

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

October, 2015

San Diego
Writers Editors
Since 1979
Guild

“The germ of a story is a new and simple element introduced into an existing situation or mood.” Malcolm Cowley, *The Four Stages of Writing*

Richard Lederer – Speaker for October

Richard Lederer, author of 50 books about language, history, and humor, and a member of SDW/EG, will present “Fascinating Facts About Our Presidents.” History quizzes by Lederer and Caroline McCullagh appear daily in the *SD Union-Tribune* and his “Lederer on Language” column is published on page B-2 each Saturday. His column has explored retronyms (an adjective-noun pairing generated by a change in the meaning of the noun). For example, once there were simply telephones. Then came cellphones and smartphones, and now we have landlines. One column explained mnemonic devices: a shortcut memory aid to storing facts fast and accurately, such as Every Good Boy Does Fine (the musical notes on the treble-clef lines). *The American Trivia Quiz Book*, a companion to *American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture & Geography*, will complement his presentation on October 26th.



Lederer's “*Monsters Unchained*” book is timely in October for celebrating Halloween with young family members.

Seeking Reviewers

Bob Doublebower, coordinator of the Manuscript Review Committee, is seeking additional reviewers to serve on this committee. Interest in the process is important. Other helpful qualities include being an avid reader, experience as an author who has gone through the publication process, experience as a reviewer or teacher of writing. Contact Bob if you are interested or want more information

Member Benefit of the Month

The SDW/EG web page for Members' Works is open to any member who would like to list either books or articles published in peer-reviewed or edited professional journals or popular magazines. Your listing puts your book in front of visitors to the website and lets the public know the variety of titles our members write. If you would like to be listed, look at the page and send the appropriately formatted reference(s) to Sandra Yeaman, Social Media Manager: sandrayeaman@gmail.com.

2016 Local Authors Exhibit

Accepting Submissions

If you have a book published in 2015 you may enter it in the 2016 San Diego Public Library 50th Annual Local Author Exhibit. The deadline for registering and submitting your book is Monday November 16, 2015. Authors may submit one book only. If your book is in both print and digital format, please register/submit the PRINT version only.

All authors must submit an image of their book cover to complete registration. PDF files will not be accepted. If you do not know how to upload images the library will be conducting two workshops to assist with this matter. For more information: Call 619-236-5841 or email localauthor@sandiego.gov. Go to www.sandiegolibrary.org for registration forms. Mail your book to:

San Diego Public Library,
Attn: Rachel Esguerra,
330 Park Boulevard,
San Diego, CA 92101-7416

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Phil Pryde for his contribution to Logan Jenkins 9/11/15 U-T column re: the naming of the Coronado Islands. Check out Phil's new listing on the Speakers Bureau page on the website.

Anne Janda for becoming the newest member of the SDW/EG Board of Directors.

Richard Lederer for having a segment of bloopers from his book *Anguished English* included in "The Best of Car Guys" Public Radio Labor Day show.

What You Missed . . .

. . . by **Mardie Schroeder**

Prolific mystery writer (21 and counting) T. Jefferson Parker sites his stories in places he's familiar with. Right now, it's Fallbrook, where he has lived since 2000. He wanted to showcase the town that had been devastated by the recession as were many other small main-street towns. Folks moved away. Mom and Pop stores closed. That book is *Full Measure*, which is his first mainstream literary novel.

Camp Pendleton is close to Fallbrook and he had the perfect opportunity to interview young Marines when they returned from Helmand Province in Afghanistan, where their battalion suffered the highest casualties in Marine Corp operations there.

One man, Tristan, 22 years old, who only knew school and war, was part of the basis for this "coming home" novel. Patrick finds himself custodian of the family avocado ranch that has been burned by wildfires in the foothills of San Diego.

The author writes from 7 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. Mornings are best. His personal goal is five pages a day. He feels he's at his best when writing, calling it a worthwhile effort. Sometimes he outlines the story, but not always. He said he loves it when he writes a really good sentence.

He trashed his first novel of 500 pages five times until he found his voice. *Laguna Heat* is the result.

All of life is material for a novel, he added, and he'll rewrite a whole manuscript if an editor makes a good suggestion.

He loves to read about places and uses real streets, businesses, etc. but will change the identity when necessary.

Member Survey

The Board of Directors will be conducting a member survey during October and November to help plan future programs and events. Please watch for the survey at the sign-in table or on the website www.sdwritersguild.org and contribute your information and opinions. Completed surveys may be turned in at a meeting, returned to the webmaster Sandra Yeaman, or emailed to Ruth Leyse-Wallace or any member of the Board. Paper copies of the survey may also be mailed to SDW/EG, P. O. Box 881931, San Diego, CA 92168.

The Nature Writing Class Series

The Nature Writing Class will be held in Balboa Park, Saturday 10/24/15 from 10:00 to 11:45 AM. Meet in front of the building at 2125 Park Blvd. RSVP by 10-19-15 to apalmer@sandiego.gov. See also the SDW/EG website. (Tip to find: Type a word in the Search box on the home page.)

Health Data Will Equal 300 Million Books

Remember Watson, the IBM computer that won at Jeopardy? Watson is now trimmer — the size of three stacked pizza boxes, and is now being trained for health care. With current and new technology a single person will generate 1 million gigabytes of health-related data across his or her lifetime. That's as much data as in 300 million books.

Watson is needed to handle the data and will be able to synthesize a patient's history, offer a set of possible treatments and rate whether it has low, medium or high confidence in its recommendations.

Source: Washington Post 6/27/15

So Say We All

So Say We All is a literary and performing arts non-profit organization whose mission is to create opportunities for individuals to tell their stories, and tell them better. They have three core priorities: publishing, performance, and education.

SSWA Press publishes original anthologies, experimental collectivist novels, and more, that contain the works of San Diego-based emerging writers alongside nationally recognized authors.

Free creative writing and storytelling workshops are open to the public. Greenroom Writing Workshops are open, creative writing workshops structured around a topic and include periods for discussion, generative free-writing, and opportunities to share aloud. The next Greenroom Writing Workshop is Nov 2nd at 7 PM at Words Alive, 5111 Santa Fe St., San Diego, CA 92109 (858) 274-9673. See also <http://www.sosayweallonline.com/>

TED Books

(Technology, Entertainment, Design)
TED Talks, founded in 1984, is a global set of conferences run by the private non-profit Sapling Foundation, under the slogan "Ideas Worth Spreading". Over 1,900 18-minute talks are freely available on the website. By November 2012, TED talks had been watched over one billion times worldwide.

But many talks created a need to go deeper, to learn more, to tell a longer story. In September 2014, the first TED Books came out in print. The wide-ranging series covers everything from architecture to business, space travel to love, and is perfect for anyone with an expansive love of learning.

TED books are priced at \$2.99 apiece, or users can subscribe for \$14.99 per three months with a new book being downloaded automatically every two weeks (plus access to the entire back archive for the time being). The "books" are about 20,000 words. They are available on Kindle, Androids and an iOS app. See also <https://www.ted.com/about/programs-initiatives/ted-books>.

eBook Authors: Pirates Abroad

An alert from authors in my professional group warned that when googling her book title several links on YouTube appeared with links to her book, advertising it for unauthorized free download. Her book is available on Amazon, Smashwords and Scribd. She filed a report with YouTube and the links were removed. She commented that Amazon gives an option for Digital Rights Management, while Smashword has looser policies. Another member of the group had her books pirated in spite of having digital rights enabled, and commented that removing the links on YouTube does not necessarily solve the problem.

Ruth L-W, Editor

Upcoming Writing Conferences

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>

The 2015 La Jolla Writers Conference will be November 6-8. Scott McEwen, trial attorney in San Diego and author of *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*, will be a keynote speaker. The conference will be at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine. Registration will be limited to 200 attendees. See also <http://lajollawritersconference.com/registration/>

Mark Your Calendar

November 23rd –Martin Kruming, San Diego attorney who teaches at SDSU, will speak on the legal aspects of writing. **Launch of *The Guilded Pen***, 2015 edition.

December 21st (3rd Monday) – Holiday party for members and invited guests; 6:00 -9:00 PM at the usual meeting place. Bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share.

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San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
Post Office Box 881931
San Diego, CA 92168

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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: (760) 814-2761</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>December meeting: 3rd Mon – Dec. 21st</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: www.SDWritersGuild.org</p> <p>Membership: \$36.00 per year Guests: \$5.00 per meeting</p> | Board of Directors | ☆ Welcome to ☆ Anne Janda new Director-at-Large | 2-Year Term Expires 12/31 |
| | Acting President | Bob Doublebower doublebower@sbcglobal.net | 2015 |
| | Vice-President | | 2016 |
| | Secretary | Simone Arias sarias2@earthlink.net | 2015 |
| | Treasurer | Marcia Buompensiero lonzahn2@cox.net | 2016 |
| | Membership Chairman | Rick Peterson richard.g.peterson@navy.mil | 2016 |
| | Directors-at-Large | Gered Beeby geredbeeby@aol.com Dave Feldman feldy88@cox.net Anne Janda Ajanda55@aol.com | 2016 2015 |
| | Past President & Newsletter Editor | Ruth Leyse-Wallace rthlys@cox.net | 2015 |
| | Social Media Manager | Sandra Yeaman sandrayeaman@gmail.com | |

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.