

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

July, 2016



An intellectual: someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger.
Billy Connolly



Join the fun at the July meeting for an evening of reading some of your work, hearing other members read, and accepting and/or offering feedback.

We have such a diverse group of writer/members it is both entertaining and inspiring to hear what others have been working on or have had published. If you are new to the Guild, it is good way to get to know other members.

You may select items that have been submitted, published, or new items you want feedback about. Each reading can be a short piece, poem, or an excerpt from something longer. There is a strict time limit of 3 minutes for each reader, so it is best to time yourself reading your choice aloud before the meeting. The maximum number of people that can read in the meeting time is twenty, so the evening does not allow time for personal introductions, explanations about what you wrote, why you wrote it, or other details.

If you would like to read at Open Mic Night **sign up by July 20th** send your name, the title of your reading and your email address to Ruth Leyse-Wallace at rthlys@cox.net. This allows time for a program to be printed, which has been helpful during past open mic evenings.

See you July 25th . . . bring a pencil or pen.

"Author's Works" Web Page – A Member Benefit

Any member with a published book or article is encouraged to include a listing on the Members' Works page of the guild's website. See the present listings at <https://sdwritersguild.org/members-works/>

This is one way to add to your personal platform as well as a fine way to let the community know the accomplishments of our members.

Your name, title(s) and your website and/or site where the book is available may be included in the listing. Send your entry or an update of your listing to the webmaster, Sandra Yeaman, at www.sandiegowriterseditorsguild@gmail.com.

Buying a Book

There is a difference between buying a paper book and buying a digital book (ebook). There are different rules for digital platforms. Ebooks fall under "digital rights management". The fine print for Amazon Kindle says you cannot buy, sell, rent, lease, distribute, broadcast, sublicense or other-wise assign any rights to Kindle content. A buyer of an e-book cannot give away, lend, re-sell, or read it on an unapproved device. One current issue isn't whether a publisher has the rights to do this, it is whether it is being communicated to purchasers clearly. It isn't clear whether you can leave your Kindle library to someone when you die.

David Lazarus SD-UT 5/22/16

News from the Board of Directors:

- >Planning is underway for a program to encourage writing in highschool youth.
- >Program planning for 2017 has begun. Suggestions for speakers and topics are welcome.
- >An volunteer opportunity: If you might be interested in assisting with the Guild newsletter, please contact Ruth Leyse-Wallace, Editor @ rthlys@cox.net or 619-445-6656.

Tip of the Hat to

Frank Newton, PhD, who will be teaching three classes at Oasis-Mission Valley, on August 2, 9 and 13th. The lectures will focus on Cortez's conquest of the Aztecs and Pizarro's conquest of the Incas, providing historical background used in his recent book, *The Trials of Tizoc*.

Joe Bonpensiero for publication of his new book *Dinner in Happy Valley: A Humorous Memoir – If it wasn't for the war!*

Ruth Leyse-Wallace, PhD, for presenting a nationally broadcast webinar for nutrition professionals on "Conducting a Nutrition-focused Physical Examination in the Behavioral Health Environment," related to the content of her book.

What You Missed . . .

by Mardie Schroeder

If all the accomplishments of Dr. Wendy Patrick were listed, there would be no room to write this column. Her subject at the June meeting was on the dangers of living in the modern social media world.

If someone were to knock on the door in the middle of the night, no sane person would answer, let alone open the door and let a perfect stranger in. Yet we do that with social media. Much of our personal information is revealed online through our own postings as well as friends' postings.

We want to feel connected. We want lots of friends. We want to promote our accomplishments. We want to be validated. We unwittingly put ourselves in a vulnerable position for anyone wanting to take advantage of us, or to harm us.

We reveal our lifestyles, our associations, our goals and interests, and our educational background. And we lower our standards when we are driven by emotion (like shopping when you're hungry). When time is of the essence, we often aren't objective.

It is easier for us to accept rather than to be suspicious. We prefer to trust rather than to verify or to seek corroboration whether on or off line. Our guard goes down with familiarity. The person next door is familiar, but who knew he was an ax murderer?

Appearance tells you nothing about a person. Many good-looking people aren't convicted, even though they are guilty, because of our biases about appearance. The opposite is also true.

A huge positive, according to Wendy, is that many more crimes are solved through social media – police have been able to predict where crimes will take place.

Wendy closed by pointing out, "There are far more good people out there than bad. Just be vigilant."

A Good Time Was Had By All . . .



. . . at the networking event with SDPEN on June 16th: Unidentified attendee, Marcia Buompensiero, Muriel Sandy, Nancy Clement, Gwen Jorgensen (standing), Edward Lopatin, Row 2; LarryEdwards, Sandra Yeaman.

East County Writers Group

A drop-in group for writers is held at the El Cajon Branch of the San Diego County Library (201 E. Douglas) at 10:00 AM on the first and third Fridays of the month. The group is hosted by Kristin Fogle, Executive Director of Writers, Ink. No registration is necessary – just show up. For more information, call 619-588-3718 or go to www.sdcl.org

Mark Your Calendar

August 22nd, 2016 – Antoinette Kuritz, owner of "Strategies," which specializes in literary development.

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)

November 28th, 2016 – Anthology launch

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

"Genius" – A Film about Writing

..... by Gered Beeby

Based on the book Max Perkins: Editor of Genius by A. Scott Berg, the film "Genius" presents the story of Maxwell Perkins during the time when he edited the works of prolific South Carolina author Thomas Wolfe.

It opens at the start of the Depression. Max Perkins is the pre-eminent editor for Charles Scribner's Sons publishing house in New York City. Played with consummate restraint by Colin Firth, Perkins agrees to do a "quick read" of the massive manuscript from this monumentally unrestrained upstart. The read encompasses the entire book, which would eventually become Look Homeward, Angel. Having previously introduced such literary greats as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald, Perkins has his hands full.

Wolfe, played with brilliant exuberance by Jude Law, operates with no known boundaries to his lyrically beautiful prose. But how to convert these mountains of sheets into cogent and complete novels? The film shows these diametric opposites as they labor with each other's objectives and inherent needs. In time the two men try to blend and gain fuller insight into the process of producing fine literature.

Filmed mostly on location and displayed in muted sepia tones, "Genius" is an unabashed art house film. This story is about writers, and the joys and agonies of writing, and has Oscar written all over it.

..... by Mardie Schroeder

"Genius" is a film that only the English could have made so artistically. Hollywood never would have considered it worthwhile to budget.

Max Perkins, editor for Scribner's, and Thomas Wolfe, author, were both word fanatics. Perkins wanted to make things more concise; Wolfe thought every word he wrote was sacred. The contrast between calm and serene Perkins and bombastic Wolfe made for interesting viewing in what otherwise could have been slow moving, which it never was.

Perkins was the only editor to take on the task of editing "Look Homeward, Angel" which was 333,000 words long. At first, Wolfe was beholden to Perkins when the finished book became a best seller, but eventually Wolfe resented Perkins and accused him of changing so much of it that it became more *his* (Perkins's) book.

Because of their mutual absorption with words, Perkins neglected his wife and five daughters, Wolfe his lover and patron. Perkins and Wolfe had an intense relationship over many years. After publication of "Of Time and the River," Wolfe parted company with Perkins and traveled around Europe and California. After Wolfe died at the age of 37 of tuberculosis of the brain, Perkins received a letter that Wolfe wrote on his deathbed in which Wolfe spelled out his love and appreciation for all Perkins had done for him.

Is This a Surprise?

A survey reported in *Mindful* magazine asked "What takes up the most room in your house?" Thirty-one percent replied they fill up the nooks and crannies with books. Twenty-one percent keep more clothes around than anything else; ten percent said they have a lot of useless junk; four percent have a lot of toys.

Mindful, June 2016

Conferences for Writers

The La Jolla Writers 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.

Wild Readers and Deep Readers "Wild Readers" are people with a passion for reading who talk about the books they read. "Deep Readers" read to become familiar with the best writing in a field of interest. Deep Readers collect and save the best of what they discover. A deep reader needs to know the vocabulary, what the experts are writing, be able to recognize compelling ideas, strong evidence, and credible quotes. They collect electronic files, newspaper and magazine articles and written reports – all of which can be consulted and add depth to many types of writing. Alexander Green at waionline.com

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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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