

Hello!

The weather has definitely changed and there is plenty of time to hatch plots and write scenes now that we're indoors for longer stretches of time. We have lots going on to share with you since we skipped October (computer meltdown at my house, sigh), so let's get to it. We hope you enjoy this edition of the SFWC newsletter.

Barbara

## **SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE NEWS** **November Edition**

**2009 VENUE: MARK HOPKINS HOTEL**  
**SIXTH ANNUAL SFWC: FEBRUARY 13-15, 2009**

**SFWC OFFICE: 1029 JONES STREET, SF, CA 94109**

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- 2009 SFWC Writing Contest Can Be Your Golden Ticket
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- Tell Your Story to President Elect Obama
- Upcoming Writing Related Events
- More Success Stories!

### **Four NEW Reasons to Attend the 2009 San Francisco Writers Conference**

Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada are working overtime to make the SFWC more affordable, comfortable *and* valuable to attendees. The 2009 event will simply be the best ever with the addition of the following:

1. **Café Ferlinghetti**—A comfortable place at the Mark Hopkins Hotel where attendees can buy coffee, meet, talk and relax. It will be open all day, every day during the event. It is part of the onsite bookstore set up by Neal Sofman & BookShop West Portal. Enjoy poetry readings on the hour. Use the blackboards to post a message to fellow attendees to meet for dinner or form critique groups. Attendees and presenters alike are going to enjoy this gathering spot!
2. **Children's Book Authors**—We are adding a complete children's book track with agents and editors who seek to work with children's book authors. We already have some of the best children's book agents in the country (Andrea Brown, Laurie McLean...) and we are excited to have a program that will knock Pippi Longstocking's socks off!
3. **More Poetry**—We've added a complete poetry track, with professionals who'll give talks on promoting your poetry and placing/selling your poetry, including a professional who publishes poetry.
4. **A \$50 Group Discount**—If five or more friends/members of a writing group/etc. sign up as a group, they'll get a **\$50 discount, per person**. Are we kidding?! Besides the event discount, we think it's just more fun to come as a group anyway. But you must follow these rules: **Do not sign up online**. Groups have to either MAIL or FAX (the SFWC fax is **415-673-0367**) their registration forms to the SFWC office. Each person should have a registration form and simply deduct \$50 from the posted fee. A registration form is attached to this email or you can download one at our website.

Don't forget our early rate that runs through December (\$595). If you or someone you know still needs to sign up for the 2009 San Francisco Writers Conference, time is running out. What an amazing life-changing gift for the holidays...even if you give it to yourself! Go to [www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org) for details.

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## 2009 San Francisco Writers Conference Writing Contest Is Here!

Is it time to pump up your writer's resume with a prestigious contest win? Several of the prior winners and finalists in our annual **San Francisco Writers Conference Writing Contest** have written to say that they've parlayed their contest wins into publishing contracts, so we know it works. One winner even used her free iUniverse publishing package to self-publish her children's book and get it out there for a book tour. This could be the best \$25 you've ever spent to supercharge your writing career!

The contest is open to everyone everywhere. You do not need to be a conference attendee to participate. Pass the word along to all your writing friends! Categories include adult fiction, adult non-fiction/memoir, poetry, children's fiction and children's picture books. The First Place winner in each category will receive \$100 in cash plus a winner's certificate and prizes suitable for writers, while the Honorable Mentions will receive prizes suitable for writers.

**HOW TO ENTER:** The entry fee is \$25 and the deadline is January 2nd, 2009. We've already begun to receive entries, so it is not too early to get going. For further details go to:

**SFWC Writing Contest** <http://www.sfwriters.org/pages.cfm?ID=7>

If you have a question, email Laurie McLean at [laurie@agentsavant.com](mailto:laurie@agentsavant.com). Enter early and enter often. Multiple entries increase your chances of winning.

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## Listen in to Chris Soth on How to Write Compelling Narrative During A Live SFWC Teleseminar on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

*How do you write a novel or non-fiction narrative that is not only compelling but will have the obvious potential to be adapted for the big screen?* In Hollywood, every page of a screenplay represents a minute on screen. Screenwriters learn to write in a tightly structured environment and so can you...

In our next teleseminar, Chris Soth will introduce you to his unique method that he refers to as "sequencing" or the "Mini-Movie Method". You're invited to participate as Elizabeth Pomada interviews Chris. Join us for this next call and you'll learn invaluable tips on how to 'break' your story structure like a pro.

Again, our teleseminars are offered no cost (except for any phone charges per your own phone plan.) However, beginning with this teleseminar if you cannot join us for the live teleseminar, you can purchase a copy of the MP3 version. We will send you all the details in a separate email but you can go ahead and register to participate in the teleseminar NOW!

**You know the drill! Go to:** [www.sfwriters.org/ask4/index.php](http://www.sfwriters.org/ask4/index.php)

Opt-in and ask Chris a question—then confirm.

Then join Chris, Elizabeth and Philippa on Wednesday, November 19th at 5:30PM Pacific (Live Worldwide)

**CHRIS SOTH** is a USC graduate, WGA member and Million-Dollar Screenwriter. He's written the feature film *OUTRAGE* starring Natasha Lyonne, Michael Madson and *FIRESTORM* starring Scott Glenn, William Forsythe and has many projects in development with major Hollywood studios. In addition to being a well-paid and well-regarded screenwriter, this master storyteller is a guru for emerging writers with his popular [www.MillionDollarScreenwriting.com](http://www.MillionDollarScreenwriting.com) newsletter, seminar and coaching program; and popular DVDs "SOLD! How I Set Up Three Pitches in Hollywood" and "Million Dollar Screenwriting: Write a Million Dollar Screenplay This Year". You can join him live every week as he interviews working industry professionals at [www.AskHollywoodbyPhone.com](http://www.AskHollywoodbyPhone.com).

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## **The 2009 San Francisco Writers Conference is All About Getting Published**

There are lots of reasons you go to a writers' conference. It's the place where you get your writing career on track and your project noticed. If you are lucky you get to meet your new literary agent. It's worth the price of admission just for the inspiration and valuable feedback from bestselling authors, agents and editors. But ultimately you go to a writers' conference because you want to get published.

That's where the San Francisco Writers Conference consistently shines. This year we are proud to have editors from the biggest, most reputable houses. **Signe Pike, Penguin/Plume; Charles Spicer, St. Martin's Press; Gordon Weil, Harper One; Caitlin Alexander, Bantam/Dell; Alan Rinzler, Jossey-Bass; Alex Logan, Grand Central; George Gibson, Walker Books** and more. If self-publishing is best for your book, we have **Diane Gedymin** of **iUniverse**.

In short, we have nearly 100 of the best in the publishing business—literary agents, book marketing experts and authors including Pulitzer Prize winning author **Jane Smiley, Richard North Patterson, Lolly Winston, Christine Feehan, Ellen Hopkins, Carolyn See, Cara Black, and Georgeanne Brennan** to name a few. We even have **Eric Liebetrau**, the editor of **Kirkus Review!** But only 300 attendees can join us and we've sold out every year since our inception.

Be ready to be published and be there with us. [www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org)

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## **What's Your Story for President-Elect Obama?**

Author/activist Riane Eisler sent a note: President Elect Obama has a new website and he is asking for our input. Click here for the website: <http://www.change.gov> Please post a request that he fill his cabinet with Qualified WOMEN too!

We would like to add to Riane's request. On the site there is an opportunity to tell your story from the campaign and election day. So tell YOUR story to President Obama (as one talk show host said, "Does anyone mind if he starts early?!")

## **WRITING EVENTS, EMAIL LINKS, AND MORE!**

**Wednesday, November 19th** at 5:30PM Pacific Time (Live Worldwide)

SFWC teleseminar with Chris Soth on structuring your novel or non-fiction narrative so that it can leap to the big screen! **Go to:** [www.sfwriters.org/ask4/index.php](http://www.sfwriters.org/ask4/index.php)

**December 2** WNBA Meeting at Sinbad's Restaurant on Pier 2 in San Francisco featuring Christine Comaford-Lynch (*Rules for Renegades*) "How I Made My Book a Bestseller" RSVP by Nov. 23. For details go to [www.wnba-sfchapter.org](http://www.wnba-sfchapter.org)

**February 13-15, 2009** Sixth Annual **San Francisco Writers Conference** at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Details and registration available at [www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org).

**August 9-16, 2009** Join Holly Payne in an intimate Rocky Mountain retreat designed to help you jump-start a new piece, or revive one you've been writing. Skywriter Ranch at Crested Butte, Colorado. [www.skywriterseries.com](http://www.skywriterseries.com)

**September 2009** Maui Photo Festival at the Hyatt Regency in Kaanapali, Maui, HI. Details to follow. [www.MauiPhotoFestival.com](http://www.MauiPhotoFestival.com)

## **NOVEMBER--Take the Write Nonfiction in November Challenge**

Join SFWC attendee and volunteer, **Nina Amir**, a nonfiction writer, in her response to National Novel Writing Month (NANOWRIMO). Her blog, Write Nonfiction in November

([www.writenonfictioninNovember.wordpress.com/](http://www.writenonfictioninNovember.wordpress.com/)), challenges writers to spend the month of November writing and completing a work of nonfiction rather than fiction. It also discusses nonfiction writing, offers tips on writing and publishing, and provides a forum for nonfiction writers to comment on their writing experiences during November. Rather than blogging alone, this year Nina has invited guest bloggers, such as SFWC presenters **Mike Larsen, Barbara Santos** and **Katharine Sands**, to offer their expertise and advice to her readers. **Write Nonfiction in November** is not a contest! It's a personal challenge. The award you get at the end of the month comes in the form of the great feeling you receive from achieving your goal--and knowing you can repeat your success in the future.

**NOW! Philippa Burgess** is offering two classes you can take over the phone! Philippa is a partner in **Creative Convergence**, a multi-faceted entertainment company based in Los Angeles which represents writers and directors and produces film and television. She is the wizard behind our recent SFWC teleseminars and she has a passion for her professional niche: Marketing for Writers and Content Creators. *Note: This is not the free introductory teleseminar we told you about earlier. This is the actual in-depth program.*

**YOUR SIGNATURE STORY—From Content Creator To Media Brand** and **MILLION DOLLAR SCREENWRITING AND CONTENT CAREER—Navigating The Hollywood Studio System.** Find out how you can participate at: [www.yoursignaturestory.com/ask/ysscouse.php](http://www.yoursignaturestory.com/ask/ysscouse.php)

**NOW! Judy Cullins** is a 'Book Coach and Article Marketing Lady' who offers free email 'nudges' that will get you writing. Sign up at [www.bookcoaching.com/](http://www.bookcoaching.com/)

**NOW!** Announcing the launch of **WritingSpirit.com**, providing inspiration, strategies and support for the writer's creative journey from inspiration to publication...and beyond! There are articles on writing personal essays, inspirational stories, and book proposals, as well as journaling exercises to jumpstart your writing, and hour long interviews on screenwriting, meditation and writing, mining the gold in your journal, and the writing/creative process. And we're just getting started. To celebrate the launch of WritingSpirit.com, founder Julie Isaac is offering a 14-day trial for \$1 that gets you full access to interviews with an Oscar-winning movie director, a NY Times bestselling author and two time Oprah guest, the author of her favorite book on writing, and so much more... You can also sign-up for free weekly writing and creativity tips, including The 7 Keys to Writing With Ease at: <http://www.WritingSpirit.com> She hopes you'll come by and check it out. *(Note: You may have met Julie Isaac at the 2008 San Francisco Writers Conference. Her WritingSpirit.com was a sponsor. Thank you, Julie!)*

### **January 2009--Cody's Events Legacy**

Melissa Mytinger, former events coordinator of the much-missed Cody's Books in Berkeley, has teamed up with Praveen Madan, co-owner of the Booksmith in San Francisco to launch Berkeley Arts & Letters, a new literary series at First Congregational Church of Berkeley. Together they have structured their new series along the lines of the large-scale events Cody's had mounted at FCCB in the past.

Books will be available for sale and for author signings at the readings. A suggested \$10 donation will be taken at the door to offset the church costs but no one will be turned away at the door for lack of funds. Although several events have been scheduled, Mytinger said "it was too late to put on a full program for fall. I think the full launch will come in January. We'd like to do between six and ten events a month, both at FCCB and at the Berkeley City Club."

### **MORE WRITING SUCCESS STORIES**

Congratulations to **Kathi Kamen Goldmark** on receiving the prestigious WNBA Award. (Other recipients include Eleanor Roosevelt, Rachel Carson and Pearl Buck!) We all know Kathi as a San Francisco Writers Conference presenter and board member, but even we didn't know she has raised almost \$2 million for numerous literacy and writing programs. How? Mostly through charity performances of the notorious band she founded, the Rock Bottom Remainers. As her friend and fellow band member **Amy Tan** said at the ceremony, "There couldn't be a more deserving recipient." You rock, Kathi...

**April Eberhardt** who was with the **Andrea Brown** agency and is now with **Kimberley Cameron** in Tiburon is working with five clients she picked up at the 2008 Speed Dating Event!

*From Writing for Change attendee Barbara Saunders:*

Since you mentioned that you would like updates, I wanted to send you news of my latest success... An essay I submitted to a No-Kill Essay contest was very well received. It was first published as a guest blog post.

The blogger offered up payment to purchase the rights through the end of the year, and the essay is now featured at: <http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/whatsnew.html> He also discussed the piece on a national internet radio show and gave my name to some community activists, who have invited me to speak at a public hearing.

Thank you again for the encouragement and spur that the Writing for Change conference provided!

*Another from Writing for Change—*  
Michael and Elizabeth,

I want to let you know that I sold Cami Walker's *29 Gifts* project to Katie McHugh and have the conference to thank. I am very grateful to be associated with this project, which is a direct result of the Writing for Change conference. All best wishes, Rita Rosenkranz

### **Keep writing and Happy Thanksgiving!**

Michael Larsen, Elizabeth Pomada

Barbara Santos, Laurie McLean, Linda Lee and everyone on the SFWC organization team

### **SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE OFFICE:**

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*SFWC Registrations, Writing Contest & Website Content Director: Laurie McLean*

*Website Development: Alexis Masters -- Teleseminars: Philippa Burgess*

*Volunteer Coordinator: Linda Lee*

**SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE WEBSITE: [www.SFWriters.org](http://www.SFWriters.org)**

*If you enjoy getting these emails let us know and feel free to pass them along to your writer friends.*

*Anyone can sign up for this newsletter at [www.sfwriters.org](http://www.sfwriters.org). If you have writing-related news to share, send it to us at [Barbara@sfwriters.org](mailto:Barbara@sfwriters.org).*

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