

The Writer's Life

The Newsletter of the San Diego Writers / Editors Guild



"The dubious privilege of a freelance writer is he (or she) is given the freedom to starve anywhere."

- S.J. Perelman

August 2004

From the Prez - Ruth Ritchie

I hope you are enjoying the summer (and maybe a vacation) as well as all the wonderful concerts and events that are offered in our beautiful city.

One of the coming events that is planned next Monday for the Guild is the First Book Panel which is also mentioned on our website.

Our Executive Director has, in the meantime, received a great number of computers for our future writing clinics. If any of you know of a place where we could have a permanent room for such a computer group (maybe in a school or club), please let me or Pete Alexander know about it. We then could soon plan such clinics for children, youngsters and adults.

See you next Monday at the Guild meeting!

Ruth Ritchie, President

FIRST BOOK PANEL

Monday, Aug. 16th @ 6:30 PM

*Hear how these writers did it!
Everyone attending should
bring their books to sell.*

*Contact Yvonne Nelson Perry to
reserve your book table.
(619) 479-7960*

Upcoming Events Calendar

- Aug. 9th - Board Meeting - 6:00 PM at the Education Building
- Aug. 16th - General Meeting - 6:30 PM at the Joyce Beers Community Center, in the Uptown Shopping Center in Hillcrest. Directions: off 163 South, exit University and turn left at the light. Go 3 stoplights to Vermont and turn left. Go through stop sign and park anywhere you can. The conference room is on the far north end of Vermont, between the Aladdin and Terra restaurants. Guest speaker starts at 7:15 PM

Notes From The Editor's Desk...

As you can see, we have a new look. Building upon the excellent foundation established by Mike Grunwald and incorporating suggested changes put forth by membership through our recent survey, what you hold in your hands represents the next evolution on SDW/EG newsletters. Is it perfect? Of course not. Does it make an effort to more closely reflect our membership's desires? We hope so! As with all good things, this will take time to simmer and evolve... yet another "work in progress". We hope you will continue to work with the Board in defining the parameters of our organization and that this publication more closely reflects your desires.

As you might suspect, Mike has elected to step down from the Editor's Desk for awhile, primarily due to personal workload demands. He has done a tremendous job thus far, and while these new changes may be exciting for all of us, they would not have been possible without the dedication and efforts of Mike. If things work out, maybe we'll get lucky and get him back at the helm. Meanwhile, dig in and let us know what you think!

SDW/EG Web News

In conjunction with our update of the newsletter, the Guild is busy preparing to update our web site, as well. New features to look for soon will include:

- ⇒ More dedicated pages featuring the works of our members, including links to sites where their work(s) may be purchased.
- ⇒ A Writer's Toolbox page, featuring an evolving list of links useful for research and fact-finding for writers and editors.
- ⇒ A page dedicated to job listings, work available and project opportunities in the greater San Diego county region.
- ⇒ Links to other writing groups in the area.

Just Browsing, Thanks... Ellen Shaw Tufts

CAPE COD CLUTTER

Out-of-Print Books at 3523 Fifth Avenue, San Diego

---After 30 years this charming book lovers' haunt still draws a few original customers; even the newer ones have been aware all summer of the "Gone Star Sailing!" sign on Cape Cod Clutter's front door.

---Now, many customers of the shop bordering Bankers Hill and Hillcrest are delighted to hear the shop re-opened recently (August 5) after a summer break for owner Mrs. Sandee Gillis.

---Back in August '74, Mrs. Gillis, a Boston native, came to San Diego "just for a rest" after a few hectic years practicing law in Washington, D.C.. Something about our city "clicked" and she subsequently leased a tiny bit of space near the corner of Ivy lane at Fifth Avenue. The delightful shop is indeed cluttered with the owner's books, maps, journals, magazines and bric-a-brac; the 10,000-book stock features travel books, military, yachting, philosophy, cooking and mystery genres, children's books and "books about bookshops."



The Pot Thickens

Publish or perish? Not true---as writers we can strive for recognition and still satisfy our culinary appetites, ranging from vegan to voracious. Here's a delightful fat-free salad dressing recipe submitted from a TWL reader, which can turn a simple green salad into a specialty. Or, if you wish, add a grilled chicken breast or salmon filet to field greens and top with dressing.

- E.S.T.

STRAWBERRY VINAIGRETTE

1 package (1 pound) strawberries
2 1/2 tablespoons rice vinegar
2/1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 small garlic clove, minced
1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon seasoned pepper

Rinse, drain and hull strawberries. Puree in blender or food processor. Stir in all remaining ingredients. Store in a covered jar in refrigerator. Makes about 2 cups.

Cont...

(Remember *The Haunted Bookshop* and *84 Charing Cross Road*?)

---The front window remains a continual joy for passersby and this summer it's featured lovely sea books---surrounded by real shells, a miniature schooner and beachcombers' flotsam---such as "*the Handbook for Beach Strollers from Maine to Cape Hatteras*," and "*Down East Shells*."

---Mrs. Gillis has related how a Fifth Avenue stroller asked her : "Is this going to be a fish place?" back in '74 during the shop's renovation.

---Indeed, it's been strictly for literary digestion during three decades, and the Cape Cod hours still remain Monday through Saturday, 12:30-6:30 p.m. with special hours on request by calling (619) 291-8088.



2004 Membership Survey Results

Pete Alexander, Executive Director

As with any survey, response rate is what matters most. Quite often, the pollster requires compromising photographs, downloaded e-mails, old love letters and high caliber weapons to gain the cooperation of the survey audience. That said, I am please to report that the Guild's recent survey came in at over a 50% response level. For those who participated, we thank you. For those who did not, well... we're calling the results a mandate, so read 'em and weep. Actually, I don't believe you'll find anything to weep about, but I needed some pop in my opening remarks, so...

In the same order that the questions were posed, I submit the following data for your consideration:

- 1) Average number of years of Guild membership of responding members:7.5
- 2) Most of us write fiction and non-fiction (no surprise there). The next level of interest lies in the areas of children's and journalistic (magazine) writing - as well as editing. The third most popular interests are in poetry, mystery, script, self-help, technical / research, sci-fi, short story and educational writing.
- 3) The overall average for Guild activities, which include membership meetings, guest lecture series, workshops & conferences, the newsletter and networking opportunities, was 3.62 (on a scale between 1 and 5). So, we're getting a C+, which suggests that, although we may not be awful, we DO have some work to do...
- 4) Existing annual dues are deemed acceptable and will remain unchanged for 2005.
- 5) Regarding Guild activities in conducting outreach writing programs for youth, adults and the elderly, conducting writing competitions, establishing scholarship funds and developing new and creative fundraising events, there is support across the board at the two-thirds level. Therefore, we will push ahead in the development of these plans and guage their effectiveness as the programs unfold. More on this to follow...
- 6) Finally, among individual complaints / comments / concerns / concepts, a few are worth noting here. First, a request for greater community outreach is already underway, with plans to begin cross-linking web sites with other writing groups and cooperation in upcoming events. Regarding the format of our general meetings, the board is taking into consideration all suggestions (such as occasional daytime meetings and a better sound system) and we'll be working towards making those meetings more meaningful for our membership and guests. We'll also be looking into ways to create a format that fosters more membership involvement (such as readings) at our general meetings. For those interested in seeing our newsletter upgraded, well... here ya go! As for suggestions regarding fundraising, well... that's my biggest challenge as Executive Director. I will be focused in that area in the coming months and will report back to you in upcoming newsletters. Once again, thanks for your input!



FIRST BOOK PANEL

HEAR FROM *FIRST-TIME* AUTHORS at the San Diego Writers/Editor's Guild Meeting on the evening of August 16 -- 6:30 to 9:00. While the ink is still wet, let these writers share what it was like to get the first book in print. Learn about the planning stages, research, development of styles, finding an editor (and hopefully, an agent), actual writing and finally -- giving birth to a book. There's a first time for everything and there is usually a story in it. Plan to ask questions at this special event.

The San Diego Writers and Editors Guild meets on the third Monday of each month at the Joyce Beers Community Center -- right off University Ave. (and tenth Street) in the Ralphs/ Trader Joe's Shopping Complex. Mingle with writers, editors, agents and others in the literary fields. Visitors are welcome - a \$5.00 fee is requested. Current members are, as always, free.

Member News

The Guild would like to welcome our newest members aboard! They include:

- Sylvia Mendoza, a freelance writer specializing in features and profiles. Author of *The Book of Latina Woman: 150 Vidas of Passion, Strength and Success* (Sept. 2004).
- Gary Winters, former English editor for a bilingual newspaper in Mexico.
- Marian B. Jones, who has sold over 100 general interest articles to national and regional periodicals, half a dozen romance novels, and a historical book to Random House. Teaches a course in writing the commercial novel, and conducts seminars at writers' conferences or on-campus seminars.
- Prudy Tallman Wood, who has written numerous articles for magazines like *Modern Maturity*, *Air & Space/Smithsonian*; finished memoir, titled *Songs in the Rigging*.
- Jane MacKenzie
- Shirley Newman
- Janice Stanger
- Nancy Klann
- Sam Warren

Please take the time to greet them when we all get together at our upcoming meetings!

We're looking for a DONATED room to hold outreach writing classes in!

As you have read, the Guild has acquired a number of computer systems... now all we need is someplace to set them up. Ideally, it would be a room large enough to set up and host up to 20 students. In the future, we hope to acquire laptops and eliminate this need. Right now, however, we need to find a home - any ideas? Can you or someone you know help us find a room?

Ads, Business Cards and Classifieds



WRITER'S WORKSHOPS
 - Openings -
 Wednesday evenings 6 - 9 PM
 Saturday afternoons 1 - 4 PM
**Craft of Writing / Read & Critique /
 Line Editing**
 Contact Yvonne Nelson Perry
 (619) 479-7960

Ruroanik Publishers
 Small Editions - Family History
 Book of YOUR Life - Specialty Books
www.ruroanikpublisher.com
 (858)646-7637 Ruroanik@aol.com

The Kitchen's Ink
*Celebrating 25 years of the SD
 Writers / Editors Guild*
 —
 The Guild Cookbook, edited by
 Mike Grunwald and Ellen Shaw
 Tufts, features over 50 recipes
 from Guild members and
 friends. To get your copy, send
 a check for \$11.95 to:
*SDWEG, PO Box 881931, San
 Diego, CA 92168*
 All proceeds will benefit the San Diego
 Writers / Editors Guild directly.

Advertising Rates for The Writer's Life

Ad Size	Dimensions (inches)	General Price per Month	Member Price per Month	4-Month Package	Guild 4-Month Package
1/4 Column	3.5 X 1.75	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.60	\$14.00	\$12.80
1/3 Column	3.5 X 3.5	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.40	\$21.00	\$19.20
1/2 Column	3.5 X 5	\$ 8.00	\$ 7.20	\$28.00	\$25.60
1/3 Page	3.5 X 7.5	\$10.00	\$ 9.00	\$35.00	\$32.00
1/2 Page	5 X 7.5	\$12.00	\$10.80	\$42.00	\$38.40
Full Page	7.5 X 10	\$15.00	\$13.50	\$52.50	\$48.00

Business Card Insertion: \$12.00 for 3-Month run. \$40.00 / Year.

Classifieds: Use 1/4 column pricing above. Public Service and General Meeting Announcements will be printed free of charge on a space-available basis. Contact Pete Alexander with copy and / or images at:

petealexander@hotmail.com

(619) 200-9202

Submissions

Deadline for submission to *The Writer's Life* is the 20th of the month prior to publication. E-mail copy and photographs (preferably jpegs) to:

petealexander@hotmail.com

or send via diskette or CD-ROM to:

Pete Alexander
PO Box 6855
San Diego, CA 92166

Please include your telephone # in case there are questions. We accept news, events, prose, excerpts, opinions, letters to the editor and cash donations. Naturally, we reserve the right to edit any material submitted. Regarding guest speakers or event ideas, please contact our President, Ruth Ritchie, at:
ruoanik@aol.com

THANKS!

www.sdwritersguild.org

San Diego Writers / Editors Guild
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Prefer to read this online?
Send Pete an e-mail and
he'll set you up!
petealexander@hotmail.com



TO:



**San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
Application for Membership**

Complete this application and send it with appropriate annual member dues to the address below. All applications must be approved by the Board of Directors. Fee will be returned if membership application is not approved.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Day (_____) _____ Evening (_____) _____

Fax Number (_____) _____ e-mail _____

Credits: Description of work published, when and where. Use the lines provided below. Applicants for professional status must submit three samples of published, paid work with brief résumé. If unpublished, describe writing experience or present commitment and area of knowledge.

Please check type of membership desired: Professional _____ Associate _____

Payment type: _____ Single Membership \$30.00 _____ Full-time Student \$15.00

_____ Member & Spouse \$40.00 _____ Out of Country/State \$12.50

_____ Young Members Forum \$15.00

Sponsored by _____

Would you prefer to read your Guild Newsletter on-line? _____ Yes _____ No

Write-up for membership directory (25 words on genre and interests)

Please mail application and check to:

SDW/EG, P.O. Box 881931, San Diego, California 92168-1931

CORRESPONDENT MANSON SHARES HIS CAREER - Journalist speaks at July 19 meeting

By Ellen Shaw Tufts

Correspondent/free-lancer Bill Manson, whose lustrous journalistic career in all media has spanned the world, shared a few life experiences during the July 19 membership meeting at Joyce Beers Center. He offered a few tips about the joys of free-lancing. You might find the words "world-class," "sophisticated," "savvy" and "veteran" apply to this San Diego-based Brit who has lived here since covering the America's Cup races in '88 and '92. However, Manson is surprisingly modest about his distinguished achievements,

A London-born Brit, he moved at a young age with his family to New Zealand, then to France, England and he subsequently covered assignments for three years as a correspondent in Southeast Asia (make that VietNam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Laos.) He was recently honored by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) San Diego Chapter for an article in *San Diego Homes and Gardens* magazine. He finds San Diego, especially downtown, a territory rich in ethnic cultures.

"Free-lancing gives you the freedom to do what you want," he noted, with a few suggestions:

- Remember, your No. 1 priority is the reader!
- Deliver your copy on time
- Roll with the punches that may occur during an assignment.
- Remember, your readers are human beings
- Be prepared to be interviewed yourself
- Don't be afraid of research ----avoid careless research!

Manson has written for such diverse publications as the *LondonTimes*, *The Spectator*, *The Observer*, *the Los Angeles Times*, *Reuters News Service*, *the Chicago Tribune* and *the Boston Globe* . A current contributor to the *San Diego Reader*, Manson has served as a non-fiction workshop leader for the San Diego Book Association's "Almost-Free" Outdoor Writers Writer's Conference.

Rancho Computer Network Comes Through for Guild!

In late May, the Guild sent out over 75 letters to computer suppliers, manufacturers and repair facilities, seeking donations of desktop and laptop systems in support of our planned outreach programs. We only received three responses, but we very fortunate that one of the respondees was Rancho Computer Networks. Bill and Mona Durney - who ARE Rancho Computr Networks - were receptive to our plea and responded in the most generous manner. To date, the Guild has received 16 desktop systems from them and can look forward to receiving more in the future.

The Durney's innovative program is to accept older computers in need of repair and use them as training tools for high school kids interested in developing a knowledge about computer repair. Once they have been repaired, they are put to good use somewhere—like with the Guild. We're very excited about the possibilities and extend our heartfelt thanks to the Durneys and their office manager, John. Look for more information about Rancho Computer Network and the Guilds plans for outreach writing seminars in future newsletters. And if you have a system to donate, call us!