

THE BULLETIN

California Writers Club

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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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OUR MISSION

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

CWC Branches Take on the Conference Challenge

Few projects undertaken by an all-volunteer organization are as ambitious as an all-day or weekend-long writers conference. Several CWC branches are up to the challenge and then some.



Panelist on genre writing at the Tri-Valley conference, from left: Shelley Adina, romance; David Corbett, crime/thriller; Penny Warner, young adult.

Tri-Valley held its first writers conference on April 18 at Four Points by Sheraton, Pleasanton. Three tracks were offered—Craft, Marketing and Self-Publishing. Presenters included Smashwords' Jim Azevedo; mystery author and Agatha Award winner, Penny Warner; crime/thriller author, David Corbett and Booktrack's Jason Hovey. Novelist and RITA Award winner Shelley Adina provided the keynote address, "Why It's a Good Time to Be a Writer." Sessions covered a wide range of topics such as "Plot, Character and Pacing," "The Importance of an Editor," and "New Things to Expect from eBook Publishing." Tri-Valley President **Deborah Bernal** says, "Our goal is to make this a bi-annual event. CWC President **David George** attended—special leg boot and chair included."

Meanwhile, as the largest CWC branch, **Redwood Writers** sponsors a bi-annual "Pen to

Published" writers conference. PR Chair **Bill Haigwood** reports planning is now underway for the next conference to be held April 23, 2016, at Santa Rosa's historic Flamingo Hotel. The all-day conference will feature workshops on publishing, marketing, genre and craft, as well as a pitch-o-rama for authors who wish to present their work to agents.

The **High Desert** branch is busy working on the 2015 "Howl at the Moon" writers conference this coming November 7 in Apple Valley. Publicity Chair **Bob Isbill** tells us the conference will feature Dr. Rachel Ballon, psychotherapist to the stars and writers of Hollywood, who will conduct a two-hour workshop on "Breathing Life into Your Characters." Chris Lynch will present an intense three-and-a-half hour seminar on self-publishing, educating participants on all the ins and outs of indie publication and the little-known benefits and pitfalls.

Success Tip: Meetup

Looking for a way to boost membership? Promote your branch on Meetup.com! The **SF/Peninsula** branch has almost doubled attendance at monthly programs and open mics by announcing events on Meetup.com. Treasurer **Carole Bumpus** says, "This has also stimulated our membership numbers!"

The branch hosted a workshop with Simon Wood on "The 21st Century Author" on May 9 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City, focusing on how authors can connect with an ever-changing publishing industry, build an audience and utilize social media. **Maurine Killough** reports that SF/Peninsula will again sponsor the Literary Stage at the San Mateo County Fair.

The Age-Old Quest for Younger Members

The quest for the Fountain of Youth didn't end with Ponce de Leon. Put two or more CWC branch presidents in the same room for any length of time, and inevitably the topic of conversation will turn to wondering what they can do to get more young people to join the club.

The question found its way onto the agenda of the last CWC NorCal Group meeting on May 2. In mentally preparing for the discussion, I had a moment of insight. At my home branch, Central Coast, we have managed to attract quite a few younger members over the past year – with no grand plan, no change in our usual way of doing business. They just showed up and stuck around.

At this point, I feel the need to pause and clarify. By “younger,” I'm not talking about teens and twenty-somethings. At Central Coast, a “young” member would be someone who isn't yet eligible for Medicare. I have a feeling the situation is much the same at most of the other branches.

This past year our membership grew from 107 to 130, more-or-less, and a significant number of those new members are in their 30s, 40s and 50s. Not only that, but they're actively working on their writing and pursuing publication, slowly transforming what had been a club of mostly retired hobbyists into a lively organization brimming with excitement and enthusiasm.

Like I say, there was no strategic plan to go out and capture these younger members. We didn't even try. Yet they continue to surprise us by showing up to meetings. Here are some of the key factors, at least in my opinion:

Speakers are everything: They're the bait that gets potential new members through

the door. Book the very best speakers your budget can afford. Get recommendations from other branches. Pay travel expenses if you have to.

Spread the word: Flyers at the library and local coffeehouses, a Facebook page, notices in the local papers. At Central Coast, we pay for an ad in the local alternative weekly.

Location, location, location: Find a place to meet that doesn't have an “old” atmosphere. Central Coast meets at the clubhouse at our municipal golf course, recently remodeled with a clean, contemporary feel and a menu to match.

Free always works: If you possibly can, make it free for someone to try out a meeting for the first time. Yes, even if you charge members to attend your meetings, I still say make it free for the newbies. If your meeting includes a meal, is there a way to structure things so that a potential new member can come just for the speaker?

The welcome mat: Make sure there's

someone stationed at the front door or check-in table to greet the walk-ins, help them find a place to sit, introduce them to other people, and just generally make them feel like this is “home.”

Follow up: Be sure to collect email addresses of the walk-ins at the check-in table and then send a follow-up message a few days later thanking them for attending and encouraging them to join.

No question, Central Coast has benefitted from the general zeitgeist. We've reached critical mass when it comes to the number of people who own an electronic tablet of some sort. Not only are we

reading books on our tablets, we're creating our own content. The stigma that used to be attached to self-publishing has pretty much disappeared. The bottom line is an explosion of interest in writing and publishing among people of all ages.

And that can only be good news for California Writers Club—if we're prepared to seize the moment.

JOYCE'S VOICE



By Joyce Krieg
Bulletin Editor

Regional Groups Stay Busy



Left: CWC South once again staffed a booth at the Riverside Dickens Festival this past February. **Judy Kohnen** (Inland Empire) has a literary encounter with a festival cast member portraying H.G. Wells.

Top: The passing of the gavel—or in this case, the pile of paperwork—as **Joyce Krieg** (Central Coast) finishes her term as chair of the NorCal Group and hands off leadership to **Kimberly Edwards** (Sacramento) at the May 2 meeting in Oakland.

Contacting *The Bulletin*

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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.

Coastal Dunes Will Be 20th CWC Branch

I am delighted to announce the formation of a new branch of our venerable club. Coastal Dunes Writers has been meeting in Nipomo (near Santa Maria) since November under the mentorship of CWC member **Catherine Kitcho**. An accreditation committee of senior Central Board representatives has certified that Coastal Dunes Writers has met all requirements to become the 20th branch of the California Writers Club.

Members of Coastal Dunes Writers recently completed their seventh monthly meeting. Having met all of the other requirements for Club membership, Ms. Kitcho submitted a formal letter asking for her new branch to be chartered. They constitute 36 members at last count, over half of them qualifying for membership in the Active (published) category, and are growing

monthly. Check out their new website at www.coastaldunesCWC.com.

Coastal Dunes Writers meets at the Nipomo library, located in the southernmost part of San Luis Obispo County. The new branch targets for membership writers in both San Luis Obispo County and the northern part of Santa Barbara County in the Santa Maria area.

As the founding mentor of the new branch, Catherine wrote in her Request for Charter letter, "I chose Nipomo as our meeting place to avoid conflict with SLO Nightwriters (which

meets in San Luis Obispo, about 25 miles north) and to reach the more populous nearby city of Santa Maria, eight miles to the south. Nipomo is a small but growing town of

16,000, due to the development of three major active lifestyle retirement communities, which have brought in many professional, highly educated people from both Northern and Southern California, and many of them are also authors."

The new branch board has already booked speakers through December, 2015. Catherine says, "Local authors have been very excited about coming to speak to our group, and I haven't been turned down yet. We have a core group of attendees who have been quite active in continuing the momentum and making this branch successful."

One of our major goals during my tenure as president has been to grow membership in the club incrementally at each branch and through the addition of at least one new branch. Through the hard work of Catherine and her founding members, Coastal Dunes Writers has become our newest branch. Please join me in welcoming each and every new member, both at Coastal Dunes and at your own branch.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By David George
CWC President

The Joy of Discovering Good Writing

By Dave LaRoche, *Literary Review* Editor

The CWC *Literary Review* has become an annual event, the fourth issue planned for later this spring. We received fewer submissions this year: 134 versus 207 for the 2014 issue, but the work submitted, we feel, reaches a bit higher mark. Those who submitted, accept my thanks, and the appreciation of 1800 readers. For those not finding their work in the *Review*, let your imagination roam and your fingers follow.

The *Literary Review* is established in the club's Policies and Procedures manual, Article XXIII. Practice, however, may exceed what appears, and such is the case with the critique we have offered, and, with available time will continue. Our hope is that authors will benefit from knowing our editing reflections—why a piece has not found its way onto the pages of the targeted *Review*. We don't always have the time for a hasty response; we appreciate the patience of the writers who submitted work.

Producing the *Review* is a voluntary effort, the only exception being printing and mailing. Each submission is stripped of its authors identity, read and graded by three acquisition editors with disparate reaction moderated by me. Grades are converted to numbers

and averaged, and a global ranking achieved. The magazine is composed using MS Publisher. Format is established, and margins and columns planned. Boilerplate is added and content poured in until the allotted pages are filled. Tweaking begins. Margins are adjusted and spacing unique to each piece is developed, orphans and widows are killed—no sympathy there. Pagination, table of contents, graphics, font sizes and locations, column separators are determined and placed—a tedious, time-consuming effort but satisfying when

done. I liken it to rising too early from a bed in the morning.

Producing the *Review* is a gratifying experience for me and the acquisition team. Hey, we return. The enjoyment of discovering good writing among us, seeing it published, and hopefully providing some fruitful guidance is a way to repay the many opportunities our club provides. There is also camaraderie among editors involved, and we thank the Central Board and those who submit for providing it.



Elections, Awards at Next CB Meeting

Your CWC Central Board will hold its next meeting July 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express at the Oakland International Airport.

A major highlight of the day will be the luncheon presentation of the Jack London Awards, honoring volunteerism at the branch level, as well as the official charter ceremony for the new Coastal Dunes branch.

Also on tap will be the annual election of officers. Nominating Committee Chair **Jeanette Fratto** (Orange County) is presenting a slate consisting of **David George** (Mt.

Diablo), president; **Joyce Krieg** (Central Coast), vice-president; **Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal** (East Sierra), secretary. As of this writing, the Treasurer position does not have a candidate.

President Dave noted an urgent need to locate a volunteer willing to be Treasurer for 2015-16. The candidate should have basic skills in Excel, but beyond that, in the worlds of outgoing Treasurer **Sharon Svitak**, "If you can balance a checkbook, you can do this job."

If interested, contact Dave George, president@calwriters.org.



Tea, Authors and Mystery Mix in the Desert

By Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, East Sierra branch

This spring we repeated our very successful "Read the Book Meet the Author," now in its third year. For this, participants buy and read the book in advance, then discuss it with the author over tea and scones at My Enchanted Cottage and Tea Rooms, our local Victorian tea shoppe. The series has increased our visibility in the community and contributed to our fundraising efforts.

We've also used My Enchanted Cottage for

an interactive murder mystery written by our member **Daniel Stallings**. With a 1940s setting, "Goodbye Hollywood" sold out its three performances so quickly that we scheduled a fourth. Profits benefit our branch scholarship program. The local theatre company approached Daniel to present "Goodbye Hollywood" on their stage. He's written an expanded version for them.

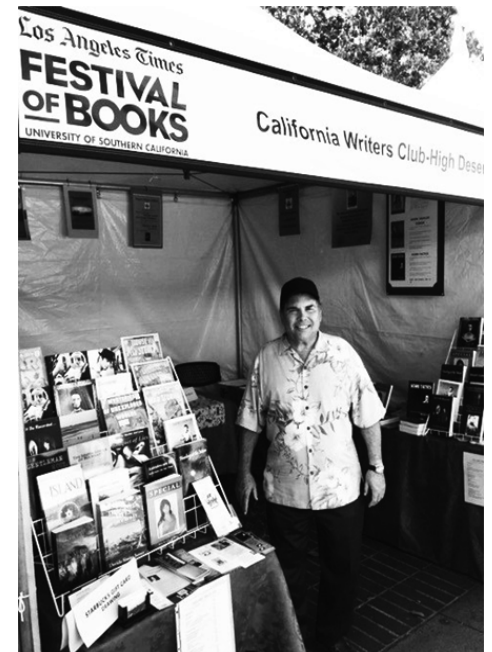


East Sierra has found an ideal partner in My Enchanted Cottage and Tea Rooms in Ridgecrest, hosting both "meet the author" events and an interactive murder mystery written by one of the branch's members. The latter proved to be so popular, East Sierra is going to stage another mystery event in September, celebrating "the stranger side of the desert."

Sometimes a Picture Says It All



Central Coast has found that participating in community parades is a fun way to publicize the branch and create camaraderie among members. Above, the Pacific Grove Good Old Days parade in early April.



Talk about an innovative way to help promote members' books! High Desert split the cost of a booth at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books in April with members of the branch to create a win-win: the club had visibility at SoCal's premiere literary event, and individual authors had a chance to sell their books. Pictured is President **Dwight Norris**.



CWC once again had a presence at the San Francisco Writers Conference in February, thanks to volunteers from the SF/Peninsula branch, including, from left: **Carole Bumpus**, **Audrey Kalman** and **Lisa Meltzer Penn**. Special thanks to Carole for coordinating this outreach effort at the last minute!



CWC considers Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland to be the birthplace of the club, and **Linda Brown** of the Berkeley branch represents us on the board of Friends of Joaquin Miller Park. Linda recently participated in a park clean-up and renovation day under the auspices of Rebuild Together Oakland.

Jack London and CWC – The Saga Continues

By Joyce Krieg, Bulletin Editor

In the Fall/Winter 2014 issue of The Bulletin, I began sharing research that might possibly solve the mystery as to whether Jack London was or was not the founder of California Writers Club. The article ended with the discovery of the text of a speech given by then-CWC President William Morgan at the 1939 Treasure Island World's Fair – a piece of our history unearthed in a paper bag of club memorabilia being stored in a former president's garage!

And now, the saga continues ...

Morgan said, "The California Writers Club emerged from the Alameda Press Club in 1909 ... Jack London (1875-1916) was one of the most colorful members of our club. He was one of the initial forces in its organization."

Morgan goes on to relate how he wrote a letter of condolence to Charmian Kittredge London on the occasion of her husband's death, and made note of her reply. He also stated that the president of CWC made an address at London's memorial service.

A decidedly different view is offered by a fellow named Faraday Nelson in a paper written in the mid-1970s, also found in the infamous paper bag being stored in the garage.

He states, "It was founded in 1909, but not, as the oral traditions of the club maintain, by Jack London, who never was more than an honorary member. The actual founder and first president was Jack London's friend, Austin Lewis, labor lawyer and socialist pamphleteer ..."

(An aside from your editor ... is this the

same Faraday "Ray" Nelson who wrote sci-fi short stories in the 1960s and invented the propeller beanie cap? His bio on Wikipedia has him living in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1970s so it could be possible. Anyone out there know? Another CWC mystery!)



Jack London in his office at his ranch in Glen Ellen.

Nelson continues, "One gets a strong impression from later reminiscences of a small group of talented and incredibly active journalists from the Alameda County Press Club joining forces with a few enthusiastic amateur poets and fiction writers to enjoy, at least once a week, a life of typical Edwardian bohemianism. There were, at any rate, informal meetings in private homes where works in progress were read aloud and discussed, and big-name pros occasionally deigned to give talks on 'How to Write' (Jack London made two guest appearances.)"

The most tantalizing – and tragic – bit of information comes as an addendum to William Morgan's speech at the 1939 World's Fair. In it, he shares a letter he received from the

club's first president, Austin Lewis, in 1936.

Lewis writes, "I don't think that California Writers Club emerged from the Alameda County Press Club. It was started by a small group of us – Jack London, Herman Whitaker, George Sterling and myself, with a few other people, one or two who came from Alameda. As far as the inside group was concerned, it was started with the idea of forming a somewhat distinguished group but the general attitude to literary matters on the part of the members very soon disposed of that notion and the originators of the enterprise retired in disgust."

Retired in disgust? Oh, dear. This is starting to sound not like the glorious history I was hoping to find!

Perhaps the truth lies not in researching the life of Jack London, but somewhere deep in the papers left by the other gentlemen who apparently played a role in the early years of our club – Austin Lewis, Herman Whitaker and George Sterling. A trip to the Bancroft Library may be in order. But that's another adventure for another day.

Until then, the question of Jack London and his connection to CWC remains much like Winston Churchill's famous description of Russia: "A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."



Branch Round-up: So Much News, So Little Space

Fremont Area Writers welcomed Martha Engber, author of *Growing Great Characters* and *The Wind Thief*, to share her expertise on April 9. **Nancy Curteman** says, "Attendees praised both her presentation and the practical ideas they took away from the workshop."

Activities at **High Desert**, reported by **Bob Isbill**, include video recording stories from veterans for the National Archives of the Library of Congress, and working on the 2015 anthology for the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project. Bob says, "Our biggest challenge is selecting our Jack London Award recipient from so many outstanding member/volunteers!"

The **Inland Empire** branch recently refreshed the branch website and invested in a

Meetup account. According to **Judy Kohnen**, this increased meeting attendance and membership. The branch hosted "Another Bloomin' Writers Conference" in early May, and is planning an Open Mic Showcase benefiting the Prison Library Project.

At the **Marin** branch, **Joan Steidinger** reports planning is underway for the 2nd Annual CWC Marin Book Launch in November and a conference in late March of 2016 focused on craft.

Recent programs at the **Long Beach** branch have ranged from how food writing can inform your fiction to ways to handle family members when writing a memoir. An affiliate critique group now meets in the library before

the monthly meeting. In early June, Long Beach will co-sponsor an Open Mic evening at indie bookstore Gatsby's Books. The speaker at the regular June program will explain how he has used Amazon and CreateSpace to successfully publish and promote his YA/fantasy series. **Allene Symons** says, "This program is one example of how we are increasingly using digital projection and WiFi to visually enhance programs."

Mt. Diablo recently paired with an art group at an arts and crafts sale at the Clayton library. Twelve member authors took turns staffing tables through the weekend and donated a percentage of their profit. "Our annual Young

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CWC IDEA Exchange

Today's Topic: How Our Branch Helps Promote Members' Books and/or Helps Them Understand Today's Publishing Realities

Berkeley

Sharing ideas at the monthly Marketing Success Group is the heart of helping members get published, get publicity, and sell books. Author members display books at workshops and speaker meetings, which have an Author Talk segment. Twenty-six authors promote their works on www.cwc-berkeley.org under the 'Our Members' tab. With advance coordination, media notices of awards, new publications, and local readings go out to over 225 media and industry contacts.

– Linda Brown

Central Coast

Taking a tip from other branches, Central Coast recently created a tri-fold display featuring members' book covers – all 48 of them! The tri-fold proved to be enormously popular from the moment it took center stage at our monthly meetings. We also took the display "on the road" at the Central Coast author table at the Pacific Grove Good Old Days celebration.

– Joyce Krieg

East Sierra (Ridge Writers)

We schedule speakers who cover the range of publishing avenues from blogging to e-books and self-publishing to traditional publishing, as well as "how to get in the door" in fields such as screenwriting (Robert Funke gave a terrific program on that subject). We also have booths at community fairs.

– Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal

Fremont Area Writers

FAW publicizes members' books in several ways. At meetings, authors have a minute to speak about their novels. At Open Mic, authors read selections from and comment about their books. We have book presentations, including library and shopping mall gigs. We mention books in our newsletter and on our website. "Tips and Tricks" is a ten-minute writing strategy presented at each meeting to improve members writing.

– Nancy Curteman

High Desert

High Desert Branch offers books for sale only by the monthly guest speaker so that we are not competing with him/her. However, when we have a program without a guest speaker, we notify our members to bring their own works to the meeting to promote and sell. This happens about quarterly.

– Bob Isbill

Inland Empire

The ability to promote starts within the writer. Our challenge is to practice our "elevator speeches" at every meeting by introducing ourselves as writers or authors, reciting a short biography or pitching a book respectively. When this becomes too easy, we'll brag about social media and promotion. In these ways, we create seasoned writers who are comfortable networking while sharing inspirational platform-building steps along the way.

– Judy Kohnen

Long Beach

CWC Long Beach continues to explore alternatives in publishing. Recent speaker Claudia Suzanne focused on using styles and formatting in Microsoft Word to avoid amateurish glitches. Such tips help ensure that pages look professional, whether submitting a manuscript to a traditional house or sending it to a printer/publisher as a self-pub author.

– Allene Symons

Marin

CWC-Marin is evolving. Last fall, we began a new book launch for our member authors. Our plan is to hold this event every November. Last year, we had eight authors and it was a great success. This year, we will choose six authors through a lottery process.

– Joan Steidinger

Mt. Diablo

Mt. Diablo pairs with library branches where authors volunteer to present the panel "So You Want to Write a Book." We advertise online, in our newsletter, and with flyers. Speakers promote CWC and sell their books afterwards. Representatives from

Smashwords and Createspace have spoken at three meetings about self-publishing. Many others speak on issues related to polishing manuscripts, publishing, and marketing.

– Elisabeth Tuck

Napa Valley

Our "No Modesty Zone" gets top billing. At each meeting, we open up a free-to-boast no modesty time for members to tout what they've published, awards received, and the like. Each speaker introduces his or her self so we get to know one another.

– Sue Kesler

Orange County

Each meeting there are display boards with covers of members' books, kudos are requested at the beginning of each meeting for members to announce a publication or recent promotional event, and the monthly newsletter contains announcements of members' latest publishing success and/or upcoming book signings.

– Jeanette Fratto

Redwood

Our Redwood Writers Book Launch each July promotes new work by members with a special book release event where writers read from their newly published books. The club's monthly meetings often feature speakers with expertise and success in publishing and marketing books, especially in the rapidly growing and changing field of self-publishing.

– Bill Haigwood

Sacramento

We display posters boards of members' book covers at our general luncheon meetings to help our members publicize their books, and that also serves to showcase our club to guests. We also have a table for members to place book-marks, business cards and other promotional material. Additionally, we publish news from members of books published, book reviews and book awards in our *Write On!* newsletter.

– Margie Yee Webb

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Branch News Round-up from North and South

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Writers Contest awarded prizes to middle school writers in May," **Elisabeth Tuck** reports. "Writing categories included personal narrative, short story, poetry and the newly-endowed category, humor."

A popular speaker at a recent **Orange County** meeting was mystery author Harley Jane Kozak. According to **Jeanette Fratto**, "She had a career as an actress in movies and television. She now has a series of mystery novels featuring a female protagonist, which are hilarious. Although she had Hollywood connections, she experienced the same ups and downs we all do when starting out as an author."

Idea Exchange

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San Fernando Valley

Perhaps our favorite innovation is our (August) 'Mid-Summer Meet & Greet'. This is a meeting with no moderator, no speaker, no Open Mic, no business. We simply have a "Pot Luck Cookie Buffet" and lots of networking and conversation. It's the perfect way to 'ramp up' for the coming year.

– Ray Malus

SF/Peninsula

We hosted a workshop with Simon Wood on "The 21st Century Author" on May 9. The focus was on helping authors connect with an ever-changing publishing industry, to build an audience and to utilize social media. Simon Wood is the Anthony Award-winning author of more than a dozen mystery, thriller, and suspense novels who has used his marketing savvy to sell more than 500,000 ebooks since 2011. In June, the SF/Peninsula Branch will again sponsor the Literary Stage at the San Mateo County Fair.

– Carole Bumpus

South Bay

South Bay Writers presented at BookBuyer's "Author Series." Our monthly speakers highlighted networking, social media, and online publishing, including tips from Smashwords' CEO. We now feature authors on GoodReads.com (a colorful widget links from our Web page), and new TalkBooks club discusses their books. Our "Authors Table" features an array of books at monthly meetings.

– Kimberly Malaczuk

Tri-Valley

Tri-Valley promotes members' books several ways. Our website includes a revolving book

In April, the **Sacramento** branch was invited to participate in the Local Author Book Festival at the Sacramento Public Library. Outreach Coordinator **Nanci Lee Woody** and President **Margie Yee Webb** represented the club at the Sacramento branch table to greet attendees, hand out CWC flyers and invite them to events. The festival featured over 40 authors, including seven branch members.

At **San Fernando Valley**, **Ray Malus** tells us, "Although we're a relatively small branch, we have managed to have seven books published by our members in the last six months. Several have won prizes. In addition, one of our members (a university professor) won

cover display, and Our Member pages list individual members' social media links: including their blog/website, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. In addition, we provide an author table where members can sell their books at monthly meetings, as well as displaying a poster board with members' book covers for publicity at local libraries and other events.

– Deborah Bernal

Writers of Kern

In 2015, Writers of Kern continues the theme, "From Inspiration to Publication." Our 6th Annual Spring Conference, held April 25, brought four fabulous speakers together with WOK members and guests from the community. Speakers included screenwriter David Congalton, editor/agent Toni Lopopolo, middle grade author Allison Crotzer Kimmel, and journalist Herb Benham. They inspired, taught, coached, amused, reminded, and encouraged. The planning committee is already in motion for next year's conference, which will be March 12, 2016, in Bakersfield.

– Annis Cassells

Writers of The Mendocino Coast

Educating members on publishing options works best for our branch through one-on-one tutoring when help is requested. We sponsored an event with a local college professor this year who lectured about writing craft and her experiences with publishing houses and self publishing. Our go-to source for real world details comes from a friend of the branch at a small publisher here on the coast who is generous with her time.

– Doug Fortier

the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award

South Bay Writers is on the move, adding twenty-nine new members since July, and bringing over fifty members and guests to the monthly meetings. The branch boasts four active critique groups and two salons. **Dave LaRoche** says, "We host two open mics every month, with a third in the making. Programs are vital, and we've focused on craft, publishing and platform." South Bay has recently found success in recruiting new board members with an officer apprentice program.

Tri-Valley devotes its January meeting to showcasing members' accomplishments. **Deborah Bernal** tells us more: "This year, our Winterfest celebrated Ekphrasis. Members submitted photographs of their original artwork, sculpture, photography, needlework, etc., in October and November. The submissions were then posted on the website for other members to view and compose prose or poetry inspired by the pieces during December." At Winterfest, the actual artistic pieces were displayed along with the accompanying written works inspired by them. Tri-Valley recently wrapped up its fourth annual high school writing contest with an awards ceremony that took place on May 17 at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton.

The brainchild of newsletter co-editor, **Terry Redman**, **Writers of Kern** inaugurated a celebration of National Poetry Month. Members submitted original poems, which were featured on the branch's website blog. **Annis Cassells** tells us that for the second year, Writers of Kern has partnered with the founders of the Young Writers of Kern Competition and county school districts. A dozen winners were honored at an Honors Dinner with cash prizes and student memberships in Writers of Kern.

Redwood Writers has a busy list of activities, shared by **Bill Haigwood**: presentations by writing professionals at its monthly meetings, regular open mic readings for authors at local venues, a monthly writers salon, and a monthly author support group, plus publishing anthologies of members' work and collaborating with a local theatrical company in the sponsoring of an annual playwriting contest. The club's website and listserv for members also includes news of regional and statewide activities, workshops, and presentations of interest to the branch's writers.





The Bulletin

California Writers Club

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Return Service Requested

Welcoming Our Newest Branch
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Annual Picnic!

Sat., July 25, 2015 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland

Barbecue & Potluck

Open Mic

Lit-Cake Contest

Free for CWC Members & Guests

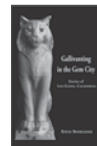
Details: calwriters.org



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California Writers Club

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