

What You Missed at the April Meeting

Guest speaker Henry Herz has become a well-established writer of children's illustrated books, with nine published books and five under contract for publication in 2018 and 2019. He earned this success by traveling down the hard road of the independent (*indie*) writer/publisher and the even harder road of *traditional* book publishing. Having taken both paths, he had some excellent advice for our members.

He emphasized that to choose between *indie* and *traditional* publishing, you must answer some fundamental questions. He posed more than half a dozen questions, such as "Are you willing to work hard?" "What is your reason for publishing?" "Do you want to publish right away?" And perhaps most importantly, "Can you handle criticism and rejection?" As you come to grips with your honest answers, you will be able to decide whether *indie* or *traditional* publishing suits you.

Henry also delineated the pros and cons of *indie* vs. *traditional* paths. In a nutshell, the *indie* path is quicker and easier but you end up tackling many costs, chores and obstacles that *traditional* publishers typically shoulder for you. But again, the choice is up to you.

In closing, Henry offered his professional services for those who need help on the *indie* path. You can contact him at henryherz.com.

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 annual anthology. This is the seventh year that we will publish the short stories, poems, and imaginative essays of general interest written by our members.

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 anthology support SDWEG's mission, which is to promote, support, and encourage the writing art for adults and youth.

The submission deadline is July 16, 2018.

Please go to www.sdwritersguild.org/anthology-2/ to download the Submission Guidelines and Publication Agreement.

Anthology submissions should be sent to: **Marcia Buompensiero, Managing Editor**, at guidedpensubmissions@gmail.com.

Elise Capron Literary Agent



Elise Capron
speaker on May 21

Do you know what an agent does — especially in today's publishing world? Are you absolutely sure you need one or not? If you do, how can you find your perfect agent match?

Join **Elise Capron** of the Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency as she addresses these big questions for writers who are exploring the wide range of publishing options available today. Get tips on how to make yourself marketable to agents, and find out what it's like working with an agent?

Take Note! ♦ Take Note!

Our May meeting is
May 21, not May 28!

[May 28 is Memorial Day]

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

On Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 17 authors — all of them members of SDWEG — will be showcasing their published works at display tables at the La Jolla Library (7555 Draper St., La Jolla).

Visitors will have a chance to greet these gifted writers, find out how they became authors and what they specialize in, and (hopefully) purchase signed copies of their work. The list of authors and their story subjects includes:

Robert Boze, romance trilogy
Marya Brunson, inspirational
M. Lee Buompensiero, betrayal & deliverance
Laurence Carleton, literary fiction
Marie DiMercurio, diet & lifestyle
J. Elke Ertle, memoir
Dave Feldman, true tales
Greg Fournier, segregation
Janet Hafner, children's tale
Peggy Hinaekian, tale of love and passion
Margaret Harmon, fable
Dora Klinova, immigrant's tale
Tom Leech, hiking, biking & camping
Mardie Schroeder, western saga
Charlotte Thompson, raising a handicapped child
Ruth Leyse Wallace, nutrition & mental health
Wanjiru Warama, immigrant's tale

SDWEG members are asked to drop by the event to show their support for the organization and their fellow writers.

For details, go to: sdwritersguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/LA-JOLLA-LIBRARY-SHOWCASE-Flyer.pdf. Or you can contact the La Jolla Library at (858) 552-1657.

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News Nugget ~

Amazon modifies royalties

After more than 10 years of making nonfiction writers choose between either 70% or 35% royalties, Amazon has introduced a new level — 50%.

It's only for nonfiction books. Two other key points need to be noted:

(1) This option is only available to authors who use KDP. Those who use Draft2Digital, IngramSpark, or another aggregator to list are out of luck.

(2) It requires an optimal reading experience for readers. The last thing Amazon wants is for Apple or other formats to display more attractive books.

What's at stake? Educational and instructional materials, detailed guides, travel books, art books — any book that has lots of images.

What's significant is that writers can now price nonfiction books above \$9.99 (\$4.99 to \$19.99) and there are no download delivery fees. There are several requirements, and some marketing benefits, but overall it seems like a good option for image-heavy books.

As you might imagine, there are many special conditions that apply (i.e., an awful lot of fine print), so it is advisable to get a more detailed description of this new Amazon offer. For more information, go to: www.davidwogahn.com/kindle-royalties/.

Alert! - Do You Need a Ride to a SDWEG Meeting?

Are there times when car or driving problems keep you from attending a SDWEG membership meeting? Would it help if another SDWEG member could give you a lift?

SDWEG is now trying to address this need by linking members who need a ride to those who would be happy to lend a hand.

If you need a ride to a SDWEG meeting, there is now a sign-up sheet at the registration table at our monthly member meetings. Sign up and let us know your transportation situation. Then we will look for a member who can give you a lift.

Useful Websites for Writers

Today, there are so many websites offering writing and marketing advice that it's hard to make sense of it all. To help, here are snippets from *The Write Life's* article (by Marisol Dahl) titled "The 100 Best Websites for Writers."

Creativity:

how-to-write-a-book-now.com features tools, tips and secrets to help you write a book and fulfill your dream of authorship.

Freelancing:

fundsforwriters.com lists the best competitions, grants and other well-paying markets.

penandprosper.blogspot.com features an array of topics, tips and tricks to help you experience financial success with your writing.

writersweekly.com — around since 1997, this site is a tried and true resource for freelancers, offering regular updates on paying markets.

Marketing:

marketingprofs.com offers articles, podcasts, training events and more about marketing.

Publishing:

mystorydoctor.com offers tips and workshops on how to write your story and get it published.

well-storied.com is a blog and resource hub to help you more easily craft a brilliant novel.

Adeline Virginia Stephen 1882-1941

by Ken Yaros

Pen name, **Virginia Woolf**, lived in the greater London area, born of Victorian parents. She lived through enormous changes and challenges as England and the world moved into modern times. Adeline was no stranger to broken families, unexplainable death and disease, war and its upheaval. Throughout her life, severe depression dogged her and undoubtedly influenced her thinking.

She was prolific and in demand for her newspaper articles, essays, and as a speaker on topics considered controversial at the time. Some of her avant-guard topics included gender identification and changing sexual mores.

As a young adult, she hosted weekly meetings at her home for talented though radical thinkers, several of whom would attain fame as artisans, economists and biographers.

It is challenging to summarize this complex author in a brief article, however she sought to mix fact with imagination and was unafraid to explore at the time taboo subjects such as morality of war, disease, female exploitation, mental illness, class and familial prejudice. Her most notable works include:

1. *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925) – Exploration of London society post-WWI. Made into a movie.
2. *Orlando* (1928) – An exploration of gender and identity.
3. *To the Lighthouse* (1927) – A family faces hardship off the coast of Scotland.
4. *A Room of One's Own* (1927) – Essay. Discusses gender in terms of independence and financial constraints facing women.
5. *The Waves* (1931) – Woolf's masterpiece of style, intertwining prose with poetry.
6. *Between the Acts* (1941) – Published posthumously, a play related to WWII and fascism.

Schedule of Future Speakers at SDWEG Member Meetings

Mark Your Calendar...

June 25 - Sandra de Helen
Script teaser.

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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 (2019) president@sdwritersguild.org

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

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

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

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Janet Hafner (2019) janet@sdwritersguild.org

Adolpho Sanchez (2019) adolpho@sdwritersguild.org

Ken Yaros (2019) ken@sdwritersguild.org

Newsletter Editor: Frank Newton (2019) editor@sdwritersguild.org

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

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