

The Writer's Life

A bad book is as much of a labour to write as a good one. . . . Aldous Huxley



www.sdwritersguild.org

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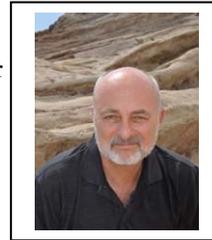
David Brin – Pondering the Future

Scientist, Award-winning author, Futurologist -- all these terms describe the Guild's speaker for April.

Any devotee of PBS's NOVA series or the Science Channel's "The Universe" or the epic "Life After People" on the History Channel will recognize David Brin. His novels have been New York Times Bestsellers, winning multiple Hugo, Nebula, and other awards. Several have been translated into more than twenty languages.

Coupled with these literary achievements, Dr. Brin holds hard-science degrees in astrophysics, optics, and a Ph.D in Physics from UCSD. A noted advisor on a variety of topics, his opinions are sought worldwide.

As a public speaker David shares unique insights – both serious and humorous – about the many ways that changing technology could affect our future lives. For a glimpse into this awesome new world and for a particular view into the literary form of Science-Fiction we are privileged to hear from a world-class talent. Please join us for this one-of-a-kind experience.



Fables by Margaret Harmon

A fable is a work of tightly written fiction, usually short, that explores a philosophy of life by having a character live it 100% so we can see the consequences and decide if *we* want to adopt it.

Where a short story or novel protagonist reaches a Turning Point, a fable protagonist faces a Testing Point, when reality hits his philosophy. King Midas, granted his wish that everything he touches will turn to gold, loves touching books, chairs, a rose . . . And then he hugs his daughter. A fable protagonist cannot change philosophies at the Testing Point; Midas must lose his daughter so we can save ours. It's all about *us*.

Fables are culture- and time-specific. Aesop nailed male-dominated ancient Greece. France's La Fontaine exposed absolute monarchies. George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and *1984* influenced Western nations' decisions to resist Communism. Thurber fought the Battle of the Sexes before women redrew the battle lines. In the 21st century, we need new fables to empower us for current challenges.

Ideas for the fables I write come from observing other people, but I often find myself in them. The idea for a fable is a flash of insight, but writing and rewriting take months of discovering genuine motivation and consequences. Good fables deliver psychological truths we use to become who we want to be. My fables explore defining ourselves; creating loving, realistic relationships; and handling societal trends.

The Prez Says

Your Board of Directors voted to continue with a SDW/EG anthology for 2013. Linda Loegel will again serve as editor; she details the criteria and "rules of the game" in this issue of the newsletter. Join me by "taking pen in hand" and begin your submission; it's not too early!

The *Guilded Pen*, 2012 edition, will continue to be available for sale at meetings and through www.lulu.com. SDWEG makes a small profit on sales, so buying a copy is one way to support your Guild.

Margaret Harmon will see her new book, *The Genie Who Had Wishes of His Own – 21st Century Fables*, published in May. Congratulations!

We are creating a new form for the Manuscript Review Committee to use in evaluating manuscripts of memoirs. If someone with expertise in writing memoirs would like to volunteer to help with this short term project, please call Bob Doublebower (760-471-5323) or me (619-445-6656).

Ruth Leyse-Wallace

Coming Soon to SDW/EG

May 20, 2013 (3rd Monday) due to Memorial Day holiday). Karla Peterson, feature writer at UT San Diego will share her experiences.

June 24, 2013 - Jill Williams from Tucson will discuss the evolution of a memoir. Learn more about Jill at www.jillwilliams.com.

The next meeting is April 22nd, 2013

Networking 6:30–Business meeting 6:45–Program 7-8:30

What You Missed . . by Ellen Shaw Tufts

Longtime Guild member Dave Feldman, a former cub reporter in Arizona, globe-trotting copy editor, and college professor, served as a *San Diego Union Tribune* copy editor until he resigned in 2006. Dave chalked up editorial writing style tips and creative professional flowcharts, along with a big Turkish "hello!"—make that "Heraba!"

Just as vivid were this writer's comments, gossip, and insights about interviewing American celebrity writers (Herman Wouk, James Michener and H. Allen Smith) along with vivid memories of past newsroom cronies and a notorious newsroom subject.

Back in 1951, after copping his Arizona University journalism degree, "Feldy" joined the Douglas *Daily Dispatch*, then the Tucson *Daily Citizen*. He moved to Hawaii's *Honolulu Star Bulletin* before a thirteen-year European newsroom stint in Frankfurt, Germany with the famous *Stars and Stripes* weekly. In 1974 when it was college time for the kids, Feldman moved back to the states with his wife, son, daughter, cat, and a turtle.

He joined the Arizona University faculty, then came to San Diego State University as an adjunct >

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Gary Winters, whose poem, *Mexican standoff*, will appear in the *San Diego Mensan* in May.

Harry Huntsman, who will be the guest speaker on April 10, 2013 at City College Continuing Education program. His topic: How I Discovered the Theme in My Memoir.

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 noirons@cox.net to be included in our next newsletter. Let your light shine!

Here We Go Again ! *The Guilded Pen, 2013*

It's time to start thinking about your submission for *The Guilded Pen*, Second Edition, 2013. Follow the same rules as last year: 1500 word maximum, October 1 deadline, submissions must meet our Guidelines, all submissions must be by members of SDW/EG, all submissions must be emailed to Linda Loegel at noirons@cox.net. Last year's anthology was a fantastic success and this year can be even better! So get your thinking cap on and your computer warmed up. We need your stories and/or poems in the next few months.

> professor, simultaneously starting work at the San Diego *Union Tribune*. Dave's essay, "Almost Like Children," is included in our current SDW/EG anthology.

Story-Telling through the Ages (Categories are fluid and may overlap)

Telling of Stories	Myths, Epics, Legends, Fables Archtypes; Collective knowledge /Wisdom; Condensation of cultural experience; No inner thoughts, feelings of characters;	14 th -16 th Century Renaissance; Characters known by their words and deeds; Not thoughts or feelings; Mortals relate to Gods or immortals; Gutenberg Bible published in 1454	17 th Century Middle Ages Universal to individual POV; Romances and Folk tales; into characters minds;	18 th Century First-person interior monologue; Form: Letters, Diaries; Dialogue at a distance	19 th & 20 th Century Literary composition; Meta-perspective (History); Anti-heros
Language	The classical, sacred: Hebrew, Greek, Latin; communal narrator	National languages; > Romance languages(French, Spanish, etc.)	>>>	>>>	Characters use colloquialism
Evolution of Point of View	Objective narrator; anonymous re-telling of old stories; Allegory	Individual's POV,	Third Person stories monologues soliloquies	Subjective; First-person interior	First person narrative; Third person objective observer
Examples	Beowulf, Odysseus; Sumerian Flood Myth: Epic of Gilgamesh	<i>Don Quixote; The Prince; Pilgrim's Progress</i>	Plays & Sonnets by Shakespeare 1550-1615	<i>Gulliver's Travels; Poor Richard's Almanac</i>	<i>Tom Sawyer; On Walden Pond; Sam Spade, Jay Gatsby; The Origin of the Species</i>

(Sources: 1) *Points of View*, James Moffett and Kenneth McElheny, Ed. 1966, 1995. A Mentor Book, NY, 2) www.Wikipedia.org

American Trivia

by Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh

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

Home of the Brave

A hero is a person admired for his or her courage, nobility, exploits, or achievements and regarded as an ideal or model. Heroes often risk their lives and sometimes die for us. We couldn't do without them.

In the next four installments of this series, we'll offer a gallery of American heroes who have lit our history with their courage:

***John Peter Zenger** (1697-1746) helped establish freedom of the press in the American colonies. He refused to reveal his sources for a story he published in his newspaper in 1733 criticizing the British governor of New York. To punish him, the British arrested Zenger and tried him in 1735 for criminal libel. Andrew Hamilton, a Philadelphia lawyer, came at the request of Benjamin Franklin to defend Zenger. He argued that publishing the truth could not be libelous. The hand-picked judges ordered the jury to find Zenger guilty, but they refused and delivered a verdict of not guilty.

***Haym Salomon** (1740-1785) was a Polish immigrant who lived and worked in New York City. The British arrested him as a spy in 1776. Pardoned, he was hired to work as an interpreter for the British with their German mercenary troops. Salomon, though, secretly encouraged soldiers to desert and helped prisoners escape. He was arrested again in 1778, tried, and sentenced to death. He escaped to Philadelphia, where he helped finance the Revolution, both by lending large sums of his own money to the fledgling country and by arranging loans from France.

***John Paul Jones** (1747-1792) is often called the Father of the American Navy. He joined the Continental Navy and served as first lieutenant aboard the *Alfred*, the first naval ship bought by the Continental Congress. He later captained the *Bonhomme Richard*. He battled a larger and better-armed squadron of British ships. When the British demanded he surrender, he said "I have not yet begun to fight," and went on to defeat them soundly.

***Margaret Cochran Corbin** (1751-1800) became a heroine at the Battle of Fort Mifflin in northern Manhattan on November 16, 1776. As many wives did, she followed her husband, John, while he served in the army, to cook for him, wash his clothes, and help tend the wounded. John and another soldier manned one of two cannons. When the two men were killed, Margaret took their places at the cannon at Fort Mifflin. Seriously wounded and permanently disabled, she became the first woman in America to receive a military pension.

Revising Tips . . . by Laurie Richards

Redundant Redundancies:

DEAR READER. AMATEUR WRITING AHEAD.

An earlier tip discussed redundancies generally. Here are specifics. In each example, avoid the italicized word for the reason noted.

* **Exercise offers the *single* most immediate health benefit.**

[*Single* most as opposed to what? Multiple mosts? Most is most.]

* **The band played *various* selections of rock *music*.**

[Selections means various. Although probably not a redundancy, music is italicized as unnecessary. What else would a band play besides music?]

* **She lived in *virtual* squalor.**

[As opposed to pretend squalor? The adjective weakens the strong word, and its misuse has become so common, it's a cliché.]

* **He ran away *on* foot.**

[As opposed to all fours or roller skates? If roller skates, then he didn't run, he skated. Use the most precise verb you can.]

* **The *main* thrust of the President's speech addressed the economy.**

[Thrust means the principal point. How much more *main* can thrust get? Ditto as to focus, consensus, theme, and so on.]

* **My friends and I discuss our writing *activities*.**

[Activities adds nothing except ambiguity. Are they discussing their writing or merely how they write? Or what?]

* **She teaches *in the field* of physics.**

[The words are redundant unless a physical field exists for physics players.]

Other phrases with redundancies: *end* result; *personal* friends; *standard* orthodoxy; lingered *behind*; *key* milestone; penetrated *through*; *very* beautiful [or anything else *very*]; filled *to capacity*; bound *together* [and linked *together* or blended *together*. Watch what you tether together]; tests *out*; reason *why*; filled *up*; severe weather *conditions*; financial hardship *situation* [and other links with condition or situation; e.g., crisis *situation*].

Tip: Watch your use of adverbs and adjectives.

Don't turn a strong noun into an adjective by linking it to a redundant word or phrase.

Writers' Expo - June 8th, 9:00 AM - 1:00PM

The University of Phoenix will hold a Writers' Expo on their main campus as a fundraiser for scholarships. It will feature author's book signing (\$20 fee), four workshops on the craft and business of writing, and a sale of used books. For a table at the book signing send a check to Tony Vianna, 7152 Tanager Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92011-5033 – see viannabooks4u.com.

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