

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

August, 2016



“Keep a small can of WD-40 on your desk—away from any open flames—to remind yourself that if you don’t write daily, you will get rusty.”
George Singleton



August Speaker: Antoinette Kuritz

Our August 22 speaker, Antoinette Kuritz, wears many hats: Book developer, author, publicist, media coach, and publishing guru. Not to mention that Antoinette founded the esteemed La Jolla Writer’s Conference in 2001. Her insights appear on TV, radio, and in numerous articles nationwide. Antoinette is well-versed in shaping a rough draft into a polished piece of prose, and she’s an expert on catching the marketing mistakes new writers make in promoting their wares. She has worked with legendary author Joseph Wambaugh, historical writer Victor Villasenor, and many others. Her love of words has grown into a multi-media enterprise. Antoinette is also the mother of three and the grandma of three more. She’ll have a great deal to say on August 22, and she’s looking forward to it. We hope you will, too.

Ageless Authors Deadline Soon

Ageless Authors is a publishing project for writers age 65 and older. Submit your short stories, essays, poetry, cartoons and other line art for their first contest. **The deadline for entries is August 15, 2016.** The best entries will appear in Ageless Authors anthologies as well as being eligible for cash prizes. Go to www.agelessauthors.com for more information.

Richard Louv, San Diego author whose books started a movement promoting the benefits of being in nature, says his work “didn’t create something, it represented something.”
SD-UT 7/24/16

Partners in Crime – August 13th

Partners in Crime, the newly re-established San Diego chapter of the national organization Sisters in Crime, will have their next meeting Saturday, August 13th. It will be at Writers Ink, Liberty Station, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Suite 202 from 3:30-5:30 P.M. Lisa Brackmann, New York Times best-selling author of the Ellie McEnroe novels and the thrillers *Getaway* and *Go-Between*, will speak on “How to survive a career as a published author – without losing your mind.” Larry Edwards, SDW/EG member, will do a reading from his book *Dare I Call It Murder? A Memoir of Violent Loss*. Go to <http://www.sistersincriesd.org/event> for more details.

Letter From the Editor

Dear members of SDW/EG,
Please accept this letter of resignation as editor of *The Writer's Life*. The September issue will be my last issue as Editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Editor since January 2012 and getting acquainted with many members through the process of writing, editing and distributing the newsletter. However, my professional writing is demanding more attention and is very fulfilling. Thank you for your support and readership these last few years and to Dave Feldman and Mardie Schroeder for their regular contributions. I will be available to acquaint a new editor with the present processes of layout, printing and mailing, unless s/he want to bring a new and exciting newsletter experience. Contact Anne Janda, President, at Ajanda55@aol.com if you are interested in editing or assisting with the newsletter.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace

Tip of the Hat to . . .

Marcia Buompensiero for establishing her own publishing firm: Grey Castle Publishing, which will soon be publishing her newest book, *Sumerland*, under the pen name M. Lee Buompensiero.

Laurie Asher and **Anne Janda** being selected for inclusion in The Second Annual Memoir Showcase on June 28th at the Horton Grand Theatre. Entries were written about a pivotal event in the life of the writer and were performed by event actors.

Mardie Schroeder for her book *Go West for Luck Go West for Love* now being available on Kindle at Amazon.com.

Richard Lederer for presenting “Centennial at the San Diego Zoo” at the Coronado Public Library Summer Festival on July 29th.

What You Missed by Mardie Schroeder

Have you ever wondered why Ayn Rand’s John Galt refused an offer of having any government job; who Henry is and the mysterious locket; what makes perfect eyebrows so appealing; or ever witnessed a sacrificial rite where the heart is yanked out of the body?

Have you heard about an STD crisis in upscale senior facilities? What about the toilet paper and seat problems; having to lose 40 pounds before attending a high school reunion in Truth or Consequences; interviewing Admiral Rickover, the longest serving naval officer in the U.S; a risky interrogation on a yacht; a famous trumpet made in Paris; the risks of participating in a horse drive?

We heard the beautiful gift Neruda received. We learned the body can heal itself with nutrition and exercise. We shared in hearing about 91 years of change in Arkansas. Oh dear, a foredestined earthquake?

And what about the cigarette ash left on the piano after Billie Holiday sang; and the wraith that engulfed Maria?

Ever been held up by five masked highway bandits in Mexico? Is your sixth sense in control?

Did you know the factories along the Fox River in Chicago have now been converted into housing?

Twenty-one talented writers of the Guild made for an entertaining OpenMic Night. Congratulations to all participants.

Beta Readers

“Beta Reader” means someone who evaluates a manuscript – a term probably adapted from the software industry, where programmers release a ‘beta’ version of a new program to people who will test it. Beta readers are not editors, but are volunteers who can give you feedback about your book. Best friends, significant others and family members aren’t likely to be the best beta readers – they’re predisposed to loving whatever you write. Beta readers are not the same as a read-and-critique group. A beta reader will read your entire manuscript, on their own, and develop a personal response to it. Some online writers suggest arranging three+ beta readers, individuals who are honest, give constructive comments, and have the time.

Give them the very best writing you can produce on your own, not your first draft. Let your beta reader know what questions you would like answered. Do you want comments on the strength of the characters, the organization of the concept, the flow or pace of the action, or on areas where they felt something was missing? Ask them to note their thoughts as they read. Provide them with the book in the format they would prefer, digital or paper.

When you receive a beta reader’s comments ask yourself, “Will addressing this comment make for a better book?” If so, take their advice and apply it to your next revision. If not, thank them: don’t defend yourself. You don’t have to accept every piece of advice you get.

If you would like names of possible beta readers from SDWE/G or you’re available as a beta reader, contact Sandra Yeaman at sandiegowriterseditorsguild@gmail.com.

Source: results of a Google search.

Romance Novels – Rules to Write By

Last month the Romance Writers of America met in San Diego. Peter Rowe, of the San Diego Union-Tribune, explained the rules for writing a romance novel, obtained from some of the 2,000 authors and attendees at the conference.

The mandatory central love story has to be emotionally satisfying and have an optimistic ending, generally in the form of a commitment. Women may motivate men, but not vice versa. Even the steamiest scenes are told from the heroine's point of view. There must be a core of honesty and truth; people have to be facing real issues. Readers want realism, even if it's not real life. "But no matter what happens, it won't end with something awful." In action romance novels, the women aren't hiding somewhere waiting to be rescued.

Through their "Readers for Life" fundraiser, fans buying autographed books at this conference have raised nearly a million dollars since 1990 to support literacy worldwide.

Who knew?

Conferences for Writers

The La Jolla Writer's Conference will be held November 11-13th, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency in La Jolla.

The 33rd Annual **SDSU Writers' Conference** is scheduled for January 20-22, 2017. If you are interested in being considered as a speaker for the 2017 SDSU Writers' Conference, please complete the speaker interest form. Email questions to: directorsdsuwc@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

September 26th, 2016 – David Wogahn, author of *Register Your Book, The Essential Guide to ISBNs, Barcodes, Copyrights and LCCNs* (U.S. Library of Congress Registration).

October 24th, 2016 (4th Monday) Jonathan LaPoma, an award-winning novelist, screenwriter, songwriter, and poet will speak about screenwriting.

November 28th, 2016 – Anthology launch

December 12th, 2016 – 2nd Monday - Holiday Party

Mysteries – Readers and A Writer

Marcia Buompensiero (aka Loren Zahn, aka M. Lee Buompensiero) shared her process of writing mysteries with the San Diego Mystery Club at their July dinner meeting.

She described character development as combining characteristics of real people and the situations in which they find themselves, until they become residents in the author's head.



Marcia and Jean Hughes, president of The San Diego Mystery Club.

Mysteries require building tension as the book proceeds and Marcia shared an example from her upcoming release *Sumerland*. Emphasizing the need for authenticity in including descriptions of police work she described a helpful ten-week course, "The District Attorney's Citizens Academy". The course included a visit to the morgue and an exercise in the use of tasers. Buompensiero included a popular game of recognizing San Diego landmarks taken from her books. The first successful attendee identifying each scene was awarded an autographed copy of *Dirty Little Murders* or *Deadly Little Secrets*. The meeting closed with questions and answers about publishing books and her new publishing company, Grey Castle Publishing.

Agent Seeking Submissions

Suzy Evans of Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency is seeking serious nonfiction and other genres, especially by historians who are looking to make a transition from an academic to trade readership and journalists who have something unique and significant to say. See the Member Resource List for contact information.

Book Signings at Warwick's

Warwick's bookstore in La Jolla has book signings for local authors on Saturday from noon to 2:00 PM. SDW/EG member Peggy Hinaekian recently had a book signing there and reports she sold twelve books. Call the Events Chairman at (858) 454-0347 for more information, or go to <http://www.warwicks.com/author-signing-guidelines>.

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

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The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
P. O. Box 881931
San Diego, CA 92168
Telephone: 858-342-2891
email:
sandiegowriterseditorsguild@gmail.com

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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