



Writing Contest Opens April 8

The 2023 SouthWest Writers Writing Contest opens on Saturday, April 8. This year's contest includes 20 writing categories and two art categories with cash prizes awarded in all of them, and the opportunity to be published.

The theme of this year's contest is *Woven Pathways*. SouthWest Writers members' love of all things writing weaves us together into an inclusive, supportive community regardless of our culture or background. We would like entries and participants that reflect our inclusiveness.

While the contest includes categories for artwork, poetry, nonfiction and opening pages of a published work, the majority of the categories focus on unpublished writing in a number of specific genres of certain lengths with the hope of encouraging aspiring authors to participate. Contestants do not have to be a member of SouthWest Writers to enter.

Overall categories include the following:

- Cover and Interior Artwork
- Fiction Opening Pages of both published and unpublished books (3000 words or less)
- Flash Fiction (1000 words or less)
- Short Story (3000 words or less)
- Nonfiction Memoir (General, Pets, or Travel; 3000 words or less)
- Poetry Free Verse (Nature, Spiritual, or Relationships; 1500 words or less)
- Limericks



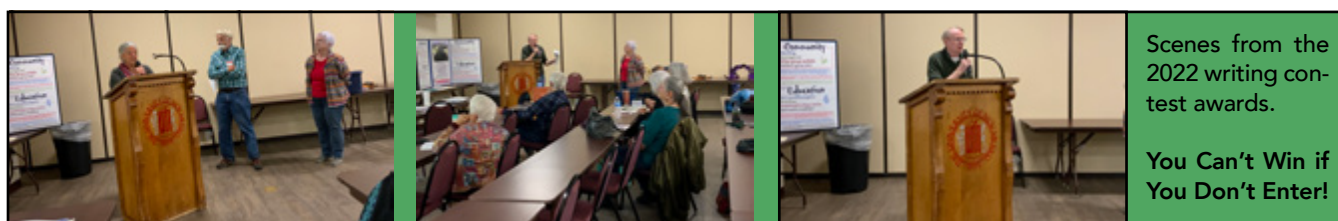
Specific genres within Unpublished Opening Pages and Short Story include the following:

- General
- Mystery/Crime/Thrillers
- Romance/Rom-Com
- SciFi/Fantasy
- Westerns
- Humor (Short Story only)

In addition to cash prizes, the winning entries will be included in the SouthWest Writers' 2023 Anthology to be released in the fall of 2023. Winners will be announced at the same time the anthology becomes available.

Contestants may enter submissions between April 8 and May 20 but the entry fees increase moving toward May 20. From April 8-21, the entry fee is \$20 per submission. From April 22-May 5, the entry fee is \$25 per submission. And from May 6-20, the entry fee is \$45 per submission.

More details and specific instructions can be found on the SouthWest Writers website at southwestwriters.com. All entries will be submitted digitally through the portal on the website.



Scenes from the 2022 writing contest awards.

You Can't Win if You Don't Enter!

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SouthWest Sage

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ATTEND SouthWest Writers MEETINGS
IN-PERSON or ONLINE

Directions and information at
SouthWestWriters.com.



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The SWW Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meetings are conducted in person and via Zoom.



President Rose Marie Kern and a member connect during a recent Saturday morning meeting in person.

THE PREZ SAYS

Since it is poetry month, I think I'll begin with this thought:

The paper so bright
beckons loudly in white.
My hands grab a pen
and magic words wend
into the story I write.

As of April first, the entry period for the New Mexico Arts and the Military Anthology is closed and, in only a few days, we begin accepting submissions to the 2023 SWW writing contest. There is so much going on that all of us who volunteer are frequently having to stop and recalibrate.

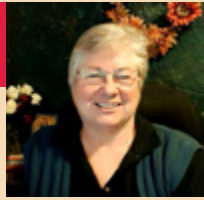
Our first meeting speaker in April, C. Daniel Miller, will present information every author who wishes to be published really needs to know about copyrighting their books. What is it really, and what are the pitfalls we need to be aware of? He will follow this up with more extensive and detailed information during his May workshop on copyright compliance.

SWW strives to assist our members with both the practical issues of writing and artistic inspiration, so our second speaker this month will be Dr. Thelma Giomi – author of many award-winning poetry books. She will delight our creative sides with a discussion about Magic, Sorcery, Passion and Poetry.

That's the real secret of becoming a professional author; combining your creative genius with a practical understanding of the business. The SWW Collegium team, which is in charge of setting the schedule for speakers, asks that members let us know what works and what doesn't. We also ask for your suggestions as to future topics. If you think of a topic or know of an interesting speaker, feel free to send a suggestion to: Collegium@swwriters.com.

In the meantime, dust off the keyboard, line up your limericks, and tighten up those stories to submit to the SouthWest Writers Annual Writing Contest! Submit AFTER APRIL 8 through the portal on the SouthWest Writers website, [2023 Annual Writing Contest](#) page.

Rose Marie Kern



Winning!

SWW Members Share Their Writing Success



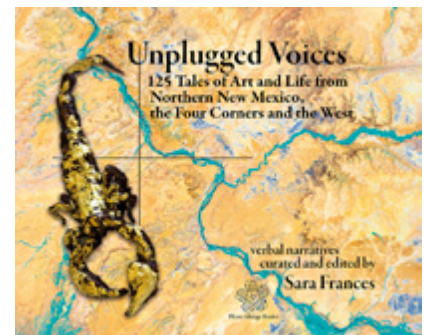
MARCIA ROSEN (aka M. Glenda Rosen) is an award-winning author of eleven books. Her newest, *Murder at the Zoo*, is the first book in the Agatha, Raymond, Sherlock and Me series. *Murder at the Zoo* was released March 14 and is now available at [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble.com](#) and at local independent bookstores.

After a body is tossed into the lions' habitat at the zoo where she is the senior veterinarian, Miranda Scott and Detective Bryan Anderson find themselves investigating several murders and dealing with a group of bad guys threatening Miranda, while gangster friends of her father try to protect her. Miranda and Bryan alternate between flirting and fighting off romantic feelings. Murder, deceit, revenge, her dramatic mother, gangster father and godfather all get in the way of a fine romance!

info@artemesiapublishing.com.

www.MarciaRosen.com

Author/photographer and SouthWest Writers member **SARA FRANCES**, 2021-22 awardee in the EVVYs, New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, and the New Mexico Book Assoc., conceived, curated, edited, and illustrated the collection of short verbal histories titled *Unplugged Voices: 125 Tales of Art and Life from Northern New Mexico, The Four Corners and the West*. The book features stories by other SWW members, including **ROSE KERN, LORETTA HALL, MIKE ORENDUFF, BRENDA COLE, AND ROBERT KIDERA**. Sara would like to offer special congratulations to contributor **LEONIE ROSENSTIEL** whose narrative "He Took Up Arms" was honored with the first place award in the 2023 New Mexico Press Women's Communications Contest. Leonie currently serves as Vice President and PR chair for SouthWest Writers, and is the Vice President, newsletter editor and PR chair for New Mexico Press Women.



The Search for an Editor

by Cornelia Gamlem

Editng. It sounds like a simple term—the process of reviewing a writer’s work. Did you know there are different types of editing, and writers may need more than one?

Developmental editing is a comprehensive review of a manuscript that considers many elements—character development, plot, setting, pace, suspense and tension, point of view, and story arc. A good developmental editor will look at what’s working well and areas that could be more effective along with advice on strengthening those areas. Also expect specific observations throughout the manuscript that include the editor’s reasons for making certain recommendations.

When is the right time for a developmental editor? Usually once you have a complete draft—one that you’ve honed and perhaps gotten feedback on from either critique partners or beta readers. Fiction authors are much more likely than nonfiction authors to need a developmental editor. The exceptions for nonfiction might be those writing memoir or creative nonfiction.

Line editing looks closely at the story’s creative elements—tone, narrative and dialogue, consistency of voice, the flow of ideas, transitions, style, sentence and paragraph structure, and organization of the manuscript. In examining a manuscript sentence by sentence, a good line editor looks for run-on sentences and unnecessary or overused words, redundancies, pacing improvements, and unnatural or inconsistent phrasing to make sure the manuscript is streamlined and polished.

Copy editing, which usually occurs before proofreading, reviews grammar, spelling, punctuation, syntax, and word choice. A copy editor also looks for consistency in writing style as well as in time and place (could the character have realistically accomplished that in two hours?), plot, character, descriptions, and more. A copy editor will also fact-check things such as historical details, dates, and settings.

Proofreading is the last phase that looks for typos, spelling mistakes, punctuation, capitalization, verb tense along with other grammar issues. It can also include a final check of a formatted file prior to publication.

Once you’ve determined the type(s) of editing you need, what should you consider, and what should you ask an editor?

- Does the editor have experience working in your genre? If you’re writing nonfiction in a special-

ized niche, an editor with experience in science fiction is likely not the right fit for you.

- How do they work and how can you expect to get feedback and information from them?
- What’s their usual turnaround time? Do they set schedules and deadlines for themselves and the author?
- Do they adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style or other industry style standard? If another, which one?
- What are their rates and rate structure? For example, do they charge by the hour, the page, or the word? Are their rates in line with industry standards? You can research this by getting quotes from several editors. The Editorial Freelancers’ Association offers [this rate chart](#) (self-reported by member editors) that can be a handy reference.
- Do they offer follow-up time to discuss their edits? If so, is it included in their rate?
- Do they offer a comprehensive, written contract? If so, it should include: the exact scope of work and deliverables; the editor’s rate in a firm agreed-upon quote; payment schedule; concrete schedule and deadlines for the contracted work; expectations and requirements on both sides; change and cancellation policies and terms; and remediation recourse.
- Will they provide a sample edit so you can see their style, tone and approach. For example, do they pose questions or just make changes? Do they explain why a certain phrase or words might be changed or just change it? A sample edit will help you determine if the editor is a good fit.

Talk to other authors who write in your genre. Keep in mind, however, that just because a certain editor worked well for them, it’s not a guarantee that it’s the best fit for you. That’s why it’s important to have a conversation with the editor before you agree to turn over your manuscript. Don’t forget to ask for references, and follow up with those authors to ask about their experience.

CORNELIA GAMLEM started writing when she collaborated with a colleague on *The Big Book of HR*. They’ve since 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 and is the current Treasurer.



Why is it Poetry Month?

by Kathy Louise Schuit

On the heels of the awareness-raising success of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), the Academy of American Poets got together in 1995 with publishers, booksellers, librarians, literary organizations, poets and teachers to explore the possibilities for a similar celebration centered around poetry. In addition to the mission of opening people's eyes to the beauty and benefits of heart-felt poetry, founders sought to make Poetry Month a time to honor and encourage the creators of poetry.

National Poetry Month debuted April 1, 1996 with a kick-off proclamation by President Bill Clinton.

Since then, Poetry Month has more than surpassed its original purpose. Worldwide, poets, poetry lovers, just plain lovers and students of the various poetic forms revel in Poetry Month.

Facts about Poetry Month:

- Though Poetry Month started in the United States, it is celebrated in several other countries, including Canada (April) and the United Kingdom (October).
- Wherever it is celebrated, Poetry Month is promoted through schools, libraries, prisons, and writing groups as a way to encourage the reading, writing, publishing and the teaching of poetry.
- In 1999, UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) declared March 21 to be World Poetry Day.
- April has become the premier month for publishers to release and promote new poetry titles.
- Langston Hughes was the first poet whose image appeared on an American postage stamp. Hughes was selected in 2001 through a poll conducted by the Academy of American Poets where more than 10,000 people submitted the names of their favorite



commissions an annual festival poster that is free to download [HERE](#).

Poets.org

The Academy of American Poets' website, Poets.org, serves as a hub for information about local poetry events during poetry month. The organization also provides free educational resources to teachers for classroom celebrations and activities, and

poets. The US Postal Service issued the Langston Hughes stamp in January 2002.

- To commemorate the 10th anniversary of Poetry Month, the Empire State Building was illuminated in blue light on April 5, 2005.
- In 2009, a poll was taken in the United Kingdom to find that nation's favorite poet. The winner, T.S. Eliot, was announced on the UK's National Poetry Day, October 8.
- Poetry Month played a large part in "remote learning" situations around the world during the Covid-19 pandemic. Teachers discovered that poetry could bring isolated children together in intimate discussion about the changes going on around them and how they were affected by them. Read pandemic-inspired children's poetry at Savethechildren.org, or this article found on edweek.org: ['It Can Save Lives': Students Testify to the Power of Poetry](#), written by Catherine Gewertz.

Ideas for Starting a Poetry Month Writing Tradition:

- Organize a poetry reading for a group you support.
- Read a poem a day during April—to yourself or others.
- Write a poem a day during April.
- Find out if your local state, county, or city Poet Laureate will appear for public readings or education during April and plan to attend.
- If your area has no Poet Laureate position, find out how you might create one.
- Donate to your local Poet Laureate programs or other groups that support poets.
- Offer to read and discuss poetry with a class at your local preschool, primary school or high school (make sure your selections are age-appropriate and approved by the administration and/or teacher).
- Attend a reading by students who have written poems during Poetry Month.
- Attend the SWW meeting on April 22 to hear award-winning Albuquerque poet Dr. Thelma Giomi speak about "Magic, Sorcery, Passion and Poetry" (details on page 11).

The Challenge for publication in the April SAGE was to write POETRY.

Here and Near

by Sam Moorman

Winter here, but Spring is near.

Thirsty here, but coffee's near,
and hungering, but deli's near.

Love was here

when you were near.

Lonely here, but chocolate's near.

JOY

by Larry Kilham

If we are stuck in a human hive
soothed by manufactured truth,
we will lose curiosity and play
and we will mourn
for dreams that flew away.

Life need not be an empty dream
where we wait for salvation.
We must venture forth
to find our true satisfaction.

Let's make our lives a joy
by finding our certain something
so our creations and doings
reveal themselves as ever-pleasing.

COLD NOVEMBER RAIN

by Irvis Macy

If I ever pass your way again, will I find I was more than just your friend?
Will the flame that dies when love must end, ever burn again?
You have chosen not to be the one, to warm my nights and help me greet the sun.
Yes, I'll survive, but I can't bear the pain, of cold November rain.
You can say we never mattered, and like the leaves, the wind has scattered.
We'll go on to find another destiny,
But this rain that chills my shoulders, brings me down and leaves me colder
Than the sky that weeps its lonely tears for me.
Now we both know, there's nothing left to say, so just go on and find a brighter day,
Then you'll be free, and you won't have to stay
With cold November rain.

FROM AN EARLIER CHALLENGE

And We Marched

by Lezlie Schreiber

“We marched and we marched and we marched.” Opa repeated this phrase when Kati and Erwin begged for stories from his war, the one before this war. War is all his grandchildren knew. “Was there always war?” Sleepy voices.

Opa, wise to their young age and with a goal to get them to sleep, told less than truth, never dwelled on action in his tales. He simplified. “They shot at us hiding in the

mill, but we got away. We ran into the corn and then we marched and...” More often, he told camp stories, stories about the food, or the cold, or his buddy's jokes. They all ended with marching. He never revealed the violence, death, his closest friend in that mill, the lifeless eyes he had to close.

“Where Opa? Where march?” Erwin tried to stay awake, but he was lulled by Opa's voice and by watching his own small hand rising and falling on Opa's chest. He sleepily noticed the dark cave in the crook between his thumb and second finger as his eyes closed before hearing the answer.

“In Herzegovina, Erwin. We marched in Herzegovina.

cont'd on next page

The Sage Writing Challenge

MAY

In 500 words or less write about a time when you laughed till you cried. Read the guidelines on page 14 before submitting.

Send submissions or questions to:

Kathy Schuit

SouthWest SAGE Editor

sage@swwriters.com

After breakfast of stale bread and 'ersatz' coffee, you know they probably made it from acorns, we broke camp to cross the mountains, so..."

"We marched and we..."

By now, he heard the even breathing of his two grandchildren and knew they were asleep. Slowly he extracted himself, lifting Erwin's arm from his chest, replacing it on the blanket gently. Kati's arm lay around Erwin, his two thin angels nestled together like spoons in a drawer. Opa smiled, caressing their two small heads with his eyes, noticing the swirl in Erwin's light hair next to Kati's dark swirl. *Like his sister*, he thought. *Like a thumbprint pressed onto their heads saying Pickert*. After a pause, he slipped into his coat and boots, slid his cap over his head and left their dance hall quarters to sit alone in the dark while looking through chestnut branches at the moon. The memory of the same hair swirl on his son's head when he was small drew Anton's thoughts to Konrad.

War. It takes too many. Thinking back, he last saw his son March of '45, and since, silence. Anton pulled out his round silver flask and studied it. His son had given it to him on his fiftieth birthday. He still carried it, empty though it was. He ran his thumb over the lines etched into the design. *No letter from the military, or Konrad himself. Is my boy dead? Wouldn't a father feel if his son was dead? What good is hope?* He ground his boots into the dirty, packed snow.

Three years, Anton thought, *could mean anything*. In weeks it would be 27 March, exactly three years. Anton still remembered that March of 1945. He had risen early and walked from the countryside to the village to see his son off. He puffed an ironic smirk as he connected his story-telling words to his thoughts now. He visualized his son's departing back. Konrad, with other men, choosing life over hanging from a lamppost as traitors. So many irregulars, a ragtag assortment: veterans, old men, boys, marching away in civilian clothes. . . *and they marched and they marched*. A tear traced down his rugged cheek.

Above, the moon looked down in silence, watching the tides in the ocean with satisfaction, observed signs of life on land masses, smoke trails from chimneys and flues, from dance halls turned refugee camps across western Europe. The moonlit train tracks reflected the light, intersecting, connecting, trailing on and on, vast miniature networks which ended obscured behind swirling weather patterns and cloud cover over eastern Europe and Russia. Cloud patterns hid the mass graves of the missing, muffled the clattering sound of hopper cars passing boxcars on tracks, exchanging coal dug out of the mountains for prison labor. The moon could not see the rooftops over

guard towers beside the mines, rooftops over shivering emaciated bodies under thin blankets in barracks where men lay exhaling frosted breath as they slept after reciting, memorizing the names of the men they shared a barrack with that night, only prevented from feeling the blizzard winds by the snowdrifts piled against the barrack walls, by the ice chinking their log dwellings.

Neither Anton nor a man in the moon would think of those things hidden to them, but Anton looked to the moon, receiving some kind of comfort nonetheless, feeling that somewhere the moon hung over them all. His son existed out there, whether merely bones or living flesh. He lay resting somewhere on this night.

Growing cold, Anton replaced the flask into his interior pocket, wishing he'd had a swill and stood to go back inside.


Look Who JOINED SWW in February!

Brian House
Jim and Bobbi Jean Bell
Celina Herrera
Colleen Dougherty
Linda G. Harris
Connie McNeil
Gary Worth Moody
Lee Taylor



Welcome!

**With nearly 400
members
WORLDWIDE!**



Mesa Verde
Writers Conference
July 13 - 16, 2023
Two Full Days of Learning & Inspiration

Registration is now open!
For details: <https://www.mesaverdewritersconference.org>
Contact: whitewaterwriting@gmail.com

Work with four different award-winning writers at this new generative conference for fiction, poetry, and hybrid writing.

Featuring fiction writers
Alan McMonagle (Ireland),
Nick Arvin (US), Mark Stevens (US),
and poet and fiction writer,
Lisa C. Taylor (US)



CONGRATULATIONS!



SWW Members Are Winners!

2023 New Mexico Press Women Communications Contest Results

FIRST PLACE

Jasmine Tritten: *Specialty Articles - Travel*

Jim Tritten: *Blog - Nonprofit, government or educational*

Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome: *Book Designed by Entrant*

Loretta Hall: *Children's Book - Non-fiction*

Joseph Badal: *Publications Regularly Written by Entrant - Newsletter/other publication, corporate or for-profit*

Elizabeth Rose: *Book Edited by Entrant*

Patricia Wood: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Biography or History*

Charlene Bell Dietz: *Fiction for Adult Readers - Novels (More than 40,000 words)*

Leonie Rosenstiel: *Personality Profile - More than 750 words & Web and Social Media - Web Copy*

Regina Griego: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Autobiography or Memoir*

Brenda Cole: *Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book*

Cornelia Gamlem: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - General Nonfiction & Specialty Articles - Business(2X)*

Sherri Burr: *Columns - Informational & Columns - Humorous*

SECOND PLACE

Rose Kern: *Book Edited by Entrant*

Lynn Doxon: *Fiction for Adult Readers - Novels (More than 40,000 words)*

Jasmine Tritten: *Specialty Articles - Personal essay*

Kathy Schuit: *Graphics and Design - Graphics & Children's Book - Fiction*

Leonie Rosenstiel: *Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant - Newsletter/other publication - non-profit, government, or educational*

Ruth Heidi Marshall: *Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book*

Carol March: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Autobiography or Memoir*

Sherri Burr: *Columns, Informational & Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - General Nonfiction*

THIRD PLACE

Linda Wilson: *Children's Book - Fiction*

Christina Allen: *Creative Verse - Single poem*

Jim Tritten: *Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book & Special Programming - Radio*

RJ Mirabal: *Young Adult Book - Fiction*

Kathy Schuit: *Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant - Newsletter/other publication - non-profit, government, or educational*

Evelyn Neil: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Autobiography or Memoir*

Sherri Burr: *Specialty Articles - Reviews*

Alan Diehl: *Fiction for Adult Readers - Novels (More than 40,000 words)*

HONORABLE MENTION

Jim Tritten: *Short Stories - Single story & Web and Social Media - Podcast*

Wanda Whittlesey-Jerome: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Autobiography or Memoir*

Joe Cappello: *Short Stories - Single story & Specialty Articles - Obituary*

Christina Allen: *Essay, Chapter, or Section in a Book*

Elizabeth Rose: *Nonfiction Book for Adult Readers - Autobiography or Memoir*

Kathy Schuit: *Publication Regularly Edited by Entrant - Newsletter/other publication - non-profit, government, or educational*

Leonie Rosenstiel: *Short Stories - Single story (2X) & Web and Social Media - Podcast*

Carol March: *Short Stories - Single story*

Sherri Burr: *Columns - Personal opinion*

NMPW 2023 Communicator of Achievement - **Leonie Rosenstiel**

Zia Award winner - **Sue Houser**

The Writing Life: *SPARE*

by Sherri L. Burr

In January of 2023, I was one of 1.43 million people who pre-ordered the memoir *Spare* by Prince Harry. When the book dropped, it quickly sold 3.2 million copies its first week, putting it on track to become the best-selling nonfiction book of all time. Much was pre-written about *Spare*, focusing on whether the book was fair to his father, stepmother, and brother. After I read the memoir, I concluded that a lot of the reviews missed the universal overarching themes of Prince Harry's life—a search for love and for purpose. In that sense, a person of unique and extraordinary privilege has created a story to touch hearts.

For Prince Harry, the love of his mother was wrenched from him when she died in a car wreck. In the opening chapter, he recalls the fateful night his father sat him down to tell him that his mother had been in a terrible accident in Paris. As a 12-year-old, he attempted to make sense of the sudden absence of his mother. He concluded that she had run away from those who hunted her and would someday return. Ten years later, he re-created for himself the journey of Diana through the fateful Paris tunnel and finally accepted that she had, indeed, died.

Prince Harry's search for love turns to women and he loses a slew of them as they are pursued by the press. As paparazzi camp out near their families, the women flee and conclude that Prince Harry is not worth sacrificing their privacy. Megan Markle arrives in the book's Part III. By then, it appears that only a woman from another country who didn't totally comprehend the magnitude of connecting to the Royal Family would take him on. She didn't and she did. Her struggles with depression and thoughts of suicide were chronicled before the book, yet as Harry writes about her one can see the consequences of relentless pursuit.

The emotional line between a twelve-year-old boy who lost his mother connects to the thirty-something man who perceives the same blight descending on the woman he loves. Their decision to step back from senior royal duties was not surprising, but what astounds is the reaction. Harry loses one of his purposes in life: a life of service to England. Born the spare in succession behind his brother William, Prince Harry discusses what that means and how he is made to feel.

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. West Academic published *Wills & Trusts in a Nutshell* 6th Ed., her 31st book, on October 31, 2022. 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.

He managed to carve out a distinct identity in the military, only to have that ripped from him when the Taliban found out who he was and where he was stationed thanks to press stories. The British military sent him home, concluding he was a danger to those near him once he was designated as a prime sniper target. Prince Harry then channeled his military experience into creating the Invictus Games as an international multi-sport event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and service women who are currently serving or are veterans. "Invictus" means "unconquered," and appears to have been chosen to embody the fighting spirit of the wounded, injured and sick service personnel. Perhaps it also refers to Harry and Megan themselves as they carve new lives.

Many have been considered spares, the second most important person in a family or organization. Can meaning be found within that designation? While teaching in Mexico, I attended a class on that country's history where the professor said that many of the conquistadores were second sons. Since they knew they would not inherit the family estate, they set out on their own. An argument can be made that by moving to the United States and creating his own source of income through writing, Prince Harry has followed in many a spare's footsteps.

I found the book courageous storytelling because Prince Harry shares his unique, yet universal, journey to find love and purpose.



Messages to the Members



To The Board of Directors, Everyone Involved with the Organization and Promotion of Last Week's Zoom Meeting, and to the SouthWest Writers Membership:

THANK YOU ALL for inviting us to share our experience as online radio interviewers with all of you last week, March 22nd, for our presentation of "Be The Star Of Your Online Or Radio Interview." You welcomed Bobbi Jean and me as though we were long time members and your supportive comments during the presentation were appreciated.

If you are aware of any questions left unanswered in the Chat Room, send them on to us and we'll happily reply. We have been contacted by members wanting more information or to be considered for our [Rendezvous With A Writer](#) radio show on LA Talk Radio. Should you be aware of anyone wanting to reach us, please provide our email: bobbijeanbell@gmail.com.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity.

Until Our Next Rendezvous,
Jim and Bobbi Jean Bell

SouthWest Writers Members
Hosts - [Rendezvous With A Writer](#) on LA Talk Radio
Host (Bobbi) [OutWest Hour](#) on KUPR.org (Placitas Community Radio)
Co-Host (Bobbi) [Campfire Cafe and Saddle Up America](#)
- Equestrian Legacy Radio

Together We Can Make the 2023 Writing Contest Our Best EVER!

The President Offers an Idea

Hi everyone!

The SWW writing contest is a great way for writers to brush up their skills, offers a pathway to achieve recognition—and it enhances the prestige of the organization nationally. I'd like to ask for your help in spreading the word this year.

If you are, or have ever been a member of another writing group, could you pass along information about our contest to their newsletters or social media sites? Your previous connections with their group enhances the credibility of the message. I've personally contacted a couple groups of which I am a past or current member and they have been very receptive.

To help out, the text of a message I sent to one of them appears below...feel free to use it. If you prefer email, get an "e-flier" by contacting info@swwriters.com and send it as an attachment.

Thanks for helping out!

Rose Marie Kern
SWW President

Example Communication (modify as needed)

Greetings,

I enjoyed being a member of (organization name) when I lived there in (years). During that time, I enjoyed participating in the writing events. I've been continuing to improve my understanding and writing skills with SouthWest Writers, which is based in New Mexico but has members all over the country.

SWW hosts an annual writing contest that focuses on short stories and poetry, and awards cash prizes and a chance for publication. Would you consider announcing it in your meetings and the organization's newsletter? All the details are on the SWW website: www.southwestwriters.com.

Thanks for considering it!
(your name)

MEETINGS IN APRIL

Copyrighting: Rights and Permissions

with C. Daniel Miller

Saturday, April 8, 2023

10 am – noon (MST)

In Person at the UNM Continuing Education Building and via Zoom.



Dr. Miller is a co-founder of Integrated Writer Services, LLC, based in Colorado. He has served as president of the Colorado Independent Publishers Association (CIPA). Dan provides copyright clearance services and consults on independent publishing. He co-authored and independently published *Copyright Clearance for Creatives*, an essential guide on copyright issues.

Details, descriptions and Zoom login information on the [SouthWestWriters.com Meetings Page](https://SouthWestWriters.com/MeetingsPage).

Magic, Sorcery, Passion and Poetry

with Dr. Thelma Giomi

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Via Zoom

We will explore the magic of words and the poet's sorcery. With writing exercises, we will discover our passion and purpose in writing poetry—how to listen to what wants to be said and in what way. Selected poems will emphasize how poetry manifests the magic and passion unique to each poet.



Details, descriptions and Zoom login information on the [SouthWestWriters.com Meetings Page](https://SouthWestWriters.com/MeetingsPage).

Attend and Join!

SouthWest Writers meetings are free to everyone, but members get even more: discounts on workshops, classes, conferences and fees, just to name a few. We ask individuals who have attended up to three meetings to please join our organization. Memberships enable us to continue providing high-quality programs to writers.

Join through the SouthWest Writers website, [Membership Application page](https://SouthWestWriters.com/MembershipApplicationPage).



WORKSHOP

Book Award Competitions: Get a Running Start

with Sara Frances



Saturday: April 8, 2023

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Via Zoom

SWW members: \$20

Non-members: \$30

This workshop will: explore competitions, and typical judging methods and awards; address the content versus design question, “What matters most?”; discuss details that knock out many entries; give a detailed insider list and explanation of scoring points; and include examples that illuminate each section.

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.

CLASSES STARTING SOON

Liars, Lovers, and Criminals: Character as Story, Story as Character

with Lisa C. Taylor, MFA



Long after you finish a story, a compelling character stays with you. Think of Daisy Buchanan from *The Great Gatsby* or Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Join Lisa C. Taylor for three Saturday generative online workshops to guide you as you craft fully developed characters, the kind that will make a reader cheer, rage, or cry. Visit Lisa's website, LisaCTaylor.com.

3-week Class

Saturdays: April 15, 22, and 29
1–3 pm MT (3–5 pm ET)

Platform: Zoom

♦ \$120 SWW members

♦ \$150 Nonmembers

Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness

with Kirt Hickman

Write your novel and revise it to sell. With all the books, talks, classes, and workshops available on writing and self-editing, a writer can quickly become overwhelmed by advice. “Revising Fiction: Making Sense of the Madness” cuts through the clutter and offers an organized, practical approach to writing and self-editing that covers everything from planning your novel, to first draft, through revision, to final submission-quality manuscript. Each class will include a lecture, discussion, prepared exercises, and plenty of time to ask questions about whatever has you stumped in your own writing. This course is geared toward book-length fiction, but the vast majority of the topics are applicable to short stories and creative non-fiction as well. Topics include:

- World Building & Characterization
- Plot
- First Draft, Research, & Gross Manuscript Problems
- Chapter Breaks & Avoiding Information Dumps
- Scenes
- Polishing Prose
- Dialog
- Finishing Touches & Critiques



8-week Class

Saturdays: July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12,
19, 26, and September 2

Platform: In Person & Zoom

3:00 – 5:00 pm Mountain Time

\$280 SWW members ♦ \$350 Nonmembers

To Register for CLASSES:

Call the SWW office at 505-830-6034 (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – noon) or use the [online registration form](#) provided on the SouthWest Writers website. (Our online payment portal utilizes PayPal, but you'll be given an option to pay by credit card without signing into PayPal.)

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

CONTESTS and OPPORTUNITIES for WRITERS



Work with four different award-winning writers at this new generative conference for fiction, poetry, and hybrid writing.

Featuring fiction writers
Alan McMonagle (Ireland),
Nick Arvin (US), Mark Stevens (US),
and poet and fiction writer,
Lisa C. Taylor (US)

Register NOW!

Mesa Verde Writers Conference July 13-16, 2023

In beautiful Mancos, Colorado

www.mesaverdewritersconference.org

whitewaterwriting@gmail.com

Come to the mountains this summer! Beginning with a welcome reception on Thursday night, the conference, which takes place near Mesa Verde National Park, will offer morning and afternoon workshops in poetry, fiction, or hybrid writing on Friday and Saturday. In the evening, there will be readings, bonfires (weather permitting), music, and networking.

- Accommodations available in Mancos.
- Meals provided.
- Fly in to Durango, about 30 minutes away.

Additional information on the website (link above).

Colorado Independent
Publishers Association
EVVY™ Awards
are open for entries.

Deadline: May 23



What are the EVVY™ Awards? The EVVYs™ is one of the longest-running book award competitions on the Indie publishing scene and receives entries from all over the world.

How are the entries judged? The judging is tough—the way a book competition should be. Judges are selected through CIPA's judging qualification process and include teachers, business leaders, authors, critics, editors, readers and others. Our judges know books.

This 29-year old competition has many categories, including some new ones for this year, plus design categories.

Find detailed information and entry forms [HERE](#).

from *Authors Publish*

Artemesia Publishing is now Accepting
Manuscript Proposals.



Marcia Rosen's new book, *Murder at the Zoo* (see WINNING, page 3) was just released through this New Mexico Publisher. Could your book be next?

Artemesia Publishing was founded in 2004, and they describe themselves as a micro-publisher. Although based on the titles section of their website they publish work at the rate of one title per month, which is actually a lot more than many other small presses. They started out focused on nonfiction, particularly inspirational stories, but have since expanded into other genres, including children's fiction, YA, and genre fiction (mystery, sci-fi, etc).

They do not publish poetry or sexually explicit material.

They only consider proposals; for both fiction and non-fiction. They share what they want that proposal to contain in the submission guidelines with link below. You can submit via the post or email, but please only submit if you feel like your work is a good potential fit.

To learn more about Artemesia's submission guidelines, go [HERE](#).

[Author's Publish](#) is a FREE subscription service that sends information about writing and publishing directly to your email box.

FREEFLOW INSTITUTE'S 2023

THE DESERT EYE

SEEING THE LANDSCAPE THROUGH WORDS

with
CRAIG CHILDS
AUTHOR OF THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE OF WATER - HOUSE OF RAIN

APRIL 26-MAY 1, 2023
DOLORES RIVER | COLORADO

A four-day terrestrial exploration of Southwestern Colorado's high desert and the Dolores River basin, centered on witnessing and writing

Hiking • basecamp support • daily workshops with Craig Childs


FREEFLOW INSTITUTE

FREEFLOWINSTITUTE.COM / INFO@FREEFLOWINSTITUTE.COM
freeflowinstitute.com

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

MARCH
2023

- For those wanting to give rewards points to SWW, know that Amazon has discontinued their Smiles program.
- The board approved a change to the 2023 budget to support additional expenses for our annual writing contest (cash prizes have been re-instated) and the military anthology we'll publish. The former starts accepting submission April 8, and the latter has 55 individual entries already—halfway through the submission period.
- Joe Badal has proposed giving a one-day, six-hour master class on writing; same price as a workshop, just compressed into one day. Details are being discussed.
- Rose is waiting for a response to our grant proposal to hold a conference on representing diversity in writing, to determine the scope of the event.
- The board is planning to revise the bylaws for the membership's consideration, especially the election process, so we can enjoy longer lead times to prepare a robust slate of candidates and encourage the infusion of new blood into the Executive Committee.

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website: southwestwriters.com

