

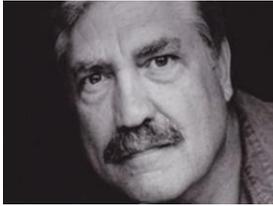
# The Writer's Life

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

August, 2015



“Nobody wants to read about a good-looking happy person”  
Carrie Fisher - *The New York Observer*.



## Alan Russell to Speak: Surviving As A Writer

A member of SDW/EG, Alan Russell has written ten crime fiction novels, from whodunits, to comedy, to psychological thrillers. He has won many major awards, including a Critic's Choice award, the Lefty Award, and two San Diego Book Awards. Russell has written a screenplay for Disney; a number of his novels have been optioned for film. His 2015 book *Guardians of the Night* was number one on the Amazon bestseller list.

He comments on his experiences ghostwriting and writing non-fiction books on his website <http://alanrussell.net/boo-hoo-life-ghost-writer/>, describing the difference in how it feels to ghostwrite even award-winning books under a contract (with a non-disclosure clause), compared to producing his own words. His experience led to one of his writing rules: “Work a job that allows you to write.” Russell comments, “Some work is all consuming, and doesn't allow the hours to even dream about being a writer, let alone practice the craft ... That's not the kind of job a writer should be working... My night auditor job allowed me to work and write full time... Writing is a tough mistress. Deal with it.” Join us on August 24<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) for welcoming Alan Russell.

For more on Russell's publications go to <http://www.amazon.com/Alan-Russell/e/B0034P6RCS>

## The Final Count

Marcia Buompensiero, editor of *The Guided Pen*, 2015 edition, reports receiving a total of 70 submissions from SDW/EG members. While some are still undergoing final editing and revision, most will be published, showcasing SDW/EG members' talents.

The experience of writing, submitting, reviewing, editing, formatting and publishing has been a learning experience at all levels, fulfilling the Guild's mission of supporting the writing arts for SDW/EG members.

The 2015 publication schedule allows SDW/EG to enter *The Guided Pen* in the San Diego Local Author Exhibit held in February each year. Your Board of Directors thanks you for your participation and support of this program.

## Supporting Writing of Youth

Simone Arias, project leader, reports that eight SDW/EG members have volunteered to participate in supporting the writing arts for San Diego youth. Participation is individualized according to the interests and talents of the volunteer. Opportunities to contribute and collaborate exist in a number of organizations. Contact Simone if you are interested in the possibilities at [sarias2@earthlink.net](mailto:sarias2@earthlink.net)

## Member Benefit of the Month:

SDW/EG offers its members an anonymous manuscript review as a preliminary step before sending your work to a publisher. The process of a preview submission of three pages, then a 30-page submission, for a fee of \$20, is outlined on the website.

[www.sdwritersguild.org](http://www.sdwritersguild.org), or contact Bob Doublebower at (760) 505-6440 or [doublebower@sbcglobal.net](mailto:doublebower@sbcglobal.net).

## A Tip of the Hat To . . .

**Phil Pryde**, whose book *San Diego: An Introduction to the Region* has been given three 5-star ratings on Amazon.

**Norma Posy**, whose book *Side Pocket* was a finalist in the Action/Adventure category at the 2015 Beverly Hills Book Awards.

**Richard Lederer** and **Caroline McCullagh**, who have become the senior columnist and brand-new book columnist for the national *Mensa Bulletin*.

**Gary Winters**, whose creative memoir *Borzoi Boy* was accepted by Dual Coast Magazine. For pay.

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

## What You Missed . . .

by **Mardie Schroeder**

From Alaska to Yemen. And maybe to another planet. From Amsden to Yeaman. From the 1700's to current day. Poetry? Yes! Breathtaking, hilarious, naughty, thoughtful poetry. We were treated to high adventure in Germany, water rights in San Diego, driving in Yemen, a Brownie glue fiasco, the British invasion, hijacking a car in Alaska, submarine duty, dreadful food shows, a museum tale, music in Palm Springs, separated twins, Shakespeare anyone? Who can forget an Argentine tango, burning fake turf, talking cats, a German poem to break your heart, the angst of well-known authors, birds in the house, and more.

More than twenty Guild members entertained us with clever prose and poetry. It's a testament to the breadth of talent in our group and the fact that everyone has a story. Open Mic night is always a fun time and brings many members to the fore for their moment in the sun.

And don't forget you can submit your work to a committee for their review and rating. Go on the website, [www.SDWritersGuild.org](http://www.SDWritersGuild.org) and click on Manuscript Review.

## Write Out Loud

Do like to have stories read aloud to you? The San Diego program Write Out Loud may be just the thing for you.

Season IX begins with Twainfest-- a free celebration of Mark Twain and other writers of the 19th century. Twainfest will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Works by Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Edgar Allan Poe and others will be read aloud by San Diego actors.

Season IX continues with

>Mark Twain in the West- August 17, 2015

>The Curious Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde - October 26, 2015

>Christmas Across the Pond - December 7, 2015

>Dorothy Parker and Friends - February 8, 2016

>Ladies Night Out - April 25, 2016

>Animal Magnetism - June 13, 2016

All Season IX "Write Out Loud"

performances except Twainfest will be at 7:00 PM at Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twigg Street, San Diego, CA 92110. See also:

<http://writeoutloudsd.com/>

## Website Tip for August

from **Sandra Yeaman, Social Media Manager**

Want to find information about a past speaker ?

Try the Search feature in the left column of the website. Type in the speaker's name and select the Go button to the right. Any page or post with information about the speaker will appear in the

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

## Mark Your Calendar

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

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** - **T. Jefferson Parker** will be the featured speaker.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** - **Richard Lederer** will present on "Fascinating Facts About Our Presidents."

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Launch of *The Gilded Pen*, 2015 edition. Speaker to be announced.

## Computer Classes for Seniors

Computer skills are a must for writers submitting their work. Wesley Palms Retirement Community advertises its weekly class on the use of computers and smart phones. Classes are held Saturdays at 9:30 AM at 2404 Loring St. in Pacific Beach. The class is free for guests or a \$1 fee for membership. Call Wesley Palms at (858) 459-9065 for more information.

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## Upcoming Writing Conferences

The 2015 **La Jolla Writers Conference** will be November 6-8. Scott McEwen, author of *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*, and trial attorney in San Diego will be a featured speaker.

**West Coast Writers Conference - Memoir Writing Conference** "Memories Are Made of This," October 23-25, 2015 at Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave, Van Nuys CA 91401. See also:

<http://www.wcwriters.com/genrela/index.html>

An online writers conference: **The Online Backspace Writers Conference**. For more information see:

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

## Looking for Places to Submit?

The following publications were calling for submissions with a recently past deadline. They might be worth looking up online to see future possibilities. Most are reported to pay authors varying amounts. Requests include those for short stories, poetry, literary narratives, holiday stories, horror, sci fi, technology, and other genre. Search these publication titles online for accessing the publisher and additional information:

Maple Tree Literary Supplement; The Suburban Review; Clockwork Phoenix 5 Anthology; Oregon Humanities magazine ; Western Art and Architecture magazine;

Broken Pencil magazine; Chicken Soup for the Soul; Shadow People & Cursed Objects' Anthology; Diabolical Plots; Ideomancer;

Polychrome Ink; Write Along Radio; Literary Wanderlust; Crossed Genres; New Myths;

Nepantla - Lambda Literary Foundation ; The First Line; Kaleidoscope; Slaypunk Anthology from Emby Press;

Power for Living; Slice magazine; Little Ficton/Big Truths

Source: Marla Anderson from Brian Scott at [brianscott001@freelancewriting.com](mailto:brianscott001@freelancewriting.com). See also blog at [WritingCareer.com](http://WritingCareer.com)

## Changing and Staying the Same

Calling the smart phone the Gutenberg Moment in medicine, Eric Topol, MD\* reports fascinating parallels in his book *The Patient Will See You Now*. In chapter two, he reports that in the scribal culture before the printing press, a manuscript cost a florin (\$200 today) for five pages, about \$20,000 per book. The same book would cost \$70.00 today. Three hundred manuscripts would take three individuals' lifetimes to create. The error rate was high, the most notable example being the Seventh Commandment which became "Thou shall commit adultery" in the *Wicked Bible* of 1631.

After books became available, mankind went from the "age of the ear" to the "age of the eye." But it wasn't all positive: A line from a play in 1612 is reported as "so many books – so much confusion! All around us is an ocean of print. And most of it covered in froth." Topol also quotes Nate Silver's summary: "In the fifteenth century it was said "the amount of information was increasing more rapidly than our understanding of what to do with it, or our ability to differentiate the useful information from the mistruths."

Have times changed, or what?

\*Dr. Topol is director of the Scripps Translational Science Institute in La Jolla.

**San Diego Writers/Editors Guild**  
**Post Office Box 881931**  
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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 each month  General Meeting:  6:30 PM- Sign-in  6:45 PM - Business Meeting  7:00 PM - Speaker/Program</p> <p>Marketing Support Group: 5:30-6:30 PM  Location: San Diego County  Health Services Complex  3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110</p> <p>For a map see: <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.