

The Writer's Life

A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. I. Calvino



www.sdwritersguild.org

August 2012

Laurel Corona – Prizewinning Author, College Professor, and Guest Speaker for August 2012

Our Guest Speaker for August is twice winner of Book of the Year (Yes, the Geisel Award!) of the San Diego Book Awards – Laurel Corona. Her 2012 winning novel Finding Emilie recounts how an Eighteenth Century French woman translates, and in essence re-creates from Latin into French, *Principia*, the seminal work of classical mechanics of Sir Isaac Newton. Her novels emphasize the roles of women in historic settings.



These include her 2009 award-winning The Four Seasons, a fictionalized account of Vivaldi's Venice.

A Full Professor of English and Humanities at San Diego City College, Laurel lives the dream of life-long learning. With the exhaustive research required for all her historical novels, her own words say it best. "Learning is the second most exciting thing in life. The first is sharing it with others." Check out her web site at www.laurelcorona.com for more about our distinguished speaker.

Hope to see you all at the August meeting. We will be privileged to share in the creative process with a major contributor to literature, who just happens to be local to San Diego!

The Prez Sez . . .

Your alertness and flexibility with the recent changes in meeting times is appreciated. San Diego County Health Department has priority use of their own building and rooms, of course, and since they allow us to use the San Diego Room at no charge, we need to be flexible. We appreciate the congeniality of the security staff at the building. A big thank you goes to Barb and Fred Crothers for adding festivity to our outdoor networking by bringing snacks, and to Ellen and Gene for setting up shop in the open air to facilitate the sign-in process. In the future, emails and the web site will continue to give up-to-date notices of changes.

I hope you saw your emailed membership survey recently and it is on its way back to us. Your Board of Directors will use information and ideas from the survey in planning of all sorts: programs, involvement of members, content of the web site, newsletter, and Membership Directory, to name a few. There are three ways to return your completed survey: as an email attachment to RthLys@cox.net, or print it to turn it in at the August 27th meeting, or print and mail it to San Diego Writers/Editors Guild, P.O. Box 881931, San Diego, CA 92168-1931.

Don't forget to let us know your suggestions for a name for the first SDW/EG anthology-due out in December. Put the Holiday Party on your Calendar now: December 17th (the THIRD Monday).

Ruth Loyse-Wallace

Flash fiction is a style of fictional literature or fiction of extreme brevity. Other names for flash fiction include sudden fiction, microfiction, micro-story, short short, postcard fiction and short short story.

A classic example of a short short story by Ernest Hemingway: "For sale: Baby shoes, never worn."

The next meeting will be August 27th, 2012; 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Linda Loegel's Tip of the Hat to . . .

Caitlin Rother, a past SDWEG speaker, for her new book, *Lost Girls*, published by Kensington, and reviewed in the U-T on July 22, 2012.

Laura Riley, whose novel manuscript is now ready for submission after three years of work, researching agents, and perfecting a query letter.

Ralph Cates, whose book called, *The Phoenix Agenda*, a sequel to his thriller, *Black October*, is being published by Lightning Source and will be available in print and e-book later this month.

If you, or someone you know, has published a book, scheduled a book signing, or some other accomplishment to share, please contact Linda Loegel at nojrons@cox.net to be included in our next newsletter. Let your light shine!

What You Missed . . .

by Ellen Shaw Tufts

Bettie Youngs, founder of Bettie Youngs Books Company (www.BettieYoungsBooks.com) discussed trends in the current e-book publishing era at our July 23 meeting; her dynamic talk included an update of the revolutionary compact digital press now known as "EBM" (Espresso Book Machine), essentially a web-connected Xerox photocopier with an ultrasonic binding process.

Youngs spoke with professional savvy and style to our near-record audience, discussing recent changes in the explosive self-publishing world of editors, agents, distributors, publicists and writers. She noted, for instance, that currently, books are available in Nook and Kindle editions as well as in Braille or "DAISY" (for dyslexic readers) editions, with books available on smart phones for amazing reader accessibility.

With eight-million titles, including three million public-domain titles in its database, the EBM can print, file, bind, and collate, perfectly printed, bound copies within minutes. The machine debuted at the New York (City) Public Library in 2007. Currently, machines have been sold to hundreds of public libraries nationally as well as to several dozen university system and community college libraries.

Bettie Youngs Books specializes in memoirs and "books celebrating fascinating people and remarkable life journeys," along with a children's imprint, the KenDahl House Press. She briefly discussed books she has published which are being made into movies.

To see the Espresso Book Machine go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q946sfGLxm4>

A Representative from Amazon coming to Encinitas

SDWEG members are invited to join PWSD August 25th to hear Thom Kephard from Amazon speak on "Indie Publishing with Amazon". He will speak from 10 AM to 2 PM at Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oak Crest Park Drive, Encinitas. Non-members charge is \$15.00. If you plan on attending, **RSVP to <http://publisherswriters.org/>**

A writer is a writer before, as well as after, publication . . . from web site SCWC*

Coming Writers Conferences Become Inspired

Southern California Writers Conference – Los Angeles September 21-23, 2012
<http://www.writersconference.com/la/registration>

LaJolla Writers Conference - November 2-4, 2012 Paradise Point Resort & Spa
<http://lajollawritersconference.com/2011-ljwc-information/location-dates/>

SDSU Writers Conference , January 25-27, 2013
<http://www.ces.sdsu.edu/writers/>
Scholarship app:
http://www.erinquinnbooks.com/SDSU_Scholarship.htm

***Southern California Writers Conference - San Diego** February 15-18, 2013
<http://www.writersconference.com/sd/>

Writer's Symposium by the Sea – Pt Loma Nazaarene University. February 25-27th, 2013
<http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/schools-departments/department-literature-journalism-modern-languages/writers-symposium>

San Francisco Writers Conference
February 14-17, 2013 <http://www.sfwriters.info/>

Las Vegas Writers Conference, April 18-20, 2013
<http://site.lasvegaswritersconference.com/>

Said one book to another, "Ever since I had my appendix taken out, it's like we're not on the same page anymore". *Mother Goose and Grimm* cartoon by Mike Peters

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.

The Supreme Law of Our Land

The doors and windows of Independence Hall in Philadelphia are closed, protecting the men from the curiosity of those passing by outside. Not a breath of air stirs through the room. Flies buzz in lazy circles. The temperature is eighty-seven and the humidity is high. Sweat beads on faces.

All around, pairs of men sit at small tables. Some write. The soft scratches of their quill pens disturb neither the concentration of those who sit and think nor those who chat with their neighbors. All stop what they're doing and turn toward the front of the room as the president of the convention stands. George Washington begins to speak. "Gentlemen, let us continue with our discussion. Dr. Franklin, I believe you have the floor."

If only we could have been there to experience that important milestone in the creation of our nation. The Constitutional Convention seems so static when we read about it. In fact, it was alive with passionate debate as the delegates hammered out the details of our future. By mid June 1787, it became clear that, rather than amending the existing Articles of Confederation, forged in 1781 to establish a federal government, the convention would build an entirely new frame of government.

Central government versus states' rights; small state versus large state; slaveholding state versus free state; how to handle public debt, tax collection, trade, and law and order; relationships with foreign governments and with our own Native Americans—all these controversies had to be addressed. The result was a model of cooperative statesmanship and creative compromise.

The Convention began May 25, 1787. On September 17, 39 of the 56 men in attendance signed our Constitution. Washington, as president of the convention, signed first. Then came the representatives of the various states.

They understood the importance of what they had wrought, forging a document that begins: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense,

continued >>

Revising Tips . . . by

Laurie Richards

That-itis.

That Sam hates cheese is something that I didn't know until he told me that last night. There may be a more overused word, but "that" can probably be cut four times for every time it's helpful in a sentence. Its overuse kills the strength of a sentence. The sentence above is stronger when revised as: *Sam hates cheese, which I never knew until last night.*

Tip: Use the word processing "search" function to find each use of the word "that" and revise or kill it when possible. Often the only revision needed is to delete it, as in the clause above: "...*something I didn't know until . . .*" After a period of withdrawal, you won't even add "that" word in the first place unless it's needed for clarity.

Coming Soon to SDW/EG



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

October 22nd. Antoinette Kuritz, publisher and organizer of The LaJolla Writers Conference, will give us the details regarding designing a book and its cover.

The Supreme Law of Our Land , cont.

promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

On December 7, 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the Constitution; On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth. The Constitution was now the law of the land.

The Constitution of the United States is the oldest written constitution in use in the world. Although we have amended the document twenty-seven times, we the people of the United States have never found it necessary to call for a second Constitutional Convention in all the years since.

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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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