

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

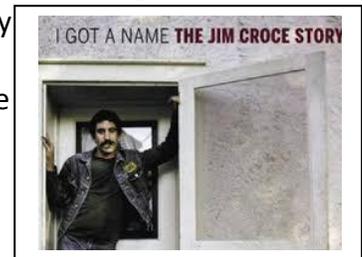
July, 2014



Books are extraordinary things: thoughts made visible, paper and ink sculptures of the mind, time and space made into words . . . A literary editor's work is never a weariness of the flesh. Rather it is an animation of the spirit. (Excerpt from Daniel Johnson)



Spend An Evening with Ingrid Croce and Jimmy Rock as they discuss their book *I Got A Name: The Jim Croce Story*. Writing as a team and co-authoring a book is a process all its own. San Diego restaurateur Ingrid Croce, with her husband, attorney Jimmy Rock, tell the story of popular musician Jim Croce before his tragic death in 1973 at the age of 30. You may especially remember "Time in a Bottle," and "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown."



The first draft of the book was written in 1991, but it was not released until 2012. Ingrid Croce has appeared on various television programs, discussed events and has written several books that touch on stories behind songs and family, but *I Got a Name* greatly expounds on all that, filling in the blanks with Ingrid's viewpoint. At least part of the wait in the publishing of *I Got a Name* comes from trying to find the right people to work with. Croce notes that piecing the book together was a lengthy process, both in writing and gathering information and photos, etc. "Everything takes time," she mused. "I was in litigation for 12 years with three different battles. We had a publisher, but the publisher said, 'I want more scandal.' We said 'That's not what it's about. It's a story; it seems like there's enough.' We had made the commitment when we were writing it that we were going to tell the [definitive] story. So we said no, gave the advance back, and then we sat on the story for years." Longtime family friend, journalist, and musician David Klement did the book's final edit. Ref: <http://sandiegotroubadour.com/2012/09/a-conversation-with-ingrid-croce-and-jimmy-rock/> and interview by Judith Habert in "San Diego Woman."

See You the 28th!

WINNERS! ... SAN DIEGO BOOK AWARDS!!
See Margaret Harmon and Larry Edwards in "Tip of the Hat," page 2.

New Category for "Member's Works"

In addition to listing books published by members, the forthcoming "Member's Works" web page will also feature listings of articles published in peer reviewed journals and edited popular magazines. Contact information for the author will facilitate sharing work of interest, but not readily available otherwise. Thanks to Catherine Barr for this good suggestion as a way to support these authors.

To submit your entry, contact Ruth Leyse-Wallace, rthlys@cox.net. Provide your name, contact information (email and/or website), and the title of work, name of periodical and the date of publication.

Book Awards & Contests

Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs) - All independent, university, small press, and self-publishers who produce books intended for the North American market are eligible to enter. Independent authors using print-on-demand publishing services are welcome to enter their books themselves. National entries will be accepted in 76 categories.

<http://www.independentpublisher.com/>

The National Indie Excellence® Awards (NIEA) is open to all English-language books available for sale, including small presses, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, and self-published authors. Submissions for the 2015 National Indie Excellence® Awards are now open.

<http://www.indieexcellence.com/>

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Margaret Harmon for winning First Place in the 2014 San Diego Book Awards short story collection/anthology category for her book *The Genie Who Had Wishes of His Own: 21st Century Fables*.

Larry Edwards for winning First Place in the 2014 San Diego Book Awards in the published memoir category. As of mid-June, his book *Dare I Call It Murder? A Memoir of Violent Loss* has had 152 reviews on Amazon.com, 97 of them 5-star ratings. Approaching the one-year mark since publication (July 9, 2013), nearly 7,000 copies of the book have been purchased.

*Thank you to Lisa Hunt who will be serving as the new Tip of the Hat editor. If you, or someone you know, has published a book, scheduled a book signing, or has some other accomplishment to share, please submit to **Lisa Hunt** at sunrae77@cox.net or at (760)975-6311 to be included in our next newsletter. Let your light shine!*

What You Missed. . . by Ellen Shaw Tufts

Consider the following superstars from our June 23 Guild meeting: Tina van Damme, Jazz Jones, Flip Curse, Honey Welles, Jack Oliver, Felix Calderon, Sarah Smythe-Jones, Dr. Hughes and P.V. Armstrong, along with their astounding breakfast appetites for strawberries-and-cream-on waffles, also cornflakes-in-water and cr me brulee.

These fictional folks were created by distinguished SDW/EG member/ Book Awards winner Margaret Harmon to help us explore the intrinsic power of fictional names. During the dazzling, highly interactive meeting, her three colorful pen-and-paper games were distributed throughout our audience

Writer/fabulist Harmon originally designed the games to help us crash through writers block from fears, rejection, facing projects' tough parts, and going blank— and also to memorialize her appreciation of the Santa Barbara Writers Conference founders, the late American writing giants Barnaby Conrad and Ray Bradbury. Our June Guild membership meeting seemed a good test audience. Our house loved every moment of this joyful evening.

Game One: "Who IS This?" Our audience scribbled perceived personal tastes, also characteristics (including breakfast-menu preferences) and backgrounds ascribed to the fictional superstars.

Game Two: "Dueling Dialogue" We imagined, on paper with subsequent read-alouds, two anonymous persons involved in dialogue--e.g. "Where's the shovel---didn't you bring it?" "OK, it's inside my coat!" This game hones our ability to bring our characters to life via their dialogue. (Later this "bit" was revealed continued>>

Writers' Groups

Writers groups can take many forms, and serve different purposes; writers *need* to get together. They write alone – they need someone to laugh and cry with. Rachel Randall* describes a variety of approaches to writing groups.

Groups may vary from 4 to 25 members, meet weekly, monthly, on Saturdays, or in the evenings, may have a planned activity such as programs, a writing exercise or class, discussion of a pre-determined topic, may read works aloud to members of the group or distribute work via email for critiques, or just socialize. Groups may give homework. Some give in-depth critiques in one:one meetings rather than in the group. Some meet in the same place each time, some switch locations. Some meet for a specified length of time, some go as long as it takes for the activity of the day. Some groups allow a specified time for each person to read, some leave it open-ended.

Having guidelines for the group is helpful so everyone operates with the same assumptions. Being respectful, kind, trusting, and honest is essential – arguing, defending or yelling doesn't work. It does work when everyone is seen as an artist who is finding their own way with words. The ability to relax, laugh, to be with "your own kind" is important. Celebrating successes with colleagues is part of "support."

If you are considering starting or joining a read-and-critique group or other writer's support group, be creative. There is not one "right" way.

* "Team Up! What Makes Writing Groups Work" *Writers Digest*, July/Aug 2014.

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by one audience participant-writer as "married-couple chatter" during a car breakdown.)

Game Three: "Ouija Words" Basically a free-form association, this game was suggested by a SBWC Bradbury speech describing his technique for writers facing a blank sheet, to help tap into the subconscious. It can be played every morning or "before you start writing" and our audience appeared totally absorbed.

According to Harmon, who has copyrighted the Games, the June 23 Guild program was more or less a test audience and she's considering options for further game-playing sites. "We can all play these games at home," she noted.

Find Your Voice by Rick Peterson

"I'd never thought of myself as a great communicator, and that's one of the reasons I got involved in Toastmasters. The idea of getting in front of a group, not as Mrs. Fields but really as Debbie, made my knees shake, and I get all dry-mouthed. But the Toastmasters group understood. Here's a place where you can learn, grow, develop – and where other people are doing and feeling the same thing." (Debbie Fields Rose, Founder, Mrs. Fields Cookies)

Question: What San Diego author was given the Golden Gavel, Toastmasters' most prestigious award? The Golden Gavel is given annually to an individual distinguished in the fields of communication and leadership. (*See answer below)

Toastmasters enthusiasts claim that whether you are a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, this is one of the most efficient, enjoyable and affordable ways of gaining good communication skills. They believe that by learning to effectively express your ideas, you'll be more persuasive and confident when giving presentations, and improve your one-on-one dealings with others.

According to Toastmaster literature, "The environment is friendly and supportive, and a self-paced program allows you to build confidence with each speaking assignment. Constructive evaluation is the heart of the Toastmasters program. Each time you give a prepared speech, an evaluator will point out strengths and suggest improvements."

Toastmasters International claims more than 270,000 members in over 13,000 clubs in 116 countries. Which means there are numerous clubs in San Diego County; these clubs meet on different days of the week and at different times of day. For a list of meeting locations, visit www.toastmasters.org.

According to Marilyn vos Savant – Guinness World Record Holder for "highest IQ" and syndicated columnist for *Parade* magazine – "With the aid of this group, you'll learn how to become more comfortable with people and eventually enjoy the very interaction you now dread."

*(Answer: Dr. Richard Lederer; ever heard of him?)

Plan Ahead for Writers Conferences

Southern California Writers Conference – Los Angeles; September 19-21, 2014

La Jolla Writers Conference October 24-26, 2014; at the Hyatt Regency, La Jolla

SDSU Writers' Conference ; January 23-25, 2015

San Francisco Writers Conference – February 12-15, 2015

Southern California Writers Conference – San Diego; February 13-16, 2015

Writer's Symposium by the Sea - Pt Loma Nazarene University; February 24-26, 2015

California Dreamin' Writers Conference; March 27-29, 2015

Authors As Entrepreneurs

SDW/EG was well-represented by Lisa Hunt , Marcia Buompensiero, and Ruth Leyse-Wallace at the first **#GoSanDiego Inspiration Innovation** conference. Sponsored by the City of San Diego as "Start-Up Week" to support and encourage new business in San Diego, writers who write, publish and market their work were acknowledged and included as one type of entrepreneur in San Diego. Held at the San Diego Central Library, workshops, exhibits, and panel discussions were featured on June 20th.



"Write the Journey: Introduction to Travel Narrative," a four-week class taught by Judy Reeves will start July 14 at UCSD Extension.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 28, 2014:

6:30 PM sign-in and networking

6:45 PM business meeting

7:00-8:30 program

Coming Soon to SDW/EG

August 25, 2014 - Playwright Alan Kilpatrick

September 22, 2014 – Kathleen Jones

San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
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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: (858) 571-0201 General Meetings: The Fourth Monday of the month 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
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	Directors-At- Large	Simone Arias Gered Beeby Ellen Shaw Tufts	2015 2014 2015
	Past President & Newsletter Editor	Ruth Leyse Wallace	2015
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	<u>Mission Statement</u>		
The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.			

Benefits of membership: SDWEG supports members and promotes the writing arts through the following: educational meetings with speakers on timely topics for writers; networking with writing/editing professionals; manuscript review services and the opportunity to submit your work for publication in the annual anthology; information about communitywide writing/editing classes and conferences and other events; links to writing/editing resources on the website; publicity for your creative work on the "Member's Works" web page; and the opportunity to be included in the Speaker's Bureau.