

**March
2017**

TypeRider

Arizona Professional Writers

Formerly Arizona Press Women

Rim Country discuss ideal settings

All writers and authors are welcome to attend the March 15 Arizona Professional Writers Rim Country Chapter meeting at the Majestic Rim Retirement Living chapel at 310 E. Tyler Parkway, Payson.

The session begins with a short business meeting followed by featured presenter author Gail Kittleson, who speaks at noon on "Creating Memorable Settings."

Kittleson taught college expository writing and ESL (English as a Second Language), and published a memoir before focusing on fiction. The second book in her *Women of The Heartland World War II* series released on Feb. 24, 2017. Plus, she's hard at work on a third book.

She and her husband enjoy winter in the Arizona Ponderosa forest, and live in Northern Iowa the rest of the year. Find Kittleson at gailkittleson.com, facebook.com/GailKittlesonAuthor or amazon.com/author/gailkittleson.



Register now to guarantee space at Payson book event

The Payson Book Festival, which last year attracted more than 600 visitors from across the state, is now taking applications for author tables for the July 22 festival.

Space is limited, so apply for yours soon. This year's festival takes place at the Mazatzal Hotel & Casino. Tables cost \$80.

Visit PaysonBookFestival.org/Author Registrations to secure a spot. New this year is an online fill-in form and the ability to pay via PayPal using your credit card. See you at the festival!



Remembering Patricia Myers

Did you ever attend an APW meeting, and notice a pretty, petite, older woman with a lovely hat and even lovelier smile? Maybe you chatted with her, and noticed that for such a little thing, she had a huge personality and was more feisty than fluff. Chances are you were talking to long-time APW member Patricia Myers.



Myers, who passed away in her sleep on Feb. 2, 2017, devoted much of her life to Arizona's jazz community as an events producer and accomplished journalist. She co-founded the nonprofit Jazz in Arizona in 1977.

See Myers, Page 3

Kicking the journalism habit

My professional writing career – newspapers, freelancing, medical writing and public relations – was based on journalism skills. Accuracy was the goal. Give readers the who, what, when, where and why. Let them draw their own conclusions based on facts you supply.

It was okay to glam up the writing with a scintillating lead and powerful descriptions. Unless writing editorials, it wasn't okay to share your opinions. How you feel, what you think about an event, what you look like is off limits. No one is to know how your beliefs are changed or confirmed by the topic you cover.

Then, an APW workshop in Payson nudged me toward writing family history. Presenter Dee Dees laid out numerous ways one can capture and share memories. She pointed out that a spiral-bound booklet is as valuable to loved ones as a hardcover book would be. She was right. Family members were thrilled by the small publications of the type Dees encouraged us to create.

But then came the desire to write about my girlhood. I wanted to describe my life in the Mountain States, which was so different from the surroundings my four adult children know. They were born in towns that are big cities compared to the Montana and Wyoming hamlets where my own character was formed. I wanted them to see the life I experienced.

A book length memoir can run 70,000 words. Why write such a comprehensive story for an audience of four? Possibly, family readership would expand the audience. Siblings, first, second, and third cousins, in-laws, and let's face it, an outlaw or two still hanging like crinkly leaves from my family tree.

I grew ambitious. Could I craft a story for my unknown peers, people who share my experience of being wrenched from a parent and growing up where small towns were getting smaller, where hearts were big but many minds resisted expansion? Others have struggled with feeling out of place and unimportant. This could be their story, too.

I wrote in my accustomed journalistic style, but a nagging mental voice asked, "Who cares about this? This story is factual, but it isn't truthful. Who wants to read a wordy narrative about me, a marginally interesting person?" There's no flaming drama in my past. Only my wry writer's voice could make this story enjoyable and interesting.

Sharing my early work with other writers brought a common response. "What did you feel when that happened? You described the town, but what was it like to live there? We want to come along for the ride, not read an itinerary of where you've been."



Journalism had done me wrong...

To go beyond statistics, I learned to describe my gossipy birthplace as being so small that even the sidewalks had ears. Instead of dwelling on our meat and potatoes diet, I illuminated it through the lens of housewifely devotion to Crisco, which supplanted lard because it came from a factory, not a slaughter house.

Putting the real me into my story is even more challenging. Instead of making the bald statement that I abandoned my girlish vow never to disappoint my father, the decision is revealed through clandestine acts, angry silences. And finally, in a bold decision, I spurn the University of Wyoming and choose a struggling college in Salt Lake City, Utah. It's a

revealing act. I will try life in a community 83 times larger than the Wyoming town where I graduated high school.

As I creep forward with this new way of writing, I realize how much revision my early chapters require. My story is still true, but I am attempting to tell it with more than facts. In the process I have come to believe that my memoir, tentatively titled *Missing Mama and Finding My Mountain States of Mind* will find an audience and be a good read.

Is it always this hard to kick the journalism habit? I'd like to hear from Arizona Professional Writers who have written, or are struggling with, narrative nonfiction. If you are interested, I'll even email a page or three of my work-in-progress for your evaluation.

I know there's more than one way to tell my truth, but dang! I keep craving just one more hit of journalistic writing.

Perhaps, by reviewing my work, you can act as my higher power.

Glennis McNeal wintered in Arizona for 21 years and is a member of both Oregon Press Women and Arizona Professional Writers. To share your journalism addiction story, or to review a small selection from the memoir she is writing, email her at glennis555@aol.com.

Myers from Page 1

In the '60s, Myers worked at the *Mesa Tribune* before becoming the food editor for the *Scottsdale Daily Progress*. In 1972, she started a jazz column in the *Progress*, which according to her Feb. 7, 2017 obituary in the *Arizona Republic*, "She faithfully maintained regardless of where she was working until she posted her last column three days prior to her death at musicsceneaz.com."



Patricia Myers in Paris with 87-year-old American tenor sax player Benny Golson in August of 2016. She told APW Newsletter Editor Lynda Exley this was one of her favorite photos.

Myer's other great love was Paris. She visited every year for 24 consecutive years, 19 of them in the summer. Often, she contributed her summer Paris Journal to the APW Newsletter where readers could vicariously visit the "city of light and love" through her eyes.

She served APW in several capacities and will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her. You can read about her in the APW Anthology, *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012*, published by Wheatmark Publishing and available in print and e-book.

Myers is survived by her children, Steve McElfresh and Suzanne McElfresh; daughter-in-law Lori McElfresh, and grandchildren Erin McElfresh and Adam Light. She was preceded in death by son Phil McElfresh.

An April Celebration of Life is being planned by her family. Details will follow.

A wonderful friend

Patricia Myers was a wonderful friend who shared the joys, woes and fascinating experiences of life with thousands of readers through her outstanding journalism skills. She took the time to do in-depth interviews that resulted in revealing profiles, hard-hitting news stories and hidden aspects of both famous and average people.



Patricia Myes, left, with jazz musician Margo Reed, another one of her favorites.

Driven by her own curiosity and the joy of discovery, she volunteered for unusual assignments such as being a "Wing Walker" on a bi-plane. Pat was a pioneer woman journalist, who was not afraid to tackle taboo topics including gender issues, shedding light on homeless people, those in jails and others who struggled with poverty and other social issues. She had a quick wit and a kind heart.

Pat explained, "Some rules and attitudes need to change so there can be progress. I try charm first, but if that does not work, I am persistent in presenting the true facts." She had strong ethics but did not suffer fools lightly.

Despite working all day (and many nights) doing stories, restaurant and jazz reviews, she still managed to raise three children with former husband Jerry McElfresh and go on many family camping trips. Her secret was planning.

She was the only person to serve as food editor for both *The Arizona Republic* and *The Phoenix Gazette*. Pat was a leader and innovator who asked, "How can I help busy mothers cook healthy meals when they return to work?" That question led to a whole new series of award-winning articles.

Passionate about history and art, she also used her writing talent to support many cultural and historic preservation projects. She enjoyed taking visitors of all ages to the Museum of Musical Instruments in Phoenix, where she helped with initial research and creation of some exhibits.

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Myers from Page 3

Patricia loved to share good food, music, books and travel tips with friends. My husband, Bing, and I have wonderful memories of Pat meeting us in Paris and guiding us to museums, cafes, jazz clubs, book stores and a jazz festival for four wonderful days in July 2007.

A loyal friend, she helped many ailing or older APW members and jazz musicians through difficult times.

As an educator, she was adjunct faculty, teaching journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She told many students and beginning journalists, "It does not matter where you start in the field (she started as a sports reporter). Just get your foot in the door, learn from the pros and work hard at your craft."

Patricia Myers delighted in weaving the creative tapestry of her own life.

Whenever I hear outstanding jazz, read a good book, eat French pastries or see interesting art, I will think of my very special friend, Patricia Myers.

—Carol Brown

Virtual tour guide

Since 2010, I've had the privilege of editing Patricia's Paris Journal. She made Paris jump "write" off the page and land in my home office. I could smell the buttery croissant, taste the fresh seafood and enjoy the "cheap but tasty" wine of which she wrote. I could hear the music and dance with her at hidden jazz cafes. The way she described the parks, bridges, museums, art ... all of it made me feel as if I were right there with her. I even felt exhausted as she

The Many Hats of Pat



described the many, many flights of stairs she would climb each day to arrive at her Paris flat.

Every year, I told her that "next year" my husband and I would join her, so she could show off all her favorite Paris haunts – her home away from home. Now she's gone. I regret not abandoning responsibilities, throwing caution to the wind and taking her up on her offer to be my personal tour guide. Lesson learned.

Patricia, I will miss you!

—Lynda Exley

A trail-blazer

Patricia Myers is remembered as one of the trail-blazing Arizona women journalists whose exploits make up a chapter in the APW anthology, *Skirting Traditions: Arizona Women Journalists and Writers 1912-2012*, as written by Carol Osman Brown.

Additionally, Myers contributed two of the chapters in the book about other journalists she knew personally, Dorothy (Mitzi) C. Zipf and Clara Lee Tanner.

—Brenda Warneka

True jazz lover

When I would get the list of Jazz activities in Arizona from Patricia Myers, I always wondered how she had so much information! Her obituary helped me to understand her true love of Jazz, the singers and musicians that she promoted.

I especially loved her writings about Paris. I could feel myself walking down the boulevards with her. She was a delightful writer and will be missed.

—Marie Fasano

See Myers, Page 5

Writer Abandoned at Truck Stop

by Betty Webb

I almost decided to title this, *Why No Two Book Tours Are Alike*, but in journalism, they teach us to title like we write – short and to the point.

Some time ago, it looked like the California leg of my *Desert Lost* book tour would go well. As hubby and I pulled out of Scottsdale and headed for San Diego, the temperature was mild and the sun was shining. Everything was so perfect that I crawled into the back seat and dozed while Hubby drove.

Somewhere in the Arizona desert between Casa Grande and Yuma, Hubby decided to gas up and use



the restroom at a Love's truck stop. When he exited the car, he asked if I needed to use the facilities, but I

was groggy and just said no. As soon as he disappeared into Love's, however, I rethought the situation – all those empty, sand-blasted miles stretching ahead. So, I hopped out of the car and made my way to the Ladies' Room.

When I exited, no Hubby. After searching the truck stop from gas pump to storage room, I asked a friendly-looking trucker to double-check the Men's Room, but Hubby wasn't in there. At that point, I thought it might be a good idea to stop looking for Hubby and start looking for our car, a green Isuzu SUV. But that, too, had disappeared.

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Myers from Page 4

Ms. Jazz PR

While I was the music writer at the *Tribune*, I worked with Pat for years since she was handling PR for the Kerr Cultural Center and Jazz in AZ. What a lovely and knowledgeable woman! Everyone who knew her will miss her enthusiasm – especially every jazz musician in Arizona and France (and points in between).

—Betty Webb

Amazingly talented

So saddened to hear of the death of Patricia Meyers. I only had the pleasure of meeting her a time or two some years ago, but she was an amazingly talented woman, full of energy and enthusiasm, and her spirit will be greatly missed.

—Dianne Ebertt Beeaff

A grand image

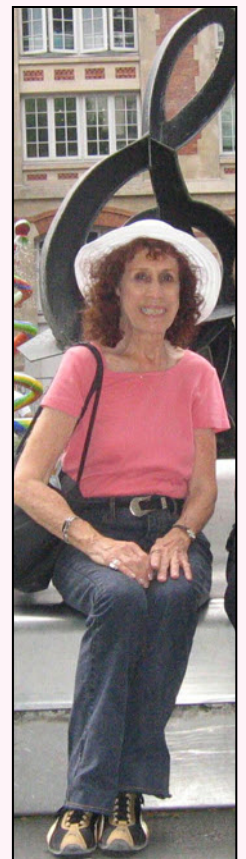
Very sorry to learn about Patricia... She was a vibrant and interesting person, and certainly a grand image of what women in journalism can accomplish.

—Marion Gold

Wisdom and friendship

I will miss her wise counsel and friendship and notes from Paris.

—Joan Westlake



IN TOUGH WITH APW MEMBERS

Keepest 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.

Bonnie Bahn is welcomed as APW Rim Country Chapter's newest member. This

Payson resident specializes in children's stories.

Connie Cockrell, right, and **Susan Haught** will be at Phoenix Comicon in the Four Carat Press booth May 25 through 28. They would love to have you stop in. Attendees can find out about ticket prices and location at phoenixcomicon.com. On a side note, **Cockrell** was featured in the Feb. 3, 2017, issue of the *Payson Roundup*.



Webb from Page 5

No Hubby, no car.

Being well-trained in crime detection, I was able to figure out the following: Hubby, thinking I was still asleep in the Isuzu's back seat, had simply continued on to California without me. I fumed for a while, then decided to alert the authorities. I reached for my trusty cell phone and discovered – no phone. Like a ninny, I'd left my handbag in the car. No phone, no money, no credit cards, no nuthin'. Fortunately (for me, anyway) a Highway Patrol car pulled into the truck stop to ticket some poor wretch caught speeding down I-8, so once Mr. Trooper had written out the citation, I told Mr. Trooper my tale of woe.

"Oh, don't worry, Ma'am," Mr. Trooper said, "We see this sort of thing all the time. Um, by the way, did you two have an argument?"

He asked for my car's license number, but I couldn't remember it (could you?). I did remember, however, that it was an Isuzu and was green, with a Boston Marathon sticker on the back (due to my son, not me). After Mr. Trooper put out a APB on careless Hubby, he advised me to stay where I was. "Don't want to go wandering off into

the desert, do we, Ma'am?"

No, we didn't.

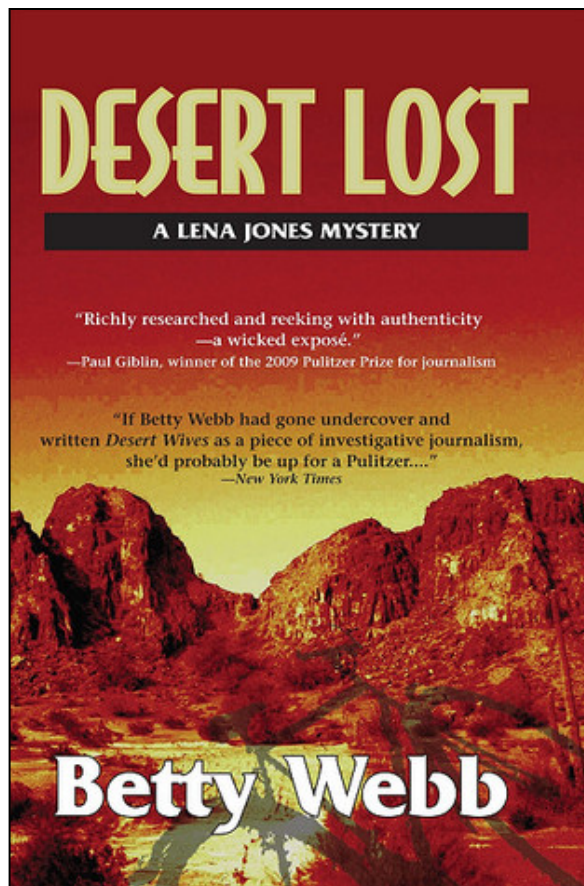
An hour and a half later, Hubby showed up. He'd managed to make it 70 miles down the road before he got lonesome and tried to have a conversation with me. Noticing that I seemed unusually quiet, he'd taken a quick look over his shoulder, and discovered that I wasn't there. Hubby isn't prone to panic, but he did admit to me later that he'd had a few bad moments before he caught sight of a Highway Patrol car on the

side of the road, and a trooper writing the usual speeding ticket – a warning to those who travel on I-8 between Yuma and Casa Grande. Don't speed. You WILL get caught. When Hubby approached him, Mr. Trooper 2 said, "Oh, yes, we've been looking for you for more than an hour. Better go back for your wife before she gets madder than she already is. And be prepared to duck."

Not being an idiot, Hubby followed instructions.

That was Day One of my book tour. On Day Two, the *Storm to End All Storms* rolled into Southern California and considerably dampened the turnout at Mysterious Galaxy. The storm continued all the way to Anaheim,

See Webb, Page 7



4 Days with 8 Alabama Literary Giants



Reprinted with permission from NFPW

Here's what the September NFPW Communications Conference has in store for anyone smart enough to attend.

Day 1, Sept. 10: Montgomery

Walk the most historic street in America: Dexter Avenue, where at one end the Confederacy was created and at the other, the telegram to fire on Fort Sumter was sent. Between, Rosa Parks stepped on a bus, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached and a slave market flourished. From Civil War to Civil Rights, we move to the Jazz Era and the home of a dazzling young couple, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. End with "Your Cheatin' Heart" at the Hank Williams Museum. We'll eat soul food at Martha's Place, where a former mental

See Alabama, Page 8

Webb from Page 6

where I had my second signing at the Canyon Hills Library, a favorite of mine (they love the Lena Jones books there, and enjoy discussing polygamy). Day three dawned nicely, so the signings at Mystery Bookstore in Westwood and Book 'Em in South Pasadena went well. Day four started off just as well, and we had a nice visit at Mysteries to Die For in Thousand Oaks...

Then Hubby got hungry.

We stopped at a small fish restaurant, which for legal reasons I won't name, and Hubby ordered shrimp. Quite a bit of shrimp, in fact. Since I'd been stuffing myself on Oreos in the back seat for a while, I declined, and settled for some Diet Coke. With our early dinner finished, we headed back towards San Diego and the California/Arizona state line so we'd arrive in Tucson in plenty of time to visit the zoo (Anteaters!) and then show up at Clues Unlimited for my Saturday signing with Elizabeth Gunn (*Cool In Tucson* and others). However, just as we reached Encinitas, Hubby turned green. Kind of a chartreuse, actually, not a color I've ever cared for.

So we stopped at a seaside motel, where Hubby took up semi-permanent residence in the tiny bathroom and I gamboled on the beach. By next morning, he had

lost considerable weight, while I had amassed a nice collection of sea shells and pretty rocks. As I started to pack up again, he informed me that leaving the immediate vicinity of a bathroom wasn't a good idea, and I'd better tell the people at the front desk that we were staying another night. So I did. I also called Chris at Clues Unlimited and told her what was happening.

The next day I collected more seashells and more pretty rocks and made friends with a golden retriever and a Heinz 57-something. While strolling along the main drag, I also discovered that Encinitas has lovely restaurants, several therapeutic massage parlors (no, not *THAT* kind, get your mind out of the gutter!), and a nice yoga studio that also sold incense and relaxation CDs. I bought a relaxation CD (bells, flutes, etc.), then drove off to Target for a portable CD player to play it on. After a lovely Italian meal at the restaurant down the street, I stretched myself out on the motel bed and practiced relaxing while Hubby continued to savor the delights of the motel bathroom.

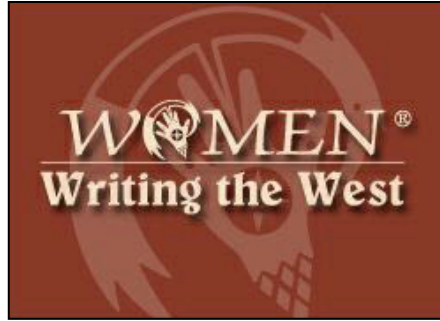
Now it's Sunday, and we're back in beautiful downtown Scottsdale. Hubby isn't quite as green as yesterday, but he's not exactly lively, either. Me, I'm feeling fine. And my new relaxation tape works beautifully.

Betty Webb is the author of *Desert Rage*, www.bettywebb-mystery.com, and *The Puffin Of Death*, www.bettywebb-zoomystery.com.

A call to Western writers

Call for Proposals for the 23rd Annual Women Writing the West Conference is now open. The conference will be held in Tucson Oct. 26 through 28 at the fabulous Lowe's Ventana Canyon Resort.

Go to womenwritingthewest.org to submit a proposal request to participate in one of the most informative and entertaining conferences this year. Friday sessions



will focus on the business of writing, while Saturday's sessions concentrate on the art of writing. The deadline is March 24.

Direct questions to co-chairs Jan Cleere, Jan@JanCleere.com, or Carolyn Niethammer, elniethammer@outlook.com.

Registration for the conference will open in early spring. For additional information, visit womenwritingthewest.org.

Alabama from Page 7

patient turned her life around and wrote about it. Overnight in Montgomery.

Day 2, Sept. 11: Monroeville

The desk of the real Atticus Finch sits in the old courthouse, which was replicated in the movie starring Gregory Peck. *To Kill a Mockingbird* featured characters who walked these streets, and we will meet people who knew the real Boo Radley, as well as Truman Capote and Harper Lee. That afternoon, we will travel to Fairhope, a charming coastal town with great shopping. Relax at The Grand Hotel, which has maintained its moniker, "The Queen of Southern Resorts," since 1847. The cannon fires at sunset. Overnight in Fairhope.



Day 3, Sept. 12: Magnolia Springs/Gulf Shores

We will take a pontoon boat safari through the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, the childhood home of E.O. Wilson. This rich delta is considered the most biodiverse waterway in the world. A naturalist will point



out birds, plants, fish and alligators. Next, Magnolia Springs, the only city in America where mail is delivered by boat. Fanny Flagg lived and wrote here, and we will meet one of the most curious and eccentric real characters from her book, *A Redbird Christmas*. Dinner is at one of the best restaurants in the Southeast. Overnight in Gulf Shores.

Day 4, Sept. 13: Gulf Shores/Birmingham

At your leisure, walk along the soft, white sand of Gulf Shores. The water of the Gulf of Mexico will be warm enough for swimming. A naturalist will guide those interested in the local wildlife. We'll eat seafood in the sand at The Gulf, an open-air restaurant built from shipping containers. It sits on the beach and the food is a local favorite. Return to Birmingham.

September 10-13

In what is considered a golden era in American novels, a third of the Pulitzer Prizes in Literature were awarded to writers from two states: Alabama and

See Alabama, Page 9

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS

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

March 4: 2-3:15 p.m. FRANK Talks: Racial Literacy & Social Media at Chandler Hamilton Library, 3700 S. Arizona Ave., Chandler, is presented by Dr. Kathy Nakagawa of Arizona State University, School of Social Transformation. She discusses how to develop “racial literacy” to prepare parents and educators for racially toned conversations. Like learning to read and write, racial literacy equips us to talk about race and understand historical and systemic contexts of race and racism, and it helps navigate the parallel dialogue occurring in media. This free program is presented by Arizona Humanities. Info/registration: 480-782-2800, chandlerlibrary.org.



March 4: 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Self-Publishing Expo sponsored by the Society of Southwestern Authors and held at the Tucson Expo Center, 3750 E. Irvington Road, Tucson. There will only be three speakers to allow plenty of time for attendees to browse the 30 exhibiting vendors. Speakers include Smashwords Founder Mark Coker, who will kick it off and do three follow-up workshops. In the afternoon, start off with Robin Cutler, the Director of IngramSpark, followed by Chris Syme, an expert in social media marketing. Fee: \$20 in advance online at tucsonselfpublishingexpo.com, \$25 at the door.



March 8: 2 p.m. Writing Workshop Series: Rules to Write By at Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St., Prescott. You might feel the fewer rules, the better you write. On the contrary, survey specific guidelines which can make your work soar with Carol Levin. Registration required: 928-777-1526, prescottlibrary.info.

March 9: Noon. APW Colorado River Chapter Regular Monthly Luncheon. Lisa's Bistro, 1595 Mohave Drive, Bullhead City. Program TBA. Open to the public. Free to attend. Attendees order lunch from the menu with separate checks. Info and RSVP: Brenda Warneka at warneka@cox.net, 602-740-9579.

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Alabama from Page 8

Mississippi, creating forever the mystique of the Southern writer. Journey into the small town that nurtured greatness in Harper Lee, Truman Capote and Mark Childress. Walk the steps of a writer who changed America, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visit the ghost of F. Scott Fitzgerald's muse, and explore the murky delta that inspired two-time Pulitzer winner E.O. Wilson, ranked as the top scientist in the world. We will meet experts on these writers. See the reading list for this traveling book club adventure.

All of this is available for a cost of \$350 per person, double occupancy. Tour registration will open soon,

so watch your inbox for more news. We'll also have a link where you can order any or all of the following books.

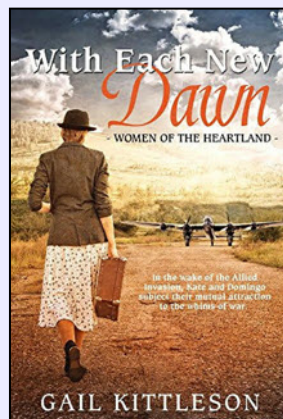
Reading List

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote
- *Crazy in Alabama* -by Mark Childress
- *Redbird Christmas/Fried Green Tomatoes* by Fannie Flagg
- *The Ants* by E.O. Wilson, winner of two Pulitzers
- *Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Testament of Hope* by Martin Luther King Jr.
- *I Saw the Light* by Hank Williams biography, which became a movie

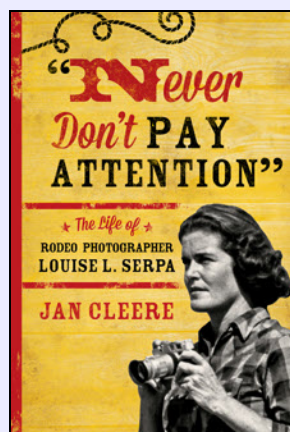
CALENDAR FROM PAGE 9

March 11-12: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tucson Festival of Books on the University of Arizona Campus.

March 15: Noon Creating Memorable Settings is presenter by author Gail Kittleson at APW's Rim Country Chapter meeting at the Majestic Rim Retirement Living chapel, 310 E. Tyler Parkway, Payson. Kittleson taught college expository writing and ESL (English as a Second Language), and published a memoir before focusing on fiction. Info: gailkittleson.com, facebook.com/GailKittlesonAuthor, amazon.com/author/gailkittleson.



March 23: 3-5 p.m. Arizona Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Arizona Historical Society – Papago Park, 1300 N. College Ave., Tempe. APW member Jan Cleere, who wrote *Never Don't Pay Attention*, will be on hand as Louise Serpa, the subject of her book and an inductee during the ceremony. Other inductees at this free event include: Clara M. Schell, Sister Clare Dunn, Rebecca Lillian Dallis, Julia Zazoya, Dr. Christine Kajikawa Wilkinson (Living Legacy) and Dr. Gladys McGarey (Living Legacy). Registration required: azwhf.org/events/2017-induction-ceremony-reception. Info: 602-926-3720.



March 23: 6-8 p.m. Writers Read is facilitated by Elaine A. Powers at BREWD, 4960 N. Sabino Canyon Road, Tucson. Local authors read their own works including books, poems and essays. The theme for this reading will be topics associated with March and April: spring, rebirth, holidays (St. Patrick's Day and April Fools), etc. Assistance in preparing presentations is be available for selected authors. To be considered as a reader, submit a description of your topic and how it relates to the theme to iginspired@gmail.com.

April 11: Noon. APW Colorado River Chapter Regular Monthly Luncheon. Lisa's Bistro, 1595 Mohave Drive, Bullhead City. Program TBA. Open to the public. Free to attend. Attendees order lunch from the menu with separate checks. Info and RSVP: Brenda Warneka at warneka@cox.net, 602-740-9579.

July 22: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Payson Book Festival at Mazatzal Hotel & Casino, Highway 87, Mile Marker 251, Payson. Info: Paysonbookfestival.org.

April 20-23 Arizona History Convention at Little America Hotel, Flagstaff. Joint meeting with New Mexico. Info: arizonahistory.org.

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

Oct. 26-29: "Set in the West: Cultures Old and New," Women Writing the West annual conference at Tucson's Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort. Carolyn Niethammer and APW member Jan Cleere are the conference co-chairs with Susan Cummins Miller serving as book chair. Info: Jan@JanCleere.com, 520-909-2299.

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 lynexlent@gmail.com. The deadline for the April issue is March 21.