

THE BULLETIN

California Writers Club

Vol. 7 No. 3

Winter / 2021

Happy
Thanksgiving
Across Our
Grand and
Golden State



The Bulletin is the official publication of California Writers Club, an educational nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation. Issue 18 e-edition circulation date November 2021.

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California Writers Club
PO Box 201
Danville, CA 94526

Honored Branch Members Receive Peer Recognition

**Jack London Awarded to 20
Branch Recipients at Oakland**



Award recipient's can be found in each branch's news page.

Author of The Hero's Journey Shared Across All Branches

CHRISTOPHER VOGLER Free ZOOM GUEST SPEAKER DEC. 21

The High Desert branch (HDCWC) will host a free presentation on *The Hero's Journey* with famed author Christopher Vogler on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Further details and the link may be found on www.hdcwc.com. The public is invited to attend at no charge. Most writers have heard of the hero's journey, and perhaps even read his book. Now you can get personal insights through this discussion with the man who wrote the book.

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President's Corner

Roger C. Lubeck

Humbling Experience Seeing Volunteerism Recognitions



On October 17th, the CWC Board of Directors met to honor the 2021 Jack London Award (JLA) nominees. This award is given every other year. This was the 48th year of Jack London Awards. Also, this year we honored our 14th nominee for the Ina Coolbrith Award.

At our luncheon we presented Jack London Awards for service to the branch to honorees from 20 branches. The individuals who were honored are recognized elsewhere in *The Bulletin*. Of special note, Barbara "Rusty" LaGrange received the 2021 Ina Coolbrith Award for service to the club. Also, Rusty received the Jack London Award for service to the High Desert branch. Rusty has served as the club's *Bulletin* editor and the editor of the HD branch newsletter.

During the ceremonies, what struck me was hearing the list of accomplishments and the multiple ways in which these members served their branch and the club, often for more than five years. The experience of presenting these awards was humbling.

Clubs like ours could not exist were it not for our volunteers. Members who volunteer their time to find speakers, sit at registration desks, chair contests, edit branch anthologies, and open their homes to salons and other special branch events. Foremost among the long list of volunteers are the board of directors for each branch. The president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, membership chair, and other appointed directors and chairs dedicate multiple hours every month to plan and manage the branch's business and events.

As president of the California Writers Club, I rely on the branch presidents and boards to ensure that we follow the club's policies and procedures. More than following club rules, I depend on our boards and members to represent the club in the communities across the state. Our mission and goals are to support local writers and to educate communities in the craft and business of writing.

One of my goals in 2022 is to recognize more of our members for length of membership, service to the club, and achievements as writers/creative persons. I welcome your suggestions for additional ways to recognize the many unsung heroes in our branches.



Bob Isbill
CWC Advertising &
Promotions,
High Desert



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



Rusty LaGrange
Editor-in Chief,
Graphic Artist

The Bulletin
Since December 2008
California Writers
Club digital news
magazine



Chris Vogler

Christopher Vogler is a veteran Hollywood story consultant known the world over for his landmark book *THE WRITER'S JOURNEY: Mythic Structure for Storytellers*, now in its 25th Anniversary Edition.

He consults with major corporations on storytelling and branding, and presents workshops globally on the power of stories to change minds and lives.

Vogler grew up in the St. Louis area, studied journalism at the University of Missouri, and began his career as a documentary filmmaker for the US Air Force's space program. After graduate studies at the USC film school, he entered the Hollywood studio system as a story analyst at 20th Century Fox.

While working in the Disney story department, he wrote an influential memo on the mythological *Hero's Journey* pattern that became part of Hollywood story legend, influenced Disney's *The Lion King*,

and formed the foundation of his book, *The Writer's Journey*.

As a consultant, he has influenced the stories of many productions including Disney's *Aladdin*, *Hercules*, *Fantasia 2000*; Fox's *Fight Club*, *The Thin Red Line*, *Courage Under Fire*, and for other film studios *10,000 BC*, *Karate Kid II*, Darren Aronofsky's *The Wrestler* and *Noah*, Will Smith's *Focus*, *Hancock*, *Men In Black III*, *I Am Legend*, and many more. Be sure to view the Zoom link at www.hdcwc.com.



Another Free Benefit For Our Members

Mastering Meetup.com and Other Tips for Club Growth

The methods for reaching today's socially conscious and tech-savvy audience may require different steps than what worked in the past. Does your CWC branch have a MeetUp.com account or have you been considering one? What outreach changes have you made during the pandemic?



Brian Gaps

Whether you are a branch organizer or a writer, if you want to know more about reaching a wider audience, join us on Zoom for an interview with a marketing professional, Brian Gaps, on **Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6pm**. We have arranged for this expert to share his insider knowledge and guide us toward success in this format designed to increase your branch membership.

Brian Gaps is the CWC branch president and 2021 Jack London recipient for Orange County. He will share techniques used to grow club membership in a year in which most branches lost members. Equally vital to the future success of the club is that the new member's average age is an estimated 25 years younger than the club's traditional membership.

The OC club's Meetup.com group exceeds 900 members and email guest list has climbed toward 200 opt-in subscribers converted from social media platforms. Average Zoom attendance consistently meets or exceeds pre-pandemic live audience sizes.

Brian is currently a senior copywriter working in the advertising and marketing industry. He is a former partner at a boutique digital agency and co-hosted a marketing radio show on KLAA AM830. He taught an 11-year-old how to build a YouTube channel that reached over 50 million views.

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Statewide CWC president, Roger Lubeck, observed during the recent Jack London Awards ceremony, "This is the guy other branches should listen to."

The High Desert CWC (HDCWC) will present this event at no charge to CWC members wishing to attend.

Visit www.hdcwc.com for more information and the link to this program. You may also sign on with this link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86220784034?pwd=TThCMWhyc0FYbjRid1JmUnZiWit6Zz09>

Meeting ID: 862 2078 4034

Passcode: 375034

One tap mobile +16699006833,,86220784034#,,, *375034# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,86220784034#,,, *375034# US (Tacoma)

" This is the guy others branches should listen to." ~ Roger Lubeck



My Big Think About Craft

by D. L. LaRoche

We talk about craft—POV, tense, structure, consistency, punctuation, etc.—and all of these are important but here I back away a few steps with critical, big-think considerations. To employ an oft-used adage, I've dealt with the trees and now a look at the forest.

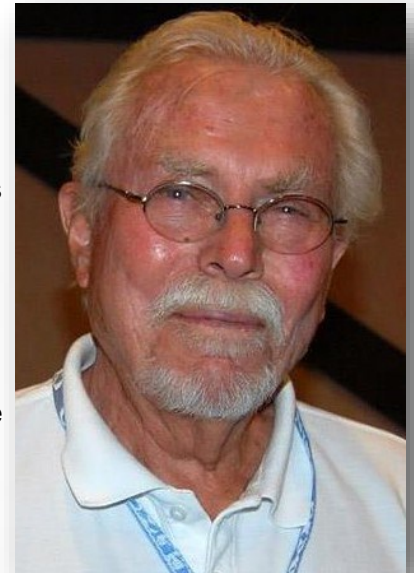
My big-think begins with the **reader**. We write to entertain, inform, instruct the reader, and to offer alternatives. The reader is our customer, and if our product is good, the best among many, the reader will buy, repeat the purchase, review, and recommend, and we authors will rest in contentment, maybe bank a few bucks.

Next in my big-think is **story**. It hungers to be a peacock—colorful, vivid, and demanding, sufficient to grab the eyes and mind of the reader and not let go. For this, the story needs a relatable place to connect with the reader, and for this, the story must be authentic, contain a truth already resident in the reader's mind—a familiar hook to latch onto. Yes, the story must be compelling, plow deep and intensely—provide fresh insight or unusual experience, but it must also contain a familiarity, a universal truth, so as to find its place in the readers' attention.

It's the **character's** job to carry the story; give them your full attention. Without the characters, no story unfolds. They act and talk and must be real—exhibit the qualities of frailty, strength, ambition, and loss. I think of great method actors' portrayals, or characters well-told in books, or those of close personal encounters I can reasonably predict. We need to know these characters as family—a glamorous if snooty sister, a great pal of a big brother, a preachy if drunken father. Add needs and wants, successes and disappointments, fantasy wishes, and emotional twists before putting pen to paper.

Dialog must belong to the character, not the narrator nor the author. When you have strolled through your characters' minds, collecting emotion, history, and dreams—their exclusive, essential being—your talk will be theirs. Same notion applies to action; you will know how the character behaves in situations as well they would know themselves. Test them—put up a challenge and watch what they do.

We need a **narrator**; he or she (or they) can summarize, cut quickly through the mundane, and let the characters sleep in on Sundays. But the narrator should not tell the story—that's the character's job. The narrator's role is short-cut guidance and explanation, if needed, may establish the setting—the where, when, and what of the world



LaRoche

continued next page

the characters occupy. A caution here: the narrator has an impetuous side, a needy ego and is hard to control. Consider a leash and muzzle.

Voice, ah yes, that elusive and indescribable, but significant contribution to good storytelling—the voice. It's yours. Straight, sardonic, cynical, comical, serious, or tongue-in-cheek, it yours. And what can be said... develop one, and make it appealing. Readers love voice, a vital, differentiating dimension to storytelling, and many select their reading on that basis. I like Vonnegut, Updike, Hiaasen, Doctorow, and Hemingway, primarily for reasons of voice. They are all different from one another, but each reliably the same. When I pick up a Vonnegut, I know what I am getting. Can you have more than one voice? Of course, but best each reliably committed within genre or class.

When considering a story, back away from the trees and consider the forest. Yes, POV, structure, punctuation, tense and timing, etc., are important, but passing on your story, dressed in its Sunday-best, is where we want and need to be. The “big think” about craft, not often discussed, is the essence of captivating storytelling.

Bio

D.L. LaRoche is an active member of the California Writers Club, held several offices, founded and chaired the NorCal Group, and founded and edited the CWC Literary Review. He has published two novels, a load of short stories, and can be found on Amazon.com.



Purple Prose Can Strangle Your Flowery Attempts

by Bobbie Christmas,

The difference between purple prose and flowery, poetic, or literary prose may sometimes be difficult for the writer to spot, but trust me, the difference is huge.

Well-written literary passages evoke images or emotions. Purple prose can evoke confusion or even laughter.

Genre fiction sometimes follows a formula, but literary fiction is more serious. The overall tone of literary fiction is introspective, and the story is character driven rather than plot driven, which allows for creative passages here and there. Sometimes writers go overboard in trying to add a dramatic effect, though, and instead of writing literary prose, they write purple prose.

Whereas literary prose can be flowery, purple prose incorporates a far-fetched idea, often combined with overwriting. Purple prose conveys concepts that readers cannot visualize, and rather than adding dramatic effect, those concepts can come off as being more like a cartoon than high art.

We writers may be able to spot purple prose in the work of other writers, but we rarely see it in our own work. A good editor will point out or delete purple prose, though.

What do I mean by saying that purple prose combines overwriting with a far-fetched idea? Below are a few passages I've lifted from manuscripts I've edited. I've used pronouns rather than character names, to hide the identity of the unintentionally guilty writers. See if you agree with me that the following passages were overwritten and/or conveyed far-fetched ideas and therefore qualified as purple prose:

- ◇ The autobiography drips with famous names that roll off the tongue like bacon grease sliding down the slippery sunny-side-up slope of a fried egg.
- ◇ Her even tone caused the anxiety in his heart to swell and dominate his guilt.
- ◇ His reaction made the bare bones truth a walking, breathing dragon that burned a hole in their friendship.
- ◇ Her smile served like armor, protecting me from the stress and illness beyond her protection.
- ◇ Confusion slipped across her features.



Bobbie Christmas,
The Book Doctor featured in
Writers and Publishers

- ◇ Her hatred was enough to boil sixteen pumpkins and throw the leftover skins into a billowing campfire of flames.
- ◇ Acute disbelief skimmed the far edge of horror.
- ◇ She said the words that stamped the cruel edge of reality over the fragile fiction of his life.
- ◇ His resolve toppled like a sandcastle built too close to the shore; the incoming tide, with its crashing waves, releasing a flood of raw emotions.

In conclusion, purple prose passages are often the very ones we writers labored over, thinking we were creating something fresh and priceless. We love those passages and think we gave birth to something new, which is the reason we editors say, “Kill your babies.” When you think you have delivered a passage that someone else might consider purple prose, it’s time to ask an editor or hit the Delete button on your computer.

Permission to Reprint approved by the author. Bobbie Christmas “The Book Doctor” is a book editor, author of Write In Style: Use Your Computer to Improve Your Writing, and owner of Zebra Communications. She will answer your questions too. Send them to Bobbie@zebraeditor.com or BZebra@aol.com. Read Bobbie’s Zebra Communications blog at <https://www.zebraeditor.com/blog/>.



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to gain the confidence of your
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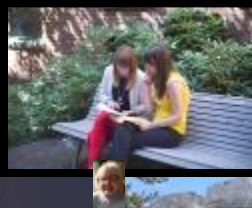


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Branch News



**Roger Lubeck received
Jack London Award**

Redwood Writers

Redwood Writers has been humming along with writing contests, our annual anthologies, and our hybrid Zoom and in-person meetings. We resumed meeting in person at a new Santa Rosa location this past summer while still allowing for members to attend our meetings virtually. While we've experienced a few bumps in the road with this new hybrid model, we're thrilled it's gone as well as it has.

On November 15, we will conclude our Fall Poetry Contest, which is open to CWC members and non-members. Winners will be announced at our meeting on December 18, which will also officially kick off our member submission period for the 2022 poetry anthology, *Crossroads*.

We have several exciting speakers and topics slated for the coming months.

On November 20, we are welcoming acclaimed children's authors, Mitali Perkins (*Rickshaw Girl*), Mae Respicio (*The House That Lou Built*), and Meera Sri-ram (*A Gift for Amma*), who will discuss the paths to publication for children's, middle grade, and young adult books. This should be an informative meeting for all authors, regardless of genre. The panel will be moderated by Natasha Yim, author of award winning children's books, including *Mulan's Lunar New Year*, published by Disney Press.

On December 18, we are holding Member Appreciation Day when we will honor our many branch volunteers and longtime members for their years of service and membership. We will also celebrate the publication of our 2021 prose anthology, *Remember When*, which includes forty-nine fiction and memoir stories with a theme around memories and times past.

On January 15, we're excited to welcome back Jordan Rosenfeld who will present "How to Evoke Emotion in Every Scene." And February 19 is our annual Author Launch, where our club celebrates members with newly published books.

We hope you'll attend any of our general meetings, either in person if you're in the area, or via Zoom.

Final note, we are currently in decision mode over whether we will hold our bi-annual Sonoma County Writer's Conference this year. Traditionally held in May in even years, we skipped the 2020 conference due to the pandemic. We may need to cancel the 2022 conference for the same reason, depending on attendee interest and CDC guidelines. We will let you know in the next Bulletin issue.

We hope you all are happy and healthy, and getting in lots of writing time!



~~ Crissi Langwell, Editor

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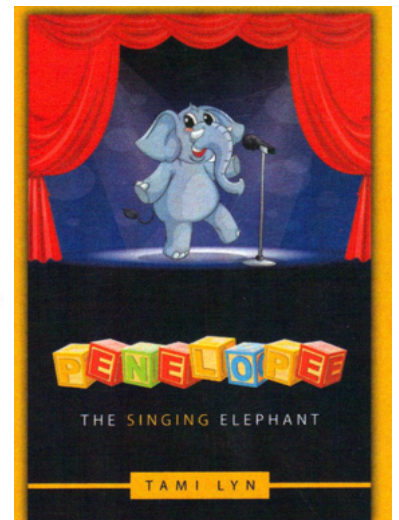
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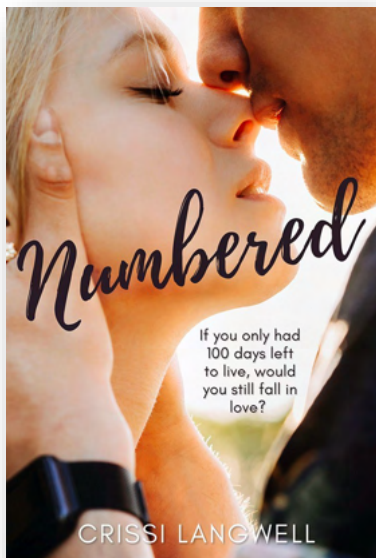




Branch News continues

Redwood news continues

Authors Accolades in Publishing



Redwood Writers Member Receives Writer's Digest Award

I'm thrilled to announce my dystopian romance novel, *Numbered*, won an honorable mention in the 2021 Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards in the Genre Fiction category.

Thousands of authors enter this contest, and only ten honorable mentions are handed out per genre.

This is the second time I have been honored with this award for one of my books. My young adult novel, *Forever Thirteen*, received an honorable mention in the Young Adult category in 2014.

~~ Crissi Langwell, Redwood Writers

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## Central Coast

Under the leadership of our intrepid new president and Jack London Award recipient Sarah Pruitt, on September 21, Central Coast Writers resumed meeting in-person. Actually, we combined our in-person meeting with Zoom, so that members had a choice in how to participate. About 25 members showed up in person and about 15 more were on Zoom. We consider this turnout a great success!

Figuring out whether and how to meet had been only half the puzzle we faced. In addition to determining when we could resume in person, we also needed to find a new meeting venue. Our previous location, Point Pinos Grill, came under new ownership during COVID, and the space we had used for meetings was reconstructed in a way that no longer worked for us. After members of the Executive Council checked out numerous locations, we landed on a coffee house—Juice n' Java—which turned out to work quite well.



**Sarah Pruitt received  
Jack London Award**

Making the September meeting a success was a collaborative effort, indeed. One of our members contributed a collapsible podium, another set up a computer microphone for Zooming, and others participated in a practice "audience" session a few days beforehand. Our guest speaker, Katy Upperman, an author of YA novels, did a great job. And, of course, members who had not seen each other in about 19 months, were delighted to reengage—even if we all looked a bit older than last time, we were together!



~~ Christine Sleeter,  
Scribbles newsletter editor

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## *Branch News continues*

### **Mendocino Coast**

Our branch has had a very busy 2021, pandemics notwithstanding.

We've accepted over 50 submissions to our annual anthology, which is now going through editing and photo selection processes for publication in early 2022. Our theme for this year's version is *Borders*.

All but four members renewed. It is worthy to note how a 91% renewal rate was achieved: in addition to renewal requests emailed with event newsletters, each member was mailed a 4"x9" card with renewal details and ongoing writing opportunities, as well as a bookmark designed around the branch. Further, the anthology has been and remains a big draw. Members must renew before submitting their work. We also added several new members in the last couple of months, totaling 81 members overall.

In August, Emily Lloyd Jones, author of seven young adult and middle grade novels lectured on "10 Myths About Publishing." In September, Elizabeth Rosner, best selling novelist, poet, essayist, and author of *Survivor Cafe: the Legacy of Trauma and the Labyrinth of Memory*, spoke on "Writing About Trauma."

The October meeting is our annual Ekphrasis event where WMC writers are blindly paired with artists from the Artists Co-op of Mendocino. Ten writers respond to artwork, and ten artists respond to writers' stories. Writers read their one page submission while photos of matching artwork are shared onscreen.

The November presenter is Linda Watanabe McFerrin, poet, travel writer, and novelist, who will speak on "Writing for Readers."

Our website, [writersmendocinocoast.org](http://writersmendocinocoast.org) offers further details of our programs, including YouTube videos of past speakers. Meetings are free and open to the public. Guests must preregister at [writersmendocinocoast@gmail.com](mailto:writersmendocinocoast@gmail.com).

Our primary advice to all is, stay healthy and keep writing.

~~ *Susan Lundgren, President*



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Well Said

"Examine every word you put on paper. You'll find a surprising number that don't serve any purpose."

— William Zinsser, [*On Writing Well: The Audio Collection*](#)



Branch News continues

Tri-Valley Writers

Tri-Valley Writers has transitioned back to in-person meetings. In September, Michelle Cruz Gonzales presented "Inclusive Characterization: Writing 'the other' Without Stereotypes or Appropriation." Our October Writers Conference was a smashing success. Even though the attendance was half our normal count—this was *not* a normal year—our small yet mighty crowd rocked it! The day featured three tracks: Craft, Marketing, & Self-Publishing and *New York Times* bestselling author Rhys Bowen was the keynote speaker. This in-person conference was a great way to network with authors, marketers, and publishing innovators who share a passion for writing.



Tri-Valley keynote speaker

We will honor and look for ways to better connect with veterans in November when guest speaker, Steve Minnear will present "Integrating Stories Into a Broader Appreciation of History." Steve, along with a featured Tedx from Dr. Jim Ott, English professor at Las Positas College, will discuss the best ways to integrate personal stories, especially those from veterans, into the fabric of an area's history.



Tri-Valley audience

Tri-Valley Writers' is pleased to recognize and congratulate Patricia Boyle as our 2021 Jack London

Honoree. Patricia has selflessly volunteered for various board and committee positions shortly after joining the branch. When the pandemic hit, Patricia stepped up to serve as VP once again, even though she spent more than half the term in NY helping with her newborn grandson.

Our branch continues to utilize Zoom for several valuable programs such as: critique groups, "Sit Down and Write" daily sessions, bi-monthly drop-in "Social Space" sessions, and a monthly "Author Marketing Support Group." These online offerings have been essential for members to stay connected and keep inspired to write.



Bernal and Lubeck accepting award on behalf of Patricia Boyle



Patricia Boyle received Jack London Award

~~ Deborah "Jordan" Bernal, president





Branch News continues

Fremont Area

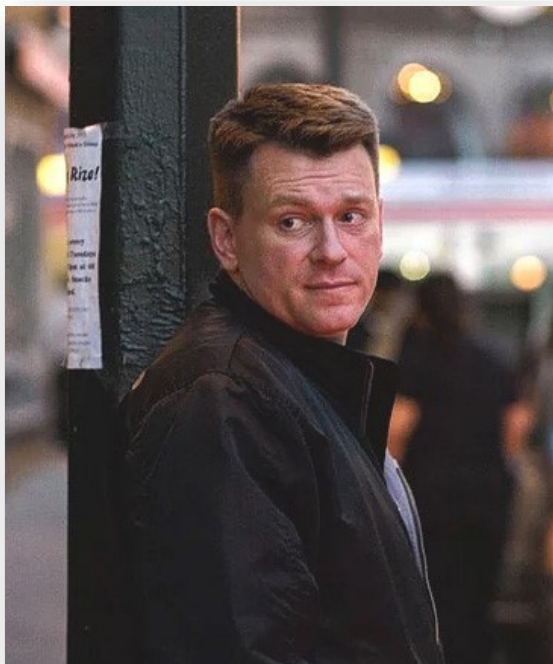
Our branch is still zooming... enjoying it...and will continue this meeting venue into the future. Even with occasional tech issues, we've decided that having speakers join us from New York and Dubai is worth the annual fee to maintain our Zoom account. Many of our members are enjoying their Golden Years and are pleased not to have to drive to meetings every month. We'll meet in-person twice a year, July and December for parties, when possible—to confirm our continued corporeal presence.

We'd like to recommend one of our recent speakers to you, SFPD street sergeant, Adam Plantinga, author of *400 Things Cops Know*. Adam's sense of humor and his years of experience in policing make him a great guest for any group of writers. We give him our highest recommendation. Biggest plus...he'll answer your questions about the work he does, authentically and in detail. He's a great resource for anyone writing crime, mystery, thrillers, suspense...anything that might have a cop or a crime in the storyline.

Our president, Terry Tosh, accepted the Jack London Award for our branch's 2021 on my behalf, (Nancy Guarnera,) I was unable to attend the awards ceremony on October 17. Congratulations to all of the Jack London awardees, especially Rusty LaGrange, who was awarded the JLA and the Ina Coolbrith award.



**Nancy Guarnera received
Jack London Award**

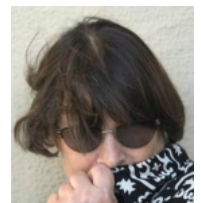


Adam Plantinga, SFPD sergeant

Our Writers' Salon and our Social Write-In zoom meetings are continuing and are well attended. FAW membership is beginning to grow again: welcome to new members Angelica G. Allen, Fatema Ali Bhaiji and George Kwong.

As we approach another new year on our calendars, we remember the almost 5 million people worldwide who have lost their lives to COVID, and hope that you and your loved ones continue to stay safe and healthy. Perhaps by this time next year, more things will have changed for the better. Does anyone else miss hugging?

~~ Nancy Guarnera





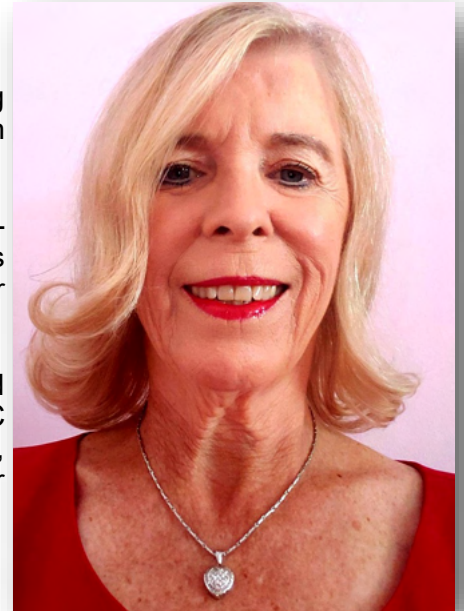
Branch News continues

Inland Empire

We have now had two hybrid meetings, September and October, using Zoom and in-person attendance. We plan on continuing with this approach into the foreseeable future.

In 2022 we will alternate our meeting locations between Ontario's Ovitt Family Library and Riverside's Arlington Branch Library. Odd numbered months will be in Ontario and even numbered months will be in Riverside. Our branch does not meet in December.

I would like to extend a warm congratulation to Sue Andrews who received the Jack London award on October 17, 2021. Sue has served on our IECWC board for many years and her roles have included Hospitality, Secretary, State Board Representative, and President. She continues to serve as our State Board Representative.



**Sue Andrews received
Jack London Award**



~~ *Sam Nichols, president*

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### **Sacramento** (no news)



**Dr. Marcia  
Ehinger  
received  
Jack  
London  
Award**

### **Coastal Dunes** (no news)



**Received  
Jack  
London  
Award  
On  
Behalf of  
Renee  
Geffken**



## Branch News continues

### San Francisco Peninsula

We have big plans for our San Francisco Peninsula branch this fall and beyond.

Like other branches coming off the past year of Zoom meetings we are planning to get back together in person for our December holiday party on December 12, and then resume our in-person meetings in January.

And, like them, we are working on creating a hybrid option where some can join us virtually as well.

We are also preparing a survey to our members to find out what they want from us! In order to serve our members, we need to know their goals as writers. It's our mission to bring the speakers and programs they find useful.

We are currently looking into expanding into various forms of payment (e.g., credit cards, QR codes linked to PayPal or credit cards, Swipe, etc) for members and guests. We will link these with a revised website to enable payment for meetings, workshops, etc., and to purchase *Fault Zone*.



Another project we are planning is bringing the ability for our members to communicate with each other online. Using the platform, ***Tribe***, members can join and have conversations, answer questions or share information through the program. This way, if someone is looking for a particular critique group, for example, they can put the question to the membership without having to wait for a meeting.

Our new anthology, *Fault Zone*, is expected to be published in December, thanks to our amazing editor, Laurel Anne Hill. In addition, we continue to support a Belmont library program, Story Café, where members record a seven-minute reading that runs on a loop at the library.

We look forward to a fun and rich fall with excellent speakers and new ways for our members to benefit from being members of our San Francisco Peninsula branch.



**Lisa Meltzer Penn received Jack London Award**

~~~~~

Geri Spieler, president.



Michael Wycombe received Jack London Award

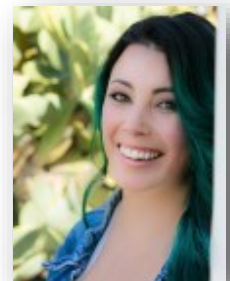
Napa Valley

Napa Valley Writers will release our third club anthology, *Third Harvest*, in December 2021.

Additionally, our club welcomed two new board members. Geoffrey Leigh will take over as Treasurer and Hannah Wallenbrock accepted the Member-at-Large position.

We have chosen ***Michael Wycombe***, our club webmaster and current (and past) Secretary as the recipient for the Jack London award. He greatly deserves the recognition and so much more! (no photo available)

Lastly, Kymberlie Ingalls, our Program Chair, secured actor and poet, Peter Coyote, for our April meeting. We are really excited for that talk!



~~ ***Sarita Lopez, President & Publicity***

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Branch News continues

High Desert

High Desert branch is again offering a **FREE** invitation to all branches, Tuesday, December 21 at 6 pm. It's free. Zoom rooms hosted by branches offer expertise from those who can give away their insights. Join us on Zoom December 21 6 pm.

Chris Vogler



**See Page 1 & 3
for details**

The High Desert Branch had an active summer including book sale booths at a local attraction called Town's End in Apple Valley, where for ten sessions our members offered their books for sale. Altogether they sold about 100 books, some of which included the branch anthologies.

As of August 14, of this year, we have gone back to meeting face to face. The popular meetings have featured our own members doing presentations. Marilyn King demonstrated how she puts together all the material for writing her books. Her meticulous research and organization impressed the audience and has resulted in an accumulation of more than a half dozen books written by Marilyn.

Another session featured three children's book authors (Mary Langer Thompson, Roberta Smith and Ann Miner) whose collective material on getting illustrators, ideas, and writing their respective stories provided a fascinating panel that also included editor Jenny Margotta, giving tips on formatting and other timely information.

Because of our favorable experience with Zoom meetings, and the ability to get guest speakers from across the country or around the world (one presented from Scotland) we have decided to continue a monthly Zoom meeting that we call Act 2. We have had some great speakers, many of which we offered free of charge to all CWC members, that have included such personalities as James Scott Bell and Dara Marks. We will have Christopher Vogler (*The Hero's Journey*) as a guest December 21st, and our own CWC Orange County Branch president Brian Gaps, featured November 23rd. Brian Gaps has grown his Meetup.com organization to over 900 member/visitors and done many things to grow his branch. Don't miss these events. Please see details elsewhere in *The Bulletin*, and/or visit www.hdcwc.com for more information on our Zoom Act 2 meetings.

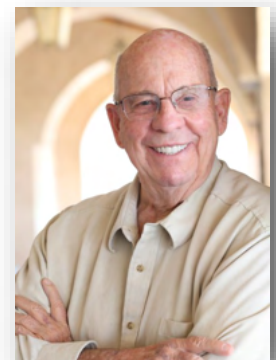


**Rusty LaGrange
Received Ina Coolbrith &
Jack London Awards**

In celebration of Writers' Week and our 31st anniversary of the founding of the HDCWC in 1990, we had a very enjoyable backyard spaghetti feed. Four of our members were published in the CWC *Lit Review*, and part of the fun was those folks reading their entries to the group.

We celebrated the rare event of one of our HDCWC members receiving the Ina Coolbrith Award, and in the same year, Rusty LaGrange was also chosen to be our Jack London Award recipient.

~~ **Bob Isbill**
Programs/Publicity



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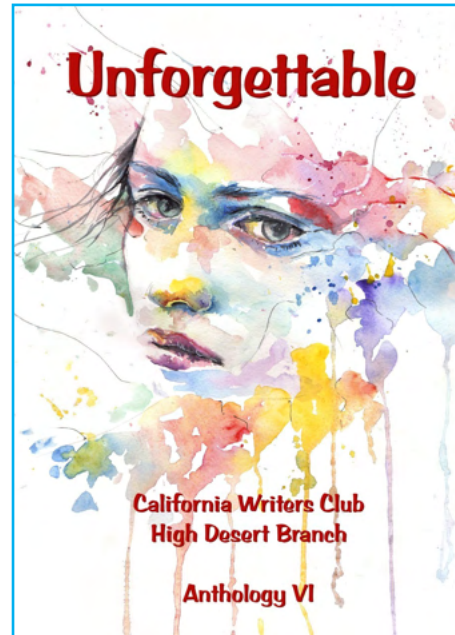


Branch News continues

High Desert news continues

Our newest anthology, *Unforgettable*, will be published and on sale at our November 13 meeting. We are very proud of this volume, so go to Amazon.com and pick up a copy of some good reading.

The HDCWC is working on forming a speakers' bureau that we call On-Topic Speakers for You. We feature writers with something to say. By early 2022 we hope to publish a website advertising our published authors who have topics of interest that they can present to other branches or organizations.



Characters can be flawed and brimming with weaknesses or they can be heroic, putting others before themselves and performing unthinkable sacrifices. High Desert writers were challenged to submit character-driven stories, poems, and memoirs.

~~~~~

## Long Beach



**Janet Elizabeth Lynn  
received  
Jack London Award**

### Speakers

We have had excellent, outside-the-area speakers this last few months. Deborah A. Lott, Barbara DeMarco Barrett, and PJ Colando in July, August, and September provided three silver-lining benefits to the otherwise black cloud pandemic. All would be good choices for presentations if you're looking to fill your dance ticket for 2022. Like many of our brethren, we're trying to figure out how to orchestrate hybrid meetings to broaden our offerings.

### Programs

We started a new program—an “after hours” break-out group, which follows the monthly ZOOM meeting. Designed to replace that lovely time before and after the old in-person meetings, it creates a space for people to ask questions and get answers from each other in an open forum. These are some ideas, of many:

- Do you have a logline and elevator pitch to share?
- Can you share experiences (good and bad) with self-publishing or traditional publishing?
- Do you know of a good book to learn how to...deepen your characters, develop a theme, write a memoir, self-publish, prepare a query letter, etc.?

Our leadership team is still experimenting with how to get more people to participate by putting some of the above ideas in the chat during the Zoom meeting and promoting the concept in our monthly newsletter. We'll keep you posted. We have had a

small group of attendees, which is actually kind of nice.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to one of our long-time members, Marcia Harris, who had her story “Lifesaver” appear in the [Chicken Soup for the Soul](#), [101 Tales of Canine Companionship](#), [My Hilarious, Heroic, Human Dog](#).” I just

*continued next page*



## Branch News continues

### Long Beach continues



read her piece about “Laurene” the companion dog that saves her life every day. And her soul. Don’t just sit there! Order the book from your favorite bookseller.

~~ Kathryn Atkins, PR Chair  
with Allene Symons



She is Long Beach’s Publicity chair and she co-chairs the branch’s Programs committee. Kathryn and Allene Symons share CWC Central Board duties.

Marcia’s story is #29.

~~~~~

Mt Diablo

Mt. Diablo Prepares for Hybrid Meetings

By now, most of our members are aware that combination In-Person and Virtual “Hybrid” meetings are the wave of the future. The Mt. Diablo branch board authorized some monies based on a cost analysis for expenditures to purchase the extra technology the branch would need to support hybrid meetings. After several dress rehearsals, our October 1st and 2nd-day went hybrid, with about 22 in-person attendees and 16 virtual attendees enjoying and learning from Suzanne Lakin’s “Emotional Mastery in Writing” workshop.

The path to get to our first hybrid meeting, and to increase the likelihood of success, the board formed a sub-committee that met in May 2021 to determine the needs for this approach. The sub-committee included the most technical people on our board (the Webmaster, the Vice President, the Program Chair and our Writers Table Chair) who organizes member presenters for regular writerly topics) and the President.

Before the May meeting, we exchanged articles and videos or advance review to ensure we understood what would be required. We learned that there are four levels of hybrid meetings and that we would need to choose one or the other of them for monthly meeting needs. We selected the fourth level of hybrid for our October workshop. This level offers flexibility to have the speaker join either in-person or virtually. Members/guests can choose the camaraderie of an in-person event or the comfort of a virtual session. The spectrum also broadens for hosting monthly speakers from anywhere in the world. We viewed this as a big plus.



**Linda Hartmann received
Jack London Award**

continued next page



Branch News continues

Mt. Diablo news continues

A poll was given to the membership in June asking about preferences for attending in-person meetings vs. virtual vs. hybrid meetings, which was reviewed thoroughly by the board along with our cost analysis during a four-hour Planning Meeting in July, an annual event.

The committee had developed a list of minimum new equipment needed, and a few online and store searches gave a range of costs for each. We eliminated items we already had (projector, screen, laptop) and listed items members were willing to donate. We presented the cost analysis to the board, and they approved up to \$1,000 for the project. Fortunately, the actual cost came in much lower than this – about \$475.

After gaining board approval, the subcommittee went into action mode, purchasing and gathering the equipment we thought was needed, and scheduled several practice sessions for testing to learn whether we missed anything. We had procured a webcam, Bluetooth speakers, a tripod, and extension cords.

The sub-committee found many interesting technical, bandwidth, audio-visual, and process-oriented issues that we eventually resolved. Three practice sessions at our standard restaurant meeting space shook out these issues. (Although our workshop leader was not available to rehearse in-person, we encourage speaker participation in practice sessions.) We invited the full board to join us via Zoom attendees as guinea pigs to provide feedback and absorb some available bandwidth. During practice sessions, we found the need for a Wi-Fi extender, additional power strips with extra USB ports, and a larger projection screen.

On the day of the first hybrid meeting, board volunteers performed new duties such as vaccination status checks, CWC-logo mask handouts, and helping with equipment setup. The Vice President served as Technical Director, monitoring the quality of online and in-person experiences on his laptop. Another board member managed the webcam to follow the workshop leader. A laptop camera was trained on the assembled attendees to project their images to virtual attendees. Virtual attendees were projected onto the screen when the presenter was not in “screen share” mode.

Comments from both in-person and virtual attendees confirm that our first “Post-Pandemic” in-person/virtual combination meeting was successful. Our workshop leader, Susanne Lakin, flowed with technical glitches from her complex presentation, which comprised 90% of the success; the new technology and process did not negatively affect the workshop experience. Mt. Diablo is happy to provide other branches with a summary of our approach and assist you in accomplishing your hybrid-style meetings.

Mt. Diablo Branch 2021 Distinguished Service Award (DSA) goes to....

Marlene Dotterer

The Mt. Diablo branch has an award that is given once a year to a recipient whom the majority of the board agrees has provided outstanding service to the membership in an area of great benefit to the branch, either with an extraordinary effort during the current year or for cumulative service of no more than two years. Succinctly put, Marlene Dotterer has accomplished more during the past two years, and that a short article does not begin to do justice.

Marlene is the Webmaster for our branch. Any new program we initiate requires her to create forms for registration, track the people who register for the events, send out the Zoom links, and often creates website design to draw attention to the news and opportunities. She keeps our branch calendar, schedules and invites registrants for Zoom sessions, manages break-out rooms, and is part host, recorder, and keeper of the recorded files. Marlene also oversees our Meetup ads. She chairs the virtual practice/planning committee meetings that led to our first successful hybrid meeting in October.



Marlene Dotterer

continued next page



Branch News continues

Mt. Diablo news continues

For many years, Marlene has been Chair of the Young Writers Contest for Contra Costa County middle-school students, who submit in four different categories. She assisted in changing the method for submissions a year ago from "Submittable" to using a system she devised that uses our website and saves the branch money. Marlene ensures the coordinators have enough jurors, assembles the anthology for the winners, creates certificates, mailers, and labels for all winners and honorable mentions. She procures the prizes and makes a slide show with quotes and imagery from each winning piece to play before and during the captivating (yes, even on Zoom) ceremony for the winning students, their parents, and teachers.

One of Marlene's personal goals, harmonizing with the branch and state goals for more community outreach, was welcomed by the beginning of Open Mic Events, co-chaired with Lyn Roberts, for members and guests. They read approximately 5 minutes of their works-in-progress or finished pieces, while others actively listened, providing positive feedback, Q&A, and a warm reception in a relaxed setting. It has become a pleasant way for members to get to know each other, socialize, and become familiar with what they are working on as writers. It is a comfortable way to get a taste of reading and trying out new material in front of others. This idea had been brewing pre-coronavirus pandemic and is now in full swing.



Marlene helped create and track a Voucher Program so that members could invite a guest and give them \$10.00 off on a General Meeting or Workshop, a way to increase membership potentially. As a past president of the branch for three years, her resourcefulness has never run dry. She makes herself available to others, is a wonderful mentor, is often the first to step up to help, and works more hours than most people cannot wait to retire. She is also highly understated, and many do not know that half of all she does, without complaint — and with skill, most of us only dream of having. The branch would sink without her. This award is exceptionally justified.

~~ **Linda Hartmann, President**

~~~~~



## Writers of Kern

It's been a whirlwind of excitement at Writers of Kern as the new board stepped up to continue the tradition of joyfully serving our writing community. Here are some of the activities and events: we welcomed amazing speakers, the Fall Writing Contest was announced, members of our branch will tackle NaNoWriMo, the board voted to move to in-person meetings, and our very own Joan Raymond was recipient of the Jack London award, recognized for her volunteer efforts and dedication to WOK.

Words are inadequate to describe how much WOK appreciates Joan. She stepped up time and time again when the community needed her, and she gave her gifts and talents tirelessly. WOK is the thriving community it is today because of her leadership, vision, and quality of speakers. Congratulations, Joan!

In August, speaker and author Cecil Castellucci, gave a workshop on creating memorable heroes and villains. She walked us through a group exercise to create a bare bones framework for the story, solving the problem of the dreaded blank page.



**Joan Raymond received Jack London Award with Sandy Moffett on the left**

*continued next page*



## Branch News continues

Our September speaker, Henry Barajas, shared his writing process by using his graphic memoir, *La Voz De M.A.Y.O.*, as an example. He gave an overview of creating comics through comic script, emphasizing the freedom of this format in comparison to film/TV script.

The latest speaker, writer and editor Mika McKinnon, inspired the audience to utilize accurate science to add authenticity to the story and elevate it to the next level.

Our Fall Writing Contest theme, "Letting Go," encapsulated coming out of the darkness of the pandemic into the light of hope. Contestants can interpret this theme in any way. More details can be found on our website for any members interested in the contest. The judges eagerly await the submissions.

Of course, we can't forget NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), when writers tackle the challenge of writing fifty thousand words in one month. If you're participating, please share your screen name with us on our Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram page so we can connect with you and cheer for you.

Our Open Mic Mondays, Book Club, and critique groups are still going strong. This would not be possible without the efforts of many wonderful members who believe in the purpose of WOK.

Last but not least, Writers of Kern will move to in-person meetings starting December 11 at our annual Winter Dinner. It will be an evening of camaraderie, fun, and connection. Details will be available in the latest newsletter and our social media channels. We look forward to ending the year with renewed hope and celebration.

~~ Srey Khoy



~~~~~

Orange County



**Brian Gaps received
Jack London Award**

We continue to meet the first Saturday of the month on Zoom. Our president, Brian Gaps, has been actively seeking a new venue where we can meet in person on a regular basis. Our past meeting location, the Orange Public Library, is no longer suitable for us as its availability is limited. Our Zoom meetings draw many new guests, and our presence on Meet-Up has also resulted in many new members.

In September we heard author Gayle Carline discuss her book, *Rhythm, Pain, and Amusement*. October brought us Jasmine Iolani Hake who discussed her debut novel, *Hula*. She was born and reared in Hawaii and has danced the hula since she was a little girl. She believes we are what happens to us and used that as a theme for her book, soon to be released.

Our members have been busy. Vice-president Mary Vensel White taught a workshop on Middle Grade and Y.A. fiction at the Southern California Writers Conference, held September 17-19. Jeanette Jensen had an artwork and book display at the Quorum Gallery in Huntington Beach through September 30. Jeanette Fratto has been a regular contributor to "Orange Coast" magazine and had a piece published in the October issue under the "My O.C." feature.

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Branch News continues

Unfortunately, we lost one of our long-term members, Barbara French, in September. She was a journalist, actress, and memoir writer. Her book *Someday Street* discussed her early life and acting days. Although in her late 90's, she was still teaching two writing classes shortly before her passing.

On a lighter note, the Jack London awards were held October 17th at an in-person meeting in Oakland. Brian Gaps was the recipient for our branch, he attended the luncheon and presentation, as well as the short business meeting held afterward.

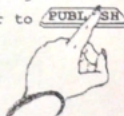
Our branch has participated as judges in the annual scholastic awards for several years. This will take place in January, and we are considering participating again. Brian has been in contact with the director and should learn soon if we will be part of this annual event.

As we approach the end of the year, we are quite proud of how our club has held together through the pandemic and the many changes it brought. Zoom and great speakers have kept us alive. We even saw our membership increase over previous years. Several popular speakers have already been booked for 2022, and with an in-person venue on the horizon, we look forward to a productive and interesting year, with much to offer our members.

~~ **Jeanette A. Fratto**
Member-at-Large



~~~~~

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## CWC-San Fernando Valley Writers SPEAKERS FOR 2021-2022

**W**hether you have been published or have always wanted to write, please join the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club for monthly Zoom meetings to learn more about the craft and business of writing. This series is free for members from any branch of the California Writers Club. Please visit [cwc-sfv.org](http://cwc-sfv.org) for membership information or single-lecture admission.

### DECEMBER 4, 2021

Barri Evins

#### **"Can You Hear Me Now? Developing the Writer's Voice"**

Writers with a *voice* have a distinctive style, setting the pros apart from the rest. Attend this lecture and find your unique professional voice.

### JANUARY 8, 2022

Jill Lublin

#### **"Get Known Everywhere: Publicity Strategies for Authors"**

If the PR part of writing gives you nightmares, join Jill for a wake-up call. We need this!

### FEBRUARY 5, 2022

Kendall Jones, JD

#### **"Self Publishing Contracts and Pitfalls"**

Learn to look beyond the hype and promises of self-publishing with this not-to-be missed presentation.

### MARCH 5, 2022

Jonathan Maberry

#### **"The Genre of You"**

If your muse beckons you to multiple genres but you're afraid to follow, don't be. Join Jonathan to learn why.

### APRIL 2, 2022

Lynne Thompson, Poet Laureate for the City of Los Angeles

#### **"Celebrating National Poetry Month"**

Celebrate the joy of poetry with our city's acclaimed Poet Laureate. What a treat!

### MAY 7, 2022

Anat Golan-Wenick

#### **"Turn Your Novel Into A Screen Play"**

Want to see your novel come to life on the big or little screen? Learn how, now!

### JUNE 4, 2022

Pamela Samuels Young

#### **"Write Your Next Page Turner"**

Whether you write mysteries, romance, or nonfiction, learn the tips and tricks best-selling authors use to keep readers turning pages.

Programs are subject to change.

## San Fernando Valley

Our San Fernando Valley is known for its hot dry summers and warm windy fall weather. Surprisingly, we've recently enjoyed a couple of refreshing rainstorms and cool nighttime temperatures. And as our branch starts our Zoom meetings for the 2021-2022 year, we appreciate the easing of last year's strict pandemic protocols. Vaccinated citizens are now able to meet up with vaccinated friends and family members. Dining in an enclosed restaurant is still a risk, but schools, parks, hair salons, barber shops, and other gathering places are now open. People are back at work and the 405 freeway artery is once more throbbing with rush hour traffic.

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## Branch News continues

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But the COVID virus is still a public health menace and our SFV group will not soon be returning to the Motion Picture and Television Fund campus. We must wait until it's safe to congregate once again in the Saban Center for Health and Wellness.



**Carol Tice**

Our September 2021 speaker was Carol Tice, a veteran freelance writer for more than two decades. Tice heads up a popular freelance blog: *Freelance Writers Den*, Freelance Writers Den: Online

Writing Community . Her blog, "Make a Living Writing", has appeared in the *Writer's Digest's* "Top 101 Sites for Writers."

She spoke to us on:

"Writing for Magazine and Other Freelance Opportunities," and she provided several tips for new freelancers

In October, we welcomed Pasadena Psychologist, Dr. Seth Wagerman, who spoke on "Using Psychology to Master Character Development." Along with teaching university level psychology courses, Dr. Wagerman has been a speaker at the Southern California Writers Conference and at the Orange County branch of the California Writers Club.

Dr. Wagerman was aware that we writers work hard to craft multi-dimensional and well-rounded characters. He started his talk by defining what makes a person or a fictional protagonist unique. He said, "Characteristic patterns of thoughts, emotions, attitudes, and behaviors along with the psychological mechanisms behind them, hidden or not— their personality is thought to be consistent and enduring over time and across situations."

He suggested that we should remember that our main characters are not just in a situation, but also in their environment. Using a couple of well-known movies as examples, he asked us, "What will happen if a very neat person has to live in a messy place (*The Odd Couple*)? What will happen to a bratty Southern Bell when you



**Heather & Roger Lubeck received Jack London Award on behalf of Pat Avery**



**Dr. Seth Wagerman**

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## Branch News continues

continued from page 22



**Gary Ginell**

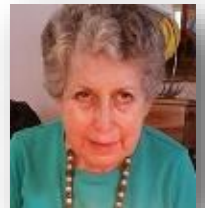
pit her against a civil war (*Gone with the Wind*)?”

His talk was scholarly, well researched and is reviewed in more detail in our November newsletter, *The Valley Scribe*.

In our November Zoom room, Gary Ginell will visit us to present: “Biographical Writing: From Proposal to Publication.” Ginell is a music historian, writer, and lecturer who has taught courses on American music as well as presented lectures as a public speaker for 20 years. In his book, *Biographical Writing: from Proposal to Publishing*, Ginell goes through a step-by-step primer on what to do after deciding to write a biography.

Our three speakers have given us much to ponder as the autumn days roll on. The CWC-SFV wishes all of you a happy and safe holiday season.

~~ Kathy Highcove



~~~~~

South Bay

In October, we celebrated with our annual Halloween Contest on ZOOM. Barnes & Noble gift certificates were awarded to five winners in the category of Funniest: Audry Lynch; Scariest: Kathryn; Literary: Edie Matthews; Prettiest: Linda King, and Original: Luanne Oleas.



**Tatyana Grinenko (left)
with Edie Matthews**

We're delighted that Tatyana Grinenko received the 2021 Jack London Award. She has been an asset to our branch since joining in February 2017 and was soon elected to the board. She wears two hats, managing our Website and Publicity. Her knowledge of PR consistently draws new members and guests to our meetings. She is also a talented writer, and currently working on a fantasy novel.

Our members hope to begin meeting in person in 2021 at the American Legion in Santa Clara. Details are still being worked out. At this time, we're also considering alternating months from in-person meetings and ZOOM meetings.

~~ Edie Matthews, President





Branch News continues

San Joaquin Valley

San Joaquin Valley Writers presented their new logo designed by our artistic Treasurer Leslie Liberty. In addition, SJVW is gearing up for their first anthology, short pieces and poetry making up GREAT VALLEY STORIES. We plan to have this out by the end of 2022. And we hope some of our pieces are submitted to 2022's CWC Lit Review as well.



First anthology

In Woodbridge, Publicity Chair Terry Wells-Brown threw a festive in-person launch street party for the first in her new series: THE LAST WITCH: AN EARTH MAGIC GRIMOIRE, which we feature as the current book in our Amazon Book Club:

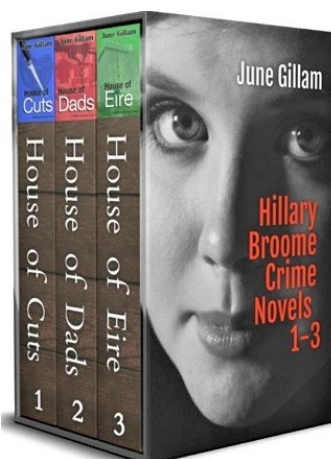
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Terry Wells-Brown seated at table



**June and Roger received the Jack London Award
On behalf of Scott Evans**



President June Gillam launched in KDP her first Box Set: HILLARY BROOME CRIME NOVELS: Books 1-3. Let the good times roll!

~~ Leslie Liberty



Announcements

CWC NorCal Report —October 17, 2021

FOURTEEN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CWC BRANCHES

The **NorCal Board** met on the 31st of July, 2021 on the week following the State Board meeting on July 25th. There were fifteen branch members in attendance from fourteen branches. Two special guests, **Roger Lubeck**, our new state president, and **Sandy Moffett**, our continuing state membership chair, were in attendance to bring new ideas and plans for the future which would impact all branches.

Lubeck's future goals for the entire CWC, which were discussed at the state board meeting, were presented to our NorCal branch members to encourage them to bring any and all information back to their executive boards.

Sandy Moffett shared the happenings in the SoCal and also offered to help new membership chairs understand their roles and the MRMS. Training was an offer, if necessary. The purpose for this discussion with the NorCal board was to carry back the message to our branches and to help new board members at each branch do their jobs more efficiently. The emphasis at this point was on new branch treasurers and membership chairs as they are the conduit from the branches to the State.

Discussion of NorCal reviving the Leadership Conference was raised, but no definitive dates were set. We are waiting to see how the branches are handling the new 'hybrid' mode of meetings in-person and Zoom, and brought this subject back up at the next NorCal meeting that was held November 6th. (Contact me at carolebumpus@gmail.com for future meetings).

The rest of the meeting was spent on each branch member sharing how their branches have been adjusting to the pressures/constraints of this hybrid model for meetings. Discussion about the need for AV equipment, what was essential, what doesn't work, what might work better, etc. and which speakers would now 'travel' for in-person meetings and who wouldn't. (It's a new world out there!)

We voted to sign up for the **San Francisco Writers Conference** booth once again for the ninth year (minus Covid's year) and expect to be receiving special offers for our club members throughout the state. **The Conference will be held from February 17-20, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero in San Francisco.**

Our latest NorCal meeting was held November 6th at 9:30 -11:30 a.m. on Zoom. Any and all members are welcome to join us, as we are discussing issues which impact us all. (carolebumpus@gmail.com to connect on Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,

~~ **Carole Bumpus – NorCal Chair – 2015-2021**



North State *(no news)*

Berkeley *(no news)*

East Sierra *(no news received)*



Cathy Chase received Jack London Award



Francine Thomas Howard received Jack London Award



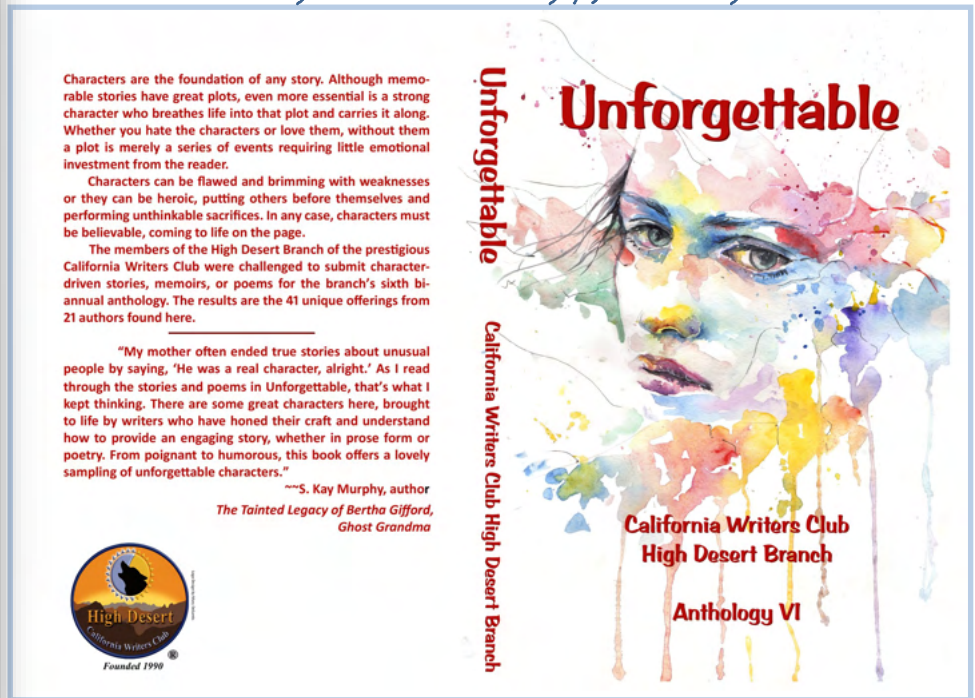
Andrew Sound received Jack London Award

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*First anthology
from San Joaquin*



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dress and phone contact, and the confirmed **size of your ad.**
- ♦ **(Size isn't always indicated on your scanned copy, but it matters!)**

THE BULLETIN BOARD —

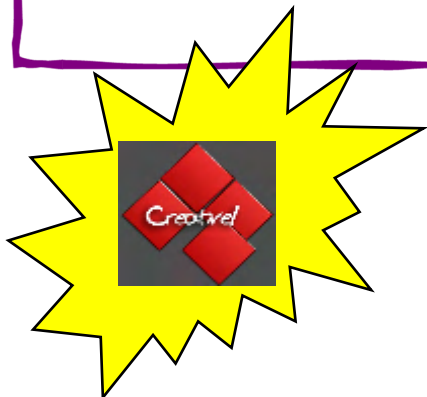
GOT NEWS?

Send your news to the editor at SM@SandyMoffett.com.com. Please prepare your work as carefully as you would for a contest or an agent. Use Arial 11 point font; avoid special characters and embedded content; just 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 unless you call in for extra space, if needed.

~~ *Thanx. The Editor.*



This simple icon points to a creative idea that you can share with other branches.

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.

First Venture to Oakland for Awards Ceremonies

We enjoyed the long ride through vast stretches of fields in the San Joaquin Valley on our way north to Oakland. My husband, Jeff, had been eager to get on the road since the pandemic stopped our two years of vacation plans.

For me, regularly bringing news to all 22 branches of our club has been paramount to meeting the communication needs of a cohesive group of inspired writers across our large state. I was eager to meet the real faces of our awardees, many of them who I had talked to or emailed over the last five years.

I was also pleased to have my husband taking photos as my +1 that weekend.

As I step down from this editorial position, I look ahead to more personal writing goals, and a long break from deadlines. I know many of you can appreciate that.

I will be in the background as a coach to our new editor, Sandy Moffett, for a smooth transition.

~~ *Rusty LaGrange*, 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.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next issue appears
in mid-March

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertisements in
The Bulletin digital
magazine must be
placed by

Feb. 28th.

**Submission are
due by Feb. 28**

We've made it easier for you to receive

Our digital news, **THE BULLETIN.**

It's delivered right to your email box.

We now use *ConstantContact* service.

If you move or change email address, let your
branch Membership Chair know.

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

Mission Statement



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



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

CWC's *THE BULLETIN*

STAFF:

EDITOR / GRAPHICS: **RUSTY LAGRANGE**
ADVERTISING: **ROBERT ISBILL**
PROOFREADER: **JUDI ISBILL**
SUBMISSIONS: **SANDY MOFFETT**

Questions & Comments: Rusty@RustyLaGrange.com
California Writers Club publication *The Bulletin* is digitally printed and sent out to 22 branches statewide.
Issues are representative of the membership and

OUR DISCLAIMER

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

The Final Word

Rusty LaGrange, editor

Handing Over The Bulletin to a New Editor

It's been a pleasure providing the membership—across a vast colorful state—a consolidation of insights, stories, and news for each of 22 branches.

Bringing the news into a digital existence has also brought the CWC into an updated format where a digital news magazine is now affordable, readable, and shareable.

It's just a matter of time when other publications may go the way of digital processing. I don't really care for digital products compared to actually holding a tangible slick paper magazine in my hands.

I collect old books from the young adult Western genre. However, we are all aware that the costs of print on paper is getting beyond the capability of a non-profit baseline.

What's more important is to offer a news connection to let not only the membership share a bit of pride and recognition, but to expand our reach to publishers, agents, and new readers.

The one thing I have noticed over the past five years is the eagerness to take in new

writers eager to find out how all these processes work in an industry of creativity.

Once we have them it's easy to show how they can become the writer they dreamed of.

If each of you could guide a timid, yet willing, new writer into your branches, then we could mentor and bring in the quality of writers we have today.

I'm also glad that Joyce Krieg trusted me to convert the first newsletter to electronic status; and, now for me, I welcome Sandy Moffett to dive in and show her talents in the next issue coming out in March.

I also wish to thank the proofreaders that have helped over the years, and Bob Isbill who managed the sales and PR of our display ads so I could focus on the edition at hand.

Receiving the lifetime achievement plaque reflected in the auspicious Ina Coolbrith, became the perfect bookend to my editorship.

~~ Thanx, Rusty LaGrange

No! Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try. — Yoda

THE SEASON OF SANDY

Here I go stretching my horizons again. I have been helping Rusty with the collection and logging of articles for *The Bulletin* for the past year. So, when she said that she was ready to step away, I agreed to give the job of editor a whirl – on the condition that she be available if I fell into the newsletter abyss.

I do have some previous experience with newsletters, both in my church history and for my family's funeral business. Yes, I'm a licensed funeral director and have been a singer in that field for over 40 years. The stories I could tell...

I do ask for your patience as I stretch my elderly wings in this area. Please continue to send your articles and photos to my address, sm@sandymoffett.com, and if you have any additional writing, news and photos, things that you think would make good press, I'm game.

I look forward to working with you.

BLESSINGS,
SANDY

