

## Sarah Z. Sleeper

### Self-Employed, Rancho Santa Fe, California

Author, Essayist, Poet, Editor, Journalist, 2012 to 2026

- Second book of fiction, *Walloon Lake*, to be published in 2026.
- Author panelist at The Rancho Santa Fe Library, Barnes & Noble and The Pasadena Literary Festival and others.
- Frequent host and interviewer for author appearances at Warwick's bookstore, including for Elin Hilderbrand, Susan Orlean and Rebecca Searle.
- Author panel moderator for the San Diego Festival of Books.
- Columnist for local newspaper, *Rancho Santa Fe Review*, covering books, authors, and the Rancho Santa Fe Library.
- Writing teacher for San Diego Writers Ink and guest lecturer at San Diego State University.
- Debut novel, *Gaijin*, published in August 2020 to glowing reviews. Regular author appearances at bookstores and book clubs, including online events.
- Essay, "On Getting Vivian," published by *The Shanghai Literary Review*.
- Editor-in-chief of the literary magazine *Mason's Road*, where I oversaw all editorial processes, and directed the work of nine other editors.
- Editor for New Rivers Press, on the team for the book *Best American Fiction*.
- Published in *A Year in Ink*, *The San Diego Poetry Annual* and *Painters and Poets* and others, and poetry on display at Bellarmine Museum, where I gave a public reading.
- Won an award from *Writer's Digest*, for story, "A Few Innocuous Lines."
- Won honorable mentions from Fish and Eludia for fiction, poetry and essay, including for my poem "Dogs of Ecuador" and for my novel *Gaijin*.
- Contributed chapter to the book, *Now What: The Creative Writer's Guide to Success After the MFA*.
- Completed a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Fairfield University in 2012. Studied with Jacquelyn Mitchard, Nalini Jones, Baron Wormser, Michael White, Mike McCormick, Porochista Khakpour and others.

### Self-Employed, San Diego, California

Editor, journalist, business writer, ghost writer, 2002- 2011

- Wrote and edited books, case studies, news and features for tech companies such as SAP, Qualcomm, Motorola, Siemens, Intel and Accenture.
- Ghost wrote marketing books for several tech CEOs.
- Created "Riveting Writing," a copyrighted course on how to improve business communication. Traveled to Germany and other places to teach it.
- Published an award-winning 25-page exposé on nonprofit CEO pay in San Diego, highlighting leadership and financial practices of United Way, YMCA, Susan G. Komen, San Diego and others.
- Regular attendee and reporter at the Computer Electronics Show and other technology conferences in Las Vegas, Boston, Atlanta, New Orleans and other cities.

- Mainstream freelance journalism credits including *Investor's Business Daily*, *Fortune*, *National Journal*, *Christian Science Monitor* and *San Diego Metropolitan*.

### **Investor's Business Daily, Los Angeles, California**

Journalist, 2000-2002

- Financial reporter covering the wireless industry and public companies such as Nokia, Qualcomm, Motorola, Samsung and IBM. I wrote hard news and features on tight deadlines.
- Wrote an award-winning series of leadership and personality profiles on people ranging from the head of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, to Albert Schweitzer, Emily Dickinson, Truett Cathy (founder of Chik-Fil-A), and Martha Gelhorn.
- Contributed a chapter to the book *Business Leaders and Success: 55 Top Business Leaders & How They Achieved Greatness*, a national bestseller.
- In 2001 I was awarded a fellowship from the National Press Foundation in Washington D.C., where I studied business and economic reporting.

### **Self-Employed, San Diego, California**

Journalist, 1998-2000

- Covered the media and publishing industry, including censorship, technology and business trends.
- Published in print and online magazines such as *Fortune*, *Red Herring*, *Smart Business*, *CBS's Office.com*, *Yahoo! Small Business*, *San Diego Business Journal* and *Real Woman*.
- Served as vice president of the National Writers Union. During my term we won *New York Times Co. v. Tasini*, a groundbreaking lawsuit against *The New York Times* and its lack of compensation for online republishing.

### **Advisor Media, Inc., San Diego, California**

Managing Editor, 1997-1998

- Edited *Visual Basic Advisor* and other computer programmers' journals.
- Oversaw editorial and graphic design staff and external contributors—about 25 employees and contractors.
- Took courses in technology and computer programming to learn industry.

### **American Chamber of Commerce; This Week on Okinawa; Kadena 18<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, Okinawa, Japan**

Editor and Journalist, 1993-1997

- Edited and wrote articles for three publications aimed at Americans and Okinawans, including *Venture*, *This Week on Okinawa* and *ACCO News*.
- Oversaw staffs of writers, editors and graphic designers.
- Covered Japanese cultural events, U.S. military affairs, and expatriate business news.
- Launched a magazine for teenagers on Kadena Air Base.

## **Education**

**2012**—Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut, MFA in Creative Writing

**2011**—National University of Ireland, Galway, fiction intensive

**2001**—National Press Foundation, Washington, D.C., fellowship, business/economic reporting

**1992**—University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, graduate school, literary theory (9 hours)

**1990**—University of New Mexico, New Mexico, B.A., English Literature

### **Awards, Accomplishments, Professional Affiliations**

**2020-2026**—Regular moderator and panelist at author events, including for Warwick's, The Rancho Santa Fe Library, Barnes & Noble, San Diego Festival of Books, Pasadena Literary Festival and others.

**2013-2026**—Writing Teacher for San Diego Writers Ink

**2012-2026**—Member, PEN America

**2010-2026**—Member, Association of Writers and Writing Programs

**2006-2026**—Member, Authors Guild

**2005-2026**—Member, San Diego Writers Ink

**2025**—Awarded a week-long artist's residency at Dorland Mountain Arts

**2024**—Awarded an 18-day artist's residency from Ragdale Foundation

**2020**—Publication of first novel, *Gaijin*

**2016-2020**—Honorable Mentions from Fish and Eludia for fiction, essay and poetry.

**2006-2019**—Guest Lecturer in Writing, San Diego State University

**2016**—Awarded a 25-day artist's residency from Ragdale Foundation

**2013**—Honorable Mention from *Writer's Digest*

**2012**—Guest Lecturer in Writing, University of New Mexico

**2012**—Ekphrastic Poetry on Display at Bellarmine Museum, Fairfield, Connecticut

**2010-2012**—Fairfield University, Connecticut, MFA in Creative Writing

**2002-2010**—Member, Society of Professional Journalists

**2000-2010**—Member, San Diego Press Club

**1998-2005**—Member, National Writers Union

**2004**—Excellence in Journalism Award, San Diego Press Club

**2003**—Excellence in Journalism Award, San Diego Press Club

**2001**—Fellowship in Economics, National Press Foundation, Washington, D.C.

**2001**—Excellence in Journalism Award, San Diego Press Club

**1998-2000**—Vice President, National Writers Union

**1997**—Journalism award from military newspaper, *Kadena Shogun*

### **Activities, Hobbies, Charities**

I have been a part-time fitness instructor for 35+ years and play competitive tennis. I support literary and literacy programs, such as The Library Guild of Rancho Santa Fe and Words Alive, and I moderate three book clubs and one writers group. I support animal rescues including Helen Woodward Animal Center, Rancho Coastal Humane Society and others. Over the years I've been a volunteer, fundraiser and/or event chair for Team Hoyt/challenged athletes, The Country Friends, National Charity League, and other nonprofits. I am the mom of one daughter, Vivian, and we are superfans of the K-pop group BTS. I have been married for 27 years.