

What You Missed in March

Three board members of the San Diego Book Awards (SDBA) spoke to us about their efforts to expand awareness and participation in SDBA by writers in San Diego County. SDBA has operated for 23 years but, said **President Jean Forsythe**, SDBA is “the best kept secret” within the San Diego writers community.

Evidence of their lack of visibility is that they had relatively few entries for this year’s book awards. As a result, SDBA this year will only be giving awards for “unpublished works.” They had to suspend their “published works” competition due to a dearth of submissions. *(continued on Page 2)*

Call for Submissions for *The Guided Pen – 2018 Anthology (7th Edition)*

We are now accepting submissions for *The Guided Pen, (7th edition)*, which is the San Diego Writers and Editors Guild 2018 anthology. This is the seventh year that we will publish the short stories, poems, and imaginative essays of general interest written by our members. This year, we’ve added a “flash fiction” category.

The anthology is produced as a fund-raising project for SDWEG, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All royalties from the sale of the anthologies support SDWEG’s mission, which is to promote, support, and encourage the writing art for adults and youth.

Please go to www.sdwritersguild.org to download the Submission Guidelines and Publication Agreement. Story submissions should be sent to: Marcia Buompensiero, Managing Editor, at guidedpensubmissions@gmail.com.

- Submission Period: April 1 to July 16, 2018

Henry Herz

Guest Speaker on April 23

Henry Herz writes fantasy and science fiction for children; and for our SDWEG meeting he will discuss (1) the process of writing for children in general and writing picture books in particular, and (2) the advantages of indie and traditional publishing.

Henry will also address process questions, such as establishing an author brand, obtaining an agent and submitting to publishers.

Henry is one of the two backups for Jonathan Maberry’s Writers Coffeehouse, held the first Sunday of each month from noon until 3 p.m. at Mysterious Galaxy. He is rep-



Henry Herz
speaker on April 23

resented by Deborah Warren of East/West Literary Agency.

Henry is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators. He participates in literature panels at a variety of conventions, including San Diego Comic-Con and WonderCon. Henry reviews children’s books for the San Francisco Book Review and the San Diego Book Review.

Schedule of Future Speakers at SDWEG Member Meetings

Mark Your Calendar...

May 28 - Elise Capron

Learn what it is like to work
with a literary agent.



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.

John Hodgkinson — SDWEG member John Hodgkinson, aka JohnEgreek, recently learned that Literary Titan, an author services company, has awarded his memoir, *Grandma's Secret Blessings: A Memoir with a Twist*, a Literary Titan Book Award. This award pays tribute to works with unique writing styles, complex characters and original ideas.

Marcia Buompensiero was invited to participate in two upcoming Sisters in Crime events:

1. San Diego: April 7 meeting at the San Diego Central Library (downtown). She will be on a panel discussing how to do research for paranormal mysteries.
2. Los Angeles: April 21. She was invited to participate in the Los Angeles Chapter of the Sisters in Crime booth at the L.A. Times Book Festival in Los Angeles. She will be "appearing" Sunday, from 1-2 p.m. The event is the precursor to the festival held in San Diego last year.



In addition to these two activities, **Marcia** recently published *Fatal Little Lies*, the third novel in her Theo Hunter Mystery series.

Mingei Museum "Special Book" Display

Balboa Park's Mingei Museum recently opened "Voluminous Art," a display that celebrates the art of the book by showcasing special volumes from local university library collections. This sampling will hint at centuries-old practices of book design, typography, binding and printing.

SDWEG authors will be featured at La Jolla Library on May 12

On Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 15 SDWEG members will have display tables of their published works at the La Jolla Library.

Visitors will have a chance to meet and greet the authors and purchase signed copies of their work.

For details, go to: sdwritersguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/LA-JOLLA-LIBRARY-SHOWCASE-Flyer.pdf.

What You Missed... (continued from Page 1)

To illustrate the impact and value of the SBDA awards, board member **Aida Dennehy** described how her life as a writer dramatically changed when she won last year's "Best Unpublished Novel." Before, her writing was shared only with her family; but now she realizes she has a voice and a message to share as a writer and a Syrian. She is an active SDBA board member and, to her own amazement, leads a writers group in North County.

Board member **Tiffany Vakilian**, a poet, emphasized that SDBA is deeply committed to strengthening and promoting awareness of the group's annual book awards. A key right now, she explained, is reaching out directly to other writer organizations (like SDWEG) to educate local writers, enhance their appreciation of these book awards, and solicit their participation in the coming years.

Jean, Aida and Tiffany concluded their presentations by actively encouraging advice and involvement from SDWEG members. They were hopeful that groups like SDWEG would help spread the word about the annual San Diego Book Awards; that our members would submit entries in future competitions; and that some even become active members of SDBA. If you are interested, you are encouraged to go to their website: sandiegobookawards.org.

Come to SDWEG's Writing Flash Fiction Workshop

April 21 ~ 9:30-11:30 a.m

Up for a challenge? Would you like to add to your repertoire of writing? Come to the SDWEG workshop on **Writing Flash Fiction** on **Saturday, April 21, 2018, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Margaret Harmon, published author of fables, humor and other works, will lead the workshop. Learn the unique attributes of flash fiction and how to evaluate flash fiction. Experience writing and critiquing extemporaneous flash fiction in a small group setting. Learn some places to submit flash fiction for publication or get ready to contribute a piece of flash fiction to the 2018 edition of *The Guilded Pen*.

The workshop will be held in the conference room off the lobby at our usual SDWEG meeting place at 3851 Rosecrans Blvd. Workshop attendance will be limited to 16. Sign up at the regular SDWEG meeting in March or send an e-mail to **Ruth Leyse-Wallace** at ruth@sdwritersguild.org.

Book Reviews for Publicizing Your Book

A note from Ruth Leyse-Wallace

“Nothing sells books as well as word of mouth, and you can get people talking about your book if you can bring it to their notice. Book reviews will do that for you,” writes Joel Friedlander at www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/there-are-no-rules/marketing-self-promotion/how-to-get-reviews-for-self-published-books. “There are literally thousands of book bloggers online, and most of them review books even though they aren’t paid. There are also reviewers offering paid reviews.”

When seeking reviews, Friedlander recommends having the following on hand: (a) a complete PDF of your book and its cover; (b) print copies of your book to mail; (c) a press release; and (d) your bio.

Finding a Reviewer

1. Websites for finding those who review books: LibraryThing; Goodreads; www.bookdaily.com; authorresource/blog.
2. Search Google for the name of your genre (e.g. YA, poetry, American history) followed by one of these phrases: book blog, book blogger, book reviews, book review blog, book review blogger.
3. Look for services connecting authors and reviewers, such as The Bookbag or Author Marketing Club.
4. Try looking at The Book Blogger List, which offers a list of book reviewers, organized by genre; or Book Reviewer Yellow Pages from David Wogahn at www.authorimprints.com.

Upcoming Writer Events

April 7 — *Mystery on the Shelf*, San Diego Public Library, 330 Park Ave., downtown San Diego

This free event is designed to appeal to both writers and readers of mysteries and crime-related fiction. Two keynote speakers and three panels will be featured. Go to: sistersincrimesd.org.

April 19-21 — *Las Vegas Writers' Conference*, Tuscany Hotel, Las Vegas.

In addition to lectures and panels of writing professionals, this conference features a one-day workshop with Jane Friedman, designed to inspire and educate you on how to build a career in writing. For details, go to hendersonwritersgroup.com.

April 21-22 — *23rd annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books*, USC campus, Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books began in 1996 and has evolved to include live bands, poetry readings, chef demos, cultural entertainment and artists creating their work on-site. For details, go to: events/latimes.com/festivalofbooks.

May 19-20 — *7th annual 805 Writers' Conference*, Thousand Oaks, CA

With a stellar line-up of guest speakers, this year's conference at the Thousand Oaks Library will focus on the business of writing. It is co-sponsored by the Small Publishers, Artists & Writers Network and the Independent Writers of Southern California. Go to 805WritersConference.com.

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PO Box 881931
San Diego, CA 92168
phone: (858) 342-2891
website: www.sdwritersguild.org
e-mail: sandiegowriterseditorsguild@gmail.com

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.
