

# The Writer's Life

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

February, 2014

True love stories never have endings . . . Richard Bach  
Poetry spills from the cracks of a broken heart, but flows from one which is loved.  
. . . Christopher Paul Rubero



## Charlene Baldrige to be Featured at February Meeting

San Diego award-winning poet, critic, arts writer, lyricist and playwright Charlene Baldrige will be our featured speaker for the February 24th meeting. A former SDW/EG board member, this outstanding arts writer (theater, music, opera) will discuss "My Writing Life and all it entails after all these years--where words have taken me, living with my daughter's (the late poet Laura Morefield) words and now entering my full, assured ripeness."



Her current arts reviews are published by *Opera News* online, also *Performances Magazine*, *San Diego Uptown News*, *San Diego Downtown News* and *Gay San Diego* and her popular arts blog may be found at [charlenebaldrige.com](http://charlenebaldrige.com). Her new poetry chapbook, *The Rose in December* is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press in March, 2014.

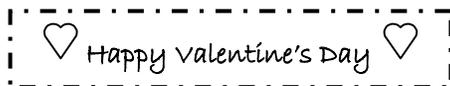
A Wilmette, IL native, Baldrige has lived in San Diego since 1962 and has been writing about the arts since 1979, also authoring a play, *The Warrior's Duet*, (a San Diego Fringe Festival production, 2013), and a travel book, *San Diego, Jewel of the California Coast* (Northland Publishing in 2004). Baldrige is editor of the chapbook, *The Warrior's Stance*. Her books have been set by American composer Jake Heggie (*Dead Man Walking* and *Mob-Dick*) and recorded by classical sopranos Frederica Von Stade and Susan Graham. She is currently writing a prose memoir and next May, "Winter Roses," Heggie's orchestrated song cycle featuring her work, will be performed by Camerata Pacifica in Ventura, Pasadena, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara. You won't want to miss this distinguished writer's take on her amazingly rich life and its cultural impact.

## New: A SDW/EG Speakers Bureau

You are invited to join and take the opportunity to promote your work and the activities of the Guild to groups that may be looking for a speaker. Information about the new SDWEG Speakers Bureau will soon be added to our website.

Background information about the Guild is available for Speakers Bureau volunteers in the form of a written one-page summary and as a thirteen-slide power-point show as support for speaking engagements.

If you would like more information or to be included in the Speakers Bureau listings, contact Ruth Leyse-Wallace. ([rthlys@cox.net](mailto:rthlys@cox.net)) You will need to submit information (~150-200 words) about your involvement in the guild, topics on which you can speak, your history or qualifications, and contact information.



The next meeting will be Monday, **February 24, 2014**:  
6:30 PM sign in and networking,  
6:45 PM business meeting,  
7:00-8:30, program: Charlene Baldrige.

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Authors Exhibit

Congratulations to the following members of SDW/EG whose books were included in the Local Authors Exhibit at the Central San Diego library: **Diana Amsden, A.J. Converse, Chet Cunningham, Larry Edwards, Margaret Harmon, Ruth Leyse-Wallace, Sealie West, and Amy Zajac**. The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild anthology *The Guilded Pen*-First Edition, is also in the exhibit.

The Local Authors Exhibit is on display during the month of February. Three hundred eight-five participants were honored January 31<sup>st</sup> at a reception and opening of the exhibit. Mel Katz, Chair of the San Diego Public Library Foundation reported that daily visitors to the downtown library has risen from 800/day to 3200/day since the opening of the new library.

## San Diego Book Awards . . .

### Call for Entries

For books published in 2013 the deadline for entering is February 28, 2014. Winners receive cash awards. For entry guidelines and forms go to [www.sdlbookawards@gmail.org](mailto:www.sdlbookawards@gmail.org)

## A Tip of the Hat To . . .

**Amy Zajac** for the recent publication of her novel *Foredestined*, a story of global disaster and the survivors.

**Margaret Harmon** for the actors at La Jolla Playreaders performing and analyzing three fables from her new book *The Genie Who Had Wishes of His Own*, and exploring the literary uses of “magic” to empower us in the real world.

**Gene Elmore** for a TV interview re: the anniversary of the Berlin airlift. See also: [www.youtube/watch?v=q66a23WjeQ](http://www.youtube/watch?v=q66a23WjeQ)

**Thomas Larson** for publication of “How Changing My Diet Changed My Life” at: [www.everydayhealth.com/columns](http://www.everydayhealth.com/columns). It is a companion piece to his latest book: *The Sanctuary of Illness: A Memoir of Heart Disease*.

**Gary Winters** for having a story published in December in *The Caribbean Writer* published by the University of the Virgin Islands.

**Sam Warren**, author of *Having Fun In Tijuana* and *Baja by Night*, for offering walking tours of Tijuana. Details at [www.SDWriteWay.org/HappyPeople.html](http://www.SDWriteWay.org/HappyPeople.html)

*If you, or someone you know, has published a book, scheduled a book signing, or has some other accomplishment to share, please submit to [RthLys@cox.net](mailto:RthLys@cox.net) to be included in our next newsletter. Let your light shine!*

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## What You Missed...by Amy Zajac

Our guest speaker, Neil Senturia, author of *I'm There for You, Baby, The Entrepreneur's Guide to the Galaxy, Volume 1*, gave a lively and informative presentation. His book reveals 231 learned and cleverly written rules for entrepreneurial development and survival. He described his purpose for writing as “to tell the truth about the entrepreneurial life,” and also shared the circumstances leading up to getting his book printed outside the United States.

His diverse career as a CEO, teaching entrepreneur classes, a Hollywood sit-com writer and building San Diego high rise buildings, just to mention a few, gave us a great vantage point through his outstanding humor of how he kept reinventing himself.

Check out his website:

<http://www.imthereforyoubaby.com/> where you can also see Neil's and Barbara Bry's, ( husband and wife) U-T San Diego's weekly business column .

### Coming Soon to SDW/EG

**March 24, 2014** : To Be Announced

**April 28th, 2014:** Richard Lederer will present (in costume) a program to commemorate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare. (If you have a period costume, feel free to wear it.)

## Research for Fiction and Nonfiction by Caroline McCullagh

Do you remember all those 3 x 5 cards, the outlines, the rough drafts, and the final drafts that you had to do for your high school term papers? I was carried back to that world by my recent project on American history.

The first problem in research is finding sources. The second is being able to find them again when you have to double check a fact, spelling, or date. Whatever the level of scholarship you're aiming for—some interesting facts for a novel or something for a formal article that requires footnotes and a bibliography or anything in between—it's essential that you document your sources. If you write down the author, title, publication information and page reference, you're going to save yourself a lot of stress and boredom later.

Now that you know how you want to document what you find, how do you find it? I like books, so they were my first stop. I bought three second-hand college history textbooks. I was surprised to find that there was little overlap even though they covered the same period of history. One focused on economic issues, the second on treaties and wars, the third on immigration and the expansion westward. I used those books to create a list of topics I wanted further information on.

My next step was to the Internet. Everything is on the Internet someplace. You just have to be creative in what question you put to the search engine. So far, in many years of computer research, I've answered every question I had except one: how do Eskimos carry water when they travel by sled? If you know, give me a call.

First, you're a detective. Then you become a judge. Is your information accurate? Find several sources that say the same thing. But there's a lot of bogus information on the Net, so the next step is essential. Judge the source's reputation. Information from a university or museum web site is probably safer than something from a blog. Wikipedia is useful too. It gives you a lot of references to follow up.

And now your final step--start writing.

### SoCal Author Academy

In partnership with Central Library San Diego, SoCal Author Academy has scheduled the following events for authors: March 8<sup>th</sup>-Planning for Author Events; April 5<sup>th</sup>- Presentations, Readings and Interviews; April 6<sup>th</sup>- Video Presentations, You Tube and Book Trailers. For more information visit [www.adventuresbythebook.com](http://www.adventuresbythebook.com).

## American Trivia

by **Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh**

SDW/EG members Richard Lederer and Caroline McCullagh are the proud co-authors of *American Trivia: What We All Should Know About U.S. History, Culture & Geography* (Gibbs Smith Publisher, 2012). Over a span of three years, Rich and Caroline will share with you their journey through American history.

### America: The Mother of Invention

Tinkering is a time-honored American pastime. Many men and women can't leave well enough alone. They're always trying to create something or improve something. As with most creative people, they benefit from the work of those who came before them, but they add that little spark of genius that can take their invention figuratively or literally into the stratosphere. Here are some of our best:

\* Among his many other talents as scientist, statesman, and publisher, **Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790) is the best known of our early inventors. We today are still nourished by the fruits of his fertile brain. He worked out the theory of the lightning rod during his study of electricity. His neighbors saw its practicality one night when lightning struck his house without causing damage. He created the Franklin stove that fit into a fireplace and gave off four times as much heat as the standard fireplace, with half the fuel. In his old age, Franklin tired of fumbling for his pairs of glasses, so he invented bifocals. For a century after their invention, they were called Franklin spectacles. He also invented the odometer, the first flexible urinary catheter, and the claw pole used to reach and grasp merchandise on high shelves. Most remarkably, Franklin refused to patent any of his inventions, preferring to have them used freely as his contribution to the general good. He understood that each invention built a foundation for something better. When he was in Paris and observed the first successful balloon flight in 1783, someone asked, "What good is it?" Franklin answered, "What good is a newborn baby?"

\*American presidents get in on the act of inventing. **Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826) invented a collapsible writing table and a pedometer to measure his walks, but **Abraham Lincoln** (1809-1865) was the only president to be awarded a patent, for a system of buoying vessels over shoals.

\*In 1793, **Eli Whitney** (1765-1825) invented the cotton gin, a machine that separated seeds from short staple cotton fibers. Previously that had to be done by hand. One person could clean about one pound of cotton in a day; the gin could clean fifty pounds a day. Whitney's cotton gin helped the South become prosperous and the United States become the world's leading cotton >>

## Wanted: Your Opinion

Please fill in the survey (or email cc) and return to Ruth Leyse-Wallace, editor, at: [RthLys@cox.net](mailto:RthLys@cox.net) OR 1982 Verbena Terrace, Alpine, CA 91901

Regarding the SDW/ED newsletter:

I read the . . .	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely
Announcement of next meeting				
Review of last meeting				
Tip of the Hat				
The Prez Sez				
Announcements of classes, awards conferences, and workshops				
Guild news				
Items by Guild members				
Columns				
History				
Writing Skills				
Current events				
Quotes & quips				

Suggestions and comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW OPTION:

**In the future I would like to receive my newsletter:**

By email  By mail  By both mail & email

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Five Blunders of First-Time Novelists

- Introducing all characters in the first page or two.
- Not making outline plot points into compelling scenes.
- Using needless modifiers or lame wisecracks.
- Trying to making a short story into a novel.
- Rushing the revision process

Elizabeth Sims, January, 2014 *Writers Digest*

### >> America: The Mother of Invention

grew. Whitney didn't make much money from the cotton gin, but he prospered as a New England gun manufacturer. He took a contract from the federal government to supply 10,000 muskets in two years. He accomplished this by building machines that would make standard interchangeable parts, a relatively new concept.

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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  General Meetings:  The Fourth Monday of the month  6:30 P.M. - Sign-in and Networking  6:45 P.M. - Business Meeting  7:00 - 8:30 P.M. - Speaker/Program  Location: 3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110  San Diego County  Health Services Complex  Visit our web site for a map  <a href="http://www.SDWritersGuild.org">www.SDWritersGuild.org</a>  Membership: \$36.00 per year  Guests: \$5.00 per meeting</p>	Board Of Directors		2-year Term Expires December 31st
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	<p><u>Mission Statement</u>  The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall  promote, support, and encourage  the writing arts for adults and youth.</p>		