

# The Writer's Life

[www.sdwritersguild.org](http://www.sdwritersguild.org)

March, 2015



“If you want to be remembered after you’re dead, write something worth reading or do something worth writing about.” . . . . . Benjamin Franklin

## Hutton Marshall – On Deck for March Meeting

Hutton Marshall, editor of the San Diego Uptown News (SDUN) since October 2013, graduated from SDSU where he served as the news editor, then as Managing Editor for The Daily Aztec. He also acted as News Director for KCR College Radio for a time. Hutton interned in the Office of City Council President Todd Gloria from July to October 2013.



“The popular belief may be that print is dead” says Hutton, “but this online journalism mantra overlooks the greatest strength of a newspaper like SDUN: the ability to tangibly tap into a community. For years SDUN has thrived right alongside its coverage area, housing itself right next door to the Hillcrest Business Association.” He feels “Uptown’s neighborhoods are the reason San Diego allows itself to be labeled a cultural hub. Our current political landscape is putting emphasis back on our city’s bustling neighborhoods.”

Editor Hutton Marshall will discuss how neighborhood newspapers comb the market and publish with staff and free-lancers. Please join us at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## Membership News

As of Feb 25th SDW/EG has a total of 99 members; 81 regular members plus 18 members in the categories of Honorary, Life, or Complimentary membership.

The Board of Directors voted in February to define a membership year as January 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, replacing over-lapping membership years. Below is a chart showing the dues for membership beginning mid-year. Those who joined mid-year in 2014 will owe partial-year dues when their current membership expires. For example a member who paid a full-year membership of \$36 in June 2014, in June 2015 would pay \$21 to complete the 2015 year. The early discount for paying dues in November or December *for the following year* is also noted.

Annual dues for an adult are \$36.00; Early-bird discount if dues are paid in Nov or Dec: \$31.00

Pd in Jan-\$36 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Feb-\$33 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Mar-\$30 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Apr- \$27 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in May-\$24 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Jun-\$21 Membership thru Dec 31st
Pd in Jul-\$18 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Aug-\$15 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Sept-\$12 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Oct-\$9 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Nov-\$6 Membership thru Dec 31st	Pd in Dec-\$3 Membership thru Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>

The revised membership application, available in meetings, mailings, and on the website displays these options. The application form also offers 1) the option of a digital newsletter and 2) a place to indicate whether or not you grant permission to include any photos taken of you during meetings to be included in the newsletter, the website, and the SDW/EG Facebook page. You are welcome to submit a digital or paper replacement membership application if you would like to indicate or change your preferences for these options. Or you may contact Rick Peterson, at [richard.g.peterson@navy.mil](mailto:richard.g.peterson@navy.mil).

## Do You Know Your Symbols?

Can you guess the symbol that had this historical name? Octothorpe; Monkey’s Tail; a Bang; Pilcrow; Ampersand? (see p. 3 for answers)

“My first novel got 24 rejection letters. There were only 20 publishers at the time. That means some people wrote me twice to make sure I got the point.” Brad Meltzer, Mar/Apr *Writers Digest*

## A Tip of the Hat To . . .

**Joe Naiman** for two articles published in the Alpine Sun concerning improvements in roadways in Pine Valley and Buckman Springs.

**Corey Lynn Fayman**, who will be part of the panel discussion *Going South: Mexico and the Mexican Border* at the Left Coast Crime Conference on March 13, 2015, in Portland, OR.

**Larry Edwards** for the upcoming publication of Wigeon Publishing's fifth book. *What the Private Saw: The Civil War Letters and Diaries of Oney Foster Sweet* will be released on April 9, 2015.

Share your good news! Send to [RthLys@cox.net](mailto:RthLys@cox.net)

## What You Missed . . . by Ellen Shaw Tufts

### A Lively Evening with Judy Reeves— First Paragraphs and Beyond

San Diego writer, teacher and literary provocateur Judy Reeves discussed the critical first paragraph in fiction, using a few notable American novels plus one short story as colorful reference points.

Reader response to successful opening paragraphs can be vitally emotional and physical – beyond the superficial lure of the legendary "hook," according to our speaker. She quoted classic first paragraphs from more than a dozen American novels, with the exception of "Brokeback Mountain," by Annie Proulx, originally published as a *New Yorker* short story and later crafted into a successful screenplay

Reeves' choices included "*Call me Ishmael*" from *Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville; "*I know that woman--- she used to live here,*" from *Jazz* by Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner Toni Morrison, and "*Winter came down savagely*" from *My Antonia* by Willa Cather.

Other classics with memorable opening paragraphs included *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath; *Incredibly Loud, Extremely Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer; and *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch. "Brokeback Mountain" by Annie Proulx was cited as having "a first paragraph image that still haunts me."

In a refreshing interactive meeting twist Reeves suggested--- and inspired-- about 14 audience members to read aloud a spontaneous "first graf"-- with affirmative group results.

## The Guilded Pen – Fourth Edition

by Marcia Buompensiero, Editor  
Now accepting submissions for the  
2015 anthology!

*The Guilded Pen*, the anthology of the SDW/EG, was begun in 2012 as a fundraiser to help support the mission of SDW/EG. It has been a success story from Day One!

In 2014 we published an e-book as well as a paperback book which seems to be a popular format for many of our readers. We are grateful to our authors who contributed to this edition and to past anthologies. We once again encourage you to submit your short stories, poems, true-life adventures, memoirs and imaginative essays.

### Changes this year include:

- 1) increasing the word count to 2000 (per author, in the aggregate)
- 2) adding another category: flash fiction.
- 3) moving the deadline: Deadline for submissions is July 31, 2015. The 2015 anthology will be published in October.

The NEW guidelines may be downloaded from our website: [www.sdwritersguild.org](http://www.sdwritersguild.org)  
Please direct any questions to: Marcia Buompensiero, Lead Editor, [lonzahn2@cox.net](mailto:lonzahn2@cox.net)

## Questions a Writer Should Ask:

What am I trying to say?

What words will express it?

What image or idiom will make it clearer?

Is this image fresh enough to have an impact?

Could I put it more shortly?

Have I said anything that is avoidably ugly?

George Orwell in *Advice to Writers* by Jon Winokur, p. 161.

The Next Meeting will be March 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:30 PM Sign-in and networking

6:45 Business meeting

7:00 Speaker

### Future meetings:

**April 27, 2015** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday - **Zoe Ghahremani**, author of *Sky of Red Poppies* and *Moon Daughter*, will be the guest speaker.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday due to Memorial Day Holiday.** Bonnie ZoBell, writing instructor at Mesa College, will speak.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Monday - Donna Eckstein** from SD City College will speak on "Telling Your Story."

## Markets for Children's Books

There are generally three main markets for non-fiction children's books.

**1) The education market** – Writers for this market will need to follow complex guidelines, write on specified topics and avoid others. They must consider the age of the reader, include a balanced view of genders and cultures and be able to write assessment questions to accompany the material covered. Pitches on new ideas are welcome. "Educational packagers" often manage a stable of freelance writers. Material is the property of the publisher and writers are not credited for their work. Writers may be hired by more than one "packager" at the same time.

**2) The institution (schools and libraries) market** – Some publishers produce books used by students for researching common topics for reports, some are popular interest topics, some provide guidance on sensitive topics students might find it difficult to discuss with someone. Editors often commission writers for specific titles and provide guidelines. Writers must meet deadlines and use age-appropriate language. Writers are commissioned, sign a contract, and are given guidelines, outlines for chapter content, and deadlines for completion. The publisher owns the copyright, but the authors are given credit on the cover.

**3) The trade market** – The imprints of larger publishers often focus on specific types of books. Topics may be "evergreen" common topics, or controversial current topics. A writer with a platform, expertise and an engaging "voice" would likely appeal to publishers and editors in this market. A writer may need an agent to submit to a publisher for a contract. It may be two years before a book comes out. Authors are responsible for line art, diagrams, or illustrations. An author will be expected to promote the book with signings, speaker events or online marketing. Writers are advised to keep meticulous records of sources and use only reliable sources of facts, figures and quotes should questions arise.

Ref: "Just the Facts, Kids" by Tracey Baptiste.  
*Writer's Digest* Mar/Apr 2015 p 36-39.

## Upcoming Conferences

> **California Dreamin'** conference in Brea, CA, in Orange County; March 27-29<sup>th</sup>. One of the sponsors is the San Diego Chapter of Romance Writers of America.

> **Santa Barbara Writers Conference** at the Hyatt Santa Barbara; June 7-12<sup>th</sup>. March 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day for early registration discount.

> **Southern California Writers Conference-Los Angeles**; September 25-27<sup>th</sup>, at the Wyndham Irvine Hotel.

## Marketing Support Group Organizes

With twelve members attending, the first meeting of the Marketing Support Group was off to a good start. Some of the topics discussed were use of Linked In, keeping a careful eye on contracts for marketing services, and initiating /maintaining contact with groups who have potential interest in you as a speaker or the future publication of your work – as an entry in a contest or as a film version of your story. Progress toward commitments for action made during the meeting will be followed up during the next meeting.

The next meeting will be March 23, 2015 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in the Harbor Room – just prior to, and across the hall from, the regular SDW/EG meeting. New SDW/EG members welcome.

## Offer From Marni Freedman

To receive a free 13-page handout from the La Jolla Writers Conference on *How to Find Out if Your Memoir is Worth Writing*, write to Marni at [Marnifreedman18@gmail.com](mailto:Marnifreedman18@gmail.com) with "Memoir Handout" in the subject line.

The Tucson Festival of Books will be March 14-15, 2015 in Tucson, AZ on the U of A campus.

## Symbol Puzzle Answers:

Octothorpe - # . . . Monkey's tail - @ . . .

Bang - ! . . . Pilcrow - ¶ . . . Ampersand - &

Source: "Strange Facts About Symbols You See Everywhere";  
*Reader's Digest* Feb 2015, p. 144-145 by Brandon Specktor.

**San Diego Writers/Editors Guild**  
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<p><b>The Writer's Life</b> 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  <a href="http://www.SDWritersGuild.org">www.SDWritersGuild.org</a>  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><b>Mission Statement</b>  <b>The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and  encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.</b></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.