

What You Missed... at the November meeting, by Marcia Buompensiero

The much-anticipated SDWEG anthology for 2017, *The Guided Pen (6th edition)*, debuted at our November 27 meeting with a reception and recognition of our contributors who shared their poems, essays, memoir tales, and short stories with an appreciative crowd.

We learned the blessings of “Mom’s Ugly Lemon Cake,” and how our world can change in a wink and a nod when “Mother’s Justice” rewards those who trifle with the dignity of man.



Secretary Laurie Asher and President Mardie Schroeder

We meditated, were rejuvenated, and pondered a glass half-full, while wondering at how a healer worked her mystic magic.

We learned how it would feel to win the medal of honor; relished a sexy senior’s pluck while looking for a new wrinkle; and discovered where we might invest in beach-front property as the tides rise in the coming millennia.

While one was seeking perfection, another could not wait to exit the tangle of school “daze” dilemmas. *(continued on Page 4)*

We benefited from the “Insight” of a blind child; remembered a time when Prokofiev soothed an aching heart; and learned how “Gratitude” can heal the hurts in some of life’s painful lessons.



Past President Anne Janda

SDWEG Holiday Pot-luck is set for December 11

Bring some goodies to share!

SDWEG’s member meeting in December is traditionally a holiday pot-luck, featuring hors d’oeuvres, salads, desserts and other finger foods. All dishes are provided by the members as pot-luck items. Beverages will be provided by SDWEG.

The holiday party is only for SDWEG members and their guests. It will be held at the usual meeting hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a marketing meeting that day.

This SDWEG celebration is a wonderful opportunity for members to socialize freely in a pleasantly casual atmosphere, with no constraints of a speaker or other time frame. It’s simply a time to be convivial and get to know each other better.

All SDWEG members and their guests are cordially invited. *Please join in the festivities!*



happy
holidays!

Schedule of Upcoming SDWEG Member Meetings

Mark Your Calendar...

January 22 - meeting

February 26 - meeting

2018 SDWEG Membership Dues are now Due

SDWEG regular members, please note that your annual dues of \$36 are coming due. An invoice for these 2018 dues will be mailed to you soon. The annual dues are payable on January 1, 2018.

You can take a \$5.00 discount if pay before December 31.

You may pay by cash or check, making checks payable to SD Writers and Editors Guild. You can also pay online at SDWEG's website — www.sdwritersguild.org (go to the "Pay Dues" page).

If you do not receive a dues invoice in the mail or if you have questions, please contact Membership Chair Rick Peterson at richard.g.peterson@navy.mil.

Little Free Library

by Laurie Asher

Have you ever taken a walk around your neighborhood and come across what looks like a very fine bird house attached to a wooden sign post? But on closer inspection, you notice there are books inside, not birds, although there may be a book or two about birds.



You are looking at an example of a "Little Free Library," one of 50,000 around the world. The concept has steadily grown throughout American neighborhoods and in 70 countries.

Not interested in birds? You'll find many genres available. And you can stock your Little Free Library with all those books you have just hanging around, perhaps those romance novels collecting dust. Somebody wants to read them — the autobiography of Frederick Douglass that a student might write a report about, or even *Green Eggs and Ham* for the grandkids, and much more.

Use Your Imagination in Decorating

See a book you'd like to read? Go ahead, borrow it. Read it. Enjoy it. Then return it on a future walk. And feel free to add a few of your own personal works. Perhaps you have a published book you'd like to share with neighbors (you might even have a few dozen boxes of them in the garage). Why not paste a bio on the inside of the front jacket, promoting yourself and your work, and how you can be reached? It may even develop into a neighborhood fan club.

So, next time you are out for a leisurely stroll, or walking your dog and spot a Little Free Library, stop awhile and see if any books are of interest to you — maybe *Old Yeller* for your dog?

There is even a registry and GPS app for Little Free Library locations around the country. For lots of helpful information about the program, and plans to build your own "Little Free Library," simply visit littlefreelibrary.org to learn more about this non-profit and its mission.

If you decide to join thousands of your neighbors across the USA, and want to share your experience, take a photo of you and your Little Free Library, along with a few comments, and submit it to our own SDWEG website, where we will post and share with others.



Tip of the Hat

SDWEG Members Around the Town

SDWEG is proud to note when its members are engaged in creative activities with other organizations around San Diego and beyond.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace, Ph.D. — she has been selected as one of the judges for the 8th annual High School Essay Contest being held by the International Bipolar Foundation, whose headquarters are in San Diego. The 2017 contest will award \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 to select students who show a passionate understanding of the research they have conducted on a notable figure with bipolar disorder.

Gary Winter — his award-winning multicultural novel *The Deer Dancer* (Sunbelt Books) was chosen to be a gift to the first 25 guests at the San Diego Art Institute's "Poetry & Art Series 2017" this November in Balboa Park.

2018 Writers' Conferences

A matter that may be of interest and value to a number of SDWEG members is conferences designed to help writers improve their writing, editing and publishing skills. There are, of course, countless writers' conferences and symposia throughout the country every year, but the following are listed here because they are prominent and relatively close to home.

San Francisco Writers Conference - Feb. 15-18 — Titled "Celebration of Craft, Commerce and Community," the conference features 100+ presenters. Mark Hopkins Hotel; full registration \$895. Contact: Barbara Santos at Barbara@SFWriters.org.

Point Loma Writer's Symposium by the Sea - Feb. 21-23 — Features distinguished presenters. For details, visit www.pointloma.edu/opportunities/writers-symposium-sea.

Genre LA Speculative Fiction Creative Writing Conference - February 23-25 — Hollywood veterans and publishing pros will share their secrets. Various pricing packages. DoubleTree Hilton, West L.A. Contact: Lillian or Tony Todaro at info@wewriters.com. Visit: www.wewriters.com/genrela.

Las Vegas Writers Conference - April 19-21 — Features prominent faculty and award-winning authors. Tuscany Suites Casino. For information, visit www.lasvegaswritersconference.com.

Santa Barbara Writers Conference - June 17-22 — Known for excellent instructors and a wide array of workshop topics. Hyatt Santa Barbara. Visit: www.sbwriters.org.

Editor's Note.— The locally popular **San Diego State University Writers' Conference** will not be held in 2018. It will resume in 2019.

(continued from Page 1) We weighed our fate when a contingent of El Salvadoran coast guard boarded our ship in search of contraband. Yet, there was no riding off into the sunset as our ears did ring with the wails and whines of the “Ghost Writers in the Sky.”

And when it was done, the battle was won, as the rainforest guardian stood her ground, while it was told how a potter took pride in the practical purpose of art.

In short, you missed a really good show!



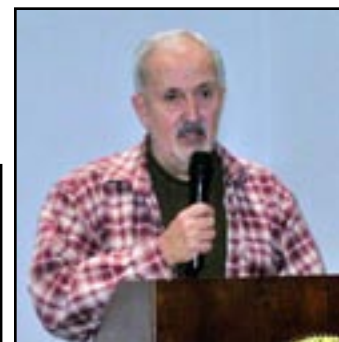
Lawrence Carlton and board member Gered Beeby



Janet Gastil



Chaya Schonberger



Frank Primiano



Margaret Harmon



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General meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

A **Marketing Support Group** for writers precedes the general meeting, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: the San Diego County Health Services Complex Bldg., 1st floor, 3851 Rosecrans Blvd., San Diego

Visit our website for a map.

Membership dues: \$36 / year

Guests: \$5 / meeting

Board of Directors (Term expires)

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

Benefits of Membership. SDWEG supports members and promotes the writing arts through: educational meetings with guest 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, conferences and other events; links to writing and editing resources on the website; publicity for members' creative works on the "Members' Works" web page; and the opportunity to be included in the Speakers Bureau.