**Literary Review**

**Deadline Extended Until March 31**

**Latest news** —

We’re looking for your best work — fiction, poetry, memoir, and essay, including excerpts from previously published writing — for publication in the 2020 California Writers Club *Literary Review*.

Submissions are open to current members of California Writers Club and will be accepted until March 31, 2020.

Works will be reviewed and selected for possible publication by a panel of acquisition editors through a blind judging process. You will be notified by email as to whether your piece will be included in the 2020 *Literary Review* shortly before publication in Autumn of 2020.

See Submission Guidelines and FAQs on our CalWriters.org website.

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**Nominating Committee Announcement**

**Upcoming 2020 CWC Election**

*by Bob Isbill, CWC Director of Advertising and Promotions*

At the January 19, 2020 Central Board Strategic Planning meeting, President Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal appointed me, Bob Isbill, as the Nominating Committee Chairman. I am therefore in the process of putting together a slate of CWC members to stand for election this coming July for a one-year term. Those interested in running for any of the Central Board offices are encouraged to contact me at risbill@aol.com or phone 760.221.6367.

Those offices to be elected are: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The incumbent officers have agreed to stand for re-election in July. They are: Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, President; Roger Lubeck, Vice-President;
A few branches have postponed their March programs. Some haven’t. Others will wait and see.

What began as a trend transitioned to containment to national emergency. Disneyland, Broadway, the NBA season, and in our own backyard, the 25-year-old Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, the nation’s largest event of its kind, had to postpone from mid-April to early October.

What should your branch do? Your meeting venue or county may decide before you, e.g. restaurants and libraries may choose to close for the near term. If not, examine alternatives and ramifications. Find out if your speaker still wants to present. Get a sense whether members would attend or stay home. Keep in mind that even if you don’t reschedule, folks may act out of that “abundance of caution” cited so much lately, and not come, and the speaker may travel a good distance to entertain a half-empty room.

Look at your meeting space. Does it cram people together or allow plenty of “social distance” seating? Also consult whatever agreement you may have with your speaker or venue regarding cancellations.

Be informed and flexible. We don’t yet know how disruptive this could prove. Your board may have to reach immediate decisions. Update your MRMS data. You might have to contact members quickly.

If you do forge ahead, observe the ubiquitous guidelines: Don’t hug, don’t shake hands. Wash hands, including your thumbs, with hot, soapy water. Use hand sanitizer, rubbing it in instead of letting it air-dry. Don’t touch your face. Avoid clutching doorknobs and handrails. Reconsider working with communal computer mice and keyboards.

Who would have thought that running a writers’ club could entail fending off global pandemic? Perhaps writing will help us through. Letters to the editor? Opinion pieces? Impassioned pleas to take care of one another? We’re in this together, and we’ll steadfastly Sail On!
A Writers’ Convention That Almost Didn’t Happen

Every year, thousands of writers travel to the annual Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference, the largest literary convention in North America with an upwards of 10,000 attendees, 700 exhibitors, and 500 programmed events.

This year, however, was special. The coronavirus pandemic cast doubt on this giant event until March 2, just two days before its start, when the organizers and the host city of San Antonio, TX, confirmed it was going forward.

Despite many attendees’ choosing to stay home and the cancellations of up to a half panels, AWP 2020 was still a vibrant event.

Many panels reconstituted themselves with new panelists, while the readings and the Bookfair proceeded as planned.

To a writer, a large writing conference gives an opportunity to learn about craft, hear published authors introduce their books, and network with other writers.

No less important is the massive AWP Bookfair, which is particularly good at attracting independent and university presses as well as print and online literary magazines whose editors are on the lookout for fresh talent and ideas. You can introduce yourself, peruse their publications, and learn the specific submission details for publications or awards. That’s where I met my book publisher a year ago, at AWP 2019 in Portland.

This year, I came back to AWP to moderate a panel. Counting a last-minute replacement, our panel on engaging bilingual and ESL college students in creative writing, had four English instructors sharing working strategies on how to destigmatize these students’ voices and tailor writing pedagogies to their needs.

I also took part in another panel which focused on memoir as a tool to spotlight larger social issues like the ethics of science and medicine, drug policy, race, sexuality, and family formation in America today. Our panel’s 200 attendees asked probing questions and stayed on afterwards to discuss the issues raised in our books.

As a memoirist, I couldn’t miss the panels related to my field, but also some that satisfied my professional interests, such as how to finish a long-term writing project, keep the readers’ interested past the first 70 pages, or navigate the publishing world after a book deal.

2020 Election

Elisabeth Tuck, Secretary; and Anthony Becker, Treasurer.

Any CWC member in good standing is eligible to run for Secretary or Treasurer. Eligibility to stand for President or Vice-President requires that the person be on Active status within their own branch, and that the nominee be a member of the Central Board for one year out of the last five years. Therefore, there are members who are not presently on the Central Board who would be eligible to stand for those offices.

The person elected to any of the four offices, except for the office of President, would automatically become the home branch’s Central Board Representative.

Please refer to the CWC Policies & Procedures which can be found at www.calwriters.org for further information on job descriptions and election rules.

If you would be interested in such a position, please contact me.
Branch News

Orange

The Orange branch returned to the main Orange City library in January, meeting on the first Saturday each month at 11 a.m. This was our original meeting place for several years. Last year we were moved to a branch library and are happy to be at the main library once again. This location is more centrally located for our membership and its proximity to old town Orange, with its many restaurants, makes it convenient to take speakers to lunch after the meeting.

We participated in judging the national scholastic contest again this year. The amount we received was raised to $2500. Our president, Jonathan Yanez, oversaw the project as before and kept everyone on schedule.

Our membership remains at 45. We no longer charge members for meeting attendance, while guests pay $7.00. We started the new year, at our new location, by having guests attend the January meeting at no charge.

Our speakers continue to entertain and educate us on the many aspects of writing, publishing, and marketing. Nancy Cole Silverman, a former journalist, instructed us on how to get from first page to final draft in six months. She has two mystery series, one involving a journalist, and the other centering on a retired Hollywood psychic.

In January, Jeanette Fratto attended a limited Central Board meeting in Oakland, presided over by president Donna McCrohan Rosenthal. Topics of discussion were the future of the Forum and the MRMS system. With the passing of Ray Malus, who developed MRMS, and the constantly changing software, it is time to update or replace these systems. Roger Lubeck, CWC vice-president, is exploring options and will update us when he has more information.

Speaker Judy Reeves started the year by advising us how to write compelling memoirs by using a fictional style. In February, Nancy Woo, a poet, encouraged those who write prose to consider all the senses as poetry does. Calling her talk, “Surprise the Line,” she had us use writing prompts that demonstrated how writing becomes more alive by bringing in sensual details of your setting.

Allene Symons, also a member of the Long Beach branch, continues to scout for interesting and informative speakers and has managed to keep us up to date with the latest in the field.

Our plans for 2020 include building our membership through programs such as Meet-Up and local advertising, and encouraging our members to submit their best writing to the Literary Review.

Mt Diablo

Lost News From Last Issue

September’s Writers Table…a short history, and Dot Edwards on creating children’s illustrated books…

Back in 2011, Barbara Bentley suggested an informal addition to Mount Diablo’s regular CWC meetings: to have informal tables available for members to share their knowledge of writing skills before the full meetings started. Adopted by the Board, Lee Paulsen agreed to organize the new offering and ran it for five years. When Lee moved on to other duties two years ago, Bill Stong and John Marvin took on the Writers Table and are current co-chairs.
For the September *Writers Table*, “Making Your Child a Hero,” Dorothy “Dot” Edwards discussed the reasons and processes for creating an illustrated children’s book. Dot talked about her motivation, which was not to make money, but to create books especially for her grandsons. Dot’s books were beautifully illustrated by an independent artist Dot found after she had written the text. Over 40 members took notes on her presentation, and many mentioned later that they had not thought of creating a book specifically for their own family.

Dot’s presentation included Web access to five different handouts she had created about different types of books, including: The Historical Approach, Fiction/Fantasy parts 1 and 2, How I Came Up with Stories for Each of My Grandsons, Artwork, and Production Phase. Dot’s presentation was one of many that members have grown to appreciate and value at the *Writers Table*.

~~ By John Marvin and Bill Stengh
Photos by John Marvin and Linda Hartmann
with permission by Dorothy Edwards.

Mt. Diablo Current News continues

**Holiday Cheer 2019**
Our branch holds a gala event each year that is great fun. Mt. Diablo volunteers donated and wrapped books and made ribbon napkin rings to decorate the tables at the lively December meeting. A table for authors to sell and sign their books was a festive part of the event, with many selling out! A sit-down meal was enjoyed around a centerpiece with a “tree” of gift-wrapped books stacked and topped with bows and streaming with ribbons. Prior to the meal, each member and guest was allowed to choose a gift from

~~~By John Marvin and Bill Stengh
Photos by John Marvin and Linda Hartmann
with permission by Dorothy Edwards.

**Omissions and Errors:** Several news items in whole or in part were inadvertently left out of the previous issue. Those items will be published (as available) with the current branch content but will be set apart. My apology for any inconvenience this may have caused. If your branch has any concerns now or in future issues please contact the Editor-in-Chief Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com
Branch News continues

the tree. If the book was not of interest to them, they could swap. The merriment around the room and in conversations that were animated and cheery was utterly joyful! This year we had a panel of three of our own members, with Program Chair, Jill Hedgecock, moderating, speaking on helpful information on the advantages to authors of... participating in interviews – Marianne Lonsdale; publishing in anthologies – Colleen Gonzales; and podcasting – Charla Gabert.

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards 2020
Our membership is to be congratulated for those who volunteered to be Jurors for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards 2020. This annual contest is open to artists and writers from 7th – 12th grades throughout the U.S and its territories, and Canada. The young writers had 11 categories of writing to submit within. Our team of 16 Jurors, Chaired by Marlene Dotterer and Coordinated by Linda Hartmann, had a total of 173 submissions to read. This worked out to an average of over 46 submissions per judge, with a variety of eleven categories. This year there were some changes made in the way panels for judging were delivered to the team for assigning, the sign-in process for the jurors had changed, but our team worked well together, helping each other out, being willing to take on extra work as needed, etc., and everyone finished before the deadline.

Youth Writers Contest 2020
The best part, is that in return for our members judging the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, our branch is given $2,500 that is used toward funding the Youth Writers Contest (YWC). This contest is for 6th – 8th grade students in Contra Costa County. Our membership volunteers to judge this contest as well. It is a wonderful way to turn a volunteer opportunity (Scholastic) into a community outreach event for so many local students! Not only do the students who win receive a monetary gift, but they see their work in an Anthology of all of the winners, are given a beautiful Certificate with their name, grade, and category won, and this follows them for their entire life on their resumes. We also offer Honorable Mentions for work considered of value. The winners, their parents and teachers, are invited to a ceremony to honor them which will take place on May 16, 2020. More on this later. Meanwhile, Marlene Dotterer, Chair, along with Lyn Roberts and Chloe Laube as Co-Coordinators are busy organizing the volunteers and receiving submissions for this exciting endeavor! Stay tuned.

~~ Linda Hartmann

South Bay

Recent News
We have a new venue and new meeting day. We were in a scramble after Harry’s Hofbrau suddenly closed. We found a new place, but the date and location turned out to be inconvenient. Now we are looking forward to beginning 2020 at China Stix, 2110 El Camino Real, Santa Clara (Scott & El Camino, 2 blocks from San Tomas Expressway). The banquet room is larger, private, and elegant. The new date, (second Monday of the month, 6-9pm), will be more convenient too. There’s no escaping paying more: $30 members and $35 nonmembers, but we hope the extensive menu served conveniently on lazy Susan’s at a circular table will make it a special evening

continued page 8
Introducing the Smart Author Podcast!

Like a free masterclass in ebook publishing essentials, the Smart Author Podcast will guide you step-by-step from ebook self-publishing basics to advanced topics where you'll learn how to make your books more discoverable, and more enjoyable to readers. Subscribe for free wherever you enjoy podcasts, or scan the QR code to listen now. Visit www.smashwords.com/podcast for more.
Branch News continues


~~ Edie Matthews
President

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Redwood Writers

Lots of exciting goings-on at Redwood Writers this month! We are working hard on our biennial writers conference—the SONOMA COUNTY WRITERS CONFERENCE on Saturday, May 2nd.

Eight one-hour sessions and eight two-hour workshops will feature outstanding writers on craft, genre, publishing, and marketing. Keynote speaker is Brian Fies whose work includes graphic novels A Fire Story, Mom’s Cancer, Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow, and The Last Mechanical Monster. His work has received several honors, including the comics industry’s “Eisner,” “Harvey” and “Inkpot” awards as well as a television “Emmy Award.” Early Bird tickets are on sale starting March 15. Details and lots more on our website at redwoodwriters.org. Join us!

~~ Deborah Walton, PR

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CWC South - Representing 8 regional branches

CWC-South representatives met in Pasadena on February 9 under the guidance of the region’s new chair, Sandy Moffett of Writers of Kern (Bakersfield). They covered a variety of topics ranging from branch job descriptions to the region’s monthly magazine-format website. Discussion also included the possibility of continuing the annual mini-grant program and/or conducting a leadership-type conference to bring new branch officers and appointees up to speed with developments they might have missed.

Two weekends later, CWC-South staffed a booth at the Riverside Dickens Festival where they offered a wide selection of educational handouts, talked up CWC membership with interested visitors, and collected sign-ups.

Plans for the remainder of the year look promising and enthusiasm is high.

~~ Donna McCrohan Rosenthal

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Mendocino Coast

Lost News From Last Issue

The Mendocino Coast CWC branch hosted Philip Zwerling, MFA, Ph.D., speaking at the Mendocino Hotel on November 21st. The topic of the former university director of creative writing was “What poets, fiction writers, and memoirists can learn from playwrights, and one tip to improve your writing by 27% immediately.” This event followed the performance of his plays at the August 28th Reading Series at the Mendocino Theatre Company.

Members have space for a biography on the website, WritersMendocino-Coast.org, and the opportunity to announce their publication and award credits.

In Recent News

The Mendocino Coast branch continues to provide members with opportunities to put their writing into the world. January and March meetings featured members reading works accepted for the 2020 anthology, Red Sky. The April meeting will have the annual SmatchUp readings on the theme of "What Am I Doing Here?" where a member writes a page of prose or poetry then a blindly matched member finishes the story or poem. Writers are challenged throughout the year by presentations such as February's program, "You Can Write a Song About That?" offered by Holly Tannen, a Mendocino Coast musician and songwriter.

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Well Said

“He did not care what the end would be, and in his lucid moments overvalued his indifference. The danger, when not seen, has the imperfect vagueness of human thought. The fear grows shadowy; and Imagination, the enemy of men, the father of all terrors, unstimulated, sinks to rest in the dullness of exhausted emotion.”

— Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim

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High Desert

High Desert Literary Renaissance

The High Desert branch wishes to hear from diverse members and the public, so on Thursday evening, February 6, members featured Black voices, current and classic. For a second year, literary contributions from African Americans were shared with an even larger audience than in 2019 at the Hesperia Library. The Read-In was begun 30 years ago by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. HDCWC member, EmmaLisa Hill, author of *Pray Every Day*, moderated the event which was videotaped by Joan Rudder-Ward, our Secretary and YouTube channel owner.

After intermission with piano music by Isaiah Cooper and refreshments, members read selections from authors such as Quincy Troupe, Maya Angelou, and James Weldon. Member Anita Holmes read a fascinating account of a woman who disguised herself as a man and became a Buffalo Soldier. Many of us didn’t know that the Buffalo Soldiers became the first rangers in our National Parks. Dwight Norris, President, moved the audience with, *The Story of Sandy Armistead*, a mid-ninety-year-old African American, now living in Apple Valley, who experienced racism many times but believes it is a learned, not a natural response.

Later in February, we had a unique salon featuring a movie and dinner. Ten members went to see *The Call of the Wild* at a local theater. Afterwards, a discussion was held at a restaurant comparing the novel by one of our founders, Jack London, and the movie. The consensus: the book is always better than the movie. One member described the film as too “Disneyesque,” and we wondered what London would have thought of the liberties taken with his work.

High Desert branch offered a Read-In for Women’s History Month this past evening, March 16, at the Hesperia Library venue. Members and public guests read selections written by women writers. Because 2020 is the Centennial of women getting the vote in the United States with the 19th Amendment, there was a special tribute to Suffragists during this second annual event.

In April, our branch plans to celebrate World Book Night for the 9th year. Member authors donate one of their books and they are handed out on April 23rd, the birthdays of both Shakespeare and Cervantes, at a selected location frequented by those who don’t have easy access to books. In the past, our branch has donated books at urgent care centers, homeless shelters, and our local Federal prison.

April will also bring the celebration of National Poetry Month and San Bernardino County Fair participation through poetry entries. Several members have won ribbons in the past, and we hope to broaden the categories in years to come.

Getting the word out about the joy of reading and writing in the High Desert is our goal.

~ Mary Langer Thompson
Coastal Dunes

Salutations from Coastal Dunes!
Catherine Kitcho, founder of the Coastal Dunes branch and Treasurer/Membership Chair since our beginning in 2015, stepped down from the branch Board in January. We are pleased to announce our new Treasurer and Membership Chair, Cathie Ortiz. Catherine continues to serve as our branch mentor and webmaster, and also works with our VP on speakers and special programs. Thank you for your dedication and service to our branch, Catherine.

Due to numerous requests by authors wishing to present at one of our meetings, the Coastal Dunes Board agreed to devise a questionnaire to determine if these authors are a good match for Coastal Dunes. The questionnaire, drawn up by Joe Myers, Vice-President, has proven quite useful.

If any branch is interested in a copy of this questionnaire, contact info@coastaldunescwc.com

~~ Renee Geffken, corresponding secretary

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North State

If it wasn’t for our volunteers, where would we be? I know North State Writers wouldn’t be here or any other branch of California Writers Club for that matter. So, from my little part of the world, I want to thank all the volunteers for all they have done last year and what they will do in the coming year. The last year has been busy. We published our third Anthology, *Curious Things*, stories of strange or weird happenings. Other authors from other branches were included and the book is all the better for it. We have critique groups. Also, we had our second collaboration with a local thespian group. They read and acted out fourteen of our stories. The two evening performances, open to the public, were a smash hit for them and for us. What a thrill to see your words performed by trained actors.

We participated in several events for the children of our area. The Chocolate Festival designates a special area, “All About Books”, for many of our authors to sell books. We will be doing it again for the fourth year. If authors from other branches are interested go to info@chocolatefest.us by April 15th. We wrapped packages at Barnes and Noble for Christmas, donated books for the school reading program to auction off, and appeared at the fund raiser for youth in Paradise. We are proud of our chapter. We are growing exponentially and we average 75% attendance at our meetings.

~~ Cathy Chase, President
AWP is also a great place to have your writing heard. I read an excerpt from my memoir at the group reading of the AWP 2-Year College Creative Writing Caucus – one of AWP’s many groups where writers band according to their interests.

This might have been AWP’s most unusual, but still a deeply gratifying gathering of writers. Provided the pandemic ends before the next one, AWP 2021 in Kansas City, I’ll be sure to attend it.

Lane Igoudin, MA, PhD, is a non-fiction writer, English/ESL professor at Los Angeles City College, and a recent Mellon Fellow with the Humanities Division of UCLA. His memoir Born in the Shadow of the Court is under contract with the University of Wisconsin Press. www.LaneIgoudin.com.

Publishing Journal Entries

~CHosen Journals Will receive 1% of sales after publication~

Journals have a unique quality.
We write them so honestly,
we don’t think that anyone will read them.
I’d love to change this.
We can share them.
The Crosshatch Journals are personal journal entries from people expressing what we all go through, growth and transformation through life experiences.
From everyone and everywhere.
These raw words will fill you with beauties and tragedies, and everything in between.

Submit Journal entries at:
crosshatchpublishing.com/submit
Tri-Valley

Tri-Valley Writers (TVW) offers a free gift basket to a lucky member every January. To encourage submissions to *The Literary Review*, this year’s basket included copies of the 2018 and 2019 issues, as well as TVW logo items, tea and chocolate, and other writer-related items. This 2020 winner is club historian Susan O’Leary.

Creativity and generosity combined this year for two successful fundraisers. In September, the club held a yard sale, chaired by Julie Royce, to benefit the general fund. In January, the club held a silent auction featuring gift certificates from local businesses, chaired by Vice President Rose Owens, to raise funds for cash prizes for the 9th annual TVW High School Writing Contest. The events brought in about $700 each.

TVW is working on its fifth anthology. Members are encouraged to submit up to two works (fiction, non-fiction, or poetry). The submission period lasts until the end of March, with publication expected at the end of the year. This anthology is under the direction of Gary Lea and Ruth Harder.

February’s San Francisco Writers Conference featured Jordan Bernal and Paula Chinick leading the popular TVW-sponsored “Practice Your Pitch” session. This was the fourth year that Jordan and Paula taught participants how to hone their pitch down to about 25 words, and practice their approach to agents.

Susan O’Leary

Fremont Area

Greetings and Happy New Year from Fremont Area Writers!

Hope everyone is having both a restful and exciting 2020. Hard to believe March is already here. Our “Third Sunday” Literary Open Mic held at a Starbucks in Newark, where “Writers Read Their Original Work,” is going strong. These events are open to the general public, as well as FAW members. We’ve continued to have an increase in readers each month. At our February event, our general public readers outnumbered our member readers. The word is getting out to writers in the area that there’s a place they can read their original work and, if they want to, an organization of writers who help writers, they can join.

We had a 10-year-old boy read his work at our February Open Mic. He read from a book he has written, illustrated and published. It won a first place competition at his school and second place at the district level. He’s quite an amazing young man, and is hard at work on his next book.

Our Fourth Monday Open Mic has changed its name to Fourth Monday Writers’ Salon and is now meeting at a new location: Slap Face Coffee & Tea in Fremont. This “open mic” didn’t actually have a mic, and was more intimate and casual than the traditional open mic format.
In addition to reading their work, attendees also discuss ideas and subjects interest to writers; therefore, a name change to better fit the true nature of the gathering. It is open to everyone.

We kicked off our second year of “Second Saturday” events at Half Price Books with Marjorie Bicknell Johnson reading from her book *Bird Watcher* about a thief that steals planes. In February, we heard from author Tish Davidson, who celebrated African American History month with her two books, *African Americans in Business* and *African American Scientists and Inventors*, covering contributions made to our everyday lives by African Americans from the emancipation the Civil Rights movement. Scheduled for our March HPB event is new member Luanne Oleas, who will read from her novel *Flying Blind, A Cropduster’s Story*.

Sue Curtzwiler, our Hospitality Co-chair has added to her responsibilities by becoming our Volunteer Coordinator. She is now writing a column of encouragement and inspiration for our newsletter, Ink Spots. It’s called *The Spark*. You can read her column by going to our website cwc-fremontareawriters.org and checking recent issues of the newsletter.

Our January speaker was Lisa Rosenberg, a local physicist/poet, who shared her remarkable poetry and challenged us to look at our process in new and distinctive ways. February brought us Robert A. Garfinkle, FAW founder, past president of FAW and CWC, and our historian. Bob took us through the evolution of his newly published, three-volume, *Luna Cognita* (The Known Moon) from inception to publication; a 30-year journey with no agent. His labor of love and his life’s work will be the preeminent book on the moon for decades to come. We highly recommend these speakers.

We look forward to receiving your newsletters and to finding out what your branch is up to in the coming months. Please, if you have an open mic, a workshop, a contest, or an anthology that is open to those outside your membership, that you would like to have publicized by other branches, mention it in your cover letter, so I don't miss it. Especially if it is deadline driven (and what isn't). If the timing works, I would be happy to share your information with our membership, and I will include it in our newsletter. Or we can send it out via email if appropriate.

I hope at some point to meet some or all of you; I do enjoy receiving your newsletters and reading about your branch’s exploits when I have the time.

Cheers!

--- Nancy Guarnera
Branch News continues

CWC NorCal

FOURTEEN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CWC BRANCHES

For the eighth year in a row, the California Writers Club (hosted by the NorCal Group) ran a booth at the San Francisco Writers Conference from February 13-16. There were over 650 writers in attendance. We had eighteen CWC volunteers who came from seven of the Northern California CWC branches to work the booth, with over 65 attendees sign up for further information. Our booth looked good and drew much positive attention.

We also had 24 CWC members from across the State who attended as winners of the all-day Poetry and/or Screenwriters Summits held on February 15th. Recipients streamed in from as far away as Bakersfield and Orange County to Monterey and Sacramento. This was a first for the CWC to have this offering from the SFWC, and we are most appreciative.

We were also asked to host a table in a round-up of ideas in the Ask-A-Pro sessions, whereby attendees came to the CWC table to ask questions about the California Writers Club.

And, on the last day of the Conference, the CWC was given the opportunity to speak on a panel on the topic: Book Written, Conference Attended, Notes Taken...And Now What? The Big Unknown: Plan for it and Succeed!” This was to provide conference attendees an opportunity to find direction (after a lengthy three-day conference) and to seek support in a group, such as the California Writers Club. The panel was well-attended.

The NorCal Group is already in the throes of setting up another event with a booth for the Bay Area Book Festival in Berkeley this May 2nd and 3rd. The Berkeley Branch will be hosting once again this year, with volunteers coming from several nearby branches. Thousands attend this exciting two-day event. Be sure to join in the fun! Open to all interested in books and writing.

We will also be planning for our bi-annual Leadership Conference to be held sometime in October 2020. Details to be determined at our May 30th board meeting.

For some of our Summit recipients reviews of their experience at the SFWC, please see our special page dedicated to their remarks.

~~ Carole Bumpus
Central Coast

Clarissa is an essential part of a small volunteer core. Her quiet, efficient, behind-the-scenes efforts help to assure that Central Coast Writers Club continues to thrive. She always offers a calm, guiding voice that is instrumental and integral to planning and executing every club venture from workshops to our annual High School Writing contest.

She puts her talent and creativity as an accomplished photographer and videographer to use at our monthly meetings. Most of the photos that appear in our newsletter come from Clarissa, and she offers our members headshots for their web pages or books at no charge. Clarissa tirelessly strives to assure that our club, and its members, feel as though they are part of a writing family.

Her smile lights up the room, and we are lucky to have Clarissa as a member!

Thank you, Clarissa, for the tireless efforts. You help to make CCW a great club!

Submitted by Laurie Sheehan, CCW President

An Array of Excellent Speakers at Central Coast

January, 2020 Speaker Sharon Randall “Stay Alive, Pay Attention” is an award-winning writer and known as a syndicated columnist whose work has been distributed to more than 400 newspapers and an estimated 6 million readers nationwide.

A snippet of a review of Randall’s talk by CCW Program Chair Nancy Middleton: Randall worked for the Monterey County Herald, moving up the ranks from receptionist to feature writer. When she transitioned to writing her column, “Bay Window,” Randall worried about running out of material and created a list of 100 topic ideas. She put the list in a desk drawer, but in more than thirty years of column writing never once referred to it. Following her grandmother’s advice to never pretend to be who you aren’t, Randall wrote about “whatever came along.” If you force yourself to write about something that isn’t in your heart, she said, whatever is in your heart will keep coming back into your writing. And even if you write about the same topic at different points in your writing career, she said, you’re a different person each time.”

November, 2019 Speaker Derek Moore “The State of the Fourth Estate.” Moore is a Napa-based freelance writer who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize along with staff of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat (Sonoma County) for breaking news coverage of the Northern California wildfires in 2017.

A snippet of a review of Moore’s talk, by CCW Program Chair Nancy Middleton:

The rise of the internet and cable news has had a huge impact on traditional print journalism, according to freelance journalist Derek Moore. Newspapers did not
see the internet revolution coming, Moore said. “They were a bit elitist and were sure that people would always buy newspapers.”

September, 2019 Vicki Stiefel “Do Make a Scene”
Award-winning author Vicki Stiefel's fantasy romantic suspense series, The Afterworld Chronicles, launched with Chest of Bone. The fourth in the series, Chest of Fire, was released in 2019. She spoke about how writing a scene can be a daunting prospect. But scenes are the chains that link your narrative together, transforming it into a story.

Vicki Stiefel

We had a number of members who have recently published: Joyce Krieg, T.C. Zmak, Nikki Lewen, Jeanette Nicely, Marcia Rosen, Linda Gunther, Alka Joshi, and Christine E. Sleeter. You can find more details at our website.

~~~ Lana Bryan

Sacramento

We see an interesting trend in members. Many are energetic “second career” professionals who upon retirement find the time and the will to do what they’ve always wanted to do – write a memoir or exert their voice. Members differ from “hobbyists” from past decades. Medical experts and teachers fall into this wave of writers pursuing an interest or a passion. In the same category are long-time journalists looking to branch out and exercise their creative hand. Many teach side classes to college students or adults and find that the branch helps them to pick up tips for their students. These new members bring interest, excitement, and a new level of dialogue to meetings.

CWC Sacramento Branch, Fourth Quarter 2019:
Submitted by Marcia Ehinger, Newsletter Content Editor

The Sacramento Branch has continued to have regular First Friday Networking meetings and Monthly Saturday Luncheon meetings, both with speakers. The monthly meetings now regularly include an Early Bird topic led by a member, and often have post-session events.

Our past treasurer and business guru Larry Mandelberg has repurposed the Mastermind method for solving business problems into a recurring Writers’ Mastermind event, to help writers find ways of dealing with issues we have in common (such as writer’s block, accountability, time management, finding services).

Our October monthly speaker, Tanya Egan Gibson, told us how to write for the Young Adult market. In November, Rebecca Inch-Partridge, covered the expansive genre of speculative fiction and its many subgenres (sci-fi, fantasy, epic, steampunk…). She also included important tips about writing for younger audiences. The December Friday meeting topic was “Speaking in Your Writer's Voice”, which was a closed reading of members’ works, limited to 2 - 3 minutes each. The consensus was that we needed to do it again soon. We ended the quarter with another smashingly successful holiday party.

Board Member, musician, and Fairy Tales for Life author
Linda Champion at Fairytale Town & holiday party

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This winter, the SFV Board has had many discussions centered on our finances. Like most private clubs, we feel a budget pinch now and then. We try to tighten up on expenses and find new ways to bring in some extra cash. One idea that has brought in a modest amount of cash: a used books sale before and after each meeting. Interestingly, since we meet in the same building as the Movie Home’s spiffy gym, many people who pass by on the way to their workout will stop and look over our wares. We happily sell our slightly used books to these fit folks for a bargain price.

Our monthly speakers, touted on social media, have attracted a diverse group of guests from the local community: script writers and other people who work in the Biz, as we sometimes label the television and movie industry. When these folks aren’t busy at their day jobs writing scripts, they write their own mysteries, memoirs and novels just like our CWC-SFV members. As our speakers often proclaim, everyone has a story to tell and need info on the best way to tell and sell it. Our Speaker Chair, Lori Hamilton, has labored to find speakers meeting that need for both members and guests.

We welcomed four speakers this winter:

In November, Debra Tash told us, “Historical fiction – at its best – is an art form. Before humans developed an alphabet and a written language, history was told around campfires.” Tash commented, “Historical fiction writers must walk the line between truth and fiction. An author in this genre must meet the same criteria as any novelist: create an intriguing plot, characters, dialogue, scenes and drama. Know your character, thoroughly research the time and place of the drama and write in the style of the era. However, your dialogue can’t be too authentic - conversations should be comprehensible. Also, do extensive research. One can invent characters and conversations, but historical events must be presented accurately.”

December’s, Bernard Selling, believes that a fiction critic should not a pragmatic judge, but similar to a thoughtful therapist. Just as an author needs feedback to slowly develop his or her abilities, a reviewer, editor or critic should learn the basic skills of helpful commentary or criticism.
January speaker, Laurie Stevens, immediately confided to her Saban Room audience that she was a “hybrid author.” Becoming an author by any path is never easy. There is no “right” way to be an author. Multi-talented Stevens could have lectured on a multitude of topics.

In February, Ara Grigorian returned to the Saban Room to lead a workshop on Story Beats – Your Story’s Heartbeat. His lecture on Story Concept or effective plot development, was presented with a new collection of power point slides and movie clips produced by his Novel Intensive company.

--- Kathy Highcove
CWC-SFV Editor

San Francisco Peninsula

We hosted our 2nd successful quarterly Literary Salon in conjunction with Bay Area Generations and Penelope’s Coffee & Tea in Foster City featuring four pairs of talented writers, some sweet guitar songs, the smell of Java, and a lively crowd. Our next Bay Area Generations Peninsula Literary Salon is Thursday, May 21 at 7pm. Submissions are open to all at: https://bayareagenerations.com/how-to-submit/ Deadline May 1. Include on your submission “May 21 Peninsula Show.”

Seven SF Peninsula members took “Page to Stage” in our first-ever Readers Theater event at the Dragon Theater on Broadway (in Redwood City!) Our theme was Women’s Journeys and it was a joy to weave together stories, poems and essays ranging from the dark to the light to the outright hilarious in this scripted ensemble event. We look forward to another show at the Dragon next year!

--- Lisa Meltzer Penn
Inland Empire

The biggest news at the Inland Empire branch is our 2019 Anthology of the Inland Empire California Writers Club, which you’ll see advertised in this Bulletin. We have been marketing on Facebook whatever social media we prefer and of course, by word of mouth. One of our members, I heard, talked the ear off of a handyman about it who visited her home.

Our book came out the end of October and for our November meeting, and many of our authors read their pieces. Some were poems, fiction, non-fiction short stories, and others had excerpts from their books. Our readers became so animated that not everyone had a chance to read. Many friends and relatives attended. Afterwards we had a luncheon at a local Mexican Restaurant.

In December, we had a holiday party at Sue Andrews’ house, our club president. That, too, was a social event where we got to mix and mingle. We could sit and talk with one another in a way that we don’t often get to do at our regular board and general meetings.

This past January, we continued the tradition of having our published members from the previous year sit on a panel. Sue moderated and we learned about each member’s successes and challenges getting their books on the market. Every year we learn a little bit more about the road to publishing. There was agreement that self-publishing has become more difficult with the closing on CreateSpace.

Last month, we had one of our prolific authors, Autumn Bardot, give a talk called “The Magic of Symbolism.” It was a fantastic presentation. Check out her website for more information on this topic at www.autumnbardot.com.

On February 22 and 23, some of our members volunteered at the Dickens Festival with our President, Donna McCrohan Rosenthal. Enjoy our photos!
On February 29th, we were excited to celebrate the release of *The Call of the Wild*, a new movie based on Jack London’s classic novel, with an outing for our club! An author talk, a history walking tour, and a reading at the place where Jack London learned to write showcased our club. We got some friends together and saw the show before. Prior to the screening, Dirk Wales presented at the theater to display, discuss and sell his book, *Jack London’s Dog*, about the animal who inspired *Call of the Wild*. Dirk Wales is the author of several children’s books, including the best-selling *A Lucky Dog*. Afterward, we gathered at the Jack London statue near the movie theater, and walked the wolf tracks to Jack London’s cabin.

**Captain Kristen Caven chats with the ghost of Jack London prior to their branch’s walking tour.**

A piece of history, Heinold’s was built from the remnants of a whaling ship and the bar is tilted from surviving the 1906 quake. Known as “Jack London’s Rendezvous,” it was in this bar that Jack London that decided to be a writer, and Heinold helped pay his tuition.

**Regal Theatre-Call of the Wild Event**


Terry Tierney, CWC-NorCal representative from the CWC-BB whose poetry book comes out in May. Others there that day: CWC-BB president Kristen Caven, book publicist and website designer Karma Bennett.

Henry Hitz, author Squirrels in the Wall.

Thanks to Heinold’s Elliott Myles.
Long Beach

Long Beach Branch Continues to Grow

The high quality of our speakers brings in (a) bigger audiences and (b) even better speakers, and (c) more members. We’re over seventy now. So, we’re a pretty big tree now, with a great management team, but we need a broader base. Our limbs are heavy and drooping from over commitments. How do you entice more folks to take on leadership responsibilities in this age of busy-ness?

Speaking of Speakers

January started with a don’t-dare-miss-it panel presentation moderated by Johnathan Yanez. Jonathan is a successful traditionally and self-published author and a member of the California Writers Club of Orange. Topic: “How to Build a Brand and Market Your Work.” The panel’s branding and marketing formula: Writer + SEO/Marketing person + Graphics/Book-cover individual + Editor = Success. Jonathan has quit his day job! Have them to your branch sometime.

February was another SRO event. Greta Boris and Megan Haskell, veterans of the Southern California Writers Conferences ran a very informative interactive workshop on the topic of “First Page, Lasting Impression.” They love spending time with authors, and they’re expanding their workshops.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT!

Era (Debra) Martin is our new VP and still handles Secretary duties until that role can be filled. Debra Martin prefers her Asian name, Era. Born in Michigan, Era lived in Asia for 22 years. While she previously edited and proofread English, Indonesian, and Japanese language books, she is now writing a memoir (can’t wait to read it) and teaches ESL at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, CA.

~~ Kathryn Atkins, PR Chair

January Panel. L-R, Jonathan Yanez, Jennifer Hendricks, Jynafer Yanez, Frank Kearns (CWCLB Prez), and Kevin Cruz

Era Martin

L-R, Megan Haskell, Greta Boris.
Branch News continues

Writers of Kern

Writers of Kern is overflowing with cool opportunities.

February 10th through May 10th is our annual Dan McGuire blog challenge. The goal is 26 blog posts in 13 weeks. This is one way to encourage those involved to write on a consistent basis. Folks who complete the challenge will be awarded a certificate at the May Honors Dinner.

New critique groups. Twice a year Writers of Kern opens up the opportunity for new critique groups. There are four active groups at this time with five new groups proposed, covering a wide variety of genres.

Our annual Peggy Connelly Scholarship is fast approaching. Peggy was a dear friend and longtime member of WOK. She was also a gifted children’s writer. The $500 scholarship is awarded to two children’s writers in Kern County to assist in the completion of their publication.

~~ Joan Raymond, President

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East Sierra

We began the year with a little trouble filling out our schedule, but in short order had an excellent lineup, including our popular “Read the Book, Meet the Author” springtime series. For this, the person who gives our evening general meeting program arrives early for an afternoon spent with about a dozen avid fans at My Enchanted Cottage and Tea Rooms, Ridgecrest’s Victorian tea shop. Participants buy and read the author’s selected book in advance, then everybody discusses it with the author over tea and scones. At this writing, we realize that Coronavirus could alter our plans. But for now we look forward to welcoming Veronica Giolli (April 2), Whispers in the Wind, her unique mystery novel with a Native American setting; James A. Ardaiz (May 7), Shades of Truth, a Matt Jamison Novel by a former prosecutor, judge, and Presiding Justice of the California Fifth District Court of Appeal; S. Kay Murphy (July 2), The Tainted Legacy of Bertha Gifford: A Memoir, a riveting true story about the writer’s own grandmother; and David George (September 3), Granddad’s Garden: Stories of the Natural World, a delightful collection to share with your grandchildren.

Over the February 22-23 weekend, some East Sierra members – joined by wonderful colleagues from the Inland Empire Branch – helped staff the CWC-South table at the Riverside Dickens Festival, distributing educational information and collecting sign-ups from attendees interested in knowing more about the club.

Announcement

Soon you will be asked to update your profile in our CWC database called MRMS. This roster provides the connection to your branch members. All communication, including The Bulletin, relies on up-to-date information that you provide to us. Be sure your email address is correct.
Drop the Mic on Fear.
Learn Microphone Skills For Conducting Your Next Interview
Gain more confidence
Insider’s tips & tricks
Targeted conversations can glean critical information for your next book.
Interviewing is a skill. So, if you treat a microphone as if it was a muzzle of a gun, you won’t get your best from people.

A Microphone is Not the Muzzle of a Gun: The Art of Interviewing

Now available on Amazon.com — only $17.95
https://tinyurl.com/y36y6bhd
(a condensed link)
Now on Kindle, too.

CWC: Mission

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.

CALL FOR WRITERS

Write an article for The Bulletin, sharing your expertise of a specific topic with our readership. Submit your article covering topics that will enhance writer’s understanding of the craft we love.

Send submissions to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. Place “Expertise” in the subject line. Word limit: 250-500, MSWord format, 11 pt. Arial. Add a short bio that explains your level of expertise & a small, thumbnail headshot. All articles may be edited for space. Most articles will be held for future Bulletin issues due to our limit of 30 pages. No compensation is given. You will be donating your article to help others.

Thanx in advance ~~ The Editor

How Do You Celebrate??

Active photos will help share your branch’s activities and showcase your enthusiasm in our next The Bulletin issue. Just have them added to your regular news by email and be sure to give us captions with each photo, if possible.
REACHING NEARLY 2,000 STATE-WIDE!!
Advertise in CWC’s The Bulletin!

Increase your visibility? Promote your service? Sell your book? Create more speaking 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 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 jpg 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 JPG file to AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com. No exceptions.
- PayPal lacks details in its order page, so please provide a physical copy of your ad and details of your payment 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 your hard copy that you mail to help us understand your order details.

Submit your advertising copy by July 15th

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.

Checklist. Please follow directions closely:

- Design your ad. Scan it to a jpg file.
- Send it to AdvertisingCWC@gmail.com.
- Mail hard copy and details of your ad in a stamped envelope.
- Address it to the Marketing Department. It is okay to fold the copy if you need to do so. Please state amount on the hard copy placed in your envelope!
- Choose PayPal online at calwriters.org or enclose your check made payable to “CWC Central Treasury”.
- Mark the payment type & the amount, if you choose PayPal. Either way you choose to 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!)

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Four sizes & rates:

1. Business card size (2x3.5) ad for $30.
2. Index card size (3x5) ad for $60.
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.
4. Full Page We will make available only one full-page vertical ad (7”x10”) for $200. First come, first served, and for that reason, arrangement for this ad must be made by phone.

SUMMER SPECIAL
ONLY $60
“Cover Story” Ad

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A Word From the Editor

Before we became a very mobile society, we traveled about 20 miles from our homes, farms, and small towns. The term “cabin fever” was attached to the feeling of isolation during a long winter. People stayed in and fulfilled other seasonal chores like canning, mending clothes or making clothes, and planning for an early spring.

With the trepidation of the Corona Virus lurking, I’m hunkering down. This is a perfect time to clean out some old files, trim down my activities to work on poetry and book chapters, then kick back with a cup of steaming java for some “me” time.

Cabin fever, in this case, will be caused by not having outside access to the places where crowds gather. So I’ll stick with things I can be comforted with when the isolation takes over. I have a poetry chap book I’m working on and a Western I need to dust off.

How will you fulfill self-isolation beyond keeping vigil at the TV watching the latest news?

~ Rusty LaGrange, editor

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

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Questions & Comments .............................

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Become Your Character

~~ Dave LaRoche, South Bay

In this issue, I've invited Dave LaRoche to share expertise and insight to the processes of defining personal traits within your characters. What better way than to become them?

Following in the footsteps of Konstantin Stanislavski, Lee Strasberg brought method acting to his cooperative in New York. Many good actors—Brando, Pacino, Streep, to name only a few—followed his instruction to their pinnacled success. The crux of the system is to become the character—get into his body, use his limbs and his brain—every day, all the time, not just on the set.

I suggest this approach works for writers as well, as we develop our characters. As things stand now for most of us, we define and describe our story inhabitants from a distance. We know of height and weight and hair color, angular jaw, beefy appearance, a limp on the left side, but we are not them.

We haven't and don't live their lives—know their secrets, insecurities, their loves, and anxieties or the area of their confidence and poise. We don't know what drives them or how they respond to stimuli.

We might guess, and we might be right, but as likely be wrong, and we generally don’t think of this how-they-will- act until "on the set"—i.e., when we sit down to write.

While in the Strasberg approach, I find a character. She’s lolling on a beach or standing in the rain at a bus stop. He is racing after a woman who has just dropped her purse.

And, before I write the next sentence, I dig into their past—meet the parents, their friends, and understand their fears, their joy, and learn of the tripwire that leads to excess. I look into their minds and discover why they do what they're doing and plan for the rest of their lives. I give them my full curiosity, my day and night of discovery until there is no distance between us.

We are assimilated as one.

I am now he or she, and I won’t need to wonder and stumble over how a character reacts, initiates, or plans. Because I am them, and whatever I do with the character as they move through the plot, will come easily, evolve naturally, and the reader will say, “of course.”

As you all probably know by now, we are becoming more flexible nationwide with our plans and in our social awareness.

The news gathered and shared in The Bulletin was submitted weeks before the COVID-19 virus began its spread.

As the rules changed for keeping the virus from traveling, CWC also took the helm to make suggestions to curtail meetings, and consider cancelling events. This is an inconvenience, to be sure, but a necessary one. Be sure to check in advance for schedule changes, events, and conferences that may have been cancelled or delayed. Keep healthy.