

SouthWest Sage

The Voice of SouthWest Writers

WE DID IT TOGETHER!

Evelyn Neil's Rainbow Challenge ended on Christmas Day and, as promised, Evelyn wrote SWW a check FOR **\$3,000.**

Members rose to the challenge and donated a total of **\$3695!**

More than fifty members donated to help SWW reach the Rainbow Challenge goal to make Evelyn pay her full \$3000 pledge. Each member listed gave \$10 - \$500, resulting in challenge success:

Rose Marie Kern
Patricia Cahill
Kathy Kitts
Ed Lehner
Charles Powell
Cornelia Gamlem
Lynne Sebastian
Jacqueline Murray Loring
Robin Perini
Mary Therese Ellingwood
Joseph Newcomer
Sherri Burr
Mike Hays
Ted Karpf
Edwin Light
Alan Diehl
Joe Cappello
Brenda Cole
William Fisher
Arlene Schulze

Janise Baldo
Patricia Gable
Dale Garratt
Michelle Auron
John Hoover
Kathy Wagoner
Kat Richter-Sand
Sandi Hoover
Randall Burkhart
Victoria Murata
Matt Padberg
Patricia Walkow
Lynn Doxon
Roger Floyd
Joseph Badal
Kathy Louise Schuit
Lynne Sturtevant
Steve Novaria
Elaine Montague
Su-Ellen Lierz



Cathy Wright
Laura Lynch
Elizabeth Mirra
Léonie Rosenstiel
Joe Brown
Julie Brozek

Dan Wetmore
Deborah White
Heidi Marshall
Maralie Waterman
Dollie Williams

THANK YOU **EVELYN!**
Thank You Participating Members
\$6695

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SouthWest Sage

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SouthWest Writers,
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ATTEND SouthWest Writers MEETINGS IN-PERSON or ONLINE

SouthWest Writers meets the second Saturday (Zoom/in-person hybrid) and the fourth Wednesday (Zoom only) of each month. Directions and login information at SouthWestWriters.com.



Board of Directors

— EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE —

Rose Marie Kern, President
Léonie Rosenstiel, Vice President/PR
Cornelia Gamlem Treasurer
Dan Wetmore, Secretary
Brenda Cole, Past President/Collegium

DIRECTORS

Lynn Doxon, Records Keeper
Mike Hays, Critique Groups
Jacqueline Murray Loring, Membership
Hayley Nations, Zoom Coordinator
Kimberly Rose, YouTube
Kathy Louise Schuit, SAGE Editor
Lynne Sturtevant, Marketing Materials
Silver Vanus, Digital/Social Media
Kathy Wagoner, Web Master
Debbie White, Writing Contest

ReVaH Loring, Office Manager

The SWW Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Meetings are conducted in person and via Zoom.

Social Media LIKES SWW

Social Media Coordinator, Silver Vanus reports the following stats for SWW media platforms for the 30 days ending December 13, 2023.



Twitter – 4,734 followers, up from 4,562 in November.
Facebook Feed – 1.3K
Facebook Group – members up to 657, from 640
Meetup Group – 555 members, up from 548
LinkedIn – 765 connections, up from 751
Instagram – 55 followers, up from 38

President's Corner

Happy New Year all!

I like 2023 already. For me, it promises to be a year full of adventure. It starts with a cross country road trip to see friends and family, how cool is that? Personally, I am 67 years old. Did you know that 67 is a prime number? I AM IN MY PRIME!

The best part is that I am looking forward to another year of working with 400 other writing-obsessed, literary enthusiasts. SouthWest Writers has been part of my family since I joined in 2005. My writing career began slowly, but as my skills and knowledge about writing increased, so has my success. Every meeting and class I've taken with SWW has contributed another layer of information to my vault of expertise, and the hours I've spent working with other authors on committees and projects related to the profession have increased my insights, creating an ever more intricate tapestry of knowledge and skill.

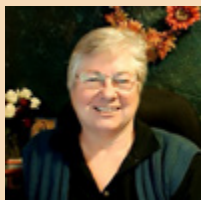
This year, I invite all of you to participate in the activities created for the benefit of all our members. The people running the 2023 Board of Directors each head a different scope of activities and they all need assistance. All of them are volunteers and they can tell you that volunteering for one of the many activities is fun as well as educational. We also would like to hear from those of you who may have ideas for other things we can be doing for the membership.

SWW has a unique blend of members—we mix people who have achieved notable success with raw beginners. We range across all genres, and one of our tenets is cooperation—not competition—with other writing groups. Writing itself is mostly a solitary occupation—many writers have mates that don't quite get why we love to seclude ourselves with words. Having other writers to talk to helps us to get over writers' block and gives us license to crow about our successes.

The world of writing is changing so fast. Most of us love holding a book in our hands and spending time wandering among the pages, but printed materials are giving way to electronic books and magazines. Keeping up with all the options and opportunities is a challenge. The best way to keep current is to be connected.

See you on January 14!

Rose Marie Kern



FOUNDING VOLUNTEERS

Heidi Marshal, who has volunteered many hours at the SWW office helping with the organization of our historical archives, found this picture of Tony Hillerman receiving his Parris Award in 1995 from Parris Afton



Bonds, the award's original sponsor. Bonds and Hillerman each contributed mightily to the ultimate success of SWW.

Look Who JOINED SWW in NOVEMBER!

Carolyn Kilgus
Charles Bloemker
Kathryn Grant
Paul Hoeg
Joseph Kleinman
Julie Loar
Jade Winter
Jimmy Davis



Welcome!

Now with 400
members
WORLDWIDE!

Volunteers: The Strength of SWW

As one of her final acts as SWW President, Brenda Cole recognized the following members who generously volunteered their time to serve the organization throughout 2022:

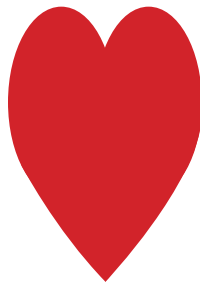
Board of Directors

Silver Vanus
Léonie Rosenstiel
E. Joe Brown
Cornelia Gamlem
Dan Wetmore
Kathy Wagoner
Brenda Cole
Lynne Sturtevant
Rose Marie Kern
Kimberly Rose
Kathy Louise Schuit
Jacqueline Murray Loring



At-Large Volunteers

Lynn Doxon
Jim Tritten
Jasmine Tritten
David Corwell
Roger Floyd
Mike Hays
Susan Katz
Robert Speake
Loretta Hall
Hayley Nations
Pat Walkow
Evelyn Neil
Lisa Durkin



You Made
Everything Possible!



Get Involved! Email info@SWWriters.com.

SWW is a volunteer driven organization and there are a plethora of ways that both, those people who live far away and those who live close by, can help keep us moving forward. Here are some of the exciting and interesting ways you can choose to participate and facilitate our mission to become a literary inspiration!

Meeting Zoom Hosts
Sage Anthology Committee
PR and Media Committee
Newsletter and Website Help
Professional Directory Updates
Writing Contest Committee
Fundraising Committee
Meeting Video Editing



YouTube Assistants
SWW Office Support and Assistants
Volunteer Committee Lead

People who really want to be professional writers benefit most by associating with other writers and getting involved with the activities common to the literary world. Make connections, increase your skills and take advantage of opportunities to learn by doing!

Ready, willing and able to share your skills and talents with SWW? Here are some specific areas where help is urgently needed:

Membership Committee

Chair: Jacqueline Murray Loring

This committee is looking for members to brainstorm creative ideas for increasing membership.

Marketing Materials Committee

Chair: Lynne Sturtevant

Our assignment is to update SWW's digital and print image. We're going to brainstorm new ways and avenues to promote our organization. We'll start by digging out the old marketing materials, including ads, flyers, and brochures, and assessing our presence on social platforms. We're also responsible for sprucing up our Professional Directory. Did you know we had one? If you enjoy social media, graphic design, video production, writing sales copy, or digging around in boxes of old papers, this is the committee for you.

Website Interviewers

Chair: Kathy Wagoner

Interviewers needed. Interviews give SWW members exposure for their current book releases. The interview schedule for 2023 is nearly full already, so as members publish books in the new year, they won't be interviewed unless volunteers come forward. Questions are sent by email, but in-person or phone interviews will work as well.

continued on the next page

THE REWARD OF VOLUNTEERING

by Rose Marie Kern

In the 1990's I volunteered time with the Albuquerque Civic Light Opera. Depending on the show, I might be performing, directing, building sets or whatever they needed. One evening I was helping set up the stage for a dance number, and since there were straw bales on the set at the end of act one, the floor needed to be swept and mopped during intermission. So, there I was, mop in hand, realizing, ironically, that earlier that day, the Merry Maids had done their monthly cleaning of my house. Still, the stage needed cleaning, and I was there.

And that is the way of it. You may be a really busy person, or have enough money to hire people to do things for you, but when you find something with a purpose that touches your heart and soul you take yourself out of your comfort zone. Mostly because you realize that anything worthwhile is going to take energy, it's going to take work, the kind of work that is cumulative. The one threadlike root of energy you push into the soil of your world weaves amongst others and grows into the limbs of a mighty Yggdrasil*—a *world tree*, so strong and vast that all of us prosper amongst its branches.

*Yggdrasil, in Norse mythology, the world tree, a giant ash supporting the universe. One of its roots extended into Niflheim, the underworld; another into Jötunheim, land of the giants; and the third into Asgard, home of the gods.



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED, continued

PR Committee

Chair: Léonie Rosenstiel

Anything that makes SWW known to the public, and to other organizations, but that does not fall into the “social media” category (i.e., not Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram) is the domain of PR. PR creates articles and notices for print media, radio, and other, related, media. We create listings of the 23 monthly meetings, 12 workshops, and classes, and post them to media outlets like ABQToDo. As more and more print media create online versions, we are also moving to filling in those listing forms online. We may arrange radio and TV appearances for officers to plug our contests and other activities. Working with PR offers experience in paring down messages to the essentials (most event listings only allow 50 words to describe the entire event). More advanced work involves creating/editing news releases as well as contact with journalists and editors at various publications.

Zoom Committee

Chair: Hayley Nations

I need a good-sized group of volunteers so we don't burn out too quickly.

Desirable Skills: General knowledge of, or experience with, Zoom and computers, or a willingness to learn. We need consistency and a willingness to follow a schedule so we have dependable people for each meeting, class, and workshop.

Perks: This volunteer opportunity is open to anyone in any location because it is all online. Anyone filling the role of a Zoom host or co-host for a meeting, workshop, or class gets to attend those events for free! There will be a training in January for prospective volunteers.

SAGE Editorial Team

Chair: Kathy Louise Schuit

Do you regularly attend monthly SWW meetings, own a cell phone with a camera and aren't afraid to use it? Become a reporter for the SAGE! Or, consider proposing a monthly column to educate and entertain SAGE readers. Are you always on the hunt for a good contest to enter? You might be just the person we need to take charge of the CONTESTS page by finding SWW-appropriate contests each month (create the entire page if you like!). Would you like to be the next SAGE editor? I'll train you! Email me directly at, Sage@swwriters.com.

Writing Contest Committee

Chair: Debbie White

The 2023 Writing Contest needs qualified volunteers with experience in copyediting, proofreading, publishing, professional writing or related qualifications or background. The committee will start meeting in late January to set the parameters of this year's contest, then function through the first part of June when the contest results are handed off to the anthology committee. Email me directly at contest@swwriters.com.

The Writing Life: **Let Your Light Shine**

by Sherri L. Burr

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Let it Shine, Let it Shine, Let it Shine. This is an old song taught in many Sunday schools. While watching a documentary about the late Princess Diana and the miniseries *The Crown*, I thought about her evolution from ShyDi the nanny, to marrying a prince, only to have her fairy tale implode. Eventually, she decided to let her light shine. As writers, are we honoring the light inside of us?

One early 1980s documentary included an interview with the newly married Diana and Prince Charles. He sits ramrod straight, as he has been taught, while she slouches. Barely 20, Diana married into a world inhospitable to introverts and shy people. She became the subject of immense speculation after the announcement of her engagement to Charles, who was then considered one of the most eligible bachelors in the world since he was born on a track to become King of England. Diana had led a sheltered life and appeared clearly uncomfortable. Perhaps subconsciously, she was hiding her light.

Fast forward to 1995 when she gave her most famous interview to Martin Bashir and uttered, "Well, there were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded." Within a year, she was divorced. Cut free from the Royal Family, or *The Firm*, she let her light shine to high-light causes dear to her heart.

As another year begins, let's examine whether we are slouching or dulling our own lights. Are we speaking our truth or someone else's? For women this question is particularly important if we want to advance. Women are notoriously shy in seeing their ability to advance in career and life. A Hewlett Packard internal study found men will apply for a job if they meet 60 percent of the criteria, whereas women don't apply unless they meet 100 percent of the criteria. One Forbes article summarized the results, "Men are confident about their ability at 60 percent, but women don't feel confident until they've checked off each item on the list." The Article advised women to have more faith in themselves.

You've probably heard the phrase, "Fake it till you make it." A new year brings opportunities to practice more self-belief. Recently, I wrestled with a pottery maker's reluctance to claim the title of pottery artist. As I added her work to a newly created private art gallery, she wanted her title to read: Chris X, Pottery.



SHERRI L. BURR has authored over two dozen books. Her

27th, *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia: 1619-1865* (Carolina Academic Press, 2019), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University, and the Yale Law School, Burr has been a member of SouthWest Writers for over 30 years. She currently serves as President of New Mexico Press Women and on the Board of Directors of the Authors Guild Foundation. In 2021, she was named the National Federation of Press Women Communicator of Achievement.

"Pottery Artist?" I suggested.

She wrote back, "I find the title intimidating because I feel I'm more of a hobbyist. If we just put Pottery then people will know who made it."

I replied, "If you sell one piece, you go from hobbyist to Artist. Most likely you will sell one piece." Then Chris offered to leave her name off the list. But in the interim seconds I printed the invitation with my suggested title.

I believe we should claim the title we seek. When I started writing, I printed business cards with, "Sherri Burr, Author." One person said, "That's pretentious."

I didn't care. As a teenager, I thought I could write books and that became my goal. During my quest to become an author, I started by writing articles. I received my first rejection as a 16-year-old from *Guideposts* magazine.

Whether your desire is to become an author or artist, state it. You don't have to wait until you fit 100 percent of the criteria. If men think 60 percent is good enough, so can women.

Another way to let your light shine is to enter contests, such as the SouthWest Writers Contest for unpublished work or the New Mexico Press Women Communications Contest for published work. Even winning an Honorable Mention permits you to claim the title of Award-winning Writer or Author.

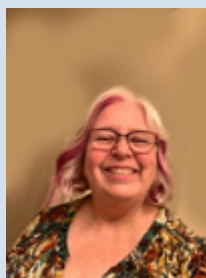
Make 2023 the year you Let Your Light Shine.

MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Introduction to Website Building with Jamii Corley

Saturday, January 14, 2023
10 am – noon (MST)
In Person & Zoom

Everyone tells you that you need a website, but what will a website do for you and your business?



Details, descriptions and Zoom login information on the [SouthWestWriters.com Meetings Page](#).

Blending the Writing of Novels and Songs with Jim Jones

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Via Zoom

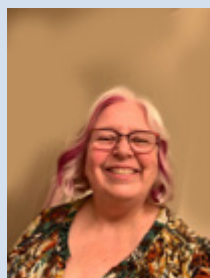
Information about this speaker/topic is still being formulated. Check the [SouthWestWriters.com Meetings Page](#) for updates.

Attend and Join!

SouthWest Writers meetings are free to everyone. We ask individuals who have attended up to three meetings to please join our organization. Memberships enable us to continue bringing high quality speakers to meetings.

CLASSES STARTING SOON

Using WordPress to Build and Maintain Your Web Page Instructor: Jamii Corley



Three-Week Course, Saturdays: January 21, 28 and February 4, 2023
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm Mountain Time
Platform: IN PERSON CLASS and VIA ZOOM
\$120 SWW members, \$150 Nonmembers

More information on the [SouthWest Writers Classes Page](#).

Register by calling the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9 am – noon), or by using the online registration form. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

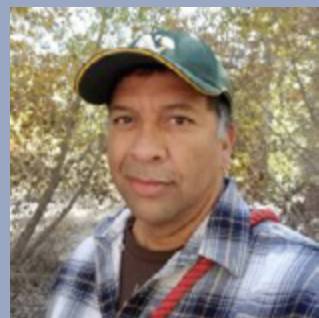
The Zoom invitation link and the password will be emailed to those who register for this class. In-Person classes will be held at the SouthWest Writers office classroom.

For more information, please contact the class/workshop coordinator at Info@SWWriters.com.

WORKSHOP

Criticism: *Tips and Tricks on How to Take it and How to Give It*

with Allen Herring



Saturday: January 14, 2023
12:30 – 2:30 pm
Via Zoom
SWW members: \$20
Non-members: \$30

Do you usually throw out the baby with the bathwater? Do you always take criticism personally? Have you only received negative feedback? Criticism doesn't have to be painful. In many instances, positive criticism is a gift for artistic growth. But offering and receiving criticism is a skill that takes effort so as to not wound or be wounded.

To Register:

Call the SWW office (505-830-6034, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-noon) or use the online registration form. Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.

The Zoom invitation link and the password will be emailed to those who register. Please contact the class/workshop coordinator at Info@SWWriters.com for more information.



Business Expenses for Authors

By Rose Kern & Cornelia Gamlem

Happy New Year!

We have toasted to the future – now it's time to take a good look at the past. Yes, it is time to begin the dreaded process of collecting information for that bane of April – Tax Time.

Any income you receive from your writing can be offset by a number of potential deductions including:

- Technology/Equipment: e.g. computer, printers, devices
- Technology subscriptions: e.g. Zoom account; website host
- Publication subscriptions and books related to writing
- Conferences, events, webinars, workshops, membership fees
- Travel, local and long-distance, to conferences, events; for research, for meetings with other authors and publishing partners
- Cost of your physical books (inventory)
- Marketing material and collateral: flyers, book-marks, business cards, headshots
- Business website, Paypal fees
- Writing contest entry fees
- Advertising expenses (cost of ads, e.g. Amazon or Facebook ads)
- Lunches/meals with other authors (can deduct half)
- Fees for professional services of others (e.g. editors, administrative assistant, publicist support; accounting & legal services)
- The amount of money paid for local state sales taxes from sales
- In 2022, 58.5 cents per mile to and from business related activities/events.

Home Office Expenses

- Office supplies (paper, labels, etc...)
- Postage, PO Box fees
- Up to 10% of your monthly utilities
- A percentage of your cell phone and wifi bills
- If you rent – up to 10% of your monthly rent

When in doubt, track it. Consult with your accountant who can advise if it's a deductible expense. Keep in mind that you can't deduct more than you have earned if you are filing as an individual.

Persons who have set themselves up as a business do have some extra fees they pay, but if their expenses exceed their income for a couple years then the excess of their "start up" expenses can be used in a subsequent year.

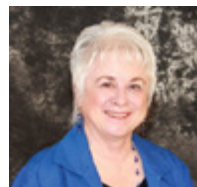
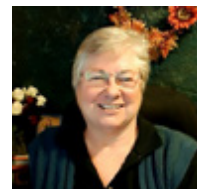
The number one thing to do as you travel through the year is **keep track!** Even if all you do is throw your receipts in a shoebox, keep them until you have determined if they are deductible. Other ways of looking for valid expenses include opening up all your credit cards and bank statement and look for items relating to your business.

To track income and expenses, buy a journal at any office supply store, or set up an Excel spreadsheet. Excel allows you to have income on one tab and expenses on a different one.

Keep any emails relevant to your business expenses for end-of-year reference.

If you use your personal vehicle to travel to/from writers' meetings, office supply stores, etc... you need to track the dates and mileage. One method is to make sure you have the event on your calendar - and don't throw away the calendar! File it with that year's taxes and keep it for at least 7 years.

These are a few suggestions for dealing with taxes. For more specific information you can check out www.irs.gov or call a local accountant.

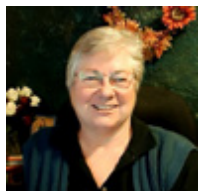


Early in 2022, Cornelia and Rose began sharing their vast, collective experience as professional authors with SWW members. Their monthly Business of Writing column appeared in the SAGE throughout the year and they presented workshops and classes on this important topic. This is the final column in the series. You may read the others by finding past issues of the SAGE at SouthWest-Writers.com.



INTRODUCING YOUR 2023 SWW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Elected



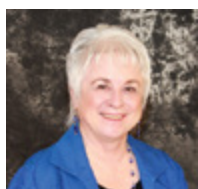
President
ROSE MARIE KERN

Rose Marie Kern was often sick as a child. Instead of being plopped in front of a TV during recovery, she was handed books. This led to a dangerous lifelong addiction causing her to engage actively in expanding knowledge and refining her ability to assess and analyze the world around her.



Vice President
LÉONIE ROSENSTIEL

Léonie Rosenstiel has received numerous local, regional, and national writing awards for both fiction and nonfiction. She has also received grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Rockefeller Foundation. Her latest book, *Protecting Mama*, won First Place in the 2022 Arizona and New Mexico Book Awards.



Treasurer
CORNELIA GAMLEM

Cornelia is an “accidental author” who started writing when she collaborated with a colleague on *The Big Book of HR*. They’ve written seven more business books, a weekly blog, and columns and articles for other business publications and platforms. She’s served on SWW’s board since 2021.



Secretary
DAN WETMORE

Dan Wetmore joined SWW in late 2016. He’s served on the Board of Directors for five of those years, having worked on the Nominations Committee, chaired the annual writing contest, and edited the By-Laws and Policies & Procedures Manual. He’s authored two books of Poetry: *My Mother’s Gentle Unbecoming* and *Phoboudenopanophobia*.

DIRECTORS - Appointed by the President

LYNNE STURTEVANT, Marketing Materials – Lynne Sturtevant is the author of five nonfiction books and two contemporary fantasy novels. Before moving to New Mexico, she owned a travel agency, a consulting service for local historians, and a ghost tour company. In addition to writing, she designs websites for creative people over 50.



HAYLEY NATIONS Zoom Coordinator – Hayley joined SouthWest Writers in 2022. She lives in Portales, NM where she teaches preschoolers and college students at Eastern New Mexico University, her alma mater. She loves reading and writing fiction, especially fantasy and science fiction.



KATHY LOUISE SCHUIT, SAGE Newsletter Editor – Kathy Louise Schuit is a professional writer, illustrator, digital artist and designer. She has been an off-and-on member of SWW since the 1990’s and took on the SAGE in 2019.



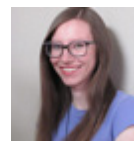
DEBBIE WHITE, Writing Contest – Debbie White first got published at 13 with a 4-H article in the *Lincoln Journal-Star*. She earned a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her career includes working as a journalist, copy editor, freelancer, director of communications, consultant, business owner and horse trainer. She is working on her first novel.



JACQUELINE MURRAY LORING, Membership – Jacqueline was the 2020 recipient of the Parris Award, SWW’s most prestigious honor. She writes and reviews poetry and screenplays, and her book, *Vietnam Veterans Unbroken: Conversations on Trauma and Resiliency*, won the 2021 NM-AZ Book Awards category for Current Events/Politics.



KIMBERLY ROSE, YouTube - Kimberly lives and works in Albuquerque. She’s been a writer her entire life and has high hopes for where it can take her.



KATHY WAGONER, Webmaster – Kathy Wagoner is a previous SAGE editor, the current SWW webmaster, and a speculative fiction writer. She expects to publish book one in a dark fantasy trilogy in 2023. As Cate Macabe, she authored *This New Mountain* (Casa de Snapdragon Publishing), the memoir of private investigator and grandmother AJ Jackson.



MIKE HAYS, Critique Groups – Mike describes himself as “an old, out of shape, recovering alcoholic gay guy who’s retired five times (I get bored easily).” By training, he’s a clinical social worker and health policy analyst. He writes short stories, screenplays, speculative fiction, and memoir, and lives in Albuquerque next door to his best friend.



SILVER VANUS, Digital/Social Media – Silver has travelled all over the United States. She spent her teen years living in Hiroshima, Japan and graduated with a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Currently, she’s living and writing full-time in NM with her husband Jake, son Alex, and puppy Safi.



Not Pictured:

LYNN DOXON, Records Keeper



DIANNE LAYDEN has received a research fellowship of \$1,000 to create a free booklet about the history of Temple Montefiore in Las Vegas, New Mexico, the state’s oldest synagogue, established in 1884. Las Vegas was a center of Jewish life at the turn of the 20th Century. The number of Jews declined in later years, and the synagogue was sold to the Las Vegas Baptist Church in



LEFT: The Temple Montefiore was originally built in the late 1800s and sold to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in the 1950s. The Las Vegas Jewish Community bought the building back in September. (Andy Lyman, [The Santa Fe Reporter](#)). RIGHT: Temple Montefiore, Las Vegas, New Mexico, circa 1890. Photo from [jmaw.org](#) (Jewish Museum of the American West).

1957, which sold it to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in 1962. The Archdiocese, however, has had to sell properties to pay sexual abuse claims. The Jewish community in Las Vegas raised money from donations across the U.S., and the temple was rededicated on December 18, 2022. The booklet Diane creates will be available at the temple and from the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, which is sponsoring the grant from the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. Read more about Temple Montefiore in the *Santa Fe Reporter* article by Andy Lyman [HERE](#).

Swimming For Shore

by R.H. Marshall

December. School is over, and three months of summer vacation loom ahead, free of homework at last!

Growing up in the southern hemisphere where school-time ends along with the year, I could not imagine anything being different. Teachers had shown us maps of the world, saying that the upper half from the Equator is the Northern Hemisphere, and the seasons there are the opposite from ours. It didn't mean anything to me. Summer was when summer was, and it began on December 21. It meant the beginning of endless days of fun, daylight lasting long hours, until satiated with play but hungry for food, we separated from the neighborhood kids to come inside our homes.

Then January started and the weather got hotter. Running through a sprinkler to cool off was fun for a limited time. I hadn't learned to swim yet. My brothers had learned in a river close to the town, but it took almost an hour to get there. By the time we walked back home after swimming—or splashing by the shallow edge in my case—we were as hot and dusty as if we had never been in the river.

Occasionally my father drove us in his old pickup truck to a place where the river current slowed to rest in a pool that was deep enough for swimming. "Arthur, teach your sister," he would tell my oldest brother, before lying down in the shade of a linden tree, his hat over his face, ready for a nap. But every time I lost footing, I'd cling to my brother like a leech. "Learn yourself, then," he'd say, untangling himself from my arms. "Splashing is good enough for a girl."

And he would swim away in smooth, even strokes. Show-off.

Someday, I'll show them all. This girl will swim.

One day, Arthur's friends, who lived on a ranch not too far from town, showed up at our house mounted bareback on horses, with just a bridle and their heels to control them. "You wanna go swimming?" they asked my brothers. "We know a place up the river where we can swim all the way across." Of course, my brothers wanted! They asked Mother if it was okay to go; then wriggled up on the horses, hanging on to the shirt of the friend in front when the horses took off.

One of the friends—his horse prancing, anxious to follow the others—looked down at me. "Hi."

"Hi," I said, feeling shy, looking down to hide the tears flooding my eyes at being left behind.

"You wanna go, too?"

"Yes, please," I mumbled, figuring that Mother's permission also extended to me. To my amazement, he reached down, grabbed me under the arms, and swung me up in front of him. "I used to have a little sister once," he said. "Hang on!" He tapped his heels on the flanks, making the horse take off at a gallop to catch up with the others. I plastered myself against him, closing my eyes, sure I'd slip off and die crushed under the pounding hooves. It was my first time riding a horse.

We caught up with the others and, a lot sooner than when walking, we came to our usual place in the river and kept going along the bank, beyond the quiet pool where

The Sage Writing Challenge

FEBRUARY

Using no more than 800 words, write a story or poem that includes the phrase **"...the tinkle of ice cubes."**

The Challenge for publication in the January SAGE was to write about a swimming adventure in January.

Send submissions or questions to:

Kathy Schuit

SouthWest SAGE Editor

sage@swwriters.com

our father took us, until the friends stopped their horses at a place where trees with wide-spreading branches shaded a much bigger pool where the river current moved in slow swirls around big rocks. We dismounted, letting the horses graze under the trees.

My brothers and their friends ran to the water, flinging their pants and shirts off. We always put on our bathing suit in the mornings, knowing that during the day we'd want to cool off one way or another.

They jumped in the river, swam to the closest rock, climbed up on it and then dove back into the water until they reached the grassy bank on the other side. They kept doing it, ignoring my cries for help—even the friend that once had a little sister.

I dog paddled, with one foot touching the pebbly bottom until I lost touch and scrambled back to firm ground in a panic. I tried again. *I will swim.* But the panic hit the moment I lost touch with the bottom. *I will swim. I will get to the other side.*

Their yelling and laughter felt like they were making fun of me. Tears slid down my wet face. "I will show them," I said, wiping the diluted tears. I got out of the river and went to the closest grazing horse, grabbed the bridle, guiding him to a rock from where I could get up on its back.

He balked when reaching the water, but I kicked his sides with my bare heels, and he stepped in. I leaned over his neck in a forward motion and he kept going in easier steps—maybe the cool water felt good. I rubbed his neck. "Good boy." I was crossing the river. Who needs swimming for that!

cont'd on next page

SWIMMING, cont'd.

I heard no more laughter. I saw my brothers waving their arms and herd them screaming, "Go back, go back!" I laughed.

The horse suddenly made a great heaving movement. I lost the bridle and hung on to his mane but lost my grip at the next heaving, and slid down into the river. I saw a

hoof slicing the water inches from my face. The horse was swimming! I felt no bottom under my feet. I panicked.

And I swam. Legs and arms windmilling in the churning wake of the horse until I reached the bank, scrambling up behind the horse to the safety of my brothers' arms.

And then the yelling started. Like the fool I was, I kept grinning at them.

CONTESTS and OPPORTUNITIES for WRITERS



Nature and Place Poetry Competition

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (the UK's largest nature conservation charity) and The Rialto are additionally working with BirdLife International, the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and the University of Leeds Poetry Centre to bring writers the Nature and Place Poetry Competition.

The closing date for entries is midnight March 1, 2023.

As well as offering poets the chance to win considerable cash prizes and publication of their poems, the competition supports conservation and poetry.

Prizes

1st PRIZE £1000

2nd PRIZE £500

3rd PRIZE £250

Judged by celebrated poet Ian McMillan, a writer and broadcaster who presents *The Verb* on BBC Radio.

The entry fee is £7 (approx. \$8.50 USD) for the first poem and £4 (approx. \$4.80 USD) for each subsequent poem.

Full details and the facility to enter online can be found on [The Rialto](https://www.therialto.co.uk) website.

Last Chance to Enter NMPW Contests



The National Federation of Press Women's annual contest is open to writers, authors, copy editors, public af-

fairs professionals, photographers, publishers or others in the communications field.

Entries must have been published in 2022 and entries are open to writers of all ages.

The early deadline to submit entries—and avoid a one-time additional fee of \$25—is Jan. 18, 2023. The final deadline for books is Feb. 1, 2023, and the final deadline for all other entries is Feb. 8, 2023.

In New Mexico, the NFPW contest is sponsored by New Mexico Press Women. First-place winning entries in the NMPW affiliate contest are eligible to advance to the national competition. To enter the national contest, the entrants must be NFPW members or must join by March 15, 2023.

National winners will be notified in late April, and the results announced during an awards dinner on June 24, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Details and entry available through the [New Mexico Press Women website](https://www.newmexicopresswomen.org).



NMPW ZIA BOOK AWARD

The award is given each year by the New Mexico Press Women at their annual spring conference. Entries are considered on a rotating three-year cycle. Adult non-fiction books will be eligible in 2024, and adult fiction books will be considered in 2025.

The 2023 Zia Award will be given to an outstanding children's and young adult book published in 2020, 2021 or 2022. Two categories will be considered: books for children from birth to 12 and young adult books for ages 13-18. To be eligible to receive the award, the selected finalists must be available to read at the annual award luncheon during the 2023 conference, April 8, at the Isleta Resort, Albuquerque, NM.

Details and entry available through the [New Mexico Press Women website](https://www.newmexicopresswomen.org).

SouthWest SAGE

SAGE CHALLENGE & ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The SouthWest SAGE newsletter is the professional publication of SouthWest Writers. Submissions focusing on all aspects of research, writing, and publishing in any genre are welcome. To familiarize yourself with the types of articles published in the SouthWest SAGE, read past issues at southwestwriters.com.

Here are four ways you may be included:

- Write an article for the SAGE related to the craft of writing, getting published, etc.
- Enter stories, poems, or articles inspired by the monthly writing challenge announced in each SAGE.
- Send in a short story/poem/essay of your own—on any topic (inclusion in the SAGE is subject to the discretion of the editor).
- Enter artwork/photographs related to writing in general or accompanying your stories.

Read the following before submitting:

- Payment is in bylines and clips.
- Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the next issue.
- Standard article lengths are from 300-800 words; certain SAGE Challenges may set more specific word count requirements, which will be found on the Challenge page. **Submissions may be edited for accuracy, readability and length.** Submissions must be tasteful; free from profanity, explicit sex or violence, political commentary, etc.
- Send all submissions as either standard text in an email or in a Word document in 12 pt. size. Single spaced. Do not get fancy with formatting or fonts. To ensure proper author credit, your name or pen name must appear within the document you submit. **Submissions with no name will not be considered.**
- Polish your work. Submissions should be professional in appearance and quality of writing, fully edited and ready for publication.
- Accompanying art/photographs are appreciated; proper attribution and permission is required.
- Inclusion in the SAGE is subject to the discretion of the editor.

Send questions or submissions to:

Kathy Schuit
SouthWest SAGE Editor
sage@swwriters.com

SWW Board Meeting Minutes Summarized

DECEMBER
2022

- As of December 13, the Rainbow Challenge fundraiser was well on its way to reaching the goal of matching Evelyn Neil's gracious offering of \$3,000 in seed money. Thank you to Evelyn, and all those who followed her generous example!
- Net income for November was \$737. Annual expenses have exceeded income by \$2,299, but the year-end fundraising event has proved a favorable development. Equity is currently \$50,109.
- A balanced budget of \$44,140 was proposed and approved.
- As of January 1, 2023, Rose Kern will no longer be Treasurer, and Cornelia Gamlem will complete the remainder of the current term (one year) as Treasurer.
- Rose Kern, as incoming President, proposed a slate for the 2023 Board of Directors, which was approved en toto.

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