

Purple Pros

The Official Newsletter of

Southeastern Writers

writers helping writers



PURPLE PROS -- SOUTHEASTERN WRITERS NEWSLETTER -- FEBRUARY 2022



Southeastern Writers Conference

June 10-14, 2022

Epworth by the Sea

SWA Vice-President's Letter

FEBRUARY 2022

Dear SWA Members:

The Southeastern Writers Association (SWA) is having its annual writer's conference this June 10-14, 2022. Although it is a yearly event, this year is extra-special because we are going live again after the deadly COVID19 pandemic prevented us from having one in 2021.



And while there have been many wonderful and beneficial Zoom writing conferences during the pandemic by many writers' groups all over the country, the intangible benefits of sharing person to person experiences cannot be understated.

There will be several writing contests this year, which all award cash prizes. The conference is located on the beautiful coastal retreat of St. Simons Island, GA, which puts the attendees in a relaxed mood and opens everyone's mind to learning how to improve writing skills and market their completed books.

We have a bookstore where I normally purchase a bunch of author-signed books every year. It provides me with months of excellent and enjoyable reading pleasures.

All of our instructors bring with them special skills. In all the years I have attended, I never once looked at my watch during a workshop and wondered when the hour would be over. Most of the time, the instructors are flooded with questions, some of which cannot be answered because the hour has passed.

Those who have attended

in the past are usually eager to see the registration form appear again on the SWA website because they are assured the information gained from the conference will make them a better writer and more competitive in their genre's market.

But for me, in spite of the great personal growth professionally obtained by attending the conference, the best part is and has always been the warm fellowship with other writers, the informal conversations at meal time, and the feeling while traveling on the way home you have made friends with highly skilled writers and notable successful authors. In this day of social media, some of the first friends I've made from my earliest conference I still communicate with on a regular basis. That has more than justified my expense of the conference.

I invite you to consider registering and attending our conference this year. Come and enjoy and celebrate with the gang of prior attendees, getting back together again on St. Simons Island. And for first-time participants, I invite you to become part of the family of writers in the SWA.

Jim Furry, Vice-President.



Please come to our conference!

Faculty for 2022 SWA Conference

Amy Collins, an agent with the Talcott Notch Literary Services agency, focuses on non-fiction and international rights. She is a *USA Today*



and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author and is currently working with authors with expertise in business, history, personal development, and prescriptive how-to.

Collins is a columnist for and a board member of several publishing organizations and a trusted teacher at publishing conferences and classes. In her agent role, she focuses on non-fiction/ history, historical fiction, fantasy and sci-fi.

Collins is on the national advisory board for Ingram Spark, a member of Mensa, a featured columnist for *Writers Digest*, and IBPA. She has taught and spoken at many of the publishing industry's top festivals and conferences, including Scottish Writers Association, *Publisher's Weekly's BookCon*, Oklahoma Writer's Conference, Rocky Mountain Writers Conference, AAPS, Dublin Writers Conference, BAIPA, PALA, St. Louis Writer's Conference, *Writers Digest*, and Las Vegas Writers Conference. She can be reached at Amy@amysadvice.com.

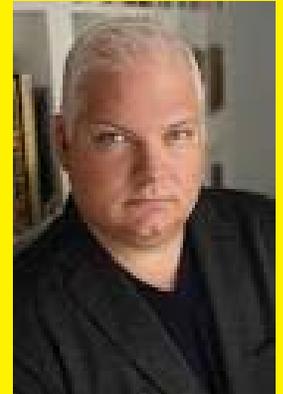
Piper G. Huguley, the author of *Sweet Tea* by Hallmark Publishing, is a two-time Golden Heart @finalist and author of two historical romance series: "Migrations of the Heart", about the Great Migration, and "Home to Milford College."

Huguley will make her historical fiction debut in June 2022 with *By Her Own Design: a novel of Ann Lowe, Fashion Designer to the Social Register* (William Morrow Publishing) who was the Black fashion designer of Jackie Kennedy's



wedding dress. Huguley, who lives in Atlanta GA with her husband and son, blogs about the history behind her novels at <http://piperhuguley.com>.

Steve Kistulentz is the author of the novel *Panorama*, (Little, Brown & Co., 2018) and the forthcoming novel, *The General Secretary*. He has also published two award-winning collections of poetry, *Little Black Daydream* (University of Akron Press, 2012) and *The Luckless Age* (Red Hen Press, 2010), winner of the Benjamin Saltman Award.



Kistulentz, who was born in Washington, DC, earned a BA in English from the College of William and Mary, an MA from the Johns Hopkins University, an MFA from the Iowa Writer's Workshop, and a PhD from the Florida State University.

His shorter works have appeared in such journals as *The Antioch Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *New Letters*, *Quarterly West*, *Quarter After Eight*, *The Southern Review*, and many others.

Prior to writing, he spent nearly 20 years in national politics in Washington DC, directing political strategy for corporations mostly in the transportation and infrastructure areas. He has taught at the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Iowa, Florida State University, Millsaps College, the University of Tampa, and is currently the founding director of the graduate program in creative writing at Saint Leo University. He lives in the Tampa area with his family.

Michael Lucker is a professional screenwriter and professor of screenwriting with 20 years' experience writing for major studios and 10 years' experience lecturing at major universities. He began his career writing and directing cable commercials while earning his undergraduate degree in broadcasting and film at Boston

University's College of Communication. Soon after, he landed in Los Angeles working in production for ABC, NBC and CBS before taking a job as assistant to Steven Spielberg at Amblin Entertainment on feature films *Always*, *Arachnophobia*, and *Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade*.



Lucker served in creative affairs on feature films at Hollywood Pictures before embarking on a career as a screenwriter for Paramount, Disney, DreamWorks, Fox and Universal on such movies as *Vampire in Brooklyn*, *Home on The Range*, *Mulan II*, and *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2002 as best animated feature.

An opportunity to serve as executive producer at Turner Entertainment brought him home to Atlanta in 2007, where he worked in television for Animal Planet, Cartoon Network, Travel Channel, History, Discovery, NBC, TBS, TNT, TLC, OWN, DIY, MSNBC and A&E.

Recently, he served as consultant on the feature films *Fear of Rain* starring Harry Connick Jr., *A Wing and A Prayer* starring Denis Quaid and *The Curse of La Patasola* starring AJ Jones. His latest effort – the dramatic thriller *10-56*, which he co-wrote and co-produced – has been named a finalist in film festivals worldwide.

A renowned instructor in screenwriting, Lucker serves as lecturer at University of North Georgia

and Emory University, mentor in Reinhardt University's Creative Writing MFA Program, advisor to the Georgia Film Academy, and founder of Screenwriter School.

His book on screenwriting – *Crash! Boom! Bang! How to Write Action Movies* – is available wherever books are sold. His debut novel – crime thriller *Rule One* – is scheduled for release Fall 2022.

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 accepts 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*.



Mathews teaches courses in structural editing and copyediting for Queens University in Ontario, Canada, and developmental editing for the Editorial Freelancers Association in New York. She also freelances on the side.

Fun fact about Mathews: She's been an FAA-certified flight instructor for over 25 years, and – in the past – flew Lear jets for a living.

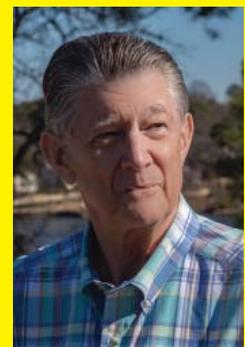
Southeastern Writers Conference is proud to announce

that one of our very own alums – **Harold "Buzz" Bernard** – will be one of our evening speakers at the SWA conference, June 10-14, 2022.

Buzz has a background as a meteorologist, but his last three books have been about something completely different. His series about WWII pilots has experienced a wonderful reception and the third book will be coming out when we meet at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island.

When Heroes Flew is the first in the series. I must say I don't usually read this type of fiction, but I was captivated and went on to read *The Shangri-La Raiders*. It was just as terrific. I am looking forward to a signed copy of *The Roof of the World*.

Buzz has agreed to tell us about his writing journey and share SWA memories with his old friends and new acquaintances. –**Sheila Hudson, SWA President**
<https://buzzbernard.com/>



Epworth
BY THE SEA



SWA Member News

Muriel Ellis Pritchett's sixth book – middle grade novel **Drowning Days** – will be released March 22.

Drowning Days is the story of Luke Sigman, the coolest 6th grader at Benjamin Wright Middle School. But after his dad dies unexpectedly, Luke must leave behind his friends and the only home he has ever known to move to Grandma's house in the Georgia marsh. Here he is the new kid in school, gets bullied by his cousins, nearly drowns while mullet jumping in Blackbeard Creek, and gets kidnapped by wild-hog-poaching coastal pirates.

The novel, which received the SWA Hal Bernard Memorial Award for Novel, is published by Black Rose Writing, an independent publishing house that strongly believes in developing a personal relationship with its authors.

www.murielpritchett.com

Lee Gimenez's 16th novel, the action-packed thriller **Tripwire**, was published in 2021 by River Ridge Press.

When 10 suitcase-size nuclear weapons are stolen from the U.S. stockpile, the American President suspects terrorists are involved. He also thinks U.S. rogue government agents are colluding with the terrorists. Not knowing who to trust, he turns to his secret, hand-picked team to hunt down and catch the criminals. On the team are former Special Forces commander John (J.T.) Ryan, FBI Assistant Director Erin Welch, and CIA agent Rachel West. As Ryan and the team race against time to find the terrorists, the trail leads them to a sinister group of Russians. Can Ryan, Erin, and Rachel stop the criminals before they set off the bombs and the USA collapses into chaos?

Selected as a Featured Novel of the Interna-

tional Thriller Writers Association, **Tripwire** features Gimenez's highly-acclaimed character John (J.T.) Ryan. **Tripwire** is the 8th novel in his J.T. Ryan Thriller series.

www.LeeGimenez.com

Caleb Wygal's 3rd book in his Myrtle Beach Mystery Series – **Death on the Golden Mile** – is scheduled for release August 23 by Franklin/Kerr Press.

When a woman Clark Thomas has never seen before sits down across from him in his bookstore, she gives him an invitation to dinner . . . and murder.

The *Coastal Insider* of Myrtle Beach featured Wygal in their February edition.

<https://thecoastalinsider.com/caleb-wygal/>

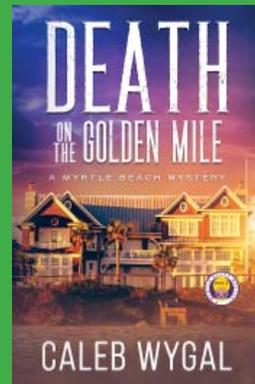
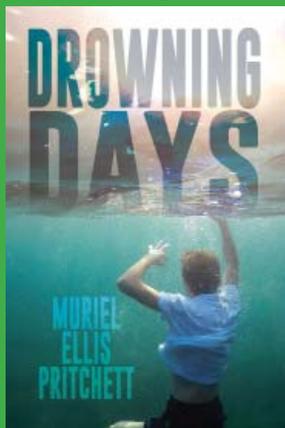
Also this month, *Grand Strand Magazine* issued a glowing review of Wygal's second book in the series, **Death Washes Ashore**. https://grandstrandmag.com/feature/the_latest_book_reviews

The book is currently available for preorder on Kindle. Paperback and hardcover pre-orders will be available when book is formatted.

Muriel Ellis Pritchett's December 2021 release – **Sour Grapes and Balmy Knight** – made the

front page of the Athens Banner-Herald, the local daily newspaper, on January 27, 2022. "The feature story was above the fold," Pritchett said. "Everyone in town saw it and sent me copies. I just hope a few folks bought a copy of my book." A large, color photo of Pritchett

with her writers' critique group accompanied the article. "Members in my group read and critiqued every chapter as I wrote it," she said.



Visit The Wren's Nest, Joel Chandler Harris' Home

The Wren's Nest is a great place to spend a day. You get to hear some of the old stories from Joel Chandler Harris, who based his stories on the folklore he heard growing up on the family farm in Eatonton, GA.

The Wren's Nest – the historic home of Joel Chandler Harris – is the birthplace of the American illustrated storybook is a cultural center in Atlanta GA. The center promotes literacy and celebrates the heritage of African and Indigenous folklore through the art of storytelling in all of its contemporary forms, including student publishing, concerts, events, tours, and a free children's book program.

The Wren's Nest serves as an educational resource for the West End community, the greater Atlanta area, and visitors from around the globe. These stories are for kids and teach morality and respect for life.

Harris wrote for the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*. You can tour his home place and several

other writers' homes in Eatonton, GA.

A virtual tour is available on The Wren's nest website. www.exploregeorgia.org or www.historyatlanta.com/the-wrens-nest or [TheWren's Nest-YouTube](#)

more commonly known as the Wren's Nest, is located at 1050 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd., in SW Atlanta, off I-20 at exit 55A. It is open from Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00am to 2:30pm.

Joel Chandler Harris Home,

SWA Board Members

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Jim Furry, Vice President
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Sandra Giles, Recording Secretary,
(sgiles@abac.edu)

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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.]



Literary News & Events

Marlene Ratledge Buchanan

will be the guest speaker at the Gwinnett County Retired Educator Association event on March 18, 2022. GCREA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary providing support to all people involved in Gwinnett public education. It is a subsidiary of Georgia Educator Association (GAE), which Marlene joined in 1972.

Are you interested in writing mysteries? **Monroe's Southern Sisters in Crime** meets the last Sunday of each month at the Monroe Walton Center for the Arts. Contact Marlene (mrat30052@aol.com)

Award-winning author **Jane K. Cleland** teaches webinars for writers. Upcoming webinars include "Subplots Aren't Secondary" on March 12, 1-2 p.m.; and "Writing Synopses and Queries" on April 23, 1-2 p.m. For more information, visit her website. <https://janeclerland.com/>

Fix, Grist's solutions lab, has opened submissions for Imagine 2200: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors, the annual climate fiction contest. \$8,700 in prizes and publication by Fix. Deadline: May 5, 2022/No entry fee.

Imagine 2200 seeks unpublished short stories of 3,000 to 5,000 words that envision the next 180 years of clean, green, and just futures. Judges include Hugo Award-winning writer Arkady Martine, esteemed editor and author Sheree Renee Thomas, and professor Grace

L. Dillon, who coined the term "Indigenous futurism." Imagine 2200 draws inspiration from Afrofuturism, as well as Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, disabled, feminist, and queer futures, and the genres of hopepunk and solarpunk.

For more information, write to imaginefiction@grist.org.

American Writers Review is calling for submissions and contest entries for their 2022 themed issue, "The End or the Beginning?"

We live in times of political turmoil, pandemic, and polarization. Every day, we learn of things that can be interpreted as the herald of the end of the world, or "no big deal."

The resulting uncertainty can paralyze or inspire writers and artists. Sometimes, we experience both.

Share your perspective with us! We are looking for prose, poetry, and images reflecting the starts, the ends, and the swirling middles of life. Please read the submission guidelines carefully before submitting.

We welcome submissions of previously unpublished poems, short stories, creative non-fiction, art, and photography, and welcome contributions from anywhere in the world. Our recent issues have featured contributions from England, Scotland, Australia, China, Israel, the Philippines, as well as the United States.

Regular submissions will be accepted until May 31, 2022. We charge a small reading fee of

\$5 to defray our costs. Payment is in contributors' copies. Entries must be in English, double-spaced in Word or RTF format. Art and photography must be in JPEG format, 200-300 dpi, suitable for black and white reproduction. While we expect to produce an e-book format in color, our print journal is black and white only.

The contest is open all writers, of any experience level. Written entries must be in English, double-spaced in Word or RTF format, Art and photography must be in JPEG format, 200-300 dpi, suitable for black and white reproduction. While we expect to produce an e-book format in color, our print journal is black and white only.

Contest submissions will only be accepted until March 31 2022. There is a single cash prize of \$250, based on the judges' scores, plus publication of the winner and finalists. There is a \$15 fee to defray our costs. For more information, send email to info@sandedelepress.com