

June 2016

TypeRider

Arizona Professional Writers

Formerly Arizona Press Women

Exley selected APW Communicator of Achievement

by Joan Westlake

Lynda Exley, an APW member since 1997 and renowned *Typewriter* editor, was selected as APW's 2106 Communicator of Achievement. Nomination materials have been sent to the National Federation of Press Women, and Exley will be honored along with COAs from other states. A recognition ceremony is planned for APW's fall conference.



Career highlights:

For some reporters, writing is in their DNA. When Exley was 8 years old, she started her first neighborhood newspaper. It was hand-written on sheets of scrap paper and had pictures colored in crayon. She handed it out personally to neighbors, and their

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AZ Humanities awards \$750 mini grant to APW

by Carol Osman Brown

Arizona Humanities announced the Award of a Mini Grant of \$750 to Arizona Press Women, Inc., dba Arizona Professional Writers for the Payson Book Festival 2016 project. In May they awarded a total of \$11,250 in Mini Grants to support seven humanities projects.

"Arizona Humanities is thrilled at the breadth and diversity of projects this cycle, and we congratulate all the award recipients," says Arizona Humanities Grants Manager Nicole Blalock. "From

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Rim Country District elects new officers



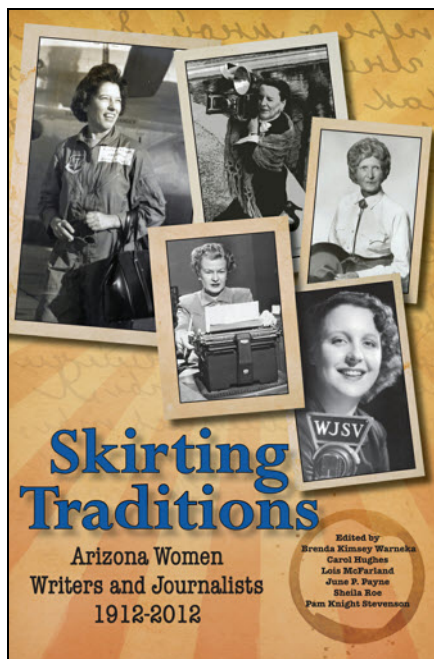
New officers for the 2016-17 term are from left, Carol Osman Brown, president; Marsha Ward, president-elect; Connie Cockrell, program chair; Kim

Chambers, treasurer and Marie Fasano, secretary. Marsha will take on the president role in the fall and Carol will remain as an advisor.

‘Skirting Traditions’ now available as ebook

APW is pleased to announce the APW anthology, *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012*, was recently released in ebook format at a special introductory price of \$3.99. It’s available on all five ebook platforms:

1. Barnes & Noble Nook: barnesandnoble.com.
2. Amazon Kindle (Amazon also sells book for iPads if the iPad reader has a Kindle application): amazon.com.
3. Google Play (Google also sells book for the iPad): play.google.com/store/books.
4. Apple eBooks for the iPad can only be seen and purchased through the iBooks app on your Apple device. (There is no way for you to check it from your computer.)



5. Kobo eReader: kobobooks.com.

The anthology contains 28 chapters, each devoted to a woman writer or journalist who played a special role in Arizona history during the hundred years before Arizona became a state. It was written by 18 members of APW to celebrate the Arizona Centennial in 2012.

After APW was organized in 1953, many leading writers and journalists in the state were APW members, so a number of the women in the book after 1953 are APW members.

The soft cover edition is also available from amazon.com and other book retailers. Profits from the sale

of the book go to support the APW college scholarship program.

May 14 APW Board Meeting highlights

by Brenda Warneka, Acting Secretary

The Rim Country District of APW is sponsoring the Payson Book Festival on Saturday, July 23, with Gila Community College. Between 300 and 700 attendees are expected, and at least 30 volunteers are needed. Connie Cockrell is chairing the event again this year. Carol Osman Brown will be replaced by Marsha Ward as district chair in September, but will be available as an advisor.

The APW anthology, *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012*, was released as an ebook at a special introductory price of \$3.99. The price may be increased at any time.

The board discussed a draft of new bylaws prepared by Brenda Warneka. After further review, they are expected to be set for a vote in the fall.

There was an objection to having the fall conference on Sept. 24, because it was too close to the National Federation of Press Women convention in Wichita Sept. 9 and 10 and members who leave for the summer may not yet be back in town. It was agreed to move the date of the conference tentatively to Oct.

15 or 22. We will have an election of new officers at that time.

The board approved changing the term by which we designate our geographical groups throughout the state from “districts” to “chapters.” We have four such groups, which will now be known as: Central Phoenix Chapter, Southern Chapter, Rim Country Chapter and Colorado River Chapter.

The board voted to reimburse the early-bird registration fee for two or three members to be delegates at the membership meeting at the NFPW convention in Wichita. Members who are interested in attending the convention as delegates should contact Pam Stevenson at pstevensonAZ@aol.com.

The prior email action of board members nominating Lynda Exley as the 2016 Arizona Communicator of Achievement was approved. Exley will compete on a national scale with nominees from other affiliates throughout the country at the convention in Wichita to be named as the national COA.

Navigate route to successful screenwriting

by Barbara Lacy

Your novel is published and friends say, “This would make a great movie!”

Your dreams soar!

According to successful screenwriter Kate Herbert, who presented at the April 21 Central District meeting in Phoenix with writers Laurie Fagen and Karen Mueller Bryson, a lot of the work now has to do with who you know in the industry, how well you have followed what the producers are looking for and what friends you have in the Hollywood community to keep you in the know.

As Herbert puts it, “You have to know what is going on in the industry, who is producing and who is looking for a story.”

“You will also need an agent, entertainment lawyer and membership in the Writer’s Guild,” she says. “Remember, you are asking a producer to spend \$10 million to produce your work. It is a business, and the goal is to put ‘butts in seats.’”

As a script analyst for the movie industry, Herbert spent a good part of her life looking for scripts that would do just that. As she says, she read scripts “day and night.”

Now she says there are lots of places to sell movies and television is the easiest. It is now also easy to find out who is producing what by looking on the Internet.

Currently, vampires are out – unless you are spoofing vampires. According to Herbert, audiences are now looking for more grownup fare. Thus it is a good time for documentaries.

You need an agent to read your script, she adds. Producers don’t read scripts. They depend on agents to weed the good ideas out from the



APW members Meredith Whiteley, left, and Pam Stevenson at Kitchen 56.

bad. When you do sell a script, she says, you “kiss the script goodbye.” You sell all the rights. When sending in a script, don’t add casting suggestions.

“You don’t know who these people hate,” adds Herbert.

Use present tense in writing your script. Use the proper format, and never make it over 120 pages. Use 12-point Courier type. You can protect your work by registering it with the Writers Guild.

Fagen suggested a good way to start submitting scripts is by entering script-writing contests. Writing corporate scripts and documentaries is a good way to make money, she adds, mentioning she had written and produced a documentary on cattle drives and a deer hunt. A copy of her handout from the meeting is available from her or Barbara Lacy.

Bryson suggested you need to be, or hire, a screen writer – not an author – to transform your book into a screenplay. There is a difference, she adds.

Writing scripts is the opposite of the “show and tell” of novel writing.

Characters put the action into words, Herbert adds. To learn how to write screenplays, read scripts. They are downloadable from the Internet.

Another idea is to come up with an amazing concept. Send an agent a short email with the title, and concept without taking the time to write the script.

Each speaker brought different ideas to the table, but the theme was clear: do your homework, go to movies, read scripts, get to know people in the industry and hire an agent. The path to selling a movie script is not for the faint-hearted.

Attendees at the meeting also enjoyed lunch at Kitchen 56 afterward. Two attendees from Payson joined the group for the program and lunch, Connie Cockrell and Carole Mathewson. This was the last meeting for Central District until the fall. Keep your eyes on the APW newsletters for future meetings.

Colorado River District explores book covers

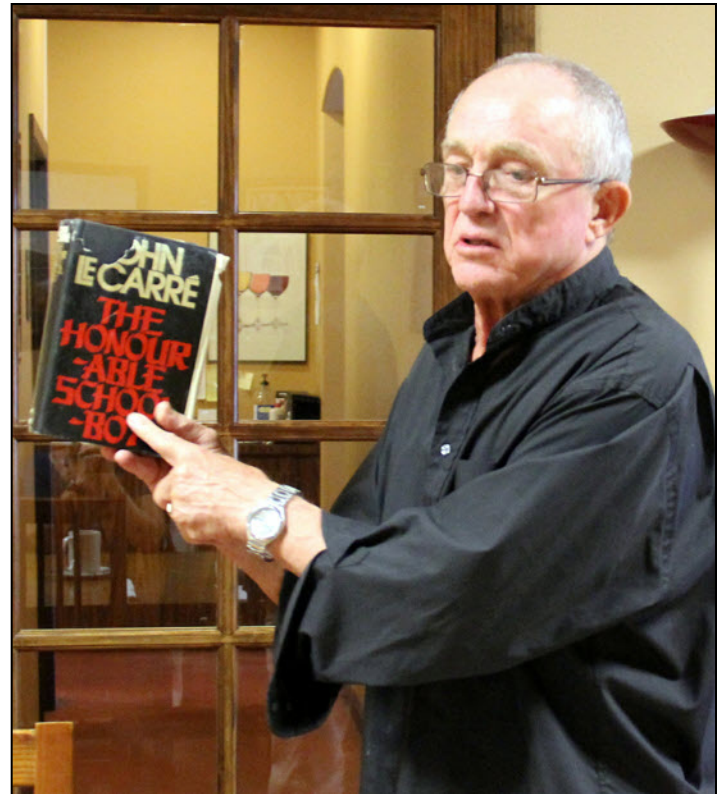
APW Member Stuart Clarkson presented “Designing Your Book Cover from Scratch” before the APW Colorado River District monthly meeting on May 10. It turned out he really did mean “from scratch.” Before designing the cover for his first book, he looked at the jacket designs of one of his favorite authors, John LeCarre, and was struck by their simplicity. He used his own simple artwork for his covers, plus served as the model on his second cover, but with his face hidden so he was not recognizable.

Clarkson was born and raised in Black Country, the industrial heart of England. He tried his hand at a number of jobs including paratrooper, betting office manager (it’s UK terminology), archives clerk, truck driver and pub owner. He now lives in Mohave Valley, Arizona, with his wife, Pamela, who serves as his editor and accompanies him to APW meetings. He published two books, and three of his stories appeared recently in an anthology, *And The Regiment Blind with Dust and Smoke*. Clarkston joined APW in 2015.

Following Clarkson’s presentation, Brenda Warneka spoke about presenting papers before the 2017 Arizona History Convention in Flagstaff in April. The call for proposals will be available in May from the Arizona Historical Society and will include rules and deadlines. Warneka handed out two sample proposals by APW members for papers they presented in prior years. The

convention in 2017 will be a joint meeting with New Mexico, so topics will include both Arizona and New Mexico history.

This was the last meeting for the Colorado River District until the fall.



Exley from Page 1

welcoming response hooked her on writing as a career. Unfortunately, her parents were not supportive.

Exley says their mantra to her was “Find a good man. You can’t make a living as a woman. Forget journalism.” Even though she won a scholarship to college for writing, she went into business—a decision she says held her back from following her passion to write for a long time. Although, she adds that any job she took on, she would find a writing aspect to it, and that was where she really excelled.

She was always hearing, “Lynda, can you write up a sales pitch for us?” or “Could you write the office newsletter?”

“I wish I could say ever since I was 8, I knew writing was my calling,” says Exley. “However, it wasn’t until

I spent many years performing unfulfilling jobs that the writer in me just screamed to get out.”

When she left a successful career as an association executive for the Arizona Hotel and Motel Association to have her son (who became an acclaimed author while in elementary school), she decided this was her chance to answer the writing siren. She offered to write for her neighborhood newspaper, the *Wangler News*, in Tempe, Arizona.

“I don’t know where I got the courage, but I called up Don Kirkland, the owner, and said I was a good writer, and I’d write a couple of articles for free so he could see what I could do,” she said. “After the third article, he hired me as a reporter. I started winning awards and getting noticed and getting calls for other freelance work. It seems, whenever I learned one writing disci-

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Payson Book Fest promises to be bigger, better

Volunteers Needed for July 23 event

by Carol Osman Brown

The 2016 Payson Book Festival, held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 23 at Gila Community College, 201 N. Mud Springs Road in Payson, is expanding to accommodate 80 authors and featuring three pre-events.

602-257-0335, ext. 26. To register for the poetry slam, visit azhumanities.org.

The day prior to the book festival, July 22, participating authors can attend a Publishing Panel Discussion at Majestic Retirement Living in Payson. Panelists are:

ship funds of both APW and Gila Community College, who are partnering to present this one-day literacy event. This year's larger event is made possible in part due to grant funds from Arizona Humanities.

"We sold out all the author tables, but will maintain a waiting list for those who request to be put on a waiting list in case of cancellations," says Connie Cockrell, chair of the planning committee. "There are a variety of family friendly activities, and we expect attendance of 600 visitors."

Volunteers

"We really need about 30 volunteers to work a few hours during the book festival, July 23, to help with registration, introduce speakers, help authors and do other tasks," says Cockrell.

If you are interested, send an email to info@paysonbookfestival.org.

Even if you are not participating in the Payson Book Festival, APW members can help promote this event by mentioning it on their websites, blogs or event calendars to drive people to the book festival website, paysonbookfestival.org, or the Facebook page for information and updates.



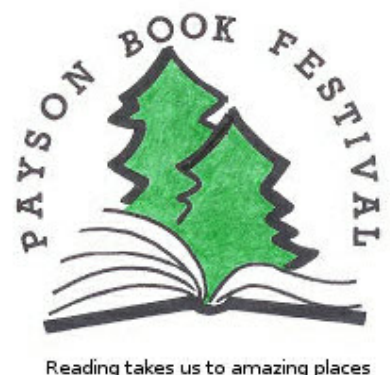
The 2015 Payson Book Festival drew 500 attendees from all over Arizona. This year's event expects to attract 600. DJ Craig photo

"We are reaching out to youth by presenting a Payson Teen Poetry Slam on June 11 in partnership with Arizona Humanities, Tucson Poetry Slam Group and Spoken Futures, Inc." says APW Rim Country District Director Carol Osman Brown.

The poetry slam is for ages 13 to 18 and is held from noon to 4 p.m. on June 11 at Community Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Main St., Payson. It's a free event, and lunch is included. For information on the event, contact Brown at info@paysonbookfestival.org or Arizona Humanities Programs Manager Ellie Hutchison at ehutchison@azhumanities.org or

Linda Radke, owner of Five Star Publications, Inc.; Eileen Boughman, founder of Gardner's Book Service; and Sam Henrie, President of Wheatmark, Inc. Later that evening, a "Meet and Greet" reception for authors and Payson Book Festival sponsors will take place at the same location.

The 2016 Payson Book Festival's main event on July 23 is a family oriented, free event featuring food, entertainment, author presentations and story time for kids, who also can meet "Story Monster." The goals of the festival are to promote literacy and showcase Arizona authors. Proceeds benefit scholar-



Don't be afraid to write your memoir

by Marie Fasano

Although May 18 was a drizzly, dreary day in Payson, the group at the APW Rim Country District meeting lit up with the bright energy of the award-winning author and publishing consultant, Patricia Brooks.

Her presentation, *Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write*, was packed with gems. She encouraged attendees to write in a new way by leaving a legacy, advocating for a cause or preserving one's stories. Her discussion of the different types of memoirs was revealing, be it a complex story, one with a single focus or a gift memoir.

Brooks discussed how to show the depth of one's "life myth" by revealing what you and others always thought about yourself. She gave us ideas on how to debunk those myths and encouraged the group to give



themselves permission to write about the sadness and heartaches of life, as she did with her memoir, *The Gift of Sisterhood*. In this book, Brooks wrote about her relationship with her younger, closest sister who died from lung cancer. The process

of writing the book helped in Brooks' own healing.

In addition, Brooks encourages writers to let readers feel their emotion. Get them rooting for you as you build the arc of your memoir, lead them to the end and show them your resolve in the changes that came into your life. Important points she shared were to face your fears by listening to your inner voice, your truth, and to not be afraid to show the lessons you learned. She did this with her book, *Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends*.

"Give your readers the guts and glory of your life. Embrace the painful heart-wrenching writing," says Brooks.

She ended her insightful talk by encouraging the group to "respect how you view your life." Contact her at brooksgoldmanpublishing.com.

Exley from Page 4

pline, I wanted to learn another. When I accomplished writing articles, I wanted to learn PR and then web design, and then I wanted to write a nonfiction book, and now I'm writing a fiction novel."

An independent writer, editor and speaker since 1995, Exley is the editor for APW's digital newsletter, the *Typewriter*. Month after month, she writes, gathers news and lays out what many consider to be a vital lifeline of information for APW. She edits the submissions of new writers, offering them a chance to be published, as well as highlights activities and features members. She was state secretary for APW and has been involved in a number of conferences and workshops both as a presenter and organizer.

Exley is a former author, editor and publicity agent at Five Star Publications, and editor/writer for the *SanTan Sun News*, *Arizona Parenting*, *Houston Parent*, *LA Parent*, *Ahwatukee Monthly*, *SWEAT* magazine and many other publications.

She earned more than 50 national and state awards for editing and writing. Most recently, she co-authored *Arizona Way Out West & Wacky*, *Arizona Color Me Wacky* and *Arizona Way Out West & Witty: Library Edition*, which won 2012 ONEBOOKAZ for kids. She is the recipient of Arizona Newspaper Association's Best Entry Outstanding Writing award, a three-time National Federation of Press Women Communications Contest winner for writing and editing, and garnered more than a dozen first-place wins in the Arizona Press Women's Communications Contests.

Exley is also a volunteer public speaker on the topics of writing, public relations, book marketing, utilizing humor in the classroom and Arizona history for adults and children in grades one through eight. She uses her delightful sense of humor and upbeat personality to make learning as fun as it is educational. She camouflages lessons with silly antics, fun facts and interesting activities, presenting to thousands of students and teachers yearly.

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Kansas Frontier: Plan for 2016 NFPW Conference

Get ready to engage actively in leadership, learn how to better use technology, brush up your grammar skills and delve into First Amendment issues at the 2016 NFPW Conference: Kansas Frontier in Wichita, Kansas, Sept. 8 through 11. Art galleries, museums, eclectic downtown shops and restaurants will also be part of the fun.

The Friday keynote speaker is Ed O'Malley, president and CEO of the Kansas Leadership Center. After O'Malley's address, Mary Shivley, a KLC faculty in residence at Emporia State University, will offer hands-on KLC training.

Technology is also on tap with "You've Got WordPress – Now Work It," taught by veteran WordPress users, Pixel Time owner Skyler Lovelace and Pixel Time instructor Carolyn Erickson. Erickson is also the owner and publisher of the website "Wichita on the Cheap."

NFPW's Cynthia Price of Virginia offers #TweetPitch Success, in which she'll show how to use Twitter to pitch the media, respond to reporter requests and amplify your reach.

Then, go back to basics with Dr. Sue Novak, former president of Kansas Professional Communicators and now assistant professor of public relations and journalism at State University of New York-Potsdam. Her engaging grammar workshops will ensure you leave truly understanding the difference between lay and lie.

There will be several sessions dealing with press freedom, including an update on the local high school journalism initiative and a look at sunshine laws in Kansas. Despite the national attention the state and its governor, Sam Brownback, is receiving, progress has been made in opening some court records. Doug Anstaett, president of the Kansas Press Association, will share these strides forward and help attendees take ideas for more open government back to their own states.

What about tours?

Conference organizers are putting the finishing touches on tours. The plan is to have a pre-tour depart the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport around 8

a.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, and return to Wichita by noon Wednesday, Sept. 7. Short tours around Wichita will be available in half-day increments: Wednesday morning and afternoon and Thursday morning, Sept. 8. A final, one-day post tour will depart the hotel around 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, and return to Wichita about 4:30 p.m.

Pre-tour trips will include exploring Emporia, home of newspaper publisher William Allen White's Gazette; the Sweet Granada, where the chocolate sunflowers came from in Alaska; and the Wild West of Dodge City

including Boot Hill Distillery, a new farm-to-bottle operation in an old firehouse. Visitors will also venture over the border to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum on the former site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which was destroyed in the 1995 bombing.

Like the NFPW Conference Facebook page, facebook.com/2016NFPWKS, for more news and updates.



Hotel

The conference is at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport. The conference room rate is \$99 per night plus taxes. Conference organizers are confirming the reservation page works before divulging the link and rate code. Parking is free for those who choose to drive to Wichita. The hotel's number is 316-945-5272.

Airport

Attendees should fly in and out of Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport, which is served by Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta, Southwest and United.

The conference hotel is one-eighth of a mile from the airport. If you're bringing a single bag and want to get some steps in, it's a quick walk. If you'd rather ride, the hotel has a complimentary shuttle.

Questions? Contact co-chairs Gwen Larson at gazettegl@yahoo.com or Becky Funke at rfunke3@cox.net. See more details at nfpw.org/conference.php.

Method acting works great for writers

by Betty Webb

Something strange happened while I was writing – or, rather, attempting to write – a scene in a Lena Jones mystery. The scene didn't work. It just lay there, stagnant and stinky as a four-day-old cod fillet.

Here was the original set-up. P.I. Lena Jones is interviewing the next-door neighbor of a murdered family. The Scottsdale, Arizona, neighborhood is pricy, and the homes accordingly elegant. The neighbor, who was out of town during the slaughter and can prove it, is not a suspect, but Lena thinks he might be able to give an overview of the family's activities in the months leading up to the murders.

I had originally planned to write the neighbor as half of a married gay couple, an affluent, educated, art-collecting nice guy, who had nothing but good things to say about the dead family. Because I believe in setting the “scenic” part of a scene, I went into great detail about the interior of the neighbor's house: white leather furniture, a



wall-sized painting by de Kooning, a sculpture by Giacometti, etc. As the interview continued, the man's partner came into the room. He, too, was an affluent, educated, art-collecting nice guy who contributed more warm-hearted stories about the deceased family.

The scene didn't work. It was dull as dirt. All that niceness – ick! Where was the conflict? Where was the tension?

As I sat there staring at the computer screen, an idea popped into my head. Why not take the same house and the same elegant furnishings, but turn this neighbor into someone you would not ordinarily associate with such tasteful, high-art surroundings?

The minute the idea popped into my head, so did a new character. For a few hours, I pounded out a scene that was surprising, unsettling and even a bit scary. My fingers flew over the keyboard, typing in this new character's startling dialogue and some very creepy body language. There was incredible tension in the scene because an ethical and personal conflict now existed between my P.I. and the new character. Lena was repelled by him – and also a bit frightened. Yet, she needed to stay in that elegant house alone with him in order to get information about the murdered family.

The weird thing about all this is that I don't remember writing a word of it. I was so lost inside that creepy

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Exley from Page 6

Listing all the volunteering Exley has done and continues to do – such as helping the elderly woman in the neighborhood with a new software program – would be impossible. Fairly new to the town of Sedona, a few hours north of her former home in Tempe, she's worked on the Big Park volunteer leadership committee and volunteered as writer and editor for their local newspaper, *The Villager*.

She is already on the area school and library lists to visit and speak on a variety of writing and publishing topics, as well as on Arizona Humanities' AZSpeaks bureau, presenting Arizona History topics. In addition to being a member of National Speakers Association,

Exley is a member of Arizona Professional Writers, National Federation of Presswomen and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

With her son off to Wisconsin to earn a Ph.D. in nuclear science, she and her husband “retired” to the beautiful red rocks of Sedona, where she rescued the wild doggie no one wanted and cares for two shelter kitties. Currently, she is working with authors to create their own websites and to help them with other publishing-related activities. In addition, she is working on a young adult, paranormal suspense romance novel and has a great working title, but she's not sharing it until the novel is published. As to what's next, you can be sure writing will be at its heart.



Scholarship awarded to Shea Shields

Arizona Professional Writers' Rim Country District awarded a \$500 Communication Scholarship to Payson High School Senior, Shea Shields. She plans to pursue classes in writing and business communication at Rio Salado Community College in the fall.

"We are proud to award this scholarship to an outstanding senior to help her pursue educational goals at an Arizona college, says Carol Osman Brown, president of the Rim Country District. "In our information age, good writing and graphic design abilities are highly valued skills in today's job market."

Funds for this scholarship were made available from the proceeds of the 2015 Payson Book Festival.

Method acting from Page 8

new character's head that I, as an individual, ceased to exist.

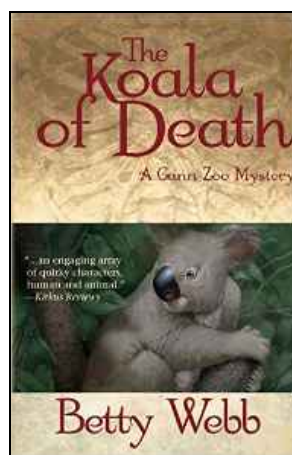
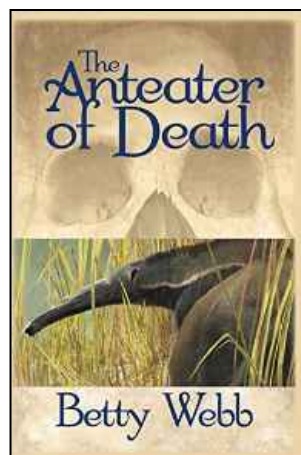
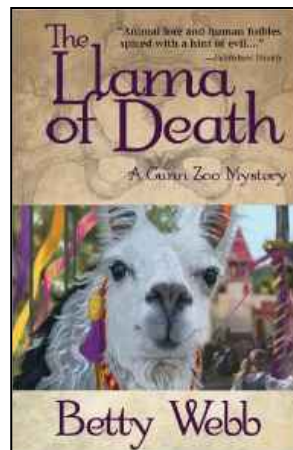
When Hubby (it should be noted here he's a psychologist) came home from work, I told him what happened.

"You had an out-of-body experience," he explained. "It's the same type of experience that method actors use to create their characters. You forgot about yourself and what you originally wanted to do. You forgot about your own ideas and expectations for the scene. Instead, you got deep down and dirty into the mind, heart and soul – or lack thereof – of this new character. When you disappeared, he emerged. That's why the new scene works so well, because it wasn't something you, *as you*, created. You were channeling him, and he created the scene – not you."

Creepy!

The next morning over coffee, we continued to talk about the previous day's odd experience.

"You've often wondered why you can write two separate series that are so different in tone from the first-person point of view by two protagonists who



have nothing in common," Hubby said.

"But the answer's easy. You're using the same method – method acting, if you will – that you did in writing yesterday's scene. When you're writing Lena, for instance, you become her. Lena, because of her difficult childhood in all those abusive foster homes, trusts no one. She has compassion for crime victims, but her compassion doesn't extend to allowing anyone to get close to her. Because of her global mistrust of the human race, Lena's personal relationships – the few

that she has – are a mess. She lives in a perpetual state of anger, is always close to the breaking point, and she has an itchy trigger finger. This is a dangerous combination, and that's why readers either love Lena or are repelled by her. But regardless of all her mental and emotional issues, Lena has a strong, unwavering mission in life – to bring justice to the dead.

"Teddy, the zookeeper in your Gunn Zoo books, is just the opposite. Because she was given so much love as a child, she likes just about everyone. She trusts people – at least until they prove themselves untrustworthy – and she loves both her fiancé and the animals she cares for at the zoo. Her personal circumstances

See Method acting, Page 10

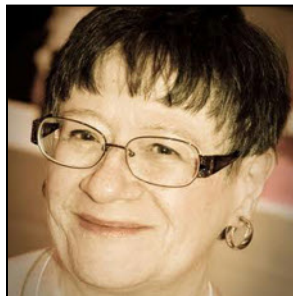
IN TOUCH WITH APW MEMBERS

Kee up to date with APW between newsletters by checking out arizonaprofessionalwriters.org and the APW Facebook page, which is public so colleagues can be Friends even if they are not APW members. Feel free to post news and other information of interest to members on the Facebook page.

Katherine Atwell Herbert's short story, *The Short Happy Life of Francine M.*, is the second-place winner in the fiction category of the annual At Large NFPW Communications Contest. The story, whose title is inspired by Herbert's favorite short tale, *The Short Happy Life of Francis McComber* by Ernest Hemingway, is set in 1953 Phoenix. A young Brooklyn bookkeeper is brought to a spacious desert home by the man she hopes to marry but discovers he has very different, lethal plans. It was also selected for inclusion in the Sisters in Crime-Desert Sleuths 2015 bi-annual anthology of mystery stories, *SoWest SoDeadly*.



Marsha Ward's book, *The Zion Trail* (Promised Valley Book 1), received an outstanding review on Amazon by reviewer Andy McKinney, who reviews books for the Payson Roundup. Ward, a Rim District APW member, will be a featured author at the Payson Book Festival on July 23.



Carole Mathewson of Payson is welcomed as APW's newest member. Mathewson has already been active in APW as the March speaker for the Payson District monthly meeting and as an attendee at Central District's May meeting, as a result of which she decided to join. She appears in both the March and April issues of this newsletter.

Elsie Needles of the APW's Colorado River District, who is sporting a new fashion accessory over a recently broken wrist (at right), has the condolences of her fellow APW members.



Barbara Lacy's diptych, "Boynton Canyon Hikers Favorite," (shown below) won the Judges Choice Award at the recently held 11th annual Best of Artists juried exhibition at Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale.



Method acting from Page 9

are a little unusual: a houseboat for a home; a self-centered, multi-married, clotheshorse of a mother; and an embezzling father on the run from the FBI, who always turns up just in time to wreak havoc in her life. But for all this, Teddy remains an uncomplicated woman with only one major tic: her mission – besides protecting the animals at the zoo – is to *not* become her mother."

And yes, Hubby continued, when I write these highly divergent characters, I totally immerse myself in them the same way a method actor immerses himself in a role. I put myself and my own personality aside, and instead, I live, breath, move and speak like that

character. For all intents and purposes, I *am* that character.

Which is what happened that day. I was so busy *being* my new character that I put aside all my previous plans and simply "channeled" the new guy. I didn't force my ideas about character on him. Instead, I slipped into an altered state of consciousness and let him tell his own story, thus surprising the holy living hell out of myself.

Stephen King once said, "If the writer can't surprise himself, how can he surprise the reader?"

King was right. But there's an irony here. And, it is ... only by losing yourself can you find your story – and your most intriguing characters.

Letters to the editor

“CONGRATULATIONS to our editor, Lynda Exley, on being chosen Arizona Professional Writer’s 2016 Communicator of Achievement and our nominee for the national award given by the National Federation of Press Women. This is a recognition well deserved! Thanks for all your hard work on the newsletter over the years, Lynda.” —Brenda Warneka

“Lynda Exley does such a super job on this (May 2016 APW newsletter). She is an angel from Sedona.” —Joan Westlake

“The newsletter (May 2016) is impressive – congratulations.” —Patricia L. Brooks

“Wow! Talk about some busy people! Great newsletter!” (May 2016) —Betty Webb



CALENDAR OF EVENTS WORTH ATTENDING

***B**e certain to confirm meeting details before leaving home, as locations, dates or times may change after the newsletter has gone to print.*

June 2: 5-6:30 p.m. Native in a Strange Land: The Life of Mike Burns, Indian Scout is presented by Gregory McNamee, a writer, editor, photographer and publisher, at Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., Prescott. Born in about 1862 into the Kwevkepayaya (Yavapai) people, Burns was taken prisoner by U.S. soldiers after his family was massacred at a place called Skeleton Cave. He lived for years as something between a captive and a servant until joining the Indian Scouts, riding against Sitting Bull after the Battle of Little Bighorn and Geronimo in the Apache Wars. This is a free Arizona Humanities presentation. Info: 928-777-1509, prescottlibrary.info.



June 2: 7-9 p.m. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Odyssey Storytelling features Ethel Lee-Miller, one of six storytellers relating true “Wheels” experiences, at the Screening Room, 127 E. Congress St., Tucson. Fee: \$8. Info: odysseystorytelling.com.

June 3-4: Death & Deception in the Desert, Arizona’s first Mystery Con at Embassy Suites, 4415

E. Paradise Village Parkway, Phoenix. Friday, 6:30-8 p.m., meet authors, purchase books and have a glass of wine with your favorite authors. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. six sessions and panels in a variety of crime and mystery genres, lunch with featured authors and goody bags. Fee: \$39. Registration/Info: azmysterycon.com.

June 7: 6-8 p.m. Authors Night with Robert

Isenberg is presented by Arizona Humanities at the historic Ellis-Shackelford House, 1242 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.

Isenberg describes his many years as a travel writer and journalist, scouring the globe for provocative stories. Hear about his rustic New England origins, life as a freelancer and the evolving nature of long-form nonfiction. Considering a trip to Costa Rica? Ask him anything. Enjoy lively discussion about adventure in the age of the smartphone. Free admission. RSVP: robertisenbergauthorsnight.eventbrite.com. Info: 602-257-0335, azhumanities.org.



June 7, 14, 21, 28: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Eastside Writing Room provides a calm, quiet and supportive environment. No cell phones, no interruptions, no noise. Ten minutes of writing talk and

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then writing on your own project—longhand, computer etc. Wireless networking available. Open to adult writers. RSVP for exact addresses of the three Eastside Tucson locations. Info: Ethel Lee-Miller etheleemiller@me.com.

June 8: 1:30-3 p.m. Pens & Paintbrushes: The Legacies of Early Arizona Women in the Arts

presented by APW member and Award-winning author and lecturer Jan Cleere at Church of the Nazarene, 55 Rojo Drive, Sedona. Hosted by Sedona Public Library in the Village, this program explores the lives of five artists whose talents personify the beauty of the early western frontier: Hopi potter Nampeyo, writer and historian Sharlot Hall, author Martha Summerhayes, painter and photographer Kate Cory, architect Mary Colter and folk singer Katie Lee. This Arizona Humanities program is free and open to the public. Info: 928-284-1603, sedonalibrary.org/villageservicecenter.php.



June 11: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Five Story Ideas A Day, Every Day is taught by APW member Betty Webb, author of the successful *Lena Jones Mystery* series and *The Puffin of Death* at Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 Civic Center Drive in Avondale. From 3-5 p.m., she holds “Office Hours,” when she does one-on-one consulting with writers by appointment. Sponsored by Arizona State Library. Free. Registration/appointment: 623-333-2602, libraryevents@avondale.org.

June 15: 6-8 p.m. Writers Read at BREWD, 4960 N. Sabino Canyon Rd. Tucson. Six local writers share original “Summer Sizzlers.” Order dinner or dessert from BREWD’s special menu. This family friendly event is open to the public. Info: 520-623-2336.

June 18: 1-2:30 p.m. Arizona’s Unsolved Mysteries is presented by award-winning author and APW member Jane Eppinga at Phippen Museum, 4701 Highway 89-N, Prescott. This free program is sponsored by Arizona Humanities. Info: 928-778-1385, phippenartmuseum.org.



June 22: 6 p.m. Writing Workshop: Plotting Out Your Book

at Foothills Library, 19055 N. 57th Ave., Glendale, in the Roadrunner Room. Learn to structure your book into a three-act format with an inciting incident, two plot points, a climax and dénouement, along with a 60-point outlining system that integrates pacing into your planning phase. Presented by critically acclaimed, #1 New York Times best-selling author Aprilynne Pike. Info: 623-930-3844.



June 22: 2:30-4 p.m. Tombstone, Arizona: The Town Too Tough to die is presented by APW member and award-winning author Jane Eppinga at Arizona Senior Academy, 13715 E. Langtry Lane, Tucson. Learn about the West’s wildest mining town, which owes its beginning to prospector Ed Schieffelin, who found a vein of rich silver ore and registered two claims, and see vintage photographs. This Arizona Humanities program is free. Info: 520-647-0980, asa-tucson.org.

June 23: 1:30 p.m. Editing Digital Photos Online at Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., Prescott. Learn to fix red eyes, add balloons and text to a birthday picture and more, using online photo editing services like Pixlr and Photoshop Express. This class requires basic mouse, keyboard and Internet skills. Registration required: 928-777-1526.



June 25: 7-8:30 p.m. Pens & Paintbrushes: The Legacies of Early Arizona Women in the Arts presented by APW member and Award-winning author and lecturer Jan Cleere at Butterfly Lodge Museum, S.E. corner of SR-373 and Co. Road #1126, Greer. Explore the lives of five artists whose talents personify the beauty of the early western frontier: Hopi potter Nampeyo, writer and historian Sharlot Hall, author Martha Summerhayes, painter and photographer Kate Cory, architect Mary Colter and folk singer Katie Lee. This Arizona Humanities program is free and open to the public. Info: 928-735-7414, butterflylodgemuseum.org.

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June 25: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Writing The

Contemporary Novel is taught by APW member Betty Webb, author of the successful *Lena Jones Mystery* series and *The Puffin of Death* at Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 Civic Center Drive in Avondale. From 3-5 p.m., she holds "Office Hours," when she does one-on-one consulting with writers by appointment. Sponsored by Arizona State Library. Free. Registration/appointment: 623-333-2602, libraryevents@avondale.org.



July 1: Deadline for Entries in NM-AZ Book Award Contest. Info: nmbookcoop.com or Paul Rhettts at LPDPRESS@q.com, 505-344-9382.

July 1: Deadline for 38th Annual Arizona Literary Contest, coordinated by Arizona Authors Association. Details, entry form: azauthors.com or email Literary Contest Director, AzAuthors@gmail.com.

July 7: 5 p.m. Telling It Like It Was: Interviews with Arizona Pioneer Women

at Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., Prescott. Award-winning author and APW member Dr. Barbara Marriott tells the stories of original Arizona pioneers, relating their lives and hardships using material collected during the Depression by the Federal Writers Project. Funding provided by the Friends of the Prescott Public Library and the Arizona Humanities Council. Register Required: 928-777-1509, prescottlibrary.info.



July 9: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Writing The Contemporary Mystery And Thriller is taught by APW member Betty Webb, author of the successful *Lena Jones Mystery* series and *The Puffin of Death* at Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 Civic Center Drive in Avondale. From 3-5 p.m., she holds "Office Hours," when she does one-on-one consulting with writers by appointment. Sponsored by Arizona State Library. Free. Registration/appointment: 623-333-2602, libraryevents@avondale.org.

July 11: Noon-1:30 p.m. Writers Lunch at Fronimo's Greek Cafe, 3242 E. Speedway, Tucson. All adult writers of all genres welcome. Share current projects, events, questions and successes along with food. Bring flyers, business cards, books to share/sell. No fee for the meeting, but attendees are expected to purchase lunch. RSVP required. Contact Ethel Lee-Miller: etheleemiller@me.com.

July 23: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Payson Book Festival

at Gila Community College, 201 N. Mud Springs Road, Payson.

Sponsored by APW Rim Country District and the college. Last

summer's event featured 60 Arizona authors and attracted more than 500 visitors. Get a

glimpse of the 2015 book

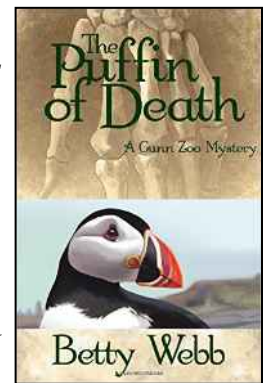
festival at paysonbookfestival.org. Scroll down to "Watch the video from last summer's event" and click on the link to view the YouTube video. Info: 928-468-9269.



July 23: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Writing Unforgettable Characters is taught by APW member Betty Webb, author of the successful *Lena Jones Mystery* series and *The Puffin of Death* at Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 Civic Center Drive in Avondale. From 3-5 p.m., she holds "Office Hours," when she does one-on-one consulting with writers by appointment. Sponsored by Arizona State Library. Free. Registration/appointment: 623-333-2602, libraryevents@avondale.org.

Aug. 13: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Class: Writing Memoirs And Family Histories

is taught by APW member Betty Webb, author of the successful *Lena Jones Mystery* series and *The Puffin of Death* at Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 Civic Center Drive in Avondale. From 3-5 p.m., she holds "Office Hours," when she does one-on-one consulting with writers by appointment. Sponsored by Arizona State Library. Free. Registration/appointment: 623-333-2602, libraryevents@avondale.org.



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Aug. 20: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Getting Published** is

taught by APW member Betty Webb, author of the successful *Lena Jones Mystery* series and *The Puffin of Death* at Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 Civic Center Drive in Avondale. From 3-5 p.m., she holds "Office Hours," when she does one-on-one consulting with writers by appointment. Sponsored by Arizona State Library. Free. Registration/appointment: 623-333-2602, libraryevents@avondale.org.



Sept. 8-11: NFPW Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, Wichita, Kansas. Info: Gwen Larson at gazettegl@yahoo.com or call Becky Funke at rfunke3@cox.net. Info: nfpw.org/conference.php.

Sept. 10: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **"Don't Shoot the Messenger"** (unless you're a

mystery writer) at Hotel Tucson City Center InnSuites, 475 N. Granada Ave., Tucson. Arizona Mystery Writers hosts author and writing coach Ethel Lee-Miller, who discusses creating characters who are believable, compelling and have what it takes to carry the message, move your story forward and are unforgettable.

Lee-Miller uses her training in MA Counseling, writing process and experiences in life to cull those quirky, intriguing, likable and not-so-likable traits in characters who capture the attention of readers. Walk away with surefire ideas that will get your characters "talking." Fee: \$25 nonmembers, includes lunch; \$20 for RSVP'd members. Info: arizonamysterywriters.com.



Sept. 23: **Finalists in NM-AZ Book Contest**

announced. Info: nmbookcoop.com or Paul Rhettts at LPDPRESS@q.com, 505-344-9382.

Sept. 24: **APW Fall Conference, Scottsdale.**

Nov. 1-30: NaNoWriMo annual novel writing project for professional and amateur writers from all over the world. The challenge is to write a 50,000 word novel in the month of November. Info: nanowrimo.org.

Nov. 18: NM-AZ Book Awards Banquet at Tanoan Country Club, Albuquerque. Info: nmbookcoop.com or Paul Rhettts at LPDPRESS@q.com, 505-344-9382.

2017

March 11-12: **Tucson Festival of Books.**

April 20-23 Arizona History Convention. Little America Hotel, Flagstaff. Joint meeting with New Mexico. Info: arizonahistory.gov; Bruce Dinges at BDinges@azhs.gov.

Sept. 7-9: NFPW National Conference, Birmingham, Alabama.

2018

Sept. 2018: NFPW National Conference, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Submissions wanted!

Share industry related news with your fellow APW members including committee reports, event news, writing contests, industry articles, industry-related personal accomplishments ... anything you think would be of value to our membership! Send submissions, photos and art to Lynda Exley at lynxlent@gmail.com. The deadline for the July issue is June 21.

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examining faith, to civil discourse to celebrating indigenous music, these programs are an opportunity for Arizona communities to discuss important historic and contemporary issues."

Congratulations to Rim District members of APW

who put in many hours of work to land this grant, which provides added funding for the Payson Book Festival. Special thanks go to Carol and Bing Brown, as well as Connie Cockrell and APW State Treasurer, Bev Konik, who helped write this grant proposal.

Youth Voice: Words are Power



in partnership with the Payson Book Festival

Saturday, June 11th, 2016
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Free
Event!**

**Lunch
Included!**

Community Presbyterian Church
800 W Main St, Payson, AZ 85541

Payson Poetry Slam for Teens Ages 13-18

Join us for the afternoon to explore the power of slam poetry. Discuss issues impacting youth, write about your experiences and learn different ways to perform your work with youth mentors from the Tucson Youth Poetry Slam.



Youth voice. Slam Poetry. Speak out!



Contact: Carol Osman Brown / info@paysonbookfestival.org

Questions: Ellie Hutchison, Programs Manager / ehutchison@azhumanities.org / 602-257-0335 x26

Registration: www.azhumanities.org #paysonvoices

