

THE BULLETIN

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Founded 1909



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.

Party Like It's 1909!

By Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, Centennial Chair

We have big Centennial plans afoot and soon we'll spread the word not only through our branches but also throughout California and beyond.

New pages on the Web site (www.calwriters.org) will provide Centennial content, much of it downloadable for educators, librarians and anyone else who wants to use the word games, quizzes and other material. Additionally, we're working on making speakers available to schools.

Of course, we'll offer special Centennial logo items such as tote bags, pens, even a limited-edition, private-label hot sauce.

Our efforts will emphasize the CWC's 100 years of literary history – pride in California

writers and in being a California writer – while underscoring the contributions of members and branches.

On the subject of members, this will be your year. The Web site will have

a page of quotations by California writers, so if you've got a terrific original adage, send it to cwccent2009@yahoo.com.

We may not run every submission, but we're eager to post the best.

Regarding branches, media releases will include branch information, so be sure to send details about

your local activities to cwccent2009@yahoo.com.

We mean to celebrate and we need your help. Think of it as statewide, border-to-border, year-long party. And be there!

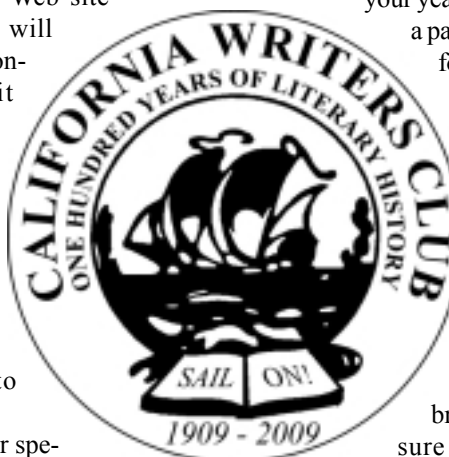


Centennial Year Fun Fact: Discovering Basil King

In 1909, the year CWC held its very first meeting, the immense girth of William Howard Taft occupied the White House, the nation's population stood at 90-million in 46 states, a First Class postage stamp cost two cents, the average life expectancy in the U.S. was around 46 years (only 33 if you happened to be born African-American), and the *New York Times* published its first movie review, for D.W. Griffith's *Pippa Passes*. And what novel topped the bestseller lists that year? A sentimental romance about a French-Irish lass who husband is killed in a duel titled *The Inner Shrine*.

Originally published by the ever-prolific "Anonymous," *The Inner Shrine* was later attributed as the first major published work of Basil King (1859-1928) a Canadian clergyman who wrote a string of popular books in the 1910s and 1920s. If you're curious about what CWC members were probably reading in 1909, you can download *The Inner Shrine* for free on Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org).

King turned to spiritualism and mysticism later in life and left the quotation, "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid" – certainly good advice for writers then and now.



Saving Your Work from the Worst

I've heard variations of this story over the years: how author Maxine Hong Kingston lost everything – including the computer holding the only copy of the novel she'd been working on for two years – in

JOYCE'S VOICE



By Joyce Krieg
Central Coast Branch

the Oakland hills firestorm of 1991. When asked whether she was going to try to re-write the manuscript, Ms. Kingston said no, explaining, "I'm not the same person now as I was when I wrote it."

It makes for a poignant story about the writing life, but still – I beg of you! – do not let it happen to you.

I hectored the members of my branch over the importance of backing up their work this past July, when wildfires raged throughout Big Sur and the Santa Cruz mountains. Store your important work on an external drive, I advised them, send the files to an off-site server, or at the very least, make paper copies of your manuscripts and put them in a safe deposit box.

Little did I know that a scant three months later, I would have to put my own words to the test when the PC that had served me so faithfully since 2001 presented me with the dreaded "blue screen of death" and could not be resuscitated. It wasn't a total disaster: a fellow CWC member gifted me with a gently-used, almost-new rig that he was about to drop off at Goodwill, my own personal Geek Squad was able to salvage my old hard drive, and I had been faithful about downloading back issues of *The Bulletin* and my branch newsletter onto CD, and saving my novel-in-progress on my ISP's server.

Despite my diligence, I'm dealing with issues I'd never much considered. Like e-mails. I had hundreds stored in folders in Outlook that are apparently gone for good, unless I'm willing to spend \$\$\$ on software that might be able to retrieve it. And fonts! Trying to match the fonts from my old 'puter – which I've used for years for projects like *The Bulletin* – with the new machine has been an interesting challenge.

Not that I would ever want to give up my computer and go back to the typewriter. Although . . . if you've ever wondered why, over the past 15 years or so, it's become so difficult to get a manuscript accepted by a traditional, royalty-paying house, one factor I blame is the home computer.

Think about it. In the pre-digital days, it was a major ordeal to produce a manuscript acceptable for submission. I'm not talking content here, just the physical *look* of the package. Imagine creating a clean, error-free 350-page manuscript on a manual type-

writer! Those who never learned to type either didn't even try, gave up in the middle, or hired one of the dozens of professional manuscript typists who used to advertise in the back pages of *Writers Digest*.

Then in the 1990s, everyone got a computer, and that computer came with a word processing program and a printer as part of the standard package. Just like that, everyone had the ability to create a manuscript that at least *looked* clean and professional. Suddenly ever schlub who ever said, "Gee, I've always wanted to write a novel," could and did. The once-manageable slush pile at the editors' offices became, overnight, as out-of-control as Lindsay Lohan.

P.S. Maxine Hong Kingston's story does have a happy ending. She reconstructed at least part of her doomed novel in *The Fifth Book of Peace*, and, in doing so, brought her writing to a deeper level and helped dozens of Vietnam vets tell their stories. Out of the ashes rose the phoenix – but I still say it's better to back up your work and never put yourself through all that agony in the first place. 🐼

2009 Conferences: Mark Your Calendars

Redwood is celebrating CWC's 100th year with a writer's conference at the Flamingo Conference Resort in Santa Rosa October 24, 2009 – just as the grape harvesting season moves from the vineyards to the vats.



Steve Hockensmith

Steve Hockensmith, author of the popular "Holmes on the Range" mystery series, will be one of the keynote speakers.

For more information, check the Redwood Web site, www.redwoodwriters.org/conference.html.

Meanwhile, Peninsula is busy planning its 18th Jack London Writers Conference, scheduled for October 10-11, 2009, at the Royal Crowne Plaza in Foster City. Theme is "Call of the Wild Mind." Conference chair Dale King promises, "a lively gala with a tribute to Jack London, lots of speakers, twice as many agents, editors and publishers, and even more workshops." Contact Dale at dking8@msn.com. 🐼

CWC Bulletin 2009 Schedule

January-February 2009

Deadline: December 26, 2008

March-April 2009

Deadline: February 27, 2009

May-June 2009

Deadline: April 24, 2009



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.

July-August 2009

Deadline: June 26 2009

September-October 2009

Deadline: August 28, 2009

November-December 2009

Deadline: October 30, 2009

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Sail On! People in Power

One of the most important people in your branch is your representative to the central board. The CWC bylaws state: "The corporate powers of the California Writers Club shall be vested in a board of directors (known as The Central Board) consisting of one representative selected annually by each branch."

That means your representative has the power to determine the destiny of the organization. At the meetings of the central board and on the bulletin board forum each representative has the authority to make motions, participate in discussions and vote on issues.

For example, CWC is headed into its centennial year beginning in January. The representative from East Sierra Branch chairs a

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**By Casey Wilson
CWC President**

committee to bring suggestions to the central board (CB) about how to celebrate the year. Your representative, working with his or her colleagues has the final say.

Your representative is also your two-way conduit with the central board for events your branch is conducting. Having an open mic night? Looking for a

conference or workshop?

If you have a comment, kudos, or complaints on how the state organization operates, contact your representative.

This is a list of the current representatives from each branch:

Berkeley : Al Levinson
Central Coast: Joyce Krieg
East Sierra: Donna McCrohan- Rosenthal
High Desert: Barbara Schultz
Inland Empire: Harry Ramage
Long Beach: Allene Symons
Marin: Barbara Truax
Mt Diablo: David George
Orange County: Carol Celeste
Peninsula: Dale King
Redwood: Kate Farrell
Sacramento: Margie Yee Webb
San Fernando Valley: Lenora Smalley
South Bay: Dave La Roche
Tri Valley: Kathy Urban
West Valley: Dave Wetterberg
Writers of Kern: Sandy Moffett



Writers Memorial Grove, Part III

By Joyce Krieg

To review our saga: in the July-August issue of *The Bulletin*, I shared with you my misadventures in trying to find Writers Memorial Grove at Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. These are the trees allegedly planted by CWC members way back when to honor California writers, part of our club's lore and legend mentioned on our Web site. At the time, I had this crazy idea that Writers Memorial Grove might be an ideal location for a plaque or other commemoration of CWC's centennial.

The only problem was, I couldn't find anything called Writers Memorial Grove, and the one park employee I could locate to talk to had not only never heard of it, she claimed I was the first visitor to ever ask about it.

Then in August, the *Oakland Tribune* ran an article about the history of Joaquin Miller Park, and made prominent mention of the grove of redwoods planted by California Writers Club.

Now comes Redwood branch member George Rathmell, who shares with us a map from 1919 that he obtained from the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department that shows the exact location of the memorial trees. Honored authors include Robert

Louis Stevenson, Gertrude Atherton, Jack London, George Sterling, Mary Austin, John Muir, Bret Harte and Edwin Markham. So yes, the trees were planted and a record made – the only items missing were the plaques or signs that I expected to find.

George is the author of *Realms of Gold: The Colorful Writers of San Francisco 1850-1950*, in which he says Joaquin Miller is a major "character."

And so the saga continues!



Draft Minutes of Oct. 19 Central Board Meeting

Representatives present:

Berkeley: Al Levenson
Central Coast: Joyce Krieg
East Sierra: Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal
Desert: Barbara Schultz
Inland Empire: Harry Ramage
Long Beach: Allene Symons
Marin: Absent
Mount Diablo: David George
Orange County: Carol Celeste
Redwood: Kate Farrell
Sacramento: Margie Yee Webb
San Fernando Valley: Lenora Smalley
SF/Peninsula: Dale King
South Bay: Dave LaRoche
Tri-Valley: Kathy Urban
West Valley: Dave Wetterberg
Writers of Kern: Sandy Moffett

Quorum: Present with 15 votes

Others present: No.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Vice President David George in the Chair for President Casey Wilson with Carol Celeste, Secretary, present.

Minutes for the July 20, 2008, meeting were presented and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Summary report dated July 1, 2008, to September 30, 2008, prepared by Kathy Urban was presented.

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Draft Minutes of the Oct. 19, 2008 CWC Central Board Meeting

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Wells Fargo checking account balance was \$33,372.03.

Wells Fargo CD maturing Nov. 15, 2008, was \$17,895.

Wells Fargo CD maturing Dec. 12, 2008, was \$5,297.41.

Working budget for July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009, was presented and tabled until later in the meeting.

Motion: That a category of "membership drive to target 20% increase" be added to the budget under income. Moved by Dave LaRoche, seconded by Harry Ramage at 9:54 a.m. Passed unanimously.

Corporate Credit Card: Kathy Urban reported that since an individual must accept personal liability for corporate card charges the Club will not apply for one.

Action: All reps must submit to the treasurer this month a current list of officers, number of members and meeting place needed to obtain bids for CWC liability insurance to take effect in January 2009.

Treasurer's Handbook: has been updated and will be emailed to the branch treasurer soon.

Registration Renewal Fee: The two RRF1 forms, one for the Central Board and one for the branches, were sent by certified mail to the Registry of Charitable Trusts in Sacramento on October 14, 2008.

Central Board PO Box: was temporarily closed because of a post office error but it's now open. If anyone hears about mail being returned to the sender, please contact Kathy Urban.

Membership Report:

A report dated October 15, 2008, prepared and presented by David George shows 877 members. All branches except East Sierra and San Fernando Valley have supplied membership dues.

Co-publishing with Unlimited Publishing, LLC:

Kate Farrell presented information about a joint publishing venture between UP and CWC. Lacking a legal opinion, the item was tabled. The item will be dropped from consideration for 2009 if not approved at the January meeting.

Action: David George will attempt to hasten the legal opinion.

Expense Reimbursement Policy:

Motion: To approve the draft proposal as amended: Article III. PROCEDURE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, B. Expense forms with copies of receipts attached must be deliv-

ered to the treasurer during a meeting. Some incidental items, such as gratuities, may not require receipts. The treasurer is authorized to determine eligibility. The officers will sign the reimbursement requests and the treasurer will deliver checks during the meeting. Expense requests delivered during meetings but lacking documentation must be delivered to the treasurer no later than 30 days after the meeting and will follow the procedure described in C. below.

Article III. PROCEDURE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, C. Requests for reimbursement of more than \$25 incurred between meetings and all expenses incurred by those who do not attend meetings must reach the treasurer no later than 30 days after the expense is incurred. Article III. PROCEDURE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, language in F. and G. deleted. Moved by Kathy Urban, seconded by Dave LaRoche at 11:57 a.m. Passed unanimously.

Action: Carol Celeste will consult with Casey Wilson about providing an amended copy of the P&Ps to Central Board members.

New Branch Development and Minimum Size Standards:

Motion: That Article X. draft proposal New Branch Development be approved as amended: Article X. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT A. When a group of writers expresses interest in creating a new branch CWC shall quickly and earnestly respond in writing.

Article X. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT C. 1. The group must have a minimum of 30 primary members. Of these, more than half must qualify for active membership and the others as associates. Supporting members do not count for this purpose. Article X. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT 5. 6) intended meeting place. Article X. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT 5. a. Upon recommendation by the Committee, the Executive Committee shall invite one representative of the candidate branch the next Central Board meeting in their region.

Article X. NEW BRANCH DEVELOPMENT 7. a. In return, the branch will be issued a Certificate of Charter and entitled to all benefits of CWC membership.

Moved by Sandy Moffett, seconded by Barbara Shultz at 1:24 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Action: Dave LaRoche will design by the

January meeting a Certificate of Charter to present to branches.

Centennial Plans:

Motion: To adopt tier one of Centennial recommendations as our strategic plan going into 2009 as amended: CENTENNIAL 2009; Possible events; Assignments Moved by Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, seconded by Lenora Smalley at 2:15 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Action: Kate Farrell will look into restoring memorial grove.

Motion: To add tier two of Centennial recommendations as revised to our strategic plan going into 2009: CENTENNIAL 2009, Publicity e) Consider adding the line "Member, California Writers Club – '100 years of literary history'" to business cards and all correspondence; Proposed Provisional Calendar, January 2009 – Centennial launch at Disneyland, initial press releases, October 2009 – Bury time capsule, California Writers Week, announce contest winners, secure speaker endorsement/ winner-presenter Strategies to investigate. Moved by

Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, seconded by Dale King at 3:05 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Action: Reps will present the list of suggested centennial items to branches to determine interest and purchase intentions and email branch preferences to Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal by the end of November.

Action: Carol Celeste will ask Casey Wilson about the status of the Centennial media list, distribution to branches and any usage restrictions.

CWC Centennial Map:

Action: All reps were given printing specs for a poster and are to send Joyce quotes from one or more printers in their area no later than Thanksgiving.

Action: Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal is exploring possible map sponsors.

Doing Business by the Internet and Forum: Dave LaRoche presented reasons and methods for using the forum and encouraged all CB members to participate.

CWC Anthology:

David George announced that the publisher has been asked to extend the deadline and another two weeks seems likely. Reps will be advised.

Festival of Books:

continued on page 5

South Bay Supports San Jose Book Expo

By Dave LaRoche, South Bay

Each year for the past three, San Jose has hosted a Book-Group Exposition and every year we have supported it with our booth—books to buy, information about the CWC, and why to join the South Bay Branch.

The “Expo” is produced like a conference, including a “Marketplace” and three salons. In the salons, throughout each of two days, lectures, panels, and workshops are presented. The theme of this celebration is book-reading groups and, in complimentary fashion, authors present their histories and opinions related to books they have written.

Attending the Marketplace are booksellers, publishers, odds-and-ends of crafts and candy makers. Vintners too are present and this year, a broad representation from our

Draft Minutes

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Motion: To budget \$950 to support the CWC booth at the 2009 Festival of Books.

Moved by Kate Farrell, seconded by Sandy Moffett at 3:35 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

Action: Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal will continue to pursue a January meeting at the Disneyland Hotel and will consult with Casey Wilson about meeting dates and a final location decision. The CB expressed preference for January 24-25 due to holidays and branch meetings on other January weekends.

The Bulletin:

Action: Kate Farrell will post a topic on the Forum to discuss production of an electronic newsletter.

Working budget revisited:

Motion: To accept the working budget as amended. Add \$600 from Centennial promotional items under income; reduce cost of media contact list to \$150; replace “transfer from checking” to “shortfall: transfer from reserves.” Moved by Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, seconded by Kate Farrell at 3:55 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Tabled items: UP co-publishing agreement, *The Bulletin* and Centennial Issue, Branch History Project.

Adjournment at 4:03 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Celeste, Central Board Secretary



South Bay Writers (convenient but not necessarily correlated). This collection of information and zeal occurs in the October of each year at the McHenry Convention Center in downtown San Jose.

Now to the superlatives: first, it is a marvel and most encouraging to writers, that so many, young and old, are readers of such enthusiasm they are willing to spend 50 bucks to attend this affair; moreover, most belong to “groups”—groups that are networked. The next thing that comes up on my radar is the reader’s knowledge of authoring and selling. Penetrating questions about the whys of writing and detail about publishing are asked; illustrating surprising insight, on the part of readers, into our processes and motivation. Entrepreneurs sell analyses of books to assist readers seeking “educated” opinions—contrast or confirmation—an industry, albeit small, exclusively serving readers, and that seems encouraging. I hear a surprising amount of chatter all day long, strangers in animated discourse over their common and specific interests in books and authors. We have a market out there and it is bustling. Whoever said that people would read with their nose in an LCD has not been to a book-group event—at least not this one.

Our members sold and signed books. Our club picked up membership candidates. Those of us who enjoy jawing brought in commitments from speakers and workshop facilitators. Our branch profited from this exposure. We met and learned from our market and had fun. It might be that others would too, which is why I bring this to the attention of other CWC branches.



South Bay members who staffed the booth at the San Jose Book Group Exposition included authors Gisela Zebroski (left) and Marjorie Johnson.

Word Weaver

By C. Jonathan Shoemaker, Central Coast

Little fish, all grouped together, seem big as a whale.
But this is only possible if they flow in harmony.

I’m walking on the seashore, looking for a word.

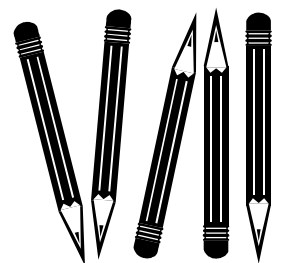
I cast my thoughts through space and time,
but only catch an empty rhyme.

If you have ears, you may hear.
If you have eyes, the light is within you.
If you have words, you must share.

Inspiration comes to us naked.
We clothe it with words for others to view.

Take a line and test it, make it strong.
Stretch it parallel in both directions, not too long.
Weave the words across the warp, tight together, no loose ends.
When complete, if it has value, give it to your friends.

Take the cloth and spread it out,
and you can lie together in the sun.



Berkeley

Membership – increasing it, maintaining it – is a challenge most branches face. Berkeley President Al Levenson has a mission to reach out to new members by employing three tactics: (1) Revising the club's brochure and placing it in local libraries, (2) Encouraging existing members to bring their literary-minded friends to meetings, and (3) Increasing amiability at the meetings and making the guests (in other words, potential new members) feel welcome and comfortable.

Write Angles –

Al Levenson, Editor

Central Coast

Planning to ask someone to critique your written work? According to Martha Engber, it's important to be specific as to exactly what you're looking for. She told Central Coast members, "We want specific information and an overall reaction to the piece. We need to know if we are straying from or moving toward our goal; if we are repetitive; whether our style and format are consistent; whether we are inserting ourselves too obviously into the work, like a puppeteer pulling the strings and manipulating the behavior of our characters."

Scribbles – Joyce Krieg, Editor

East Sierra (Ridge Writers)

When writing for children, do not preach. That's the advice author Terry Pierce offered to Ridge Writers at a recent meeting. According to Terry, children who read want amusement and entertainment when they are very young, plus the tickling of their imaginations when they grow older. A lesson can be tucked into a children's book, but it must be subtle. Children who read for pleasure aren't dumb and they will pick up on the hidden moral of the tale.

Writers of the Purple Sage – Liz Babcock, Editor

Inland Empire

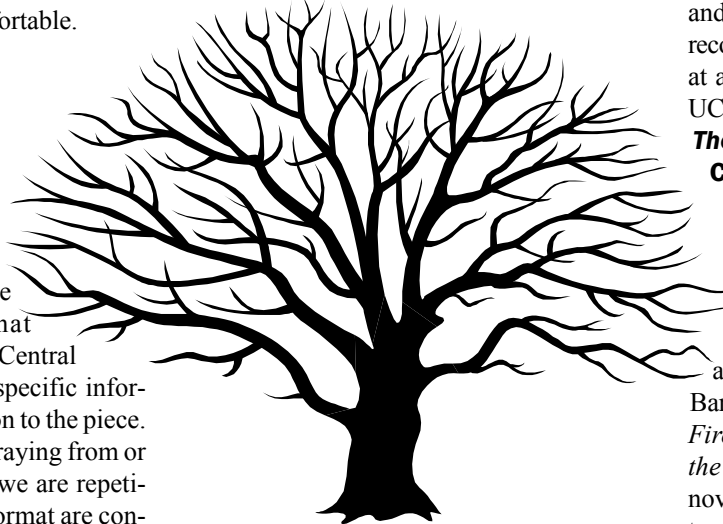
The digital revolution is here to stay. Yet Kathryn Wilkens reminds us that we lose the third dimension – tangibility and portability – when we give up paper. "An onscreen photo can't be turned over to see what's written on the back. An online magazine can't be carried to a hammock in the backyard. An e-mail letter is sterile; it doesn't say anything about the color and

Branching Out

"Nuggets from the Newsletters"

texture of paper the sender chose, or the kind of pen he or she used. It doesn't have handwriting you recognize on the envelope or a fragrance that wafts out when you open it."

Fresh Ink – Laura Slattery, Editor



Long Beach

The most recent program for the Long Beach branch featured screenwriter and novelist Diana Wagman, whose most recent novel, *Bump*, was short-listed for the Dublin Literary Prize. She also wrote the screenplay *Delivering Milo* (2001) starring Albert Finney and Bridget Fonda, and is a professor in the Film Department at CSU-Long Beach.

Anne Magris, President

Marin

Author Molly Dwyer (*Requiem for the Author of Frankenstein*, *The Life of Mary Shelley*) had some thoughts on the writing process to share with Marin members at a recent meeting. Modern writers, in Molly's opinion, continue the ancient role of tribal storyteller. "A stalker forages for creative nourishment. Through shared language and thinking, writers create a virtual shared world based on words. No other species has this ability to create and communicate thought-designed stories of situations and characters who have never actually existed except in the mind of the author and, later, the reader."

Marin Writes – Jett Walker, Editor

November–December 2008

Mt. Diablo

Newsletter editor Catherine Accardi tips us to an invaluable tool for historical researchers: Melvyl, the online catalog of the University of California Libraries.

Go to <http://melvyl.cdlib.org> to be connected to listings of hundreds of thousands of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, photography collections, microfilm, maps, audio and video disks, and much more. Catherine tried searching on "California Writers Club" and got several hits, including the club's records from 1911 to 1963, which are located at a cooperative library storage facility at UC Berkeley's Richmond Field Station.

The Write News –

Catherine Accardi, Editor

Orange County

Orange County members celebrated California Writers Week with a special event at the Orange County Library and History Center. Presenters included Barbara DeMarco-Barrett, author of *Pen on Fire: The Busy Woman's Guide to Igniting the Writer Within* and screenwriters and novelists Marc and Elaine Zicree, whose topic was, "Your Work, Your Audience – And How to Pass through the Commercial Maze."

Orange Ink – Carol Celeste, Editor

Peninsula

President Tory Hartmann writes, "The market may be falling, but the sky seems to be staying up just the same. The one thing you can control in out-of-control times is your writing life! Get down to that novel, memoir, essay, or short story. Dig in and let the words fly!" This year, Peninsula's board plans to make their meetings craft-oriented, asking each speaker to share not only their writing journey, but also concrete writing tips. "If after each meeting you can take one or two things away that will spark your writing, make you excited enough to write more, or send you off in new directions you might never have considered, then we will have succeeded."

The Peninsula Writer –

Linda Okerlund, Editor

Redwood

Redwood Writers celebrated another successful day at the annual Sonoma County Book Festival. The branch staffed a booth,

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Branching Out

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contributors to the new branch anthology had the opportunity to read from their work, and several members appeared on author panels. President Karen Batchelor says, "Thank you one and all for your help. Great job! The booth was busy. We accepted donations for tote bags and CDs. There were scores of writers who signed up to be put on the 'interested party' list and a good time was had by all."

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

Sacramento

Sacramento branch member Jackie Krug helped Nonfiction Network participants "see the light" when it comes to writing for religious publications. While the field may seem somewhat narrow, according to Jackie many faiths and denominations have similar interests that may cross the invisible boundaries. One article, with the title and first and last paragraphs changed, might conceivably find a market in several different publications. Story ideas include unique activities of religious groups in your community, and national and international religious subjects in the news.

Write On – Julie Bauer, Editor

San Fernando Valley

SFV recently held an innovative meeting by bringing together visual artists and writers. Four members of the San Fernando Valley Art Club came to the meeting and created paintings based on written works by SFV members. In turn, the writers viewed the paintings and wrote about them, with awards given to Ray Malus (first place), Pauline Williams (second place) and Suzette White (third place).

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

South Bay

South Bay has put the wraps on another successful East of Eden conference. April Eberhardt, one of the agents who participated, says, "It was one of the best conferences I've attended, overflowing with talented, passionate, kind, warm people, writers, editors and agents alike. The experience of being there was ample reward in and of itself. If I find a few manuscripts to represent, so much the better – they'll be

icing on the cake. (And I think I will – so far the quality of submissions has been very high.)"

Writers Talk – Dick Amyx, Editor

Tri-Valley

Tri Valley has presented the first Sue Tasker Memorial Service Award to Fred Norman. President Kathy Urban notes that Fred has filled numerous important roles in Tri Valley's three year history, including treasurer and emcee of the Literary Showcase. "When we've been short-handed at meetings, he's stepped in and sold tickets for the door prizes, and he's also been a 'greeter' at our meetings." The award is named after Tri Valley's founding president, whom Kathy said "lit up every meeting and event with her warm and friendly nature."

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

West Valley

Last-minute speaker cancellation? Not to worry, at least not at West Valley. President Dave Wetterberg stepped in with a fun and interactive program. He divided the audience into groups of six and gave them a group writing assignment: to create a scene

using a subject and object from lists of two very different story elements. Newsletter editor Kathy Highcove reports that members had the opportunity to get to know each other better, the meeting room hummed with creative energy, and several imaginative stories were produced. "In short, we had fun."

In Focus – Kathy Highcove, Editor

Writers of Kern

Just like gardeners and handypersons, writers need a good toolkit. Essential tools, according to newsletter editor Martin Gorsching, include copies of *The Elements of Style* and *The Chicago Manual of Style*, a good dictionary, a notebook or journal for jotting down ideas, and possibly a book of grammar exercises or writing prompts. "Hardly last, certainly not least, you should have something to read with you at all times. Writers write, but writers should be readers too. How better to discern bad writing from good than by reading what others have written?"

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



www.calwriters.org

CWC Member Benefits

Heyday Books

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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.

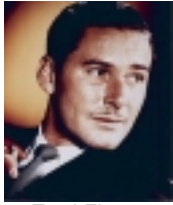
Guess Who Else Has a Birth Anniversary in 2009!

As California Writers Club gets ready to celebrate its centennial in 2009, we thought it would be interesting to take a look at some of the well-known persons who first saw the light of day in 1909.

Al Capp (cartoonist, creator of *L'il Abner*) died 1979.

Barry M. Goldwater (Republican presidential candidate in 1964) died 1998.

Rollo May (existential psychologist, wrote *Love and Will* and *The Courage to Create*) died 1994.



Errol Flynn

Elia Kazan (film director, *On the Waterfront* and *East of Eden*) died 1994.

Errol Flynn (movie star, king of the swash-

bucklers) died 1959.

Eudora Welty (author best known for the short story "Why I Live at the P.O.") died 2001.



Barry Goldwater



Eudora Welty

Jessica Tandy (actress, *Fried Green Tomatoes* and *Driving Miss Daisy*) died 1994.

Saul Alinsky (community organizer, credited with the slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally") died 1972.

U. Thant (United Nations secretary-general) died 1964.

Victor Borge (piano-playing Danish comedian) died 2000.

Wallace Stegner (author of *Angle of Repose*, founder of Stanford University creative writing program) died 1993.

Benny Goodman (Big Band-era musician, "The King of Swing") died 1986.

Dean Rusk (secretary of state under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson) died 1994.



Wallace Stegner



Benny Goodman



Next CWC

Central Board Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009

Anaheim

See Your Central Board Rep for Exact Location

Writing for *The Bulletin*

CWC members are always invited to submit their work for publication in *The Bulletin*. We're looking for short essays, inspiration, how-to, humor, poetry, even short-short fiction, as long as it has something to do with writing or the writing life. Submit as a Word doc attachment to Editor Joyce Krieg, joyce@joycek.com. Sorry, at this time we are unable to publish news of member sales and publications.

By the way, if you have submitted something in the past year or two and haven't yet seen it in print, please send it again. It probably disappeared in one of Joyce's e-mail folders during The Great Crash of October 08 (see "Joyce's Voice" on page 2).



The Bulletin

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**Our 100th Year -
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