

The Writer's Life

Planning . . . outlining . . . researching . . . is not writing; Writing is writing. E.L. Doctorow



www.sdwritersguild.org

July 2012

A Publisher's Insights

On July 23rd, we are fortunate to have as our speaker Bettie Youngs of the Bettie Youngs Books Publishing Co. Dr. Youngs is the critically acclaimed author of 36 books translated into 28 languages, she is a former Teacher-of-the-Year, and University Professor and is a frequent guest on television and radio talk shows, including The Today Show, NBC Nightly News, CNN, Oprah, Good Morning America. In her role as publisher, she has published over 50 books in the last 3 years, and has some 150 intellectual properties in development, seven of which have been optioned for movies.

Her presentation will focus on the face of publishing today. We will see a video of the new Espresso Book Machine that Bettie has experienced firsthand. Bettie says consumers are driving the publishing experience in new and exciting directions, redefining the industry in bold new ways, allowing us to soon realize the goal of getting books into the hands of every reader in the world!

"Be it in print or in electronic edition, we can now provide the format of choice to every reader, wherever he or she may be. BYBook Publishers is at the forefront of this new and exciting book publishing revolution!" Bettie will bring a few copies of recent titles and offer them for sale. Though some books are \$18.95, all books will be for sale at \$10 each.

Congratulations to Larry Edwards, member of San Diego Writers/Editors Guild, for winning the first place award for an unpublished memoir at the 18th Annual 2012 San Diego Book and Writing Awards! The title, *Dare I Call It Murder? — A Memoir of Violent Loss, Grief and Clarity*, and synopsis of this true tale are intriguing.

The Prez Sez . . .

Isn't summer in San Diego wonderful? I have especially enjoyed the beautiful jacaranda trees this year.

Your Board of Directors has been hard at work discussing means for SDWEG to support members in selling their books or other works (see page 4 for the SDW/EG mission statement). One idea is to facilitate the display and sale of members' work, at various fairs, markets, and shows in SD County. Members could sign up for a time slot, pay part of a possible booth fee, man the booth during their time slot, and have an opportunity to autograph and sell books. If interest is sufficient, SDW/EG is considering the purchase of a table, chair and umbrella for events as well as a banner to publicize the Guild. We're making a list of possible venues; let us know the place and time of such events that you know about. Contact any Board member and express your interest or opinion. Would YOU be interested?

Submissions are coming in for the **first ever** SDWEG anthology! We are open to suggestions for a creative title. Title ideas are due by September 1st, entry submissions are due by October 1st.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace

The next meeting will be July 23rd, 2012 7:00-9:00 PM

Tip of the Hat to . . .

Gary Winters, whose novel, *The Deer Dancer*, is in the curriculum at Southwestern College in the departments of Language, Literature, English, and Education. His short story, *The Barmaid*, will appear in *Far East Anthology 2012* (East County). He has been a featured reader at a variety of places around town. Good job, Gary!

Ruth Leyse-Wallace, who presented a seminar in Seattle and sold out all her books on nutrition that were stocked at the conference. Way to go, Ruth!

Linda Loegel, who's new book, *Twelve Steps to Becoming an Author: A Writer's Story of Book Publishing Success*, was recently published by Unlimited Publishing and is now available.

An Evening of Poetry - by Ellen Shaw Tufts

*poetic, poetical (po-et-ik, po-et-ik-al) adj., pertaining to or suitable to poetry; expressed in poetry or measure; possessing the peculiar beauties of poetry---*from Webster's Unabridged Dictionary and Thesaurus, 2002 edition

Haiku! Limericks! Ballads! Quatrains! Whether or not poetry currently rocks at the box office, the evening of June 25 was special for several dozen SDW/EG members and guests

Guild president Ruth Leyse-Wallace kicked off the evening with a lively slide show, encompassing both joys and amazing dimensions of poetry; a delightful barrage of announcements, tips, read-alouds followed with laughter---and often silent and usually total appreciation.

Several outstanding leaders within the local poetry scene were on hand, including the distinguished Jack Webb, founder of Border Voices (www.bordervoices.com) also William "Bill" Harding, publisher of Garden Oaks Press and the San Diego Poetry Annual (www.sandiegopoetryannual.com) along with Seretta Martin www.wordsoup@juno.com, Harding's "amazing regional editor" and special bi-lingual poet-guest Olga Garcia .

Our talented Gary Winters, this year's SDPA "Poet of the Year" offered his *Habeas Corpus* from last year's "100,000 Poets for Change" Festival and he later read a *Tanku* poem, explaining that the form is similar to Haiku. Guild guest Arthur Raybold read his *What's Like and Sixty-Three and Sixty-Three* and longtime Guild friend/ San Diego teacher Johnnierenee Nelson read *Laziness* by seventh grader Edward To. Guild member Steve Tuba's *What a Poet Fights* and *Forest Love* followed with Tom Leech's amusing *Dual and Trio Worlds* and finally, from the Alpine Writers Group, poets Catherine Hand (>>)

Revising Tips by Laurie Richards Useful Nominalizations.

This tip requires a reminder of the essence of Revising Tip 6: . . . Nominalization refers to a noun derived from a verb or adjective. . . Generally speaking, avoid turning verbs into nouns because verbs add punch to your writing.

"**Determination** of policy occurs at the general managerial level" is more effective when expressed as: "The General Manager **determines** policy."

Nominalizations are **useful**, however, in at least six instances:

1. Is a subject referring to a previous sentence: **Those arguments** all depend on a single claim.
2. Names what would be the object of its verb: I do not understand either **her meaning** or **his intention**. [*more compact than*: I do not understand either what she means or what he intends.]
3. Replaces an awkward phrase: **The fact that** I denied **what he accused me of** impressed the jury. I impressed the jury when I denied his **accusation**.
4. Refers to a concept often repeated: Few issues have so divided Americans as **abortion on demand**.
5. After the phrase *there is* or *there are*, introduces a topic developed in previous sentences (as distinct from an isolated *there is*): Thus, there is no **need** to argue about the **existence, inevitability** and **desirability** of change in language.
6. The topic is necessarily abstract; e.g., legal concepts: The element of **intention** exhibits a high degree of complexity. Intention is temporally divisible into prospective **intention** and immediate **intention**.

Tip: The first two principles of clear writing are **to use characters as subjects of sentences and to express crucial actions in verbs**. Generally, using a nominalization violates each principle, but understand those instances where your writing will be improved if you select a nominalization.

An Evening of Poetry, continued

(*Promised Land*) and Teresa Travis (*Dancing on Broken Mirrors*) from their chapbooks. Before the meeting closed, Seretta Martin reminded us of two special dates: a new Haiku Writers group meets at 12:30 p.m. on second Sundays (forthcoming August 12) at the Open Door Bookstore in Pacific Beach---and the San Diego 2012 Poetry Annual submissions deadline is October 15.

American Trivia by Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh

SDW/EG members Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh are the proud parents of a bouncing baby book, *American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture & Geography* (Gibbs Smith Publisher, 2012). Over a span of three years, the co-authors will share with you their journey through American history.

Our Nation's Birthday

The most prominent all-American holiday is the Fourth of July. It's the birthday of our country, and do we ever celebrate! Families gather for parades, picnics, concerts, carnivals, and fireworks.

That national outpouring of jubilation commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence. But if you have an image in your mind of a room full of patriots lined up to sign that document on the fourth, think again. That's not how it happened.

The Second Continental Congress, with representatives from the thirteen colonies, was called to order in May 1775. The battles at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, had been fought on April 19. Even so, the delegates had little appetite for breaking away from England. Instead, in July 1775, they sent a petition to King George III asking him to protect them from Parliament, which, in the colonists' eyes, taxed them often and unreasonably. The phrase "no taxation without representation" summed up their complaint.

King George ignored their petition.

On June 11, 1776, a committee was appointed to draft an affirmation of independence. The group included Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert Livingston of New York, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. Jefferson took on the task of writing the document. All Americans should know the clarion words of the preamble:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." That statement has been called "one of the best-known sentences in the English language" and "the most potent and consequential words in American history."

After some revisions, the Continental Congress on July 2 voted to accept the declaration of our national sovereignty. As reported in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, "This day the Continental Congress >>

A New Literary Magazine

Whisperings, a new publication by Mountain Tales Press www.mountaintalespress.com is accepting submissions of memoirs, folklore, poetry, prose, essays, flash prose (prose poetry, flash fiction and vignette) and short-fiction, paintings, sketches, photography and photographic essay. Oral history writings and essays of academic nature shall not be considered. Editor Carl D. Fredsti reports receiving submissions from around the world. The submission deadline for the inaugural quarterly issue is July 21st, 2012.

Coming Soon to SDW/EG



August 27th – Hear Laurel Corona, historical novelist and professor at City College. Winner of 2012 Geisel Award, Best in Show at the San Diego Book and Writing Awards. The winning title was *Finding Emilie*.

September 24th – Larry Edwards and Shirley Clukey will share their experience, advice, and perspective on finding, hiring and working with an editor.

Writing is a lot easier if you have something to say. Sholem Asch

Need A Few Chuckles ?

See Mariah Bear's flow chart for publishing at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/15/book-publishing-infographic_n_1518948.html

American Trivia, continued
declared the United Colonies Free and Independent States."

On the fourth, John Hancock of Massachusetts, president of the Congress, signed the Declaration of independence with his prodigious signature in an almost empty chamber. Secretary Charles Thomson was the only other person who actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, as a witness to Hancock's signature.

On July 8, Hancock read the text to a large and boisterous crowd in Philadelphia. Their joyful response was the first celebration of independence. We were now an independent nation and no longer subjects of the British king.

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The Writers Life is published by
The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
P. O. Box 881931
San Diego, CA 92168
Telephone: (619) 445-6656
General Meetings: 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
July 23, 2012 7:00-9:00 PM
The Fourth Monday of each month
Location: 3851 Rosecrans
San Diego County Health Services
Complex
Visit our web site for a map
www.SDWritersGuild.org
Membership: \$36.00 per year
Guests: \$5.00 per meeting

Mission Statement: The Guild shall promote,
support, and encourage
the writing art for adults and youth.

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