

THE BULLETIN

California Writers Club

Vol. 5 No. 1

Spring / 2019

Reader Survey

- ◆ How many members in your branch are receiving The Bulletin?
- ◆ Is it easy to use on your handheld devices?
- ◆ Do you still receive your issue as a PDF to print and read later?
- ◆ Reply to your branch president or to editor: Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com

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Paradise Lost: Hope After Devastation

By Rusty LaGrange

Losing an entire community tucked in the forested canyons of the Sierras is hard to imagine, yet we saw it replay over and over on the news.

For those who lost everything, like North State branch member, T.E. Watson, everything included his 30 years of manuscripts, books, and a lifetime of awards.

We know that at least nine other Paradise writers, their friends, and relatives were affected by these firestorms that ravished north and south California.

I asked Tom Watson what he did to work through this major tragedy that also

stopped him in his forward motion to work on any current children's story.

"This was a crazy situation. In some ways it is good. It leads to a ton of new material," he said. "Yet, it has been difficult. Not a solid stable place to sit and write.

"Thank goodness for laptops. But on the other hand it did not occur to me that writing was and should have been part of the therapy of sorts. It has been a slow and exasperating process of waiting. I have so much to do and nowhere to do it. Going through the stuff that makes staying with family and friends is not easy. You need to write and you have nowhere to create be-

cause you have the feelings of being an inconvenience and you do not want to impose on anyone.

"There is nothing more dissatisfying than feeling like you need to stay out of the way."

At the onset of the flames edging over the ridge near their home, Tom and his wife, Kim, sensed that this time it wasn't just a scare.



A stillness that can't be described.

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President's Corner

by Joyce Krieg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A VERY EARLY FAREWELL



This is a bit awkward.

My term as president doesn't expire until the first of August. And yet ... this is the last issue of *The Bulletin* that will be published between now and August 1. Thus, I'm faced with writing my farewell address four or five months before the fact.

Of course, the usual platitudes apply. It has been an honor and a pleasure (well, mostly) to serve as your president these past two-and-a-half years. My thanks go out to my fellow officers, committee chairs and numerous other dedicated volunteers. I'd start naming names, but inevitably I'd leave someone out. So, just know that you are out there and that your contribution to the good of our club is appreciated!

From the day I took office in July of 2016 I just *knew* that CWC was poised for a great leap in awesomeness. The Boomer generation is creating a tsunami of retirees, finally with the free time to pursue that life-long dream of writing a book. Then we've got the digital revolution, for the first time in history giving all of us an easy and low cost method of putting our creative work in front of an audience. Add those two factors together and like I say—CWC was and is poised for awesomeness.

But with every opportunity come challenges. It's been my opinion from Day One that this club has grown too large and complex (22 branches, some 2,000 members) to sustain itself as an all-volunteer operation. Far too often, the president's gig has felt less like the captain of the ship, and more like death by a thousand paper cuts. But ... this is an issue for the upcoming slate of officers to tackle.

As for me, I may be willing to stick around to help with special projects dear to my heart, like our Jack London legacy. But mostly, I plan to devote my time to, you know—writing!



continue ~~ Paradise Lost

Tom explained: "After about 8:30 am, the morning of November 8th, my wife, Kim, went outside and looked up to the sky. Probably the darkest cloud she ever saw. In 2008 we were evacuated twice, so we had experience with fires before—or so we thought. Paradise ridge is always having fires.

"In 2017 we had five different sizes and intensities and reasons. You never get used to them, but at least this time we were very prepared. Then the phone call came, saying to be aware and be ready to bug out. Not everyone up there got the call. The fire had reached and literally burned to the ground the cell phone towers, so many residents have cell phones up there and no land-lines. It turned into an impossible situation. Their only way of communication was the sheriff's department going house to house and banging on doors. 86 people did not get out."



Children's book author T.E. Tom Watson stands in debris.

Named after Camp Creek Road, its place of origin, the fire started on **November 8, 2018**, in Butte County, in Northern California.

After exhibiting extreme fire behavior through the community of Concow, an urban firestorm formed in the densely populated foothill town of Paradise.

Area Burned: 153,336 acres

Lives Lost: 88

Buildings Destroyed: 18,804

Then I had to ask him how he made those first steps moving forward. We heard on the news then that emergency aid was swamped with too many claims at once for three major fires: Woolsey, Carr, and Camp.

"Our insurance, Farmers, was fantastic: they gave us everything and anything we needed as long as it was covered, of course. We have six cats which, by some miraculous effort on my part, got them out and safely into their carriers. The Butte County Humane Society (BCHS) was *wonderful*. The cats are all being great through all this because of the generosity of them at BCHS. They helped thousands of folks who made it out with their pets and livestock.

"Our friend, Lynn Tosello and former board member of the North State, let us stay with her the better part of five weeks. It was great to be able to have some kind of base to work from to get the government paperwork at least started. And then, there is my very wonderful sister, AJ. She is letting us stay with her until our new house in Utah is completed sometime in July this year.

"As far as being portable, I am a writer and author. I have written on planes, on a hillside, or loch side in Scotland, with a pad of paper on Highway 5 (not driving of course). Portability is one thing writers must get accustomed to. During the fire, and the days that have followed, I tried writing, even on paper, it just was not coming. The flow wasn't there.

"Fortunately, it is now."

Photos
from T.E.
Watson



Tom's collapsed library and awards.

continued on back page

MARKETING NEWS YOU CAN USE

Think Outside Your Typical Box Store

Have your sales dropped and you're wondering how to ramp up interest once more? Think outside the regular sales venues and consider the corporate world. Large companies in your region may purchase books in bulk as gifts to their employees as incentives, special awards packages, even offer gift packs at conventions. Some even offer those perk cruise ship vacations with swag bags as well. Memoirs and autobiographies are popular.

Promoting your book is as easy as contacting corporations and asking for their management team that offers employee incentives. As long as you're talking to them, ask about being a guest speaker and share your topics of interest. If you are an SME (subject matter expert) let them know of your specialties and places you have spoken to in the past.

Some colleges are open to self-published titles since they are not found in the national reading lists. Ask the college librarian how to apply for your book to be registered and considered for their students.

Any more ideas how you break the boundaries and get your books out into the world? Let us know. Contact the Editor, Rusty LaGrange: Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com



I once took an online writing course in which the leader encouraged us to give ourselves \$2 a day for writing. I remember thinking: *Two dollars a day? Is he crazy? What kind of incentive is that? I can't even buy myself a specialty coffee for that sort of loose change.*

Today, while I think **the guy's dollar amount was off-base**, I fully buy into his rewards-are-essential principle. Participants in my writing group are sometimes surprised when I ask them if they've rewarded themselves lately.

Isn't that too juvenile an idea? I hear them wondering, even if they don't dare put that thought into so many words. So let me emphasize that the idea is neither juvenile nor frivolous. Instead, it reflects a shrewd understanding of how the human mind operates. In short, **what's rewarded is repeated.**

But this key principle is hard for writers to grasp, especially report, book, and thesis/dissertation writers. Why? Because their job is so big and their deadline so far away.

Here's a cross-section of the thinking process many of these writers employ:

- I need to write 80,000 [or, other big number here] of words
- I can do that by writing 1,000 words a day for 80 days or by writing 500 words for 160 days or by writing 250 words for 320 days
- I'm excited about getting started
- Oh, dear, this isn't as easy as I'd predicted
- I don't feel like writing today
- No problem, I can just make it up tomorrow

Of course, **if you miss only one day**, it indeed won't be a problem. But I have never known any writer who can restrict themselves to missing just one day.

Instead, life intervenes. Emergencies and other urgent tasks capture our time and attention and, before we know it, our long-form project is on hold, sometimes for days or months.

continued page 5

If you have a big chunk of writing to accomplish (or, if you simply want to develop the writing habit), then *don't* make yourself delay gratification until the project is complete. After all, if you forced yourself to *finish* the report/book/dissertation *before* you gave yourself any reward, you'd be collecting on your self-awarded IOU every three years or so (and maybe even a lot less frequently than that.)

Obviously, this is no way to live up to the **what's-rewarded-is-repeated principle**. Instead, it's a way to engender frustration and burnout.

When we give ourselves rewards, on the other hand, we're more likely to feel recognized, happy and cared for, which will increase our sense of self-command. And that very sense of self-command will help us maintain a healthy writing habit.

Instead of making yourself wait for the big Kahuna goal at the end, give yourself *small* but regular rewards throughout the writing process. Whenever I speak with clients about this concept, I'm usually able to convince them of the value of rewards fairly quickly. Then comes the tricky question: What should those rewards be?

I'm not of the chocolate-brownie school of thought. I *don't* believe it's wise to use food, particularly unhealthy, sugar-filled food as a reward. I also don't believe that daily rewards should be expensive. Here is a list of some healthy and inexpensive rewards you can give yourself:

1. Enjoy a specialty tea or coffee (or some other healthy drink like Kombucha)
2. Buy a magazine
3. Get yourself a new book (and if that's too expensive, make it a library book)
4. Spend time on Facebook or whatever other social media you use (use a timer!)
5. Give yourself time to read a short story or novel
6. Go for a walk in the park or at a beach
7. Take a guilt-free nap
8. Play your favorite online game or do a crossword puzzle
9. Listen to a podcast or watch a show on TV or Netflix you've been saving

Hey, wait, you may tell me. I'm already doing many of these things. **Yes, that's my point.** The whole idea is to *reframe* your thinking. Instead of doing fun things without planning, do the important work on your writing project **FIRST**, and then reward yourself with an activity that gives you some pleasure.

In other words, you need to **EARN** the reward. And, by the way, you'll get even more pleasure out of the things you used to give yourself for "free." **Later, when you finish a bigger milestone**, (such as finishing a section or a chapter of your report/book/dissertation) you can reward yourself again with a bigger, more expensive reward.

Here are some better ideas for that category:

1. Go out for dinner with your partner or a friend
2. Go to a play or a movie theater
3. Take a day off work and get a massage
4. Plan a weekend away

Rewarding yourself should become second nature to your job as a writer. By taking the time to acknowledge the small daily actions you took to achieve your writing goals, you will be strengthening those actions. And, in turn, this positive feeling will help turn the writing into a habit that will become a natural part of your day.



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Branch News

Long Beach

Having a Laugh at Their Project

Janet Lynn and
Will Zeilinger's
Writing Process ☺



Back to School?

Spearheaded by our successful mystery writing team, husband and wife Janet Lynn and Will Zeilinger, this CWCLB program subcommittee is planning a fall workshop and is calling it Publishing 101. In this round table "classroom," four experts will visit the two-hour-long paid event and will move from table to table of eight attendees each to discuss four topics. These subjects were chosen based on member surveys, and our winning professional categories were Editor, Small Publisher, Publicist, and Cover Designer. The workshop will be held at one of our local hotels, and CWC members get priority registration, after which we will open it to the public. We'll update our progress for Publishing 101 in the next Bulletin.

When Life Gives You Lemons . . .

OMG! Our fantastic free (!) library meeting room was in jeopardy of becoming unavailable to us forever as the city of Long Beach reviewed all 12 library's operating hours. In a panic, we relocated the January 2019 meeting to the nearby town of Lakewood. Bigger room. Wider reach. We discovered welcoming librarians who seem to be open to our using this (free!) venue in the future. The best news is the city of Long Beach decided to keep our library open. And as Martha would say, "It's a good thing."



Martin J. Smith signs books for
members Liv Haugland
and Marcia Harris

continued next page

Now with 11 issues completed, be sure your members don't miss out.
Have a designated person forward CWC's *The Bulletin* to all in your branch.
It's a free benefit and it's now better than ever.
We recently got an upgrade so *The Bulletin* opens quickly on all devices.



Branch News continues

Programs!

Speaking of January, we filled our 2019 'Speaker Dance Card' with an almost-too-good-to-be-true presentation. Our speaker was the former senior editor of the LA Times Magazine and the Editor-in-Chief of Orange Coast Magazine, Martin J. Smith. As a journalist, essayist,

~~ Kathryn Atkins, PR



**Back
to
School**

Writers of Kern

Stories on the Sidewalk

Writers of Kern members wrote scripts for the characters portrayed in Bakersfield's Arts Council of Kern's first Stories on the Sidewalk event on February 9. Throughout 90-minute walking tours in downtown Bakersfield, local actors brought a dozen prominent historic residents to life. The imaginative but informative scripts taught attendees new facts and inspired participants to investigate these important figures on their own. WOK writers were Lois Henry (Madge the Madam), Martha Jarrett (Supreme Court justice Earl



Lois Henry (Madge the Mad-



Bob Anderson (Supreme
Court justice Earl Warren)



Mandy Wallace (rascalion
and horse thief Dick Fel-

continued next page



Branch News continues



Adam Berg



Amy Fried-

Spring Conference, March 16

Writers of Kern's event of the year, the Annual Spring Conference, takes place March 16 at Hodel's in Bakersfield. This year we're offering a more in-depth experience with the morning workshop, "The Arc of the Story" facilitated by Amy Friedman, teacher, writer, and co-founder of POPS the Club. In the afternoon session, comedy writer, actor and co-founder of JK! Studios, Adam Berg presents, "How to Write Comedy or Die Trying." Attendees will have the opportunity to take professional headshots, purchase books, and participate in two fun challenge events, A Perfect Pitch Contest and Battle of the Tables. See the Writers of Kern website for

~~ Annis Cassells



Orange

In February the Orange Branch changed its meeting location. We still meet on the second Saturday, but our meeting place is now the El Modena Branch Library, 380 S. Hewes Avenue, Orange, 92869. Our meeting time is now 2– 3:30 pm. We were concerned the change in time and place might affect attendance, so we were happy to have a full house at our February meeting, including some new guests.

Janet Simcic, our branch secretary, was our featured speaker. Her talk included how she fell in love with Italy and became a travel expert there, taking groups on a regular basis. In addition to her popular travel book, *A Chick's Guide to Italy*, she has written several novels which take place in various Italian cities. One in particular, involves travel on a cruise ship, with each chapter taking place in a different port. Having read her books, I can safely say they are the next best thing to actually being in the country.

In January, Jeanette Fratto attended a long-range planning meeting in Oakland. This smaller group replaced the usual full central board meeting and discussed topics relating to succession planning and the relationship between branches and the state. At the July full board meeting elections will be held for the executive officers. Past president David George was appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee by president Joyce Krieg. He will be polling the branches for candidates. Joyce has advised she will not run for re-election.

Jack London awards are given every two years and this July will be the next presentation. Branches are asked to nominate a member whose service to the branch has been exemplary. This is not a writing award, but recognizes those members who have gone above and beyond to support their branch through their activities.

Our branch will also hold board elections this June. We elect every two years. As yet a nominating committee has not been formed.

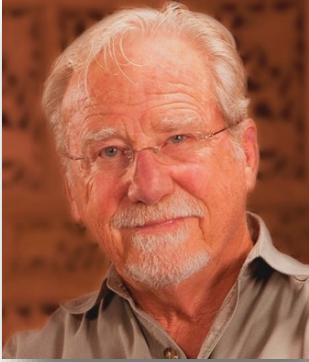
~~ Jeanette A. Fratto





Branch News continues

North State



**Tim
O'Neill**

BEST SELLER: NSW member and author T. B. O'Neill makes the *Amazon Best Seller* list with his book, 'Slugger,' a legal thriller (Rod Cavanaugh mystery action novel). "I spent three decades practicing law, but I would have rather been a writer," says T. B. "Trial work has provided me with a treasure trove of material that writers search for tirelessly." T. B. currently resides in Northern California with his wife, Beth, their three-legged dog, Joe, and a view of the mountains.

NEW RELEASE: North State Writers CONGRATULATES Jim Moll. Jim is an NSW member and the author of *Sequoia Chronicles*, a story within a story that mixes historical events with fictional places, exotic characters and takes readers on a journey from rural Northern California to Washington, D.C., Eastern Europe, the Middle East and finally to India. He is a graduate of Washington State University and active in community activities, serving as past president of the Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce and Northwest SPCA. He is on the Board of Directors of Oroville Hospital, and is involved in the preservation efforts of Oroville's historic State Theatre. He is also known as "The Voice of Oroville" for his many duties as emcee. *Sequoia Chronicles* is available on AmazonBooks.com.



**Jim
Moll**

~~ Kathi Hiatt, Publicity

Rising From the Ashes

Our friends and relatives who lost everything in the Paradise fire are now resettled in other areas. With the help of FEMA, the Salvation Army, relatives and charities, they have been provided with clothing, furniture, and the necessities of life.

But sometimes it's not the necessities that mean the most to people. We spent a considerable amount of time copying family pictures we had for a niece who had lost all of hers.

My sister-in-law was elated when several little statues, dishes and geegaws were unearthed. None of the items had intrinsic value, but all of them were priceless to her. Sometimes it's the little things that mean the most to us and tug the strongest on our heartstrings.

~~ Diane Neil, High Desert



NORTH STATE WRITERS

CURIOUS THINGS

An NSW 2019 Short Story Collection

The North State Writers (NSW) 2019 collection of short stories, *Curious Things*, will be published on Amazon Books and made available for purchase in the fall of 2019. The publication will include a collection of strange events, Halloween memoirs, scary humor, unexplained oddities, ghost sightings, curses, and/or other amazing tales. Submissions will be juried (selected) by professional reviewers.

All current members of the California Writers Club (CWC) are invited to submit up to two short stories, poems, essays, and/or memoirs.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Must be a current member of the California Writers Club

- All submissions must be received by March 31, 2019
- Short story 750-3000 maximum words. Poetry 30 lines or fewer
- Members may submit up to 2 published or unpublished works
- Works may include (fiction or non-fiction) short stories, memoirs, essays, and/or poems

Please have each submission edited!

ENTRY FEES

Entry fee is \$10 for each submission. The \$10 nonrefundable fee covers copy costs and beta (proof) readers who will assess each entry for quality, content, and structure.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SUBMISSION GUIDELINES PLEASE GO TO THE NSW WEBSITE: www.northstatewriters.com



More info at: www.NorthStateWriters.com



Branch News continues

Continued ~~ NORTH STATE WRITERS

Welcome to our new year. North State Writers, as well as our sister branch in Southern California, has been spending an inordinate amount of time recovering and getting it together after the devastating fires. I want to express our heartfelt thanks for the CWC board and our other NorCal branches for their contacts and offers of help. It was greatly appreciated. Some of our members were forced to relocate due to their devastating losses. They will be sorely missed for their writing skill, camaraderie, and friendship. A committee has been formed to collect stories for publication that are dedicated to the heroism, the tragedy, and the hopefulness displayed by the survivors of the Camp Fire.

Our new year has started with a bang. February 23rd and 24th we presented our first theater performance, Live-Word 2019. Working in collaboration with our local theater, actors read and acted out twelve of our short stories. This was done without props. Live Word 2019 was a huge hit and a fabulous opportunity to hear and to see our stories come to life. We raised a bit of revenue from ticket sales.

Additionally, we are again collaborating with the Youth on the Ridge Foundation to help host 'The All About Books' at the Paradise Chocolate Festival to be held at the Gold Country Casino on June 1st. All CWC members are invited to participate in this popular book-signing/selling event. Please reference the NSW website for more information. We have also started a critique group which meets once a month. NSW has also initiated a Sit and Write. With a facilitator, we provide a prompt, or they bring their work, and we quietly write or talk about our interests. As you can see, we are on our way again because of the hard work and dedication of our members.

~~ Cathy Chase, President

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## Inland Empire

The IECWC had an exciting start to 2019. In January, we invited any member who had published in 2018 to be on our panel of authors to tell us their latest publishing secrets. Our five members and their books included: M.L. Spencer, author of the fantasy books the *Complete Rhenwars Saga*; Scott Skipper, author of *Gravity Waves* his fourth book in the sci-fi series *Alien Affairs*; Sharon J. White, author of three novels last year, *Borrowed Time*, *Chasing the Sun*, and *Scandalous*, a WWII novel and two romance novels; Kenneth L. Decroo, author of two novels *Almost Human* and *Becoming Human*; and, Herb Williams, author of the memoir, *Echoes from Down Under*. For more information about these books, check out our website at [www.iecwc.com](http://www.iecwc.com).



Our panel answered a list of questions ranging from the how, when, and where they write, how they got their book covers designed, and finally, which venue they used to publish and market their books.

### Dickens Festival in Riverside

The grand finale of the month ended with a fun day at the annual Dickens Festival in Riverside. Those in attendance to help disseminate information about our California Writers Club were: Sue Andrews, Elisabeth Anghel, Michele Barard, Debra Jackson, Rowena Kay, Jodi Rizzotto, and Assunta Maria Vickers. We took shifts on Saturday and Sunday to join Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, Southern Board CWC President, and her friend, Sharon Backman, who drove down from the High Sierras for both days.

Assunta Maria Vickers and Jodi Rizzotto

continued next page



## Branch News continues

Continue ~~ **Inland Empire**



**Elisabeth Anghel and Jodi Rizzotto**

Members not photographed but attended were; Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, Sue Andrews, Debra Jackson, Michele Barard.

**CWC Member Rowena Kay**



**CWC Members Assunta, Jodi, with High Sierra CWC Friend, Sharon Backman**

Last month, we had a personal publishing assistant, Tina Ruvalcaba, a consultant for Outskirts Press. Tina impressed us with an analysis of alternative publishing methods. She also distributed a guidebook from her company called *Publish Your Passion*. This guidebook provided our members with ideas on different ways to utilize Outskirts Press to publish their book once they have their manuscript completed.

~~ Sue Andrews



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East Sierra

East Sierra has several established annual events and has gone to work on all of them, among these a "Read the Book, Meet the Author" series, a Wildflower Weekend activity, a Weird Weekend in September, and a Dickens Tea for the holiday season. They have tentatively added a new one for the autumn, an Edgar Allan Poe tea. The Wildflower Weekend has sparked special enthusiasm because, in the first time for many years, an impressive display of blooms seems likely.

~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal



A Match Made in Academic Heaven: CWC and NU Tuition Discounts

California Writers Club has partnered with National University (NU) to offer a 15% tuition discount to CWC members enrolled in NU programs.

National University (NU) offers hundreds of programs in online, onsite, and hybrid formats. National University is private, nonprofit, and veteran-founded. Since 1971, National has been a leader in creating learning environments specifically suited to working adults. It is WASC-accredited, offers financial aid options, and schedules a year-round, accelerated pace suited to completing degrees quickly.

National University has two Bay Area campuses to serve students, the San Jose campus and the East Bay campus located in Pleasant Hill. Campus events and open houses are scheduled throughout the year and are free to the public. The National University System also includes JFK University, which is co-located with National University campuses throughout California. With over 40 listed campuses in both Northern and Southern areas of California, NU provides access to many cities where are branch members live. Got to <https://www.nu.edu/location-landing/> for campus access.

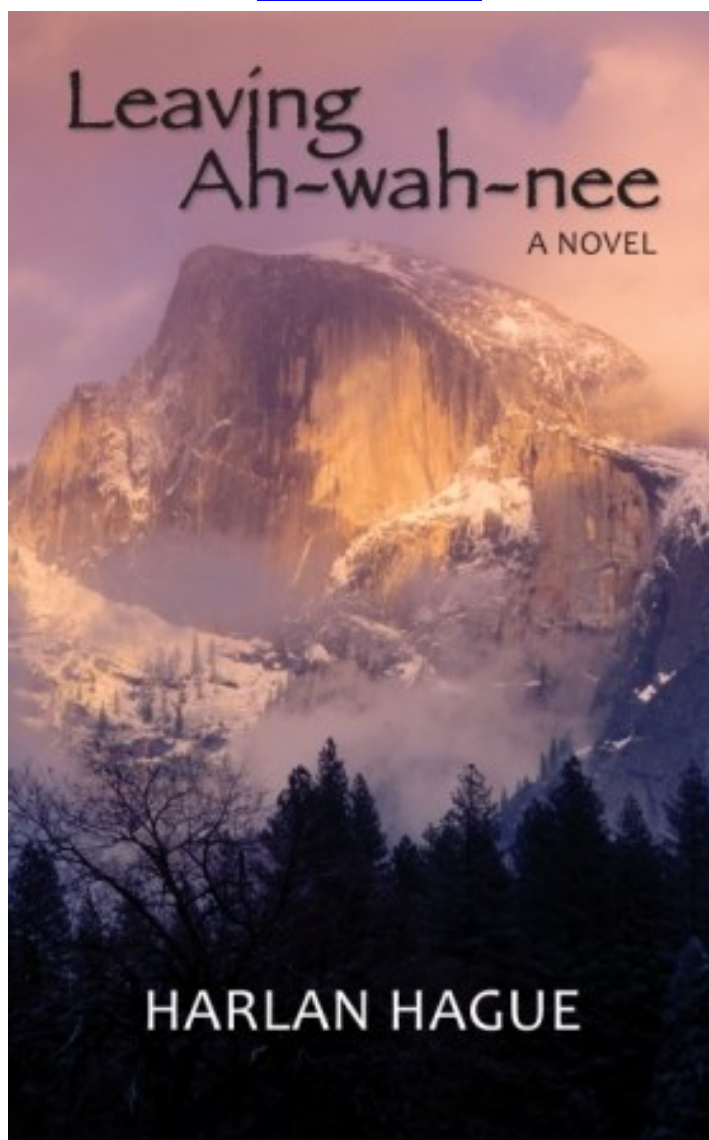
NU educates students across all 50 states and from 65 countries, offering over 100 on-campus and online programs through its unique four-week class format. Undergraduate and graduate programs include healthcare, business, psychology, education, engineering, criminal justice, and homeland security. Classes are available online or at over 20 locations in California and Nevada. As the top educator of educators in California, NU has credentialed more teachers than any other California university.

To best serve our CA Community College students, National University has joined the California Community College Associate Degree for Transfer Program which offers BA completion for approximately \$7,000 per year. This new initiative guarantees that AA for Transfer (AA-T) and AS for Transfer (AS-T) degrees are fully transferable and aligned with similar Bachelor's degrees which can be completed in 90 quarter units or less.

National University is committed to serving those who serve by offering military tuition discounts and scholarships for military personnel and their dependents. In addition to online programs, military students have access to classes on over a dozen military bases and to our Veteran Center designed to ease the transition from military to civilian life. As a Yellow Ribbon school, National accepts the post 9/11 GI Bill®, so veteran and active-duty students pay virtually no out-of-pocket costs for their education.

National University is the flagship institution of the National University System, which was established in 2001 to meet the emerging demands for education in the 21st century. In addition to National University, the affiliates of the National University System are John F. Kennedy University; City University of Seattle; Division of Pre-College Programs,

[ADVERTISEMENT](#)



continued next page

continue ~~ NorCal

which includes National University Virtual High School and National University Academy; and Sanford Education Programs at National University, designed to develop nonprofit leaders and educators, so they can lead inspirational programs worldwide.

A CWC cohort is currently forming for the Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing. National University offers a 15% tuition discount to members or employees of partnering organizations- your business or club may qualify. Campus event information available upon request.

**Carole Bumpus –
CWC NorCal Co-Chair &
San Francisco Peninsula**



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## CWC South EIGHT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CWC BRANCHES

Despite driving rain in every direction, we held a very successful regional meeting on Sunday, February 3. We began with our traditional gift exchange, which set the mood for a convivial and very productive business discussion. Two weeks later, in Riverside, we participated in the Riverside Dickens Festival. Our booth attracted considerable traffic, and our volunteers had enthusiastic conversations with members of the public who wanted to talk about writing. We left with two pages of sign-ups by folks interested in receiving emails about branches and upcoming programs in their areas.

**~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal**



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Sacramento

Sacramento continues to focus energies on providing quality programs for members through top-notch speakers whose presentations focus on member takeaways (what they will learn), Talk & Shares before meetings, and post-meeting activities on important topics. Examples of Talk & Shares: Beta Readers, Poetry, First Pages. Examples of post-meeting activities are presentation on genre good-practices related to upcoming content (e.g., memoir). Critique groups, networking, and marketing strategies are emphasized as well. Sacramento is also attempting to reach writers or prospective writers not already connected to other writers groups in the area. Outreach activities include library distribution and meet-up groups.

~~ Kimberly Edwards



Fremont Area

July 2019 is FAW's 10th Anniversary! We're busy planning a Grand Celebration in Fremont's Central Park at Lake Elizabeth on Saturday, July 6th. There will be food to eat, and readings, and awards for excellence and commitment to our branch. And of course, cake! Our newsletter is celebrating with articles on the history of the branch, personal reminiscences, and an FAW Fun Facts quiz.

We've had some wonderful speakers: award-winning story-teller Jeff Hanson, and copyright attorney Kelley A. Way, to name a few.

continued next



continue ~~ Fremont Area

Our Board Secretary, Joyce Cortez left her post at the end of 2018 and is assisting our new Secretary, Carmen VonTickner, as she takes over the position. FAW is grateful to both of them for making this a smooth transition.

We ended 2018 with our holiday party, celebrated in the home of Bob and Kathy Garfinkle, both charter members of our branch. As you can see from the photo(s), those of us who made it to the party had a great time.



Bob Garfinkle

The old year ended and the New Year began with a huge burst of energy!

After months of one or two, maybe three new guests at our monthly meetings, 20 new folks attended our January meeting! Our new Hospitality Co-Chairs, Sue Curtzwiler and Carmen VonTickner handled the wave well; getting contact info for everyone, following-up with welcome letters, and making sure everyone got a Welcome Bag full of our information.

FAW is now partnering with Half Price Books in Fremont to present monthly "Second Saturday" Meet Your Local FAW Authors readings. We held our first event on January 12th between 2 and 4 PM. Chris Dews

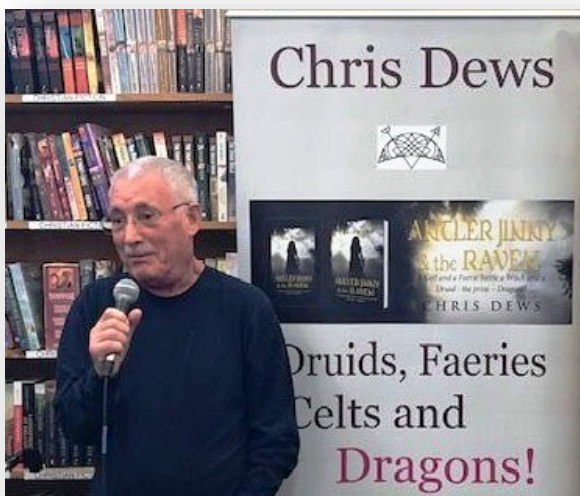


Penelope Cole

read his new YA historical fantasy *Antler Jinny and the Raven*. It was his most successful event to date: between 30 and 40 people attended. The February reading, also very successful, featured non-fiction author Tish Davidson and her new book *The Vaccine Debate*—in the audience: an immunologist, and a woman whose friends and family run the gamut of the debate: to vaccinate or not to vaccinate. March 9th featured award-winning children's book author, Penelope Cole; and to celebrate National Poetry Month on April 13th two of our published poets, Diane Morninglight and Tony Pino will conduct a Poetry 101 "class" for poetry lovers and the poetry-curious.



Carmen VonTickner



Coming in the future: mysteries, dramatized screenplays, memoir, YA Christian, a superheroine graphic novel, illustrated native botanicals, and much more. Our intention with "Second Saturday" events is to give our published authors a solo opportunity to share their books with the larger community and to create an ever-expanding, on-going literary scene in the Tri-City Area.

Also in February, FAW had an all-day book-signing at the NewPark Mall with seven authors selling their work. Sales topped \$300. We're in negotiation for another of these later in the year and are scheduled at the Fremont Library in December.

~~ Nancy Guarnera



High Desert

Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project Wins Educational Award & Selected as State Award Finalist

The High Desert Branch learned recently that its project of going into high schools to teach memoir writing has won significant recognition in the California school system.

ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Region 12's Board of Directors has selected the Dorothy C. Blakely Memoir Project at Victor Valley Unified High School District's University Preparatory High School as the recipient of our Partners in Educational Excellence Program Award for 2018-19.

An award will be presented to Project Director Dr. Mary Langer Thompson and founder Bob Isbill on April 15 of this year. The DCB Memoir Project's most recent anthology, *Footprints From Around The World*, edited by Mary Thompson and Jenny Margotta, contains student-written stories of "Memoir Stars" over fifty years of age in this inter-generational mission.

The effort has received consistent support of the Central Board of the California Writers Club from its inception and is now a finalist in the statewide Educational Award competition. Out of more than 260 state finalists, only 25 individuals and one partnership program will be chosen for state recognition throughout California, representing candidates from all 19 ACSA regions. Finalists will be notified in late March of the results of the competition.

1st African American Read-In Event

A spirited gathering of HDCWC and community members shared entertaining and informative passages from books written mostly by African American authors along with writings about African Americans during our club's first African American Read-In. Participants gave sometimes dramatic readings from

High Desert Arts and Literary Festival

April 13, 2019

10am — 4pm

The Historic Apple Valley Inn
20601 CA-Hwy 18, Apple Valley, California
Free and Open to the Public



Angels Kneeling by Eudell Cunningham
Winner of the 2017 Trever Bennett Award for Artistic Excellence

The *High Desert Arts and Literary Festival* is presented by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Victor Valley Branch.

The *High Desert Arts and Literary Festival* provides an attractive venue for fine artists and authors to exhibit their work for sale.

Festival proceeds benefit local STEM educational programs and scholarships.



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Branch News continues

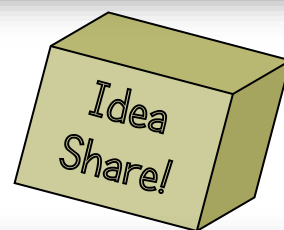
continue ~~ High Desert

personally selected passages, as part of National Black History Month. Award-winning poet and visionary for the event Dr. Mary Thompson also was pleased with the Read-In, and said, "There were resources for young and old. We learned about works and people some of us didn't know." Members and the public were drawn to this special reading held at the Hesperia Library. Readers are pictured below.

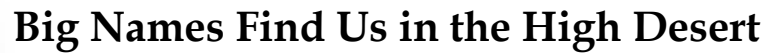


Entice Your Buyers with Food

What does it take to draw readers and book buyers to your book signing event? How about a non-typical venue like an El Pollo Loco restaurant? Author and past President of our branch, Dwight Norris, brought in so much attention that even diners were intrigued and bought a book. His recent encounter with an older gentlemen he happened to meet there, inspired him to write the man's biography— ***The Story of Sandy Armistead, a Black Man's Journey in a White Man's World***. And did we happen to mention this unusual venue netted 37 book sales?



continued next page



Dave Berg

~~~~~

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## *Branch News continues*

### Central Coast

#### Writing Contests Impact Monterey County and Beyond by Ned Huston and Leslie Patiño

Central Coast Writers is involved with two annual teen writing contests.

##### Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

On January 11, nineteen members wrapped up two weeks of scoring hundreds of works in 14 genres for the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Their commitment brought in a \$2000 honorarium for the club, which helps us fund great speakers for meeting and workshops, cover the venue costs for our August barbeque and December holiday party and more.



In spite of colds, flu, family emergencies and other surprises, this year's dedicated judges made the Scholastic deadline. Deanna Ross, one of our alternate judges, was able to come to the aid of a fellow judge who had an unexpected complication.



Our thanks to the 2018 Scholastic judges: Dennis Hamilton, Ken Holden, Ned Huston, Alka Joshi, Sarah Pruitt, Maria Skyttä, Brian Paone, Wanda Sue Parrott, Susan Miller, Carol Marquardt, Susann Thon, Pat Hanson, John and Laurie Sheehan, Sally Baho, Alesa Lightbourne, and Jason Warburg.

I also wish to thank our Alternate Judges who, like Deanna Ross, were willing to jump in and help at the last moment if needed: Leslie Patiño, Lana Bryan, Joyce Krieg, Harold Grice, June Langhoff, and Barbara Dill-Varga.

Ken Jones, our webmaster, outdoes himself at making our website useful and beautiful, and does all the Submittable gymnastics.

##### CCW Short Story Contest

Work for the CCW Short Story Contest for high school seniors and juniors in Monterey County began in November and will culminate with the winners attending our April meeting. Email and snail mail information about the contest has gone out to all Monterey County high schools and English teachers. During the month of February, seniors and juniors can enter a single short story based on this year's photo prompt by C. Silveira. In March, a CCW committee will judge entries over three rounds, finally selecting 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners and three Honorable Mentions.

This contest is the result of our club members' generosity at monthly raffles. We are able to again offer a total of \$750 in prize money.

Last year's winners hailed from Everett Alvarez High, Pacific Grove High and Santa Catalina School. For more information about the 2019 Short Story Contest, visit the club website, [centralcoastwriters.org](http://centralcoastwriters.org).

~~ Lana Bryan





## *Branch News continues*

### **San Fernando Valley**

As I begin this update, I'm reminded of the real estate adage: Location, location, location. Just as a homeowner can be startled to find their decades-old property is located in a hot real estate neighborhood, a writer can be startled to find himself located in an extremely dramatic situation—which usually becomes a source of many dramatic stories. For example, in the December Valley Scribe issue, SFV President Bob Okowitz wrote a poignant essay about a mass shooting in a popular pub near his home, a place where he'd spent many convivial hours with his friends and family. His traumatic account showed his readers how a familiar safe place can instantly become dark and frightening.

Immediately after the shooting, national news teams congregated in the pub's vicinity to report on the crime in the tight knit Agoura Hills community. During the somber interviews, a firestorm suddenly blazed across the hills. Huge orange flames raged in camera range and reporters who came to cover a shooting scene suddenly found themselves interviewing emergency responders about the fast-moving Woolsey Fire.

Meanwhile, in Woodland Hills, where CWC-SFV members meet at the Movie Home, residents watched the fires racing through nearby Topanga and Malibu Canyons. The air was thick with gray smoke and ash. In nearby communities, thousands of residents were forced to evacuate and those who lived in safer areas took in dazed refugees who'd just lost everything they owned. (Bob Okowitz and his family evacuated but his home was not damaged.)

When the fire was finally extinguished, homeowners strove to make repairs and adjust to the new normal. Unfortunately, a few weeks later, unusually heavy rainstorms caused mudslides and unsafe driving conditions. Our SFV board was forced to cancel the February meeting.

For sure, the last months of 2018 have certainly given CWC-SFV members much fodder for future writings. But despite the disruptions and distractions, we've gathered together and welcomed three inspirational speakers to our club meetings, and SFV social media volunteers have attracted several visitors to our gatherings. Some guests are now members.



**David Stifel**

In November, PR expert consultant Diane Hinds explained how an author could more effectively research and identify their target audience, create a key message about their book, and then compose and release an eye-catching news release. Hinds said, "It's imperative that writers today come up to speed on evolving public relations strategies."



**Diane Hinds**

Our December speaker, voice actor David Stifel, informed us on the phenomenal growth of the audio book industry. "There can be good money in audio books if you have a successful title," said Stifel. In his engrossing Power Point presentation, Stifel shared the intricate steps a writer must learn to take advantage of the new opportunities waiting in the production and distribution of audio books.

*continued next page*





## Branch News continues



**April Halprin Wayland**

April Halprin Wayland, an American award-winning author and teacher, braved a January rainstorm to speak on “The Adventures of a Children’s Author.” Wayland, the author of several picture books, children’s poetry books, and young adult novels, revealed to her audience the behind-the-scenes stories of some of her books and how she motivates herself to continue writing.

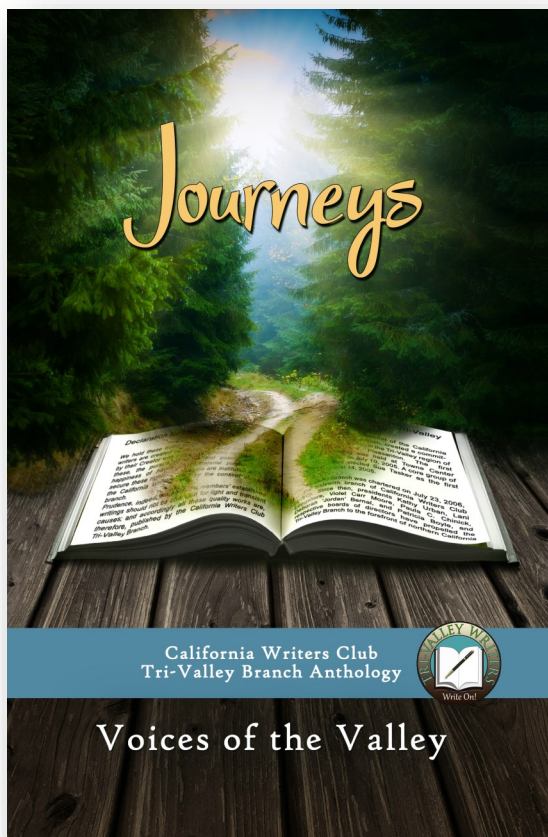
Finally, we’re sad to report the passing of Erica Stux, a longtime member who published articles and poetry in children’s magazines such as *Ranger Rick* and *Ladybug*. More about Stux’s many accomplishments and published works can be found in the February, 2018 issue of *The Valley Scribe*.

**Please our In Memoriam Page 26**

~~ Kathy Highcove  
CWC-SFV Editor

~~~~~

Tri-Valley



Tri-Valley Writers released its fourth anthology, *Voices of the Valley: Journeys*, in 2018. Edited by Jordan Bernal and Eloise Hamann, the anthology features Tri-Valley Writers members and also winners of the club’s High School Writing Contest. [

The club’s 2019 High School Writing Contest is underway, with all high school students from the Livermore, Amador, and San Ramon Valleys eligible to enter. Students can submit essays, fiction, or poetry. The first, second, and third prize winners in all three categories are eligible for cash prizes, and first place winners will be published in the next TVW anthology.

Robert Dugoni will be the keynote speaker at the April 13 Writers Conference at 4 Points by Sheraton in Pleasanton. The all-day session will feature programs on craft, marketing, and self-publishing. Reservations are still available at the TVW website: <https://www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/tri-valley-writers-conference-2019/>.

~~ Lani Longshore,
President





Branch News continues

CWC NorCal

more news continues from page 14

NORCAL GROUP NEWS – Wondering what this NorCal Group is? We are a board formed by members from the fourteen Northern California CWC branches. We meet four times per year to enable our branches to have more voice on the State Board level. And, to also help to connect the needs and interests of the branches as we bring new ideas/solutions to you.

San Francisco Writers Conference 2019 – For the seventh year in a row, the NorCal CWC Group hosted a booth representing the entire state CWC organization – all to bring awareness to our Club and to our goals of ‘writers helping writers’. If you were not able to make this year’s event, or to volunteer for the booth, you missed



Tim Flood

out on a great opportunity to meet and greet fellow writers from across the country and state, along with rubbing elbows with editors, agents, publishers, and other celebrated authors, oh my! To those who volunteered to help out, thank you! We appreciate each and every one of you.

As you may know, one of our CWC members from North State—Chico Branch, Brian Marshall, was the winner of the \$850 free registration from Smashwords. Brian, who had, unfortunately, just lost his home in the Paradise fire, was very grateful to have this opportunity to further his writing career. He wrote to me, stating:

“ . . . my poor brain was crammed with so much information I can't imagine being able to process another full day. And I even walked away with a few nibbles from some of the agents at the Speed Pitch sessions! We're having our general membership meeting tonight, and I plan on using my experience to tout all the benefits - unforeseen or not - of joining the CWC.”

Some of you authors (also from around the State) were celebrated by having the book covers of your most recently published books featured on our tri-fold display. Our thanks go out to our own Mindy Yang for painstakingly putting the poster together. And to Tim Flood, who worked the booth, and showed off CWC.

Building Better Branches Leadership Conference 2018 – This conference, which was held last September by the NorCal Group for our 14 branch board members, continues to reverberate with fresh new ideas for the branches. We heard you and we have taken many of your suggestions to the State Board to let them know of branch concerns and interests. Because of that outreach, a task force has been formed to find a replacement system for our old MRMS (the state-wide data base for the entire CWC organization). We have also started putting a program together to share our speakers across the branches along with a better way to share our branch events and conferences. One other thing that hopefully will come to fruition is to have an annual training class for incoming new branch presidents and membership chairs so they can have the ability to do their jobs well from the ‘get-go’!

BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL – (BABF) – Berkeley – May 4th and 5th – We will once again participate in this book festival and we encourage you to help out/volunteer for this booth, or to come meet fellow authors and writers from all over the Bay Area.

**Carole Bumpus –
CWC NorCal Co-Chair & San Francisco**



Branch News continues

South Bay

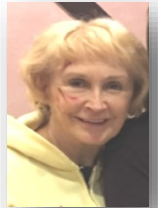
New location and new date! Beginning on March 19th, the future dinner meetings of South Bay Writers will be at The Country Inn in San Jose. Our new date moves to the THIRD TUESDAY of the month, at the usual time, 6 PM. Our move is a result of Harry's Hofbrau closing. After 42 years, the landmark restaurant became the latest victim of age and redevelopment.

However, we look forward to the next chapter of SBW, kicking off with Michael C. Grumley, who will be speaking on Self-Publishing and Promotion.

Thanks to the talent and teamwork of our board, membership and enthusiasm continues to grow. Once again, we began the new year with a successful turnout for the January workshop, "Plotting Your Crime", conducted by David Corbett, and our February meeting on "Creativity," led by Marla Cooper.

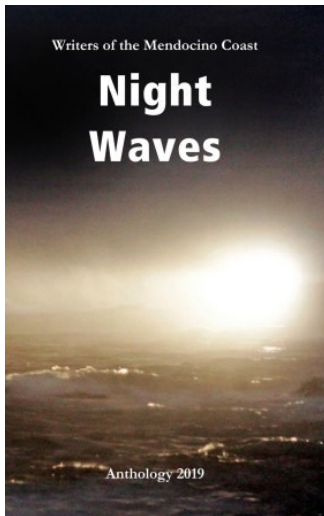
Join us at our new location, The Country Inn, for updates: www.southbaywriters.com.

~~ *Edie Matthews, president*



~~~~~

### **Mendocino Coast**



In January and March of each year, the Mendocino Coast branch has readings from the anthology. On March 21st, the second half of those accepted are reading their pieces based on the theme of "night waves." The image on the cover is of the Point Cabrillo Light Station's beacon—thanks to Moira McDonald. This April's meeting will be the "SmatchUp" readings, where one writer starts a story with one page and another ends it with one page. It's the first time the writers learn who they've been partnered with and is always great fun. Membership has grown considerably and can only be explained by the resurgence of an interest in writing here on the Mendocino Coast.

~~ Doug Fortier

#### *Well Said*

*"The idea of 10 dimensions might sound exciting, but they would cause real problems if you forget where you parked your car" -*

**Stephen Hawking**



## *Branch News continues*



**NORTH STATE WRITERS**

## **CURIOUS THINGS**

### **An NSW 2019 Short Story Collection**

The North State Writers (NSW) 2019 collection of short stories, *Curious Things*, will be published on Amazon Books and made available for purchase in the fall of 2019. The publication will include a collection of strange events, Halloween memoirs, scary humor, unexplained oddities, ghost sightings, curses, and/or other amazing tales. Submissions will be juried (selected) by professional reviewers.

**All current members of the California Writers Club (CWC)** are invited to submit up to two short stories, poems, essays, and/or memoirs.

#### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**Must be a current member of the California Writers Club**

- All submissions must be received by March 31, 2019
- Short story 750-3000 maximum words. Poetry 30 lines or fewer
- Members may submit up to 2 published or unpublished works
- Works may include (fiction or non-fiction) short stories, memoirs, essays, and/or poems

Please have each submission edited!

#### **ENTRY FEES**

Entry fee is \$10 for each submission. The \$10 nonrefundable fee covers copy costs and beta (proof) readers who will assess each entry for quality, content, and structure.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SUBMISSION GUIDELINES PLEASE GO TO THE NSW WEBSITE: [www.northstatewriters.com](http://www.northstatewriters.com)**







## In Memoriam

### Writers of Kern

We are sad to report the January death of long-time WOK member Terry Redman. Terry served our branch as a two-time editor of the newsletter, anthology editor and critique group leader. He was our 2005 Jack London Award recipient. A compassionate, giving nature and playful sense of humor were hallmarks of Terry's personality. He will be missed.



*Terry Red-*



### San Fernando Valley

Finally, we're sad to report the passing of Erica Stux, a long-time member who published articles and poetry in children's magazines such as *Ranger Rick* and *Ladybug*. More about Stux's many accomplishments and published works can be found in the February, 2018 issue of *The Valley Scribe*.

*Erica Stux*

## Master Novel Structure!



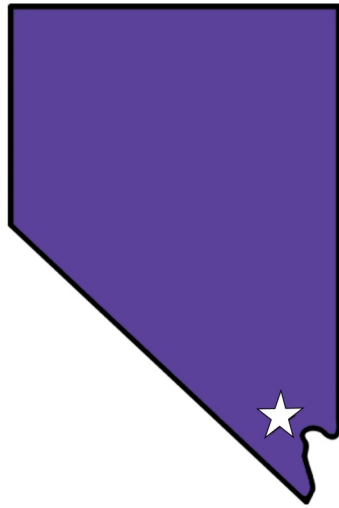
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# LAS VEGAS WRITERS CONFERENCE MAY 2-4, 2019

Held each spring at the Tuscany Resort, the Las Vegas Writers Conference is dedicated to helping writers of all genres improve their craft, sharpen their business skills, and network with publishing professionals. Full meals are provided and pitch sessions with literary agents and editors are included in the price of registration.

Presenters at the 2019 conference include:



Russell Busse  
ABRAMS



Heather Flaherty  
Bent Agency



Steena Holmes  
NYT Bestseller



Chloe Moffet  
Harper Collins



Mary Robinette Kowal  
Hugo Award  
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Oksana Marafioti  
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# YOUR AD HERE

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

We believe that placing an advertising display full-color ad with a hot link 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 Summer issue of *The Bulletin* (coming out in mid-August) will win a 5"x7" ad (a \$90 value) to use as they wish in *The Bulletin* for 2019-2020.

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

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

## A Call for Manuscripts



The CSULB Ghostwriting Professional Designation Program needs new training submissions!

Accepted manuscripts receive a polished, industry-standard, and agent-ready nonfiction proposal or fiction synopsis, sample chapters, and marketing strategies...

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Memoir • Business • Self-Help  
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We will also consider fiction

Please, no juvenile or young-adult manuscripts

Submission Deadline: April 20, 2019

Acceptance Notices sent by: June 30, 2019

Proposal/Synopsis Delivery: June 2020

To submit, email [wambtac@gmail.com](mailto:wambtac@gmail.com)

**This digital full-color news magazine is available to all members for free.**

**It can be read from a link at [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org) anytime.**

**We now have a new up-graded server that offers faster upload speeds and seamless compatibility with more devices.  
Pass the Word.**

## CWC'S The Bulletin

Printed  
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a year

March, August &  
November

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cretion of the Editor-in-Chief.
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First come, first served, and for  
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## REACHING NEARLY 2,000 STATE-WIDE!!

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

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.

**Increase your visibility? Promote your service? Sell your book? Create more speaking engagements? Pump up your web traffic? Or start a sales campaign?**

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 may place an ad. We offer reasonable rates. (See sidebar at left)

- ♦ All display ads, color or black-and-white, 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.
- ♦ Email as a JPEG file to [AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com). No exceptions.
- ♦ A physical copy of your ad and details of your payment must be surface mailed as well. 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 advertising copy by October 27th

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).

### Checklist. Please follow directions closely:

- ♦ **Design your ad.**
- ♦ **Scan it to a jpeg file**
- ♦ **Send it to [AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com](mailto:AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com) .**
- ♦ **Mail hard copy of your ad in an envelope**
- ♦ **Address it 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 —

## CONFERENCES FOR WRITERS:

**ANY NEWS  
THAT YOUR  
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### Web Posting & Links Policy

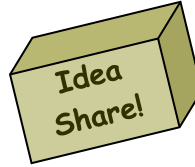
#### Events and Contests listed on this page must be:

- 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, posted 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.



This simple icon points to an idea that you can share with your branch.

## A Word From the Editor

This issue is somewhat retrospective of the rash of devastating fires with costs breaking historical records, heavy snows that our great state always needs, and those sudden torrential rains that Southern California also needs but catch basins can't seem to hold.

I've had a closetful of new coats waiting for the temperature to drop. And finally, a change, a sign that the drought may have broken and an opportunity to bring out the heavier coats.



As with bears and heavier coats, by the time Spring appears we'll be grateful for a new chance to begin again.

For some families, like T.E. Watson, I hope they get back on their feet as quickly as possible and forge new stories from the flames. He already hinted that some books for children, coping with a major fire loss, will be on the shelves soon.

~~ Rusty LaGrange, editor

**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. Please — No embedded text and cropped photos pasted directly from your branch newsletter or PDF pages. 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.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Next issue appears  
in mid-August



For instructions how to open a digital copy of this issue, please go to the club's website — [www.CalWriters.org](http://www.CalWriters.org). You can also find a PDF version of each issue that can be downloaded or viewed directly from our website. As the contents of each issue has grown over the years, it becomes necessary to use digital devices and 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](http://www.CalWriters.org) under our Publications page. This is a club benefit.

### ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertisements in  
*The Bulletin* magazine  
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**July. 28th**

### DOES YOUR BRANCH HAVE AN ASSIGNED *Advertising & Promo Chair?* **THE BULLETIN**

*Our digital news is delivered right to your email box?*

It's a free club benefit.

Ask for it.

## 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



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](http://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 .....

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## From the Ashes

# The Final Word

by  
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Editor

After exchanging emails for several weeks, I had to ask Tom what his plans were. Will he rebuild?

"The things I miss are these... The house. I was just really getting used to it. Fixing things here and there became satisfying. Sitting on the front porch in the morning air, listening to the silence of my neighborhood. It was peaceful. It was a great place. I know I can do the same with the new house, but it will not be the same. The neighbors are closer and there will be more traffic. Perhaps it will be a different kind of peaceful.

"I will miss my office. But I cannot wait for my new one. I already know what the builders are going to design it like. I will especially miss my beautiful desk. I inherited it. The story behind is that it was owned and worked at by Al Capone. It was a gorgeous 1920 oak panel extra-large desk. I will definitely miss writing there."

He later confirmed that they had property in the Cedar City area of Utah that they will use as their next home. The builders should have it completed by this summer. On the day he packed and raced from his Paradise home, he confided that he had a feeling he would never see it again.

"As for insight. The best thing we ever did was to take into consideration the experiences we had with

the other large fires. We were prepared. We had our important papers ready to go and in a small file to carry out. We had carriers ready and easily accessed for our animals and pets. We knew what and how to bring the important devices like laptops and drives and such, and we made sure we had gas in the tanks of everything. The boycotts are right. 'Be Prepared' for whatever it may be."

I told him how sorry I was to hear he had lost his Jack London Award, too. He said that it would be nice to replace certain awards...

Within about six weeks of our first conversation, the powers that be, President Joyce Krieg and the Central Board, approved to replace the coveted lifetime achievement award he had received in 2017.



We'll wish him well, and in the years that follow, we hope his career continues to grow and his writing—that will include surviving a fire for youngsters—will benefit from the devastating moments that changed everything.



*Author's house down the driveway to the left.*

