

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

November, 2013

If you write for money you will start imitating your previous success, which is like straining hot water through the same old teabag. It doesn't work for tea, it doesn't work with writing. Write for the love of it. Adapted from Erica Jong

San Diego
Writers Editors
Guild
Since 1979

“Lederer On Language” Featured at November Meeting

Dr. Richard Lederer, will celebrate with us a number of important anniversaries, including the 150th of the Gettysburg Address, the 100th of the crossword puzzle, and Halloween and Christmas lore.

Dr. Lederer's past includes achieving a Master of Arts and Teaching at Harvard, a teaching career in Concord, New Hampshire and earning a Ph.D. in English and Linguistics at the University of New Hampshire. Inspired to write books on language, he began with his well-known *Anguished English*. First published in 1987, there are now 10 editions.

Calling himself a verbivore and wordaholic, *Richard Lederer* is the author of more than 35 books about language, history, and humor. Members may find *Comma Sense: A Fundamental Guide to Punctuation*, written with co-author John Shore, especially helpful. Excerpts from a recent book coauthored with SDW/EG member Caroline McCullagh are featured in TWL each month.

Richard has written columns for a number of major national publications and has also appeared on radio and television shows, including his own weekly radio show, *A Way With Words*, on KPBS in San Diego. “Lederer on Language” is currently featured every Saturday in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Join us on November 25th for a sure-to-be-entertaining presentation.



A Reminder: Local Author Exhibit

To be included in the Local Author Exhibit at the San Diego Public Library, authors in San Diego who published a book in 2013 may submit a copy of the book and a registration form to Rachel Esguerra, 330 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92101-7416 (resguerra@sandiego.gov). Registration forms may be found at www.sandiegolibrary.org. The deadline for submission and registration is December 13, 2013. The exhibit will be on display during February 2014. Call (619)236-5817 for more information.

Looking Ahead:

San Diego State University Writers Conference will be held January 24, 2014 through January 26, 2014, Friday through Sunday, at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. Early Bird Registration until Jan 6, 2014 is \$399.00. Go to SDSU College of Extended Studies for more information . . . <http://www.ces.sdsu.edu/>

Southern California Writers Conference in San Diego will be held on Presidents Day weekend: February 14-17, 2014. Registration for the full conference is \$425, registration for Saturday and Sunday only is \$350. Go to <http://writersconference.com/sd> for more information and registration.

The Prez Says . . .

Copies of the 2013 edition of *The Guided Pen* are expected to be ready for presentation, sales and pick-up in time for the Holiday party Thursday, December 19th . . . just in time for Christmas gifts for family and friends. Mark your calendar for the change of date from the usual time of our meetings.

The 2012 edition is also available at meetings and both will be available for ordering from Lulu.com.

Remember to submit accomplishments by yourself or other members for inclusion in our *Tip of the Hat* newsletter column. (rthlys@cox.net). It's inspiring to read good news.

Signing up for the new SDW/EG Speakers Bureau can be a win/win situation. As opportunities occur you may promote the Guild and your own work as well. Submit a paragraph about yourself and your publications. A handout and a short power-point presentation about the SDW/EG is available for speakers who would like some background facts and figures.

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace, President

The next meeting is November 25th, 2013

6:30 PM Networking . . . 6:45 PM Business meeting

7:00-8:30 PM Speaker

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Tom Leech, for being honored as one of three 2013 Distinguished Alumni by his hometown, Garrett, IN, High School, and for speaking at two SDSU Business School openings, with 300 copies (!) of his *Winning Presentations* book provided to enrollees.

Margaret Harmon for her book signing at Warwicks, celebrating *The Genie Who had Wishes of His Own* and an interview of Margaret recently published on Linda Loegel's blog. Access Linda's blog at:

<http://www.lindaLoegel.blogspot.com/>

Gary Winters for being invited by Las Amigas Education Charity to speak about his experiences and his mature young adult novel *The Deer Dancer* at their Discover Baja fundraiser in Mexico.

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

What You Missed - by Ellen Shaw Tufts

Thirty-four San Diego Editors/Writers Guild members and guests gathered at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 28 for a special tour of the celebrated new San Diego Central Library in our colorful East Village.

Library supervisor Marc Chery along with staffer Michelle Williams led two Guild groups in a sweeping 60-minute tour of this \$96.7 million dazzling edifice with its facilities for performances, artistic outreach, research, digital availability, cultural and civic meetings, plus a charter high school (e3 Civic High) now occupying the sixth and seventh floors.

Chery explained the impressive ground-level concrete archway bridge, then the first-floor "I CAN" handicapped-services facility, then up to ninth floor with its awesome dome of eight steel-mesh "sails" tied together by cable and pipe grids for a breath-taking view, continuing downward by foot and elevators.

A few familiar faces included past Guild presidents Carl Nelson, Bob Doublebower, Gered Beeby and Sam Warren, and former board members Judy Edelblute and Keith Taylor.

Comments included lots of "wows," also "this is industrial chic," and one day-job civil engineer hailed the ground-level arch as an example of "great lateral load support."

A month after official opening, this amazing structure continues to enhance our editorial, cultural and "just-browsing" lives as grateful citizens.

Exhibit at **Encinitas Fall Festival** November 14, 2013 in 2 ½ hours slots between 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Booths are available @ \$25.00 for authors to exhibit. Contact Karla at karla@readlocal.org if you would like to reserve a space.

Constructing a Book

Fiction and non-fiction books may have a slightly different set of inclusions in addition to the body of the book, but also have similarities. Following is a summary guiding authors in "what" and "where" in the planning of his/her book.

Front Matter

All books include "front matter", often composed of copyright information, a Title Page, Copyright Page, and a Table of Contents, but may also include a Dedication, Foreword, Preface, Acknowledgements, and Introduction. Front matter pages are numbered in lowercase roman numerals.

The foreword is a statement about the book usually written by someone other than the author.

The preface describes why you wrote the book.

The introduction describes something about the main text that your reader should know before proceeding to read the book.

Body Matter, or core content, contains Parts/Sections/Chapters - in that order. Titles and subtitles must be identical in the Table of Contents and in the body of the book

End Matter, found mostly in nonfiction at the back of the book, consists of optional materials such as an Appendix, a Glossary, a Bibliography, and an Index. These are submitted to the publisher along with a manuscript. An "About the Author" section may also be included in the end matter.

Traditions define which material is placed on a right-hand or left-hand page and where blank pages occur.

Paper books and digital books have different formatting requirements, especially in page division and location numbers.

For more details, a web search for "parts of a book" or similar terminology will provide a wealth of information.

Words

Words have to be crafted, not sprayed. They need to be fitted together with infinite care. (Norman Cousins)

Words: the pieces of change in the currency of a sentence. They must not get in the way. (Jules Renard)

Coming Soon to SDW/EG

Thursday, December 19, 2013 – The **Holiday party for members** 7-9 PM at the usual meeting place on Rosecrans. *The Guilded Pen*, 2013 edition, will be featured. Bring your favorite holiday treat. Beverages and utensils will be provided.

January 27th, 2014 – Neil Senturia, author of *I'm There for You Baby* and Barbara Bry, author of U-T business column.

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.

Fascinating Facts About the Civil War, Part II

The Battle of Gettysburg, which raged July 1 to July 3, 1863, was the largest, most lethal of the Civil War. More than 20,000 Confederates and 23,000 Union soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing. On July 4, 1863, Robert E. Lee ordered his shattered army back to Virginia. The Confederacy was never again able to mount a large-scale attack against the North.

*On November 19, 1863, a crowd of about 15,000 gathered at the battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to consecrate a new Civil War cemetery. The featured speaker of the day was not Abraham Lincoln but Edward Everett, the nation's most celebrated orator, who declaimed for two hours.

*When a temperance committee asked Abraham Lincoln to fire General Ulysses S. Grant because he drank too much, Lincoln's replied, "Well, I wish some of you would tell me the brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel if it to every one of my other generals."

*It was William Tecumseh Sherman, whose March to the Sea ravaged much of the South, who said, "War is Hell!"

*After President Lincoln relieved George B. McClellan of his command on November 5, 1863, McClellan challenged Lincoln for the presidency in the 1864 election but was soundly defeated. He resigned from the military the same day.

*On Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, at 13:00 hours, in Appomattox Court House, in Virginia, Robert E. Lee surrendered the army of the Confederacy to Ulysses S. Grant. After four brutal years, the Civil War had ended. Appomattox Court House was a small settlement, not a hall of justice.

* Between 650,000 and 850,000 Americans were either killed in battle or died of wounds and disease. Yet, so fecund is nature that the population increased from 31 million in 1860 to 39 million in 1870.

* Through the lens of history, it seems clear that that from the outset of the Civil War, the deck was stacked against the South. The Union possessed a vastly greater population, industrial capacity, infrastructure, sea power, food supply, and entrepreneurial talent, all the advantages in a mid-19th-century war required.

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How Does *Your* Character Speak ? . . .

by Laurie Richards

Whether you're writing fiction or nonfiction, your work should have characters who speak, and you need to make them sound different from each other and use their dialogue to characterize. If it's fiction, you need to *decide* how each character would speak. If it's nonfiction, you need to *observe* how the character speaks and set down your observations. Here are some helpful questions for the decision or observation processes.

Does your character –

1. Talk in complete sentences or fragments?
2. Use slang and bad grammar or elegant words and phrases?
3. Have any kind of verbal or physical tic when speaking; e.g., stuttering, pausing, pulling on his ear, covering her mouth.
4. Mispronounce words; e.g., "When I told him, he went nuclear."
5. Misuse words (called "malapropism"); e.g., "He's very rich. An illegible bachelor if there ever was one."
6. Speak with an accent or dialect?
7. Express his emotions easily or block them?
8. React to fear or hurt with angry words or with silence, or with a mature response?
9. Frequently or sometimes use expressions reflecting her occupation or age; e.g.,
–An artist's dialogue might have more references to colors or shapes.
– A grandmother might frequently talk about the good old days or her aching body.
10. Accept criticism?
11. Give sincere compliments? Insincere compliments?
12. Swear? A little or a lot?
13. Listens to what someone else says or just waits for his moment to speak?

Tip: Don't be satisfied with an unlucky thirteen questions, create your own. I'd like to know your ideas: LaurieRichards2009@gmail.com.

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Fascinating Facts About the Civil War, Part II

*On Good Friday, April 14, about 10:13 p.m., just five days after Robert E. Lee's surrender, Abraham Lincoln became the first American president to be assassinated. The assassin was 26-year-old actor John Wilkes Booth. The box in Ford's Theater that Wilkes entered to shoot the president through the back of the head was unguarded.

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<p>The Writer's Life is published by The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild P. O. Box 881931 San Diego, CA 92168 Telephone: (619) 445-6656 General Meetings: The Fourth Monday of the month The December 2013 Meeting (Holiday party) Will be the Third Thursday (Dec 19th) 6:30 P.M. - Sign-in and Networking 6:45 P.M. - Business Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. - Speaker/Program Location: 3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110 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</p>	Board Of Directors		Term Expires December 31st
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Mission Statement The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.			