was under the weather.



**Joyce Hertzoff** participated in the National Novel Writing program for the first time in 2008. She read from her book, *The Crimson Orb*, which was written for NaNoWriMo in 2010 and published in 2014. It's a fantasy tinged with science.



**John Candelaria's** poetry has been published in the OASIS Journal 2012 and 2013; Poetry from the Other Side, Albuquerque Chapter; New Mexico State Poetry Society; and *South-West Writers The Storyteller's Anthology*. He read *Albuquerque Rises*, celebrating the history of our city.

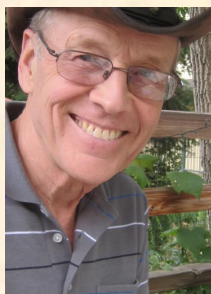


**Lucy St. Clair** read from the first volume of her paranormal *Time Passages* series, *Scattered Years*, to be published in late 2014. "My time travel trilogy leans heavily toward allegory," she explained. "You might say it's something of an autobiography in disguise."



**Jim Tritten** read "Two Old Soldiers," from the *Corrales Writing Group 2013 Anthology*. It is particularly appropriate as it celebrates the end of World War I and Veterans Day.

This Reading was the first event by SWW at the SBCC. It was be a landmark, bragging-rights event. The SBCC is located at 1025 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, 505-848-1320.



I want to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who kept SWW operating smoothly for another year. Everyone on the Board of Directors has been a tremendous help to me and to SWW and has donated extensive time to keep SWW running and improve the organization, now and in the future. I hope many of you will take time to thank the members of the Board for all their time.

A special thanks is due to Peggy Herrington. Not only did she oversee and edit the *Southwest Writers Anthology*, she put together the proposal for the Kimo book project. No matter what happens in the future, remember that Peggy did all the work to bring the project to Southwest Writers. There are probably other projects started by the current Board or Executive Board that will bear fruition after we leave office. Be sure to thank the initiators and remember how much they contributed to SWW. And of course, Jonathon Miller had the idea that propelled Peggy's work on the Anthology.

Most of "My" board will leave at the end of this year because they want to write. Board membership takes so much time that most of our "writing time" has been devoted to SWW business. All the individuals who were running for the new Executive Board positions, but did not win, said something along the line of, "I'm sorry I lost, but glad that now I'll have time to write." And, if you happen to see Robin Kalinich, Robyn Ruff-Wagner, or Sharon Serrano, please also thank them. The board work load was so great they had too little time to write and asked for others to take on their board duties.

Your new president will be writing this column starting next month. Be sure to thank him and the new board members for all the work they'll be doing.

I also want to extend a special thanks to the volunteers who help at our meetings but who have chosen not to join the Board. Sandy Bazinet who has been our snack and coffee person since before I joined SWW, comes early to meetings to be sure coffee and tea-water will be ready for members. Kim Mitchell, who puts together our slides and runs the projector at our meetings, makes it much easier for us to follow the discussions. Like the board members, she does extensive work at home. She prepares slides relating to the topics we'll discuss at each meeting and the ones thanking many specific workers. Gail Rubin, in addition to being the Doyenne of Death is our Doyenne of Elerts, and notifies everyone she can about our meetings. Special thanks to you three and all the members of the Board and all our volunteers.

I think the biggest issue for the membership that Rob will be bringing up soon is the possible move to the South Broadway Cultural Center. Check out SBCC, think about it, and let your new officers know your concerns and wishes. Better public transportation, a more central location, and the presence of a guard to ensure your safety in the evenings as well as the much lower rent are all pushing SWW toward a move there.

*Lee*

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Try our Google Calendar link to see what's coming up for each month. Use the link on the SWW website or click here: [www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=swwcalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Denver](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=swwcalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Denver)

## Guest Speakers and Topics at SWW Meetings

SWW members free, guests \$10, students \$5

### DON'T FORGET:

We will have our annual Holiday Pot Luck at our Saturday, 6 December, meeting. Before during and after Robin Cutler's talk on indie publishing. We will have no Tuesday meeting in December. After 6 Dec, the next meeting will be Saturday, January 3, 2015 with your new officers.

**Saturday, December 6 •  
10:00 am to noon**

### INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING 101:

**WHAT YOU  
NEED TO  
KNOW TO BE  
SUCCESSFUL  
AT PUBLISH-  
ING YOUR OWN  
WORK**



### Robin Cutler

Are you an independent publisher looking for a comprehensive and relevant roadmap to follow to bring your book idea to life? Are you looking for an easy-to-use, proven publishing solution that's low cost and provides worldwide physical and digital distribution? In this how-to workshop, industry veteran Robin Cutler will drill down to the basics about book publishing and provide an overview of IngramSpark, the newest tool available to publishers to help bring books to market.

**Robin Cutler** is Independent Publisher Manager at IngramSpark where she leads a team assisting independent publishers in making their content available to retail partners throughout the world. Formerly, Ms. Cutler was vendor manager at CreateSpace, served as CEO of Summerhouse Press, and was Assistant Director of USC Press. She holds a BA in Journalism from the University of South Carolina.

**Saturday, January 3 •  
10:00 am to noon**

### CREATING CREDIBLE CHARACTERS

### Steve Brewer

Writers who want to create credible characters have to go deep, exploring the needs, desires, flaws and histories of their protagonists before they ever write a word. The real skill comes in filtering the details, giving the reader just enough without bogging down the story.

Steve Brewer writes books about crooks, including the Bubba Mabry Mysteries and the New Duke City Crime Series written as Max Austin. The first Bubba Book, *Lanely Street*, was made into a Hollywood comedy in 2009 and went straight to DVD with breathtaking speed. Steve's latest Max Austin novel, *Duke City Hit*, is his 26th published book.



A former journalist and humor columnist, Steve now teaches part-time at the Honors College at the University of New Mexico. He hasn't worn a necktie since he left the Albuquerque Journal 17 years go. Visit Steve at [steve-brewer.blogspot.com](http://steve-brewer.blogspot.com)



## Guest Speakers and Topics at SWW Meetings

**Saturday, February 7 •  
10:00 am to noon**

### PUTTING EMOTION INTO YOUR WRITING — WITHOUT ADDING “LY”



**Melody Groves**

Writers like to think communication is mostly through dialogue. But what's NOT said is vitally important. Emotions lie at the core of every character's actions, choices, and words — all of which drive the story. What would a story be without emotions? Melody will discuss various emotions and highlight the physical signs, internal sensations, mental reactions, and how to incorporate them into your writing.

Five-time award-winning author **Melody Groves** writes magazine articles, novels, nonfiction books, and screenplays. Most are Western or Western-themed. A member of Western Writers of America and an SWW Parris winner, she spends her “spare” time playing rhythm guitar with the Jammy Time Band. Visit Melody at [www.melodygroves.net](http://www.melodygroves.net).

## Brown Bag Session

### Point of View

How do you determine what, or whose, point of view your story should be centered on? That is the topic



of the Brown Bag presentation after the Monthly Meeting on January 3rd, SWW Board member Kathy Wagoner who writes as Cate Macabe, is the author of *This New Mountain: a Memoir of AJ Jackson, Private Investigator*, brings a host of perspectives to the process.

## This Odd Calling: Creativity and the Writing Life

by Betsy James

### Up Time, Down Time, Dream Time

I work over the holidays.

Daily writing helps me stay sane in the emotional ups-and-downs of too much or too little family, of sad memories and good ones. Generally I have a project in hand—a story to finish, a manuscript to revise. When the holiday world is too much, it's good to have another world to go to.

In fact, some of the cranky issues of this all-too-real world get worked out in the imaginary one. It's hard to invent stranger relatives than those we've got.

Even when I hang out with friends I often carry an unlined sketch journal—a “daybook”—in which I think aloud, doodle and draw, play anthropologist, listen for stories and good jokes. There I can let my mind simultaneously pay attention and spin free.

We need to write. And we need time to let our writing refresh itself—to play, stretch like a cat, fiddle around, putter, daydream. Never is this more true than during the holidays. To scribble and dream in a daybook is to take a “busman's holiday”: to work and refresh yourself at the same time.



Betsy James is the author and illustrator of sixteen books for young adults and children. Visit her on the web at [www.listeningatthegate.com](http://www.listeningatthegate.com) and [www.betsyjames.com](http://www.betsyjames.com)

Search New and Used  
**amazon.com.**

**Help Support SouthWest Writers**  
SWW receives a commission on books ordered via this link to [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



## Sophia and the Bad Little Donkey

By Marsha De Keno

Winter gripped the landscape with a fierceness not seen in years. Eight-year-old Sophia gazed out at the cold morning light striking the barnyard and wished her dad would come home. The aroma of biscuits and crackling bacon drew her down the stairs into the toasty kitchen. Sophia's dog, Ralph, began to bark as she and her mother tore through the sitting room for the front door.

"Dad," Sofia yelled.

Sofia's dad, Tobias, tramped into the room brushing off snow. "There're my girls." He grabbed Sophia, swinging her until her fiery braids flew like a kite's tail. He hugged her mom, while Sophia hung on. As the door closed, Sofia glimpsed a little shaggy grey animal.

"I brought you something. Grab your coat, Sophia."

Out she ran, stopping short to what looked like a miniature horse with long ears. "What's that?"

"It's a baby donkey," Tobias said.

"The kind Jesus rode?"

"Yep, the same. What are you going to name her?"

"I think, Wendy, 'cause it's windy."

Tobias grinned. "It's freezing. Take her into the barn."

Sophia yanked the rope. Wendy plopped down on the ground. "Why won't she move?"

Tobias unfastened the barn door, tossed hay into a bucket and brought it outside. Wendy scrambled to her feet, jerked the rope free, and then bolted toward Tobias.

The rope burned Sophia's bare hands. She fell face first into the snow. "She's a bad donkey!" Sophia cried.

"Oh, Sophia, she doesn't know you yet." Tobias wiped her tears and carried her into the warm barn.

Ralph sniffed Wendy's tail. Wendy kicked and scooted behind Tobias.

Sophia's eyes widened. Her breath released. "Dad, Wendy's not a bad little donkey. She's scared just like me on my first day of school." Sophia gently hugged Wendy's scraggly neck; they were going to be best friends.



Marsha De Keno taught high school science, social studies, English, reading, and ESL in her former life. She edits dossiers, theses, and other professional papers

## Member Successes

The Albuquerque Journal published a memoir piece by **Jim Tritten** about his grandfather entitled "Forgotten Soldiers of a Forgotten War" on November 10<sup>2014</sup>.

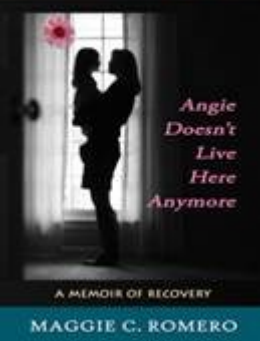
**Marilea Rabasa's** memoir "A Mother's Story" has been named a Finalist in the Women's Issues category of the 2014 USA Best Book Awards.

*Send your successes and announcements to the SouthWest Sage Editor at [swwsage@swcp.com](mailto:swwsage@swcp.com).*

## Member Books

*A Mother's Story* is an intimate portrait of family addiction. When Angie's illness became

### A MOTHER'S STORY



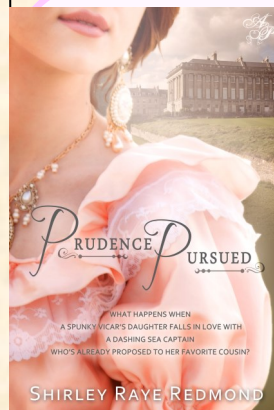
apparent, Maggie jumped into a recovery program. The subsequent thirteen years have been a poignant redemption journey, as she has claimed recovery for herself even as her daughter struggles. "She shows us that in this illness, there is no sideline to stand on for observation. We are all within the circle, and we are each responsible for our own happiness." Merimee Moffitt, *Making Little Edens* Available at Amazon.

## Prudence Pursued

by Shirley Raye Redmond

Despite Prudence Pentyre's best efforts, her cousin Margaret proves reluctant to accept Sir James Brownell's marriage proposal, and fears being "bovinised" if she undergoes the controversial cowpox vaccination he recommends. Then Prudence finds herself smitten with the dashing baronet. What can she do?

Available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Smashwords





All year long there are people who are always working hard to ensure that SWW maintains a high level of quality programs and services for its members. They give us their time, talents and energy every month and so we want to say THANK YOU to them all.

President **Lee Higbie** Vice-President and Fundraising Chairperson **Peggy Herrington**  
Secretary and Annual Contest Chair **Andy Mayo** Treasurer **Dino Leyba**  
Class Coordinator **Larry Greenly** Member-at-Large **Bob Kidera** Membership **Cynthia Boyd**  
Newsletter Editor **Rose Marie Kern** Volunteer Coordinator **Betty Higbie**  
Co-Webmasters **Kathy Kitts** and **Kathy Wagoner** AV/Slideshow **Kimberly Mitchell**  
E-lert Mistress **Gail Rubin** Meeting Snack Coordinator **Sandy Bazinet**

### Welcome New Southwest Writer's Members!

Janet Linde  
Elmer E. Maestas  
Linda East Brady

### **SWW Members:**

***Place an ad for your book with cover art  
and a blurb of 50-60 words.***

***\$10/month or \$25/three months***

***Contact Rose Kern, Sage Editor,  
swwsage@swcp.com***

### ~ WRITING MARATHONS ~

Two SWW members host an  
8-hour writing marathon  
on the last Sunday of every month, 2:00-10:00 pm,  
at alternating locations. Email [ktwag@msn.com](mailto:ktwag@msn.com) or  
[ruffwag3@earthlink.net](mailto:ruffwag3@earthlink.net).



Find SouthWest  
Writers on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter  
[@SW\\_Writers](https://twitter.com/SW_Writers)

### *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: \$70 (\$65 renewal if paid two months in advance)

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

Requires proof of student status

Outside U.S.: \$75, Lifetime Membership: \$750

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

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

## The Writing Life: Juggling Priorities

By Sherri Burr

Recently, I read T.D. Jakes' book, *Instinct* and was startled by the chapter on juggling priorities. The author discussed juggling as "giving each object just enough of a push so that all items remain suspended and none falls out of sequence." I thought of my efforts to make time for my writing life while working full time, attending to family obligations, volunteering to help others, practicing a healthy lifestyle, and looking after my home. In short, like the readers of this column, I have a lot of balls up in the air.

As writers, we type stories, edit material, shepherd work through the publishing process, market and promote the work. Depending on how many projects writers have on their desks, they could be juggling all of these. Each takes time, and yet are required to manage a successful writing career.

Writers need sustained work time. Scheduling thirty, sixty, or ninety-minute blocks to put words on paper can be helpful. If I get on a roll, I hit the timer to add another block. When I have a passion project, I can't wait to read and write about my subject.

So how does one decide to accept other opportunities that take time away from writing and other necessary priorities related to family, work, and home? Do you say "Yes" and add another item to juggle, or "No?" How do you know when your schedule has reached its saturation point?

I know I have reached schedule saturation when even the thought of taking on another commitment causes stress. Ultimately we have to say "No" to people when a "Yes" could bring all the balls crashing down.

Adding one more meeting means less time to write, and the occasion divides the day. This can lead to missed deadlines, and the inability to do any work at all because of the feeling of being overwhelmed.

Within two months this year, I received four offers to join not-for-profit boards. One group met twice a month and that was a non-starter. As I contemplated another offer from a board that met once a month, I looked at my calendar and noticed that their board meeting date conflicted with a previous obligation. Even though the group offered to move the time of their meeting, I just couldn't see how I could add another monthly commitment to my calendar. For a third board, the executive director said they met bi-monthly and communicated by email in between. That felt worse as I often struggle to read all the

email that currently descends into my box. One recruiter mentioned the seriousness of the board work. As the guardian of a brother in a coma, I already make solemn decisions. Just the mere mention of the word serious made me want to run.

I finally decided to decline all four board offers until I finished other volunteer projects or some time freed up from my university job.

I believe there has to be a good reason to nod an acceptance.

I recommend writers consider saying "Yes" to those offers that bring joy, pleasure, and peace into your life. Writers must intersperse fun activities in. Some people might think it's narcissistic to focus on having more fun, between obligations. It's the fun activities and passion projects that make life pleasurable so you can endure the serious and take delight from the prestigious.

Some people might think it's narcissistic to focus on having more fun, but it's the passion projects and fun activities that feed your soul.

For example, after taking several sets of golf lessons, I finally play with enough confidence to make it enjoyable. Fortunately in New Mexico, many golf courses substantially discount their fees to encourage late afternoon play. With over 300 sunny days a year, I have become enthralled by the mountain views and gorgeous New Mexico skies. If given a choice between attending additional meetings and playing golf several times a week, where are my clubs?

At the end of each day, I review what I did that was gratifying? Did I type pages for my next book? Did I help someone? Did I golf in a nice surrounding? Did I see a comedy movie or watch a fascinating television show like *How to Get Away with Murder*?

There are things that we have to do and then there are those we want to do. A balanced life requires juggling between both sets of undertakings. So off I go. Today's writing is done and nine holes are calling my name.



**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](http://www.sherriburr.com) and on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

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## Critique Groups

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### Fiction/Nonfiction

Wally Gordon, wallygordon@q.com or Chris Enke, en-ke@unm.edu

Erna Fergusson Library

Second Wed. each month,

4-6:00 pm With interest, can change day & time

### Mainstream Fiction

Online Critique Group

Christie Keele, ckeele10@hotmail.com

### Sci-Fi

Send name and writing experience to:

Cosmic\_Connections\_SF\_Critique\_

Group@yahooogroups.com

### Suspense/Mystery

Olive Balla is looking for form a critique group for fiction. Her genre is suspense/mystery, and she would like to meet once or twice per month in Los Lunas, or within a fifteen mile radius. If this sounds interesting please contact her directly. Email: ombal-la@gmail.com (505) 865-5315 (Landline) (505) 550-0011 (Cell)

### Mixed genre

NE ABQ writer's critique group (mixed genre) is looking for two energetic members. We meet in members' homes every other Wednesday at 6pm. If interested email Karen at k\_glinski@yahoo.com. Include a 1 page sample of your writing.

### All Genre's

The Wordwrights: Don Morgan and Dennis Kastendiek moderate North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Room 1, 2nd floor Mondays, 1:30-3:30 pm Dennis, [dwjkas@yahoo.com](mailto:dwjkas@yahoo.com)

### Children's/MG/YA

Erna Fergusson Library 3rd Saturday every month, 12:00-2:00 pm. To share, bring 5 copies of 5 pages max., double-spaced

### Genre, Novel Length

2nd Tuesday every month, 7:00 pm Reviewing ready-to-query novels Lee, [Lee@seki.com](mailto:Lee@seki.com)

### Mainstream Fiction

Online Critique Group Christie Keele, [ckeele10@hotmail.com](mailto:ckeele10@hotmail.com)

### Screenwriting

Duke City Screenwriters Every other Thursday 6-9:00 pm

Terry Hicks, [earthreflection@aol.com](mailto:earthreflection@aol.com)

or Marc Calderwood, [skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com](mailto:skatingkokopelli@hotmail.com)

### Nonfiction

The Intrepids is a long-standing critique group. Every other Monday, 3:00-5:00 pm Members take turns hosting Gail Rubin, 505-265-7215 or [gail@AGoodGoodbye.com](mailto:gail@AGoodGoodbye.com)

### LOOKING FOR A CRITIQUE GROUP?

Email Rose Kern at [swwsage@swcp.com](mailto:swwsage@swcp.com) with the following information and we'll publish your request:

Name, email address, phone number, genre preference, geographic location (Belen, NW Heights, near UNM, etc.), preference for frequency of meetings, preferred day of the week.

## Albuquerque Area Writing Groups

The **Albuquerque Croak & Dagger** chapter of Sisters in Crime meets 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, police briefing room at James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Substation. [www.croak-and-dagger.com/](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com/)

**The Wordwrights:** Don Morgan and Dennis Kastendiek moderate, all genres welcome. North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Room 1, 2nd floor. Mondays, 1:30-3:30 pm. Contact Dennis: [dwjkas@yahoo.com](mailto:dwjkas@yahoo.com)

**Children's/MG/YA Writers:** 3rd Saturday critique group meets monthly at Erna Fergusson Library, San Mateo and Comanche, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. . Bring five copies of five pages, double-spaced, to share.

### **Duke City Screenwriters:**

Meets every other Thursday

6:00 - 9:00 pm Critique group, education, and fun! Contact Terry Hicks: [earthreflection@aol.com](mailto:earthreflection@aol.com) or Marc Calderwood: [marccalderwood@hotmail.com](mailto:marccalderwood@hotmail.com)

**SCBWI: Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators:** 2nd Tuesday each month, 7-8:30 pm, Alamosa Books. Short workshops/discussions. Pre-schmooze dinner, Flying Star, Wyoming & Paseo, 5:30-6:45 pm. [schmooze@scbwinm.org](mailto:schmooze@scbwinm.org)



Left: Elaine Stone and R.J. Mirabal  
Above: Balloon Fiesta Museum  
Right: Elizabeth Galligan and Irene Blea



## SWW AUTHORS AT THE BALLOON MUSEUM HOLIDAY FAIR

By Peg Herrington, SWW Vice President

All authors know they must write often, but these days they must publish and sell as well. We didn't count, but at least a couple dozen SWW members demonstrated that knowledge at the November 16<sup>th</sup> ABQ Balloon Museum Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair. Several sold their books at no cost from the SWW table that featured *The Storytellers Anthology*.

Books were sold on the ground floor in a fabulous circular, glass-walled room on the northeast corner of the museum, as shown in a photo. We watched clouds dissipate from the Sandia Mountains that morning as plenty of customers strolled through the book tables. Not so much after 1 P.M., when entrance and parking fees were charged.

We couldn't shoot all the SWW authors but we captured those we could—with a camera, of course. Nice selling, gang!



Ellen Hasencz Calvert

Larry Greenly



Melody Groves (in red)  
with a Customer



Above: Gayle Lauradunn  
Left: Sue Houser

## Announcements

### Searching for the Albuquerque Poet Laureate

Dear Poetry Lover,

Applications for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Poet Laureate of Albuquerque close on January 31. In

order help us make sure our pool of hopefuls is deep and not shallow, we need your help!

Please forward this announcement to all the poets, authors and writers in your network. The application is available here

Your city needs you. Help her find her next bard. <http://albuquerquepoetlaureate.org/>

***Albuquerque Poet Laureate Program Organizing Committee***

### What's an Author to Do?

Sell your book to the 'Big 5'?  
Lots of luck. Light a candle.

Publish It Yourself?

Sure—*If You Know Enough About:*

- ▶ Editing
- ▶ Layout
- ▶ Cover design
- ▶ Proofreading
- ▶ Printing
- ▶ Ebook conversion
- ▶ Distribution
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ And that's how you want to spend your days.

**But Now There's Another Way!**

The experience, expertise, track record, and personal relationships of



See for yourself: [TerraNovaBooks.com](http://TerraNovaBooks.com)  
Email: [Editor@TerraNovaBooks.com](mailto:Editor@TerraNovaBooks.com) • Call: (505) 470-6797

## SAGE Writing Challenges

SWW Writers are invited to submit stories, poems and artwork to the Sage. Payment is in bylines and clips. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length.

Please send all submissions as either standard text in an email or in a word document with Times New Roman or calibri font in 11pt. Size. Do not get fancy with any formatting or fonts—the more difficult it is for me to set it into the newsletter, the less likely I am to print it.

-Rose Marie Kern, Editor

### January Writing Challenge

#### Animal Companions

I had an old German Shepard named Joe. Toward the end of his life I acquired a sassy Pembroke Corgi named Honey. Honey was small enough to walk under him easily but she bossed him unmercifully. Honey was also quite overweight when we got her from the Cactus Corgi Rescue Society—so unlike Joe she was on a permanent diet. Joe's bowl sat well above her head and was always full. Joe would take pity on her and drop her some food from his bowl when he thought no one was looking.

As he aged Honey would go out of her way to take care of him as well—when I accidentally lowered the foot of my recliner on his back she attack it with a fierceness I'd never seen before.

If you have had known animal companions and seen how they interact...write a story about it and send it to the Sage by December 15th.

## Begging with Dignity

Have you noticed an increase in the amount of mail you are receiving which contains requests for money as we head into the holiday season? Every organization in the U.S. that exists primarily on donations is hoping that the goodwill and attitude of giving that is fostered by bright lights and joy to the world will rub off a little their way.

How gauche. How tawdry. How dare they all think that they have the right to ask for us to take \$20 or \$100 and just GIVE it to them. Ok, so it can be a nice tax deduction. And it can help the organization work to achieve its goals... and yes, we really want to see some of them succeed. But should SWW participate in such a plebian method of convincing people to help us out?

Well...Larry DOES need more paper clips, and Terry DOES need more pencils, and I suppose it wouldn't look good if the electric company pulled the plug on the office. (Though the thought of Larry sitting hunched over a desk editing this newsletter by candlelight does evoke a credible Scrooge-ish sort of image)

So, OK, here goes.

Dear SWW members, could you take a moment to send in your Tax-Deductible end of the year Donation? Pleeceeeesse? Pretty Pleeceeease?

What's in it for you? So many of us have had our dreams of authorship stimulated, encouraged, and realized at least in part through the meetings, the classes, the workshops, the contests, the newsletter, the website and all those things that SWW and all its volunteers put in hundreds of hours to bring to you. Please help us pay the rent.

Contributions can be given by sending a check to the office, or by clicking on the Make a Donation link on our website. This will take you to the PayPal option where you can use your debit card. We will send you a confirmation letter with effusive and heart-felt thanks.

Whether you send \$5, \$20, \$100, or \$500....large or small—all is welcome.

**Thank You!**



**And have a**

**Blessed Holiday Season!**



**SouthWest Writers**

**Carlisle Executive Offices**

**3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114**

**Albuquerque, NM 87110**

**[Www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com)**

# Looking for Trouble

Joycelyn Campbell

If you write fiction, read fiction, or read books about how to write fiction, you know the one thing a story absolutely, positively must include is trouble and plenty of it. If you don't have trouble—otherwise known as conflict—you don't have a story. We all understand that conflict is essential for capturing readers' interest. But *why* is it essential?

This seems like a worthy question to ask given the fact that conflict isn't something we actively seek out in our daily lives. As Janet Burroway says in *Writing Fiction*, "In life, conflict often carries a negative connotation, yet in fiction, be it comic or tragic, dramatic conflict is fundamental because in literature only trouble is interesting."

There's no denying that trouble interests us. We start looking for it at a very young age—specifically at about one year. Much of children's play is organized around big trouble, including murder, kidnapping, and getting lost or trapped. And children's nursery rhymes are riddled with violence. Many child psychology experts believe children's play helps them develop social and emotional intelligence. In a sense, children are rehearsing for adult life. (Hopefully their actual adult lives will be sunnier than the hazardous lives they appear to be rehearsing for.)

That doesn't explain adults' continued interest in looking for vicarious trouble, but it does jibe with research indicating that people who read fiction have better social skills than people who primarily read nonfiction.

## One Plot Fits Most

My curiosity about the all-ages appeal of pretend conflict comes from my interest in the brain. We humans are still, to a great extent, operating with the same brain we had back when we were traversing the savannah—a brain which, as John Medina explains in *Brain Rules*, "appears to be designed to solve problems related to surviving in an unstable outdoor environment in nearly constant motion."

That sounds just like the plot of any number of books, movies, TV shows, and video games. Maybe we should forget about those seven basic plots and just go with having our protagonist attempts to solve one or more problems while fighting to survive in an unstable outdoor environment in nearly constant motion. It seems to be a successful formula.

It should be noted that most of us aren't fighting for our survival, don't spend much time in unstable outdoor environments, and are hardly in nearly constant motion. Of course, we still get into trouble, in spite of or because of our best efforts, but our troubles are of a vastly different nature from the troubles of our distant ancestors. We have the same brain as those distant ancestors, though. Could that be why we're so intent on entertaining ourselves by stirring up all this harrowing pretend trouble? Because it simulates the kind—or at least degree—of trouble our brain is used to dealing with?

## Everything that Happens - Happens to Us

According to neuroscientists, our brain doesn't distinguish very well between actual experience and vicarious experience. It reacts the same whether we read about something awful happening to a fictional character or actually see the awful thing

happening to a person in real life. Watching a fictional disaster unfold on the screen elicits the same response in our brain that it would if it were happening to us—even though we know it isn't actually happening.

We're aware of this, whether or not we acknowledge it. We anticipate how certain types of books or movies will make us feel. That's why we read those books or watch those movies. We know how we're likely to react to a story described as a "tearjerker." Genres such as suspense, thriller, action, science fiction, and mystery make us feel anxious, frightened, uneasy, sometimes even terrified. Yet we keep going back for more.

This is fascinating in light of the fact that the prime directive of the brain is our survival. Why would a brain that is intent on our survival create all these fictional worlds filled with trouble, disaster, loss, horror, and even death for us to experience *as if they were actually happening to us*?

## We Shall Overcome

Stories are excellent vehicles for helping us learn and remember. One reason is that stories include emotion, and we're more likely to remember something if it has a strong emotional impact. The greater the conflict or trouble in a story, the more emotion we feel, and the more emotion we feel, the likelier we are to remember.

But remember what exactly? Stories have beginnings, middles, and endings, but we don't remember beginnings and middles nearly as much as we remember endings. If a story has a happy—by which I mean emotionally satisfying—ending, the burst of dopamine released in our brain gives us a rush of pleasure and also ensures that we will remember how things worked out: the dragon was slain, the day was won, the quest was completed, the boy got the girl, the challenges were overcome.

By the end of a story, a problem related to some aspect of survival, whether physical or psychological, was solved. We learned something about the way the world works and how people function. And we survived to get into trouble another day, just like (some of) our distant ancestors.

So one possible answer to the question of what's so interesting about conflict is that it isn't the conflict *per se* that interests us—or interests our brain—but the resolution of the conflict. When the hero or heroine of a story faces big trouble and not only survives but even triumphs, we feel as if we did, too. It may be that at any age fiction offers the same benefit play does for young children: a stage on which we can practice dealing with pretend trouble in order to develop confidence in our ability to deal with our own real-life troubles!



**Joycelyn Campbell** is a writer and teacher and the founder of FARTHER TO GO! through which she helps people discover what they really want in life and shows them how to use narrative structure to create bigger and juicier life stories. She also facilitates Monthly Meetings of the

Mind (& Brain) at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. Visit her at [farthertogo.com](http://farthertogo.com)

**ANNOUNCING  
THE 2015 SLS-DISQUIET  
LITERARY CONTEST**

**The Writer's Monthly Review Magazine**, Debuting in January 2015

A monthly magazine for writers of every genre. Beginners and old pros welcome. Paying Market.

Each issue will contain articles on a variety of subjects about writing, book reviews, how-to's, market reviews and much more. Each issue will also contain a writer's assignment and other activities that you can be a part of. Contests will be offered often and will be announced - cash prizes will be offered

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:**

At the present time, we are accepting submissions from writers. We need articles on every subject about writing, book reviews, how-to's, and market reviews. We do not accept poetry or fiction at this time.

**Articles on writing: length 750 -2000 words**

**Shorter Articles or How-to's: 250-750 words**

**Book Reviews: Up to 750 words**

**Market Reviews: up to 1500 words**

We pay \$5 for short articles; \$10 for longer ones.

**ATTENTION:** Writers, you must be a subscriber to write for us. Send articles via email to: [marcies04@yahoo.com](mailto:marcies04@yahoo.com)

**The Writer's Monthly Review Magazine**

<http://writersmonthlyreview.com/>

**2413 Bethel Rd. Logansport LA 71049 USA**

**Email:** [marcies04@yahoo.com](mailto:marcies04@yahoo.com)

Summer Literary Seminars is very excited to announce our 2015 Literary Contest, with prizes sponsored by *Guernica*, *Fence Magazine*, *Ninth Letter*, and the esteemed Graywolf Press. We're also thrilled to share that through a new collaboration with DISQUIET, the winners of this year's contest will be offered tuition, airfare, and accommodations to the 2015 DISQUIET International Program in Lisbon, Portugal, June 28 to July 10, 2015.

Contest winners in the categories of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction will have their winning work published in North America's leading publications. Additionally, they will win a full fellowship (airfare, tuition, and housing included) to the 2015 DISQUIET International Program in Lisbon, Portugal. (Note that prizes and fellowships cannot be applied to the four-day SLS Montreal or SLS Residencies programs.)

The winner of the **Graywolf Prize** for the best novel excerpt of an emerging writer (you must have published no more than two novels) will receive full tuition for the 2015 DISQUIET International Program in Lisbon, Portugal, as well as publication on the Graywolf website. (All qualifying entries automatically considered, please note that you have published two or less novels in the body of your email.)

The winner of the **Arkadii Dragomoshchenko Prize for Innovative Poetry** will receive free tuition for the 2015 SLS Residencies program in Lithuania, as well as publication online.

The winner of the **Sutzkever Prize** will receive free tuition for the 2015 SLS Residencies program in Lithuania, as well as publication online.

More information: <http://sumlitsem.org/contest.html>

**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    | • Mainstream/literary fiction |
| • Synopses         | • Genre fiction               |
| • Articles         | • Children's                  |
| • Essays           | • Middle-grade                |
| • Nonfiction books | • Young Adult                 |
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**COST**

- \$15 - Poetry of no more than 3 pages  
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\$25 - Synopsis of up to 3 pages  
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- 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](http://SouthWestWriters.com) for guidelines and information on submitting your manuscript to our critique service.



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## **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 505-830-6034.*

*To register for classes and workshops: sign up at SWW meetings or register  
online at [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com).*

Meetings are held on the **1st Saturday** of the month from 10am to noon,  
and on the **3rd Tuesday** of the month from 7 to 9pm. All SWW members  
are encouraged to come together in celebration of the art of writing. Each  
meeting many members announce their recent successes and have an op-  
portunity to network with other writers. Most meetings feature promi-  
nent speakers who bring their expertise in the arts of writing, publica-  
tion, editing, and many other topics of interest to those in the profession.

**After the Saturday meeting, an additional brown bag session is held  
to provide members with training in a variety of areas.**

**Members may attend all sessions free of charge, visitors are charged  
\$10 per meeting.**

### **You Can Write for *SouthWest Sage***

Want to add a 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 types of articles we publish.

Payment is in bylines and clips. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to  
the next issue. Article lengths from 300-1000 words. Submissions may be  
edited for accuracy, readability and length.

Please send all submissions as either standard text in an email or in a  
word document with Times New Roman or calibri font in 11pt. Size. Do  
not get fancy with any formatting or fonts—the more difficult it is for me  
to set it into the newsletter, the less likely I am to print it.

Send questions or submissions to Rose Kern, *SouthWest Sage* Editor,  
[swwsage@swcp.com](mailto:swwsage@swcp.com).

### **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.*



# SouthWest Writers

## 2014 Student Scholarship Application

*SouthWest Writers is seeking deserving high school and college students for one-year scholarship memberships in our organization. To be eligible, an applicant must be enrolled in high school or college. If you know a student with the interest and desire to pursue a writing career or if you wish to apply yourself, please complete this application and mail to the address at the bottom of the form.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Area(s) of Interest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(In 250 words or less tell us why you would like to be a student member of Southwest Writers):**

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**Recommended by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact (phone/e-mail):** \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this application to SouthWest Writers, 3200 Carlisle Blvd NE, Suite 114, Albuquerque, NM 87110*