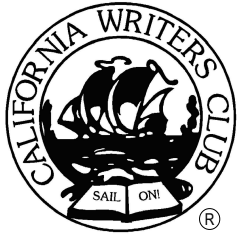


THE BULLETIN

California Writers Club

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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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Mt. Diablo Branch

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OUR MISSION

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

Fremont's Bob Garfinkle Earns CWC's Highest Honor

By Nancy Curteman, Fremont Area Writers

At the July 20 CWC Central Board meeting, President Dave George and I presented the Ina Coolbrith Award to Fremont Area Writers' Bob Garfinkle.

Bob is a long time member of California Writers Club and is currently a lifetime member. He's dedicated a tremendous amount of his time and talent to CWC and certainly has met the standards for the Ina Coolbrith award.

Like California poet Ina Coolbrith who encouraged new writers through her literary salons, Bob encourages new writers at club meetings.

Like Ina Coolbrith, who was President of the Congress of Authors and Journalists, Bob was president of Fremont Area Writers and California Writers Club.

Like Ina Coolbrith, who was a celebrated poet and author, Bob is an internationally known author of astronomy books and scientific journal articles.

Like Ina Coolbrith, who was active in her community as an Oakland librarian, Bob was active in the community as a Union City Council Member.

Like Ina Coolbrith, Bob has demonstrated his love of writing through his active support of CWC. Here are a few of his achievements:

- Central Board Representative for South Bay from 2003-2007.
- Founder and president of the Fremont Area Writers branch.
- During his Presidency of CWC, he led a legal battle to protect CWC's name and



Bob Garfinkle is the latest recipient of the Ina Coolbrith Award for outstanding service to California Writers Club. With Bob is Nancy Curteman, Central Board Representative for Fremont Area Writers, and CWC President Dave George.

image, and unsnarled a tangle with the IRS over our nonprofit status.

- He started the Annual CWC picnic, and has chaired it every year from 2009 to the present.
- He served on the staff of South Bay Writers' East of Eden Conference from 2004 to 2008, one of the best writers conferences in California

When asked why he dedicated so much of his busy life to CWC, his response was to the point. "I enjoy the camaraderie of working with other writers. I guess I just like writers."

One more special note: This fall, Springer Publishing released Bob's chef d'oeuvre on astronomy, *Luna Cognita, (Known Moon)*.

Ina Coolbrith would be proud of Bob Garfinkle and so are we.



With Apologies to Clement Clarke Moore



It was the night before the deadline and all through Manhattan
Not an editor was slashing, not one single red pen;
The press kits were sent by publicists so slick,
In hopes that St. Oprah would soon make her pick.

The agents were schmoozing, many hands they did shake,
With visions of auctions and hot deals they would make;
While I, the mere author, a new book to begin,
Had just settled in with a fresh bottle of gin.

From out on the keyboard there came not a clatter,
The words would not come, I knew not what was the matter.
The deadline was looming and I needed the cash,
If I asked for more time, my name would be trash.

The glow from the screen of my old Pentium D
Seemed to mock my slow output with devilish glee.
When, what to my bleary eyes should appear,
But a digital goddess – could rescue be near?

She carried a notebook, a pen, but no booze,
I knew in a moment she must be a Muse.
More rapid than eagles the words they did pour,
As she whispered and sang, my creativity did soar.

“Now Random House! Now Hachette! Now Bantam Dell!
On Henry Holt! On St. Martin’s! On Knopf and Little Brown!
To the top of Amazon! To the top of *The Times*!
You can do it! Do it! Do it!” Her voice rang like the chimes.

As dry wit from the pens of reviewers flow mean,
When they meet with bound galley from an author still green,
So my manuscript I did revise all a-new,
With a pocketful of doubts, and a hangover, too.

But still, as before, I heard from the Muse,
Inspiration and encouragement, stuff I could use.
As I continued to write, the keyboard to pound,
I realized my creativity had at last come unbound.

Contacting The Bulletin

Editor Joyce Krieg
pacificgrovejoyce@gmail.com

Submissions of branch news and photos are always welcome. Send text as Word docs. Photos should be in JPEG format and sized between 100K and 1M. Short stories and poetry should be submitted to the CWC *Literary Review*.

JOYCE’S VOICE



By Joyce Krieg
Bulletin Editor



My adjectives – how florid! My adverbs – how vivid!
Those snarky reviewers with envy would be livid!
I threw caution to the wind and cried, “Anything goes!”
As I continued to crank out more purple prose.

“No plot? No problem!” The Muse chanted like an elf,
And I laughed as I typed, in spite of myself;
Rejection slips be damned, dare to be bold,
She gave me to know my book would be sold.

I spoke not a word, just continued to work,
At last typed “The End” and hit Control-P with a jerk.
Laying page after page inside a FedEx pack,
No SASE for me – this baby’s not coming back!

I sprang to log off and gave thanks to the Muse;
She gave me a smile surely meant to enthruse;
And I heard her exclaim as she faded from sight,
“Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good write.”



Spreading the Word about CWC



The organizers of the annual writers conference at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo invited CWC to appear on a panel about the benefits of belonging to a writers club and to host a table. The result may be a brand-new branch in the Santa Maria area. Above, PR/Publicity Chair Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal chats up the club with a couple of prospective new members.

Embracing Your Inner Techie

Are you a Technophile or a Technophobe? Or Neither? I spent years of my life presenting the Next Great Thing to sceptics, often with success. We now seem surrounded, perhaps buried, in Next Great Things. I hear that you can even purchase hi-tech coffins that play surround sound and a loop of your favorite digital photos into the afterlife. I hope the batteries last!

Consider our dizzy technological days in perspective though. Ballpoint pens were the Thing of the 1930s, light bulbs of the 1890s, and flush toilets of the 1770s. Do you think of these marvelous devices as complicated technology every time you click the pen, flick the light, or flush the potty?

Once a society learns to accept new Things into our lives, they cease to be pains in the neck and grow to be indispensable – yes, even to writers.

One Thing that has changed is the accelerating pace of new technological introductions. You barely have a chance to - whoops! - drop your new iPhone-5 in the toilet before

the iPhone-6 is announced. But as frequently as we long for the good old days, would slowing or reversing this pace be acceptable? No!

Our venerable Club has new technology available to it also. I've noticed more and more branches exploiting the various social media tools to get the word out about meetings, workshops, and events. Yeah! They take payments through their web sites using PayPal and other online options. Super! And one by one, they are discovering the ease of use and value of our new Membership Records Management System (MRMS).

Updating member contact information

and posting payments is a breeze with MRMS. It made my life easier as branch treasurer and can make your job easier, too. Every member of the Club has access to their own membership record. Don't be a technophobe. Log in and give MRMS a try! Contact your branch membership chair for access information.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By David George
CWC President

Your CWC Central Board at Work

The Central Board is the governing body of the California Writers Club, in essence our board of directors. Each branch has a voting representative at the two annual meetings. At the July 20 meeting in Oakland, President Dave George noted significant accomplishments:

- An IRS audit resulted in “no findings” and no penalties were levied.
- The contract with our Webmaster has been revised.
- Membership continues to grow and now stands at 1800-plus.
- A nonprofit mailing permit with the USPS has been obtained.
- The tradition of the CWC *Bulletin* has been revived.
- The *Literary Review* continues to improve.
- A scholarship program is in the planning stages.
- Membership qualifications are under review.

Major actions taken at the July 20 and in follow-up electronic votes included:

Budget: Approval of a spending plan of \$36,625 for FY 2014-15.

Non-discrimination clause: Our Policies and Procedures now includes a clause prohibiting discrimination and harrassment. Both are important to have in the organization's governing documents when applying for grants.

CWC Newsletter: On a split vote, approved annual spending of \$5,000 for mailing of a printed-on-paper *Bulletin* to all members twice a year.

Anthology Project: Allocated \$1,000 to the High Desert branch for the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project.

California Capital Book Festival: Approved spending \$175 to pay for booth space at this Sacramento event.



CWC Leadership for 2014-15

The CWC Central Board elected by acclamation the slate of officers for 2014-15 presented by Nomination Committee Chair Jeanette Fratto (Orange County) at the July 20 meeting:

President: David George, Mt. Diablo

Vice President: Margie Yee Webb, Sacramento

Secretary: Joyce Krieg, Central Coast

Treasurer: Sharon Svitak, Tri-Valley

The four officers, plus member-at-large Ray Malus (San Fernando Valley) serve as voting members on the CWC Executive Committee. PR/Publicity Chair Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal (East Sierra) serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

The President made the following appointments:

Bulletin Editor: Joyce Krieg (Central Coast)

Forum Moderator: Bob Isbill (High Desert)

Finance: Sharon Svitak (Tri-Valley)

Friends of Joaquin Miller Park: Linda Brown (Berkeley)

Literary Review Editor: Dave LaRoche (South Bay)

Membership: Sharon Svitak (Tri-Valley)

MRMS Administrator: Ray Malus (San Fernando Valley)

Picnic: Nancy Curteman (Fremont)

Policies and Procedures: Dave LaRoche (South Bay)

Scholarship: Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal (East Sierra)



Next CWC Central Board Meeting

Sunday,
Jan. 25, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn Express,
Oakland Airport

Any CWC member may attend as an observer. Each branch has one voting member.

Town of Apple Valley Honors CWC High Desert Branch

By Bob Isbill, High Desert branch

The High Desert branch was recently honored with a presentation by the town of Apple Valley of a proclamation “recognizing the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project as a distinguished and worthy community educational endeavor, and proclaims the High Desert branch of the California Writers Club is significantly contributing to the culture of the community, and enhancing the town’s pursuit of a better way of life.”

The anthology of senior citizen memoirs written by high school students, *Let It Be Recorded... A Collection of Memoirs*, is available on www.hdcwc.com and Amazon.

Based on our collaborative work, the

Napa Valley Outing to Stevenson Museum

By Marilyn Campbell, Napa Valley branch

Napa Valley Writers enjoyed a tour of the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum in St. Helena on Sunday, September 28th. Stevenson, perhaps best known for his adventure writing in *Treasure Island*, also wrote *Silverado Squatters*, a colorful travel memoir of his two month honeymoon trip in 1880 in the Napa Valley. It was written as he and his new bride were actually squatting.

The phrase, “wine is bottled poetry,” that he used in this charming piece, has been memorialized in the Napa wine community by appearing at both ends of the valley on welcome signs. Our branch also used the phrase on a cake we entered in the cake

Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project team was invited by the National Center for Literacy Education (NCLE) to participate in a Practice Exchange in Washington D.C. on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014. High Desert California Writers Club member and author Tania Ramos represented the branch.

Meanwhile, High Desert’s fourth “Howl at the Moon” conference was called a fun learning experience and netted \$2300 for the branch. The conference featured Chris Vogler, author of *The Writer’s Journey*, plus literary agent BJ Robbins and Ray Robinson of Dog Ear Publisher. 

contest held at a CWC picnic.

During the tour, Museum Director Marissa Schleicher gave a PowerPoint presentation on the multi-talented author and guided visitors among the displayed memorabilia. Three members presented selections from Stevenson’s works: Susan Imboden read from an essay written by Stevenson on the process of writing, Marilyn Campbell from *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and Lenore Hirsch recited several poems from Stevenson’s *A Child’s Garden of Verses*.

A potluck followed on the museum grounds. 


Open Mic, Speed Networking at Long Beach

By Allene Symons, Long Beach branch

Though we meet monthly on Saturday afternoons, we added an evening open mic by partnering with a new/used bookstore that hosts many book-and-author events and also has a strong online outreach. We served refreshments, and our president handled the emcee role with humor and grace. It did not draw as many people as we had hoped, but it was a lively event and resulted in two new members so we plan to do it again.

Another activity resulting in new members was “speed-networking for writers.” This is a way to become familiar with what other members are working on. For this program we set up tables in a U formation with facing chairs. Each pair of members (also visitors)

took turns talking about their respective writing projects. One side of the table remained in place, the other side moved on when the timer chimed.

In addition, we are expanding our use of multimedia to accompany and/or complement speakers when possible and with their permission. We are using a Welcome screen (digitally projected) and other projected graphics at some meetings. At a recent meeting we prepared a Ken Burns-style slide show of photographs from the author’s as-told-to memoir (folk-rock era) with music. It played on the screen as members arrived, and this added a lively component to the program. 

Tidbits from the CWC Branches

CWC Marin continues with an emphasis on craft and will once again offer a mini-conference in Spring 2015. “Marin Writes” was a huge success in 2013 with all the oomph of a big conference at a reasonable price. Details and flyers will be available soon.

Tri-Valley is busy planning a full day conference on the art and business of writing on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the Five Points by Sheraton in Pleasanton. It will feature three tracks of speakers, events, writing contests, and networking opportunities. For details, visit <http://www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/2015-conference>.

In January, Tri-Valley Writers will be celebrating its members with Winterfest: Ekphrasis, a celebration of artists and their work. Members start by sharing another side of their artistic talent: drawing, painting, photography, needlepoint, quilting, or others. A variety of artwork, fully representing our members, is then selected by a committee and displayed on the Tri-Valley Writers website. The second phase entices members to view the artwork, seek inspiration, then write one or more pieces regarding the works.

The selected visual arts, and the written pieces, will be on display during the Tri-Valley Writers Club January meeting at the Sheraton by Four Points Hotel in Pleasanton. The celebration will culminate during the club meeting that day with an open forum where attendees are welcome to share their thoughts about

continued on page 7



Long Beach President Kathryn Atkins participates in the open mic event at Gatsby’s Books.

Jack London and CWC – Did He or Didn't He?

By Joyce Krieg, *Bulletin* Editor

For years, California Writers Club has proudly boasted as having been founded by Jack London. His handsome face looks great on newsletters, flyers and websites, and it adds a bit of prestige to trace our roots back to the Golden State's famous author. But when you attempt to chase down the historic facts to back up the claim, the record becomes murky.

This much we know for certain: an organization calling itself California Writers Club can be traced back to the Oakland area as early as 1909. We also know that Jack London was a leading light in the East Bay literary scene in the first decade of the 20th century. Thus it seems not too great a leap to assume that, of course,

he must have been involved in the formation of CWC. But that's all it is – a leap. The proof remains elusive.

Several club leaders who, like me, are passionate about our legend and lore have recently noted that from 1907 to 1909, Jack London was sailing the South Seas aboard the *Snark*. He could not possibly have been simultaneously organizing a writers club in Oakland in 1909, not unless he cloned himself.




Jack London aboard the *Snark*.

Linda Brown from our Berkeley branch attended the Jack London Symposium October 29-November 1 and posed that dilemma to the re-

searchers and scholars present. Louise E. Wright from the Community College of

Philadelphia pointed out to Linda that the ill-fated *Snark* adventure ended in the spring of 1909 in Sydney, Australia. By July 21 of that year, the record shows London was back in Oakland and on the 24th at his ranch in Glen Ellen. So London was in Northern California in the last half of 1909 and it thus would have been physically possible for him to have been involved in the founding of our writers club.

In her 1946 book *My San Francisco*, Gertrude Atherton boldly states, "The oldest and most important literary club in the state is the California Writers Club in Berkeley. It was founded in 1909 by George Sterling, Jack London, Herman Whitaker and Austin Lewis . . ." However, it should be noted that Ms. Atherton was in her late 80s when she wrote this, and she had a reputation of never letting the facts stand in the way of a good story.

More intriguing glimpses into our past came to light in a speech made by then-CWC President William Morgan at the 1939 Treasure Island World's Fair. I happened to find a copy of that speech in a paper grocery bag filled with club memorabilia being stored in former president Barbara Truax's garage. But alas, that will have to wait a later time when more space permits. *The saga continues in the Spring 2015 Bulletin!* 

New Vitality for South Bay Writers

By Dave LaRoche, South Bay branch


Under the leadership of President Colin Seymour, South Bay Writers is on the move. Our overall goal: adding to the resources that come with new members by way of warm welcome and recognition, superior programs, and a brisk business meeting.

A full-day planning retreat in September yielded a dozen actions that enhance our vitality and feed our objectives. We are adding younger folks to the roster who bring an enthusiasm matching the one we effuse. Our annual calendar includes two socials, four Saturday workshops, and monthly programs that offer craft methodology, polishing techniques, and publishing opportunities.

Little of the above would work without concomitant publicity, and Kim Malanczuk, our PR&P Director, provides that in spades. She uses Constant Contact, Meet-Up, Zvents, a revamped website, Facebook, local radio, and community TV; all to call out the message, align the community need with South Bay's offerings. Success is hers.

In this calendar year, we will expand our Board of Directors,

adding two VPs, several committee posts, and officers will take on assistants. Getting more people involved, gets all people involved. A larger board brings idea diversity and a more inclusive reflection from membership.

We at South Bay experience rejuvenation—a glow comes out from the meeting room. People chat up the program; ask, suggest, and engage. No one leaves early, but with coffee and cake, hang around for exchange—enjoy a writing camaraderie. 




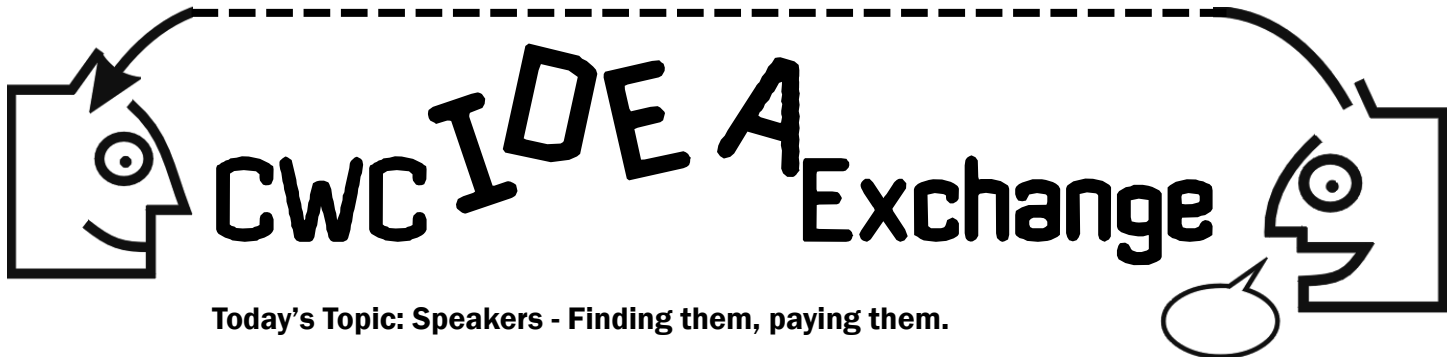
South Bay's annual Halloween costume contest brings to mind the high-jinx of the early Bohemian years of CWC.

Ten Facts about Jack

By Linda Brown, Berkeley Branch

A few of the things I learned about Jack London at the Symposium:

1. Jack London was the only major American author of that time with insight into Asian cultures.
2. *Cosmopolitan* magazine published his works.
3. Scenes in his novel *Martin Eden* are based on Lake Merritt in Oakland.
4. His strength was character development.
5. He photographed nudes in Samoa.
6. Over 12,000 photographs are archived.
7. He envisioned his farm at Glen Ellen to be what we might today call "sustainable agriculture."
8. His great-granddaughter Tarnet Abbott lives in Richmond and wrote a readers theater adaptation of his novel, *The Iron Heel*.
9. Jack was 21 when he learned that John London was not his biological father.
10. He was raised by an ex-slave named Virginia Prentiss. 



CWC IDEAS Exchange

Today's Topic: Speakers - Finding them, paying them.

Berkeley

The Berkeley branch offers speakers a one-year membership and publicity: social media posts, a flyer on the branch website, calendar notices, outreach to 225 agents, publishers, media, library staff, nonprofits and education contacts, elected officials, bookstores, etc. We also display the speaker's flyer at meetings for months. Our September speaker was Susan RoAne, author of the best-seller, *How to Work a Room*.

– Linda Brown

Central Coast

We don't offer our speakers an honorarium, but we do give them gas money from the Bay Area and an overnight in a local hotel. Since we're located in a popular tourist destination – everyone wants to come to Monterey – this has always worked well for us. We highly recommend legal thriller author Sheldon Siegel. He's fun and shares a wealth of information about both traditional publishing and e-books.

– Joyce Krieg

East Sierra (Ridge Writers)

We provide dinner, lodging for one night, and breakfast the next morning. For northern branches, I'd suggest David Kulczyk who lives in Sacramento, maintains a fascinating blog, and wrote *California Fruits, Flakes & Nuts* about Golden State oddballs. Contact him through his publisher's publicist, Jaguar Bennett, (800-345-4447/559-233-6633), Publicity@QuillDriverBooks.com. For southern branches, Beverly Gray lives in the L.A. area, worked for many years with cult movie icon Roger Corman and authored *Roger Corman: Blood-Sucking Vampires, Flesh-Eating Cockroaches, and Driller Killers* and *Ron Howard: From Mayberry to the Moon*. Reach her through her blog, beverlygray.blogspot.com).

– Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal

Fremont Area Writers

We offer our speakers \$50 and pay for printing handouts. Andy Weir spoke at a FAW meeting Oct. 25 on the topic of "How I Backed Into a Publishing Deal." His self-

published e-book *The Martian* went on to be printed in both soft-and hard-bound editions. A film version directed by Ridley Scott and starring Matt Damon is planned for a 2015 release.

– Nancy Curteman

High Desert

High Desert's protocol for guest speakers is a \$30 honorarium, talk time of about 45-50 minutes, a break for meet and greet and selling books, then 20 minutes of Q&A. Because we have 70 to 80 people attending each meeting, it makes for a great opportunity for speakers to sell books. More than a couple times we have had them run out of books. One great speaker we've had is Alan Watt, author of *The 90 Day Novel*. Get him if you can!

– Bob Isbill

Long Beach/Orange County

Speaker programs are handled cooperatively at Long Beach and Orange County branches, and most speakers are traditionally published authors. They typically speak at both branches, sometimes on same day (morning and afternoon). We find them at writers' conferences, events, and by referral from other speakers. We give a \$50 honorarium. Local indie bookstores provide copies for sales and signing and we handle sales ourselves. If a speaker offers services for writers, we give a \$25 honorarium. Recommended speaker: Julia Drake, of Julia Drake Public Relations, a book PR specialist.

– Allene Symons

Marin

CWC Marin is on a roll. Book Passage in Corte Madera is a hub for writers, readers and industry professionals and we call it home. This past year, with a solid line-up of speakers, three in particular wowed us with their wit, charm and knowledge: Joshua Mohr's trademarked term "Plaracterization" is a strategy that will help any writer. His style is relaxed, fun and fresh. Nina Schuyler is the author of the novels *The Translator* and *The*



Josh Mohr speaking to the Marin branch.

Painting, and many short stories. She spoke to CWC Marin about "Creating Surprise on the Page." CWC Marin member Tanya Egan Gibson is a branch favorite. Her entertaining, funny and personable demeanor taught us about "Dynamic Dialogue: How to Bring Your Character to Life." (And save them from sounding like zombies with whom no reader wants to be trapped in an elevator, bar, party, short story, or memoir—ever.)

– Elaine Webster

Mt. Diablo

The Mt. Diablo branch program committee selects presenters primarily from word of mouth recommendations and personal experience with speakers from other conferences. We offer \$75 to \$100 for regular programs and \$300 for workshops. Our October 2014 workshop speaker Amanda McTigue dazzled our members with her hands-on exercises and depth of knowledge on the subject of voice.

– Judith Marshall

Redwood

Redwood has a Presentation/Program team whose sole purpose is to find and recruit speakers for monthly meetings. We use many resources: other branches, conferences, other writer or publisher organizations, Book Pas-

continued on page 7

Books Galore in Shadow of State Capitol

By Margie Yee Webb, Sacramento branch

The California Writers Club (CWC) made a strong showing at the inaugural California Capital Book Festival that took place on October 25-26, 2014, at the Sacramento Convention Center. It was a free public event to promote literacy and the love of books and featured over 120 authors, including *New York Times* bestselling authors.



Amy Rogers and Mike Brandt take a shift in the CWC booth at the California Capital Book Festival in Sacramento.

Branch members at the festival included those from Central Coast, Mount Diablo, Redwood, Sacramento, San Francisco Peninsula and East Sierra. Members were festival authors, festival presenters and moderators, author and publisher exhibitors, festival volunteers, attendees and CWC volunteers.

Several CWC Sacramento branch members took shifts to serve as representatives at the

Idea Exchange

continued from page 6

sage newsletters, Copperfield's Books, or reliable recommendations. Some presenters solicit us.

– Sandy Baker

Sacramento

We find speakers through personally meeting them at writers conferences or through referrals. The speaker honorarium is \$50 plus lunch. We highly recommended our most recent speakers: Grant Faulkner, Executive Director of NaNoWriMo; Constance Hale, journalist and author; and Linda Joy Myers, President and Founder of National Association of Memoir Writers. Each impressed with their superb presentation!

– Margie Yee Webb

San Fernando Valley

For the November monthly meeting, guest speaker Catherine Pelonero discussed her publishing experience as a burgeoning non-fiction author. In appreciation of her lecture about her new book, *Kitty Genovese: A True Account of a Public Murder and Its Private Consequences*, we gave her a small honorarium, a

CWC booth to greet attendees, answer questions and hand out the CWC all-branch flyer. The booth was jointly sponsored by CWC, CWC NorCal Group and CWC Sacramento branch.

To find out more about the festival, including a list of authors and a schedule, visit <http://ccbookfestival.com>.



handy CWC cloth tote, and raffled one of her books (which of course, she signed).

– Samantha Berley

South Bay

We connect with our speakers by way of personal referral, a website check, and recommendations from other branches. We provide a meal, \$100 honorarium, and some offset to travel if a substantial distance. In the past year, all of our speakers have been outstanding. Charlotte Cook, Margaret Lucke, and Jordan Rosenfeld found a particularly enthusiastic reception.

– Dave LaRoche

Writers of Kern

About half of our speakers contact us and request no pay. Recently two of these requests were honored by David Congalton, screenwriter of *Authors Anonymous*, and James B. Golden, poet. Both were exceptional and well-received. Our paid speakers are given \$100. If they travel more than 100 miles we add \$100 for mileage and/hotel expenses.

– Dan McGuire



Tidbits from the

CWC Branches

continued from page 4

the art displays through the written word or conversation.

Redwood has a busy first quarter planned. First up on January 11 is Joshua Mohr on “Parachterization: Intersection of Plot and Character.” On February 8, Stuart Horwitz will present “The Book Architecture Method,” giving us his secrets for creating a complex narrative through a well-planned three-draft process. Lastly, on March 8, Joel Friedlander will present his super workshop on “Pathways to Publication,” discussing the various choices in indie and digital publishing.

Redwood has also launched a collaborative effort with Copperfield's Books, a local chain bookstore in Sonoma and Napa counties with a Fiction Book Club, featuring branch members' books, meeting on the last Tuesday

Writers of Kern sponsored three write-ins for NaNoWriMo participants in November. The November meeting featured speaker Rebecca Langston-George on writing for the Children's Market. Rebecca is the assistant Regional adviser for The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. WOK's annual Fall Writing Contest winners will be announced at the meeting in December. This year's contest was a 1200 word entry based on a picture prompt.

A recurring branch activity at **Orange County**, initiated by President Pam Tallman, is the monthly “Dark and Stormy Night” contest. Based on the Bulwer-Lytton contest challenging people to write a terrible first sentence, Pam solicits input from branch members, and reads the winner at the beginning of each meeting. It's not that easy to try to write a very bad sentence and the winning entry is usually very clever and hilarious. A small gift is presented to the winner. Pam's humor also extends to her presentation each month of “useless facts.” Recently she read rejection letters that well-known authors received for books that eventually went on to be very successful. Pam has the audience loose and laughing early on and ready to enjoy the guest speaker.

East Sierra reports success by partnering with venues that lend themselves to special events. In 2014, East Sierra held a “Read the Book Meet the Author” series in the spring and a Dickens Tea and Book Swap in December at My Enchanted Cottage, a delightful Victorian tearoom.



The Bulletin

California Writers Club

PO Box 201

Danville, CA 94526

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**“I’m Your Founder?
Maybe ...
See Page 5”**

News from North and South

Nearly 60 members gathered for a lively and inspiring day at the **NorCal Group Leadership Conference** May 3 at DeVry University in Fremont.

Everyone seemed to get into the spirit of the theme “Success by Sharing,” by participating in peer-to-peer break-out sessions during which officers and chairs from different branches traded ideas and discussed common issues and challenges.

Keynote speaker Bob Isbill from the High Desert branch gave an informative talk on the remarkable turnaround at his branch.

Visit the NorCal Group web site at www.cwcnorcalwriters.org.

CWC-South concentrates its efforts on mini-grants to its member branches, recently

awarding grants of \$250 each to:

Orange County: For Read Orange County, an adult literacy tutoring program.

East Sierra: For a family history project with the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert.

Long Beach: For an open mic series at a local independent bookstore.

Inland Empire: For a prison library project.



Members of the Redwood branch came in matching t-shirts (red, of course) for the NorCal Group Leadership Conference.



Proud sponsor of the
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