

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

September, 2015

San Diego
Writers Editors
Since 1979
Guild

“The English language is the best toy a boy ever had.”

Merl Reagle, craftsman of crossword puzzles

T. Jefferson Parker to Speak on “Writing a Hometown Story”

Finding stories right where you live will be the topic of T. Jefferson Parker’s presentation to members and guests on Sept. 28th.

Born in Los Angeles, with a degree in English from UC Irvine, Parker began his writing career in 1978 as a cub reporter on a weekly newspaper. After covering police, city hall, and cultural stories, he moved to a daily newspaper, where he won three Orange County Press Club awards for his articles.

He has won three Edgar Awards for the best mystery of the year and won The Los Angeles Times Award in 2001 for *Silent Joe*. His first novel, *Laguna Heat*, was made into an HBO movie. Parker's following novels all dealt with crime, life and death in sunny Southern California. His last six crime novels – *L.A. Outlaws*, *The Renegades*, *Iron River*, *The Border Lords*, *The Jaguar*, and *The Famous and the Dead*, -- all feature Charlie Hood, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, and dangers along the U.S./Mexico border. Lionsgate Entertainment and Films bought the rights to bring Charlie Hood to the big screen.

Parker now resides in Fallbrook. His novel *Full Measure* marks a departure from crime writing and is his first mainstream literary novel. In it a veteran returns home to find the avocado ranch owned for generations by his family has been burned by wildfires in the foothills of San Diego.



Board of Directors News

Harry Huntsman, president of the SDW/EG Board of Directors, has resigned due to health issues. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his presence at meetings when he is able. Until the next election, Bob Doublebower, vice-president, will lead the Board.

The annual meeting and election of members to the Board of Directors is held in October each year. Officers are elected at the November Board of Directors meeting, from among those elected in October.

SDW/EG bylaws require ten members on the board. Vacancies are open for volunteers who are interested in becoming more involved.

A term of office is two years. Board meetings are held once a month, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Mission Valley Library. Contact Bob or other Board members (see page 4) if you would like more information about being on the ballot.

Youth Program for Writing to Begin

The kickoff of the SDW/EG program for supporting youth in the art of writing will feature Margaret Harmon on the topic of writing fables. All students in grades 7 to 12 are welcome to participate.

The group will meet at the San Diego Public Library at 4155 Governor Drive in University City on Thursday, October 8th from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Don Mayfield will conduct creative writing activities at the November meeting.

Member Benefit of the Month

One means of marketing yourself and your book is being available for speaking engagements. The Guild Speakers Bureau is open to all members. Look at the present listings on the website to view the format; submit your information and a jpg file of your book cover to Sandra Yeaman, webmaster, sandrayeaman@gmail.com, or to Ruth Leyse-Wallace, rthlys@cox.net.

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Marcia Buompensiero for the publication of *Dirty Little Secrets*, the second in her Theo Hunter, Investigative Reporter, series. Look for her new web site www.theohuntermysteries.com

Gary Winters for being selected to read and record his story “Borzoi Boy” for a benefit event for the Rancho Coastal Humane Society in Solana Beach on October 1.

Tom Leech for the publication of his poem “Kids Buying Bonds” in *The Garrett Clipper* in Garrett, IN.

William Barrons for publication of his first book, *The .22 Caliber Killings*, published by **Rick Lakin** (also an SDW/EG member) of iCrew Digital Publishing.

What You Missed . . .

. . . by **Mardie Schroeder**

Alan Russell is one of the best mystery writers in the business. He has had two of his books on the best seller list on Amazon. He began writing at nine years old and never gave up, although he had some detours from writing books to do ghost writing—a means only to get his whole house remodeled!

Some free-lance articles to magazines and newspapers filled in a few gaps as well. It was lucrative but unsatisfying to his soul.

He has taught classes and written a screenplay for Disney.

Testament to his dedication to writing? How does ten hours a day, seven days a week, on book deadline, sound?

Tips on how to survive as a writer? Never give up. Writing is a long marathon. There is always a second act in a writer’s life. Instant success is a ten-year wait. Don’t write a book with an unhappy ending. Don’t overlook putting your books on Kindle and audio.

Alan said he has more ideas for books than time to write them. He starts with “what if…” and goes from there. He is a visual writer and lets others do the editing, marketing, publishing, i.e. all the grunt work.

And, he is a member of SDW/EG.

2016 “IPPY”: Call for Entries

(IPPY: Independent Publisher Book Awards)

The industry's most competitive and prestigious awards for independently published books is now accepting entries. Eligible books have a 2014-2016 copyright or a release date between January 1, 2014 and February 27, 2016. The fee is \$75 per category. The final entry deadline is February 27, 2016. Results will be announced at the 20th Annual Award Ceremony to be held in Chicago May 11, 2016 during BookExpo America. For entry forms go to http://www.independentpublisher.com/ipland/IPPY_2016_Guidelines_Main.pdf

Website Tip for September

from **Sandra Yeaman**, Social Media Manager
www.sdwritersguild.org

Notify Sandra if you would like to post an announcement on the SDW/EG website or on the new SDW/EG Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoWritersEditorsGuild>. Please "Like" the Facebook

page so we can get some statistics on how many people access it. New to the website:

- 1) “Marketing Monday” – a new post about marketing every Monday.
- 2) Website information about writing contests and conferences in the West.

Mark Your Calendar

October 26th – **Richard Lederer** will present “Fascinating Facts About Our Presidents.”

November 23rd – **Launch of *The Gilded Pen***, 2015 edition. Martin Kruming, San Diego attorney and SDSU faculty member, will speak on the legal aspects of writing.

December 21st (3rd Monday) – Holiday party for members and invited guests; 6:00 -9:00 PM at the usual meeting place.

Upcoming Writing Conferences

The 2015 **La Jolla Writers Conference** will be November 6-8. Scott McEwen, trial attorney in San Diego, and author of *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*, will be a featured speaker.

West Coast Writers Conference – Memoir Writing Conference, “Memories Are Made of This,” October 23-25, 2015 at Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave, Van Nuys CA 91401. See also <http://www.wcwriters.com/genrela/index.html>

Agents in California Seeking Submissions

In the annual listing of agents seeking submissions, Writers Digest lists the following new agents in California:

Jessica Watterson, at Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency, 1237 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014; (858) 755-3115. See www.dijkstraagency.com

Patricia Nelson at Marsal Lyon Literary Agency, Los Angeles; see <http://www.marsallyonliteraryagency.com/the-agents/patricia-nelson>

Carlie Webber, CK Webber Associates in San Francisco go to carlie@ckwebber.com for submission guidelines.

A Book Cover Checklist

A cover sets the tone for the book.

- Does the title reflect the essence of the book?
- Does your non-fiction book have a subtitle?
- Does the back cover give a solid book summary, author bio, professional headshot and “blurbs?”
- Does the book have the title, author name, and publisher on the spine?
- Are the price and bar code included?

Visit a bookstore and see where the book would be shelved and compare it to the competition.

See <http://blog.bookbaby.com> ; by Sandra Poirier Smith, www.SmithPublicity.com

A New Resource

The new San Diego Book Review invites San Diego authors to send their book(s) for review. Copies of your book may be submitted as a General Submission within 90 days of release at no cost. Books published longer than 90 days ago may be submitted as a Sponsored Submission for review at a cost of \$125.00. E-books may be submitted if in an accepted format. Pre-publication manuscripts may also be submitted for review.

The San Diego Book Review publishes a web site, a blog, podcasts of interviews with authors, and a quarterly circulated newspaper.

The website also lists events such as readings at UpStart Crow, author events at Warwicks and Barnes and Noble, library exhibits and writers workshops.

For information see

<http://www.sandiegobookreview.com/>

Thanks to Tom Leech for alerting us to this resource.

Classes in Social Media

Grossmont Adult School is offering the following one-day classes on September 19th at Foothills Adult Center, 1550 Medody Lane, El Cajon.

- 1) “Facebook Made Easy,” 9 AM to noon, and
- 2) “Social Media--Choosing the Right One for Your Business,” 12:30 to 3:30 PM. For information or to register go to www.adultschool.guhsd.net

A Beta Reader? What’s That?

A Beta reader is someone who reads your finished book and gives you feedback or new point of view on the completed work. An author requests feedback on specific aspects such as, are there any points of confusion, any stumbling blocks? Does each chapter flow and fit? What works well for a reader? A Beta reader isn’t a proofreader or an editor. Select someone who will “give honesty without attitude,” suggests Amy Sue Nathan, contributor of “Beta Test Your Book” in the October 2015 *Writers Digest*.

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

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <p>The Writer's Life is published by The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild P. O. Box 881931 San Diego, CA 92168 Telephone: (858) 571-0201</p> <p>Meetings: The Fourth Monday each month General Meeting: 6:30 PM- Sign-in 6:45 PM - Business Meeting 7:00 PM - Speaker/Program</p> <p>Marketing Support Group: 5:30-6:30 PM Location: San Diego County Health Services Complex 3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110</p> <p>For a map see: www.SDWritersGuild.org</p> <p>Membership: \$36.00 per year Guests: \$5.00 per meeting</p> | Board of Directors | | 2-Year Term Expires 12/31 |
| | President | Open due to resignation | 2015 |
| | Vice-President | Bob Doublebower doublebower@sbcglobal.net | 2016 |
| | Secretary | Simone Arias sarias2@earthlink.net | 2015 |
| | Treasurer | Marcia Buompensiero lonzahn2@cox.net | 2016 |
| | Membership Chairman | Rick Peterson richard.g.peterson@navy.mil | 2016 |
| | Directors-At-Large | Gered Beeby geredbeeby@aol.com Dave Feldman feldy88@cox.net | 2015 |
| | Past President & Newsletter Editor | Ruth Leyse-Wallace rthlys@cox.net | 2015 |
| | Social Media Manager | Sandra Yeaman sandrayeaman@gmail.com | |

Mission Statement

The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.

Benefits of membership: SDW/EG supports members and promotes the writing arts through the following: educational meetings with 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 community-wide writing/editing classes, conferences, and other events; links to writing/editing resources on the website; publicity for your published creative work on the "Members' Works" web page; and the opportunity to be included in the Speakers Bureau.