

# The Writer's Life

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

April, 2015



## Mark Your Calendar – July 31<sup>st</sup> : Deadline for 2015 Anthology Submissions

### Coming to SDW/EG April 27<sup>th</sup>: Zoe Ghahremani

Zohreh Khazai Ghahremani is a writer, poet, and artist. More than 200 of her works – Persian & English – have been featured in the U.S. Her debut novel, *Sky of Red Poppies*, based on contemporary life experiences of Iranians, was a 2012 One Book, One San Diego winner and has been translated into French and Persian. Her second novel, *The Moon Daughter*, tied for best literary fiction at the 2014 San Diego Book Awards. In 2013, the 30,000 Girl Scouts of San Diego honored Zohreh with the San Diego Cool Woman Award. She is currently working on her next novel, *The Basement*.



Please join us at the April meeting and welcome a past member of SDW/EG.

### Sam: ¡Adiós! and Buena Suerte

Sam Warren submitted his resignation to the SDW/EG Board of Directors due to his move to Zipolite, Mexico. Appreciation goes to Sam for



his service to the Guild as past president, newsletter editor and webmaster over many years. We wish him the best in this new phase of life and invite him to

stop by when he visits San Diego.

### New Board Member Sought

The Board of Directors is seeking a member to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Sam Warren. The Board meets during the second week of each month, on Tuesday or Wednesday, from 5:30-7:00 PM. The meeting is held at the Mission Valley Branch Library at 2123 Fenton Parkway. Activities and responsibilities of Board members vary. A term of office is two years.

Please call any member of the Board if you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more. (See the website or the member directory.)

### 2015 Membership Directory Mailed

The member directory was mailed to all paid members in mid-March. If you did not receive your copy please contact Rick Peterson via phone: 858-577-5722 or email: [richard.g.peterson@navy.mil](mailto:richard.g.peterson@navy.mil). New members will receive a copy of the directory.

All members also receive a copy of the SDW/EG monthly newsletter. If your membership application did not include the options for receiving the paper and/or digital format of the newsletter, and you would like to receive the newsletter by email, contact Ruth Leyse-Wallace at [rthlys@cox.net](mailto:rthlys@cox.net) or call 619-445-6656.

The member directory includes contact information and the writing interests of each member, as well as names and contact information of members of the Board of Directors.

### Read and Critique Group

A read and critique group held at the La Mesa library welcomes new members. It meets on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Contact Muriel Sandy at 619-444-4015 for more information.

## A Tip of the Hat To . . .

**Muriel Sandy**, whose non-fiction story, "Two Eggs, An Orange and Six Black Olives" was published last November in *Oasis Journal*, 2014.

**Carolyn Jaynes**, for scheduling a series of six talks at the Unity Center in Mira Mesa based on her book *Sprinkles from Heaven*. They will be held on April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7 and 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Larry Edwards**, who edited and published *Murder Survivor's Handbook: Real-Life Stories, Tips & Resources* by Connie Saindon, which has been named as a finalist in the prestigious 2015 Benjamin Franklin Awards.

Finalists will be named on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Austin, Texas.

**Tom Leech** for his feature article with photos in the March 13 issue of the Mission Valley News: "Explore a little-known tunnel under Friars Road."

<http://missionvalleynews.com/explore-a-little-known-tunnel-under-friars-road/>

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

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

In a soft-spoken talk laced with colorful details, San Diego Uptown News Editor Hutton Marshall gave us a few publishing dynamics of the colorful, free bi-weekly newspaper covering news in Old Town, Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, University Heights, Normal Heights, also North and South Park--all in the San Diego Community News Network group, although they are published separately. Currently the Uptown biweekly copy run is 22,000; 13,000 go to homes and the rest to storefronts.

"We are apolitical, not partisan," Marshall remarked, presenting insights into this "neighborhood" concept of covering news and simultaneously offering potential employment for free-lancers--writers, (who usually receive \$50-\$75 per article), photographers and copy editors.

As typical front-page coverage Marshall displayed headlines from the March 16-26 edition, reminding readers what local free-lance writers mean to the Uptown publishing structure.

"Our editor-writer relationship is casual," said Hutton, noting that the Uptown group currently carries six full-time staffers including publisher David Mannis, plus several dozen free-lancers. Regular free-lancer Frank Sabatini (Dr. Ink) handles restaurant reviews, and Charlene Baldrige, past member of SDW/EG, serves as San Diego theater reviewer.

During the evening Hutton touched on "how we stay financially afloat," noting last year's estimated newspaper revenue loss of \$1.8 billion which, with >>

## Calling All Writers . . .

### by Marcia Buompensiero

We are now accepting submissions for the fourth edition of *The Guided Pen*, SDW/EG's 2015 anthology. The anthology showcases the work of our members: poets and playwrights; novelists and storytellers; journalists; biographers; and writers of fables. We hope you will add your voice to this year's anthology. As the Guild's only fund-raising project, all proceeds from anthology sales help to continue our Mission: To promote, support and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.

Submission guidelines and the publication application forms are available online for the 2015 anthology. **Please review them as our submission guidelines have changed.**

The key submission changes are as follows:

**\*Deadline for submission:** July 31, 2015.

**\*Previously published submissions** must provide a publisher's authorization to reprint the work in the anthology. (Note: The copyright for materials published in the anthology remains with the author.)

**\*Submissions are limited to 2,500 words** in the aggregate per author, with a maximum of three items per author (recently changed from 1,500 to 2,000 to 2,500).

**\*Flash fiction** is limited to 300 words or less and must have a title.

**\*Poetry** cannot exceed 35 lines in length.

**Forms are available at :** [www.sdwritersguild.org](http://www.sdwritersguild.org).

All questions and submissions should be directed to Marcia Buompensiero, Lead Editor at [lonzahn2@cox.net](mailto:lonzahn2@cox.net) or P.O. Box 881931, San Diego, CA 92168-1931.

## Mark Your Calendar

**May 18th- 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."

**July 27<sup>th</sup> – Open Mic night.** Sign up to read.

>> Smart phones and casual browsing for news, has hurt the presses.

He reminded Guild members they may send press releases, tips, photos or story ideas to [hutton@sdcnn.com](mailto:hutton@sdcnn.com).

## Writers and Taxes

In the past the IRS considered writing to be a hobby unless it showed a net profit during three out of five years, in which case you could deduct book-related expenses from book-related income. However, if a writer has a serious intent to operate at a profit, losses from one business can be deducted from other income.

If you don't treat your writing as a business, no one else will! Show your intent by setting up a web page, printing business cards, making bookmarks, and advertising your book on social media.

Keep good financial records: keep receipts, royalty statements, sales slips, Pay-pal statements, records of writing conferences attended, contest entries, letters from publishers, thank-you notes from presentations, etc. Keep records for seven years for good measure.

Follow the tax rules: File a W-9 and report payment for services to independent contractors. (This does not apply to corporations such as Lightning Source or CreateSpace.) Report your income and expenses on a Schedule C. If your net income (gross revenues less deductions) from writing and self-publishing is \$400 or more in any year, you may be required to pay self-employment tax on that income. Consult a CPA or an attorney if you have questions.

You may be interested in the *Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook* by Helen Sedwick, an attorney licensed to practice in California. It is available in ebook and paperback formats.

## Computer Classes

The East County Career Center offers basic computer classes and Microsoft Office programs from 8 AM to noon Monday through Friday. Classes are self-paced, but instructor-assisted and are free. The Center is located at 924 E. Main, El Cajon. Call 619-590-3950 for more information.

## Get Ready for Open Mic Night

A popular and entertaining evening, this year's Open Mic meeting will be July 27<sup>th</sup>. Each participant will have up to three minutes to read aloud a selection of his/her own work. It is interesting and sometimes inspiring to hear what other members are writing. Feedback from listeners is often quite helpful. Time allows for 20 or so people to read, so sign up is advised. Sign up by sending an email to Ruth Leyse-Wallace ([rthlys@cox.net](mailto:rthlys@cox.net)) with your name and the title of your reading, or give the information in writing to Ruth at a meeting.

### Web Tip for April

#### Subscribe to the SDW/EG's website

Go to [www.sdwritersguild.org](http://www.sdwritersguild.org); Look in the left column for "Subscribe to follow via email." Enter your email address and select the Subscribe button and you will receive an email notification whenever new posts are added to the website.

## Marketing Support Group

Growing participation in the new Marketing Support Group led to discussion of topics such as resources for creating websites, speaking engagements, classes on use of social media, printing, graphic artists and venues to use videos you create on YouTube. Meetings are at 5:30 PM before the regular meeting.

## Read Local – Is Your Book Listed?

Read Local is a San Diego marketing coalition. Signing up for a basic listing in the Read Local Directory is free, giving an author exposure to book sellers, librarians, and event planners. An Enhanced Listing is \$25 and you can include a thumbnail of your cover and space for additional information about your book. Go to [www.readlocal.org](http://www.readlocal.org) to sign up.

Someone once asked Somerset Maugham if he wrote on a schedule or only when struck by inspiration. "I write only when inspiration strikes," he replied. "Fortunately it strikes every morning at nine o'clock sharp." That's a pro. Source: *The War of Art* by Steven Pressfield

**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</p> <p>Meetings: The Fourth Monday of each month  <b>May, 2015: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: May 18th</b>  General Meeting: 6:30-9:00 PM  Marketing Support Group: 5:30-6:30 PM</p> <p>Location: San Diego County  Health Services Complex  3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110</p> <p>Visit our website for a map  <a href="http://www.SDWritersGuild.org">www.SDWritersGuild.org</a></p> <p>Membership: \$36.00 per year</p>	Board Of Directors		2-year Term Expires December 31st
	President	Harry Huntsman	2015
	Vice President	Bob Doublebower	2016
	Secretary	Simone Arias	2015
	Treasurer	Marcia Buompensiero	2016
	Membership Chairman	Rick Peterson	2016
	Directors-At- Large	Gered Beeby Ellen Shaw Tufts	2016 2015
	Past President & Newsletter Editor	Ruth Leyse-Wallace	2015
	Social Media Manager	Sandra Yeaman	
	<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>		
<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.</p>			