

THE BULLETIN

California Writers Club

Vol. 3 No. 3

Winter / 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 07 now in circulation since November 2017.

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California Writers Club
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Ina Coolbrith Award

CWC Honors Member Behind California Writers Week

The third week in October has been designated California Writers Week by the state legislature since 2003—and now, CWC has honored the member who made it all happen back in 2003.

CWC President Joyce Krieg presented the Ina Coolbrith Award to Anthony Folcarelli at the October 21 Sacramento branch meeting after the Central Board voted to honor him in this fashion for being the driving force behind California Writers Week. The Ina Coolbrith Award—named for California's first poet laureate, the Oakland librarian who mentored a young Jack London—honors exceptional volunteerism at the state level, similar to the Jack London Award at the branch level. The honor came as a complete surprise to Anthony.

As Kimberly Edwards, president of the Sacramento branch, put it, "Anthony worked many hours and spent his own funds to obtain a California



Anthony Folcarelli displays his Ina Coolbrith plaque, while CWC President Joyce Krieg holds up a brand-new resolution honoring Anthony and CWC at the Sacramento branch meeting.

continued on page 3

President's Corner

by **Joyce Krieg**

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE



True confession: When the news first broke about the horrifying wildfires in Napa and Sonoma counties, my thoughts couldn't help but turn to Jack London State Historic Park. Early dispatches from the fire lines had the flames engulfing the village of Glen Ellen just outside the park's boundaries, and told of rangers scrambling to save irreplaceable artifacts: Jack's typewriter, Charmian's piano.

Of course in the end, it's only "stuff" and cannot in any way compare to the loss of homes, jobs, life's works, and life itself. Likewise, the fate of one piece of CWC memorabilia—the original California Writers Week resolution—does not in any way stack up to the devastation in the North Bay, nor even the potential loss of a priceless relic like Jack London's typewriter. But for those of us who do care about our club's history and heritage, it

is a tiny stab in the heart.

I'm talking about the legislative resolution obtained by Anthony Folcarelli of the Sacramento branch (see story page XX) in September of 2003 declaring the third week in October to be California Writers Week in perpetuity. It was a gorgeous certificate with a ribbon and seal, four original signatures, and handsomely framed. It was also quite large—not something that could easily be tossed in a banker box or stuffed in a file drawer and forgotten about.

And yet, vanished it has. The resolution was last seen on display at Central Board meetings in Novato circa 2005, when Barbara Truax was president. Barb passed away a little over a year ago, and she seems to have taken the location of the resolution to the grave.

No, her closest living relative, a sister in Colorado, never saw it and doesn't have it. No,



Our original California Writers Week resolution is missing. This is what it looked like on Sept. 4, 2003, the day we received it at the State capitol. From left: CWC then-president Barbara Truax, Assemblyman Tim Leslie, and Anne Marie Gold of the California Library Association.

the Marin County probate administrator has no idea. No, the current officers of the Marin branch don't have it. No, it's not with our collection at the Bancroft Library. No, the five presidents who served in the years between Barb's term and mine never saw it. No, it's not in the CWC storage unit in Fremont.

I can't help but have a bad feeling that the resolution—our irreplaceable, signed, original legislative resolution—ended up with the rest of Barb's possessions at an estate sale, and someone bought it for a few dollars just for the frame. *sigh*

The takeaway: if you've got any one-of-a-kind items in your home—historic artifacts, original art, photo albums, signed first editions, *Star Wars* action figures in their factory packaging—leave a few clues as to what you want done when the time comes to shuffle off this mortal coil. If not in a will, then at least put a sticky note on the back or on the box with instructions before it all gets hauled off to the estate sale, whether it's contacting the local historical society, or a specific relative or charity, or, yes, California Writers Club.

BTW, if anyone reading this knows where the

continued next page

Ina Coolbrith Award *continued from page 1*

Legislative Resolution signed by both the Senate and the Assembly, designating the third week in October as California Writers Week in perpetuity. This extraordinary accomplishment required use of Anthony's own connections at the State Capitol and many meetings with legislative staff in both the Senate and the Assembly. By securing the California Writers Week legacy in which CWC is specifically named, Anthony ensured an enduring role for CWC, recognized by both legislative bodies, which in and of itself is an exceptional feat, adding prestige and credibility from which all branches benefit and will continue to benefit as long as CWC exists."

Of particular concern to Kim and Joyce as they planned the activities honoring Anthony was the fact that the original 2003 resolution — framed, on heavy paper, with a ribbon and gold seal, and containing four signatures — has disappeared. Despite Herculean efforts on their parts, and by Anthony himself, it has not turned up. (See more on this in the President's Message, page 2). As an alternative, Kim went to her own representative at the State Capitol, Assemblyman Ken Cooley of the 8th District, who immediately turned around a separate resolution in time for display at the branch meeting during California Writers Week.



Display *continued from page 2*

original California Writers Week resolution might be hiding, please, oh please, contact me: president@calwriters.org.

Now, as to Jack London State Historic Park: I am happy to report that the wind shifted; Jack's beloved Beauty Ranch was miraculously untouched by the flames, and it has reopened to visitors. The foundation managing the facility, Jack London Park Partners, has decided to waive all admission fees between now and the end of 2017, the thinking being that, with so many other parks in the area now reduced to ash, the people of the North Bay need a sanctuary, a place to escape from the devastation, if only for a few hours. The Beauty Ranch provided a refuge for Jack London during his very public life, and isn't it wonderful that the land he loved so much is serving that purpose once again a century later.



THE 90-DAY NOVEL LIVE TELECOURSE l.a. writers' lab imagine. create. transform.



Alan Watt

bestselling
novelist and
author of
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This intensive workshop guides novelists and memoirists from initial idea to the completion of a first draft. For writers at

WHEN: Begins Jan. 15th, 2018
TIME: Mondays, 12:00-1:30pm
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To register please go to lawriterslab.com

One of my students says:
"I went \$64,000 in debt for my MFA in fiction writing. I sit in this class and I wonder why. This is a great class!"

~~Frank B. Wilderson, III,
Winner of the American Book
Award for his memoir *Incognegro*

**Pay What You Can
After New Year's Eve
the Price: \$445.00**



Branch News

This is one season of turmoil and devastation for many parts of California. Our 22 branches share in your hope of survival and resiliency.. So far, two of the branches had reported direct loss to their homes. We received news from all branches except two. Thanx. ~~ The Editor

Napa Valley

Note: Submissions deadline for *The Literary Review* has been extended to Dec. 10th for your branch.

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!

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.

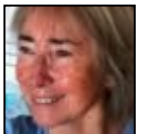
Sarita has also established a mobile NVW library of members' books that can be checked out, read and reviews posted on Amazon and Goodreads.

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



## North State

We all work so hard to give our CWC branch members the very best opportunities, networks, and skills to showcase their writing. Although this is our second year, the North State Writers branch is putting together several venues for our members.

The first was a booth at the weekly local farmers market. We paid the one-time entrance fee and every week different authors sold their books under the NSW banner. This garnered publicity for the authors and the NSW. Also, we picked up new members, some who had never heard of NSW/CWC before.

We published our first Anthology, *FIRST BLUSH*, available on Amazon (we would be honored if you would take a look). We had 45 submissions and many happy first-time published members. Our committee worked hard

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## *Branch News continues*

and is proud of the professional outcome. It has been a great success. We are now working on our second Anthology, due out in the early Spring.

We have arranged several book signings for our authors at local bookstores and the Chico State University campus. The authors sign up and are chosen randomly to participate. We are beginning to get local businesses calling us to have a book signing at their stores.

On Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a wine, cheese, and authors day at a local winery. Seven of our authors will talk about the writing craft and their books while tasting local wines and cheese with the public.

We are also starting our first critique group with several eager members.

We have formed a partnership with the local Art Museum (writing is art too) and on November 5<sup>th</sup> we are putting on a writer's Boot Camp (workshop). The very talented and experienced Nora Profit, owner of the Writing Loft, will be lecturing and working hands-on with members and their writing projects. *This is open to the public and at a discount for CWC/NORCAL members.*

Monthly, we offer two authors to run a free book give-away on Amazon. We keep track and publicize their books on multiple group sites. The authors average about 250 downloads.

The club ran a writing contest of weird, off beat, ghost, and spook stories for an anthology (we) published before Halloween. We offered a prize to the creepiest.

We are honoring "Writer's Week" by collecting and donating book baskets to various non-profit organizations. We are also splurging at the next meeting with cake and treats. Of course, we will have a great Holiday Party at a local restaurant. It was a smash last year.

~~ Cathy Chase-Vice President



## **Redwood Writers**

*Note: Submissions deadline for The Literary Review has been extended to Dec. 10th for your branch.*

What began as a spark sometime before midnight on Sunday, October 8, and precipitated the first evacuations in the pre-dawn hours of that Monday, changed the lives of Redwood Branch members forever. Multiple fires in Sonoma and Napa counties changed the lives of all the people and animals, spreading its effect into all the adjacent counties in the North Bay.

Thousands were affected. Some members lost their homes and most of everything they possessed. Others found shelter with friends, some in the churches, halls, fairgrounds, beaches, campgrounds, and hotels. Many had to move multiple times to stay safe. And there was a great coming together in solidarity to support each other, to grow our compassion and our humility in the face of fear and devastation.

Unfortunately, it is not over. Because of the magnitude of the devastation, some of us will not live to see the completion of the restoration of the forestlands and the economy. What we have gained is the realization that we have the strength to support one another, to cry with them, to laugh with them when there is just no other choice, to expand our courage and vigor outside ourselves. To know that we are capable of so much more. To stand proud. Sonoma Strong!

Meanwhile, within our almost 300-strong membership, the work continues. Catharine Brampkamp, Elaine Rock, and Marilyn Lanier are firming up the speakers and programs for Redwood's April 21, 2018, writers conference at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa. Mark your calendars!

Natasha Yim is busy creating the agenda for the 2018 contests and accompanying workshops. Sommers Bryant is fully engaged in the launch of Redwood's 2018 anthology: *Redemption*. The theme: Out of Silence ... and ... Quietly, in the background, there is a beehive of members keeping Redwood's regular member educational activities buzzing: Sher Gamard for the every-other-month Salon; Linda Loveland Reid with the still-new Writer's Circle held the months when the Salon is quiet; Joelle Burnett, the website. There are too many to name within our word count here, but know that we value every member and the contribution each makes to our team.

~~ contributors, Janice Rowley





## *Branch News continues*

### **Central Coast**

#### **INSIDER SECRETS: Agent Pitches and Queries with Laurie McLean**

On Saturday, November 4, Central Coast Writers held a workshop featuring leader Laurie McLean, co-founder of Fuse Literary. Laurie unveiled the secrets of the perfect pitch and the quintessential query at this fast-paced, information-packed workshop.

Laurie wowed CCW at our September meeting, and was a shoo-in for our November workshop. Many of us have tried for years to land an agent. Laurie is an industry insider who knows the secrets to cutting through the slush pile and getting your project the attention it deserves. She explained what pitches and queries are and how they are different, the elements of the perfect query, what to do/what not to do, and high concept pitching: word cloud creation and making a query memorable. Attendees also had the opportunity to pitch to Laurie and get instant feedback.

Laurie spent 20 years as the CEO of a multi-million dollar marketing agency and 8 years as an agent/senior agent at Larsen Pomada Literary Agents before cofounding Fuse Literary in 2013. At Fuse Lit, Laurie specializes in adult genre fiction plus middle-grade and young adult children's books. Laurie is also the co-director of the San Francisco Writers Conference.



**Laurie McLean shared CCW Insider secrets for agent pitches and queries**

~~ Lana, contributor

#### **CCW's Annual BBQ Held in August**

We set aside our writing for a few hours to attend CCW's annual BBQ at Whispering Pines Park in Monterey. A sunny day, congenial writerly friends, and delectable food made for a relaxing time for all. We are lucky to have member and

past president Harold Grice as grill master and his willing son, Sam, and daughter, Helen, to assist. They do all the planning of meats and veggies to grill, the buying, hauling, and cooking. They also schlep along their handmade grills! And, they've done this for more years than we can keep track of!



**CCW Jack London Award winners: Leslie Patiño, Harold Grice, Joyce Krieg, Ken Jones, and Laurie Sheehan**



**BBQ Grill Master Harold Grice**

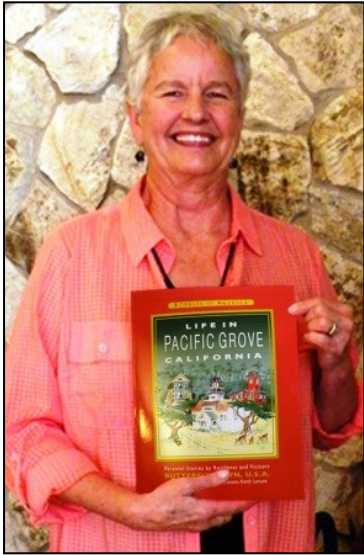
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## *Branch News continues*

### **Life in Pacific Grove**



Publisher and CCW member Patricia Hamilton released her highly anticipated book *Life in Pacific Grove* in early October. A labor of love, the tome weighs in at nearly 500 pages and contains stories from residents of and visitors to Pacific Grove, who tell what makes the place special to them. At a late summer CCW meeting, Patricia read her mini-memoir portraying her PG life experiences by rewriting a synopsis of the comic farce, "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride." She challenged members to reciprocate and submit their story for inclusion, and 22 members did so! Patricia is donating all the proceeds from *Life in Pacific Grove* to the Friends of the Pacific Grove Library. To purchase a copy, go to [lifeinpacificgrove.com](http://lifeinpacificgrove.com).

*Patricia Hamilton published Life in Pacific Grove*

### **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**

After some great experiences last year, CCW members will again help judge the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Scholastic requires 15 judges, each of whom can commit 10 to 15 hours to reading and scoring works between December 29, 2017 and January 10, 2018. They also require 5 back-up judges. Works are judged on originality, personal vision and voice, and technical skill in 11 categories. Judges do all reading and scoring online.

CCW member and Contest Chair Leslie Patiño holds two optional Adjudication Parties, one at the start of the judging and one near the end of the process. For some judges last year, this was an opportunity to get started and better understand how to use the scoring rubric and the online system.

We look forward to reading impressive writing by some of the most creative teenagers from across the country. And our work earns a \$2000 stipend for the club!

~~ Lana Bryan



## **Writers of Kern**

Writers of Kern Fall Writing Contest entries have been submitted and are in the hands of the judges. This is a members-only contest with cash prizes awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners at the annual Winter Dinner in December.

The Winter Dinner gathering provides an evening of fun, food, and camaraderie for members and their guests. Gently used books are gaily wrapped and traded, and we are treated to a reading of the Fall Writing Contest 1<sup>st</sup> Place story.



With a great line-up of speakers, we are gearing up for our Annual Spring Conference, which will be held March 17, 2018. Presentation topics include book proposals, poetry, screen writing, and revision, plus vendors and opportunities for attendees to sell their books; there's something for every writer. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a great conference in the coolness of a Bakersfield spring.

~~ Annis Cassells



**Keith Richards** — one of the rebellious bad boys of the Rolling Stones — wrote his autobiography, [Life](#), in 2010. Here are some of the things that surprised me. Richards was shy around women. He was a choir boy. And a Boy Scout. And he became a heroin addict because he hated fame. But what surprised me the most were his sophisticated thoughts about writing. Here are five writing lessons you, too, can learn from Keith Richards.

### **\*Learn from others**

When people ask me how to become better writers, I always start by suggesting that they read more and read more mindfully. At this advice, they often look at me quizzically, as if to say: “It’s that simple?” There’s nothing simple about it. Reading takes time, reading mindfully, longer. We all learn by imitating those who went before us. Here’s how Richards describes his relationship with *his* masters: “You were supposed to spend all your waking hours studying Jimmy Reed, Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin’ Wolf, Robert Johnson. That was your gig. Every other moment taken away from it was a sin.” Writers can just change the names: Truman Capote, Harper Lee, Ray Bradbury, Toni Morrison (and many, many others).

### **\*Be prolific**

With all of the bestselling songs sliding off of Richards’ fingertips, it might be easy to believe that he was just born with buckets of talent. But, like many famous artists, Richards was prolific. We don’t hear about the bad songs because they didn’t hit the charts. But he wrote them. He has a life’s work of more modest successes, some 10 percent of Richards’ work is awesome. Here is how he describes it:

“We were prolific. We felt that it was impossible that we couldn’t come up with something every day or every two days. That was what we did, and even if it was the bare bones of a riff, it was something to go on, and then while they were trying to get the sound on it or we were trying to shape the riff, the song would fall into place of its own volition.”

### **\*Make the most of even a small idea**

Writers often figure they need a cataclysmic revelation to write anything that’s meaningful or worthwhile. Instead, I like the way that Richards finds possibility in the smaller moments. As he says, “You only really need a little sparkle of an idea and before the evening’s over it will be a beautiful thing.” I especially like his use of the word “sparkle,” suggesting something that is both brief and delightful.

### **\*Understand that the radar is always on**

If you are a writer, you’re *always* a writer, and your writing should have a place at the back of your mind, *all the time*. Here’s how Richards puts it from a songwriter’s point of view: “Somewhere in the back of the mind, you’re thinking about this chord sequence or something related to a song. No matter what the hell’s going on. You might be getting shot at, and you’ll still be “Oh! That’s the bridge!” and there’s nothing you can do; you don’t realize it’s happening. It’s totally subconscious or whatever. **The radar is on whether you know it or not.**” I love his expression about radar — a strong, invisible force that guides our way.

### **\*Know that great writing appears to write itself**

We all like to imagine ourselves as makers and doers, but much of success relates to simply being there. Writer Woody Allen says that 80 percent of success is showing up, but I like Richards’ more detailed and thoughtful reflection. Here’s what he says: “Great songs write themselves. You’re just being led by the nose, or the ears. The skill is not to interfere with it too much. Ignore intelligence, ignore everything; just follow it where it takes you. You really have no say in it, and suddenly there it is: “Oh, I know how this goes,” and you can’t believe it because you think that nothing comes like that. You think, where did I steal this from? No, no, that’s original — well, about as original as I can get. And you realize that songs write themselves; you’re just the conveyor.”

Interesting how the bad boy of rock ‘n’ roll sounds almost religious when he says that, isn’t it?



~~~ Daphne Gray-Grant is a coach and writing consultant from Canada. You can find her writer’s insights at <http://www.publicationcoach.com>. This article is printed with her permission.





Branch News continues

San Fernando Valley

CWC-SFV and MPTF Recognized at Special 30th Anniversary Ceremony



Vice President Bob Okowitz with Los Angeles City Councilman Bob Blumenfield

The atmosphere was positively charged at the October meeting held by the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club. Ebullience was high as branch members anticipated giving and receiving kudos.

Yolanda Fintor, charter member and past president of the branch, opened the special ceremony with the recounting of the California Writers Club's state history and ended with describing the branch's history.

She then introduced Los Angeles City Councilman Bob Blumenfield, who presented a proclamation certificate, signed by each member of the Los Angeles City Council, to CWC-SFV to commemorate the 30th anniversary of its charter. He made note of the anthology, "Cascade of Pearls," the branch had published to mark this achievement.

"I am impressed and humbled to be in the same room with all of you," said Blumenfield. "It was exciting to learn about the California Writers Club, with its long history and its mission to support one another in reaching your goals toward publication through your critique groups and inspirational speakers."

Next, Mary Freeman, also a charter member and past president of CWC-SFV, made it a point to highlight the many contributions made by Betty Freeman (no relation) to the branch.

"Betty spearheaded the movement in 1986 to form the first CWC

branch to be chartered in southern California. Her leadership and energy enabled the club to reach the professional standards it enjoys today.

"When Betty moved to the Motion Picture and Television Fund home, she arranged for the use of the Katzenberg Villa for our monthly meetings. She immediately became active at MPTF by forming writing groups among the residents. Always eager to learn, she interviewed the many talented residents, all of whom had been involved in the world of film and television. She realized she had enough material for a book and 'Behind the Silver Screen' was born."

"Betty Freeman is a legendary, iconic person on campus. In fact, a corner of our library has been named after her," Beitcher said. "We are



Mary Freeman, Rita Brown, Councilman Blumenfield, Yolanda Fintor and Andrea Polk.

continued next page



Branch News continues

incredibly proud to host this club. It's very meaningful to be a good community partner.

"Our campus also promotes creativity, engagement, and social action. It's incredible for us to be able to do this. Our residents, most of whom have spent their lives in the art of storytelling, and the average age of eighty-seven years, are looking for a purpose in life, looking for engagement and looking for ways to channel their creativity. The branch and MPTF enjoy a symbiotic relationship.

"It's a great honor for Motion Picture and Television Fund campus to be the home of the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club." ~~ Gary Wesk, contributor

~~ Gabriella Owens

San Francisco / Peninsula

The SF Peninsula branch worked with several local libraries to celebrate California Writers Week. We've created a montage of books by branch authors to use this year. In succeeding years, we hope to persuade libraries to stock these titles and to host readings and signings.

We're also working with farmers' markets, staffing tables at different weekly events to showcase our club and recruit new members.

As our new board settles in, we have re-designed and updated our chapter newsletter. We planned a new member mixer for late October. We're also trying to set up additional critique groups so that all members have opportunities to have their writings reviewed and discussed.

At our August meeting, Donna Levin offered advice about how to hook readers, using foreshadowing, pace, and rising stakes. In September, Michelle Richmond shared stories about the writing of her new novel, *The Marriage Pact*. In October, Nina Amir spoke on *From Inspiration to Publication*.

At Think Tank discussions following our regular meetings, members have led discussion about poetry, creative nonfiction, and what editors look for.

~~ Bill Baynes



Coastal Dunes

Lost News from the Editors Files:

The Coastal Dunes branch has had a very busy spring and early summer! Our first-ever writing contest with the Nipomo High School completed in March, and we had an Award Ceremony April 5th at the school library, where we presented each of the six first-place winners with a certificate and a check for \$200 (funded generously by our members and local businesses.) In addition, a local credit union contributed Barnes and Noble gift cards for the second-place winners. Coastal Dunes members were extremely impressed with the quality and professionalism of the students' work; they have a very bright future! Here are the happy first- and second-place winners:



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From March through July, we have had five great monthly meetings with inspiring and entertaining speakers.



At the March meeting LeeAnne Krusemark presented a most informative and entertaining talk about how to format your manuscript for submission to a publisher. Your manuscript must be formatted to the publisher's standards/rules or you risk having it rejected. These standards can vary between publishers so it is important to know the protocol for each company. A lively question and answer period followed Ms. Krusemark's speech.



April was a fun meeting with Disney props! Writing about Walt Disney and the Disney parks comes easy for April speaker Nancy Rodrigue as she has been an avid fan ever since she was 6 years old and went to Disneyland for the first time. Her *Hidden Mickey* novels combine adventure, mystery, and history, combined with a fond look at the man who created it all: Walt Disney. In her presentation to Coastal Dunes CWC, Nancy talked about her books, what prompted her idea, and how the books tie into Walt Disney and the parks he created.

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Branch News continues



Our May speaker was R. Lawson Gamble, author of the Zack Tolliver FBI series. His presentation, "What I Love About Indie Publishing" addressed his journey to publication. The motivation for his first novel came from a love for storytelling and curiosity about the budding digital revolution in book publishing, just beginning to take hold. Was it possible to write, publish and sell a book at no cost? He discussed the advantages of indie publishing: price control, more creative opportunity, speed and allowance for experimentation.



We were very fortunate to bring in a local poet, Kevin Clark, for our June meeting. He inspired all of us with his presentation, "Poetry and Authenticity: On Imagining Events We've not Witnessed." And imagining those events can be quite a challenge. But when writing in the first person it's important to become proficient at this skill. With humor and wit, as well as serious concepts, Kevin outlined eight steps to guide us through the process of writing authentic Persona Poetry, i.e. poetry written in the first person.

(Fun fact: Mary Higgins Clark is his aunt; calls her "Aunt Mary." Name dropper! 😊)

July was our blockbuster meeting, with record attendance and standing room only (good thing the fire marshal was not in the vicinity). It was a screenwriting panel organized by David Congalton: "The Path from the Page to the Big Screen", filled with a star-studded list of panelists: **David Congalton** is a radio host and screenwriter of a 2014 film *Authors Anonymous*. **Michael Kaplan** is a veteran Hollywood writer and playwright. **Randi Barros** is an award winning film editor and screenwriter. **Martin Olson** is an author, playwright, screenwriter, and Emmy-nominated TV writer. Among them are numerous film credits too numerous to mention here. Each speaker provided us real insight, based on their own experiences, into the traumas and triumphs of the screenwriting world.



mas and triumphs of the screenwriting world.



Branch News continues



August through December will prove to be a very busy time for Coastal Dunes CWC as well, with participation in local book festivals, the Central Coast Writers Conference, and more lively and entertaining speakers planned. We are also working on our first anthology - a collection of original works ranging from poetry to prose and everything in between. The title is *Shifting Sands*, and the group hopes to have the book published by September of this year. Stay tuned to the Dunes

~~Donna Wolfe, Newsletter Editor, Coastal Dunes

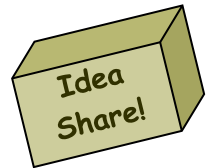
The Board of Directors have chosen to invite you to see all their current news, photos, events, and contests directly from their website.

<http://coastaldunescwc.com>

~~ Donna Wolfe

Berkeley

The Berkeley Branch has a new home at Preservation Park, a historic neighborhood in Downtown Oakland. Before our monthly meeting and speaker, we hold two writer's support groups, one focused on Craft and one focused on Marketing.



Our club would like to support writers and readers in the North Bay who were affected by the fire with a book drive. If you know of schools, libraries, community centers etc. that would like to accept our donation, please let us know at berkeley.cwc@gmail.com.

Sail On!

~~ Kristen Caven

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Was there a telethon that wiped out **lumbago**? Nobody complains of that anymore. Maybe that's what **Castor oil** cured, because I never hear mothers threatening kids with Castor Oil anymore, either.



Branch News continues

High Desert

High Desert Celebrates Writers Week with Alan Watt Workshop

A bit earlier than the third week of October, the HDCWC hosted a 6-hour workshop on writing "The 90-Day Novel" by best-selling author of *Diamond Dogs*, Alan Watt, and who has also just completed writing, directing, and producing an indie film to be released in January 2018. Watt is also author of *The 90-Day Novel* and *The 90-Day Screenplay*. The event was limited to 25 people so that each one coming to the workshop could receive Al's personal attention.

Attendees included other CWC members from Inland Empire branch and San Fernando Valley. The HDCWC arranged with Watt a special discounted price for CWC members of only \$65, which was an incredible price for an all-day workshop from a person of Al's caliber.

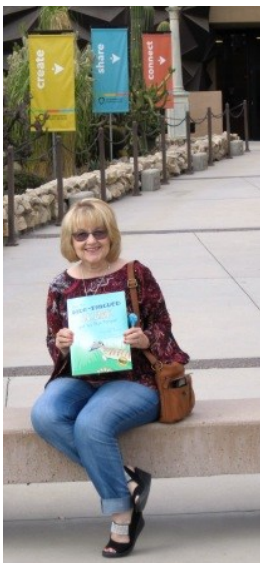
**Alan Watt Workshop featured
for California Writers Week**



The HDCWC continued with its 10-month program of the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project with more classes on topics that the high school students will need to learn to write their memoir of a person 55-years or older called "memoir stars."

Mary Langer Thompson, Project Director, secured our local newspaper's feature article writer, Rene Ray De La Cruz, to teach the students interviewing skills and techniques. He was so popular with the students that he, himself, was selected to be a memoir star and whose personal story will be in the 2018 anthology produced by the DCB project.

The High Desert branch will again participate in the Scholastic Arts program as judges for students.



Meet the Skink

Imagine getting an e-mail after our High Desert Arts and Literary Festival saying that a museum wants to carry your book! That's exactly what happened to Mary Langer Thompson after our September event. Because her children's book is about a blue-tongued skink, a real animal native to Australia, a representative of the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands contacted Mary saying they have a popular live blue-tongued skink that children adore, and they want to have Mary's book about Dinky the skink in their museum store.

So Mary and husband Dave knew they had to meet George, the real skink. His markings are amazingly like what her illustrator captured for Dinky. George is

continued next page



Branch News continues

the age of 21, so he is old. The life span of most blue-tongued skinks is 20 years, but George is safer in captivity and is enjoying a longer life while children pet him and watch him get fed. His blue tongue is his only defense to scare away predators, so his main enemies when not in captivity are lawn mowers and cats that sneak up on him. Occasionally, however, he sticks his tongue out for the kids.

So now you can add a field trip to a close museum to the High Desert when you buy Mary's book, *How the Blue-Tongued Skink got his Blue Tongue*, available in both English and Spanish. If you buy it from her personally, you will get a blue Tootsie Pop so your own tongue can turn blue while reading.



~~ Bob Isbill, PR



Long Beach

Let's Do Launch

Three of our members are celebrating publication with book launches this fall at our partnering indie bookstore, Gatsby Books. Husband and wife writing team Will Zeilinger and Janet Lynn were surprised to have both of their essays accepted into the *Chicken Soup for the Soul —Dreams and the Unexplainable* compilation. They presented their stories and conducted a panel for the October 7, 2017, Gatsby Books launch event.

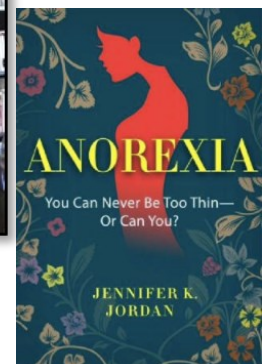
Other Plans

The Long Beach branch is starting to plan our 2018 half-day biannual workshop event. While that plan is underway, the board is also reaching out to the educational community to provide scholarship funds under the newly approved CWC branch-based program. We are approaching Long Beach City College to seek a student in a writing-related discipline worthy of the scholarship.

Sail On.



Janet and Will



~~ Kathryn Atkins, PR



Branch News continues

Orange

The fires that plagued California in October came dangerously close to the city of Orange. Many homes in the adjacent cities were evacuated. Fortunately, we remained safe and were able to hold our October meeting at the library where we regularly meet.

Now that dues renewal is completed, we are at 41 members. We are giving Meet-Up a three-month trial to see if membership improves. So far, we have had guests who learned about us through the site. The trial may continue if the number of guests continues to be promising and results in new members.

National Novel Writing month takes place in November and weekly workshops will be held at the Orange Library. Each week a member of our branch will speak at the meeting. The theme, of course, is writing, publishing, and promoting. Members will also be participating again as judges in the National Scholastic Writing Awards contest in December and January. Our president, Jonathan Yanez, oversaw the project last year, which earned \$2,000 for our treasury. He is heading the effort this year as well. Those of us who judged are eager to do it again. It was amazing to read and judge the essays of very talented high school students across the United States.

Our speakers continue to surprise us with their unique stories, and we always glean useful information from their presentations. Diane Vallere, a former fashion buyer, pursued her love of writing during her work breaks. Eventually, the desire to be a full-time author took over, and she now has four mystery series. Although, each series has a different protagonist, they all center around some aspect of the fashion world.

In October, we enjoyed hearing how J. Ryan Stradal wrote his best-selling novel, "Kitchens of the Great Midwest". No, this is not a recipe book, but a mother-daughter story. After his talk, we proceeded to the nearby 1888 Cultural Center for a reception. Our branch will hold our November meeting at this center due to the library being closed on our usual meeting day, Nov. 11, the Veterans' Day holiday. Our December meeting will be our annual holiday potluck and open mic. This meeting is also a great time to network, socialize, and get to know one another better. Hard to believe a new year will be starting soon, but that is what is ahead of us. May we all be inspired to write, write, write.



~~ Jeanette A. Fratto





Branch News continues

Mt. Diablo

Mt. Diablo Presents Author Panels: SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A BOOK

The Mt Diablo branch continues its community outreach by offering a program entitled "So You Want to Write a Book" to nearby public libraries. The public is invited, and attendees are asked to sign-in so the branch can notify them of upcoming events. A panel of member authors, both traditionally and self-published, share their writing, publishing, and marketing experiences and answer questions. These events have resulted in increased membership while also allowing authors to publicize and sell their books."

~~Judith Marshall

"My favorite part was meeting people personally after the session and hearing about their writing ambitions. Every person I spoke to indicated that he or she is interested in attending a CWC meeting to learn more about the craft and to meet other writers. The San Ramon Library staff was very warm and accommodating."

~~Judith Ingram

"My measure for success is audience participation. We got that in droves-nearly an hour-long Q&A. Because all but one CWC brochure disappeared, I hope to see some new, yet familiar, faces at future meetings."

~~Jill Hedgecock

"Four women. Four sets of experiences. Four outlooks. Amazing energy and advice times four. While all of this was good, the most exciting part for me, in addition to promoting CWC, was having my husband sit with my books and introducing him to the crowd. After all, he inspired my forthcoming memoir *Never Too Late: From Wannabe to Wife at 62*. We'd love to do it again and hope you'll see many new faces at meetings."

~~B. Lynn Goodwin



Author Panelists field questions during discussion at San Ramon Public Library.



Mt. Diablo started this year in 5th gear. Our new website is up and running thanks to the design work of Linda Lee of Ask Me PC Web Design. Linda has built several CWC websites and we are very happy with ours, too.

Mt. Diablo member Judith Ingram sells her books after the Author Panel.

The website has us juggling with new online methods of member applications and renewals, meeting reservations, newsletter submissions and other things. There's a learning curve for all of us, but we're getting there. I'm

excited to have an actual *team* of coders willing to pitch in and keep our site up to date. It's nice to split the work and keep the stress manageable.

We have recently welcomed four new volunteers who took over from retiring program heads: Dita Basu will handle meeting reservations, Bill Stong and John Marvin are teaming up to produce discussions on the craft of writing at our pre-meeting Writers Table, and Deborah Greenberg is coordinating with members who want to create or join critique groups. These are all very important benefits for our members

and I'm happy to have these capable, enthusiastic people taking charge of things!

-- Marlene Dotterer, President





Branch News continues

Marin

We've had a great start to our fall program, with a talk on how character can drive plot from David Corbett, and a talk by our own John Byrne Barry on weaving multiple storylines. In November, CWC Marin will be hosting a NaNoWriMo write-in, which will be open to the public, with a NaNoWriMo representative giving a talk about strategies for the month-long event. This will be followed by a celebration of our annual CWC Marin Christmas Party on Dec. 3rd which will be an open mic style event and potluck party.

We've also had several new board members join our group over the summer, including Tommie Whitener as our new Treasurer and Carmen Appell as our new Membership Chair. We are looking forward to another great year of writing and sharing!

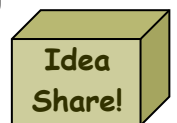
~~ Mary Kreffling

**This digital full-color magazine is available to all members for free.
It can be read from a link at www.CalWriters.org anytime.
It's compatible with most digital devices.
Pass the Word.**

Inland Empire

Several years ago, we overheard comments that the club felt uninviting because there were small cliques of people who knew one another so well that it felt hard for newcomers to fit in. To address this, we removed "chit chat" opportunities by lengthening the presentation time and invited a guest speaker to every meeting, instead of every other month. Paradoxically, by shortening the meet and greet time, we receive compliments about our friendly club. However, after three years we don't really know the writers we sit beside, so it is time to swing back in the other direction, to be more social and build personal working relationships.

How did we figure out that it was time for a change? Our VP, Jodi Rizotto, sent out a survey so the board could figure out how to tailor the program to current membership.



Another survey observation was that 80% of our regular attendees are self-published authors who desire specifics on writing techniques and the business of selling their books. They wanted fewer inspirational speeches. We invited presenters to discuss their journey as a writer; the craft and motivational tips about a writer's lifestyle, but we now changed our guidelines to focus on the differences of their genre from others. We ask authors to come with three to five writing tips specific to their genre. The other benefit of doing the survey was an updated list of member genres and interests to cross-reference when booking speakers.

We decided to reserve the energy of the board by collaborating with local writing groups. Instead of organizing a Spring workshop, we will sponsor a local community college so our members can be instructed by local teachers and meet local mentors. This frees up team energy to focus on monthly small group breakout meetings, an annual open mic, our annual members publishing panel, and our Fall Retreat.

continued next page





Branch News continues

Collaboration means the board does not have to organize everything. We can leverage opportunities already available. For example, in September our one-day Fall Retreat was in Idyllwild. We worked on our media kits. The next day, a few of us drove down the mountain, through the haze from the Orange Country fires, up to Hesperia to attend the CWC High Desert workshop about writing a novel in 90 days. This way, our one-day retreat had an optional extended weekend for writers, but the board did not do all the work. We could carpool and show up at someone else's event!

Writers need community and so do the people who organize writers. These are some of our program tweaks in 2018. The board's objective is to use our meetings to get to know members, their works-in-progress more personally, and to do a better job of communicating those learning opportunities in our area.

~~ JK Conibear



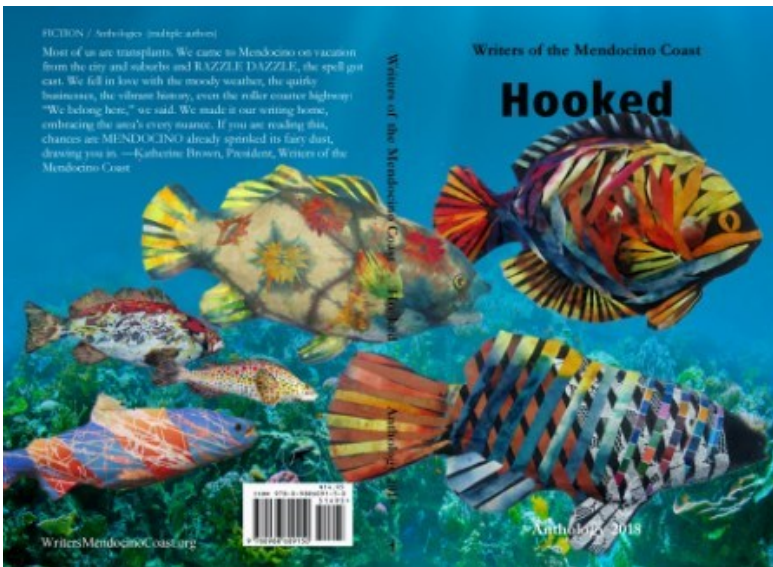
Mendocino Coast

We are thankful that the lives and property of all our members were spared during the recent fires in Mendocino County.

October

Our October collaboration with the Artist's Co-op of Mendocino produced 21 pairs of artists and writers for our Sixth Annual Ekphrasis show at their Mendocino gallery. Writers inspired by artists, or those who inspired an artist, read their one-page prose or poetry at our October 19th meeting while a slide show presented the matching artwork. For our November 16th meeting, "Finding the Poetry in November," six local poets will read their work

prompted by the theme of "November," followed by a writing exercise for everyone.



The artwork for our 2018 anthology, "Hooked," features paper-mache creations by the artist and 30-year art instructor, Bob Rhoades.

Visit our website at WritersMendocinoCoast.org for details of past writing projects for members.

~~ Katherine Brown, President

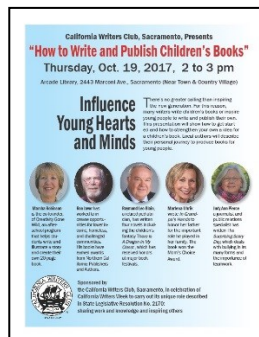




Branch News continues

Sacramento

Photos of two of the six for the panels hosted by the branch, the first on fiction and the second on Writing and Publishing Children's Books.



Sacramento celebrated California Writers Week by offering a series of six content panels on children's books, fiction, memoir, business writing, personal writing, and 10 steps to jump start your writing success. Presentations were held at bookstores, libraries, and cafes. Each presentation had its own flyer and a laminated poster to showcase at each venue. The focus on the sessions was to give back to the community in fulfilling our role of mentoring, teaching, and showcasing writing and writers. Another purpose was to give our members practice in presenting content about their genre.

Additionally, we honored member Anthony Folcarelli for his role in securing the original Joint Assembly and Senate Legislative Resolution that authorized California Writers Week in 2003. State President Joyce Krieg presented a PowerPoint on Anthony's contribution as well as on the CWC history and branches. For presentation on this special day, the branch secured a new Legislative Resolution, dated October, 2017, from the office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley. The new Resolution validates California Writers Week and the role of CWC in promoting writing and writers.

~~ Kimberly Edwards , president





Branch News continues

South Bay

South Bay Writers was delighted to host in early November, the PAGE-TURNING TENSION WORKSHOP. Popular instructor, Jordan Rosenfeld, shared techniques used by bestselling authors to captivate your readers. Offered at a substantial savings, even to last-minute attendees, it included a continental breakfast and lunch. Learn more about our other events at www.southbaywriters.com.



The new board, led by President Edie Matthews, (organizer of four East of Eden Writing Conferences), VP Jamal Khan, Secretary Karen Sundback, Treasurer Trenton Myers, and PR Chair Tatyana Grinenko, are working diligently to make 2017-18 an exhilarating experience.

~~ President Edie Matthews



East Sierra

Where the Mojave Desert meets the Sierra Nevada

We held our annual Weird Weekend in September with an indie film shorts festival, Weird Storytelling Competition, and member C. R. Rowenson's "The Silent City," an interactive thriller. The performance played to a sold-out crowd. Altogether, the three events netted us about \$1000. Right now we're preparing for our Tuesday, December 5, Dickens Tea. We hold this annual celebration at My Enchanted Cottage, a Victorian tea room. Participants enjoy tea and scones, a session of Victorian crafting, a book swap (free books provided), and a reading by "Queen Victoria" from the Queen's own Christmas diary. Costumes encouraged.

~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal



Benefits of Membership

CWC Arranges for Two New

Members' Discounts

1. *Family Tree Magazine* (for genealogical writers and researchers) has offered CWC members \$3 off a one-year subscription (7 issues). Price would be \$24 vs. the \$27 "standard intro price." California Writer's Club members can receive a discounted *Family Tree Magazine* subscription rate for 7 issues for \$24.00. When ordering by phone (888-403-9002) club members should mention source key: 87DCWC. Expiration on this agreement is 6/30/18.
2. *Writer's Digest* has offered a discount to CWC members. Current online cost is \$21.96 for print or digital. They offer the same options (print or digital) to CWC members for \$14.95 for either one. Expiration on this agreement is 12/31/17. The link: https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/0768P/apps/COMBO_CW2?ikey=C**W41. An opt-in box will appear reading "Please send me *Writer's Digest's* and F+W's FREE newsletter plus exclusive offers via e-mail. You'll also receive special offers from our marketing partners. You can unsubscribe from those newsletters via the newsletters themselves. We will not share your e-mail address with any third party without your consent. For more information, please read our privacy policy." Members who do not check the box to opt in, will exempt themselves from these offers and the discount would still apply.

~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal

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 Winter issue of *The Bulletin* (coming out in mid-March) 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.



Branch News continues

CWC South

Southern Branches of the California Writers Club

For those who may be newer members, the 108-year-old California Writers Club has a governing body known as the Central Board. Each branch selects a representative, who attends "CB" meetings twice a year. To handle discussion more informally, with less time pressure and to "kick around" ideas, the CWC has two regions, north and south.

Seen here is a CWC South meeting chaired by Donna McCrohan Rosenthal (East Sierra Branch). High Desert rep Bob Isbill, behind the camera, is not shown. The group most recently met on August 10 in the Atrium Room at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena. Topics included CWC South's mini-grants and the Dickens Festival coming up in February in Riverside. Other subjects are as varied as the membership.

CWC South maintains the monthly "zine"-format socialwritersshowcase.com. Have you ever sent one of your poems, stories, articles, reflections on the craft or Writer's Life? Donna often finds submissions in *The Inkslinger*, and Rusty La-Grange puts her in touch with the authors for their reprint permission. Other sources are word-of-mouth and other branch newsletters. Submissions stay on the website for up to six months.

Written by CWC South members, the regional "Showcase" presents eight categories: short fiction, nonfiction/essay, memoir, poetry, writer's life, craft, interview, news, and conferences.

Members submit directly to the editorial staff and also, by referral from branch newsletter editors who contact the site editors when they receive pieces that seem just right for reprint, as mentioned above. For more info direct your email to:

mccrohan@iwvisp.com



Representatives from each southern branch convene twice a year for current issues and brainstorming sessions. (Photo credit: Bob Isbill)

~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal



WHEN TERMS TWIST

'Wall-to-wall' was once a magical term in our homes. In the '50s, everyone covered his or her hardwood floors with, wow, wall-to-wall carpeting! Today, everyone replaces their wall-to-wall carpeting with hardwood floors. Go figure.

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.

Advertising content must be for businesses related to the writing and publishing field, any CWC member in good standing, and individuals who wish to reach our target market at reasonable prices.

Four sizes and rates:

1. **Business card size (2x3.5") ad for \$35.** These will appear in the back section of *The Bulletin*.
2. **Index card size (3x5") ad for \$60.** To be interspersed throughout *The Bulletin* as appropriate.
3. **Cover Story size (5x7") ad for \$90** created from your book's cover, mug shot, short description of book, and short author's 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

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 surface 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 5x7" 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. No exceptions.
- ♦ A physical copy of your ad and details of your payment must be mailed. 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 help us understand how you paid.

Submit your display ad by Feb. 27th deadline for advertising submissions in Spring issue in mid-March.

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. Remember to 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. 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. **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 —

Deadline Reminder:

2018 CWC Literary Review Magazine Submissions Due November 30

CWC members may submit one or two pieces, published or unpublished, by Nov. 30 for consideration in the 2018 issue of the CWC Literary Review. Writers Guidelines at www.CalWriters.org



DO YOU KNOW OUR Web Posting & Links Policy?

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.

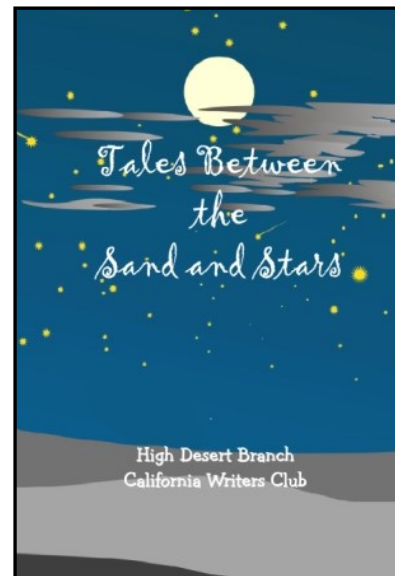
We will provide reciprocal links to:

- 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 Internet contests available to a national readership.

To the PR chair or branch rep: All submissions for **The Bulletin** digital news should be sent to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com email address in the form of text or an attached MS Word file (sorry, no hard copy submissions can be accepted). Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for a contest or an agent. Use Arial 11 point font; no tabs; no colors; no double spaces between sentences; and, only single-line spacing. Send photos separately as jpg files, with separate instructions for placement in the submission only when placement is important. All submissions will be proofed and edited before publication. Editor reserves the right to create or select titles and headlines. In order to share space with other members' submissions, keep your submitted items under 500 words. ~ ~ **Thanx. The Editor.**

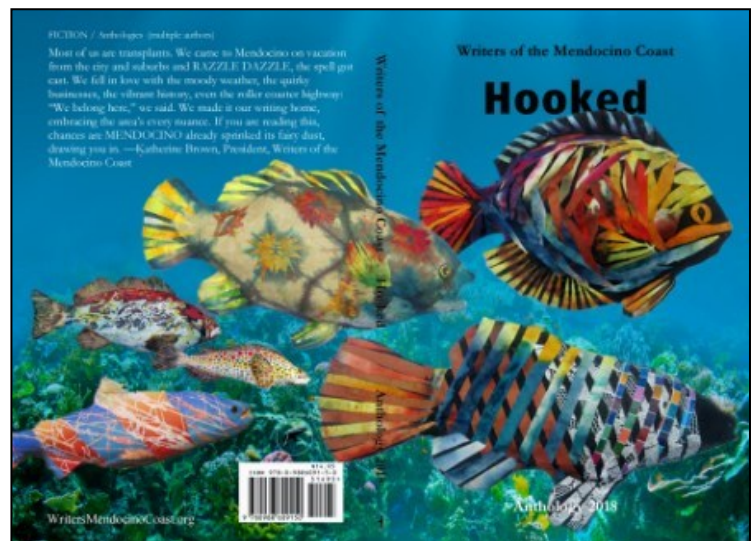
High Desert Announces Their Newest Anthology



The anthology will be for sale in our November meeting for the debut price of \$10.00. (After than it will be \$12.00.) We will announce the winner of the title contest and the winners of best submissions in POETRY and PROSE at our next meeting.



MENDOCINO'S NEW ANTHOLOGY **HOOKED** GETS EYE-APPEALING EXTENDED COVER ART



2018 mock-up crafted by artist and instructor Bob Rhoades

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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., 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 in a format many can enjoy.

CWC's main site archives all issues & makes them available at www.CalWriters.org under our Publications page.

WHO IN YOUR BRANCH IS ASSIGNED AS **THE BULLETIN**

Advertising & Promo Chair?

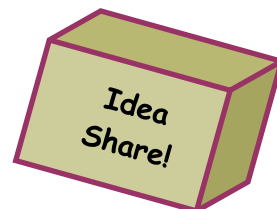
It's a club benefit

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

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertisements in
The Bulletin magazine
must be placed by
Feb. 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 & Mary DeSantis
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

Napa Valley

Patsy Ann Taylor

Services for Patsy Ann Taylor took place October 21st at First Presbyterian Church in Napa.

Patsy was a founding member of Napa Valley Writers and was always a bright light in our lives. She died after a long fight with cancer. I know you will keep her friends and family in your thoughts at this sad time in our valley.

Patsy lived in the Los Angeles area at one time. Perhaps some of you knew her then.



Blessings and best wishes to you all,

Kathleen Thomas, President, NVW



Redwood

Patsy Ann Taylor



Our sadness extends to the loss of Patsy Ann Taylor, a long-standing member of both Redwood Writers and Napa Valley Writers. She passed away Sunday evening, October 8th from a long illness. Patsy was a prolific writer of fiction and poetry and in the last two years published a middle grade novel and a book of poetry. The recent fires have understandably added to the burden of the family.



Redwood

Persia Wooley



With sadness, we extend a final goodbye to Persia Wooley. In the words of member Jeanne Jusaitis: “Persia was a loved and respected writer and member of our Redwood Writers community.

She was, and is, a bright shooting star with a very special spirit.” Two days before Persia’s passing, she dictated a letter to her friends and family, ending with: “Whether by pencil, typewriter or computer, keep those words flowing. Ciao, Persia.”



Tri Valley

Remi Pick



Member Celebration

One of our nonagenarian members, Remé Pick, passed away this year just as her long-awaited memoir *The Blue Yoke*, was about to be published by Russian Hill Press, a company owned by Tri-Valley Writers member Paula Chinick. Russian Hill Press held a posthumous celebration for Remé in September. This happy event was a time to celebrate Remé and her family as well as the publication of her memoir.



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...

As a former firefighter and emergency tech in the 80s, I suppressed my need to go off to do battle on the fire lines as both southern and northern California seemed to go up in one big inferno. It's been years, of course, but the call to gear up and go is still engrained in my brain.

Then seeing the devastation, first spread across Southern California then Northern areas where I grew up, made the tension and acrid smoke in the air more intense.

I'm still seeing the last of the fire-related stories on TV news and reminder alerts on my cellphone screen that we're not over this dry windy season yet. November is known for the Santa Ana Winds blowing out of the desert canyons and funneling down into the LA basin.

Then the human interest stories start filtering in. I watch as rescued people, animals, heirlooms, and hope are gathered up from the ashes. I know we'll be alright. We'll survive beyond the burned and twisted frames of million dollar estates. In the north, the wineries and hotels will regain their foothold. In the south, school children will once again walk down their suburban streets and remember the days when acrid smoke was thicker than fog.

When the eye witness photo galleries are shared across Facebook and TV screens, those are the times when I know the healing begins. We share moments, tears, and a sense of survival. Even the thousands of firemen and women, first responders, rescuers, and clean-up crews will be reminded of their part in putting California back on solid ground.

I remember once in my firefighting experiences when I stood near the ember beds, at the fire line, in the dark, on patrol, when a prison brush crew marched silently along an invisible line in front of me. They spaced their positions with outstretched arms before taking their stance with tools at the ready. Their silhouettes — black against deep, red-orange flames — and not a sound came from them for hours. They knew that their skills outweighed the reasons for their incarcerations. I was touched by their commitment to serve. That scene is burned in my mind.

Surviving a fire generates more indelible memories to many more people than you might think.

