

Sarah Z. Sleeper

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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 18th 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.