

# The Writer's Life

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

July, 2015



"My Life has a Superb Cast, but I Can't Figure Out the Plot"

Ashleigh Brilliant, Pot Shot No. 144.

*I Have Abandoned My Search for Truth, and Am Now Looking for a Good Fantasy*



## July 27th – Open Mic



Join the fun ! Practice reading your work aloud to peers and colleagues, hear what other members are writing; practice providing written, helpful feedback and comments after each reading. Remember to time yourself ahead of time, so what you want to read will fit within the three-minute time allotted for each reader. Under three minutes is fine if your reading is short.

Please send your name and the title of your piece to [RthLys@cox.net](mailto:RthLys@cox.net) by July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Bring a pencil or pen to the meeting; cards for feedback will be supplied.

## Remembering Ellen Shaw Tufts

Ellen Shaw Tufts passed away on May 31<sup>st</sup> shortly after a hospital re-admission. Ellen served on the SDW/EG Board of Directors for many years, although health issues had prevented her recent attendance at Board meetings. Ellen wrote many "What You Missed. . ." columns for the newsletter, reviewing the speaker's presentation for those unable to attend. We will miss her at the back table during regular meetings, pursuing one of her favorite chores – greeting attendees and supplying everyone with name tags. A memorial for Ellen is on the Guild website along with a spot for posting individual's memories.

## San Diego Book Awards, 2015

Congratulations to SDW/EG members who were finalists in the 2015 San Diego Book Awards, announced June 20<sup>th</sup> !

*When West Meets East, A Year in Asia on Our Own* by **Muriel Sandy** was a finalist in the Unpublished Memoir category; *Deadly Little Secrets* by **Marcia Buompensiero** was a finalist in the category in Unpublished Novel category; and *American Trivia Quiz Book* by **Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh** was a finalist in the Best Published Non-fiction: History and Biography. *Tell Me of Brave Women* by **Laura M. Riley** was a finalist in the category of Published Contemporary Fiction. *Murder Survivor's Handbook*, edited by **Larry Edwards**, was finalist in the category of Best Published Self-Help and Psychology.

## New to the Guild "Resources" Page

from Sandra Yeaman, Social Media Manager  
The Guild's Resources website page is full of information about writing groups, classes and workshops, reference material, style guides, critique groups and contests. Because there is so much there, new items may be overlooked.

Recently, a link was added about a free step-by-step guide to start blogging online--<http://startbloggingonline.com/>. The guide is tailored for beginners and intermediate users alike. If you don't yet have a website check out this resource .

Another new resource listed on the [Resources](#) page of the SDW/EG website is the AUTHORS.me platform, currently in its start-up phase.

Keep an eye on your Guild website !

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

## A Tip of the Hat To . . .

**Joe Bonpensiero**, who signed an agreement with the Las Vegas Mob Museum, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, to do a book signing on July 25 from 1 to 5 PM. His new title, *The Niputi ...The Nephew: Life Under the Shadow of a Mafia Killer*, is Joe's memoir and expose of San Diego's notorious Mafiosa, his uncle, Frank Bompensiero.

**Andrea Glass**, who arranged a speaking engagement originated through the SDW/EG Speakers Bureau on the website.

**Joanna J. Charnas**, whose book *Living Well with Chronic Illness* is available for pre-ordering, with release set for August 25.

*Share your good news! Send to RtbLys@cox.net*

## What You Missed ... by Ruth Leyse-Wallace

In her presentation, Donna Eckstein, PhD, applied her work on performance enhancement to creative expression through writing. Eckstein explained "A writer of memoirs and other genres would do well to consider what s/he brings to the writing process: a balance of the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual qualities, as well as a sense of purpose and knowing the intended audience for the project."

Authenticity is important in establishing one's voice and connecting with the reader. Using President Harry Hunstman's memoir work, Eckstein described how discovering the theme that connects seemingly disparate life experiences can capture the essence of the writer's experiences. The writing process also includes reflection on three aspects of critical thinking skills: 1) content/understanding, 2) application and analysis of the work, and 3) synthesis and integration of various facets of the subject. These skills may be applied consciously, or perhaps unconsciously, before, during, or following the writing phase. Awareness, insight and expression of life events through thoughtful writing is known to be healing for the writer as well as for potential readers.

Information about Dr. Eckstein's class "Our Stories/Our Lives" can be found on the website.

## Creative Writing Class in Escondido

Chloe Edge, SDWEG member, teaches an ongoing writing class at OASIS in Escondido. The class is held on Fridays at 10:00 AM at the Escondido Senior Center; the next session begins July 17<sup>th</sup>. The class combines writing and reading your work.

For more information, call Chloe Edge at 760-518-5054 or contact OASIS at 760-796-6020 or [www.sandiegoasis.org](http://www.sandiegoasis.org).

## Writing Prompts

Sometimes a writing prompt can get the creative juices flowing. A writing prompt is a topic around which you start *jotting down ideas*. It could be a single word, a short phrase, a complete paragraph or even a picture, with the idea being to give you something to focus upon as you write. You may stick very closely to the original prompt or you may wander off on a tangent. The point is to simply start writing without being held back by any inhibitions or doubts, just get into the flow of writing. You can come back later and polish if you wish to.

Two websites with writers' prompts:  
<http://www.dailywritingtips.com/writing-prompts-101/>  
<http://www.writingforward.com/category/writing-prompts>

A challenge for SDW/EG members: Write a 200-word (or less) ultra-short story starting with "Everything would be all right if I could just \_\_\_\_\_."

## Mark Your Calendar

**August 24** - **Alan Russell**, who will be presenting on "Surviving as a Writer."

**September 28** - **T. Jefferson Parker** will be the featured speaker.

**October 26** - **Richard Lederer** will be presenting the program.

## Marketing Support Group

An introduction to creating a website for marketing your book was presented by Sandra Yeaman, Social Media Manager. See the website for a copy of the handout.

## Loglines and Taglines: Which is Which?

A tagline for a book is a one-sentence summary of your story. It may be called the Hook or the Elevator Pitch (a one-story elevator pitch). The tagline should sum up the entire plot in one quick compelling sentence of ~ ten words.

Loglines originated as a nautical term. Log lines were thin ropes with knots tied in them and wound on a spool. Mariners unreeled these ropes behind them to measure their speed— in knots. A logline presents a basic description of your plot in about twenty-five to thirty words (a two-story elevator pitch).

Stanley D. Williams (story consultant, screenwriter and director) believes a good logline includes five elements. The *subject* of the sentence will describe (1) an imperfect but passionate and active PROTAGONIST. The *verb* will depict (2) the BATTLE. And the *direct object* will describe (3) an insurmountable ANTAGONIST who tries to stop the protagonist from reaching (4) a physical GOAL on account of (5) the STAKES, if the goal is not reached.

A suggestion from screenwriters and authors: Write your Log Line before you write your novel, or at least at the beginning. If you can't make the logline work, it's probably because the story doesn't work.

An example from the movie *Alien*:

**Tagline:** In space, no one can hear you scream.

**Logline:** After responding to a distress signal, a space crew is forced to confront a deadly alien who stows aboard their ship, leaving one member to fend for herself. (28 words)

For many good examples go to “Loglines and Taglines are Different . . .” by R.

Ann Siracusa at

<https://rwasd.wordpress.com/2013/06/06/loglines-and-taglines-are-different-and-you-need-both-for-your-novel-by-r-ann-siracusa/>

## New Imprint for Books for Youth

The well-known author James Patterson recently announced a new imprint for middle grade and young adult fiction. Called “Jimmy Patterson”, it will be part of Little, Brown & Company and release eight to 12 children’s books a year, with a focus on middle grade and young adult fiction. He will publish four to six of his own children’s books a year under the new imprint, and will acquire books by other writers. “We’re not going to buy a lot of books, but if we buy them, we’re going to publish them with gusto,” said Patterson.

A Google search for “James Patterson Imprint” will yield several sources of information.

Thanks to Muriel Sandy for this alert

## Writer Wanted: ☺

A volunteer is needed for writing the “What You Missed” column in *The Writer’s Life* following each meeting. The job consists of attendance at the meeting, taking notes during the presentation and writing a summary of ~ 200 words. The deadline for submission to the editor is a few days before the first of the following month. Because life happens, and we’re flexible, you may volunteer for writing the column “regularly” or “occasionally”. Naturally, you will get a byline. Call or email Ruth Leyse-Wallace at 619-445-6656 or RthLys@cox.net.

## Writing Resource Recommended

Would you like to improve your writing but don't want to travel? Would you like advice that fits your needs, coming to you weekly on your computer from a successful writer who has sold seventy-five million books and counting? Log on to [Jerry@Jerryjenkins.com](mailto:Jerry@Jerryjenkins.com). Down to earth, timely, and sure to help you move your writing to the next level.

Submitted by Ken Yaros

**Guess who looks at SDW/EG website?** Google analytics reports there have been visitors from China (5); Russia (4); Brazil (3); Germany (2); United Kingdom (2); Argentina (1); Bosnia & Herzegovina (1) and France (1).

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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</p> <p>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  Guests: \$5.00 per meeting</p>	Board of Directors		2-Year Term Expires 12/31
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**Mission Statement**

The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.

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 community-wide writing/editing classes, conferences, and other events; links to writing/editing resources on the website; publicity for your published creative work on the "Members' Works" web page; and the opportunity to be included in the Speakers Bureau.