

Board Elections

Featured at October 23 Meeting



As stipulated in SDWEG's bylaws, board members all serve two-year terms. Half are elected in alternating years. Nominations are made at the September meeting and the election is held at the October meeting, with voting conducted by secret ballot. The top five vote-getters will be the winners. The newly elected directors start their terms in January.

At present, the nominees for the October vote are:

Janet Hafner, Frank Newton, Adolpho Sanchez, Mardie Schroeder, Ken Yaros and **Val Zolfaghri**.

But nominations are still open. Nominations should be sent to President Mardie Schroeder at mardiewho@yahoo.com so the names can be placed on the ballot.

What You Missed... notes on our September speaker

Terror in Ypsilanti: John Norman Collins Unmasked, by Gregory Fournier, is an account of a serial killer in a small Michigan town where the author once lived. Gregory even knew the killer, as they lived a few houses apart.

John Norman Collins killed seven high school girls. He took his first victim to his uncle's house when the uncle was on vacation and John was taking care of the dog. At that house he violated and brutally killed her.

The police looked for the serial killer for two years. But it was this first murder that brought Collins to trial. He received a life sentence without parole.

Another writer wrote a book about this case and fictionalized everything, changing the names of the victims, the murderer, etc. Greg decided his book would tell everything — a work that ended up being a 7-8 year obsession.

Gregory's book is in three parts: the victims; the court case; and the aftermath. He felt the structure of the book was very important, so he wrote each murder separately to provide essential details. *(continued on Page 2)*

Crashing Through Writer's Block and Other Writing Fears

Margaret Harmon, the guest speaker for SDWEG's general meeting on October 23, will lead us in a writing workshop technique called "Literary Games." The aim of playing these "games" is to empower ourselves as writers, helping us break through obstacles to our creativity and productivity.

When Margaret spoke to SDWEG in 2015, her "games" focused on ways to develop more powerful characters. Her "literary games" this month will focus on "**Plotting to Succeed**," designed to trigger fresh, deeper insights into our story plots and characters.

Be sure to bring a stiff pad of paper and fast pens or a laptop or tablet because we'll be writing on our laps. And be ready to have a fun and informative evening.



Margaret Harmon
speaker on Oct. 23

Schedule of Upcoming SDWEG Member Meetings

Mark Your Calendar...

November 27 - unveiling
SDWEG's 2017 Anthology

December 11 - holiday party

The Inaugural San Diego Festival of Books August 26 at Liberty Station



Maria Buompensiere helped staff the SDWEG booth



Writer Lawrence Carlton displayed his books



Laura Roberts & Ed Lopatin also displayed their works at the SDWEG booth

The first ever San Diego Festival of Books was a celebration of writers, readers and book-sellers and the vital role they all play in our community. With an estimated attendance of 10,000, the festival clearly was a winner right out of the gate!

The Festival of Books was held on Saturday, August 26, at Liberty Station in Point Loma. SDWEG purchased an exhibit booth to promote public awareness of our organization and also to provide time-slots for members to display and sell their books. Hundreds of people visited the booth, and 64 visitors signed up to receive the SDWEG newsletter.

Fifteen SDWEG members signed up for two-hour slots, including

Marcia Buompensiero

Marie DiMercurio

Janet Hafner

Peggy Hinaekian

Joan Kilpatrick

Helen Pendleton

Arthur Raybold

Penn Wallace

Lawrence Carlton

J. Elke Ertle

Margaret Harmon

Barbara Huntington

Ed Lopatin

Barrett Clemmenson Powell

Laura Roberts

Appreciation goes to Mardie Schroeder, President, and Marcia Buompensiero, Treasurer, for making the arrangements for SDWEG's participation in the festival. Mardie and Marcia set up and took down the booth, greeted booth visitors, and also took time to visit individual authors in the festival's Authors Alley to promote awareness and membership in SDWEG.

Rest assured, the Guild will be first in line to sign up for a booth at next year's book festival at Liberty Station.

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

The parents of the first victim contacted Gregory to ensure he handled her story in a respectful manner. His meeting with them proved to be a highlight of his writing journey.

The Ypsilanti authorities wanted to hide the grisly story under a rug, so records were "lost." But fortunately, Greg had a researcher in Ypsilanti who volunteered his services and found the newspaper stories and other reports that made it possible for the story to be written.

To promote the book, Gregory hired local publicist Paula Margulies (the author of *The Tau of Book Publicity*). She suggested he write a blog, which proved to be the most important advice he received. Initially reluctant, he began the blog, titled "fornology.com," and it helped him find and develop an audience, and now he enjoys writing it. (You can contact Gregory at gregoryafournier@gmail.com) §



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. Currently, several members are giving lectures for *Oasis of San Diego*, an organization dedicated to life-long learning for older adults. The following SDWEG members are serving as lecturers in the “Fall semester” of Oasis classes.

Philip Pryde — His three 90-minute lectures are titled “The Search for the True Mary Magdalene,” based on his review of the works of biblical historians; “Russia, Ukraine and Crimea: Why the Conflict?,” based on his 32 years of courses on the USSR at San Diego State University; and “The Uniqueness of the San Diego Region,” which is based on his book *San Diego: An Introduction to the Region*, which is now in its 5th edition.

Richard Lederer — Popular columnist and radio personality on all matters linguistic, Lederer will conduct two Oasis lectures: “Monsters Unchained,” where he will regale his audience with poems and puns from his new Halloween book; and “The Light Side of Aging,” where he will explain his certainty that there is only one way to age well – with a smile. Richard also has an essay titled “Mensans Amuse with Clerihews,” appearing in the September issue of the *Mensa Bulletin* magazine.

Chloe Edge — Chloe will be conducting two six-session writing workshops titled “Creative Writing,” where she will encourage writers to explore and expand their creative writing experience.

Frank Newton — Our new SDWEG newsletter editor is conducting a 90-minute lecture titled “Cortez and the Aztec Empire,” where he will demystify the Spaniards’ brutal conquest. Frank will also be a judge for the Jose Marti Awards in Journalism, given annually to Hispanic newspapers and magazines by the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

Janet Hafner — Janet’s story titled “In the Middle of Queens” was accepted for publication in the annual *Oasis Journal* (published by Imago Press, Tucson). The *Journal* began in 2002 as an anthology of stories, poems and essays written by older writers throughout the country. Janet’s story is a fond recollection of her father’s thoughtful service to her neighbors in Queens, NY.

La Jolla Library/SDWEG Authors Event

The Guild and the La Jolla Public Library branch management have decided to postpone the Guild’s authors event until 2018. While both the library and the Guild are committed to hosting such an event, the proposed November 16th date was not feasible given the library’s full calendar and the possibility that some already scheduled community events might pose a conflict. The Guild and the library are working to develop a program that will both showcase SDWEG’s members and ensure a good visitor turnout for the library.

Those members who have already signed up will not be required to sign up again; their names will be maintained on the event list and they will be notified as soon as a future date is secured.

Thank you for your understanding. §

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The Writer's Life is published by
the San Diego Writers & Editors Guild
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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)

President: Mardie Schroeder (2017) president@sdwritersguild.org

VP & Publicity Chair: Bob Doublebower (2018) vp@sdwritersguild.org

Secretary: Laurie Asher (2018) secretary@sdwritersguild.org

Treasurer: Marcia Buonpensiero (2018) treasurer@sdwritersguild.org

Membership Chair: Rick Peterson (2018) membership@sdwritersguild.org

Directors-at-Large:

Simone Arias (2017) simone@sdwritersguild.org

Gered Beeby (2018) gered@sdwritersguild.org

Dave Feldman (2017) dave@sdwritersguild.org

Val Zolfaghari (2017) val@sdwritersguild.org

Past-President: Anne Janda (2017) pastpresident@sdwritersguild.org

Newsletter Editor: Frank Newton (ex officio) editor@sdwritersguild.org

Social Media Mgr.: Sandra Yeaman (ex officio) webmaster@sdwritersguild.org

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.