

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

March, 2016



Memories are simply moments that refuse to be ordinary.
Diane Keaton, from *Then Again*

March Meeting: Panel Discussion by Three Memoirists

A panel discussion by three recently published local memoirists will be facilitated by Sandra Yeaman at the March 28th meeting.



Dennis Lynch
author of
Shooting Saddam



Leslie Johansen Nack
author of
Fourteen



Lauri Taylor
author of
The Accidental Truth

Hearing about memoirs which include traveling to film the trials of Saddam Hussein using 38 years of filming expertise, the experience of growing up in the mid-70's without her mother but with a demanding and overbearing father, and the experience of spending four years in the U.S and Mexico investigating her mother's murder, will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Sandra has questions ready, such as, "What was your biggest challenge in completing the book? What is one thing you wish you had done differently? Why? How do you define success for your book?" You may have some questions of your own. Join us for an interesting evening! (At the **USUAL PLACE.**)

Coming up . . . Get Ready

Guidelines and deadlines for the 2016 edition of *The Guilded Pen* will be coming out soon. Does "sharpen your pencils" even apply these days?

The next Open Mic night will held during the summer. Watch for the opening of the sign-up period while you are selecting a three-minute portion of your work to read aloud to Guild members. Get ready for the feedback.

News from the Board

Member Directories Out

The 2016 Member Directories will soon be mailed to all members. Watch for your copy to come in the mail.

The Manuscript Review Committee has completed twenty-six reviews for members since the inception of the program. Bob Doublebower, the coordinator of the program, is seeking additional qualified reviewers for the committee.

La Mesa Read-and-Critique Group

A six-member writers' group in La Mesa, which meets Wednesdays from 5-8 P.M., welcomes new members. Bring a copy of a current article or chapter for each member to read. For more information, call Muriel Sandy at (619) 444-4015 or email murielsandy352@gmail.com.

Tip of the Hat to

Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh for recently being awarded a Publication Communication Award and the National George Washington Honor Medal by the San Diego chapter of the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge. The award was for the article “The Star Spangled Banner – How Francis Scott Key Made History,” published in 2014.

Margaret Harmon for having her article “Composting: A Money-saving Drought Buster” published in the San Diego Audubon Society magazine “Sketches.”

Bill Barrons for contributing the proceeds of his latest book *Marine Corps Daze* to Honor Flight, a non-profit organization honoring U. S. veterans.

Wayne Williams for publication of his book *Stop the Wars*.

Gary Winters for having his multicultural novel about a Yaqui boy in Mexico, *The Deer Dancer*, accepted for a review in the *Mensa World Journal*.

What You Missed . . .

by **Mardie Schroeder**

Marni Freeman said fear is the first of the five biggest mistakes of writers – fear of not starting, completing or publishing; fear they can’t find their voice; fear of not knowing what to write about. All of the above are simply not true.

The second is pre-writing. Pre-writing includes creating back stories for your characters; creating an outline and story structure, knowing what you want to say as an author. This often can take months. You’re not on a deadline. Don’t put pressure on yourself.

Marni’s third point was that writers don’t know what they don’t know, which is OK. Characters have an inner need, i.e. to accept and trust themselves and an outer need, such as money or fame. There needs to be conflict to have drama. Know your audience.

Writers must understand and execute the ONE MAIN QUESTION of their book. It has to be something huge and worthy of a novel. There must be conflict and tension.

And finally, writers give up too soon. They don’t embrace the Law of Tenacity. They don’t believe in themselves. If they don’t have immediate success they stop submitting or stop learning. A writer has to be able to withstand rejection. Return to the piece you are working on. Stick with it. Magic happens in rewriting.

Marni said her job as a writing coach is to help every step of the way – from conceptualizing the idea to realizing the dream. A coach helps the writer figure out what they want to say, and with positioning the writer as an author.

Tips from Marnie included picking characters’ names that invoke a feeling. She recommended *Save The Cat* for screen writing.

Marni invited members to her book launch for *The Fifteen Plot Spots* on April 30th at the Rooftop 600 in the Gaslamp. For Marni’s website go to <http://www.thewriterinyou.org/>

Member Survey Results

Survey replies from nineteen members, nine of whom had been members from one to five years, indicated that 63% of members liked programs on the craft of writing, 74% liked presentations on marketing and publication and 47% liked programs by authors. These members write as much non-fiction as fiction and write short pieces such as articles and poetry as often as books. Eighty-eight percent prefer to receive the paper edition of the newsletter, and 47% would like to read contributions by members. News of the next meeting is the most visited page of the website, followed by the Members Resources pages.

Sixty-eight percent of respondents have participated in the anthology, 53% in the Marketing Support Group, 32% in the Members’ Works web page and 26% in the Speakers Bureau member benefit program.

Suggestions included assistance in finding a read-and-critique group, information regarding the opportunities available to writers, and information about the activities of other writers’ groups.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a survey.

Member Marketing News

The latest marketing activities reported by group members includes **Frank Newton’s** contact with a 7th-grade teacher who will have a “Pizza with the Author” day after class members read his book *The Trials of Tizoc*; **Tom Leech’s** baseball caps with the subjects of his books embroidered on the front; and **Rick Lakin’s** author interview podcasts.

Explaining Membership Fees

Membership fees of \$36 are for the calendar year, January 1st through December 31st. Dues are payable in December for the following year. If dues are paid early (in November for the following year), you receive a \$5 discount; you pay \$31.

For new members, joining mid-year, the dues are pro-rated based on how many months are left in the year (\$3 for each remaining month). For bookkeeping purposes, it is preferable for all dues to expire on December 31st each year. If you are one of the few who paid for an entire year at a mid-year time, please pay your next dues to coincide with the Dec 31st end-of-year schedule. You will not pay double for the overlapping months.

If you are a current member and want to remain a member, the annual fee (\$36.00) is due, even though you have been extended a grace period to pay during January or February. This allows you to attend meetings as a member rather than as a guest (\$5 fee) and receive your newsletter uninterrupted. If you did not renew during December but took advantage of the grace period, the full annual dues are expected, not a pro-rated amount.

As of February 29th SDW/EG has 107 members.

Writers' Conference in Vista

The Kingdom Writers Conference will be held from 4 P.M. Friday July 8 until the end of a 6 P.M. session on Saturday July 9 at Citadel San Diego Church in Vista. Speakers will include William Paul Young, author of *The Shack*, and Peter Berkos, winner of an Academy Award. Cost for the conference is \$59.00/person. A VIP dinner for a limited number of attendees will be held on Thursday evening before the conference for an additional fee. For details and registration go to <http://www.braewyckoff.com/#!/writers-conference/biz6h>.

Count Your Blessings

Raising questions about Muslim radicalism resulted in knife attacks and hospitalization or death of publishers, authors and bloggers in Bangladesh.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

“When you sell a man a book, you don’t sell him 12 ounces of paper and ink and glue – you sell him a whole new life.”

Christopher Morley

UCSD Medical Writing Courses

March 11, 2016 is the deadline for applications into the Medical Writing courses at UCSD. Taking the courses qualifies one for a Medical Writing Professional Certificate. The course begins June 20, 2016. For more information contact Leslie Bruce lkbruce@ucsd.edu or go to www.extension.ucsd.edu and search “certificates” list for Medical Writing. Courses focusing on other genres offered by UCSD Extension may also be found on the website.

Bus Trip to Festival of Books

OASIS is offering a one-day trip to the L.A. Times Festival of Books on Saturday, April 9. Bus pickups depart and deliver at Mission Valley, Escondido and Oceanside. Books, speakers, signings, music, and food vendors will abound. The cost is \$62.00. Call the OASIS Travel Desk at (619) 881-6263 from 10 AM to 3 PM or email [Monica@ SanDiegoOasis.org](mailto:Monica@SanDiegoOasis.org) for more information.

Thanks to Muriel Sandy for this news.

“Print One Copy” Offer

Get a taste for self-publishing by printing one copy of your book. For just \$19 you can arrange to get one copy of your new self-published book when you use coupon code **1BOOKBABY** when ordering. To check out this offer go to <https://www.bookbaby.com/print-on-demand>. Like other self-publishing businesses, Book Baby offers templates for various sizes of books, templates for covers, and instructions for formatting and submitting your book pages. Learn how print-on-demand works.

Mark Your Calendar

April 25, 2016 – Richard Lederer will help SDW/EG join the worldwide celebration of the 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s birth.

May 23rd, 2016 – Larry Edwards will present the many aspects of marketing on social media.

June 27th, 2016 – Wendy Patrick, Deputy District Attorney, Special Operations Division, will speak on the dark and safe sides of social media and “catfishing” on the web.

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Meetings: The Fourth Monday each month
Marketing Support Group:
5:30-6:30 PM
General Meeting:
6:30 PM- Sign-in/Network
6:45 PM - Business Meeting
7:00 PM - Speaker/Program

Location: San Diego County
Health Services Complex
3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110
For a map see: www.SDWritersGuild.org
Membership: \$36.00 per year
Guests: \$5.00 per meeting

Mission Statement

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

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