

THE BULLETIN

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The Bulletin is the official publication of California Writers Club, an educational nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation.

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EDITORIAL MATERIAL

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Contact Your Branch Membership Chair

OUR MISSION

Educating writers of all levels of expertise in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work.

Spend September in Steinbeck Country

One of the premiere literary events of the West Coast returns to Salinas this September 5, 6 & 7: the East of Eden Conference sponsored by CWC's South Bay branch.

This year's keynote speakers include Hallie Ephron (*Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel*), Karen Joy Fowler (*The Jane Austen Book Club*), Carolyn See (*The Handyman*), David Corbett (*Blood of Paradise*), Brian Copeland (*Not a Genuine Black Man*), and Professor Scott Rice, creator of the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, better known by the infamous opening line, "It was a dark and stormy night." Also scheduled are workshops featuring authors and experts, agents and editors. Topics will cover both the craft of writing and the business side of the literary life.

The popular Ask-a-Pro and Pitch-a-Pro sessions will be back. Unlike most other conferences, there is no extra fee to spend one-on-one time with an agent or editor.

A writing contest is available to contest registrants, with \$100 offered in each category: novel, short story, play/screenplay,

nonfiction/memoir, poetry, and children's/juvenile fiction or nonfiction.

Registration rates are as low as \$175 for Saturday only, \$275 for Friday and Saturday, or \$400 for the entire weekend with all the extras. These special events include a Saturday night gala at the National Steinbeck Center, Sunday brunch at Steinbeck's childhood home, and a tour of Doc Rickett's Lab on Cannery Row in Monterey – not normally open to the public. The prices quoted above are for CWC members; nonmembers pay an extra \$25.

The main venue for East of Eden is Sherwood Hall at the Salinas Community Center. The conference hotel is the Laurel Inn, which offers a special conference rate of \$70 per room per night.

East of Eden happens only every other year. One of 2006's keynote speakers, Jean Auel (*Clan of the Cave Bear*), declared it the best conference she'd ever attended. For more information on this year's East of Eden, go to www.southbaywriters.com.



Tod Goldberg leads a workshop at the 2006 East of Eden Conference.

There's Got to Be a Plaque Out There Someplace

I'm not sure what I expected from my first visit to Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, but this was not it.

Take that back. I knew exactly and precisely what I'd expected. We'd drive up to

JOYCE'S VOICE



By Joyce Krieg
Central Coast Branch

the ranger station and get directions to Writers Memorial Grove. We'd easily find the trees, snap a few pictures. We'd be in, out and on with our day in less than a half hour's time.

It wasn't like I'd hallucinated the existence of Writers Memorial Grove. Our own

Web site, www.calwriters.org, tells us, "Writers Memorial Grove at Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland celebrates California's great writers with the planting of trees. The first tree was planted for Joaquin Miller."

The Web site for the park's Woodminster Amphitheater (www.woodminster.com) has a similarly-tantalizing story: "... built as a WPA project, Woodminster Amphitheater and Cascades were dedicated in 1940 as a memorial to California writers. The trees and other vegetation along the Cascades ... are designated Writers Memorial Grove, and individual plantings are dedicated to California's great authors."

For some reason, I had this assumption that memorial plus dedication equals plaque. Somewhere in this shady cluster of trees, I was sure I would find a rectangle of bronze with raised lettering naming California Writers Club, followed by a date in the 1940s. My notes - hidden agenda: to convince the folks at CWC headquarters that it would

be really cool for us to plant a new tree and place a second plaque in Writers Memorial Grove to honor our centennial. So sure was I that this plaque must exist that, in addition to the camera, I brought along an oversized sheet of paper and a charcoal pencil to make a rubbing.

And so we set out - me, my niece, her new hubby, and my niece's mother - on an overcast Saturday in May for what we assumed would be a pleasant stroll in the park.

Hah! By now, I'm sure you've figured out where this story is going. The first bad sign: the ranger station was closed, a vic-

tim of budget cuts. In the park's community center, the staffer who coordinates weddings and garden club meetings had not only never heard of Writers Memorial Grove, she said I was the first visitor to ever ask about it. After several hours of what I came to think of as the Joaquin Miller Park Death March, in which I dragged my entourage on what felt like every trail and a couple of cross-country scrambles, I was forced to accept reality: There is no CWC plaque. If Writers Memorial Grove exists, the location is a very well-kept secret.

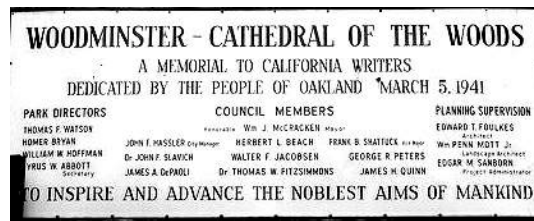
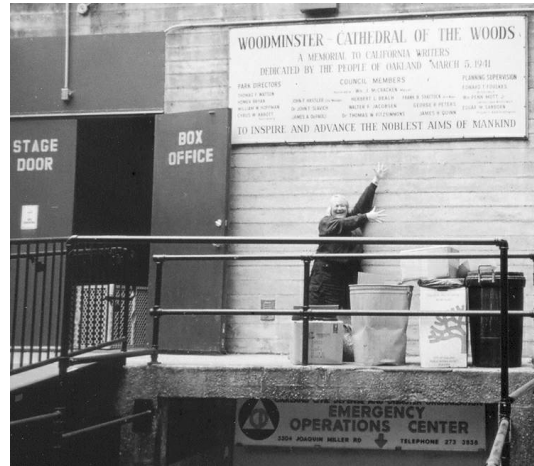
The nearest we found was a placard on the back of the amphitheater dedicating it to California writers "to inspire and advance the noblest aims of mankind." The sign shares space with a row of trash cans and recycle bins, and sits just above a really cool 1950s Civil Defense sign.

"I suppose in some ways it makes for a better story that we *didn't* find it than if we did," I said as we piled

into the car and drove away from Joaquin Miller Park. "Poignant, and all that."

"Now that," my niece's mother said, "sounds like something a writer would say."

Gentle Readers: If any of you (Berkeley perhaps?) have information about Writers Memorial Grove, I'd love to hear about it! Drop me a line at joyce@joyce.com.



Your intrepid editor with the closest she could find to a CWC memorial at Joaquin Miller Park. Note garbage cans, recycle bins, and really cool 1950s Civil Defense sign. *Photo by Alexis Krieg*

**"Writing is a lonely life, but the only life worth living."
- Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880)**

CWC Bulletin

2008 Schedule

September-October 2008
Deadline: August 25, 2008

November-December 2008
Deadline: October 27, 2008

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PROOFREADER
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CIRCULATION
Barbara Truax (Marin)

PRINTER
Spectrum Graphics,
Ridgecrest CA

Submissions: CWC members are invited to submit articles related to writing and the writing life via e-mail to Editor Joyce Krieg. Be sure to indicate "CWC Bulletin" in the subject field. Submissions are subject to editing for length and grammar. Sorry, we are unable to print news of members' sales and publications.

Stage Direction: Exit to the Left

When I announced to the Central Board in January that I would not continue my tenure past the next election, it was done after much thought, consideration, and mixed emotions. I was comfortable in knowing that new leadership would emerge out of the group which would carry forward the spirit of the unique California Writers Club.

The exciting activities of the Central Board of CWC will continue well into the future. After all, where else can one find a group of individuals, and they are individuals, who spend the better part of their lives mentally engaged in the challenging art of attempting to perfect the English language? As writers they are always on the lookout for the right dynamic verb, rephrasing that key descriptive paragraph, and re-editing/revising that chapter, avoiding all those grammatical pitfalls that can turn an

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Anthony R. Folcarelli
CWC President

entire creation into literary garbage. This keeps their mental skills pumping at a high level and ready to engage in rhetoric at all the Central Board meetings.

It's been exhilarating. I am happy to say that such activities have not stood in the way of progress over the last several years. The words have all turned into progressive actions that have positioned, and continue to position, CWC for its future challenges.

I am pleased to say that I was allowed the opportunity to be an integral part of some of those momentous changes.

Well, its time to turn the page, move on and move over for a new dynamic team to lead CWC into its centennial year and the future.

Good luck to them and thanks to all.



Draft Minutes of the May 4, 2008 CWC Central Board Meeting

Note: The following are draft minutes, subject to correction, revision and final approval by the Central Board at the July 20, 2008, meeting. Due to space limitations, some items have been summarized.

Representatives present:

Berkeley: Dave Sawle, Central Coast: Joyce Krieg, East Sierra: Casey Wilson, High Desert: Barbara Schultz, Inland Empire: Cyndy Largenticha, Long Beach: Allene Symons, Marin: Barbara Truax, Mount Diablo: Jack Russ (proxy for David George), Orange County: Carol Celeste, Peninsula: Linda Okerlund (proxy for Ann Foster), Redwood: Juanita J. Martin, Sacramento: Margie Yee Webb, San Fernando Valley: absent (Dave LaRoche proxy for Scott Sonders), South Bay: Dave LaRoche,

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Who Would Have Thought I Even Had a Second Act!

By Janelle Kimball, Mt. Diablo Branch

When someone says they were "compelled" to do something, that person is describing precisely the way I felt once I began to put pen to paper in the winter of 2001.

The unexpected death of my mother that year propelled me on an odyssey I *never* would have imagined for myself. In the midst of my profound grief, one day I simply sat down at my desk and began to write about my mother's lifelong battle with mental illness, which had finally consumed her. See, it had always been my secret. However, I knew I had a story to tell and from that moment on I was *driven* to write.

Without even realizing it, I began this second phase of my life – that of an occasionally successful writer. From this excruciatingly painful journey came an unexpected acceptance of my work.

To this day, whenever one of my short stories is published, I shake my head in disbelief and ask myself, "I wrote that?" It is pure joy, even magical, seeing my written words in print.

My stories, they come to me from a simple thought. Something that one would consider to be fleeting might happen during the course of a day. That event usually sticks in my memory bank and loops around and around, like an old movie reel. Often times, it stays with me for days just waiting for me to recognize that that's my next topic.

I take great pride in the fact that I have "fan" emails, even though there's only *two*. For me, they legitimize my work. My favorite response to one of my pieces was a phone call from a feisty eighty-year-old lady. The sincerity in her voice was undeniable. She had read my article about my eventual acceptance of being over fifty and finally com-

fortable with wearing short sleeves in public. What a hoot she was, dispensing her wisdom, "It's OK Janelle if your upper arms jiggle. If anyone mentions it to you, then what kind of friend are they?" I loved that.

Occasionally, my insecurities get the best of me and I shudder at the sheer audacity of presuming that anyone would be remotely interested in anything I had to say.

As for my personal story about Mom's mental illness, I'm still working on that project with the dream of one day having it published.

It's funny how the road we travel ends up taking us down a path we never anticipated. This second phase of my life though—is for *me*. Who would have thought it?



Character Goals Make the Plot

In every story plot, the protagonist has at least one long-term goal in the story overall, and a small-term goal in every scene. Goals give definition to the story that unfolds moment-by-moment in scene.

Long-Term Goals

Stories begin with a protagonist who goes after something important. This long-term goal sets up the forward movement of the story. This is the front story and is also referred to as the Dramatic Action plot.

For example, in *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton, Reverend Stephen Kumalo learns at the beginning of the story that his sister in Johannesburg is ill. He states his goal when he decides to go to her and, while there, to search for his son Absalom who left home for Johannesburg and never returned.

Keep in mind, however, that the goal the character begins the story with often changes before the story has progressed very far, typically at the end of the first quarter of the story. Hence, the character enters the middle of the story with a revised long-term goal.

In our example, about one quarter of the way through the story, Reverend Kumalo learns his son has been arrested for murder. Now, his goal of helping his sister and searching for his son changes to staying in Johannesburg to help his son.

An engaging character with a long-term goal is not enough, however. To create excitement, something must stand in the way of the protagonist achieving his goal. Without this element, there is no conflict, tension, suspense or curiosity. For action-driven stories like thrillers, mysteries, and suspense, the antagonist(s) standing in the way of the protagonist may be big and overt such as the "bad guy." For more character-driven fiction, the antagonist(s) may be internal; flaws, fears, and prejudices. A balanced story has both.

Continuing with *Cry, the Beloved Country*, Reverend Kumalo has as antagonists a combination of expectations and judgments that collide with his son's refusal to be found, the plight of his sister, and the ra-

cial and ethnic segregation of South Africa in 1946.

A good story plot that involves a goal with antagonists standing in the way also requires one more goal element. The protagonist must stand to lose something important if they are not successful at achieving their long-term goal. The more substantial the potential loss, the higher the stakes.

In our example, after he finds his son, Reverend Kumalo's long-term goal becomes more figurative than literal. He sees Absalom for the first time in prison for having killed a white man. Unless Reverend Kumalo is able to find meaning in his son's ac-

tions, he stands to lose his faith.

Short-Term Goals

Your protagonist has a long-term goal, one that really matters and is fraught with formidable adversaries. Now, ask yourself what is the character's goal in each and every scene.

Short-term goals are specific tasks, objectives, or actions your protagonist decides he needs to accomplish within a clearly defined time period in order to achieve his long-term goal. If the long-term goal helps define the Dramatic Action plot, these short-term goals help define the Character Emotional Development plot. Each time the character reacts to his or her short-term goal successes or failures the reader has a deep-

\$500 Prize Offered in Central Coast Contest

What: Short story and poetry contest.

Who: Sponsored by Central Coast branch of CWC, open to all.

Theme: Open.

Entry Period: August 15, 2008 through November 15, 2008 (by postmark).

Entry Fee: \$15 per short story, \$5 per poem.

Prizes: \$500 in each category and publication in the Hartnell College *Homestead Review*.

For more information:

www.centralcoastwriters.org



PLOT TIPS



By Martha Alderson
SF/Peninsula Branch

ened understanding of who the character really is.

For Reverend Kumalo to achieve his goal of finding his son Absalom, he must first take the train to Johannesburg. In order to create conflict, tension and suspense in the next scene, the author shows Reverend Kumalo's fears: of the city, for the fate of his family members, and of his ability to adjust to the changes around him. In other words, just as the long-term goal has antagonists, every scene goal has antagonists, both internal and external, that block the protagonist at every turn.

Reverend Kumalo's short-term scene goals in *Cry, the Beloved Country* move to finding the Mission House in Sophiatown, locating Msimangu (a young, black Anglican priest), and finding his sister and his brother. Each scene goal marches Reverend Kumalo closer and closer to his long-term goal.

Clearly articulated goals, both long and short-term, help keep you and the piece grounded and deliberate. In that way, the plot remains clearly defined throughout the story.

Martha Alderson, M.A., author of *Blockbuster Plots Pure & Simple*, will be teaching a 2-Day PLOT WRITING WORKSHOP hosted by WRITERS STORE in Los Angeles on August 23rd & 24th, 2008. For more information, go to:

<http://www.blockbusterplots.com/workshops.html>

or <http://www.writersstore.com>

To sign up for the free monthly Plot Tips eZine, full of plot tips, author interviews, contests, resources and inspiration, email, Martha@blockbusterplots.com. For more tips, visit her blog at:

<http://plotwhisperer.blogspot.com>



Next CWC

Central Board Meeting

Sunday, July 20, 2008

8:30 a.m.

Marriott Courtyard Hotel
San Jose Airport

Business will include
annual election of officers

Draft Minutes of the May 4, 2008 CWC Central Board Meeting

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Tri-Valley: Kathy Urban, West Valley: Dave Wetterberg, Writers of Kern: absent (Casey Wilson proxy for Sandy Moffett)

Also present:

Anthony Folcarelli, CWC President; Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, Centennial Chair/Member Benefits;

Al Levenson, Berkeley; Bob Garfinkle, South Bay

17 votes present

On May 04, 2008, at 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by President Anthony Folcarelli. Location: Courtyard Marriott, San Jose.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of January 20, 2008, were approved by unanimous vote.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Peninsula's proxy Linda Okerlund. Moved by Casey Wilson; seconded by Barb Truax.

Passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report Concerning Banking Issue:

Cyndy Largenticha reported that efforts to add Vice President Scott Sonders' signature to the banking signature card yielded no results. We still have only three signers on the account.

Treasurer's Report:

Barbara Truax presented a third quarter summary report dated 01-01-08 to 03-31-08. Wells Fargo checking account balance as of 03-31-08 is \$29,063.18. Working budgets for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 and July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 were presented, along with an income/expenditure analysis on both.

Membership Report:

Barbara Truax presented an outline of branch membership numbers. As of April 30, 2008, we have 1,182 members. Branch membership chairs MUST send updated rosters to the state to facilitate distribution of *The Bulletin*.

Policies and Procedures:

Motion: To include in the P&Ps a term limitation for CB president of two consecutive terms. Moved by Barbara Truax; seconded by Casey Wilson. Passed unanimously.

PASS #3 REVISIONS (AS PREPARED BY CASEY WILSON)

The Central Board approved a variety of changes in the Policies and Procedures for greater clarity and/or to reflect how the organization actually does business. Articles affected include: Article IX. BRANCHES,

Article XII. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, Article XV. INSURANCE AND ACCOUNTING, Article XX. *THE BULLETIN*, Article XXII, ROSTER, Article XXV. PRECEDENCE, B.; to approve the changes in subsection A. (Article XXV. will now become Article XXIV.) Article VII. ELECTIONS.

Expense Reimbursement Policy:

Motion: To approve the draft proposal presented by Carol Celeste, from Article I. ELIGIBILITY, through Article II. ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, A.1.f), with the following changes: I. ELIGIBILITY, B. Consultants, non-CB members of CWC and others invited by the CB to attend meetings or assigned club-related tasks subject to pre-approval by the Executive Committee or the Central Board; II. ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, A. CB meeting expenses (all other language deleted); II. ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, A. 1.a) Air, train and personal car are approved methods. Car rentals are excluded from reimbursement. Air reservations must be booked no earlier than six weeks and no later than one month before a meeting date, excepting case of emergency meeting or with pre-approval of the Executive Committee; II. ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, A.1.b) Car mileage round trip from home to the meeting or to the airport or train station at the rate of \$.40 per mile (delete all other language); II. ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, A.1.f) Reimbursement for add-on fees resulting from changes in itinerary, missed connections or failure to use a ticket requires Executive Committee approval. Requests must be submitted within 30 days of the travel date and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The decision will be based on the reason for the change. Expenses incurred by Central Board changes will be reimbursed. Moved by Dave LaRoche; seconded by Allene Symons.

Passed unanimously.

Redwood Branch Publication Project:

Kate Farrell, secretary of the Redwood Branch, and Danny O. Snow, CEO Unlimited Pub., LLC, presented an in-depth summary of their co-publishing pilot program, including production, marketing strategies, potential revenue, legalities, and benefits.

Motion: To approve the Redwood pro-

posal for a branch logo. Moved by Dave Sawle; seconded by Dave LaRoche. **Passed unanimously.**

Proposed CWC Anthology:

Volunteers are still needed to aid in the production of a club-wide literary anthology. **Motion:** That the Central Board create an Anthology Editorial Committee, ad-hoc, with an initial budget of \$500. Moved by Casey Wilson; seconded by Barbara Schultz. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion: That Igal Levy, of Mt. Diablo, be appointed Editor In Chief. Moved by Juanita Martin; seconded by Jack Russ. **Passed unanimously.**

L.A. Times/UCLA Festival of Books:

Chair Allene Symons reported that the festival was successful; we had close to 300 people who signed our interest list. Individual branch membership chairs will proceed with follow-up contact.

New Branch Development:

Allene Symons presented a standards and admission outline for new branches, including chartering criteria, letter of intent, transparency issues, minimum chartering numbers, fiscal commitment, territory infringement, member transfers, and other pertinent concerns. The item was tabled for further discussion.

Tax Exempt Status:

Casey Wilson handed out an IRS document dated February 13, 2008, stating that CWC is currently tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Subordinate branches are also recognized. We await update in IRS Publication # 78, *Cumulative List of Organizations*.

Intent to Charter:

Bob Garfinkle, president of South Bay branch, informed the Board of intent to charter for a Fremont branch. Discussion involved criteria for new branch development and other concerns.

Nominations Committee:

Chairperson Joyce Krieg presented the proposed slate of officers for 2008/09 as follows: President, Casey Wilson; Vice President, David George; Treasurer, Kathy Urban; Secretary, Carol Celeste.

CWC History Project:

Berkeley rep Dave Sawle presented an updated rough draft including branch histories and archived photos and documents. He is pursuing donations of grant money.

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Berkeley

Guest speaker Scott Kemble gave Berkeley members a peek into the future of book publicity: the Internet, and specifically YouTube. He used YouTube to promote his novel *SoMa*, creating a video of locations mentioned in the book. His site has four different video episodes and has received anywhere from 30 to 100 hits every day. Scott believes the YouTube videos helped him sell 9,000 copies of *SoMa* in the first few months of its release.

Write Angles – Tina Stinnett, Editor

Central Coast

Procrastination – sometimes it can be a writer's friend. That was the message screenwriter Cari-Esta Albert had for Central Coast members at the May meeting. For one thing, you can use writing to procrastinate from doing a more disagreeable activity. If you're stuck, Cari-Esta advises using procrastination creatively: read a book, go to a movie, hang out at a coffeehouse. "If you feel like procrastinating, do it."

Scribbles – Joyce Krieg, Editor

East Sierra (Ridge Writers)

If you love musical theater, why not write for it? Bill Blanc gave Ridge Writers tips on doing just that at a recent meeting. For musical theater, the traditional dictum of "show, don't tell" is vital. Dialogue needs to be concise, with each line both advancing the plot and building character. Songs are used to show emotion. And, the writer needs to be skillful at employing a seamless transition from dialogue to song.

Writers of the Purple Sage – Liz Babcock, Editor

High Desert

President Barbara A. Schultz says, "As a teacher, I'm curious about what my students do during their summer vacations. Before their last day of school, I ask them to write about what they'd like to do during the summer. Then, in the fall, I ask them about what they actually did." She challenged her members to embark on a similar writing assignment, and to share the results at the June meeting. "So, go forth . . . confront that blank page . . . and write!"

Ink Slingers – George Robinson, Editor

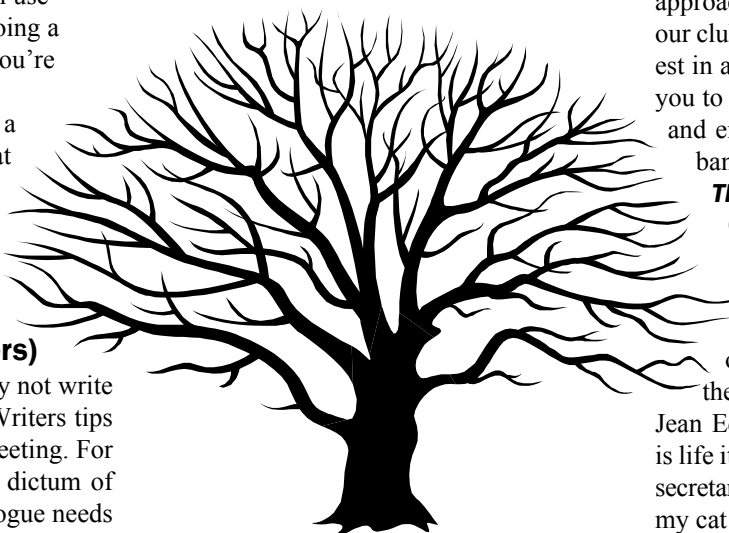
Branching Out

"Nuggets from the Newsletters"

Inland Empire

Great dialogue is an essential feature of fiction and narrative nonfiction. Laura Hoopes and Kathryn Wilkens remind us that good dialogue makes the reader turn the pages fast, is purposeful and pertinent to the plot, moves the story along, shows conflict, and is fun to read. Their advice: "Dialogue should not sound composed, but should sound as if you are eavesdropping on a conversation. Better yet, create strong, individualistic characters and then take dictation from them. They can surprise you!"

Fresh Ink – Laura Slattery, Editor

**Long Beach**

"Finding and Keeping a Literary Agent" was the theme of the Long Beach branch's June meeting. Well-regarded Web sites available by subscription include Publishers Marketplace, Literary Marketplace, and Writers Market. No-cost Internet resources for agent information include firstwriter.com, aar-online.com (official Web site of the Association of Authors Representatives), and Editors and Predators (www.anotherrealm.com/predators).

Anne Margis, President

Marin

Entering short story and essay contests is a terrific way to fan the flames of our writing career if we're not yet to the point where we have a full-length book manuscript to submit to publishers. Freelance writer and

editor B. Lynn Goodwin gave Marin members helpful tips on enhancing their chances of winning at the branch's May meeting. Don't give your manuscript

an automatic trip to the "loser" pile by submitting work that is improperly formatted or downright sloppy. Always use 12 point type, as many editors and contest judges are over 40, and thus have "over 40 eyes."

Marin Writes – Jett Walker, Editor

Mt. Diablo

A high point of the year for the Mt. Diablo branch is the Young Writers Contest Banquet, held this year on May 16 with an inspiring talk by local TV anchor Leslie Griffith. Program Chair Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff says, "Many of the families who approached me afterwards were in awe of our club and how our group takes an interest in aspiring young writers. A big thank you to all the members who donated time and energy into making the contest and banquet a success!"

The Write News –

Catherine Accardi, Editor

Orange County

Orange County members reflected on the challenges facing writers in the May issue of *Orange Ink*. Member Jean Eden believes the biggest challenge is life itself. "Would I write more if I had a secretary and a housekeeper? If I could train my cat to dust and send my dog out to the market? . . . Probably not. I'm organized and disciplined, but unless I'm obsessed with a new story idea I don't write regularly. So the advice to my own challenge is: be obsessed."

Orange Ink – Ro Woodruff, Editor

Peninsula

Volunteering for your local writers club can pay off in spades. Just ask Peninsula President Geri Spieler, who volunteered to help out at the branch's Jack London Writers Conference a few years back, and ended up being asked at the last minute to introduce veteran editor Alan Rinzler for his workshop. Geri says, "Alan takes my phone calls and answers my e-mails. The connection with him has been invaluable . . . If I had not been working on the Jack London Conference, I would not have had the ex-

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Branching Out

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tended time to spend with him and establish this connection.”

**The Peninsula Writer –
Linda Okerlund, Editor**

Redwood

“First times” are often memorable: your first crush, your first kiss, your first real job – and your first publication. President Karen Batchelor well remembers winning \$25 and publication in a poetry contest back in 1978. “I waved that check in the air and danced it around my little apartment kitchen.” In 2006, Redwood Writers published its first member anthology, *Vintage Voices*. “I was proud and happy to have a couple of pieces included in that volume, but I was happier listening to the crackle of excitement in the voices and the beaming smiles on the faces of those who were being published for the first time. It looked to me like pure joy.”

**The Redwood Writer –
R.K. Koslowsky, Editor**

Sacramento

President Margie Yee Webb notes the importance of making connections, and sharing helpful advice we may have run across with our fellow CWC members. Margie also belongs to Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, and read an intriguing tip in that organization’s newsletter. If it works for your book, theme it around a holiday or observance. That way, you’ve got a built-in promotional hook when the holiday or observance rolls around. *Chase’s Annual Events* is a terrific resource for finding out about lesser-known holidays.

Write On – Julie Bauer, Editor

San Fernando Valley

Kate Gale, the founder of Red Hen Publishing, compares publishing to giving birth. She told San Fernando Valley members, “Until you’ve gone through it, you don’t really get what’s happening between those white, swinging doors.” Red Hen is an independent, non-profit press based in Los Angeles. Kate said their criteria in choosing manuscripts for publication is simple: “I love this. I’m into this. And I want this to appear in the world.”

**The Valley Scribe –
George Hirai, Editor**

South Bay

What does it take to win writing contests? South Bay member Meredy Amyx served as a volunteer judge for the 2006 Basil Stevens Memorial Writing Contest and notes that endings are very important, that the pieces that stood out are those that delivered on what they promised, and that a winning piece must not only be an example of good writing, but must also be a good representative of the judging panel. She says, “It may not be easy to spot a winner really fast, but it is easy to spot a loser.”

Writers Talk – Dick Amyx, Editor

Tri-Valley

Editor Kelly Pollard suggests we take advantage of the summer months to shake up our writing routine a bit. “If you normally work in your office, grab your laptop or notebook and set out on a writing adventure. A few suggestions: the library, cafés, coffeehouses, or even the airport. “Set a writing date with your critique group and alternate hosting writing sessions at each other’s houses. Be encouraged by the chorus of tapping keyboards.”

**Write Around the Valley –
Kelly Pollard, Editor**

West Valley

Editor Mark Paul Sebar tips off writers to

Draft Minutes of May 4 Central Board Meeting

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Centennial Celebration:

Chair Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal presented different ideas associated with p/r strategies, i.e., possible media coverage, library or museum involvement, perhaps a mural painted in Jack London Square. Do we want to do a banquet/special event? Do we want to incorporate commemorative items such as vanity postage stamps, calendars, tote bags, pens, etc.? Send ideas/suggestions to: cwcent@yahoo.com. To kick off the Centennial, Disneyland has offered to comp us a meeting room, lunch, and park admission for the January 2009 CB meeting in exchange for our attendance at a brief presentation.

The Bulletin:

Editor Joyce Krieg discussed ideas associated with producing a special Centennial edition of *The Bulletin*. Considerations involve content, paid advertising, budget concerns, target audience, and distribution through different venues, i.e., libraries, schools, book stores, etc.

two helpful Internet resources. Google Earth is a free download that allows you to travel the entire planet close-up and in 3D. As Mark Paul says, “You can write about places you have never been before while actually exploring them. For authors of travel books and trade fiction, this tool is a Godsend.” Go to earth.google.com. And for film, TV and stage writers comes a free program called Celtx, which helps the writer create a properly-formatted script and offers storyboarding and scheduling as well. The download is available at www.celtx.com.

In Focus – Mark Paul Sebar, Editor

Writers of Kern

WOK has just published a third edition of its member anthology. Terry Redman, editor of the second anthology, says, “Our anthology is not a cute little book with windmills on the front and words on pages. Each selection is taken from piece of the author’s soul; it is a work of love. Then the editor (and those who helped her) bound them together for all of us. I know from experience that the writers care; I can tell from looking at the book that Lucinda Soria cares.”

**The Write Way –
Marty Gorsching, Editor**



Conducting Business via the Internet:

Motion: That the trial period of The Forum be extended to the next meeting with the terms expressed in the January 20, 2008, motion. Moved by Carol Celeste; seconded by Casey Wilson. **Passed unanimously.**

New business:

Motion: To approve First Lady Maria Shriver as an honorary member of CWC. Moved by Casey Wilson; seconded by Allene Symons. **Passed unanimously.**

President Anthony Folcarelli announced that the next meeting will be held in San Jose on July 20, 2008.

Adjournment at 3:45 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndy Largenticha,
Central Board Secretary





CWC Member Benefits

Heyday Books

20% discount on all *California Legacy* titles. Phone 510/549-3564 ext 304; e-mail orders@heydaybooks.com. Details on titles and prices are available at www.heydaybooks.com.

Dollar Rent a Car

Corporate discounts when booking online at www.dollar.com, or through a travel agency, or by calling 800/800-4000. Use CD # TA2253.

Bay Tree Publishers

30% discount on all titles. Call 510/526-2916 or visit www.baytreepublish.com and identify yourself as a CWC member.

Dramatica Pro Software

Discounts on this popular screenwriting software are available by ordering through www.storymind.com. CWC members get a \$5 discount off the already-low price. Use coupon code DISCOUNTBONUS and enter CWC in the comment box.

Tallfellow Press

20% discount on titles in the "10 Minutes to Success" series. Visit www.tallfellow.com for details on titles and prices. To order, phone Claudia at 310/203-3837 and identify yourself as a CWC member.

Disclaimer: These offers are made for the benefit and convenience of California Writers Club members, and do not represent an endorsement of, or recommendation by, the CWC Central Board.


Sail On!

**By George Robinson,
High Desert Branch**

Sail on and on in this great world
as months and years go by
with all our many sails unfurled
we tell the past goodbye.

There is no going back we know
we must keep plodding on.
We'll savor living as we go
Till all our strength is gone.

What's done is done, it can't be changed,
we should not even try.
Our future we can rearrange
until that last goodbye.

So ride that wave, or ride a cloud
and sail ahead, no stops allowed. 



The Bulletin

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**September in Steinbeck Country
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