

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

February, 2015



Rejection letters can be viewed as bruises, not tattoos.

Judy Reeves to Speak on “First Paragraphs and What They Must Do”

Forget the cliché about “the hook.” The opening paragraph of any story or essay must do more than grab the reader’s attention. First paragraphs are the roadmap to the story, the promise of what’s to come; they set the tone and speak in the voice of the narrator. From the opening sentence, one word after the other, the first paragraph creates the path that leads the reader deeper and deeper into the world of the story.

Our speaker for February, Judy Reeves is a writer, teacher and writing practice provocateur who has published four books on the craft, including *A Writer's Book of Days*. Her next book, *Wild Women, Wild Voices*, will be published by New World Library in spring 2015.

In 1993, Judy co-founded The Writing Center, and in the early-2000s she co-founded a second nonprofit literary center, San Diego Writers, Ink, which she served as Executive Director from 2005 to 2010. She was the editorial director for three editions of *A Year in Ink*, the anthology published by San Diego Writers, Ink. In 2001 Judy was awarded the Odin Award for Community Service from the San Diego Writers/Editors Guild.

Join us on February 23 and hear writing tips from Judy Reeves.



New! Marketing Support Group

Sometimes making a commitment to others and knowing you will be asked to report back later is enough to move a person to action. That’s one thing a support group can do for you and your marketing activity. It will be a place to ask others what they did, how it worked, and commit to your next step, even though it may seem small.

The organizational meeting of the new Marketing Support Group will be held during the hour just preceding the regular SDW/EG meeting February 23rd, from 5:30-6:30 P.M. It will be held in the Harbor Room, across the hall from the regular meeting room and will be open to all members who want to be active in marketing their work.

The format will be taking turns, each participant planning, sharing, asking questions, etc. related to marketing their own book or other work. If you have a resource to share with others, bring it. There will be no speakers, minutes, etc., just supporting, sharing and committing to action to other members.

For more information, email rthlys@cox.net or call (619) 445-6656.

Local Author Exhibit Includes SDW/EG Members

The Local Author Exhibit is presented for readers’ interest as well as the opportunity to highlight the diverse and abundant talent we have locally. The exhibit runs throughout the entire month of February in the lobby of the Central Library. Participants were invited to attend a special exhibition preview and an author’s reception January 30th prior to the public unveiling. Submitted publications are also exhibited in an Online Exhibit that lasts throughout the year and features author information and photos, book cover images, and title and publishing information.

SDW/EG members whose books were exhibited at the Local Author Book Awards include **Lt. Colonel Joseph S. Bonpensiero, Kent Hinckley, Carolyn Jaynes, Thomas Larson, Dr. Tom Leech, Phillip R. Pryde, Laura Riley, Sam Warren** and the The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild anthology, *The Gilded Pen* – editors **Marcia Buompensiero and Simone Arias**.

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Carolyn Jaynes for her new book *Poetic Lessons; An Abiding Book of Poems*.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace for her recent webinar "Linking Mental Health to Nutrients and Nutritional Status", reaching 160 participants.

Gary Winters for his poem *Jibmye Collins' Anthem* accepted by City Works Press for inclusion in the Sunshine/Noir II tenth anniversary anthology of San Diego writing. His poetry will also appear in the San Diego Poetry Annual 2014-2015.

To share your news (or someone else's) send your accomplishments to Lisa Hunt at sunrae77@cox.net.

What You Missed . . . by Ellen Shaw Tufts

Distinguished author and broadcaster Kathi Diamant, currently an adjunct professor at San Diego State University (SDSU) and former KPBS staffer, shared her extensive experiences with read-and-critique writing groups.

Diamant, a longtime member of "Writing Women of San Diego," a group she helped organize back in 1988, believes that writers who want help with manuscripts might meet several times weekly for criticism and encouragement. She suggested these groups be limited to three to five members – no more than five. Meeting places include coffee shops, designated classrooms at learning centers, and private homes for the optimum goal of valid criticism and encouragement.

Group members offering critiques need to offer their opinions in a kind, compassionate way, according to Diamant, who believes negative "brickbats" linger longer than more orthodox criticism during the sessions. Harsh criticism can be a "murderer" for over-sensitive writing class members, Diamant commented, suggesting that group members might best avoid eye contact with the manuscript readers for a balanced, impartial critique.

She suggested that receivers (authors) might well heed actor Shirley MacLaine's famous quip: "Applause and boos are exactly the same--one person's opinion!" Watch your "INGLYS," Diamant cautioned, explaining a glyph (which evolved after years of coaching and writing) as the vast overuse of words ending in ING or LY.

Diamant is founder/director of the SDSU Kafka Project and received the San Diego Book Awards "Best of the Best" Award in 2004 for her "Kafka's Lost Love."

"Co-Working"

Co-working is the sharing of office space on a pay-per-use basis. Freelance writers and other independent workers share rent and equipment. The concept is based on a spirit of collaboration, community, accessibility, and openness (of space and ideas). The cost is based on square footage and the number of desks in the space. Rates may run from \$15 for a one-time use, to monthly rates of possibly \$200/month. Extras may include Wi-Fi, coffee, all the way to a café and lounge.

With earbuds, co-working space can become a place with less distraction than a home office and can help establish a schedule for writing.

A web search indicates San Diego co-working space is offered by Regus, along with spaces in 100 other countries. Six office sites are available from San Diego Co-working Alliance. Other sites are advertized on the WWW.

The 2015 International Co-working Day is scheduled for August 9th and San Diego's own co-working week will be held August 4th - 9th, with open houses held at various sites.

Source: Lauren Alwan, *Writers Digest*, Feb 2015

A Change for SDBA

San Diego Book Awards (SDBA) will not be holding its awards evening this year. The venue used in the past is not available and there is not time to arrange a fund raiser for financing the event. Cash prizes totaling \$1,200.00 will still be awarded. If funds allow, trophies will be also be awarded.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 23rd

6:30 PM Sign-in and networking

6:45 Business meeting

7:00 Speaker

Future meetings:

March 23, 2015: Marshall Hutton, editor of SD Uptown News, will discuss how the newspaper combs the market for local news coverage with staff and free-lancers.

March 10th is the deadline for submitting to the Independent Publisher Book Awards 2015. Go to http://www.independentpublisher.com/ipland/IPPY_2015_Guidelines_Main.pdf for information.

SDW/EG Goes Social

In addition to our website, SDW/EG now has a trial six-month membership in "MeetUp."

MeetUp: Check it out at

<http://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Writers-Editors-Guild/>. Monthly meetings and other events will be posted by Sandra Yeaman, SDW/EG Social Media Manager.

Facebook: A facebook page is now in process.

<https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoWritersEditorsGuild>.

Website: www.sdwritersguild.org

Upcoming speakers, events, member resources, membership application forms, Manuscript Review forms and other information is available on the website.

New! Members may request copies of the handouts from Kathi Diamant's January lecture on the website.

Contact Sandra through the website link for more information.

Unlike the website, MeetUp and Facebook require signing up/joining and creating a password.

Writing Groups: Aids to Success

♦ A group of 3-5 people present at each meeting is a workable size. Larger groups can be divided.

♦ Decide a frequency and meeting site that all members can commit to.

♦ Agree on guidelines for conducting your meetings. (a time schedule for networking, reading, feedback; need for sending an RSVP to announcements; assigning a consistent facilitator or rotating the function between members; the need for written copies of material for each member, etc.)

♦ Create a climate of honesty and kindness, honoring and respecting each member's writing and critiques. Listen carefully; comment on both what works for you and what doesn't.

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Symposium by the Sea in February

>Symposium by the Sea 2015, held by Point Loma Nazarene University, will be held February 24-26, 2015.

Tuesday, February 24 **Lysley Tenorio**, author of the choice for "One Book, One San Diego", will be featured at 7:00 PM.

Destin Daniel Cretton will appear on Wednesday evening, February 25 at 7:00 PM.

Joyce Carol Oates, Special Guest, will be featured on Thursday evening, February 26 at 7:00 PM.

For more information go to www.pointloma.edu or call (619) 849-2200.

FYI – The Editor's Report

The cost for *The Writer's Life* for 2014 was \$1190.99, which included \$608.68 for printing, \$528.94 for postage and \$53.37 for tax.

Approximately 100 copies are printed; 90-95 are mailed to members and extra copies are made available to guests at meetings. Each issue is posted on the website at the time hard copies are mailed. Currently eighteen members receive a digital copy, either in addition to, or instead of, a paper copy of the newsletter.

Writing Class in Escondido

Chloe Edge, a SDW/EG member, is offering a creative writing class through OASIS in Escondido. The next session will be on Fridays, March 6 to April 10, from 10 AM to Noon. Call Oasis at (760) 796-6020 for more information.

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♦ The facilitator needs to be courageous in keeping individuals on topic, and within time and critique guidelines. Use of a timer is helpful.
♦ Refrain from focusing on food and beverages at meetings.

Source: "So you're starting a writing group-Good for you!" © by John Cassell

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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 Meetings: The Fourth Monday of each month General Meeting: 6:30-9:00 PM Marketing Support Group: 5:30-6:30 PM Location: San Diego County Health Services Complex 3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110 Visit our website 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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	<p>Mission Statement The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.</p>		

Benefits of membership: SDW/EG 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 "Members' Works" web page; and the opportunity to be included in the Speakers Bureau.