

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

May 2014



Reading your own material aloud forces you to listen.

Stephen Ambrose



MAY MEETING : OPEN MIC NIGHT

Get inspired ! Be entertained! Receive feedback ! Listen to yourself read what you have written and get a different perspective. Become acquainted with fellow members by hearing what *they* have written. Read the reactions and comments from other writers who are empathetic, and knowledgeable, and honest.

But first: Sign up* for your spot on the program. Second, select three minutes of material ahead of time – and how will you know unless you practice and time yourself? Then, stifle your tendency to tell the audience how you came to write what you will read, or the source of the excerpt . . . just announce your title and read. You can tell all about it while you are being congratulated after the program. Hold the microphone close to your lips so no one will miss your wonderful selection. AND, don't be offended if you didn't practice and are cut off at the end of your three minutes. ☺ Enjoy everyone else's reading . These tried and true methods make for an enjoyable evening for all. *send your name and title to RthLys@cox.net or call (619) 445-6656

Ready for a Book Signing?

What should an author DO to have a successful book signing? Be proactive. Have enough books to create a visual display. Dress professionally but be comfortable—business casual is the look to achieve. Wear comfortable shoes, short or quarter-length sleeves, and take a sweater or blazer.

For any location (book fairs, book stores, conventions), be prepared and bring your own materials. Take several pens: black or blue ink doesn't fade. Sharpie markers bleed through many types of paper. Inexpensive pens with acid-free, archival ink can be found at craft stores. Take water, tape, table tents, easels and posters of the book cover(s). Take a supply of bookmarks and business cards. Take time to meet every person and sign every book. Smile !

Where should you sign? The traditional, standard place to sign is where bookstore owners and workers will look first –on the title page. If your work is in an anthology it is permissible to sign the page where >>

>> your work begins. The term "Signed" refers to an author signature and preferably the date the book was signed. This increases collectible value. A book is "Inscribed" when the author personally makes note of a name and perhaps a personal message. A "Dedication" copy of a book is when the author signs the book for the person named in the dedication.

Before the book begins, a good Inscription can bring a book to life . . . from naming the occasion, to a personal note, to a special wish for the reader, such as "From my bookshelf to yours!" or "I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it! Thank you so much for your support!"

Inscriptions will give real books an advantage over e-readers for a long time to come!

Resources:

<http://hyphenbird.hubpages.com/hub/Book-Signing-Etiquette-for-New-and-Established-Authors>; and http://www.goodreads.com/author_blog_posts/5443634-10-awesome-book-inscriptions.

"Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider." Francis Bacon, *Essays* (1625)

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Laura Riley for publication of her book *Tell Me of Brave Women* by HB Stowe Press, with endorsements by Jacquelyn Mitchard and Dorothea Benton Frank.

Corey Lynn Fayman for his recent mystery novel, *Border Field Blues*, being selected as a finalist in *ForeWord Reviews* 2013 Book of the Year Award. Winners will be announced in June.

Gary Winters for being included in the San Diego Poetry Annual 2013-14 for the fourth consecutive year. See: <https://botya.forewordreviews.com/finalists/2013/mystery/>

Steve Breen for his new book *Unicorn Executions and Other Crazy Stuff My Kids Make Me Draw*, with prospects of a derivative movie in the works.

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 by Ken Yaros

Happy Birthday, William Shakespeare— and many, many more!

On April 28th the Guild hosted author, educator and verbivore extraordinaire Richard Lederer, who entertained us with stories and limericks from the most recognized writer in the western world—all a part of his celebration of the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

A life member of the Guild, Richard came prepared with generous offers of support to those who were seeking to raise funds for organizations or those who simply wanted to master the game of poker.

Richard announced his new book for children, entitled "Monsters Unchained," due for release soon. Embarking on his "trombone year" (his 76th) hasn't slowed the master one whit; he was in great form. Each of us gained better insight into just who Willie Wigglestaff really was, and how important this personage was to the enrichment and love of our language, surely the bond that brings us together. Thank you, Richard!

Writing a Memoir

"Writing a memoir is better than five years of psychotherapy. When you are living your life you don't really have the time to think about what it all means. When you sit down to write a memoir, you have the luxury of time and perspective," said Jennifer Coburn about writing *We'll Always Have Paris: A Mother/Daughter Adventure*. "My goal was not to try to be funny, but to be emotionally honest. If something was funny, then that was a bonus" *

The SDW/EG Manuscript Committee is now accepting members' memoir manuscripts for review. The process for submission is detailed at www.sdwritersguild.org. If you have questions, contact Bob Doublebower, chairman of the Manuscript Review Committee at Doublebower@sbcglobal.net

Many writers find it helpful to belong to a read-and-critique group as they progress from idea to publication. If you know a read-and-critique group accepting new members, please send the information to Ruth Leyse-Wallace (rthlys@cox.net) and group contact information will be posted in the newsletter.

* UT 4-18-2014 - interview of Jennifer Coburn by John Wilkens

Classes at OASIS – May, June, and July

*The New England Poet Tree-Richard Lederer

*Creative Writing-Caroline McCullagh and Lola Sparrowhawk

Also: *Writing your Life; *Writing: Making It Easier, and *Write and Be Published

www.sandiegooasis.org or (619) 881-6262

Coming Soon to SDW/EG

June 23, 2014: Margaret Harmon, author and educator, will lead us in writing games to inspire our creativity.

July 28, 2014: Ingrid Croce and Jimmy Rock will share the experience of writing as a team about Jim Croce, Ingrid's late husband.

Answers to "A Challenge" on p. 3: stationery; still, prophet, Seine, inverse.

What is a Great Book?

What do we mean by a great book? "Great book" is a controversial term because it implies value judgments. However, great books are great precisely because they challenge us to make value judgments.

Three essential qualities of great books, according to Professor Rufus Fears*, are:

1. Great theme. A great book is concerned with themes and issues of enduring importance.

2. Noble language. Great books are written in noble language, language that elevates the soul and ennobles the mind. Any language can be used in such a way that it conveys ideas and emotions powerfully and memorably.

3. Universality. A great book speaks across the ages, reaching the hearts and minds of men and women far removed in time and space from the era and circumstances in which it was composed. It summarizes the enduring values and ideas of a great age and gives them as a legacy to generations to come. Ultimately great books are an education for freedom.

Examples of issues addressed in great books include:

Does God or do gods exist? What is fate? What do we mean by good and evil; are there absolute standards? How should we live? What are our values and actions related to truth, duty, courage, and justice, among others?

A few examples of great books selected by Professor Fears* include: *Iliad*, *The Divine Comedy*, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, *Walden*, *Julius Caesar*, *1984*, *The Prince*, *On Liberty*, and *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

*Lecture series by Professor Rufus Fears, the University of Oklahoma. Books That Have Made History; Books That Can Change Your Life. The Teaching Company; 2005. Chantilly, VA.

Wisdom and Justice

My Mother taught me about wisdom ("When you get to be my age, you'll understand") and justice ("One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you").

Author

A Challenge: Fill in the Blanks for a Thought-Twister and a Chuckle

1. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be _____.
2. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her _____.
3. Atheism is a non-_____ organization.
4. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in _____.
5. A backward poet writes _____.

(See bottom of page 2 for answers)

Interview of Jeannette Walls

Jeanette Walls, author of *The Glass Castle*, was interviewed by Dean Nelson during the Writer's Symposium by the Sea, during February, 2014. Comments of interest by Ms. Walls included, "Everyone should write a memoir, but they don't need to publish it. Your children should hear your story. Telling your story gives you perspective, allows you to forgive yourself."

As a child she was very familiar with libraries, but when she first went to a bookstore she said her impression was that it was like a library, where you got books, but you paid the fine first."

A piece of advice for writers of fiction and non-fiction alike: "Tell the truth. Truth is a liquid, not a solid. Different people have a different perspective of a situation."

When writing *The Glass Castle*, she re-wrote for five years after getting the first draft down on paper.

Source: Interview broadcast on UCSD TV April, 2014

"You know there's a problem with our education system when you realize that of the three R's only one starts with R."

Dennis Miller

The next meeting will be

Monday May **19**, 2014

6:30 P.M. Sign in and Networking

6:45 P.M. Business meeting

7:00-8:30 P.M. Program

San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
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San Diego, CA 92168

<p>The Writer's Life is published by The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild P. O. Box 881931 San Diego, CA 92168 Telephone: (858) 571-0201 General Meetings: The Fourth Monday of the month May meeting on <u>Third</u> Monday 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		2-year Term Expires December 31st
	President	Harry Huntsman	2015
	Vice President	Bob Doublebower	2014
	Secretary	Simone Arias	2015
	Treasurer	Marcia Buompensiero	2014
	Membership Chairman	Rick Peterson	2014
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	Past President & Newsletter editor	Ruth Leyse Wallace	2015
	Webmaster and Director- at-large	Sam Warren	2015
	<p><u>Mission Statement</u> The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.</p>		

“Members’ Works”: A new Member’s Benefit

Promote your work on the website of the San Diego Writers/Editors Guild

www.sdwritersguild.org

The “Members’ Works” page will have a bulleted, alphabetical, list of any/all members with currently paid-up dues who have submitted a completed and signed application form (*see over)

Example:

The Works of Members of the San Diego Writers/Editors Guild

- ❖ **Marcia Buompensiero** (pen name- Loren Zahn)
Books: *Dirty Little Murders*
Website: www.lorenzahn.com; www.amazon.com
- ❖ **Margaret Harmon**
Books: *A Field Guide to North American Birders: A Parody*
The Man Who Learned to Walk in Shoes That Pinch: Contemporary Fables
The Genie Who Had Wishes of His Own: 21st-Century Fables
Website: www.MargaretHarmon.com; www.amazon.com
- ❖ **Ruth Leyse Wallace**
Books: *Nutrition and Mental Health*
Linking Nutrition to Mental Health
The Metaparadigm of Clinical Dietetics: Derivation and Applications
Booklets: *Nutrition, Alcohol, Drugs and You*
Supporting Your Mental Health with Good Nutrition
Website: www.RuthLeyseWallace.com; www.amazon.com

Members’ Works Guidelines

- >Members may list published books (fiction, non-fiction, children’s books, how-to books, memoirs, plays/scripts, chap books of poetry, booklets, etc.).
 - >Not included are non-published works, works for hire, editorials, articles published in journals or magazines, single poems, etc. These items should be found on your website upon further exploration by the reader.
 - > Contact Information may be included: your own website, email address, your publisher website, and a source for ordering your work.
 - >A listing may be added or removed within a month of receipt of a written request, or expiration of membership .
 - >There will be no charge for participation, but submissions may be edited as necessary.
- >**Two copies of the Application for Participation * should be sent to:**
- 1) An digital copy should be emailed to Ruth Leyse-Wallace: RthLys@cox.net with an explanatory subject line.
and
 - 2) A written signed copy of the application should be sent to:
San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
attn: Members Works application
P.O. Box 881931
San Diego, CA 92168-1931

*see reverse / page2

Application for Participation in SDW/EG Members' Works website page

I request, and permit, that the following be included on the **Members' Works** page of the website of the San Diego Writers/Editors Guild. [www.sdwritersguild.org]

Name and credentials/titles, as you want it to appear on Members' Works page [Please print, clearly]

Titles exactly as you would like them to appear [format, spelling, punctuation, etc]: Include an extra page, if needed.

Contact information for your entry:

URL of your personal or business website: _____

Your email address (if desired) _____

URL of Publisher (if desired): _____

URL of source to order your book (if desired): _____

I understand I may withdraw from inclusion on the Members' Works website page upon receipt of a written request to the president of SDW/EG.

Please remove my entry from the **SDW/EG Members' Works** website page.

Print your name: _____

Signature: _____ date _____

email address: _____