

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

March, 2014

The difference between fiction and reality is that fiction has to make sense. Tom Clancy



Carolyn Wheat, Author of Suspense and Mystery—March Speaker

Author of *How to Write Killer Fiction* as well as thirty other books of mystery and suspense, as well as a teacher of fiction writing techniques at UCSD Extension will be our speaker at the March meeting.

After beginning a career as an attorney, Carolyn wrote award-winning short stories, (the Anthony, the Agatha, the Shamus, and the Macavity awards). Two of her six Cass Jameson legal mysteries have been nominated for Edgar awards.

Carolyn feels it is important to distinguish between the genres of mysteries and suspense and thinks crime-based mainstream novels are not comfortably contained in either sub-heading. She comments that writers like Jodi Picoult and Jacqueline Mitchard use crime as the centerpiece of their fiction, but they are not crime writers as the term is usually understood.

About the writing process itself, she feels a writer can choose to be an “outliner” or a “blank-pager”, but each one has a down-side requiring compensation. Writers can move between these two methods which are the two ends of a continuum. Her advice is to fall in love with your own process. She also suggests that when writing in series, make sure the books build on one another so that in the end the entire series is like a very long book.

Mark March 24th on your calendar for a stimulating evening !

Manuscript Review Program

Now Accepting Memoir Manuscripts

The SDW/EG Manuscript Review Program now includes the review of memoir manuscripts as well as fiction manuscripts. The process for having a review begins with mailing 1) a preview submission application form, 2) four copies of the first three double-spaced pages of your manuscript, 3) a check or money order for \$20.00 payable to San Diego Writers/Editors Guild to **Bob Doublebower, 1737 Mallow Court, Carlsbad, CA, 92011**. An optional self-addressed envelope for return of the preview pages may be included.

The application for a manuscript review may be downloaded from www.sdwritersguild.org. Formatting guidelines are also on the website.

Three anonymous members of the Manuscript Review Committee will review the preview pages. If approved, the committee will request a copy of the first thirty pages or first three chapters, whichever is less. They will score the submission using accepted evaluation criteria and report the score back to the author.

SDW/EG Speakers Bureau

The new Speakers Bureau page will be posted to the Guild website soon, and publicity planning is under way. Arrangements regarding a speaking engagement will be between the individual and the organization wanting a speaker. A summary sheet of information about the Guild is available for members. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity and have a listing, contact Ruth Leyse-Wallace: rthlys@cox.net

Writers Conference

The Annual Greater Los Angeles Writers Conference will be held June 27-29, 2014 at Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys, CA. Program tracks are offered for 1) Aspiring, 2) Active, and 3) Accomplished writers. The early bird discount for one-day attendance is \$149; for the weekend: \$249. See also www.wcwriters.com/aglawc

The next meeting will be Monday, **March 24th, 2014:**
6:30 PM sign in and networking,
6:45 PM business meeting,
7:00-8:30 program: Carolyn Wheat

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Carolyn Jaynes for the launch of her book *Sprinkles from Heaven—Stories of Serendipity* on February 18th. Published by Passion and Faith Press, it is available from Create Space.

Margaret Harmon for an invitation to speak to Kathi Diamant's Osher SDSU Book Discussion group on June 12th. The group is discussing *The Genie Who Had Wishes of His Own*.

Anne Casey, who is now the copy editor for the online presence of the Identity Theft Resource Center.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace for her book *Nutrition and Mental Health* being featured by Taylor and Francis, publishers, at the International Neuropsychological Society 42nd Annual Meeting in February in Seattle.

Phil Pryde for signing a contract with Sunbelt Publications to produce, distribute, and promote the new Fifth Edition of *San Diego: An Introduction to the Region*, due out in September. The first edition appeared in 1976.

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

What You Missed

Charlene Baldrige, critic, poet, and a past president of SDW/EG, shared a multitude of thoughts and feelings about her life experiences at the February meeting. She has acted as a theater and art critic for San Diego publications for seventeen years. She commented that she plans three to four months ahead and views 166 performances a year, reading the scripts before seeing the performance to get perspective. Charlene explained that the difference between writing a "review" and writing as a "critic" lies in "doing the research and including context regarding the performance." It is important to "get just the right word" in writing, she believes.

Charlene is a much-published author of plays and poetry. She shared poignant stories of her estrangement and reconciliation with her daughter, and their writing collaboration, ending with her daughter's death in 2011. Charlene read a poem from a published collection of poetry by her daughter, Laura Jeanne Morefield, and delights in plans for future performances of her work set to music. Becoming 80 years old in April 2014, Charlene is considering a future of writing about the process of healing from estrangement; sure to be a sensitive and poetic description if the past predicts the future.

Lingering after her presentation was the inspiration by example of vigor, delight, and living life to the fullest, as one woman pursues a life dedicated to her passionate interests.

Coming Soon to SDW/EG

April 28th, 2014: Richard Lederer will present (in costume) a program to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare.

May, 2014 (The 4th Monday is a Holiday. Date may be changed-stay tuned) Get ready for an "Open Mic" night! Sign up for your 3-minute reading time with Ruth Leyse-Wallace: rthlsy@cox.net.

Printing Jobs Done in China?

Call it expedited printing, print-on-demand, e-printing, digital printing, or even an online press, we all may need printing at some time. Our January speaker commented about getting his books printed in China. What about getting printing done in China?

You can get just about anything printed in China: books, magazines, catalogs, cards (business, postcards, greeting, etc.), stickers, albums, brochures, calendars, albums, art and photograph books, paper bags, CDs, DVDs, tickets, menus, envelopes, door hangars, comic books . . . There are numerous web sites of companies in China who print orders from all over the world: some have offices in the U.S. The following information is from various web sites of these companies.

Most will 1) give you a quote in 2 days; 2) send a proof copy, 3) require a 50% deposit with 50% due at completion for a new customer. You will receive your finished product: in 3-5 weeks. Import duties are included in the price unless you want to arrange to pick up at the port (Los Angeles, is frequently mentioned). Shipping is by sea, UPS or FedEx.

One site (Ivie China Printing Solutions) reports the following: "China labor law specifies a minimum working age of 16, and is enforced much more strictly than portrayed in the media. With very few exceptions, the paper we use comes from sustainable tree plantations. Domestic Chinese Recycled paper is available only for some types of paper, but it is possible to procure recycled paper, Chlorine-Free paper and/or FSC certified paper."

One site (ginifab.com) writes ". . . not all products are created equal. Simple and highly automated products, those requiring web press, for instance, are far less likely to achieve savings than a product with extensive hand labor and multiple processes. Here are a few of the key issues you should look for when considering China production: 1) Print work with processes such as embossing, Hot stamping, Spot UV, Hole punching, Laminating etc., 2) Print work with kitting/assembly/hand work of any kind, 3) Print work with many different versions, 4) Print work that is sheet fed, 5) Print work that has 5 or more colors."

The Alibaba.com website gives the following prices, among many others: 1) Hardcover books (50 copies minimum order)—up to \$2.50 each, 2) Soft cover books (1,000 pieces minimum order) \$ 0.30-90 each, 3) Professional books (1,000 minimum order) \$0.90 – \$1.50 each.

Still opting for domestic printing? For a detailed rating of printing services in the U.S. go to <http://online-printing-services-review.toptenreviews.com/>

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.

America: The Mother of Invention (Part II)

Tinkering is a time-honored American pastime. Many men and women can't leave well enough alone. They're always trying to create something or improve something. As with most creative people, they benefit from the work of those who came before them, but they add that little spark of genius that can take their invention figuratively or literally into the stratosphere. Here are some of our best:

*Robert Fulton (1765-1815) tried several different careers, including fine art, before he settled on being an engineer and inventor. He designed and built new types of canal boats, a machine for making rope, another for spinning flax, a dredging machine, and even a submarine. However, his greatest fame came from the *Clermont*, the first commercially successful steamboat. The *Clermont* made its first trip, from New York City up the Hudson River to Albany, on August 17, 1807, cutting the usual sailing time from 64 hours to 32 hours for the 150-mile trip. It soon began regular passenger service.

*Trained as an artist, Samuel F. B. Morse (1791-1872) turned to invention as a career. It took him five years to achieve his first big success; he invented the telegraph and created Morse code. In 1844, he built a test line between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and tapped out the message "What hath God wrought!" a sentence from biblical Numbers 23:23. In later life, he returned to art as the vice president of the new Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

*Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), a teacher of the deaf, came to the United States from Scotland in 1871. He patented the first telephone in 1876. The first telephone exchange started in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1878 with twenty-one customers. By 1880, there were fifty thousand telephones in the U.S. and, by 1900, one million. A transcontinental telephone line was completed in 1914; and on January 25, 1915, Bell placed the first transcontinental telephone call. He was in New York City when he called his close friend and assistant, Thomas A. Watson, in San Francisco. Watson was the same man who had answered Bell's very first telephone call in 1876. Bell had said, "Mister Watson, come here. I want you."

Results of Newsletter Survey

Thank you to the twenty-four members who returned the newsletter survey. All comments of appreciation were delightfully received. A response of "Always read" in more than 65% of the surveys included: Announcement of the next meeting, Review of the last meeting, Tip of the hat, Announcements of classes, etc., Guild news, and Writing skills.

Eleven of the twenty-four members who replied prefer to receive copies by mail, five wanted both paper and digital copies, four preferred emailed copies and two said "either". Several responders prefer an email copy, but replied anonymously.

A list of people who would like to receive the newsletter by email is being assembled. If you would like to be included, please let the editor know @ rthlys@cox.net. Paper copies of the newsletter will continue to be mailed to everyone except to those that prefer "digital copies only".

"Writing is like driving at night in the fog. You can see only as far as the headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way." . . . E.L. Doctorow

Ten Tips for Instant Ms. Rejection

The following tips for immediate rejection of your submission are adapted from those written by the editor of the *Journal of Management Education*. While these comments were aimed at writers submitting to professional journals, the principles apply to other publications and writers.

- 1) Write about something that the journal does not publish.
- 2) Offer an insufficient contribution; simply repeat what others have done before.
- 3) Don't follow the guidelines regarding the length of submission.
- 4) Use one-sentence paragraphs, poor grammar, incorrect spelling.
- 5) Write in declarative language rather than explanatory language.
- 6) Neglect to use references that indicate relevance to the reader.
- 7) Ignore the expectations for rigor in reporting in the area of interest.
- 8) Offer no evidence that what you are saying is true.
- 9) Put your name on every page when guidelines require anonymous submission.
- 10) Ignore request for formatting: font, margins, spacing, alignment, etc.

Jon Billsberry, *J Mgt Educ.* 2014;38(1): 3-9.

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	<p><u>Mission Statement</u> The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.</p>		