

Arizona Press Women

Writer trades true crime for children's book

by Patricia Myers

Winnie Ruth Judd Meets Mama Squirrel – The Writing Life of Jana Bommersbach" is presented by Jana Bommersbach during APW's Central District meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb.18.

The program is open to the public and held at Bluewater Grill, 1720 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Admission is free; however, attendees will order from the menu and pay individually. Email reservations to apw.reservations@gmail.com.

After writing two true-crime books, the award-winning journalist (*Arizona Republic, New Times, Phoenix Magazine*, KTVK Channel 3) wrote a nonfiction children's book, *A Squirrel's Story: A True Tale* (2013, Five Star Publications). The book tells of Shirlee Squirrel and her children, Sammy

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In 2013, The Friends of the Phoenix Public Library presented Bommersbach its Montgomery Award.

Eppinga presents at book publishing seminar

PW's Jane Eppinga is one of three presenters at "A Seminar on Book Publishing" sponsored by the Arizona Authors Association and held at Oro Valley Library, 1305 W. Naranja Drive, Oro Valley. The program, which runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 8, is free and open to the public.

According to event organizers, attendees will learn the "best and



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NFPW contest deadline extended to Feb. 3

Monday, Feb. 3, is the new deadline for the NFPW Communications Contest



Bad weather back East disrupting normal work schedules and challenges with the new contest website have made it difficult for contest directors to handle their responsibilities within the constraints of the former deadline. Therefore, NFPW has agreed to extend the deadlines to give everyone more time.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



want to thank everyone who sent me sympathy notes for the death of my mother. Your messages were very comforting in a difficult time. After more than 10 years as a caregiver, I continue to struggle with the impact of her passing. I do hope her loss may be balanced by now

having more time to focus on my writing and other responsibilities, including Arizona Press Women.

Time passes so quickly it's hard to believe we are already a month into 2014. It's time to get nominations for officers for the April APW election of 2014-15 officers. The president serves a two-year term so I will be in this position through May 2015. I want to thank all of our current officers for their commitment to APW. I hope most of you will continue to serve, but we do have two important positions that need to be filled.

The First Vice President traditionally moves up to serve as President, so it is important that we have someone in that open office. There are no specific duties for that office. The First VP usually simply assists the President when necessary and gets experience on the board so she or he is prepared to become President.

Another important position that must be filled is the Central District Director. Barbara Lacy has done a wonderful job in that position for many years, but her many other responsibilities have forced her to resign. It's crucial that we have a Central District Director to coordinate meetings and build membership in that area.

The APW Board meetings are always open to all members to attend. If you're interested in knowing more about Board positions and responsibilities, please plan to attend the Board meeting from 10 a.m. to noon on Feb. 22 at the Scottsdale Waterfront Condominiums, 7181 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. We meet in the Conference Room and lunch together afterward. Or, if you want more information about an office, please contact me at 602-301-9595 or PStevensonComm@cox.net.

Pam Knight Stevenson

Contest from Page 1

"I have been so impressed by all the hard work of NFPW headquarters staff, officers, other volunteer leadership, website coordinators," says At-Large Contest Director Catherine M. Petrini. "I especially want to recognize Gloria Watkins at NFPW headquarters and NFPW's online contest guru Katherine Ward of Delaware for their tireless work on this contest. Please don't think things are taking longer because someone has fallen down on the job. It's just an enormous undertaking to switch a contest of this size to a new format and venue."

Because Arizona Press Women does not have its own contest director, Arizona entrants must participate in the national At-Large Contest. There are 10 divisions and a total of 64 categories within the divisions. The At-Large Contest uses the same guidelines, rules and categories as the national contest, all as set forth at the NFPW website, www.nfpw.org. Go there for a detailed description of work covered by each category. Some entries require a one-page description along with a copy of the work. The fee is \$20 per entry.

This year for the first time, the contest is being conducted using an electronic platform. Arizona members must fill out entry forms, make payment and submit entries through the at-large e-contest site. Do not be confused by references to hard-copy entry forms at the NFPW web site; some affiliates are still conducting a non-electronic local contest, but this has nothing to do with Arizona.

The direct link to the At-Large Contest is https://omnicontests4.com/default.aspx?comp_id=1 280; the At-Large is in Group 2.

Detailed instructions on how to use the online entry system and helpful tips on processing entries can be found in the January APW newsletter.

Additional contest information can also be found on the NFPW At-Large Communications Contest Facebook page. In Facebook, look for "NFPW At-Large Communications Contest" or use the URL: facebook.com/groups/48564727917/.

"Check in and get questions answered," suggests Petrini. "I had to make it a closed group because I was having problems with spammers, but all you have to do is click on "Join Group" in the upper-right corner, and give me a chance to approve your membership."

Retreat repeat

n response to requests from APW members, the Rim Country District will host another Writers' Retreat July 19 and 20 at the Merritt Center near Payson.

The retreat will be similar to the one hosted last year, starting at noon on Saturday and ending at noon on Sunday, and will include four regular meals and snacks. Additional details will be announced later.

"As members make travel plans for this year, think of including

this relaxing getaway in the cool pines of Payson," suggests Rim District Director Carol Osman Brown. "Basically it is an economical writer's workshop with supportive atmosphere within driving distance from both Phoenix and Tucson."



Members who have suggestions for topics, speakers, activities, etc., should send their ideas to Brown at carolosmanbb@gmail.com or Pat Gail Hearn at patgail@npgcable.com.

Central District meeting recap

Perhaps the most surprising work item Kate Herbert showed APW members at the Central District's Jan. 14 dinner at which she discussed producing her eightminute film, *To Each Her Art*, was her production book. The white loose-leaf notebook held everything she needed to do and everything she did with every facet of the filmmaking process. There were notes on casting actors, finding locations and estimating a budget, as well as a story board, a production schedule, call sheets and a list of props.

At approximately 200 pages, the book also included copies of emails, notes on shooting, contact numbers of crew members and notes on conversations with the producer. The heft of the volume led someone to ask, "If your production book is this thick for a six-minute film, what would it be like for a two-hour blockbuster?"

Herbert screened her film following the meal at the Bluefish Grill. Afterward, she spoke about how the process proceeds from beginning to the end of a production when the film is finally "in the can."

What was clear from the talk was that putting together a film takes extreme organization and lots and lots of prep work. Film production is divided into three parts, preproduction (getting everything set), production (the shooting of the film), and post-production (editing), and each takes time and care to complete.

"Although," Herbert said, "editing is much easier now that it's done on computer."

Herbert had been teaching at the film and television program at Scottsdale Community College after



years of working in film in Hollywood. She decided to make a short movie to understand the challenges her students faced with their own productions.

"It's the polar opposite of a Hollywood production," she said, "It's even extremely different from the student films I made at the University of Southern California a million years ago."

Shot at the old Town and Country Shopping Center and in Herbert's home, the film has little dialogue and a single idea driving it. The film focuses on a young woman who has her own ideas about what makes something art. It is a clever, well-made movie whose non-human star is a jewel of a handbag — "Not a purse," as the saleswoman in the film says. You have to see the movie to understand.

Meet Barbara Bayless Lacy

Interviewed by Brenda Warneka

Thanks to Carol Osman Brown's urging, Barbara Bayless Lacy became a member of APW in 1986. An active member ever since, she has been both state and district presidents.

Lacy was raised in Wichita, Kan. She wanted to be a writer and attend college as far from Kansas as possible, but her parents agreed to an out-of-state school only after



she suggested the University of Missouri-Columbia, where an uncle taught. The school was rated the best journalism school in the country. Barbara's future was sealed at a speech test the first day of school when Steve Lacy asked to borrow her pencil.

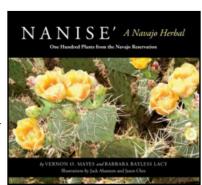
Married the day before she graduated with her bachelor's degree in journalism, the couple moved to St. Louis, where Steve was working, fulfilling requirements for his master's degree in social work. She found a job in public relations for Jewish Hospital. Back in Columbia for Steve to complete classes, Barbara became the society editor for the *Boonville Daily News*. Steve then worked at the Missouri child welfare agency in Sedalia for two years to fulfill student loan obligations, at which agency Barbara also worked, until her boss fired her for being pregnant. After two years, the Lacys, and child, moved to Steve's next job in Sikeston, Mo., where Barbara freelanced for the *Sikeston Daily Standard*.

Next, the Lacys applied to the Peace Corps, but there was little interest in applicants who now had three children younger than age four (although they were later the first family approved), so Steve took a job as Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services Division at the Agency office on the Navajo Indian Reservation, in Tuba City, Ariz. Barbara, who once felt she could get a job anywhere because every town had a newspaper, found a place that didn't. She did, however, freelance for the Arizona Republic and Flagstaff Daily Sun. Life was different on the Reservation. Grocery stores and health facilities for Anglos were 75 miles away in Flagstaff. That distance contributed to Barbara giving birth to her fourth daughter in the middle seat of an Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser on the way to the hospital. Jessica's birth certificate reads, "Delivered by mother in car near Sacred Mountain."

Five years later, Steve considered a job transfer to an Indian reservation in Pine Ridge, S.D. Barbara quickly took a job in public relations with the Navajo Health Authority in Window Rock, the Navajo Nation capital, and said she was *not* moving to Pine Ridge. Steve transferred to Navajo Area Office in Window Rock, where they lived for five years before he transferred to the Phoenix-area office in 1980.

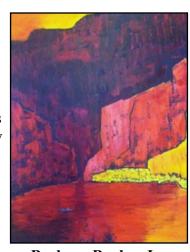
In Window Rock, Barbara did the research and worked with Vernon Mayes, plant expert and photographer, for

Nanise', a Navajo
Herbal: One Hundred
Plants from the Navajo
Reservation. The book,
published by Navajo
Community College
Press, Tsaile, received
an honorable mention by
NFPW. Five Star
Publications, Inc. of
Chandler republished
Nanise' in 2012.



In Phoenix, Barbara was an editor at the State Compensation Fund, worked for the Arizona State Deferred Compensation Plan and spent 1995 through 2005 in public relations at Maricopa Skill Center, part of the Maricopa Community Colleges. She wrote for the *Arizona Republic* and *Scottsdale Magazine*, and taught Magazine Article Writing for Rio Salado College.

Lacy began oil painting classes in 2000. Since retiring in 2005, her vibrant-colored Arizona landscapes, Indian ruins and animals have become well known locally. She is represented by Wild Holly Gallery, Cave Creek; has shown at ASU Gammage; has had solo shows at Royal Palms Resort, Phoenix; and exhibits at the Art Alliance Gallery, Scottsdale. Although her focus has shifted to art, Lacy has done some writing for the Internet and plans to write a



Barbara Bayless Lacy, Afternoon Float, 2014, Oil on canvas, 27.5" inches by 24 inches.

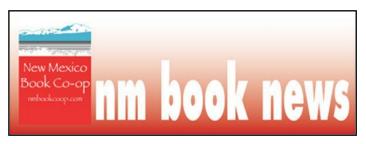
memoir for her children about the family's years on the Navajo reservation.

NM-AZ Book Awards accepting entries

Books by Arizona and New Mexico authors and publishers that were released since July 1, 2012, are eligible for entry in the 2014 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards contest as long as they did not win a category in the contest in a prior year.

The final deadline for entries is July 1. Entries received by Feb. 28 receive a \$10 discount in the \$50 entry fee. Entry form and information are available at nmbookcoop.com.

There are 50 categories this year. The contest is sponsored by New Mexico and Arizona's largest



nonprofit book coop featuring New Mexico and Arizona books, publishers and authors.

Winners from APW last year were Conrad Storad, Lynda Exley and Linda Radke of Five Star Publications.

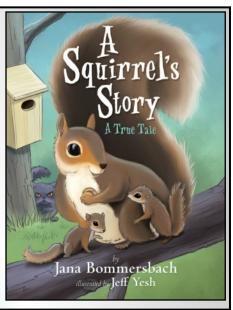
Bommersbach from Page 1

and Sally, living in a birdhouse in the North Dakota backyard of the author's parents.

Bommersbach's first book was *The Trunk Murderess: Winnie Ruth Judd* (1992, Simon & Schuster), nominated in 1993 for the Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America. It also received Arizona's literary prize, was selected for the 2010 "ONEBOOKAZ" and was reissued in 2006 in paperback by Poison Pen Press of Scottsdale.

Her second book, *Bones in the Desert: The True Story of a Mother's Murder and a Daughter's Search* (2008, St. Martin's Press) explored the 2004 murder and secret desert burial of Loretta Bowersock, mother of Terri Bowersock, owner of Terri's Design & Consign.

Learn more about Bommersbach and her books at janabommersbach.com.



In Touch with APW

Arlene Uslander and Brenda Warneka each have a story published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul:* Miracles Happen: 101 Inspirational Stories About Hope, Answered Prayers, and Divine Intervention, on sale Feb. 4. Uslander's story is The Hand of Fate, and Warneka's is The Wig.

Betsy Batish (Rice) had a piece, "Unhitched" (photographed in Sonoita, AZ), accepted into the Lancaster (CA) Museum of Art and History (MOAH) Juried Art Show. The opening night reception was Jan. 23, and the show will be on exhibition through March 13.



Arlene Uslander, left, and Brenda Warneka are shown at a previous signing for a book they co-authored, *The Mystery of Fate: Common Coincidence or Divine Intervention? (Volume 1)*. The pair also have stories published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Miracles Happen: 101 Inspirational Stories About Hope, Answered Prayers, and Divine Intervention*, on sale Feb. 4.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events

Feb. 3, 10, 24 and March 3, 10, 17: 10 a.m. to noon, Turning Memories Into Memoirs is cosponsored by

the City of Surprise Community & Recreation Services and taught at Maricopa County Library District's Northwest Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard, Surprise. Learn the skills to



write your life story and create a written legacy for your family. Work with classmates using guided writing exercises to turn memories into a memoir. Participants should attend all six sessions. Space is limited and registration required by calling 602-652-3000. Info: mcldaz.org.

Feb. 6, 20: 10 to 11 a.m. Life Stories Writing Class at Maricopa County Library District's Sun City Branch

Library, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City. Nancy Tsuchiya offers her popular Life Story Writing Workshop. Space is limited. Registration is required by calling 602-652-3000. Info: mcldaz.org.

Feb. 7: Social Media 101 is a hands-on workshop taught at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Sharpen important social media funda-



Nancy Tsuchiya

mentals and skills by learning how to use some of the most popular platforms, including Facebook and Twitter. Social media expert Dawn Gilpin works one-on-one with participants as she shares her expertise in this hands-on session. APW members receive a \$50

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Eppinga from Page 1

worst of traditional publishing, self-publishing and e-publishing" from authors who have books published in each of these fields.

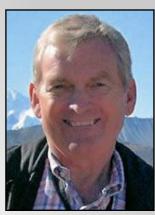
Presenters' biographies

Award-winning author Jane Eppinga has had numerous books traditionally published including *Arizona Twilight Tales; Nogales: Life and Times on the Frontier; Images of America* (series): *Tombstone, Tucson, Apache Junction and Superstition Mountains; Arizona Sheriffs: Badges and Bad Men;* and *They Made Their Mark: An Illustrated History of the Society of Woman Geographers.* She also wrote more than 300 articles for both popular and professional publications.

Born in Hampshire, England, Mike Sedgwick traveled extensively and lived in Wales, Belgium, Minnesota and Arizona. He began writing fiction in the 1980s and self-published his first novel, *Bramdean*, in 2010 for which he won first prize in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Competition. His other books include *Of Heaven & Earth, Light on a Distant Shore* and *Report from Mars*. Mike also

writes short stories in a wide range of genres.

Susan Dawson-Cook epublished five romantic suspense novels under the pseudonym Sabrina Devonshire. Her books include Water Swimmer; Message from Viola Mari, Dangerous Descent (Love in the Labyrinths, Book 1), The Unseen (Love in the Labyrinths, Book 2) and Seaside Seduction. Her latest e-book, Never Let You Go, was released last month. As a certified fitness professional, she is a contributing editor to American Fitness magazine and often writes for Swimmer and The Romance Writers Report.



Mike Sedgwick, top. Susan Dawson-Cook, below



Events From Page 6

discount when they mention the code INDUSTRY during registration made at cronkite.asu.edu/newmedia or by emailing Liz Smith, elizabeth.grace.smith@asu.edu.

Feb. 8: Advanced Social Media is a hands-on workshop taught at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State

University. Learn how organizations and individuals can maximize use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter, and what other handles they should consider integrating into their



social media strategy. Robin Phillips, digital director of the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism, works with participants on social media strategies and ways to measure success. APW members receive a \$50 discount when they mention the code INDUSTRY during registration made at cronkite.asu.edu/newmedia or by emailing Liz Smith, elizabeth.grace.smith@asu.edu.

Feb. 8: 10 to 11:30 a.m. A Seminar on Book

Publishing presented by Arizona Authors Association at Oro Valley Library, 1305 W. Naranja Dr., Oro Valley. Learn the best and worst of traditional publishing, self-publishing and e-publishing from panelists who have books published in each of these fields: APW member Jane Eppinga, Mike Sedgwick and Susan Dawson-Cook. Moderator Barbara Marriott or Jan Cleere. Info@azauthors.com.



Jane Eppinga

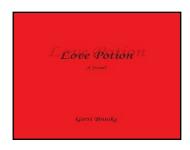
Feb. 11: 6:30 to 8 p.m. Queen Creek Writers Group meets at the Maricopa County Library District's Queen Creek Branch Library, 21802 S. Ellsworth Road, Queen Creek. This is a critique and networking association open to writers of all genres and experience levels. To participate, bring a one- to two-page selection on which you desire feedback on any specific area, such as pacing, dialogue, character development, grammar, etc. Be prepared for both praise and criticism. Info: 602-652-3000, mcldaz.org.

Feb. 11, 18, 25:11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Eastside Writing Room, which alternates between two Tucson locations, provides a quiet, serene atmosphere for

writing. Ten minutes of writing talk is followed by time to write on personal projects via longhand or by computer. Wireless networking available. The program is held at the home of Ethel Lee-Miller in the Sabino Springs community Feb. 11 and Feb. 25, and at Natalie Wright's home in the Sabino Canyon area on Feb. 18. RSVPs required by contacting Lee-Miller at etheleemiller@me.com or Wright at WritesKidsBooks@aol.com. Street addresses are given with RSVP.

Feb. 12: 1 to 3 p.m. Creative Writing at Maricopa

County Library District's Perry Branch Library, 1965 E. Queen Creek Road, Gilbert. Local author Gerri Brooks leads this monthly creative writing workshop for beginners to advanced level writers. Bring a notebook. Info: 602-652-3000, mcldaz.org.



Feb. 20-22: ANWA Time Out for Writers 22nd Annual Writers Conference at Hilton Phoenix/East

Mesa, 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa. Participate in a query/pitch workshop, attend two full days of classes with industry professionals, enter the "BOB" (Beginning of Book) contest to win prizes and pitch work to both national and local agents and editors. Conference



registration includes lunch. Those who book a room at the Hilton receive complimentary breakfasts.

Registration Fees: \$190 for the two-day conference; \$125 for Friday only, which includes the evening panel and Meet & Greet; and \$100 for our Super Saturday.

ANWA members receive a \$20 discount applied at checkout. Registrations before Feb. 1 receive a \$10 Early Bird discount. Visit: anwa-lds.com/conference.

Feb. 20-22: Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference 2014 at ASU's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing on Arizona State University's Tempe campus. The conference workshops, readings, and book signings largely take place in the buildings near College Street and University Drive on the north end of the main campus. Registration Deadline is Feb. 17. Fee: \$375. Info: piper.asu.edu/conference/2014-conference.

Feb. 22: 10 a.m. to noon, APW Board meets in the conference room at Scottsdale Waterfront, Scottsdale. Attendees who are available lunch together afterwards.

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Submissions wanted!

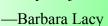
hare industry related news with your fellow APW members including committee reports, event news, writing contests, industry related articles, industry-related personal accomplishments ... anything you think would be of value to our membership!

Send submissions, photos and art to Lynda Exley at exlent@aol.com. The deadline for the March issue is February 21.

Letter to the editor

"I have been enjoying your legal articles, especially the last (*A Lesson in Copyright*, January 2014, by Brenda Warneka).

Tricky subject."





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All members are invited. Info: Pam Stevenson, 602-301-9595.

Feb. 28: 2014 NM-AZ Book Award. The deadline for entry with discounted entry fee. Info: nmbookcoop.com.

Mar. 15-16: 6th Annual Tucson Festival of Books. The mall of the University of Arizona and nearby venues welcome more than 100,000 book lovers, 450 authors and 300 exhibitors to the fourth largest book festival in the country. Enjoy writing workshops, author presentations, book signings and sales. Seeking volunteers to help. Benefits literacy programs. Parking and admission are free. Info: tucsonfestivalofbooks.org.



March 17: Deadline for entries to NFPW 2014 Communications Contest. First Place entries in the atlarge competition are automatically submitted to national contest. Info: nfpw.org.

March 31: Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. Deadline for 2014 nominations. Induction every two years of five new women (must be deceased two years) who played a significant role in Arizona history. Nomination form and info at lib.az.us.awhof.

April 1: 1 p.m. "Writing and the Law: Memoirs" presented by Brenda Warneka, member of APW and State Bar of Arizona at River Writers Group at Mohave Community College Library in Bullhead City. Open to the public. Info: sylbiz@aol.com.



April 4: PR for Nonprofits, Small Businesses and Organizations is a hands-on workshop taught at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Develop digital public relations and marketing communications skills to promote your cause, business or organization. Fran Matera, founding director of the Cronkite School's Public Relations Lab, covers key communication strategies that make a difference. APW members receive a \$50 discount when they mention the code INDUSTRY during registration made at cronkite.asu.edu/newmedia or by emailing Liz Smith, elizabeth.grace.smith@asu.edu.

April 4: Video: Capturing Compelling Stories is a hands-on workshop taught at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Practice shooting high-quality video, composing strong shots and locating compelling subject material in this workshop. Cronkite Production Manager Jim Jacoby, an Emmy award-winning editor and director, shows participants how to create compelling video for a variety of uses. APW members receive a \$50 discount when they mention the code INDUSTRY during registration made at cronkite.asu.edu/newmedia or by emailing Liz Smith, elizabeth.grace.smith@asu.edu.

April 5: Video Editing: Learn Adobe Premiere is a hands-on workshop taught at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Get training in the video editing software application Adobe Premiere. This hands-on session, taught by Jacoby, covers basic to intermediate software functions for creating and editing video packages. APW members receive a \$50 discount when they mention the code INDUSTRY during registration made at cronkite.asu.edu/newmedia or by emailing Liz Smith, elizabeth.grace.smith@asu.edu.