

# THE BULLETIN

*California Writers Club*

Vol. 3 No. 2

Summer / 2017

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The Bulletin is the official publication of California Writers Club, an educational nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation. Issue e-edition 06 now in circulation since August 2017.

### CENTRAL BOARD

**President:** Joyce Krieg  
**Vice President:** Donna McCrohan Rosenthal  
**Secretary:** Elisabeth Tuck  
**Treasurer:** Bill Baldwin  
**Member-at-Large:** Jeanette Fratto

Branches: 22

California Writers Club  
PO Box 201  
Danville, CA 94526

## The Awards Issue

### Ina Coolbrith Award Goes to Isbill

If there's such a thing as a "life-cycle" to a 108-year-old writing club, it would be the gift of perpetuating the enthusiasm of those who founded our CWC within its most active volunteers today. Robert Isbill, of High Desert branch, defines that attitude with his helpful spirit, and is the 2017 recipient of the Ina Coolbrith Award.

Bob, as he prefers to be called, has repeatedly shown the commitment to see CWC and his branch become the best that they can be.

Bob Isbill has made a lasting impression on the California Writers Club as Moderator and Administrator for the online Central Board Forum and as Director of Advertising and Promotions. He also helped to coordinate the digitization of the state newsletter, The Bulletin, and to implement advertising in both the Bulletin and the California Literary Review.



**Bob Isbill - High Desert**

Always willing to share with a smile, Bob served as keynote speaker at CWC's first Leadership Conference held at De Vry University in 2013. His energy and leadership as also fueled numerous successes in his home branch of High Desert in Apple Valley where he helped to increase membership seven-fold in two years; held five profitable "Howl at the Moon" writing conferences; founded the Dorothy C.

Blakely Memoir Project that pairs high school students with senior citizens, writing their story for an anthology; and he developed a writing project with the local Federal Prison resulting in mentoring and teaching activities between inmates and HDCWC members. Bob was the recipient of the Jack London Award in 2009.

The award is named for one of the founders of the California Writers Club, and the first Poet Laureate of California, Ina Coolbrith. The award is given for outstanding dedication and service to the California Writers Club Central Board. Bob Isbill is only the tenth CWC member to be so honored in the history of the California Writers Club. Previous winners are Betty Freeman, Ruth Theodus, Barbara Truax, Casey Wilson, Joyce Krieg, Kelly Harrison, Dave



LaRoche, Robert Garfinkle, and Ray Malus.



## President's Corner

by Joyce Krieg

## ***Here's What's New from the CWC Central Board***



Much to report from the July 23 CWC Central Board meeting in Oakland—all of it on the positive side as our venerable writers' club “sails on” in the eighth year of our second century!

Of special concern to many of you is the future of the *CWC Literary Review*, as Dave LaRoche of the South Bay branch has retired as managing editor. Thank you, Dave, for conceiving of the idea of a high-quality, curated journal of our members' writings, and bringing that dream to reality. With Dave's well-earned retirement, I'm happy to report that several capable and talented individuals—including *Bulletin* Editor Rusty LaGrange—have raised their hands to continue the tradition of the *Literary Review*. These volunteers will be meeting in August and submission guidelines will be posted on the state website, [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org), in September. (After this writing, Rusty has chosen to stay with editing *The Bulletin*.)

And speaking of our website, the Central Board got a sneak preview of the “new and improved” [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org), re-designed, and updated by Webmaster John Byrne Barry. Among other things, the site is now responsive—in other words, it looks good and functions properly whether you're accessing it on a computer, a smart phone, or a tablet. Check it out—I think you'll be as tickled as I am over its professional, easy-to-navigate, and just plain gorgeous look.

After many years of debate, the Central Board reached agreement on a method of handling the CWC Scholarship Fund, basically bringing the money back to the discretion of the branches. All branches are now eligible to apply for \$250 in matching funds that they may present as a scholarship to any accredited institution of higher learning in their areas.

It wasn't all business at the Central Board meeting, though, as I had the pleasure of presiding over the Jack London Awards luncheon honoring exceptional volunteer service from members representing 19 of our 22 branches. Volunteerism is the lifeblood of our organization, and I know that each branch with a Jack London honoree is in a healthier position because of that individual's service. Our collective thanks go out for the service these special members have performed. While the Jack London awards

*continued page 4*

## **Reminder: Change of Venue for Central Board Meetings**

The latest Central Board meeting took place at the Holiday Inn on Hagenberger Road in Oakland. Board members and representatives enjoy the convenience of lower rates, close by Oakland Airport, food services ordered, and a swimming pool. The board meets twice a year: late January and late July. Check the organization's website for details — [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org)



# JACK LONDON AWARDS



**T.E. Watson and President Joyce Krieg**



**Kristen Caven**



**Deborah J. Bernal**



**Martha accepting for Dan McGuire**

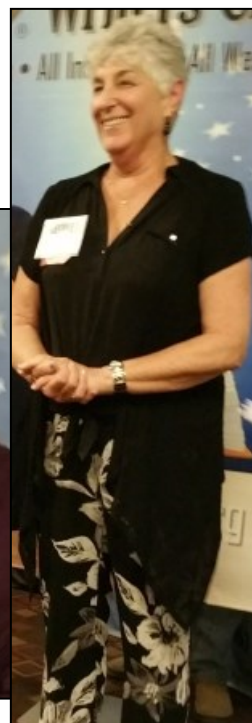


**Sally of South Bay**

Photos provided by Bob Isbill and other members who were kind enough to submit them for this event. All recipients were not identified by press time. ~~ the Editor



**Jenny Margotta**



**Allene Symons**

*continued next page*



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honor service at the branch level, CWC also presents the Ina Coolbrith Award for volunteerism at the state level. This time around, the honor was bestowed upon Bob Isbill of the High Desert branch whose many contributions include managing the sale of advertising in the *Bulletin* and *Literary Review*. (Follow his story on page 10)

Our meeting concluded with the re-election of our current slate of officers—VP Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal (East Sierra), Secretary Elisabeth Tuck (Mt. Diablo) and Treasurer Bill Baldwin (South Bay) as well as *moi*—and a unanimous vote to present the next Ina Coolbrith Award to past-president David George (Mt. Diablo).



## Officers and Appointments 2017-2018

- President: Joyce Krieg
- Vice President: Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
- Secretary: Elisabeth Tuck
- Treasurer: Bill Baldwin
- Executive Member-At-Large: Jeanette Fratto
- Literary Review Editorial Committee
- Membership: Sharon Svitak
- Director, Public Relations and Publicity: Donna McCrohan Rosenthal

For more information you can always go directly to our updated site at: [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org)



Jenna Johnson



Our recipients — see list on Final Word (last page)



### Dave LaRoche Retires From Lit Rev Helm

The dream of seeing a juried, high quality magazine read throughout California's wide and varied membership, was met when Dave LaRoche created the CWC's Literary Review Magazine. A daunting job for one person, Dave eventually expanded the staff positions to include readers, proofers, and assistants.

*"We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dave LaRoche for having the original idea of a literary journal featuring our members' work and contributing countless hours of his time to make that dream a reality. But now, we have an opportunity to reboot the publication and to bring it to its fullest potential. I'm excited!!!" – Joyce Krieg, CWC State President*

For those who worked as readers with Dave, they admit he set a standard. "I'd like to say how much I admired Dave L for all the effort he put into the *Lit Review*," noted Elisabeth Tuck, currently on the publication

committee. "It must have felt like a full-time job. He had a great idea and followed through with this CWC member benefit for 6 years on his own, except for the readers he recruited. He wanted quality and strove for that all along. He withstood a lot of criticism from people who didn't help him but felt comfortable criticizing. He was tenacious and single-minded which some people didn't like, but he got the job done and set a great example. No one on the board wanted to see the *Literary Review* end when David finally chose to do some things for himself for a change. Now it will take a team to replace him!"

The *Lit Rev* is a huge job; the new managing team consists of a minimum of five volunteer positions, many of them from publishing backgrounds.

Tasks include:

-intake of several hundred submissions, ensuring there's a release statement with each piece, clarifying the name of the submitter. Some members use pen names on their work or an email that cannot be matched with a member name and they forget to give their real name.

*continued on page 25*

### *Freddi Gold's Final in Fantasy Trilogy Unveiled*

### Dimension Norraena: Discovery - Breakthrough - Vision

Set in the mountains of San Bernardino, a pretty college instructor spontaneously teleports to another dimension. Her discoveries send shock waves through the corridors of U.S. Intelligence and criminal cartels alike as she deals with suspenseful romance there and at home. A psychopath on Earth and dimensional beings of another kind are an unending threat to her life.

*Freddi Gold*



### *Author's Close-up*

A former licensed psychotherapist, television and radio personality, Freddi Gold holds a PhD in Human Behavior and Master's in Clinical Psychology. She teaches Intercultural Communication at the college level, has been published in multiple magazines, journals, periodicals and blogs. This is her first foray into fiction.

Check her website: <http://freddigold.com>

AT AMAZON FOR \$13.95

### 2018 CWC Literary Review Mag Seeking Submissions Starting September 1st

CWC members may submit one or two pieces, published or unpublished, beginning September 1 through Nov 30 for the 2018 issue of the CWC Literary Review.

First, a call out to volunteers wishing to man a publication committee for the Literary Review, began in early August. As the committee began to pull together, Joyce Krieg, CWC President suggested a submissions date be set as soon as possible.





# Branch News

## WHO IN YOUR BRANCH IS ASSIGNED AS THE BULLETIN Advertising & Promo Chair?

It's a club benefit

Do You Receive our new *The Bulletin* digital mag in your email box?

## Marin

This has been a summer of changes for CWC Marin. We said goodbye to President Dr. Joan Steidinger, who is stepping down to pursue writing a second book. In addition to chairing the annual Writer's Life Conference and being a Jack London Award recipient, Dr. Joan has also served on the board for over seven years in many roles from Program Chair to President, and we are indebted to her for her many years of service. These are big shoes to fill but we look forward to the challenge and have already welcomed several new members to the board during this time of transition.

This summer, rather than taking a hiatus, we are experimenting with a year-round program and have started things off with a bang — our new Summer Salon Night events. The first event was held in July, hosted on the outdoor deck of a private residence and centered around the topic of first pages. It was a night of good company, good wine, and lots of sharing in an intimate open mic-style event. We hope to hold another summer salon night or two before returning to our regular programming come fall.

~~ Mary Kreffting,  
CWC Marin President

### About the Author

*Nancy Swing writes mysteries with twisty plots, unconventional characters, and unusual settings. Each is the fruit of her peripatetic life, stretching from the hills of West Virginia, through a career consulting in Africa and Asia, to retirement life writing in California. A member of Central Coast Writers, Nancy is turning her experiences into books that enthusiastic readers describe as*

*"page-turners."* See her website and blog at [www.nancyswing.com](http://www.nancyswing.com).



### *Child's Play*

is the first in a trilogy of mysteries set in the fictitious small town of Lewiston, West Virginia. A poverty-stricken girl of thirteen and the town's wealthiest woman are found dead in the woman's Mercedes at the bottom of Lake Charles. A cover-up? the girl's best friend and the woman's sister must cooperate to expose the dirty secrets behind in a small town. Both Eden and Bethanne feel like losers, but their quest to solve not one but two mysteries brings friendship and redemption.

**5 Stars from Readers' Favorite  
and an excellent review from  
Mystery People.**



continued next page



## *Branch News continues*

### **Central Coast**

Laurie Sheehan, President of the Central Coast Writers, was awarded the Jack London Award at the California Writers Club Board Meeting in Oakland for exemplary volunteer service.

Little did Laurie know that joining Central Coast Writers would garner her a wonderful support group and many friends. Soon she would be Publicity Chair, Vice-President, and President. She arranges club participation in local street fairs and holiday parades, and plans and executes workshops. She is quick to point out that nothing would get done if it weren't for her executive board. Laurie is now in her third year as our prez, due to popular demand.

By day, Laurie is a mild-mannered Program Analyst for the Department of Defense. When not making the world a safer place, she can be found in a cafe over-creaming her coffee and working on the first book of two separate mystery series.



**Laurie Sheehan receives Jack London Award from Joyce Krieg**

### **Good Old Days in Pacific Grove**

CCW participates annually in the Good Old Days event, marching in the parade and having



a booth to show the fine folks on the Monterey Peninsula what CCW is about. This year's was marred by pouring rain, so no pictures. But as you can see in this picture from 2016, members will often dress up in clothes from another era for the parade. It's always a fun time for all and has garnered us some new members.

**Fun for CCW members at the annual Good Old Days event (photo by Laurie Sheehan)**

~~ Lana Bryan

### **Fremont Area**

At Fremont Area Writers meeting of June 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 the following were elected, at the meeting by acclamation, to serve as branch officers for the new CWC year 2017-18: President—**Bob Garfinkle**; VP— **Knuti VanHoven**; Secretary—**Joyce Cortez**; Treasurer—**Cherilyn Jose**.

~~ Knuti VanHoven





## Branch News continues

### East Sierra

After a little research, the East Sierra Branch discovered that last July marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the setting of Agatha Christie's first case, when *Mysterious Affair at Styles* introduced Hercule Poirot. They observed the milestone event with an original Daniel Stallings interactive murder mystery "Ode to Agatha" on July 15. "Ode" played to a sold-out house.

In another two months, they "celebrate the stranger side of the desert—lost gold mines, aliens, haunted hideouts, bigfoot sightings" – Sept. 22-23, during Weird Weekend with an indie film shorts festival on Friday and the Third Annual Weird Storytelling Competition on Saturday afternoon. For these, filmmakers and storytellers interested in participating must sign-up in advance at Ridgecrest's Red Rock Books. The weekend will conclude Saturday evening with "The Silent City" set in Ridgecrest 2063 A.D., a Mastery Mystery Productions interactive mystery by C.R. Rowenson.

~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal

### Sacramento

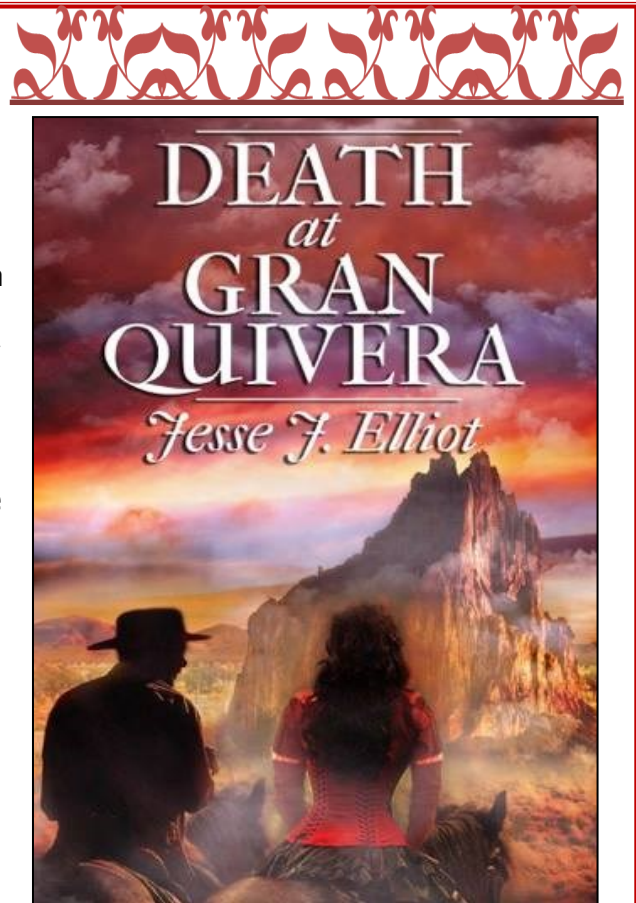
At the June, 2017 membership meeting, we experimented with an interactive speaker model ("*Live Pitches in Real Time*"), featuring two literary agents to whom members gave open pitches. The agents gave feedback on the pitches. We preceded the meeting with guidelines in our newsletter offering ideas on how to put a verbal pitch together content and time limit. These advance tips seemed to be a helpful

*continued next page*

*"A fast-paced  
adventure tale of the  
Wild West with a  
strong female sleuth."  
Kirkus Review*

Iragene Jones, a homesteader in central New Mexico, discovers a bloody, blond scalp on her property. Iragene sets off to find that her neighbors, have experienced other bizarre events, too. She and her lover, Alejandro Gallegos, bring all their evidence to the recalcitrant sheriff, who belittles their concerns and carries on with business as usual.

Realizing their community is on its own, Iragene and Alejandro continue



until things finally come to a head in *Gran Quivera*, in the middle of a frightening deluge of lightning, thunder, driving rain, and bullets.

Available thru [Simon & Schuster](#), [Torrid Books](#) as E-book format for \$3.99



From her family ranch in New Mexico, Jesse J Elliot now writes about what she has loved so much to read — the Old West —except her stories always have a strong female protagonist. She has published five short stories in *Frontier Tales Magazine*, and three of these will be published in *The Best of Frontier Tales*, Vols. 5, 6, & 7.





## Branch News continues

component of the pitch experience.

We have started offering a writing prompt at meetings, when possible. A prompt is given, followed by a short time for composing a paragraph in response to the prompt, and then a call for volunteers to share. The first prompt we tried (adapted from another branch) was, "Describe your first kiss." When a few brave volunteers read their paragraphs, more members jumped in, and soon we all laughed as we learned.

The branch's annual planning meeting will take place in early August. The board and members will identify what worked well last year, what could be improved, plan steps to improve, consider new projects, and set goals and priorities for the new membership year.

~~ Kimberly Edwards , president



## San Joaquin Valley

**June Comarsh Gillam**, one of the recipients of the Jack London Awards for her tireless work organizing the new branch, is a poet and novelist who has taught writing and literature at San Joaquin Delta College since 1990. Author of *House of Cuts* and *House of Dads*, first in the Hillary Broome suspense novels, and the chapbook *So Sweet Against Your Teeth*, Gillam's "Shameless Hussy Looks Back" is scheduled to appear in the next issue of *Peregrine*, the literary journal of Amherst Writers & Artists. She's enjoyed discussing all things writing as part of the Author's Booth at the California State Fair since 2013. Secretary for Gold Country Writers in Auburn, June's been dubbed "Book Mama," to garner reviews for local authors, [www.junegillam.com](http://www.junegillam.com). The San Joaquin Valley branch has guest authors lined up to speak at our monthly meetings through the end of 2017 and will have a web-site in place soon.

~~ Scott Evans



## Berkeley

Memoriam accounts of passing members (see page 30) was written by Berkeley Branch member Therese Pipe.

The Berkeley Branch missed having the picnic this year, so we hosted a happy hour instead at Jack London's hangout, Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon. Next year the patio should be open and we won't have to crowd around the charming but very slanty tables inside! At this summer's board retreat we will be doing a quiz show on the bylaws... and a skit about parliamentary procedure. Who says board meetings have to be boring? We are on the lookout for a new 'home base' this year. Check our website before you drop in!

~~ Kristen Caven, president



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## High Desert Author Takes Top Hollywood Book Fest Prize

Roberta L. Smith, local author of nine books, was recently notified she had taken top honors at the famous Hollywood Book Festival. Based in the capital of show business, the Hollywood Book Festival aims to spotlight literature worthy of further consideration by the talent-hungry pipeline of the entertainment industry.

Smith won best Young Adult genre category and Grand Prize top recognition in the 2017 annual competition with the story of a 15-year-old girl with unusual gifts and her struggle to keep them under control.

Smith's "Simone's Ghosts" is the story of Simone, who thinks her abilities to move things with her mind, see ghosts, and sometimes read people's thoughts make her weird. She keeps to herself as she starts her sophomore year in a new high school. That plan goes awry when a couple of ghosts befriend her, and the jealous girlfriend of a boy who shows interest in Simone plots against her.

The book offers a fresh and intriguing take on the well-worn path of paranormal abilities, displaying a keen eye for the trials that all teenagers endure.

Smith and other authors and publishers will be honored at a private ceremony in August.

Roberta L. Smith is a member and past vice-president of the California Writers Club, High Desert Branch (HDCWC), and the 2013 winner of the Jack London Award for outstanding service to the branch.

Smith and two dozen other HDCWC authors will have books available for signing and sale at the September 9 Arts and Literature Festival from 10 am to 4 pm at the San Bernardino County Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley.



**Roberta Smith**



## San Francisco / Peninsula

We learned many different things from our speakers at the SF Peninsula branch this Spring. Coach Teresa LeYung-Ryan taught us how to build our writer's platform in March. Science writer and novelist Ransom Stephens helped us get inside our readers' brains in April. She Writes Press Publisher Brooke Warner explained the elements of good memoirs in May.

We sponsored another Authors Day at Barnes and Noble in San Mateo on Sunday, May 17, to promote our club. Ten of our member authors displayed their books, read from them and signed them during the all-day event.

In June, we elected a new Board of Directors:

Lisa Meltzer Penn, President

Audrey Kalman, Vice President

Jean Morrow, Secretary

Pratibha Kelapure, Treasurer

Other new Board positions include: Membership Chair: Margaret Nalbach; Newsletter Editor: Jeannine Gerkman; Web Manager: Pratibha Kelapure; Hospitality Chairs: Geri Spieler and Eve Visconti; Think Tank: Geri Spieler; Assistant Newsletter Editor: Alfred Jan.

The Louise Boggess Award was given to Darlene Frank, our former vice president. The Jack London Award, voted by our general members, went to Bill Baynes, our Publicity Chair.

CWC sponsored and staffed a booth at the Bay Area Book Festival in Berkeley on June 3 and 4.

CWC's Bardi Rosman Koodrin produced the Literary Stage at the San Mateo County Fair from June 10 until June 17. The ten-day affair featured ribbons and cash prizes to literary contest winners, many of them club members. The event included literary readings, panel discussions, speakers, workshops, and author signings.

~~ Bill Baynes







## Branch News continues

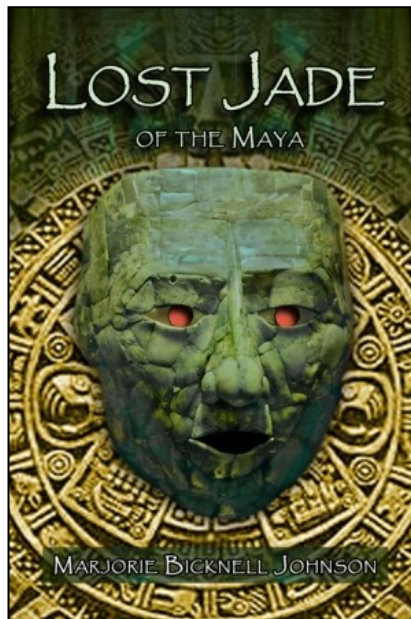
### Napa Valley

1. Our inaugural anthology, *First Press: Collected Works from Napa Valley Writers*, 300 pages, 47 club authors, sold out the first printing of 200 books. Copies will be in our local county libraries and in bookstores in the community. A standing room turnout, with wine and refreshments at our Book Launch, brought coverage in newspaper and local tv. We were lucky to recruit Roger Lubeck of Redwood Writers as our phenomenal cover and interior designer. Thank you, Roger!

### Indiana Jones! Watch Out!

In *Lost Jade of the Maya*, Chanla Pesh, university lecturer and secret Mayan shaman, embarks on a perilous journey to find the source of the sacred jade her ancestors prized, an unsolved archaeological mystery for 500 years. Pesh uses her jade jaguar talisman and its powers, but angers the gods of the Mayan underworld.

Jade, more valuable than gold to the ancient Maya, attracts modern-day greedy thugs. To discover the site of the lost Mayan jade, she must appease the gods and avoid criminal gangs in the jungles of Guatemala — but who's decided to kidnap her 7-year-old daughter?



Marjorie Bicknell Johnson is living the adventurer's dream — having visited many Mayan ruins in Yucatán and Guatemala where she became acquainted with local people, their customs and culture. Marjorie, an instrument-rated pilot, used her knowledge of small airplanes and helicopters to write *Lost Jade of the Maya*, her third novel. Her short stories have appeared in anthologies and her peer-reviewed articles on the Fibonacci sequence are published in various academic journals.



<http://lostjadeofthemaya.com> Available now

2. Sarita Lopez, Publicity Chair, established two big wins for Napa Valley Writers: The Napa Farmers Market booth, new this year, with a number of our local authors being represented, is eliciting lots of excitement from people new to Napa Valley Writers, helping to sell our anthologies and member books to local residents and visiting tourists. Sarita has also established a mobile NVW library of members' books that can be checked out and read, with reviews posted on Amazon and Goodreads.

3. NVW co-hosted successful Open Mics in wineries and tasting rooms. We expect to build on that success in the near future. Every 6 weeks, a NVW Open Mic is held at our local indy bookshop, Napa Bookmine.

Membership continues to grow, critique groups are busy, and each monthly speaker meeting brings in 4-6 new guests most months. Our members are active in the local Arts Council and the Arts Association, coordinating projects between our organizations as community partnerships.

We'd like to take this opportunity to once again welcome our new Board members, Cheryl Velasquez and Madeline Rogers, who, respectfully, will be building on the success of our monthly newsletter and our community outreach to businesses, non-profits, and other local organizations.

-- Kathleen Thomas





## Branch News continues

### Mt. Diablo

Mt. Diablo Branch continues its community outreach program by scheduling author panels at local libraries. The program "So You Want to Write a Book," consists of three CWC member authors and a moderator who speak and answer questions about writing, publishing and marketing. The library provides a sign-in sheet which the branch uses to inform attendees of upcoming branch activities and encourage membership. ~~ by Judith Marshall, Community Outreach Chair

After much research, the Mt. Diablo board has hired a web developer to build our new website. I am excited about this change. True to my nature, I envision all kinds of useful information, links, and fun for our members as they frequently access their new portal.

I understand that reality will be different. It will take time for the membership to learn to access the site and get used to using it. Many will not understand the value of it, although I hope it soon becomes clear. One value I want to see is that it's a way for members to share their successes or advertise their events, such as book launchings, signings, presentations, etc. I hope it's easier for members to connect with the board and ask for something they need.

What members need – or want – from their branch is something the board is itching to know. This will be a big focus for the coming year. We've already taken steps to learn which members are not attending meetings regularly and what we can offer that will bring them in the door. There is no shortage of ideas among our board members. We just need to know what will best benefit members.

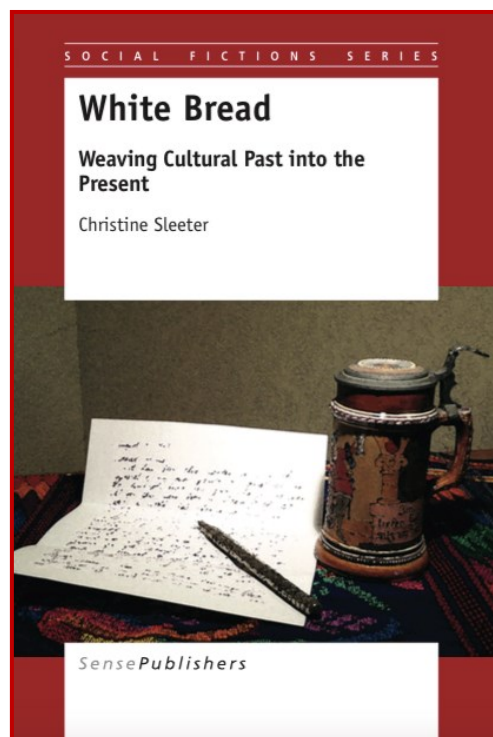
~~ Marlene Dotterer, President



*Christine Sleeter, Ph.D., Professor Emerita at California State University Monterey Bay, is internationally known for her work in multicultural education and ethnic studies. In 2009, she received the American Educational Research Association Social Justice in Education Award, and in 2011, her co-edited book, Teaching with Vision, was named Choice Outstanding Academic Title. **White Bread** is her first work of fiction.*

Jessica, a white fifth-grade teacher, is prompted to explore her family history by the unexpected discovery of a 100-year-old letter at the same time she is grappling with culture and racism in her school and classroom. *White Bread* pulls readers into a tumultuous six-months of Jessica's life as she confronts many issues that turn out to be interrelated. For instance, why she knows so little about her family's past, why she craves community as she feels increasingly isolated, why the Latino teachers want the curriculum to be more Latino, and whether she can become the kind of teacher who sparks student learning. The storyline alternates between past and present, acquainting readers with German-American communities in the Midwest during the late 1800s and early 1900s. What happened to these communities gives Jessica the key to unlock questions that plague her.

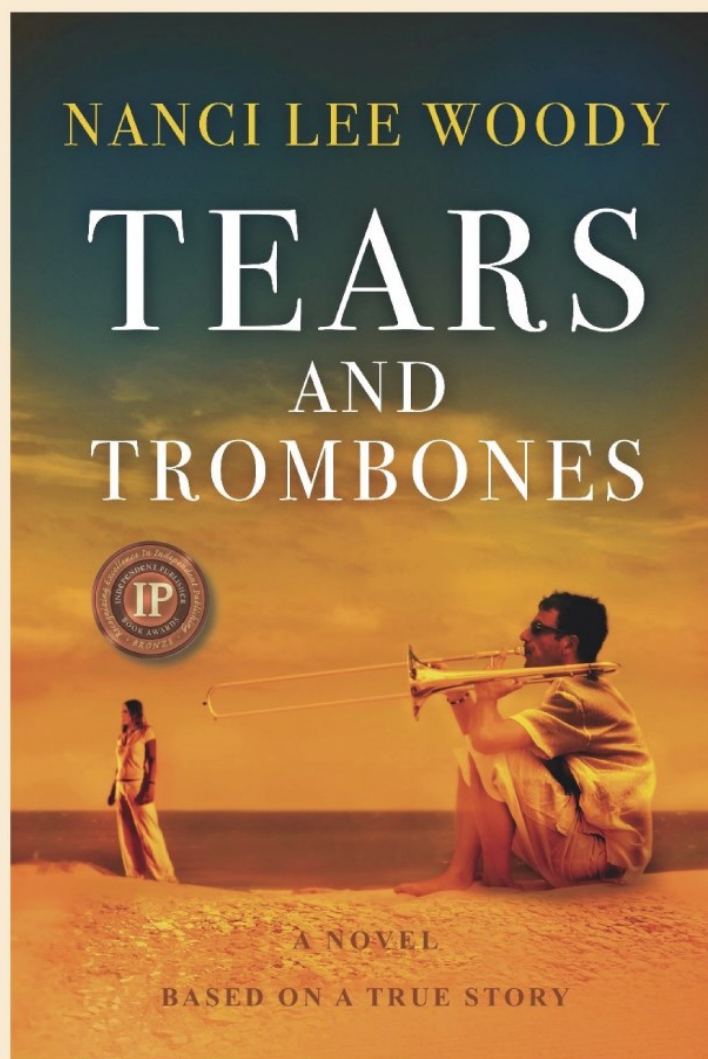
### A Teacher's Tumultuous Tale



Can be purchased from the author's site : [Sense](#) (free shipping!) and at Amazon.com



**WINNER OF The Independent Publishers Medal:  
"BEST FICTION IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION"**



*"Being a professional Symphony musician, I could relate to the conflict of parents not wanting their children to become musicians. This story, however, explores that conflict with the added complications of alcoholism and the intense drive of the main character, young trombonist Joey. . . A highly insightful and entertaining read!"*

**- Margaret Johnston, Double Bassist,  
San Diego Opera Orchestra and Britt Festival Orchestra**

*"A wonderful book which I've enjoyed tremendously. Being a professional trombonist myself (Israel Philharmonic) I could identify with the hero's passion for his instrument and for music, both classical and jazz."*

**- Micha Davis, Bass Trombone,  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**

*"...A wonderfully written novel and I couldn't put it down once I had started..."*

**- Alwyn Green, Principal Bass Trombone,  
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham**

*"The main character, Joey, comes from a poor background and fights his way to musical excellence. . . .The story is at times brutally realistic, but also refreshingly honest. The author has penned a fine work based on a true story. Her insight into the mind of Joey is remarkable. I recommend this book."*

**- Ron Keezer, Publisher, Really Good Music, LLC**

*"The struggles endured by Ms. Woody's star character are very accessible, and it is easy to get caught up in the life of this young prodigy. . . This tale is very well conceived, well written, and promises to be a best seller."*

**- George Johnston, First Trombone,  
San Diego Symphony Orchestra (retired)**

**Select Tears and Trombones for your book club.  
Contact Nanci Lee Woody to meet with your members.  
Go to: [nancileewoody.com](http://nancileewoody.com)**

**Tears and Trombones available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)  
For musical excerpts: [bookcompanion.com](http://bookcompanion.com)**



## *Branch News continues*

### **San Fernando Valley**

The **San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club**, one of the longest continuously active writing groups in Los Angeles, has released an anthology filled with essays, poetry and short stories to mark its 30th anniversary. The branch was chartered in 1986.

The anthology title, "Cascade of Pearls," was chosen because the pearl is the gem symbol for a 30th anniversary. These pearls in the anthology shine through humor, tragedy, reflections, and life experiences in prose and poetry.

"We decided that showcasing the talents of our members in this format was the best way to honor this important milestone," said Editor, Rita Keeley Brown. "Our hope is that readers will enjoy the stories and poems and be encouraged to write their own stories and experience the thrill of writing."

Presented in a reader friendly layout, the anthology is organized in such a way that readers will feel as if they are there, sitting with a group of friends telling stories. A quote by Truman Capote on the back cover of the book sets the tone for what the anthology wanted to accomplish: "What I am trying to achieve is a voice sitting by the fireplace telling you a story on a winter's evening." So, pull up a chair, get comfortable and settle in for some good reads.

Whereas most anthologies have one theme, "Cascade of Pearls" features eight sections: 'Pearls of... Discovery – Relationships – Knowledge – Nature – Adventure – Yesteryears – Faith – Life.' Each section contains contents from all three genres – fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The anthology has already received positive reviews.

"This collection is a testimony to the power of words, and to those gifted writers who have run them together like strands of precious pearls," wrote author and editor Victoria Zackheim. "Essay, poem, short story, each one sings out and captures our imagination...and our heart."

"What a fabulous collection of talent. Filled with comedy and tragedy, this anthology creates deep appreciation for its imaginative content, and admiration for the creative talent that has taken us through a wealth of dynamic emotional experiences," wrote playwright Kitty Burns-Nazarow.

"Cascade of Pearls" is now available on Amazon and other major distributors and is priced at \$16.95. The proceeds will go to the branch to enhance future educational writing events.

~~ Rita Brown



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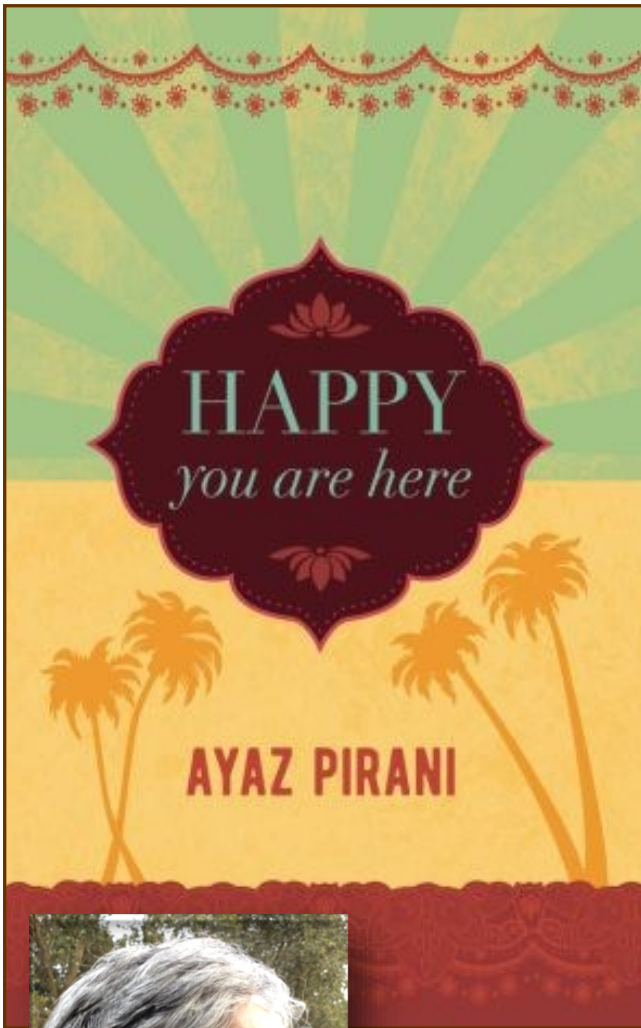




## Branch News continues

### High Desert

Our High Desert branch is a participating sponsor of the High Desert Arts and Literature Festival set for Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 to 4 pm in Apple Valley. Our authors will be displaying and selling their books at this important event. Proceeds will benefit the STEM (Science Engineering & Math) education programs of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the San Bernardino County Museum, and also will provide scholarships to non-traditional aged women returning to Victor Valley College.



Happy  
You Are  
Here

by Ayaz Pirani

Ayaz Pirani was born in Musoma, Tanzania to parents born in Kapsabet and Tanga.

He grew up in Canada and studied Humanities and Writing at Collège Glendon in Toronto and Concordia University in Montreal. Receiving an MFA at Vermont College of Fine Arts, Ayaz was a student of

the late Jack Myers. *Happy You Are Here* (The Word Works 2016) is his first book.



Available at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), Barnes & Noble, and Target

The third Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project (DCB) will commence in August with the University Preparatory School in Victorville. The school, for the last four years, has qualified with U.S. News and World Report as a “gold standard model.” Only the top 500 schools in the nation measure up under these rigid standards required for this recognition and honor.

The DCB Memoir Project teaches writing to high school students and then pairs them with a senior citizen whom the students write about, and then their stories are compiled and published in an anthology produced by the High Desert branch. The students become published authors, the “Memoir Stars” get their stories memorialized, and the CWC garners publicity and recognition as a supporter of education.

The HDCWC partnered with the San Bernardino County Hesperia Branch Library to promote the use of library resources. To publicize the upcoming Arts and Literature Festival, three special meetings at the Hesperia Library are featuring High Desert members. First was a new authors panel, followed by a resources awareness afternoon sharing the benefits of belonging to the CWC, and then an “open mic” for non-member authors in the High Desert who will have an opportunity to promote their books. Through a grant from the CWC South, the HDCWC also presented the Hesperia Library Adult Literacy Program with a donation of \$250.



## Branch News continues

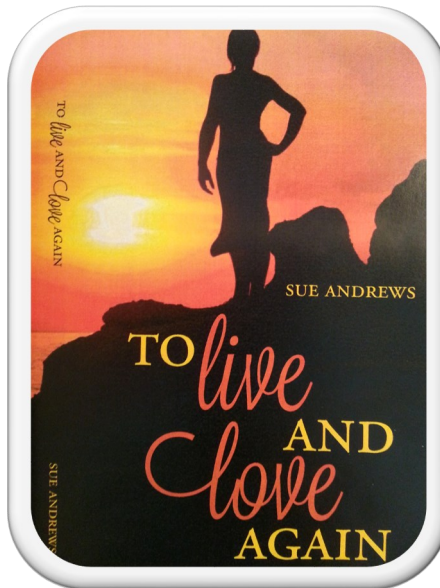
High Desert branch members elected three new officers following the retirement of our four-term president, Dwight Norris, our long-term Secretary, Naomi Ward, and our Vice President, Barbara Morrow Williams. The new officers are; President Rebecca Kosko, Vice President Shalechia Hunt, and Secretary Elizabeth Pye. Treasurer Jenny Margotta continues her elected position as well as receiving the Jack London Award this year, and Linda Boruff was re-appointed as Member-at-Large.



Jenny Margotta receives Jack London Award

**Her husband nearly killed her by ax, shotgun, automobile, and boat before she finally found a way to escape. Then she endured the heartbreak of her second husband's deceit and several career setbacks along the way.**

**Finally, on an enchanted night at her Chicago high school reunion, it all seemed about to change. But after two failed marriages and a history of such painful disappointments, was it possible to pull yourself up from despair and find happiness again?**



Sue Andrews lives in Southern California with her husband, Ken, and poodle, Wiley. She is an advocate volunteer for American Heart Association and WomenHeart organization. Her passion for writing and travel developed after dedicating 40 years of her life's work teaching deaf children, being an advocate for them, and an administrator. Now retired, she belongs to several writing groups and serves on the board of the Inland Empire California Writers Club.



Find her book on Amazon, Kindle or <http://www.suellenandrews.com/>

~~ Bob Isbill, PR



## Redwood Writers

Sonoma County doesn't have just great food, wine, and natural beauty. It also has great stories—stories we hope can attract and captivate new readers.

Members of the Redwood Branch of the California Writers Club have captured some of those tales for the club's 2017 anthology: *SONOMA Stories of a Region and Its People*. The book, which includes nearly 50 works of nonfiction, fiction and poetry, will be sold in August from the club's booth at the Sonoma County Fair.

The nonfiction short stories offer glimpses into little-known local history: the Sebastopol temple that became a touchstone for the Japanese community here before and after World War II; the pioneering women's rights advocate who fought the forced retirement at age 32 of airline stewardesses; the county's lone lesbian

*continued next page*





## Branch News continues

bar in the early 1980s; and the daring race car driver and aviator who made the nation's first airmail flight here in 1911.

Last summer, the club's leadership, including then-President Sandy Baker and current President Roger C. Lubeck, proposed the idea of an anthology about the county. With the book's publication, we will test how far we can expand our reach into the community. Our hope is these stories and poems will resonate with new readers and introduce more of our neighbors to our writings.

Robert Digitale, editor-in-chief of *SONOMA Stories of a Region and Its People*, is a staff writer at The Santa Rosa Press Democrat and the author of the fantasy books *Horse Stalker* and *Blaze & Skyfire*.

Get ready for a whirlwind of information from three experts at "Hot Topics Roundtable" with Robbi Sommers Bryant, Susan Gunter, and Jeanne Jusaitis, discussing how to compose a compelling first page of your book, tips for beginning your memoir or autobiography, as well as the benefits of joining a critique group for your writing. Sunday, September 10 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. See all details : [www.redwoodwriters.com](http://www.redwoodwriters.com)

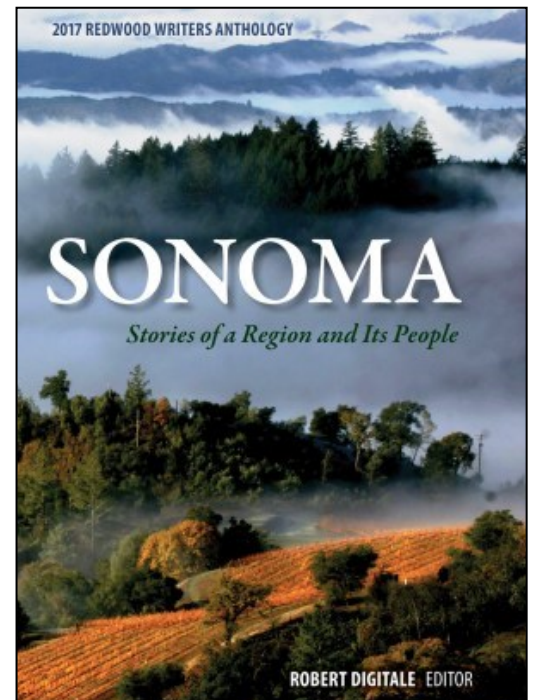
~~ contributors, Janice Rowley and Robert Digitale



*Just Released!*

**Rhodes**  
From **M.M. Gornell** *The Movie-Maker*

Amazon, Barnes & Noble online, Smashwords  
Paper & eBook - *Champlain Avenue Books, Inc.*



A regional focus aiming at the people and history used to promote the membership's writing and the club, selling to a broader audience.



Author's Direct Link: [Rhodes The Movie-Maker](#)



## Branch News continues

### Mendocino Coast

Back in 2016, our branch celebrated the fifth anniversary of our CWC charter. Each year we've published an anthology of member's prose and poetry, and collaborated with the Artists Co-op of Mendocino on Ekphrasis, a reading and gallery show of art describing art. What's kept membership up and involved are our partners in writing, from the excellent Mendocino Coast Writers Conference held at the beginning of August, to Mendocino College's credit and non-credit writing classes. The Mendocino Hotel graciously hosts our monthly meetings, Gallery Bookshop sponsors readings by local writers in addition to stocking the writer's books. Flockworks presents gallery exhibits of art and writing, and the Redwood Coast Senior Center publishes works by local authors in their *Gazette*. The privately run Mendocino Community Library and the public library in Fort Bragg also host readings and teach poetry writing workshops. We thank them all for our success.

The July meeting kicked off the 2017 Ekphrasis collaboration with the Artists Co-op of Mendocino's exchange of writing and art that will inspire art and writing to be presented in October. On the third Thursday of August we'll host a self-publishing panel with the past president of the Mendocino College's PubClub, member Frieda Feen, and local book producer Linda Jupiter, as well as Judy Detrick, who teaches a class in Design and Producing Your Book. In September, we will introduce Natasha Yim's *Lessons from the Trenches: Launching Your Book With A Virtual Book Tour* — join us to hear what she's learned from the 'blog tour' trenches.

~~ Katherine Brown, President



### Long Beach

#### Hard Copies are Good to See

Our club is blossoming under our new leadership. Fearless president Liv Haugland started putting our meeting fliers in a top-ring binder a couple of years ago. Laminated and nicely presented, these act as a tangible representation of our previous speakers for both visitors and members to see. They serve to remind us of the caliber and types of presentations we've had over the years.

What started as a little collection has now grown to two thick books (bottom left and right on following page).

More recently, Liv started a three-ringed binder (top of following page) allowing our members to present their book covers (maximum of two) as a way to let other members and visitors, of course, know the types of books we're putting out! We could call it our brag book.

*continued next page*



<https://www.newwayswritingretreats.com/>





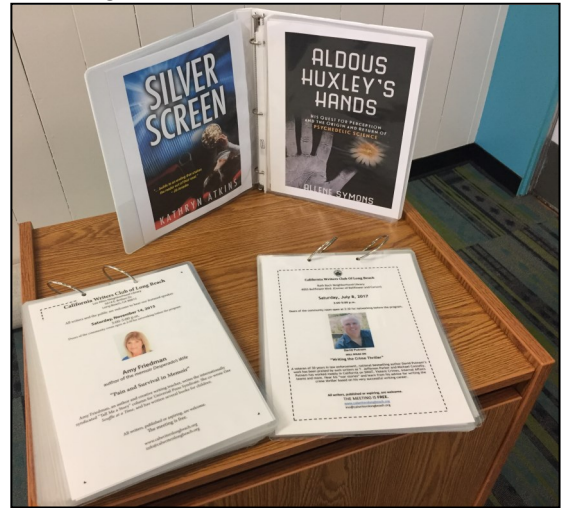
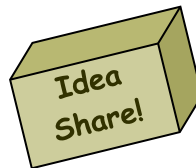
## Branch News continues

**Speaking of Blossoming:** Our year over year, July 2017 vs. July 2016, official numbers from CB show us starting with 56 members at this time last year. This year we have 76 members. That is a 36% increase year to year. We attribute the growth to our better location—drawing on two cities, Long Beach and Lakewood, as well as free-way-convenient to surrounding communities — for starters. But the accessible geography combined with good publicity (copies of the fliers mentioned above go to all twelve libraries in Long Beach) and excellent programs should stimulate our continued expansion and outreach to writers in our community.

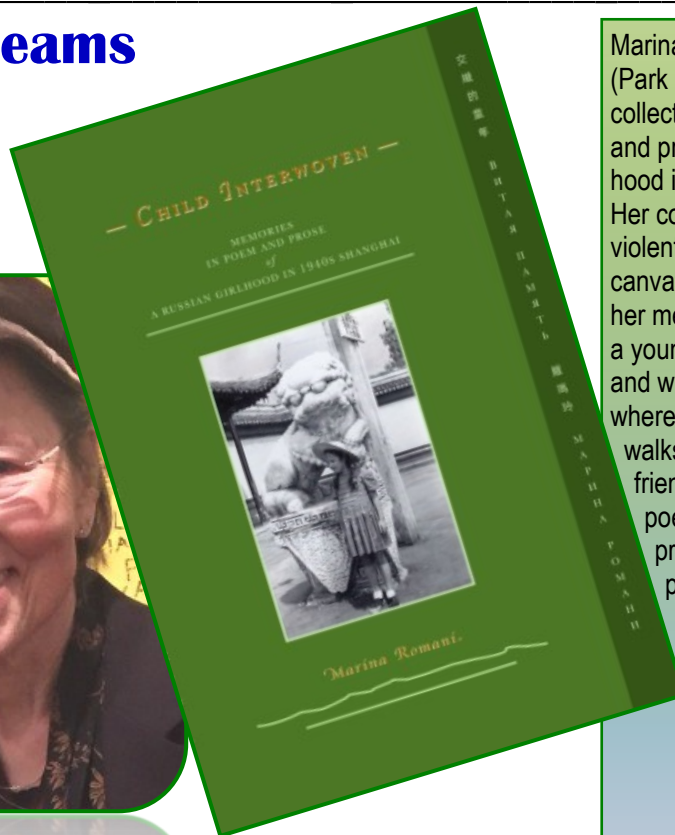
### Leadership News:

Member MJ Lovgren has graciously taken over as Secretary for the club with our previous secretary's withdrawal from the post. Sail On.

Submitted by Kathryn Atkins,  
CWC-LB  
Immediate Past President  
& current PR Chair



## A Girl's Dreams Survive in Her Prose & Poems



Marina Romani's *Child Interwoven* (Park Place Publications, 2016) is a collection of reminiscences in poem and prose of the author's early childhood in wartime and civil-war China. Her concise narrative of dramatic and violent international events forms the canvas into which the author weaves her memories, most of them written in a young girl's voice. Romani now lives and writes in Monterey, California, where she finds inspiration in solitary walks along the coast, talks with friends, memory, and dreams. Her poetry has appeared in a variety of print and on-line literary journals, primarily in California. *Child Interwoven* is her first book. A second collection is in the works.

**Just  
\$9.00**

Readers' reviews of *Child Interwoven* and details to purchase can be found on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



## *Branch News continues*

### **Writers of Kern**

A Writers of Kern annual highlight is our “WOK Honors” dinner, held each May. This year we honored Vice President Dan McGuire as recipient of the Jack London Award; presented Peggy Connelly Scholarships to children’s writers Joan Raymond and Cynthia Waldman; and honored Rebecca Langston-George with the Robert Hargreaves Award, which is presented to traditionally published Writers of Kern members. Members who achieved active status during the last quarter received our exclusive WOK “Active” pins. We presented appreciation plaques to our club volunteers and recognized members who completed this year’s A-Z Blog Challenge.

Winners of the Young Writers of Kern Writing Competition were also honored. This community-wide event is sponsored by Writers of Kern, the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Bakersfield City School District, and citizens committed to supporting Kern County youth. Eighteen middle school, high school, and community college students earned cash prizes and publication in the 2017 anthology published by Writers of Kern. Each also received a journal and student membership in WOK.

~~ Annis Cassells



### **Orange**

Orange continues to meet monthly (with no summer break) at the Orange Library and History Center. We are exploring the possibility of changing venues to a nearby newly renovated building in the historic section of old town Orange. Elections, which take place every other year, were held in June. New board officers are Jonathan Yanez, President; Pam Tallman, Vice-President; Janet Simcic, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Silverstein, Corresponding Secretary; and Denise Longrie, Treasurer. Congratulations to the Board and their willingness to serve our members and promote CWC branch activities. Jeanette Fratto continues to serve as Central Board representative and Member-at-Large.

Our monthly speakers continue to inform, as well as entertain us, and our two recent speakers were no exception. Anne Cleeland talked about her career in the legal field and her now successful career in writing mysteries. Her stories, set in Scotland Yard, contain two of the most engaging protagonists a mystery reader could encounter. Denise Hamilton, a former Los Angeles Times reporter, now writes a series where Eve Diamond, the protagonist, has that role. Eve takes her responsibility as a reporter way beyond its requirements, putting herself in danger and solving complex criminal cases. Both authors are highly recommended as their writing and plotting will keep readers turning pages and wishing for more.

National Novel Writing Month (known as NANOWRIMO) will take place in November. The Orange Library will host the writers for weekly sessions during the month and has planned an event in October to kick it off featuring a panel discussion. Our branch has been invited to participate in this discussion which will focus on the difficulties, as well as successes, of writing, publishing, and promotion.

*continued next page*

**This digital full-color magazine is available to all members for free.  
It can be read from a link at [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org) anytime. Is compatible with most digital devices.  
Pass the Word.**





## Branch News continues

We now have a Meet-Up website which was launched in June. Several people have used the site to express their interest in attending an upcoming meeting. We hope this site will acquaint more people with CWC and increase our branch membership.

On July 23, Jeanette Fratto attended the Central Board meeting in Oakland. Jack London awards were presented and our president, Jonathan Yanez, was a recipient. He attended with his wife and sister. Our branch was proud to honor him for all the work he has done to support and promote us. Jonathan can be seen at the far left in the group picture.

In August, we will take a break from guest speakers and do an open mic. This gives our members an opportunity to share their writing and is always well received. Regarding speakers, kudos go out to Allene Symons and Pam Tallman who manage to find the best and brightest in the writing/publishing/marketing world to come to our meetings and educate us by sharing their expertise.



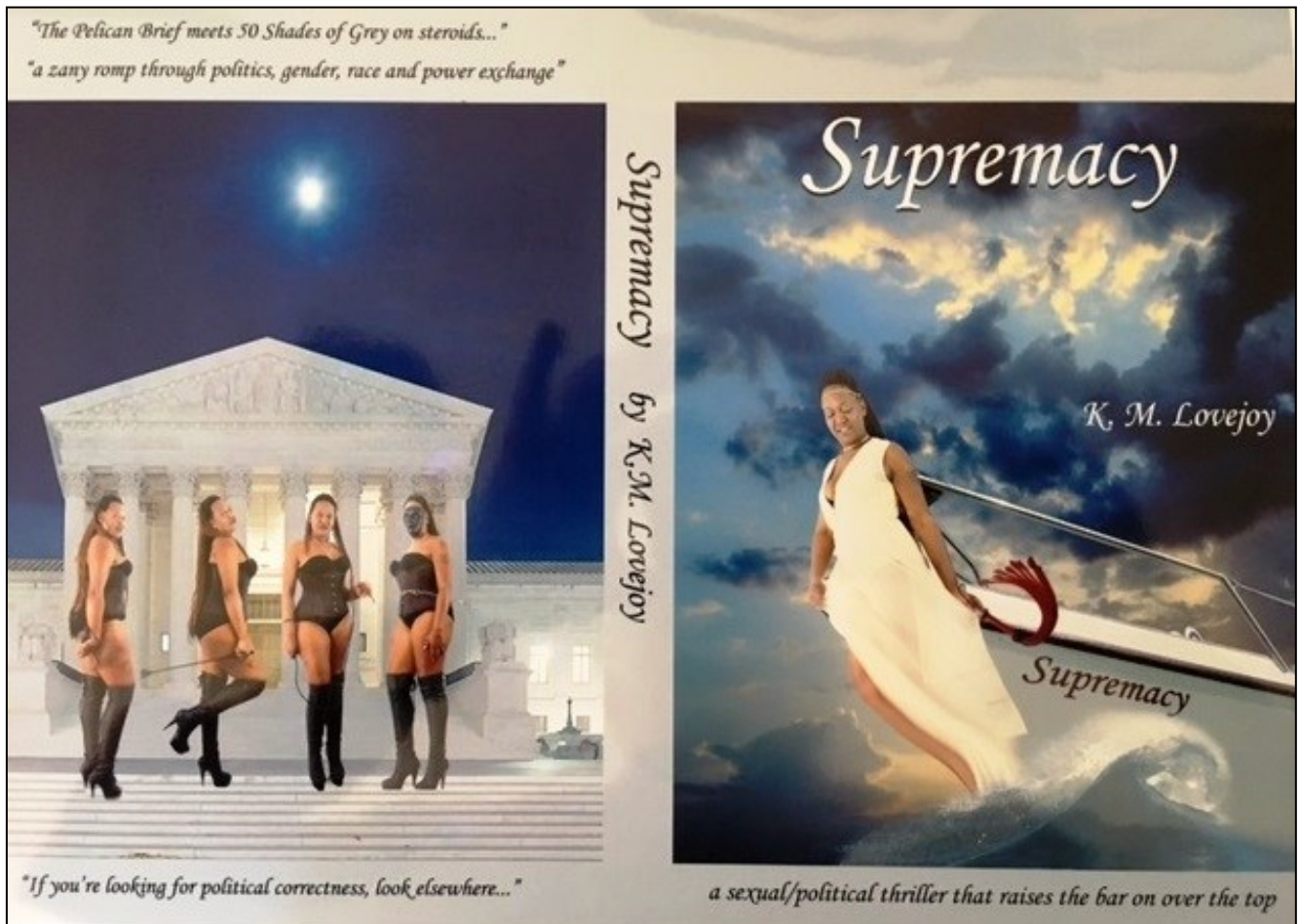
Jonathan Yanez

~~ Jeanette A. Fratto



Buy it now  
through this  
direct link:  
[Supremacy](#)

**Available  
Sept. 24th**





## Branch News continues

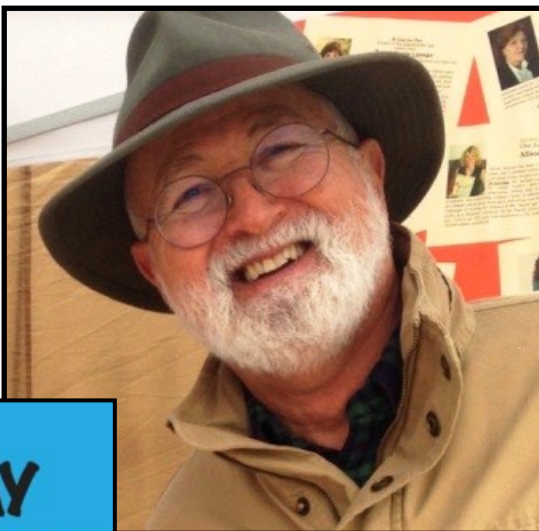
### North State

This year we have been busting with activity. Although we are a new chapter (2015) we have grown from 29 members in 2016 to 56 members. We can attribute this to our great members, knowledgeable and engaging speakers, and varied opportunities for our authors to get recognition and sell their books.

We are excited about publishing our first Anthology this May. It is entitled *First Blush*. Twenty of our members submitted exciting fiction and non-fiction short stories and poems. It was truly a learning experience. Member and illustrator Steve Ferchaud donated his art work for our cover. Each submission was charged \$10.00 per piece and we were fortunate to find two retired English Instructors to act as our Beta readers. *First Blush* is available on Amazon Books and has already paid for itself.

#### *A treasure and pleasure to read."* Readers' Favorite.

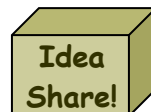
A native Californian, born and raised in L.A., Russell Sunshine spent most of his adult life abroad. For 40 years in 40 countries, Russell served as an independent policy advisor to foreign governments and international organizations. His multi-year residencies included India, East Africa, China, Laos, Central Asia, Sri Lanka, and Italy. Coming full circle, he is now happily retired and writing on California's Central Coast.



We worked side-by-side with one of the biggest non-profit craft fairs in Northern California; The Chocolate Festival. Our chapter had a large designated book signing area called *All About Books*. There were twelve of our authors who participated. It was fun and profitable.

Additionally, we presented a seven-man team workshop on *How to Self-Publish* at this year's Butte College writing conference called WordSpring. This event was in its 7<sup>th</sup> year and attended by the writing community from all over California. The workshop was well received and we garnered several new members.

Also, the chapter paid the one-time only admission fee for a large local farmers market that is held every week. This allows any member to reserve a day and sell their books and promote our club. It has been a big hit with the public and the authors. We have also gained new members through this venue.



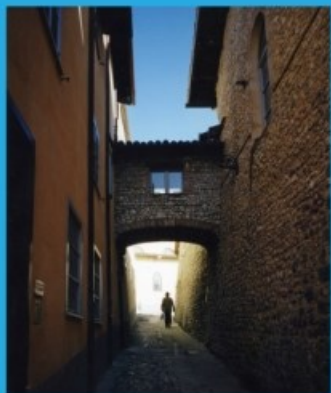
Other NSW activities included gift wrapping at Barnes & Nobles, hosting an author's question & answer panel for local residents, promoting Open Mic Night at the local libraries, a book donation drive for the *Trivia Bee Literacy Group* and a really fun Christmas Party.

Lastly, we have just held our first electronic elections for our new board members. We are a dynamic bunch and love what we do. We look forward to new and better things for our chapter.

~~ Cathy Chase-Vice President

### FAR & AWAY

TRUE TALES from an INTERNATIONAL LIFE



RUSSELL SUNSHINE

*FAR & AWAY: True Tales from an International Life* captures the spark of Russell's remarkable global adventures. Some tales are scary or serious, others humbling or humorous. All are fact, not fiction: racing at midnight over Parisian cobblestones in pursuit of a master jewel thief; restoring the artistic reputation of a prisoner of Stalin's gulag; and, escaping by seconds the fury of a historic tsunami ... and more.

[www.amazon.com/dp/1943887195](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1943887195)





## Branch News continues

### Tri-Valley

#### Awards and Scholarships

The Tri-Valley Branch is proud to announce Deborah 'Jordan' Bernal as our Jack London Award Recipient. Jordan has served as our membership chair, NorCal rep, vice-president, and president. Her vision includes extensive outreach to the community. She was instrumental in TVW's involvement with Open Mic nights and chaired TVW's second writers conference. She worked tirelessly on successful Alameda County Arts Commission grants, has strongly supported NorCal, and increased TVW's visibility at the San Francisco Writers Conference. Jordan magnanimously supports other TVW members' visions. Her organizational skills and generous donations of time and creativity have increased the professionalism of TVW.

Tri-Valley Writers offered our first annual scholarship this spring to a Las Positas college student studying English, journalism or related subjects. The \$500 scholarship was administered through the Las Positas Foundation. The award winner's thank-you note to the branch said in part:

*Thanks to your generous support and belief in me, you are helping me achieve my goals for a higher education. Your . . . support has supplemented my belief that I am on the right path for my future.*

*Growing up with little financial and emotional support for a quality education, I feel like there is hope for other students like me who have faced hardships in acquiring a proper learning experience. In addition, these adversities have also helped me realize the value of a college education. Thank you for fostering growth in me and other students. I hope you realize how much your generosity impacts our lives in the future.*



**Deborah Jordan Bernal—  
Tri Valley recipient**



**VP Constance Hanstedt  
awards ceremony**

#### Conference and Contest

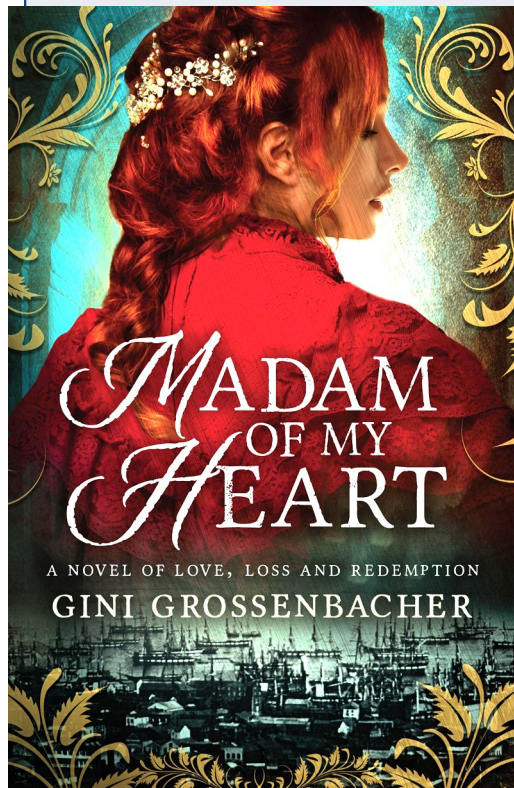
Our bi-annual April conference attendance totaled 85, including 13 presenters. We offered a variety of sessions in three tracks. Author Anne Perry, our keynote speaker, (see next page) gave an inspirational talk about putting one's heart on the page. The presenters did a wonderful job of motivating attendees; the positive energy present in the meeting rooms and hallway conversations lingered into the social hour at the end of the day.

Tri-Valley Writers held our 6th Annual High School Writing Contest this spring, receiving 129 entries, including essays, poems, and short stories, from 97 Tri-Valley students. At our May award ceremony, we recognized award winners and gave them an opportunity to read their work. Patricia Munro, Ph.D., a scholar at UC Berkeley's Center for Jewish Studies was our keynote speaker. She emphasized the power of the written word and commended the students.



**Svitak, scholarship winner in center,  
and Boyle**

*continued on page 25*



Baltimore, 1849. Under a shadow of scandal, the young Irish Brianna Baird flees her home at Fells Point. She has little cash, and no worthwhile occupation, for a city of New Orleans. Without family support, her survival is offered by brothel madam Nancy DeSalle and the dashing gambler, Edward Spina. In a desperate alliance with these two members of society's underbelly, Brianna embarks on a journey through the Vieux Carré's debauched and glittering world. With the aid of her freed-woman Emma, she learns the ways of the Voodoo Queen. Then fleeing to the gold rush parlor house trade in San Fran.

GoodReads, Facebook, and Kirkus Reviews

New California author **GINI GROSSENBACHER** was a successful high school English teacher until she abandoned it all to write historical novels.

Now she leads small writing and critique groups where she loves coaching other writers. She delights in researching the history behind her

novels, and enjoys traveling to the settings where they take place. She lives in Elk Grove, California. **MADAM OF MY HEART** is Gini's debut novel, the first in a series based on famous American madams of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



<http://www.ginigrossenbacher.com/>

## Our contest continues in this issue! SUCH A DEAL !!

We believe that placing an advertising display ad (black and white) in glossy pages of *The Literary Review* is such a great deal that we want everyone to know. Have a book to promote? Offering great services provided to writers? Let your guest speakers promote their services, too.

**Here's the deal.** Any branch who generates the most advertising revenue in the Autumn issue of *The Bulletin* (coming out in mid-November) will win a 5"x7" ad to use as they wish in either *The Bulletin* or *Literary Review* for one 2018 issue.

- ♣ Give it away as a gift
- ♣ Make an "Opportunity Drawing" of it
- ♣ Award the ad space as a writing prize
- ♣ Other ideas? Your branch decides.



The winning branch must list their name with the ad's cover email or call our Advertising & Promotions Director Bob Isbill at (760) 221-6367 to claim the credit for the display ad. All ads are considered "placed" once payment is received.





**Ann Perry — Keynote Speaker with Jordan Bernal**



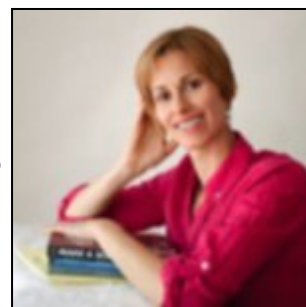
### Retirement — Continued From Page 5

- ensuring the submitter is a member and, since 2015, ensuring they pay the \$10 for one or two submissions.
- ensuring the submissions meet the stated guidelines
- gathering enough qualified readers and establish what genre they are able to read
- assigning each piece to a minimum of three readers
- managing the readers, ensuring they read quickly enough to keep to a timeline
- collecting readers' feedback about each piece and collating the feedback.
- determining from among the best-rated pieces, what will fit in the limited number of pages
- selecting an appropriate cover
- layout
- editing the draft
- getting the layout to the printer
- getting the printed product to a mailing house which needs the names and addresses of all members
- writing reports to the board

This is not just a laundry list but a working list of tasks to perform for each issue. *The Bulletin* works in a similar manner where editing of branch news and photos is critical in completing the layout. The difference lies in the final format as a digital online issue, where the *Lit Rev* has always been printed on slick paper and mailed out through surface mail. ~~ **Rusty LaGrange, editor**

### October Workshop

**Jordan Rosenfeld**, author, editor, and writing teacher, will present a three-hour, hands-on workshop on character and point of view based on her newest book, *Writing the Intimate Character* on Saturday, **October 21, 2017** at 2:00 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Rosenfeld has written several other writing guides, including *Writing Deep Scenes*, *A Writer's Guide to Persistence*, and *Make a Scene*. More information is available at our website, [www.trivalleywriters.org](http://www.trivalleywriters.org).



**Jordan Rosenfeld**

~~ Patricia Boyle, President



### Photo Album:



**Sally A. Minor - South Bay Writers with Joyce**



**North State's T.E. Watson, F.S.A. Scot**

## News You Can Use

### Opening Digital Magazine Available on Club's Site

Since the change to digital formatting, allowing a larger and more varied layout for *The Bulletin*, some members have asked for instructions in opening the digital issues.

Please pass the word to go to the club's website for instructions — [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org)., as well as a PDF version of each issue that can be downloaded or viewed directly from the website. As the contents of each issue grows over the years, it becomes necessary to use technological advances to keep the publications.

CWC club's site archives all issues available at [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org) under our Publications page.

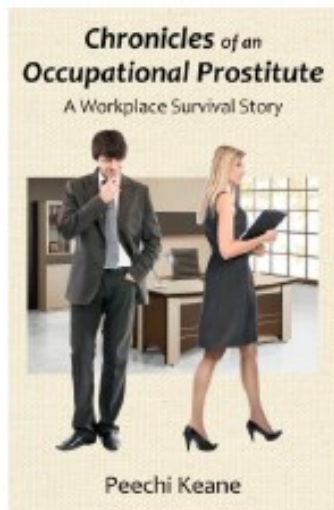


**Vicky Mlyniec**

Manuscript Consultant, Editor, Coach  
Novels • Memoirs • Short Stories • Essays

[vicky@edits-critiques.com](mailto:vicky@edits-critiques.com)  
[www.edits-critiques.com](http://www.edits-critiques.com)  
Expert help for creative writers

A direct link for Vicky's services:  
[www.edits-critiques.com](http://www.edits-critiques.com)



*If you have ever been exposed  
to a hostile work environment  
or cared about someone else,  
this dramatic and informative  
workplace survival story is for you!*



*Available on Amazon*

Robin Gigoux has been a member of CWC, Mt. Diablo Branch, for ten years. In addition to this, her debut novel, she has written short stories: five to be published late 2017 in *Insight, Hindsight & Flights of Fancy*, an anthology of regional writers. Ms. Gigoux is currently completing a young adult science fiction novella, a children's book series, a collection of personal essays, and more short stories.





## Make A Splash — STATE-WIDE!!

### Advertise in CWC's *The Bulletin*!

Want to increase your visibility? Sell your service? Promote your book? Increase speaker engagements? Pump up your web traffic? Or start a sales campaign? Each issue of *The Bulletin* — published three times a year — reaches as many as 2,000 published and aspiring writers in 22 branches throughout California.

Writing-related advertising from businesses, CWC members, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices can select from:

#### Four tiers of ads :

1. **Business card size (2"x3.5") ads for \$35.** These will appear in the back section of *The Bulletin*.
2. **Index card size (3" x 5") ads for \$60.** To be interspersed throughout *The Bulletin* as appropriate.
3. **5"x7" size ads for \$90 created from your cover, mug shot, short description of book, and bio,** placed at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Pay by **check** as described below, or on **PayPal** at our website

[www.Calwriters.org](http://www.Calwriters.org)

4. **We will make available one and one only full page vertical ad (7"x10") for \$200.** First come, first served, and for that reason, arrangement for this ad must be made by check and submitted by postal mail and by email verification as described below. Advertisers whose ads are received by mail too late to qualify will be notified of their option to buy a 5"x7" or smaller ad, reserve a full page for the following issue, or have their checks returned.

- ♦ All display ads, black-and-white or color, must be self-edited, print-ready in jpeg format, to be published as received. We reserve the right to decline material deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.
- ♦ All ads must be emailed as a JPEG file to [AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com). No exceptions.
- ♦ A physical copy of your ad must be enclosed with the postal mailed payment. Please include your return address, email address, and telephone contact number and the size of your ad. When using PayPal mark the payment type on the hard copy you mail to us so we know how you paid.

**Deadline for advertising submissions for the Summer (mid-August) issue was Friday, July 28, 2017; and for the Autumn (mid-November) issue the deadline is Friday, October 27, 2017.** Capacity for advertising will be determined by the Editor-in-Chief. In case we receive more ads than can be accommodated, submitters will be notified of the option to reserve space in the next issue.

Space is limited, and appropriate ads will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. A copy of *The Bulletin* will be emailed to advertisers upon publication. Please include your preferred email address along with your ad submission. Questions? Call Bob Isbill at [\(760\)221-6367](tel:7602216367).

Checks or money orders for submitted ads must be made payable to CWC Central Treasury and mailed to:

HDCWC

The Bulletin Marketing Department  
20258 Hwy 18 STE 430 PMB 281  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

#### Checklist. Please follow directions closely:

**Design your ad. Scan it to a jpeg file and send it to [AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com).** Then place a **hard copy of your ad in an envelope addressed to the Marketing Department.** It is okay to fold the copy if you need to do so. **Enclose your check made payable to CWC Central Treasury or use PayPal online at [calwriters.org](http://calwriters.org).** **Mark the payment type & the amount** if you choose **PayPal**, please **state amount on the hard copy** placed in your envelope! Either way you pay, we **MUST have the hard copy mailed to us along with your email address and phone contact**, and the confirmed **size of your ad.** (Size isn't always indicated on your scanned copy, but it matters!)

# THE BULLETIN BOARD —

The **San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club**, one of the longest continuously active writing groups in Los Angeles, has released an anthology filled with essays, poetry and short stories to mark its 30th anniversary. The branch was chartered in 1986.

The anthology title, "Cascade of Pearls," was chosen because the pearl is the gem symbol for a 30th anniversary. These pearls in the anthology shine through humor, tragedy, reflections, and life experiences in prose and poetry.

"We decided that showcasing the talents of our members in this format was the best way to honor this important milestone," said Editor, Rita Keeley Brown. "Our hope is that readers will enjoy the stories and poems and be encouraged to write their own stories and experience the thrill of writing."

Presented in a reader friendly layout, the anthology is organized in such a way that readers will feel as if they are there, sitting with a group of friends telling stories. A quote by Truman Capote on the back cover of the book sets the tone for what the anthology wanted to accomplish: "What I am trying to achieve is a voice sitting by the fireplace telling you a story on a winter's evening." So, pull up a chair, get comfortable and settle in for some good reads.

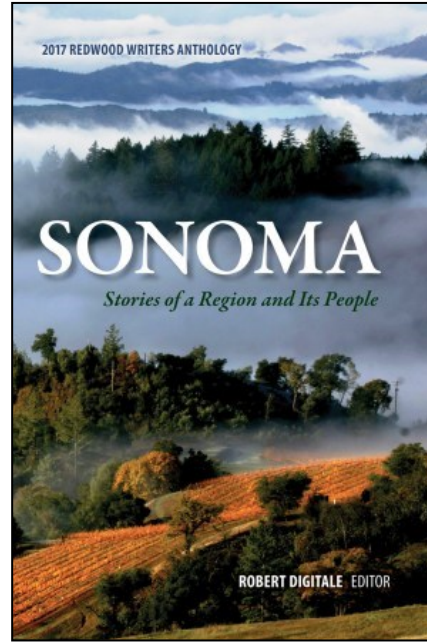
Whereas most anthologies have one theme, "Cascade of Pearls" features eight sections:

'Pearls of... Discovery – Relationships – Knowledge – Nature – Adventure – Yesteryears – Faith – Life.' Each section contains contents from all three genres – fiction, nonfiction and poetry. The anthology has already received positive reviews.

"This collection is a testimony to the power of words, and to those gifted writers who have run them together like strands of precious pearls," wrote author and editor Victoria Zackheim. "Essay, poem, short story, each one sings out and captures our imagination...and our heart."

"Cascade of Pearls" is now available on Amazon and other major distributors and is priced at \$16.95. The proceeds will go to the branch to enhance future educational writing events.

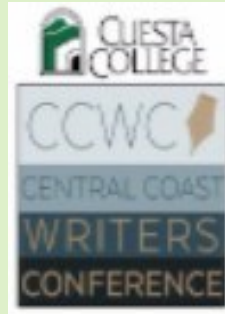
The San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club meets on the first Saturday of each month (except July). For additional information about the branch, visit [www.cwc-sfv.org](http://www.cwc-sfv.org). ~~ Rita Brown



## Hot Off the Press!

### Redwood Writers 2017 Anthology

Highlighting the Sonoma region and their people



## CENTRAL COAST WRITERS CONFERENCE

*It Is Time To Tell Your Story!*  
September 28 - 30, 2017

[Register Online](#)

**FEE: \$225**

[View Friday Workshop Tracks](#)

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## DID YOU KNOW OUR Web Posting & Policy Links?

### Events and Contests listed on this page must be:

- sponsored by a branch of California Writers Club
- sponsored by writing organizations in which CWC members are active
- sponsored by legitimate writing organizations that are recognized or sponsored by accredited educational institutions, the CWC, or professional writing organizations, at the discretion of the editor.

### We will provide reciprocal links to:

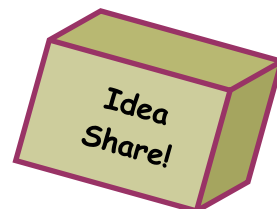
- California Writers Club branches
- free, writing-related resources that are of a professional quality.
- writing services offered by CWC members, guest speakers invited by CWC branches
- all links are made by the discretion of the editor unless vetted by Central Board review

***The Bulletin does not list contests available to a national readership.***

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertisements in  
*The Bulletin* magazine  
must be placed by  
**October 27**

When you see this icon  
within an article,  
it means that someone  
has come up  
with a great  
idea! You  
might use it  
too!



## California Writers Club

### Mission Statement

1. The California Writers Club (CWC) shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership.
2. The club supports all genres, writing styles, and related professions such as editing, publishing, photographic journalism, and agents.
3. The branches provide an environment where members can obtain critique of their efforts, attend workshops, and share experiences. Branches are encouraged to mentor writers of all ages by providing educational programs for adults and fostering youth programs.



Get the latest version of our CWC logo that proudly shows the registered R within a circle. This protects the logo and the name from infringements. Download it from the Calwriters.com website. It must be black on a white field.

California Writers Club publication *The Bulletin* is digitally printed and sent out to 22 branches statewide. Issues are representative of the membership and covered as a benefit to paid members in good standing.

Editor-in-Chief ..... Rusty LaGrange  
Advertising Director ..... Bob Isbill  
Proofreader ..... Angela Horn  
Questions & Comments ..... Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

### OUR DISCLAIMER

While we believe products offered for sale in this newsletter are done so in good faith, publication of any advertising in *The California Writers Club Bulletin* does not constitute endorsement, recommendation or representation that the CWC has vetted any advertisers. Readers are encouraged to investigate to verify items or services offered for sale, and to use their own judgment in making any purchases.

We, unfortunately are a “graying” membership. We are losing some of our best-known members at a consistent pace. We now include in *The Bulletin* an obituary section that announces and honors those that have contributed so much to our writing community. Please forward to me.  
~~ the editor

## In Memoriam

for those who remain in our hearts

### Berkeley Branch

We lost Elizabeth Wagele, a beloved and world-renown teacher on the Enneagram!



### Elizabeth Wagele

*Most of her books are published by HarperCollins publishers on the Enneagram personality system. Reviews can be found on her web site.*

**Dorothy Benson** at the Berkeley Branch was another member who recently passed.



Dorothy Benson loyally attended the biannual CWC Writers Conferences, earlier held at Mills College campus in Oakland and later at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Her activity in the Berkeley branch continued as Emeritus in recent years, attending the Annual Club Picnic at Joaquin Miller Park, where she would come regularly.

- \* Helen Madelyn Sullivan
- \* Marianne Ingheim Rossi
- \* Ray Malus

### PHYLLIS STERLING SMITH

In addition to the recent passing of Dorothy V. Benson, we also mourn the passing of Phyllis Sterling Smith in November 2016 who was in her mid 90s. Phyllis was an active member of the California Writers Club/Berkeley Branch, a Lifetime member of the Club. She and her husband Otto were close friends of Dorothy Benson, and also attended The Renegades poetry workshop regularly in Berkeley.

### Writers of Kern

Writers of Kern is saddened at this year's loss of three dedicated members:

**Dan McGuire**, Writers of Kern vice president, passed away June 7, 2017, after battling cancer. He represented WOK on the Central Board and was our So Cal representative as well. Involved in all aspects of the club, Dan was named the recipient of the 2017 Jack London Award from the Writers of Kern.



Dan hosted a critique group, published two novels, and wrote three times a week in his “Bako Heat” blog. Along with participating in WOK-sponsored writing contests, he also completed NaNoWriMo four times.



### Mendocino Coast

In memoriam, we mark the passing of Denise Stenberg. Her book, *End of the Line*, is about the town in Mendocino County that once was Glen Blair. She will be missed.



**Harvey Bondurant** passed away June 3, 2017, overcome by a six-year takeover by Alzheimer's Disease. He was a member of Writers of Kern for many years and served several terms on the executive board as treasurer. He enjoyed writing science fiction, mysteries, tall tales, and historical stories.



**Nancy Edwards**, Bakersfield College professor emerita of English a long-time Writers of Kern member, passed away January 5, 2017 after a long bout with cancer.



Beloved by former students and the Kern County writing community, Nancy co-sponsored Bakersfield's National Poetry Month, co-hosted readings and performances, and presented poetry workshops for Writers of Kern and other organizations. She was a gifted and prolific writer of fiction and non-fiction as well as poetry, with numerous publications.



So many books,  
so little time ...

This page is offered as a service to our membership. We cannot be responsible for missing an obituary notice, but will make every attempt to post the information here as space allows.  
~~ The Editor



# The Final Word

by  
Rusty LaGrange  
Editor

**Last minute items that need to be shared...**

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jack London Award Honorees of 2017** **CONGRATULATIONS GOES TO OUR HONOREES**

Berkeley	Kristen Caven
Central Coast	Laurie Sheehan
Coastal Dunes	Jenna Elizabeth Johnson
East Sierra	Juliane DiBlasi Black
Fremont Area Writers	Shirley Ferrante
High Desert	Jenny Margotta
Long Beach	Allene Symons
Mt. Diablo	Elisabeth Tuck
North State Writers	T.E. Watson, F.S.A. Scot
Orange County	Jonathan Yanez
Redwood Writers	Sandy Baker
Sacramento Writers	Gini Grossenbacher
San Fernando Valley	Mary R. Freeman
San Francisco Peninsula	Bill Baynes
San Joaquin Valley	June Gillam
South Bay Writers	Sally A. Minor
Tri-Valley Writers	Deborah Jordon Bernal
Writers of Kern	Dan McGuire
Mendocino Coast	Amie McGee



*“The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the one who is doing it.”*

*~~ Old West saying*