

THE BULLETIN

California Writers Club

Vol. 7 No. 1

Spring / 2021

ZOOM ROOMS

Select Honored Members
to Receive Recognition



**Jack
London
Awards
Coming**

The Bulletin is the official publication of California Writers Club, an educational nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation. Issue 16 e-edition circulation date March 2021.

CENTRAL BOARD

President: Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Vice Pres.: Roger Lubeck
Secretary: Elisabeth Tuck
Treasurer: Anthony Becker
Member-at-Large: Jeanette Fratto

Branches: [22](#)

California Writers Club
PO Box 201
Danville, CA 94526

Zoom Invitation Goes Statewide

James Scott Bell to Speak April 10 Hosted by High Desert Branch

Many of you have heard James Scott Bell lead at workshops and as guest speaker, north and south. This time High Desert will host the well-travelled Bell on Zoom in a limited viewing of 100 registrants.

Scheduled for April 10 at 10am, people must register for this one! The link, furnished here, will be to register, not the link to attend. Register today. Prior to the actual meeting, all the registered people will be sent a link to attend by VP Mike Apodaca of High Desert.

His topic is "How to Make a Living as a Writer." To register, go to this website and answer 3 sign-in questions. This is a free event. Depending upon how many slots we have open will be the number who get to attend.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelH2y0LBxtZk82vm90pyRwuoCH5NXv6PUAKbEOVUbnUpeG3q/viewform?usp=sf_link

How to Make a Living as a Writer

For centuries very few writers have been able to support themselves by the quill or the keyboard. Not anymore. With the rise of ebooks and indie publishing there are now more opportunities than ever for writers to generate income from their work. And there is still a traditional publishing industry that needs new talent to keep growing. ~ James Scott Bell



In this event, Bell will break down the eight essential practices you need to master if you want to write for profit and increase your chances of making a living wage. As Bell puts it, "It's the best time on Earth to be a writer."



President's Corner

Donna McCrohan Rosenthal

Adjusting to More Than COVID; Jack London Awards and Literary Review



Representatives from the branches of the California Writers Club met for our third Central Board meeting this club year, January 24, on Zoom. We discussed the upcoming issue of the Literary Review, Jack London Awards, and various aspects of CWC business. Pandemic notwithstanding, we have our plates full.

Regarding the Literary Review, we've extended the deadline from March 15 to April 15, and maximum length of poems from 30 to 50 lines. If you haven't done it before, make this your year to submit. Your work would look so good in print (and online, too) in our excellent journal of fine writing in the genres of fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, and humor (details at calwriters.org/publications/#submit). Please understand that it simplifies everything for everybody if you don't wait to the last minute. Thanks in advance for their tireless dedication to our intake manager David George, editor Elisabeth Tuck, Art Director/ Production Editor Fred Dodsworth, and strong panel of wonderful judges.

Concerning the 2021 Jack London Awards, we will go forward with and present them in July. We will in April re-evaluate whether to hold a July in-person ceremony or a luncheon at a later date. However, we will one way or another do something formal in July, virtually if necessary and then sending the plaques and souvenir programs by mail. This means that your branch should identify your award winner now and not put it off. As described in the Central Board's Policies and Procedures, the merit of the award is in service, independent of writing achievement. Please have your branch's nominee's name, headshot, mailing and email addresses, brief bio and reason for selection – to us no later than April 9, 2021.

About this spring: Covid restrictions may lighten. Be prepared. Have plans in the works so that you can launch them when the right time comes. Think about open-air, socially-distanced, mask-required events. Add a speaker? Author tables? A booth by a local bookstore? It depends to some degree where you live, but perhaps go so far as to look into gatherings in the spring, summer, or fall as soon as you might where you can enjoy seeing each other again and, heck, we live in California, how about a winery?

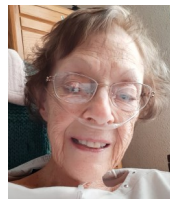


Bob Isbill
CWC Advertising &
Promotions,
High Desert



Sandy Lynn Moffett ~ Submissions Manager
Membership Chair ~ Writers of Kern
State Membership Chair ~ CWC

The Bulletin
Since December 2008
California Writers
Club digital news
magazine



Judi Isbill
Proofreader



Rusty LaGrange
Editor-in Chief,
Graphic Artist

2021 CWC Election Nominating Committee Announcement

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

At the Winter 2021 Central Board Zoom meeting, President Donna McCrohan 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 election in July. They are:

Roger Lubeck, President

Donna McCrohan-Rosenthal, Vice President

Elisabeth Tuck, Secretary

Our current Treasurer, Anthony Becker, has opted to retire, and we thank him for his service to our CWC.

Tri-Valley branch Treasurer, Constance Hanstedt, has agreed to stand for election as CWC 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.

We lost our excellent MRMS Administrator and devoted friend of the CWC when Dick Alan Amyx passed away on January 15. He saved us from hacks and cyber attacks many times over the years, invariably going above and beyond the call of duty.

Born in Salinas, a proud third-generation California native, he received his education from the University of California, Berkeley, and San Jose State University, with a degree in creative writing. He pursued graduate studies in literature and creative writing at San Jose State University and San Francisco State University.

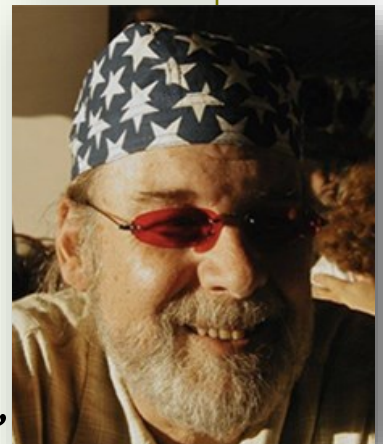
His professional career included twenty-five years as a technical writer, consultant, and manager. A fiction writer at heart, he maintained an active role in a South Bay Writers-based critique group. For service to the club at local and state levels, he received the Matthews-Baldwin Award from SBW in 2009 and the Jack London Award from CWC in 2011.

Outside of our club, he and wife, Meredy, were participating members of American Mensa and held both local and national posts in the organization.

We will miss him, and extend our sympathy to his family.

Roger Lubeck has graciously stepped in to take over the responsibilities of MRMS Administrator.

*Saying
Good-
bye to
Dick
Amyx*



Dick Alan Amyx



Branch News

Marin

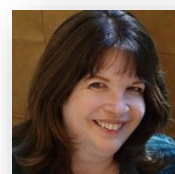
We recognize that many people have been facing challenges. To make life a bit easier, we've made our remaining monthly meeting free to everyone. Go to marincwc.com/events for more details and to register for the Zoom link.

One of the blessings of moving our meetings online has been the great wealth of speakers we have been able to tap. Speakers from across the county and even from Japan have joined us—speakers like Susan Spann, Kerry Schafer (aka Kerry Anne King), Lysette Wanzer, and Tiffany Yates Martin. Coming up are Michael Andres Palmieri, Laurie Schnebly, and Rebecca Hunter.

Our members are continuing to create beautiful works. Priscilla Royal just published her sixteenth medieval mystery, *Elegy to Murder* www.priscillaroyal.com. Colleen Rae has published a new novel, *One Sausalito Summer*—based on a true story of how one enclave of rock music began in the San Francisco Bay Area. www.colleenraenovels.com. Dotty E. LeMieux has just released her chapbook *Henceforth I Ask Not Good Fortune*. Anne Lamont hails Dotty's poems to be “deeply felt and charming observations about our shared humanity.” www.finishinglinepress.com.

We continue to look for new volunteers and board members, and offer **free dual membership** for volunteer service.

~~ Diane Vickers



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## Mt Diablo

### Using Meetup to Attract Visitors by Marlene Dotterer

Advertising our club and branches is foreign to most of us, just as is to advertise our books. Writers are generally not great publicists. At Mt. Diablo, we have for many years, announced our monthly meeting in local newspapers. Pre-COVID, we also dropped off flyers at bookstores and libraries. These attempts at publicity do work—I discovered the Mt. Diablo branch some ten years ago, through an ad in a newspaper.

A few years ago, we decided to expand by creating an account with Meetup.com. It's a great way to get your branch's name and events out to your area. For \$180 per year, we can create up to three different meetups. We don't yet use this to its fullest potential—so far, all we've done is advertise our monthly meetings. But even so, we get around four to six new “Meetup” members every month. Don't get excited, these are simply people on Meetup who “join” our Meetup group. But often these people come to our meetings and several have joined our branch. I'm sorry I don't have exact numbers. Tracking publicity efforts is a skill I still need to learn.



*continued next page*



## Branch News continues

### Mt Diablo continues

#### Open Mic Night by Lyn Roberts

There's something magical about wanting to make an idea come to life and suddenly all the pieces come together. The idea becomes a reality.

Marlene Dotterer had always wanted to create an Open Mic event where Mt. Diablo members could gather and read from their various works-in-progress. Marlene is a past president of Mt. Diablo's CWC and is now our official Webmaster and Chairman of our very successful Young Writers Contest.



The idea seemed easy enough. Assemble a group of readers and share stories. And then the Coronavirus came along. We could no longer gather in person for our monthly meetings, much less bring our members together for an Open Mic Night. The best part of the down-side was Zoom. Why not get together in the early evening on Zoom? It turned out to not only be workable, but popular.

We fashioned Open Mic Night after the Irish gathering at their favorite pubs. We made sure it was casual and encouraged our writers to bring their drinks or snacks or even dinner. Join with others and read a piece or come to listen and support fellow members. We also make sure it is fun and friendly and non-threatening. We are not a critique group. We do not criticize; we encourage and chat. The best part is getting to know each other, make friends and support our fellow writers. The Open Mic Night is co-chaired by Marlene Dotterer and Lyn Roberts.



### Celebrating: Ellen Louise Aubry

1947-2021 (Ellen died January 27, 2021)

Ellen is the author of *The Great Fiction Book Proposal: Make it Happen*, available on Amazon. The work is a guide to writing a book proposal for fiction writers. She graduated from the University of Denver's Professional Creative Writing Masters' Program with an emphasis in fiction.

*In Ellen's own words – a quote from her unfinished novel The Grandview Arms: Betty speaking about Mac: "...It makes me feel an odd sense of panic. I didn't know her well, but loved the music of her writing... To go away and take such a gift out of the world, seems like a sacrilege to me... Am I doing enough to open up my own life?"*



#### Aubry

Ellen Aubry, MA, author of "A Suitable Place" and "Hardship Duty" in the anthology *Beyond the Window* (2017), and "My Soul's Gone Away," *RumbleFishPress.com's* story of the day November 18, 2017. She had a story "Loud and Clear" in the anthology, *Voices of the Valley: Journeys* (2018), and "The Building: 1901 Providence Avenue" in the June 2020 issue of *Stonecrop Magazine*. "Chapter 3: Needing Help," a novel excerpt, appeared in *Litbreak Magazine* on November 22, 2020.

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Orange

We continue to meet the first Saturday of the month, via Zoom. Although we all miss the face-to-face opportunities, Zoom has brought us many new guests, and several new members, since our last report. We've also found our roster of speakers has expanded, since the speakers don't have to live nearby to join us. A recent one spoke to us from Washington.

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Branch News continues

Orange continues

Our vice-president Brian Gaps has been leading our meetings for several months while our president, Jonathan Yanez, has been sidelined with personal issues. We look forward to his return when conditions permit. Brian has been overseeing our Meet-Up group which has expanded to more than 700 participants subscribing! Half-year memberships were heavily promoted, resulting in the increase.

Brian has also been working on our branch website and **created a “bookshelf” showcasing books currently available for sale by members. Members enjoy seeing their books displayed online and it contributes to the legitimacy of the club for website visitors.**



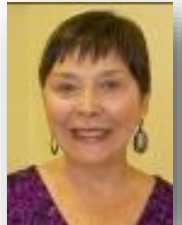
In December we had an open mic meeting. This replaced our usual in-person holiday social, and gave members and guests the opportunity to read a three-minute piece of their choosing. In January, Jason Anspach presented tips from his book, *Making Your Brand the Star of the Show*. In February, psychologist Seth Wagerman did a PowerPoint presentation on “Using Psychology to Master Character Development.” Our members Allene Symons and Mary Vensel White have booked speakers through August 2021, with the July meeting tentatively planned as an Open Mic.

Jeanette Fratto attended the Central Board Zoom meeting on January 24. Brian also attended as a guest. Topics of discussion were the next *Literary Review* and the future of MRMS. Brian is on a committee chaired by Roger Lubeck to explore either the saving or the replacing of MRMS. This is not thought to be an easy fix and will take some months to sort out the possibilities. Central Board elections will be held at the July meeting. President Donna Rosenthal appointed Bob Isbill as chair of the nominations committee. This is also the year for the Jack London awards. It was agreed to go forward with them even though we will probably still be meeting on Zoom. Branches should be thinking about whom they would like to nominate. Joyce Krieg will oversee the awards as she has done so well in the past.

Mary continues to publish a monthly newsletter and it was suggested that a link to our branch’s Facebook page be included in each issue.

In spite of the all the changes the pandemic has brought, I’m glad to report that our branch is doing well, having adapted to the new demands. It will be interesting to see what the next few months will bring. Stay safe everyone.

~~ Jeanette A. Fratto
Central Board representative
Member-at-Large



San Fernando Valley

The San Fernando Valley branch has enjoyed monthly Zoom meetings and excellent presentations throughout the year. While we look forward to recapturing the camaraderie of live meetings at the lovely campus of the Television and Motion Picture Fund Residential Community, we also appreciate the opportunities the new technology provides, including: welcoming CWC members from other branches; guest speakers from throughout the country; and, increased attendance from our own members, who find the online forum easy and convenient. For those who are interested, club treasurer Pat Avery also conducts a timed writing exercise at the conclusion of each meeting, providing attendees with the opportunity to write and read their work.

In September, we enjoyed a lecture by CWC-SFV member Ester Benjamin Shifren, who explained the in’s and out’s of self-publishing and promotion in a lecture titled “Self-Publishing – You Can Do It.”

Author, speaker, and retired Air Force Colonel Carla D. Bass joined us in October with a presentation titled “Spin That Captivating Tale,” in which she taught us to make the most of each word.



Branch News continues

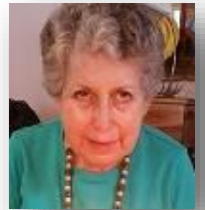
In November, we welcomed Attorney and Literary Agent Paul Levine who explained, "How Authors Go From Fingers on the Keyboard to Dollars in the Bank: Four Ways Authors Make Money from Publishers."

We celebrated the holidays in December with a virtual visit from author Trey Dowell, teaching us "The Art of the Query." Included in his presentation were critiques of queries provided by club members. Too much fun!

Author PJ Colando rang in the new year with a smile and a lecture titled "I Write Funny and You Can, Too." February brought Valentine's Day and a lecture by romance suspense author Beth Yarnall, with a talk titled "Going Deep Into Point of View." In March, we celebrated diversity with a presentation: "Sticks and Stones and the Stories We Tell" with author/illustrator Pat Cummings. turning negative experiences into compelling storytelling with examples from the writing of BIPOC writers. In April, we'll celebrate National Poetry Month with a special presentation, "Does Poetry Matter?" by Los Angeles Poet Laureate (2014-2016) Luis Rodrigues.

I will be the May speaker with a lesson on memoir writing titled "Memoir—Emotion Bracketed by Time." Two of my memoirs have been published in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. The most recent titled "A Degree or Diapers?" will be released this spring in *Chicken Soup for the Soul – Be You!*

Our own club secretary and script consultant Anat Wenick will round out the program year in June with a presentation titled "Market Yourself with an Easy-to-Create Website." We look forward to seeing you each month in the CWC-SFV Zoom Room. As a CWC member, please request free admission from VP/Zoom host Monte Swann at cygnetvideo@gmail.com.



~~ Kathy Highcove

April 3rd

THINKINGFUNNY21



Join The Humor-Writing Fun
At ThinkingFunny21
Sessions led by industry pros
in Fiction & Memoir Writing,
Travel Writing, Stand-up,
Sitcoms, Animation Storyboarding
and Silly Song-Writing
April 3, 2021 - Online
9 am - 6 pm Pacific Time
info at www.thinkingfunny.com

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



Branch News continues

San Francisco Peninsula



Like all of our branches, it's been an online world dominated by Zoom...for better or worse. The good news, of course, is that we continue to meet the needs of our members and guests with top-notch speakers and programs.

Most recently we were able to offer an excellent program for those interested in participating in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo).

Our resident expert, Megan McDonald, designed several sessions in partnership with our local Menlo Park library.

We began the sessions in October and met every week to tackle a different step to get prepared.

Megan's "Demystifying" addressed most every issue a new participant could encounter, including:

- **Have you ever wondered about this activity?** • **What IS it even?** • **When does it take place?**
- **How to select a project?** • **How to navigate the official website?** • **Prep resources**

As well as Megan offering her generous advice when participant's encounter an obstacle, we had a healthy number of members connecting on the NaNoWriMos web site.

Library program.

We have been able to continue our wonderful community library program, Writers Helping Writers, each month. We offer writing skills once a month and have enjoyed a healthy participation each month.

Think Tank.

In addition to our monthly speakers, we offer a more casual program immediately following the main speaker, what we call Think Tank. It was originally created as a roundtable discussion that was less formal and attendees enjoyed the back-and-forth participation and sharing ideas and information about the topic. It has morphed a bit being online, but still has an enthusiastic crowd each month.

Our speaker program

was especially lively with some strong "News you can use" speakers, such as Jill Lubin presenting "Get Known Everywhere: Publicity for Authors," Bill Belew with a numbers-heavy program on how to market your book and building followers, and Ellen McBarnette, our Think Tank speaker, with excellent advice on finding effective beta readers, which can be so important on the development and success of your project.

Story Cafe:

CWC SF Peninsula has partnered with the San Mateo County Library on Story Café, where you'll find a vibrant new storytelling video featured each week. Check out featured stories here and in the archives. Would you like to bring your published story or poem to life? We're now inviting authors from around the Bay Area to submit. (Limit 7 -10 minutes.) Find more information and guidelines at <https://cwc-peninsula.org/story-café>

Shuffle Collective:

Several of our members participate in the Shuffle Collective. It is a group of individual artists and writers in an online platform that also offers offline events and member-only opportunities designed entirely to support their goals. You can find out more at <https://shuffle.do>.

We look forward to getting together in person again, hopefully next fall.

~~ Audrey Kalman,
president





Branch News continues

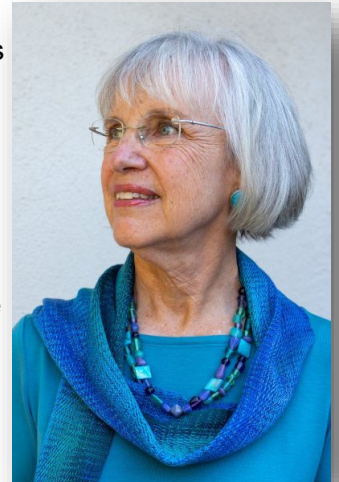
Fremont Area

Greetings from Fremont Area Writers!

Hope everyone is staying safe, healthy and happy as things gradually seem to be getting better. Vaccines anyone? Hopefully, everyone.

Zooming has become our branch's new normal. Most of our members have adjusted to Zoom meetings and are attending regularly. We're also seeing interested non-members show up for Zoom events; some are even becoming members. Our monthly Writers' Salon often has more attendees than it had when meetings were held live. Our critique groups are thriving on Zoom, as well.

December's Social Write-In (our holiday party substitute) was such a hit, that we're holding these on a monthly basis now. One of our February attendees said it reminded her of a cocktail party without the alcohol. (Ah! This could be the perfect opportunity to get out of our jammies and sweats, and into our cocktail attire and sip our favorite tippie while writing, reading, and sharing. Optional, of course!) Turns out people enjoy this process. We're having fun with our common, but unique experiences...How did you meet your significant other? This question stimulated quite a lot of discussion. It's been yet another way our branch has found to stay connected during COVID, and actually get to know each other better.



Barbara Meyers

Barbara Meyers, author of *Held* and a Unitarian Universalist minister, was our February guest speaker. Her topic—mental illness; she's an advocate in the field. Her ministry involves working with spiritual communities to respond appropriately to those with mental health challenges. Her book is specifically written for this purpose. It's estimated that 1 in 5 (with the pandemic, probably 1 in 4) of us has, has had, or knows someone who is dealing this illness. As writers, she cautioned us to use care not to misrepresent the mentally ill in our work. All too often in books, movies and on TV, they are treated as the "crazy" bad guy, rather than someone with an illness.



Jesse Byrd

projects has team representation from the cultural or ethnic background found in the pages of his book. He authentically walks his talk, enjoys life and living it, and brings those ideals to his young readers.

In January, award-winning children's author, Jesse Byrd zoomed in to our meeting from Dubai to share his experiences turning his passion for writing for children into his current profession. For him, writing is about experiencing, educating and exploring the world and sharing it with children at the level of their development. A world traveler, he's been kissed by a giraffes and had a fish pedicure—experience and exploration. He's also very invested in encouraging diversity in the arts and works with NPR in this endeavor—education. Byrd makes sure each of his book projects

CALL FOR WRITERS

CWC member Phil Zwerling and his colleague, Robert Moreira, are working on a *Drama in the Time of CoVid-19* anthology to be published in 2022 by FlowerSong Press. They seek dramatic works: short plays, performance pieces, monologues, etc. that speak to the deaths, isolation, social, political, and economic upheaval that have followed in the wake of this pandemic.

Send questions to Philip Zwerling:
pzwerling@icloud.com.

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Branch News continues

Fremont continues

We are continuing our bi-monthly SIP (shelter-in-place) Notes; they can be found on our website and in our newsletters.

As we look forward to meeting in person later this year, though we will likely continue zooming some of our gatherings, then as well. Our former "home" will not be available until next year, so we're beginning to look for a new home that can accommodate us until then, or perhaps be our "forever" home. Can't wait to say..."Let the hugging begin!"

From our members to yours: Please stay safe, healthy and happy! Cheers!

~~ Nancy Guarnera



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## Long Beach

### A Successful Variation for Meetings

By Kathryn Atkins and Allene Symons

Long Beach started the New Year with an experiment. Instead of having a strict speaker format, we chose more of an interview style. Think Barbara 'Wa Wa' (aka host Barbara Walters) on ABC (except it was Allene Symons on Zoom).



**Rachel Howzell Hall**

ful of items from the 101 author interview questions website to ask Rachel on screen.

- Before the meeting, we had two experimental Zooms with our generous executive team to make the interview look natural, using a co-host display that branch president Frank Kearns made possible.
- Just in case, both of us read Rachel's latest book to add richness and depth to the questions.

We picked a pro author. **Rachel Howzell Hall** has eight published novels, including four in the Elouise Norton detective series. In addition, she has co-written with James Patterson (*The Good Sister*) in his collection, *The Family Lawyer*. Her latest book, *And Now She's Gone* (Forge Books) in the crime fiction genre has received praise aplenty.

Rachel is a featured writer on NPR's acclaimed 'Crime in the City' series and the National Endowment for the Arts weekly podcast. She has also served as a mentor in AWP's Writer to Writer Program and is currently on the Mystery Writers of America board.

### Extra Preparation

To make our kick-off 2021 interview happen successfully required more work than the straight lecture meeting.

- The programs committee, Kathryn Atkins and Allene Symons, selected a hand-



**Allene Symons**

*continued next page*



## Branch News continues

### How It Worked

Rachel delivered an inspiring talk about her Author's Journey (a tried-and-true theme), after which Allene "Wa Wa" asked our pre-curated questions on the co-host screen setup. In follow-up emails, our interviewee/author said she liked the experience very much. From the interviewer's side, Allene said, "It felt like I was talking to a friend, and I had fun!"

Branch secretary Russ Thompson said in an email: "The meeting was great! The interview felt intimate like Rachel was talking individually to me. Allene, you brought out the best in her and made her feel relaxed. It was great that you had read her most recent book. The questions were well-done and brought out a complete picture of Rachel, both as a person and a writer. Also, Rachel seemed to enjoy it."

Frank Kearns follow-up comment was, "Rachel had plenty to say on her own, but I thought the questions helped draw out another layer of interest, and also another layer of view into Rachel as a writer and a person. Also, as a viewer, the change of pace seemed to reset our "attention span timer," so that the discussion could continue on past what would have been possible with a straight speaker format."

~~ Kathryn Atkins, PR Chair  
and Allene Symons



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High Desert

Is there a future as a paying writer? We asked James Scott Bell to share his thoughts with us and across the state when we host him in our free Zoom Room event April 10th at 10 am. Check out the details on Page 1. This is our first offering and free-to-all CWC members. He has definitely made a career out of the craft. Bell, a top author for Writer's Digest, has written several books on the craft. He is also one of the best and most sought after teachers in the business, and is an international presenter.

HDCWC's editor and graphic artist for *The Inkslinger* is stepping down to retire after 10 years. Rusty La-Grange picked up the newsletter in 2010 after several others had run with it. "When I jumped at the chance to be creative with the layout, it was so much fun for me. I came from a desktop publishing and journalism background. As the newsletter grew, I still relied on content from our members."

Then about five years ago she created "The Submittorious Award" where an annual \$50 cash prize was given to a member who provided her regular, and high quality articles. And this year she awarded two: Bob Isbill and Jenny Margotta. "It was bestowed on them because we all know how busy we can get with other aspects of keeping a thriving branch happy. They always came through for me on deadline." Congratulations!

Rusty is also looking for others to staff the web-based news magazine *The Bulletin*. "This publication has the potential to recruit more writers across the state. It first began in paper form when Joyce Krieg (Central Coast) produced it. With our writing insights, branch news showing how new writers and experts can work together, and gathering creative minds in sponsored workshops and conferences, our limitations are only in the amount of pages we run. A maximum of 30 pages sounds like a lot, but when you have 22 branches it can fill up fast. I would also like to thank Sandy Moffett, current Central Board Membership Chair, for collecting and managing incoming news and photos."

Be sure to look at Rusty's Final Word on the back page about the pandemic book and the charitable results

~~ Compilation



Branch News continues

High Desert

In Memoriam

High Desert Members Missing “Computer Dave”



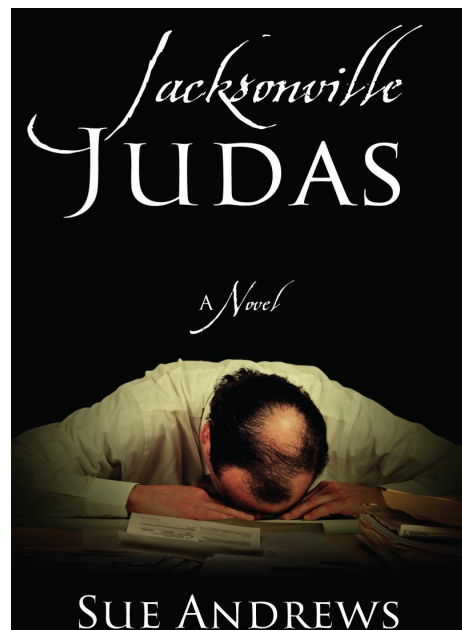
Dave Thompson

“An agreeable companion on a journey is as good as a carriage,” said Publius Syrus years ago. Although not a member, Dave Thompson was a support to several writers in our branch, including his wife of 49 years, member Mary Langer Thompson. When Mary joined in 2010, she introduced Dave, a computer genius who loved helping people. From that time on, he recovered files, helped authors format work, got systems up and running again, and created programs for events, and even magnets for our first Howl at the Moon conference. He also made people laugh with his unique sense of humor and enjoyed playing Santa at our yearly holiday salon.

He accompanied Mary to readings of her poetry and became her publisher and formatter of her children’s books under his company “Another Think Coming.” Mary read all her poems and books to him before submitting. He was often part of her stories, including “Finding Mr. Right,” and the subject of her poems (“Wishbone in Moonglow”) or her collaborator in writing them, especially on car trips (“How the GPS Stole my Husband”). Their last trip together was to the Jack

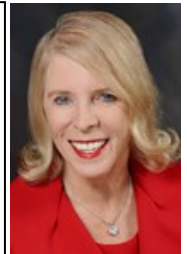
London Awards in Oakland in 2019. They stopped in Salinas to revisit Steinbeck’s home, in Danville to see Eugene O’Neil’s home, and went to Jack London Square in Oakland.

Dave passed away after a long illness on October 4, 2020. Mary said goodbye to him on Zoom. She’s sure he would have said Zoom was the technological miracle that made that possible.



Wade Nevlin, Attorney at Law, unwittingly becomes detective after his best friend dies under mysterious circumstances. His quest to solve the mystery of the Jacksonville Judas takes him around this city in Florida and beyond to solve what he feels was a crime.

IECWC member, Sue Andrews’ first novel can be purchased on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Outskirts Press



<https://outskirtspress.com/bookstore/details/9781977235183>





Branch News continues

Redwood Writers

The Redwood Writers branch has a lot going on right now! While we look forward to the day we get to meet in person as a club, we are not letting this get in the way of the events and happenings we have going on.

Currently, we are in the middle of our Poetry Contest, which is open to members and non-members of CWC. We would love to see some of your poems entered in this contest that you can do at redwoodwriters.org/2021-poetry-contest. Deadline for submission is April 15.

Recently, we were lucky to have several respected writers lead workshops. Last month, journalist and author Michael Shapiro led a workshop on "The Creative Spark." Just last week, poet and screenwriter Indigo Moor led a workshop on how writers can transition to screen.

On March 20, Sarah Rabkin presented "Writing the Image, Drawing the Text," sharing ways visual and verbal expression can stimulate and enrich each other.

Coming up, we have several inspiring writers lined up as our featured speakers for our general meetings. On April 17, Sonoma County Poet Laureate Phyllis Meshulam will discuss the craft of writing poetry.

On May 15, Heidi Kuhn will speak on writing the call to action through memoir.

For June 19, we are excited to welcome back Matthew Félix, who will share online marketing for writers.

You are invited to attend any of our meetings. Register at redwoodwriters.org/meetings.

One of the benefits to staying at home during this pandemic is the freedom to attend virtual events across California and beyond. We have enjoyed many of your workshops and meetings, and hope to see you at some of ours. To see our full lineup of meetings, events, and news, please visit our website at www.redwoodwriters.org.

We hope you all are doing well!

In Memory of Hank Mattimore: priest, father, grandfather, mentor, and community leader



Hank Mattimore, a longtime Redwood Writers member, passed away on December 15, 2020. He was a kind, gentle soul whose life was spent ministering to others. At the tender age of eighteen, he entered the seminary to become a Catholic priest. Ordained at age 26, he spent time as a missionary in Japan and later assigned to an inner-city parish in Florida. He left the priesthood at age 36 to marry and start a family. Those life experiences inspired his memoir *The Priest Who Couldn't Cheat*. He became a father of two children and two grandchildren.



Crissi Langwell, Editor

~~~~~

### Writers of Kern

While the pandemic remains a huge part of our lives, Writers of Kern continues to prioritize the art and business of writing for our members. We ended 2020 with uplifting and inspirational meetings, and 2021 started off with exciting events and even more fabulous speakers.

Jack W. Peters was the featured speaker for our November meeting. His energetic presentation, "The Goldfish that Barked: Seven Actions to Distinguish Yourself for Success," gave writers advice on how to maintain

*continued next page*

their professionalism while avoiding certain pitfalls in order to achieve the writing career of their dreams. He inspired, motivated, and encouraged us to find our super power, to learn to communicate to overcome our shyness, to treat the importance of our author bio as an online resume, and to give thanks.

Rather than meeting in person for WOK's annual members-only December meeting, our group celebrated in a different way. Our virtual BYOB(runch) theme was a big hit as we played a writing game with prizes for the winning group, substituted the annual book exchange with quick shoutouts of our books or anthologies, and listened to Dennis VanderWerff read the winning entry of our Fall writing contest. Congratulations once again to our winners: Richard Meeks (1st place), Tami Beaulieu (2nd place), and Carla Martin (3rd place). It was a great segue to the holiday season and a fitting ending to a challenging year.

While January is often slow, the new year picked up more momentum as WOK continued with Open Mic Monday for members and celebrated a new development: the first book club meeting of 2021. These activities allowed members to connect with each other and our shared love of the written word. And let's not forget our featured speakers, Bill and Mia Belew, as they shared "How to Find and Engage with Readers for Your Books." They provided fascinating data and step-by-step instructions to build a following and engage readers for free. Learning how to use Story Origin was invaluable, and our members were grateful for the tips.

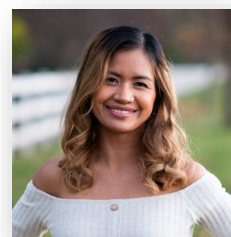
February brought more good news as many new bloggers joined the annual Dan McGuire blog challenge. Please visit WOK's blog page to view the list of participating blogs. Participants have committed to writing 26 posts over the course of 13 weeks, so let's encourage these fellow writers by reading their entries and commenting on the posts.

WOK also launched our anthology just in time for Valentine's Day, *Pathway to the Heart*, which featured members' fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. This labor of love was made possible by talented writers who submitted their pieces and the editors who volunteered their time and made sure the anthology was error-free, polished, and true to WOK's vision. This excellent collection would be the perfect gift for yourself or a fellow book-lover, and it can be found on Amazon.

To finish off the month, Leslie Zampetti, a literary agent, spoke to us about "Finding the Right Agent." Speaking to us all the way from New York, she provided insights and refreshing honesty regarding the publishing world. She explained the overall process, emphasizing the importance of knowing the genre and category of one's work, as well as researching the agent to appropriately tailor the query to guarantee success. She also provided resources to assist writers during the query process, and she gave a list of questions to ask yourself and the agent to ensure the optimum fit for both parties.

As you can see, Writers of Kern is moving along at an incredible pace. We've learned to adapt and thrive in the midst of the changing landscape. One day we'll meet in person again, but in the meantime we'll continue to focus on providing the best resources for our writing community. Feel free to join us for our next monthly meeting, or check out our blog for the latest news. Until next time, may your writing days be productive.

~~ Srey Khoy



~~~~~

Tri-Valley Writers

Tri-Valley Writers' January meeting celebrated the publication of our fifth anthology, *Voices of the Valley Through the Window*. Attendees participated in a **Trivia Game** consisting of **True/False, Multiple Choice, and Direct** questions. **Seventeen questions consisting of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Direct were asked. Attendees rushed to be the first to correctly answer each question with each winner receiving a \$25 gift card to various local businesses. The competition heated up as the game progressed.**



Tri-Valley Writers' January meeting celebrated the publication of our fifth anthology, *Voices of the Valley Through the Window*. Members toasted the success—literally. **about the writings in the anthology. Seven-Multiple Choice, and Direct were asked. Attendees rushed to be the first to correctly answer each question with each winner receiving a \$25 gift card to various local businesses. The competition heated up as the game progressed.**

Laurie McLean, senior agent and co-founder of Fuse Literary and SFWC Director, was our February speaker. Laurie gave a fantastic presentation on "Publishing: 2021 and Beyond—What Book Publishing Will Look

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Tri-Valley continued from page 13

Like in the New Normal." This meeting drew our largest Zoom attendance to date with nearly 60 of the 68 paid attendees tuning in. All attendees received the recording link.

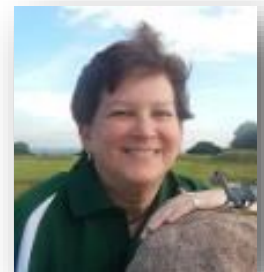
And TVW is pleased to announce Dana Gioia, former California Poet Laureate, as our March speaker. Dana will discuss "Becoming a Writer" and share several of his poems.

In an effort to

keep members connected, TVW has set up **bi-monthly drop-in Zoom "Social Space" sessions** where members can meet with the president and other members to ask questions about TVW or writing in general or just hang out and chat face to face online with friends. These sessions have been a blessing for many as a way to stay connected and meet new, like-minded friends.



~~ **Deborah
"Jordan"
Bernal,
president**



DUAL MEMBERSHIP!

For \$25 you're welcome to submit to our peer reviewed annual anthology, the Ekphrasis collaboration with the Artist's Coop of Mendocino, **and more.**

Monthly online meetings include presentations and workshops. Bio on website too!

Email WritersMendocinoCoast.org





Branch News continues

Napa Valley

Napa Valley Writers

Napa Valley Writers plans to release its third branch anthology late 2021/early 2022. Juanita J. Martin, a past Fairfield Poet Laureate, will be the managing editor. We are accepting prose and poetry submissions as long as the submission is from a current member of Napa Valley Writers. More details can be found in our newsletter that is on our website – napavalleywriters.net.

Napa Valley Writers and the Rail Arts District Napa (RAD) closed its poetry contest in November 2020. Loretta Carr, Lindsay Stewart, and Napa Valley Writer's own Stephen Bakalyar were announced as the winners. Each winner received a \$500.00 honorarium, and their poetry will be painted on a building within the RAD path along with a mural.

~~ *Sarita Lopez, President & Publicity*



~~~~~

### Central Coast

Since 2017, Central Coast Writers has held the Monterey County High School Writing Contest. We value our opportunity to support writing among the county's youth. Previously chaired by member Leslie Patiño, the contest is now chaired by member Dennis Hamilton. Both chairs have worked hard to forge connections with high school English teachers across the county, so teachers will be aware of the contest and encourage their students to participate. That work has paid off in the wonderful submissions we receive each year.

The contest involves writing a story (750 and 1500 words) about a photo prompt. This year the photo depicts an abandoned one-room schoolhouse. Students submit their stories at the end of February, and a team of judges from Central Coast Writers reads them to determine a slate of winners and honorable mentions. We present the winners at our April meeting, and the first place winner reads his or her story.



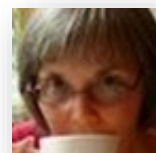
**Caroline Coen**

Last year's winner, Caroline Coen, from Pacific Grove High School, at age 17, published her first novel! We are so proud of her. According to the *Monterey Herald*, she had written small chapter books instead of simple paragraphs in kindergarten, wrote and read a short story to her second-grade class, became an avid reader in middle school, and offered a creative writing camp for fourth graders. She credits the closing of schools during COVID with providing her the time to write this novel. (We also credit her writing talent!) When Dennis Hamilton wrote her to congratulate her and to tell her how proud we are of her, she replied, "Thank you so much for reaching out! If you get the chance to read *The Angel Oak*, I hope you enjoy the story."



**Christine Sleeter,  
Scribbles Editor**

~~ *Lana Bryan*





## *Branch News continues*

### CWC NorCal

#### FOURTEEN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CWC BRANCHES

#### REPORT FROM NORCAL BOARD

By Carole Bumpus

- **NorCal has accumulated funds due to COVID:** Our Board is discussing how we can be helpful to the branches during this time of COVID. Are there branch activities that could be completed if extra funds were available? Panel discussion groups? Connection to SFWC or the BABF of Litquake? What do the branches feel they are most in need of during this time? We are taking in ideas and hope to put on a Leadership Conference again in the Fall – possibly by Zoom – and possibly with the entire State CWC.
- **NorCal website:** <http://cwcnorcalwriters.org/> Under the Calendar tab, you can find all of the online activities from each of the fourteen Northern California branches. We are also encouraging all branches to list our website in their newsletters and on the website. This will help branches grow and reach more writers with good speakers/panels/conferences. **(According to the State Board, all CWC members can attend all branch Zoom activities for the same price as local members. Non-members can be charged. Special activities can be handled as the branch deems appropriate.)**
- **MRMS** – Following the death of Dick Amyx, the handler for the State MRMS, it is advised that all Membership Chairs keep a hard copy of the list of members and the appropriate information—just in case the system fails. A small contingent (6 members) are working with Roger Lubeck, State Vice President, to find a better system, but are also working on choosing a system that meets more of the branches' needs. Also, make certain that all members update any of their information, such as email addresses, change of addresses, etc. at the time of renewal.
- **Jack London Awards** are to be given out again this summer in July 2021. It will probably be a virtual ceremony, but each branch needs to choose a member who has given exceptional service to the branch. This is the highest statewide honor given to branch members. <https://calwriters.org/our-story/>
- **Setting a Vision for NorCal Group** – We are working on how we, the NorCal Group, can be helpful to the other branches. What do you need from us, as we are one of the few links to the State Board?

~~ **Carole Bumpus** –

**NorCal Chair – 2015-2021**



#### **Jack London Awards**

Each branch can make a nomination and select their honored recipient prior to the July Central Board meeting.  
A deserving recipient is seen as a valuable member in exceptional service to their branch.







## *Branch News continues*

### **South Bay**



***Ken Roberge***



***Terrele Schumake***

To welcome 2021, South Bay Writers kicked off the year with a Flash Humor Writing Contest of 55 words or less. To put members in a humorous mood, our January speaker, Ed Porter from Stanford University's English Department, spoke on the five essentials of humor.

Top prizes were awarded to Kate Russell, \$50; Ken Roberge, \$30; and, Terrele Schumake, \$20.

Happily our monthly meetings continue to draw impressive attendance, and each month a few new writers join. We're looking forward to our upcoming speakers:

Cara Black, *NY Times* Best Selling Mystery writer, who will speak on writing a series; Rob Minkoff, Director and Producer of animated features, including *The Lion King*, *Stuart Little* and *Stuart Little 2*; and, Tod Goldberg, an award winning author whose *The Low Desert: Gangster Stories* has received raved reviews and is climbing the Best Seller's List.



***Kate Russell***

~~ ***Edie Matthews, President***



### **Inland Empire**

For several years now our branch has reserved our January meeting for a Published Author Panel. We honor our members who have published books in the preceding calendar year. This year we were able to honor some longtime members as well as two new ones. Our participants this year included: Sue Andrews, Brenda Hill, Don Oestreicher, Jackie Phillips, Scott Skipper, and Sharon White. The panel was moderated by our very capable Program Chair, Monica Aleman. The questions posed to our panelists were centered around research, editing, marketing, reviews, and each panelist's view of literary success.

In this time of COVID we had to suspend our popular critique group. Many members have come forth wanting to start them up again—but safely. Therefore, we will be turning to Zoom for renewing critique groups and I hope we have enough participation to do at least two. Additionally, our member and former president, Judy Kohnen, is planning a plot-based workshop and we are looking into other member-sponsored events that may be Zoomed.

***continued next page***





## *Branch News continues*

### *Inland Empire continues*

As of this writing, we spent time with February speaker, JoAnna Novak, on the topic of the Literary Journey. JoAnna is an accomplished writer with published memoir, novel, short stories, poetry, and essay. She also teaches in the MFA program at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles.

Our March 27 speaker will be Richard Montoya, who is a playwright, screenwriter, actor, director, producer, comedian, and co-founding member of the San Francisco-based performance troupe Culture Clash. He is known for *Water & Power* (2013), *Falling Down* (1993) and *Nacho Libre* (2006).

Our April 24 speaker is Luis Rodriguez, the 2014 Los Angeles Poet Laureate, author, advocate, and activist. He has written 16 books including poetry, children's, fiction and nonfiction titles. His latest book is *From Our Land to Our Land: Essays, Journeys & Imaginings from a Native Xicanx Writer* (Penguin Random House, January 2021).

Our monthly speaker programs are announced ahead of time on our website at: <http://iecwc.com/> and on our Meetup page at: <https://www.meetup.com/The-California-Writers-Club-Inland-Empire-Branch/>. CWC members are welcome to attend these events, but you will need to request through Meetup or email me in order to get the Zoom invite.

I am looking forward to a productive 2021 and wish you all the same.

~~ *Sam Nichols, president*

~~~~~



East Sierra

Though unable to hold face-to-face meetings, we've continued hands-on activities through workshops in our monthly newsletter that go out to members both digitally and in print. Themes have focused on areas such as media, language, plotting, characters, creative non-fiction, and more. Exercises have included epistolary challenges (with a nod to poison pen letters). We gladly offer these workshops to any branch that might want to run them in their newsletters, provided that the author (yours truly) and the East Sierra Branch receive credit.

Contact us at CWC-ridgewriters.org if you'd like to pursue this. Meanwhile, we look forward to holding outdoor, socially distanced meetings as soon as they become safe.

~~ *Daniel Stallings, president*





Submissions Due by April 15

2021 *Literary Review* Submission Deadline Extended to April 15th

Looking for insight about submissions, High Desert branch recently held a Zoom meeting consisting of Q&A on the *Lit Review* submissions process, featuring Managing Editor Elisabeth Tuck. She and President Donna McCrohan Rosenthal informed our group that there has been a serious lack of submissions from our CWC members for the 2021 edition of the *Literary Review*.



2020

Elisabeth Tuck is willing to attend more meetings with other branches, and it's highly recommended.


Please know that members do not necessarily have to write something new. As long as it fits the word requirement of 2500 or less, writers can submit work previously published. For instance, they could send in something that has been in one of their branch anthologies. Previously published poetry may be submitted as well, giving CWC members more options and time to send in their work.

Our HDCWC Vice President, Mike Apodaca, had arranged for a special meeting to give interested HDCWC members an opportunity to get clarity on any questions they may have had on submitting to the prestigious annual magazine. We invited Elisabeth Tuck. Our CWC Central Board President, Donna McCrohan Rosenthal also stopped by to add her encouragement.

For details visit,

www.calwriters.org and carefully read the *Lit Review* guidelines.

~~ Thanks, Bob Isbill, CWC Advertising & Promotions, 760.221.6367



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Branch News continues

CALL FOR DESIGNERS

As current editor of *The Bulletin*, I encourage you or a friend, with design layout and graphic software, to take an issue and make it into your own vision.

I work in *MS Publisher*, but the finished product is converted to a full-color PDF on our digital website-based platform. Sound complex? It's not.

It's best to have a backup plan for a publication shared across our statewide branches. I wish to have more than one person able to step in and run with an issue. It would even benefit to have a production staff; a dream of mine.

If you think it's something you'd like to try, just email me: Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com or text me 760.646.2661.

Thanx in advance ~~ The Editor

CALL FOR WRITERS

Write an article for *The Bulletin*, sharing your expertise of a specific topic with our readership. Enhance writer's understanding of the craft we love.

Send submissions to Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com. Place "Expertise" in the subject line. Word limit: 500 ; MSWord format, 11 pt. Arial. Add a short bio that explains your level of expertise & a small, thumbnail headshot. Add a direct email address if you wish.

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.

However, we don't accept short stories or poetry in this venue.

Thanx in advance ~~ The Editor

LOOKING FOR AN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



In this flash memoir of impressionistic scenes of a happy life, Kathryn Atkins questions the source of her "Piano Hands," her uncanny ability to play any music by ear, a gift from the biological parent she will never know.

Kathryn Atkins Author
My Piano Hands: A Flash Memoir Collection

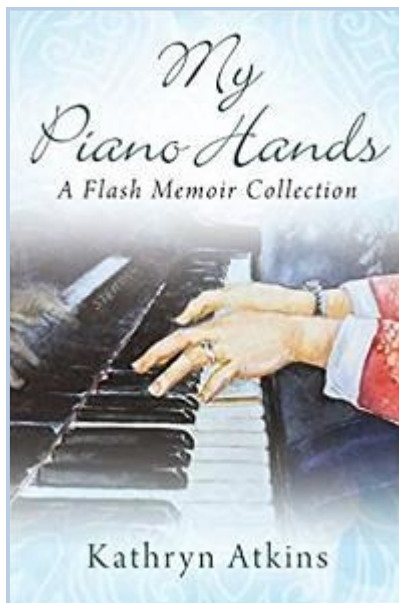
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[Click here to purchase from Amazon](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?7g45_CpzSqM&feature=youtu.be



This will be my final year producing the web-based digital news magazine, *The Bulletin*, for the CWC's statewide membership.

It's been fun for many years, but now it's time to move on.

This publication, comprised of three issues, has proven itself over the years by paying its way with display advertising and use of the electronic production offered to us as a non-profit organization.

Please continue supporting the coming issues with your reliable branch news, photos, and book promos.

Your branch might wish to take on one issue and rotate to another.

~~ Rusty LaGrange, editor



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Deadline: July 10, 2021

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CALL Rusty (760)646-2661

C W C: Our 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.

CWC'S The Bulletin

Printed
three times
a year

March, August
& November

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description of book, and short
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cretion of the Editor-in-Chief.
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aspiring writers in 22 branches throughout California.

**This Summer issue will feature a discount rate
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save \$30 this one time only.**

Advertising content must be for businesses related to the writ-
ing 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 excep-
tions.
- ♦ **PayPal** lacks details on 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 to help us understand your
order details.

Submit your advertising copy by July 30

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 ad-
vertisers upon publication. Remember to include your preferred email
address along with your ad submission.

Questions? Call Bob Isbill at [\(760\)221-6367](tel:(760)221-6367).

Checklist. Please follow directions closely:

- ♦ **Design your ad. Scan it as a jpg file.**
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- ♦ **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".**
- ♦ **We MUST have the hard copy mailed with detailed payment type &
the amount. Either way you choose to pay, send us your email ad-
dress and phone contact, and the confirmed size of your ad.**
- ♦ **(Size isn't always indicated on your scanned copy, but it matters!)**

Questions? Call Bob Isbill at [\(760\)221-6367](tel:(760)221-6367).

THE BULLETIN BOARD —

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 with two photos. ~ *Thanx. The Editor.*

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

It can be read from a link at www.CalWriters.org anytime.

We now have an upgraded server that offers faster upload speeds and seamless compatibility with more devices.

Pass the Word.

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.

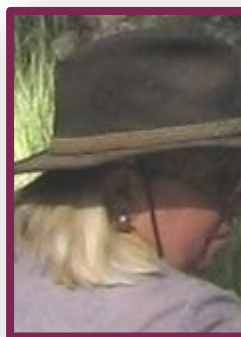
A Word From the Editor

The Memory Corner

Most writers have a favorite pen or pencil they loved to use. Can you recall yours? Share it.

Send an email to me prior to July 15th, with your answer. I'll draw one name from all entries and you'll win a little gift for reading *The Bulletin* from cover-to-cover.

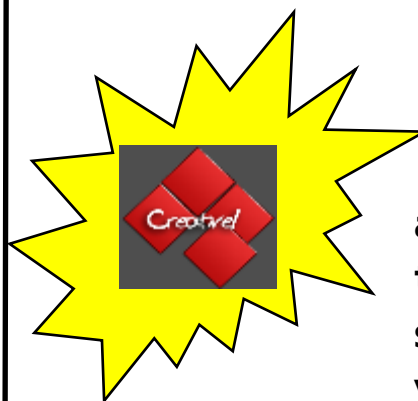
~~ the editor



Rusty
LaGrange

Our next issue will arrive in March — a full year since the COVID-19 novel coronavirus was officially announced. What I have learned is that the resiliency of our writers is just as strong as the wildland fires that destroyed so much in Northern California, as well as the continuing destruction of both Northern and Southern homes this year.

It brings to mind that every word you write should be protected. Save your work on a flash drive, external drive, in the Cloud, and multiple places available to you.



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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next issue appears
in mid-August

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertisements in
The Bulletin magazine
must be placed by
July 15th

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CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

Mission Statement



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



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CWC's *THE BULLETIN*

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The Final Word

Rusty LaGrange, editor

Survival: Tales of Pandemic

None of us are likely forget the year 2020. In February, we were just learning about COVID-19, not certain of its potential impact or how we should respond. Our vice president, Mike Apodaca, and President Dwight Norris (High Desert branch) were prepared to go into the fellowship hall of the church where we met monthly and wipe down with disinfectant all the round tables and chairs that we would use. In addition, we would all have to wear masks that Mike's wife Debi had just made for our use. And, we were told we couldn't sit real close together. We'd have to be sort of separated with some distance between us to be safe.

"Mike does a lot to help the branch and I appreciate all of it," noted Norris, "but I thought, *if we have to go to this extent taking precautions just to get through a club meeting safely, shouldn't we just reconsider?* A lot of our members were of an advanced age who, we were told, were most vulnerable.

"As president," said Norris, "I decided to cancel the meeting for February 2020 on short notice, and the next day Mike and I were out there in the church parking lot explaining to people why there was no meeting that day. A doctor, the father of one of our youngest members, told me I did the right thing."

As Norris explained: "At our next board meeting (a *virtual* meeting through Zoom, of course) we discussed how we could do something constructive and reach out through writing to make a difference during these challenging times. We've had success publishing anthologies, so someone suggested we do that, but someone else was concerned that if it appeared we were trying to make money off of a crisis where many people could die, that would not be appropriate. It certainly wasn't our intention to make money off of someone else's tragedy. So we had some decisions to make."

"As you know, we decided to open up our anthology to all members of the CWC statewide. The submissions were to be fiction on the subject of pandemic and no longer than 5,000 words. One hundred fifty-two anthologies were sold and from the sale of those books, Amazon royalties, along with submission fees, \$1,994.16 was generated. After expenses, the net proceeds amounted to \$665. *

The first prize submission won \$150, second prize \$100, and third \$50. Writers from 11 of our 22 branches participated. Third place went to Michael Raff from High Desert with *Zander's Box*; second place to Susan Helene of Long Beach with *The Rose*; and, Violet Carr Moore from Tri-Valley branch took first place with *Fatal*. Congratulations.

Our branch wanted to be charitable with the net proceeds. Prize winners were asked to select their favorite charity. We also decided to match the sums donated by the winners. With net proceeds of \$665, and matched by HDCWC, this provided \$1,330 in charitable donations.

We appreciate and express our gratitude to all who supported this project—through writing, reading, or buying a book. If you've read anything from *Survival: Tales of Pandemic*, you know how creative and excellent the writing is. Perhaps, through our outreach, we have helped someone to laugh, to smile, or to survive. Good writing is alive and well in the California Writers Club.

* AMOUNTS CALCULATED AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.

