

# Purple Pros

The Official Newsletter of

# Southeastern Writers

writers helping writers



PURPLE PROS – SOUTHEASTERN WRITERS NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2022



*Alexandra Christle*  
1953-2021

Alexandra B. Christle, age 68 of Norfolk VA, passed away October 10, 2021.

A native of New York, she was the daughter of the late Leo and S. Frances Christle. A graduate of the University of Missouri, she received a Bachelor's of Journalism and a Master's Degree in Education from Old Dominion University. She was an author and successfully published four books receiving numerous awards for her novels.

She is survived by her daughter Alexandra Wilde of Norfolk VA, a son Michael Wilde of Illinois, along with three grandchildren – Jericho, Raven, and Wade – and countless other family and friends.

## *We Will Cry*

The sun set on our friend Alex.  
Though she fought and won battle after battle  
The cancer kept coming.  
And it took an awful toll.

It ravaged her once strong body,  
And left her thin and pale,  
Until the light that was her spirit  
Flickered and died.

Some people are timid, and speak tenderly  
They walk through life on tiptoes.  
Alex lived boldly and big,  
Stomping heavily and shaking trees.

Many are more delicate and diplomatic,  
Anxious to win the approval of others.  
But Alex spoke plainly and  
Made others seek her approval.

Some write their story in fading ink,  
She etched hers in our hearts and minds.  
Alex built like a stonemason  
And now her story lives on.

Some pollute the air with complaints and woe,  
She cleared the air with optimism and good cheer.  
She was taken from family and friends  
Even though she deserved a longer life.  
There was nothing any of us could do about it.  
We could sob in sorrow and we did.  
We could scream in outrage and we did.  
The cancer didn't care.

We protested it's unfairness.  
We proclaimed that it made no sense.  
We said we were not ready.  
The cancer didn't care.

We despaired but it didn't delay her departure.

We are shaken by the ugly side of mortality,  
Humbled and intimidated by the  
Unyielding march of death.

And we are bone-deep sad.

It's a terrible thing to lose someone you love.  
The pain does not pass quickly.  
In time, we will be grateful Alex was in our life.  
We will relive our experiences and we will smile.

But for now and for a long while,  
We will cry.

~Cappy Hall Rearick

## SWA President's Letter

January 2022

### Dear SWA Members:

After two years of not being able to host our writers' workshop, I am happy to announce our dates – June 10-14, 2022 on beautiful Epworth by the Sea. The board is making plans to have the best conference ever. I am eager to be reunited with old friends and anxious to make new ones. The SWA Board has worked very hard to provide an exceptional experience for each of you filled with writing, networking, rewriting and fun.

As you may know, our board has had some changes. I took over the president slot for Amy Wethington. We are still mourning the loss of Alexandra Christle who was so much a part of SWA. Dana Ridenour is our new social media director, and Muriel Pritchett, our newsletter editor. We are still short-handed and need help with registration, news for the newsletter, help with the bookstore, and hospitality, which Mary Stripling heads up. Our new

webmaster is a UGA alum, Brian Wallace, and we are thrilled that he has agreed to manage our webpage.

As in the past, casual dress is the rule. You may dress up on awards night – more on that later. Don't let our island attitude fool you, SWA is a professional organization with first class talent. Be sure to take advantage of all of the daytime classes as well as evening activities. Our faculty is superb this year, but as always it is your decision how many sessions you attend.

An up-to-date instructor list will be forthcoming but here's a peek: Rhonda Penders (publisher/editor); Piper Huguley (fiction/historical/African American); Amy Collins (publishing/marketing) Steve Kistulentz (poetry); Bill Blume (world-building fiction) and Michael Lucker (screenwriting). SWA Vice President Jim Furry is currently communicating with each to make sure they are still available. As with everything, this line up is subject to change.

As always, SWA Treasurer Patrick Hempfing is keeping us on course financially. He tirelessly records membership and alerts us to

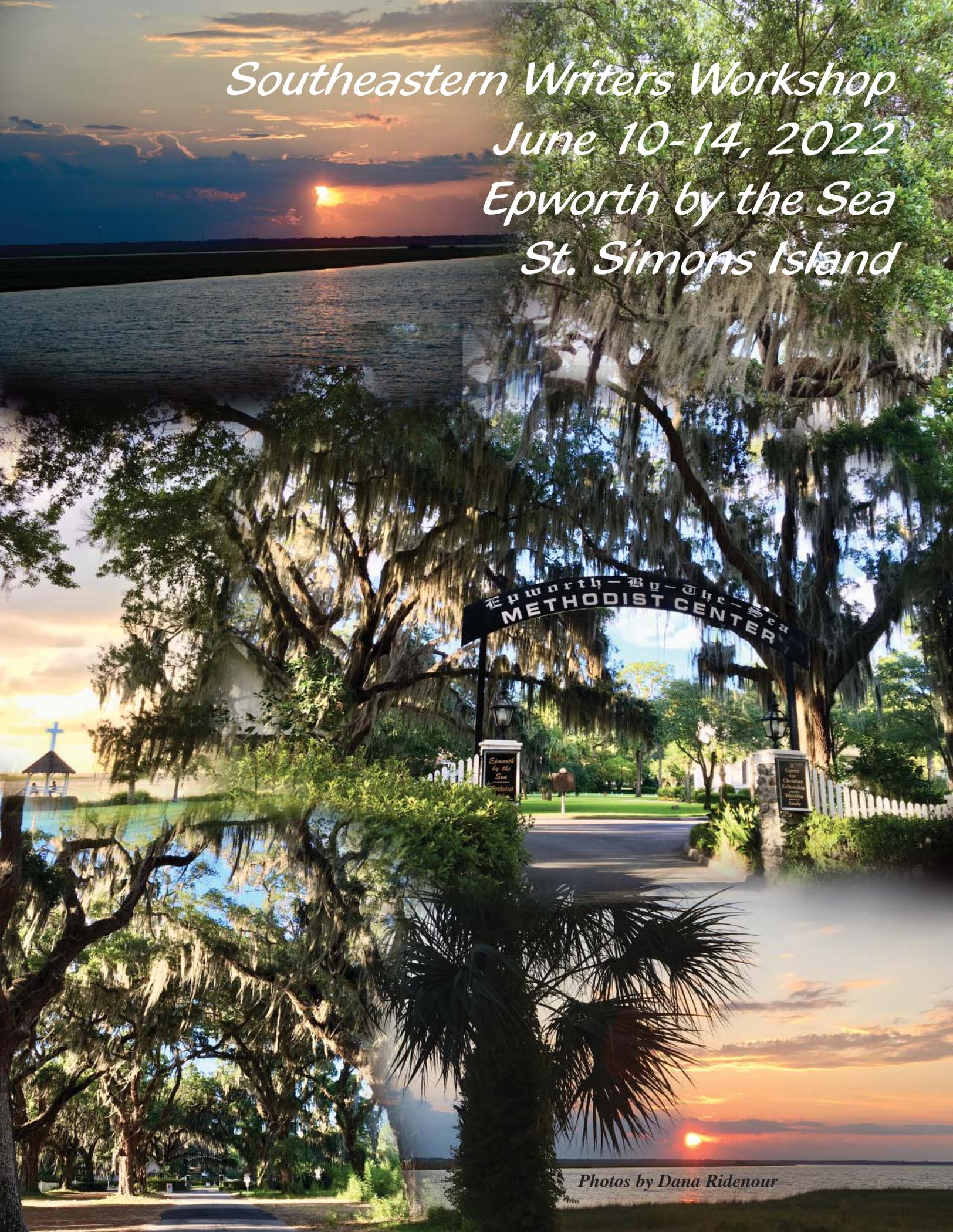
needs in the things we may miss. I want to express appreciation to all who have encouraged us through the difficult two-year drought. Thank you for all the volunteer work and a special thank you to Tim Hudson, our meeting planner par excellence, who has been wearing many hats like the rest of us to make this workshop happen.

St. Simons Island is chocked full of natural beauty including the campus of Epworth by the Sea. Be sure to read over Epworth's policies and be respectful of them. Explore the island, feed the dolphins, ride the trolley, and stroll along the pier. For inspiration visit the Lovely Lane Chapel, Christ's Church or the Battle of Bloody Marsh. A lot of history transpired on this barrier island.

The goal of the SWA Board of Directors is to make this the best week of your writing life. We look forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. Mark your calendar for June 10-14, 2022.

Sincerely,  
**Sheila Hudson, President**

*Southeastern Writers Workshop  
June 10-14, 2022  
Epworth by the Sea  
St. Simons Island*



*Photos by Dana Ridenour*

# Faculty for 2022 SWA Workshop

**Rhonda Penders:** Rochester (publisher/editor); rpenders@thewildrosepress.com Editor-in-Chief of The Wild Rose Press; plus, Rhonda Penders & Kaitlyn Johnson will take pitches throughout the conference, so have your pitch honed and ready to go!

**Piper Huguley:** Atlanta (fiction, historical, AfAm); huguleyriggins@hotmail.com Author of Historical Fiction featuring African American Characters; Piper Huguley Evaluation: Fiction; One submission, not to exceed 5 pages.

**Amy Collins:** Rochester, NY (publishing/marketing); amy@newshelvesbooks.com is an agent with the Talcott Notch Literary Services agency. With 30 years in the publishing industry as a book buyer, Sales Director for large non-fiction publisher and the founder and President of New Shelves Books, one of the largest book sales and marketing companies in the US.

**Steve Kistulentz:** Tampa (poetry) Poetry / Non-fiction Steven.Kistulentz@saintleo.edu is the Director of the Saint Leo Master of Arts in Creative Writing Program and an Associate Professor of English. He is the author of a novel, Panorama (2018), which was a must-read selected by publications like Entertainment Weekly and the New York Post. Steve Kistulentz evaluation: Poetry / Nonfiction; One poem, not to exceed 30 lines; One page of prose, up to 250 words, OR an outline of the project.

**Bill Blume:** Richmond (world-building/fiction); WPBlume@gmail.com discovered his love for the written word while in high school and has been writing ever since. His latest novel, Gidion's Blood, is now available from Diversion Books. His short stories have been published in many fantasy anthologies and various ezines, and have recently been assembled by Diversion Books in his new short story collection The Deadlands: And Other Stories. Bill Blume evalu-

ation: Fiction; One submission, not to exceed 5 pages.

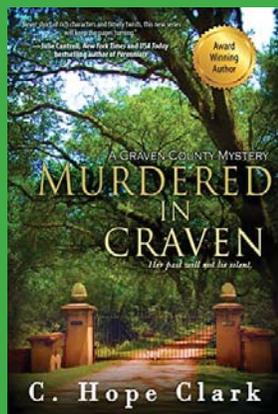
**Michael Lucker:** Atlanta (screenwriting); michael@luckydogfilmworks.com; michael.lucker@ung.edu is a professional screenwriter, screenwriting consultant and lecturer of screenwriting with more than twenty years experience creating film, television, animation and digital media. Michael Lucker is a producer and writer, known for Home on the Range (2004), Mulan II (2004) and Lilo & Stitch 2: Stitch Has a Glitch (2005). Screenwriter for Dreamworks, Disney, Paramount, Fox, Universal, Cartoon Network and more. Lecturer of Screenwriting for University of North Georgia, Emory University and Georgia Film Academy. Michael Lucker evaluation: Screenplay; one submission, not to exceed 5 pages.

**Val M. Mathews** is a big-hearted, fun-loving editor at The Wild Rose Press, the kinder and gentler publishing house in New York. She is accepting pitches for everything from Romances to challenging Sci-Fi. Recently, she has contracted nine new books, including Mary Cunningham's cozy mystery Margaritas, Mayhem & Murder, debut author J.A. Nielsen's YA Urban Fantasy The Claiming, and Paul DeStefano's challenging dark fantasy Riftsiders: Unlawful Possession. She teaches courses in structural editing and copyediting for Queens University in Ontario, Canada, and developmental editing for the Editorial Freelancers Association in New York. Val also freelances on the side. Fun fact about Val: She's been an FAA-certified flight instructor for over twenty-five years, and in the past, she flew Lear jets for a living.



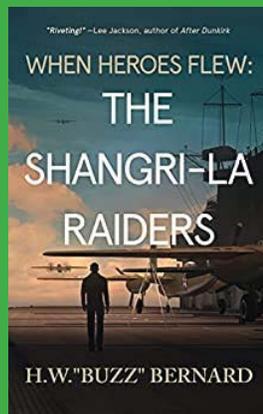
# SWA Member News

**C. Hope Clark** published books 1 and 2 of her new Craven County Mysteries in a double-book release on November 30, 2021. This is Hope's third mystery series, and her 13th and 14th novels. She recently signed a three-book contract with Bell Bridge Books for two books in her Edisto series and another in her Carolina Slade series.



[www.chopeclark.com](http://www.chopeclark.com)

**H. W. "Buzz" Bernard's** newest novel is scheduled for release April 2022. **When Heroes Flew: the Roof of the World** will be



the third book of his When Heroes Flew trilogy, published by Severn River Publishing. The novel is set against the amazing tales of courage and sacrifice by American transport pilots who, in WWII, flew their planes through the worst weather and over the highest mountains in

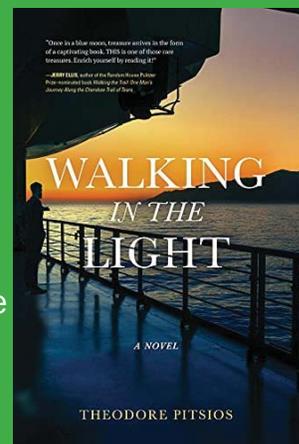
the world – the Himalayas – to get men and material from India into China. His second book in the trilogy, **The Shangri-La Raiders**, was released July 2021. Buzz, a former SWA president, is leaving the Southeast, but will remain involved with the association from his new home in the Pacific Northwest.

[www.buzzbernard.com](http://www.buzzbernard.com)

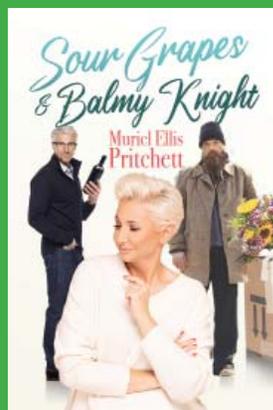
**Theodore Pitsios** has announced the release of his new book **Walking in the Light**. Before it was submitted to Koehler Book publishers, the book was edited by the late Alex Christle— noted in the Acknowledgement page. The book, which deals with the plight of legal and illegal immigrants of many nations, is distributed

by Ingram, Amazon and Koehler Books. It is also available through the Greek America Foundation and Pappas' Post, [www.greekamericafoundation.org](http://www.greekamericafoundation.org) or [darden@pappaspost.com](mailto:darden@pappaspost.com), who use the proceeds to aid the plight of refugees around the world.

[www.theodorepitsios.com](http://www.theodorepitsios.com)



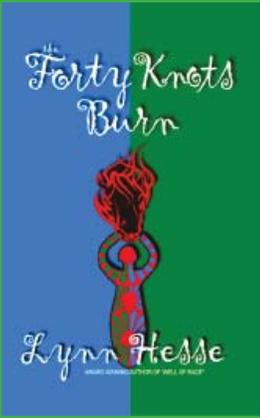
**Muriel Ellis Pritchett's** fourth book in her Feisty Women's Fiction series was released in December 2021. **Sour Grapes and Balm Knight** is a story about losing health and independence, renewing an old



friendship, starting a new life, and getting a second chance at romance. This is Muriel's fifth book published by Black Rose Writing, an independent publishing house that strongly believes in developing a personal relationship with their authors.

[www.murielpritchett.com](http://www.murielpritchett.com)

**Lynn Hesse** has announced that her suspense novel **The Forty Knots Burn** will be published soon by BlueRoomBooks.com. It is the story about a con artist trio stuck in Atlanta without funds when the oldest member has a heart attack and dies. Clara Shannesy Blythe and her adopted Uncle Roman are crushed at their mentor's death, but Clara must take over the reins of the cutthroat crew and pull off the tricky art heist of an Edward Hopper painting. She falls in love for the first time at age 27 and realizes too late Hernando is the Hopper painting's forger and his brother is the man trying to kill her. Winner of the 2021 International Readers' Choice Chill Award, Hesse was interviewed in December on Chat and Spin, a

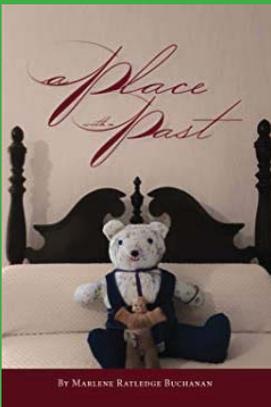


24-hour not-for-profit internet radio station covering the UK National and international audience. Also, Hesse's short story "Bitter Love" was published in *Crimeucopia*, *The I's Have It*, October issue 2021, Murderous Ink Press, United Kingdom.  
www.lynnhesse.com

**Marlene Ratledge Buchanan** recently completed her coursework through Metropolitan Community College and received her certification in Written Storytelling. She received the Georgia Independent Author of the Year Award (GIAYA) in 2021 for her cozy mystery, **A Place with a Past**



– complete with a love story, a murder, and a couple of ghosts. An unexpected inheritance leads a school teacher to find an extended family – long dead – living in the family home place. One ghost demands she leave, and the other asks for protection. A little love, a little laughter, and a great deal of southern charm

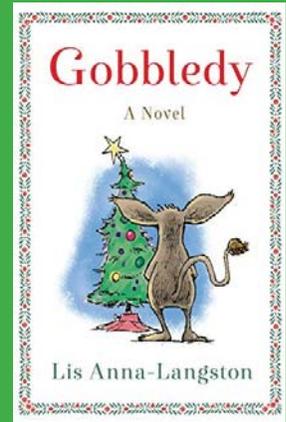


leads the reader into a book of hidden family secrets. Buchanan also won GIAYA in 2021 with her first book **Life is Hard. Soften It with Laughter**. Also, Buchanan was one of the guest speakers at the Southern Pen Book Shop's Christmas Tea, December 11, 2021.

www.MsRatWrites.com

**Lis Anna-Langston's** children's book **Gobbledy** (released October 2020) received several awards in 2021, including Independent Press Awards Winner in Holiday; Children's; IBPA

Benjamin Franklin Awards Silver Winner in Young Reader Fiction; 15th Annual National Indie Excellence Awards Finalist in Holiday; and Book Excellence Awards Finalist in Holiday.



**Gobbledy** is the story about Dexter Duckworth who one day before

Christmas finds a golden rock in the forest that hatches into an adorable alien named Gobbledy. www.lisannalangston.com

**Susan Lindsley** received the Georgia Independent Author of the Year Award (GIAYA) for 2021 for her poetry collection **When Yestertime Was Now**. The award is sponsored by the Southern Pen Bookshop. This is her second first place with the GIAYA. Lindsley's title poem, "When Yestertime Was Now," took first place in the Walt Whitman poetry contest sponsored by the Southeastern Writers Association in 2019.



**Sheila S. Hudson's** first-person humorous article, "Wishful Shrinking," was published in the January 2022 issue of Opal Writers' Magazine. In the article, Hudson shares her experience to regain her schoolgirl figure by enrolling in a low-impact aerobics class. Hudson is the current president of SWA and an award-winning writer of cozy mysteries.



# Literary News & Events

**A Storytelling Certificate Program** in both written and oral storytelling is currently being offered by the Mid-Continent Public Library. ([www.mymcpl.org/.../storytelling-certificate-program](http://www.mymcpl.org/.../storytelling-certificate-program)) This program is made possible through funding from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Upon completing the program, participants will be able to describe different forms and styles of written or oral storytelling. Mid-continent Public Library Story Center has teamed up with award-winning storyteller Laura Packer to develop a series of asynchronous, free programs on How to Be a Great Online Storyteller. Intended for casual and professional storytellers alike, the three programs cover a range of issues and techniques to help people tell stories successfully in virtual space. Each program is less than thirty minutes and features downloadable handouts.

**Scribblers Web** ([www.scribblersweb.com](http://www.scribblersweb.com)) holds monthly meetings in person or on Zoom, which are designed to help writers get support, direction, and contacts for their creations. Everything is FREE. Scribblers Web members are eligible to place their books for sale on the website's store. Authors get 90% of the sale, plus free advertising through the website. For more information, contact Marlene Buchanan ([www.mrat30052@aol.com](mailto:www.mrat30052@aol.com)) or Charles DeAndrade ([www.charlesdeandrade@earthlink.net](mailto:www.charlesdeandrade@earthlink.net)).

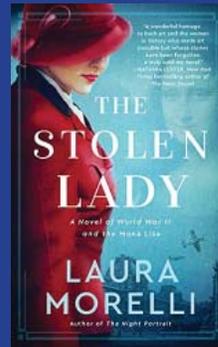
**The Atlanta Writers Club (AWC)** is having a conference for anyone interested in self-publishing and craft and marketing suggestions. **The Atlanta Self-Publishing Conference** will be held April 23, 2022, at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel.



For writers interested in traditional publishing, register for the **May 6-7, 2022, Atlanta Writers Conference** at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel – with 28 agents and publishing editors – including one agent seek-

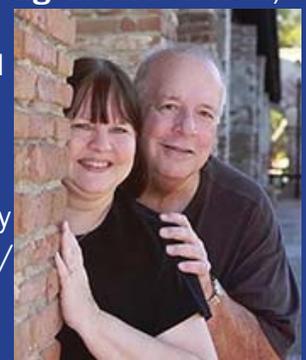
ing movie screenplays and TV scripts.

Other Atlanta



Writers Club events include the Georgia Writers Museum writing workshop on January 22, 2022, the 2022 annual writing contest, author **Laura Morelli's** free online talk on January 29, 2022, and the online writing workshop on January 31, 2022, courtesy of Roswell Reads.

**Faith on Every Corner** is a free online magazine read in over 80 countries. **Craig and Karen Ruhl**, who are looking for writers to be seen and heard, would love to review your books and share your writings. Please consider joining and sharing. Link to their January 2022 Issue: [www.issuu.com/craigruhl/docs/faith\\_on\\_every\\_corner\\_-\\_january\\_2022](http://www.issuu.com/craigruhl/docs/faith_on_every_corner_-_january_2022)



**Are you writing a book?** Are you exploring the metaphysical and energy healing modalities? **Opal Writers Magazine and Opal Rising Magazine** are published every month. Opal Writers Magazine features expert authors on the craft of writing and publishing in today's changing market. [www.opalpublishing.ca/opal-writers-magazine](http://www.opalpublishing.ca/opal-writers-magazine)



# *I Should Wear a Warning Label*

By Sheila S. Hudson

## **I confess. I am a writer.**

I have been one for over 25 years. I am unable to stop. No amount of counseling has helped. I am hopelessly addicted to paper and ink.

In my research, I've discovered others suffering this same obsession. I propose a solution. In order to save our reputations and unnecessary verbiage, writers with this malady should always display and wear upon their person – warning labels. Not just any label, but one befitting the mood and occasion.

And why not? We label cough syrup, cigarettes, craft supplies, food and nonfood items alike. Sometimes the label goes further and state the symptoms of abuse.

When I am working feverishly against a deadline, reasonable or not, a caution should be displayed in a prominent place like the front door or stuck on my forehead alerting all who approach of impending danger. Wording could be something like the following:

- Contents under pressure.
- Handle at own risk.
- Caution. Approach with care.
- Death or serious injury could result.

Fraternalizing with an insecure writer can be

a dangerous undertaking. All conversations, scandals, gossip tidbits or secrets are fair game and could possibly become part of a short story, feature, or newspaper article. A writer's significant other is constantly at risk. That person is the last bastion of privacy to their friends and relatives. It may be up to them to advise guests and strangers of their situation.

Some my spouse has used are:

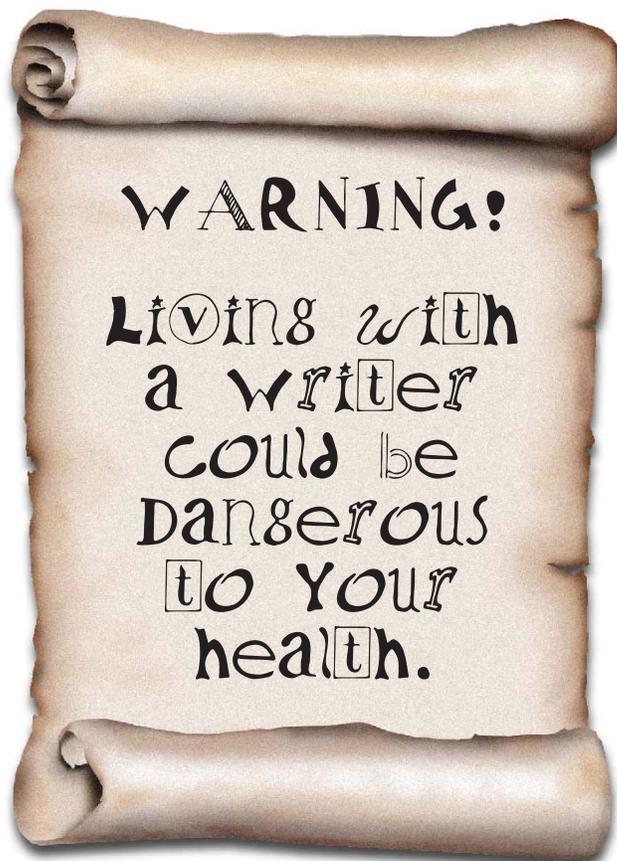
- High-risk area (writer has been spotted in area).
- Beware of explicit lyrics and sexual innuendo (may wind up in print).
- Do not puncture or incinerate (verbally or within earshot of the writer).
- This visit may have harmful side effects.

A desperate writer can get 1,000 words out of taking the garbage to the Dumpster. During writer's block, a freelancer may sift through personal experiences and "modify" a personal experience claiming poetic license with emphasis on "lie."

Family vacations are not exempt. Vacationing with a writer is not "down time." Writers never take vacations. I constantly scribble regardless of the local or temperature. My luggage is full of newspapers, travel brochures, and items of interest "just in case." Writer significant others should use caution especially when traveling outside the United States. Some of the following may apply:

- Never allow writer to operate machinery while under the influence of inspiration.
- Too much stimulation may cause writing sessions for hours.
- Do not mix writer with alcoholic substances.
- Keep writer out of reach of children and pets.

Day to day routines can lose their luster for many, but a creative writer with too much time on their hands has been known to lift the mundane to bizarre and beyond. Living with a writer is difficult but be forewarned that it is anything but dull. The quirky lifestyle of a writer:



- May be addictive.
- Could cause drowsiness.
- May result in serious injury.
- Contains all new material.

Even the most conscientious discover innuendo creeping into supposedly unbiased and non-fictional reporting. It therefore lies in the realm of agent/ manager/partner/spouse (in other words YOU) to correct errors and rein in your writer when things get out of hand. This may occur at book signings, parties, or family reunions.

A writer on a word binge is no different from an alcoholic; he has no grasp on reality and cannot rest until his current manuscript is put to bed and another begun. The writer must begin another manuscript immediately else the blank page will mock both his dreams and leisure time. I know this from personal experience. That is one stress you do not want to add to your otherwise carefree life. For lifestyle happiness, I recommend basic cardinal rules:

- Handle your writer with care.
- Treat as highly explosive.
- Do not freeze, refrigerate or expose to sunlight.

Never approach a writer who is sitting in silence and ask, “What are you doing?” The writer in question will take offense. Since our tribe is constantly tinkering with the layout of the next article or book chapter.

If you question them, they will be affronted and assume you are accusing them of daydreaming. Or, if you observe them watching

a favorite television sitcom, you should never assume they are relaxing but rather untangling story formats, noting transitions, or watching for plot points and complications.

With more than fifty years of marriage under our belts, my husband suggests that I wallpaper my office with rejection slips. He wisely encourages resubmis-

sion of returned manuscripts and refuses to allow me to wallow in self-pity. He patiently reminds me that to be a writer means:

- Some assembly may be required.
- Batteries are not included.
- Under penalty of law, this warning label is not to be removed!

## SWA Board Members

**Sheila Hudson, President**

(sheilahudson.writer@gmail.com)

**Jim Furry, Vice President**

(furbear87@aol.com)

**Sandra Giles, Recording Secretary,**

(sgiles@abac.edu)

**Patrick Hempfing, Treasurer**

(hempfing@frontiernet.net)

**Dana Ridenour, Social Media Director**

(danaridenour@hotmail.com)

**Mary Stripling  
Auxiliary in Charge of Hospitality**

(marydstripling@comcast.net)

**Muriel Pritchett, Newsletter Editor**

(muriel@pritchett.org)

**Brian Wallace, Webmaster**

(b3drums@gmail.com)

**[NOTE: Annual SWA membership dues are \$35. Everyone who entered the 2021 SWA writing contest paid their dues when they submitted their entries.]**

# *If Writers Ran the World*

By Sheila S. Hudson

**As I peruse my newspaper,** it doesn't take a genius to see that in spite of tightening our collective belts, voting in a new administration, approving various stimulus packages and bailouts, Uncle Sam needs help.

And this is where I have another Bright Idea.

Put writers in charge of the government.

If writers ran the world, speeches would be clear and understandable with no "ly" adverbs. Perhaps we could actually comprehend the bills that our Congress passes daily. And it follows that we wouldn't need a two-hour newscaster interpreting what our President just told us.

If writers ran the world, publishers and editors would have emails that you could easily find on their website instead of buried under pages of ads for diets and hair extensions. And while I'm dreaming, the editors would accept simultaneous submissions, reprints, and queries whether attached or in the body of the email. Books would be published within six months of acceptance or a double royalty penalty would be paid to the author in cash – sort of like a free pizza if it arrives late.

If writers ran the world, Congress would make the four-day work week the standard except when a holiday falls on Monday in which case the work week would be diminished to three. Citizens 50 or older would qualify for senior citizen discounts, tax free groceries and pharmacy, plus free ice cream at Chick-fil-A. Writers would also qualify for drastically reduced rates on office supplies, including laptops which would be tax deductible.

If writers ran the world, newspaper columnists and correspondents would be at the top of the salary food chain. Editors would value these contributing writers and consequently give them interesting assignments like 'experience the day spa' rather than 'cover the cattle show.'

If writers ran the world, world peace would be a reality and celebrated with readings and free coffee in the local bookshops. Teachers of Language Arts would command larger salaries than five-star generals and be bestowed the honor they richly deserve. On earning tenure, they would be flown to the city of their choice for a vacation.

If writers ran the world, every student would be required to experience a short term mission trip and work with the poor in the inner city. At the end of their assignment, the student would be required to write about his/her experiences. These manuscripts would be placed in bookstores, libraries, and on the World Wide Web for all to read.



If writers ran the world, we would honor the written, sung, and spoken word and reverence those who contribute to our body of knowledge. Playwrights, screenwriters, novelists, and nonfiction writers would work side by side. Competition would be replaced with mutual respect and partnership.

If writers ran the world, the heads of state would commission accomplished artists and writers to create picture books that teach themes of acceptance, love, and forgiveness. Children would develop respect for ethnic differences and desire friendships with those of different cultures. Crossword enthusiasts, Scrabble winners, and finalists in competitive essay writing would determine the head of the United Nations, the site for the Olympic Games, and what caterer would have charge of the next Peace Conference/Poetry Slam.

Writers are beautiful people no matter their size, shape, skin color, or age. They can be young or old, thin or rotund, bespeckled or not, wear Crocs or Prada, ours is a colorful lot. A writer's talent is only tempered by wisdom and humor. Authors could easily govern global affairs.

With writers running the world, the younger generation would aspire to greater heights. A writer's status would be raised to that of supermodels. College credit would be awarded writers for life experiences and noteworthy manuscripts written whether published or not.

If writers ran the world, we would institute creative holidays like Every Third Thursday Idea/Cookie Swap, Odd Wednesday Ice Cream Day, or on the first day of summer Celebrate the Invention of Flip Flops.

Bosnian and Serbian writers might choose to resolve their country's differences over high tea while writers in Mexico and the U.S. might visit a cafe in Tijuana. European and Asian writers could exchange manuscripts via the internet and get together once a year to brainstorm shared projects for the common good.

If writers ran the world, our society would sleep easier at night and dream of a Giant Peach or Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Writer-leaders would of course be well read and not repeat the mistakes of the Holocaust, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Viet Nam, or the Persian Gulf. Author-diplomats would free us from war, arrive at satisfactory peace terms, and bring our troops home stat.

If writers ran the world, this reeling frazzled world would begin to mend and eventually recover that it might frolic in fantasy, adventure, mystery, and the myriad joys of literature.

Edward R. Murrow, an American news icon, closed Person-to-Person with "Good Night and Good Luck." If writers ran the world, what better way to end a meeting than "Good Night and Good Luck?" Perhaps we'd inscribe that phrase on our currency and incorporate that into the President's State of the Union Address.

If you like my idea of putting writers in charge of the word, will you vote for that in the next presidential election? I'm considering throwing my hat into the ring. I just can't decide between the white fur one or the straw with flowers.