

California Writers Club
Jack London Awards



OCTOBER 17, 2021

12:00 NOON

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES, OAKLAND

Welcome . . .

. . . to the 2021 Jack London Service Awards ceremony!

The purpose of this award is simple: to honor outstanding volunteer service by an individual at each California Writers Club branch. As described in the CWC Central Board's Policies and Procedures, the merit of the award is in service, independent of writing achievements. The Jack London Service Award, and the Ina Coolbrith Award honoring service at the state level, are considered the highest honors bestowed upon a member by CWC.

Each of the twenty honorees exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism: the willingness to step up and do the job no one else wants to do, the ability to put the good of the organization ahead of individual wants or needs, and the vision to anticipate problems and opportunities and to deal with both in a way to better the branch and its members.

Congratulations, honorees, and thank you to everyone who is present today to recognize their commitment to service!

Joyce
Joyce Krieg

2021 Jack London Awards Chair

*Thank You
for Joining Us Today.*

*Have a Safe Journey
Home!*



California Writers Club

2021-2022 Officers

PRESIDENT

Roger Clarke Lubeck, Ph.D., Redwood Writers

VICE PRESIDENT

Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, East Sierra/Ridge Writers

SECRETARY

Elisabeth Tuck, Mount Diablo

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Constance Hanstedt, Tri-Valley Writers



CWC Branches

BERKELEY: cwc-berkeley.org

CENTRAL COAST: centralcoastwriters.org

COASTAL DUNES: coastaldunescwc.com

EAST SIERRA: www.cwc-ridgewriters.org

FREMONT AREA WRITERS: cwc-fremontareawriters.org

HIGH DESERT: www.hdcwc.com

INLAND EMPIRE: iecwc.com

LONG BEACH: www.calwriterslongbeach.org

MARIN: cwcmarin.com

MENDOCINO COAST: www.writersmendocinocoast.org

MOUNT DIABLO: cwcmtdiablo.org

NAPA VALLEY: napavalleywriters.online

NORTH STATE: www.northstatewriters.com

ORANGE COUNTY: www.calwritersorangecounty.org

REDWOOD: www.redwoodwriters.org

SACRAMENTO: www.sacramento-writers.org

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: cwc-sfv.org

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA: cwc-peninsula.org

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY: sanjoaquinvalleywriters.org

SOUTH BAY: southbaywriters.com

TRI-VALLEY: www.trivalleywriters.org

WRITERS OF KERN: writersofkern.com

Our Legacy

During the early 1900s, the East Bay boasted a lively literary scene. Famed novelist Jack London and his friends gathered for picnics, discussion and readings on the grounds of poet Joaquin Miller's home in the Oakland hills. At the same time, the Alameda Press Club, led by California poet laureate Ina Coolbrith, was holding meetings at the Shattuck Hotel in Berkeley. In 1909, after various mergers and spin-offs, most of which are lost to history, these informal literary salons became the California Writers Club.

Today, we're one of the oldest groups for writers in continuous operation in the nation, a strong, vibrant organization of nearly 1700 members in 22 branches throughout the state.

Because of our efforts, and by decree of the governor and state legislature, the third week in October has been declared California Writers Week in perpetuity.



Jack London



Joaquin Miller



Ina Coolbrith

Program

WELCOMING REMARKS

Roger Clarke Lubeck, Ph.D.,
President, California Writers Club

THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB STORY

PRESENTATION OF THE INA COOLBRITH AWARD

PRESENTATION OF THE JACK LONDON AWARDS

GROUP PHOTO



“Giving kids clothes and food is one thing but it’s much more important to teach them that other people besides themselves are important, and that the best thing they can do with their lives is to use them in the service of other people.”

Dolores Huerta



Joan Raymond

Writers of Kern

Joan Raymond has what we call a “servant’s heart.” Since she joined Writers of Kern back in 2012, she has held almost every position on the branch board. Beyond that, she is willing to help with any and all tasks. Why? Because she not only loves writing and helping writers, but she loves Writers of Kern. Joan has been an example of strength in adversity and an encourager to the highest degree.

Joan’s service to Writers of Kern includes one year as secretary, one as treasurer, and six as president and program chair. She’s led critique groups since 2012, and was the senior editor for the 2019 and 2021 WOK Anthology. Joan earned her M.A. in Creative Writing/English in 2017. Along with writing, she is a freelance editor and creative writing instructor. She has three published novels.

Writers of Kern is honored to have Joan on the branch board and looks forward to many more years of having her as a friend and mentor.

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

William Shakespeare



Rusty LaGrange Ina Coolbrith Service Award

Rusty LaGrange is the editor-in-chief of the CWC state newsletter, *The Bulletin*. It is published three times a year, and Rusty has been doing that for the last five years. The job entails collecting, archiving, and compiling the news articles and photographs of the 22 branches of the California Writers Club and putting them together in an attractive format. Until the November 2020 edition, Rusty had been doing this entirely on her own.

When Rusty took over the editorship of *The Bulletin*, it was published in hard copy and mailed to the members two times a year. With the emergence of an electronically distributed newsletter in a PDF file, the cost became zero as opposed to several thousand dollars per hard-copy edition. We were able to solicit paid advertising, which has become a positive part of the budget rather than a liability.

In addition, Rusty sought out and secured the flip-page software to enhance the attractiveness of our *Bulletin*, and unfailingly the advertising has covered the cost of that addition.

“Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer. “

Author Unknown



Patricia Boyle
Tri-Valley Writers

Patricia Boyle began volunteering for Tri-Valley Writers in 2014, serving two terms as Vice-President, then President from 2016 to 2018, and Newsletter Editor from 2018 to 2020. When the pandemic hit, Patricia stepped up to the challenge to be VP once again. While President, she initiated Tri-Valley Writers’s Partners Program, teaming new members with volunteers who answer questions about the branch and welcome their partners at meetings. She also started the “Pull Up a Chair and Write” sessions at The Corner Bakery in Pleasanton. A retired teacher, Patricia is a champion for Tri-Valley’s High School Writing Contest and an advocate for the branch’s youth members.

“The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have.”

Leonard Nimoy



Francine Thomas Howard

Berkeley

Francine Thomas Howard, a proud product of the San Francisco public school system, has been a member of the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch, for over twelve years. Before she became the author of two Amazon bestselling novels, ranking number one and three across all genres and sales, Ms. Howard followed an earlier passion. She received her B.A. degree from San Jose State in pediatric occupational therapy. She completed her MPA at the University of San Francisco. She left a rewarding career of treating children with physical disabilities to preserve her family’s oral histories in written form.

With limited formal creative writing training, Ms. Howard credits a critique group sponsored by the Berkeley branch for developing her skills in the craft of writing. She is a strong believer in obligation and paying her good fortune forward. She has been honored to serve the Berkeley branch as a three-term Vice-President, as a former member of the Diversity Committee, organizing the club’s first appearance at the Oakland Book Festival, and instrumental in adding the name of Virginia Prentiss to the benevolent fund. She thanks the Berkeley branch for this honor.

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”

Booker T. Washington



Tatyana Grinenko *South Bay Writers*

Tatyana Grinenko has been an asset to South Bay Writers ever since she joined the branch in February 2017. She was elected to the board a few months later and has remained active ever since. Her sunny disposition makes members and nonmembers feel welcomed.

In 2000, Tatyana emigrated from Russia with her family and settled in Silicon Valley. She is currently working on a fantasy novel.

Her background and career in digital marketing has strengthened South Bay Writers' presence. Despite the obstacles of 2020, she's helped the branch continue to attract new members.

During the past four years, Tatyana's responsibilities have expanded. She manages South Bay's website, updating it each month with the latest speaker information and relevant announcements of new events. She is also the club's Publicity Chair. She sends out PR and posts updates on the club's Twitter and Goodreads accounts. In addition, she manages and updates South Bay's Constant Contact email list. Thanks to her diligence, South Bay's Zoom meetings have been drawing 60-plus viewers.

“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

Albert Schweitzer



Sarah E. Pruitt

Central Coast Writers

Sarah Pruitt has long been a stalwart member of Central Coast Writers. She has been a member of the Executive Committee almost from the beginning of her membership. Sarah is always one of the first to volunteer her time to help with any club project or event. Sarah has been Hospitality Chair for a number of years. Although that position doesn’t always ring with bells and whistles, it did put Sarah in the position to be the “face” of Central Coast Writers—a very important position! When the branch was meeting in person, Sarah was the first smiling face to greet members and guests when they arrived for our monthly meetings.

Most recently, Sarah stepped up to take on the President’s role when no one else was willing to do it and has turned out to be the ideal person. Sarah’s dedication to Central Coast members continues to imbue the club with a deep sense of harmony, and her lovely personality and welcoming manner have definitely made Central Coast Writers stronger over the years. Congratulations to Sarah on this well-deserved recognition!

“Service is the rent each of us pays for living, the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.”

Marian Wright Edelman



Lisa Meltzer Penn

San Francisco Peninsula

Lisa Meltzer Penn joined the SF Peninsula branch in 2007 after attending the Jack London Writers Conference. She is the Founding Editor of *Fault Zone* anthology series and recruited and mentored subsequent editors. Her editorial involvement continues to the present. Lisa arranged for *Fault Zone* readings at local libraries, bookstores, cafés, and the San Mateo County Fair. She has been active on the branch board since 2009, serving as President and Secretary. She received the branch’s Louise Boggess Award in 2013 in recognition of her service.

Lisa brought the “Bay Area Generations” reading series to the branch and teamed up with the San Mateo County Library to create their virtual Story Café featuring CWC published authors. This year, she partnered with Shuffle Collective to present a virtual panel discussion, “Inclusion, Confusion & Authenticity in Writing,” free to all CWC members. She’s been the leader of a popular weekly “Shut Up and Write” group since 2018.

Lisa is the author of multiple short stories (many in the *Fault Zone* series) and specializes in literary fiction with a twist of magical realism. Her novel is undergoing a final pass before heading out to agents. She loves her CWC community!

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

Arthur Ashe



Renee Geffken
Coastal Dunes

Renee Geffken has been a member of Coastal Dunes for three years. Before joining Coastal Dunes in early 2018, she was a member of the Writers of Kern branch. In her time with Coastal Dunes, Renee has been incredibly active in all club activities, including membership on the club’s board.

She has served as Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Central Board Representative. While newsletter editor, she attended many events for local poets and writers to keep our members informed. If something was happening in the local writing world, chances are that Renee would know about it and the details for getting involved.

Renee writes poetry, essays, and short stories. She is also a songwriter. In addition, she has contributed to the branch anthologies. Everyone at Coastal Dunes believes she is more than deserving of the Jack London Award.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

Erma Bombeck



Scott Evans

San Joaquin Valley Writers

The San Joaquin Valley branch is happy to nominate Scott Evans for the 2021 Jack London Award. Scott created, engineered, and captained the University of the Pacific Annual Conference on Creative Writing for several years, and plans to continue after the pandemic. Scott also introduced local writers to the California Writers Club and organized CWC’s newest branch. His branch members appreciate all his efforts. Writing is a solitary activity, but needs the input of fellow writers to be its best. Through his hard work Scott has provided this for San Joaquin Valley.

Scott is the editor of the *Blue Moon Literary and Art Review*. In addition to many articles and papers, he has published numerous thrillers, murder mysteries, and nonfiction works. He is retired from the faculty of the University of the Pacific.

“Throughout my life, I’ve seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people’s lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer.”

Jimmy Carter



Andrew F. Sound
East Sierra - Ridge Writers

The East Sierra Branch celebrates Andrew Sound as their 2021 Jack London Award honoree. A software engineer by trade, he works for the branch tirelessly, largely behind the scenes, to expedite the success of his branch’s various projects. He has served as a board member and as Treasurer for five years, volunteered on numerous East Sierra initiatives with the community, laid the foundation for the annual fall Weird Storytelling Competition and Weird Weekend, and arranged the publishing, printing, and distribution of the East Sierra anthology *Scenes from Lives of Service: High Desert Veterans of WWI through Desert Storm*. At the CWC state level, he has judged for *The Literary Review*. A member of the board of the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert as their program chair and publications director, he interfaces with them for us on joint events. He contributes enormously to the smooth sailing of everything East Sierra undertakes, and the members thoroughly expect to draw on his wide-ranging talents increasingly as the years roll on. Thanks, Andrew, for all you do to help make East Sierra look good.

“We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.”

Winston Churchill



Pat Avery
San Fernando Valley

The Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club proudly nominates Patricia Avery for the 2021 Jack London Award.

Pat first became acquainted with the San Fernando Valley branch through a Life Writing class she was taking with instructor Rita Brown, long-time club member and 2019 Jack London Award recipient. At Rita's suggestion, Pat began attending meetings and volunteered to be the Hospitality Chair. When another member stepped up to hospitality, Pat filled the vacant Secretary's position. When the club's Treasurer retired from the position, Pat agreed to take it on, in addition to being Secretary.

Today, along with the Treasurer's position, she assists as a critique group co-coordinator and is an active member of two critique groups, which she hosts on Zoom. She also volunteers to coordinate the writing prompt sessions at monthly membership Zoom meetings.

Past club president Andrea Polk says, "Pat has been a quiet leader, taking on and volunteering to perform a host of responsibilities with grace and assertive suggestions. If she says she will do something, she does it and does it very well."

“Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

Steve Jobs



Nancy Guarnera

Fremont Area Writers

Nancy Guarnera joined Fremont Area Writers in 2016. She knows how to take a concept from inception to fruition; and every project she has initiated over the last four years has been a success. She first served as Hospitality Chair and instituted welcome bags for first-time visitors at meetings. She volunteered in 2018 to assist with the newsletter, and took over as Editor in 2019.

She ran a monthly book signing for branch authors at Half Price Books and initiated monthly Open Mics at a local Starbucks. During the pandemic, Nancy created SIP (shelter in place) Notes—weekly emails from the board to let members know that Fremont Area Writers was still here supporting them and their writing. In April 2020, Nancy initiated and edited a collaborative writing project called Tell Me a Story (TMAS). Twenty-three members participated; the completed project was released to members in April 2021.

Nancy has published her poetry, short fiction, and editorials in a variety of publications and is working on several longer pieces: a paranormal murder mystery, a children’s series, and a fairy tale.

“Everyone can be great because anyone can serve . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Marcia Ehinger

Sacramento

California native Marcia Ehinger is a retired physician (pediatrics, women’s health, genetics). As a writer, a proofreader, and a student of writing, she is an undeniable asset to the Sacramento branch. For more than three years she has served on the board.

She has presented “early bird” topics at monthly meetings (e.g., Poem in Your Pocket Day), and helped with programs, critique groups, and beta reading. Before COVID, Marcia was that member who always spotted guests and collected their emails for later contact. She remembers names and is a walking memory log.

One of her most important roles is serving as content editor of the branch newsletter, *Sacramento Writer*, for which she unilaterally summarizes presentations, articles, member news, and other items. She pre-formats speaker descriptions and photos so the webmaster can post them.

Currently she serves as the branch Anthology Co-Chair. To get started, she conceptualized the theme, researched cultural meanings, and wrote an essay to further develop the theme. Marcia brings a smile, a helping hand, and positive energy to any topic or meeting. She is truly a Sacramento branch treasure.

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

Mahatma Gandhi



Rusty LaGrange *High Desert*

Barbara Rusty LaGrange was selected as this year’s High Desert branch recipient of the Jack London Award for her drive and dedication to service for the branch, and her willingness to support many outreach programs.

Rusty has edited the branch’s newsletter, *The Inkslinger*, for ten years, producing an exceptionally informative and attractive circular, setting the bar high for those who follow in her steps. She is also an involved member of the Poemsmiths, a segment of poets in the High Desert branch, and helped promote the return of the Adult Poetry Division at the San Bernardino County Fair. Rusty was a member of the team of High Desert writers who taught the writing workshops for inmates of the Federal Correction Complex in Victorville.

She is also the current editor of CWC’s statewide digital news magazine, *The Bulletin*. As an author, she is published and working on new projects. Her other activities include the Lucerne Valley Museum board, her portable kids’ “Touch It” museum, and enjoying retirement with Jeffrey, her husband of 40 years.

“One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something.”

Henry David Thoreau



Roger C. Lubeck, Ph.D.
Redwood Writers

Roger C. Lubeck is the President of California Writers Club and the Immediate Past President of the Board of Directors of Redwood Writers, and the 2020-2021 Membership Chair. As a Redwood Writer Roger has brought enthusiasm, encouragement, humor, and fun to club events. His efforts have focused on writing opportunities and publishing among branch members. He is a strong supporter of community education regarding the craft of writing.

Roger has served as an associate editor on five Redwood Writers anthologies. He created Redwood Writers Press (RWP) and he continues to manage RWP's Kindle Direct Publishing site, the Bowker ISBN site, and the Library of Congress Number Online website for RWP.

Since joining Redwood Writers, Roger has been responsible for the club's audio-visual equipment, served as one of the club photographers, and produced a number of flyers, bookmarks, and programs. Roger served on the club's Sonoma County Fair planning committee and he has been a strong supporter of the club's participation at the county fair. Finally, Roger has been a presenter in four workshops and at three monthly meetings.

In his career, Roger has been a university teacher, business consultant, workshop leader, facilitator, public speaker, speechwriter, researcher, parent trainer, and dogcatcher.

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

Muhammed Ali



Sue Andrews

Inland Empire

Sue Andrews spent 40 years in public education as a teacher of all Sages, from preschool to junior college, then was a middle manager and finally a special education principal. She dedicated her last 30 years educating deaf children in addition to teaching their parents and other educators American Sign Language.

It wasn't until her retirement party in 2010 that Sue mentioned she wanted to write a book. A colleague gave her a card with the Inland Empire branch information on it. Sue joined and the rest is history. Sue dove into the club, gleaning as much knowledge as she could on how to write her memoir. She took several online classes, joined a critique group and a small impromptu writing group, and served on many Inland Empire board positions. She's served as Hospitality Chair, Secretary, Central Board Representative and most recently, branch President, which she held from 2017 to 2020.

When not writing, Sue's other passions include traveling and public speaking for the American Heart Association and the WomenHeart organization, the latter as Sue is a heart attack survivor.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands—
one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

Audrey Hepburn



Brian Michael Gaps

Orange County

Brian Gaps started a Meetup group promoting the Orange County monthly meetings. This brought a steady crop of new guest visitors each month. The Meetup group now has 750 members and has provided the majority of new membership sign-ups for the past three years.

When Orange County was able to hold in-person meetings, Brian became actively involved in arranging the meeting room before and after meetings. This involved chairs, tables, podium, projector and screen, guest speaker needs, signage, and room décor.

In 2019, Brian was elected Vice-President. He worked proactively with President Jonathan Yanez to make sweeping improvements to the club, including policy changes, restructured admission pricing, improved online marketing, guest engagement, and drafting board member role descriptions.

In a technical capacity he has made improvements to the website design, added functional links, created a guest email signup, handled search engine optimization (SEO) for the website, created Mail Chimp templates for monthly email communications, provided backup support for MRMS, and offered individual instruction on the use of Zoom. He continues to solely maintain the Meetup group.

“It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Janet Elizabeth Lynn

Long Beach

California Writers Club of Long Beach is honored to nominate Janet Elizabeth Lynn as the latest Jack London Award recipient. Janet originated the concept, invited the speakers, and handled the major details of the branch's first full-day workshop. "Winning with Writing" took place at Long Beach City College on September 28, 2019. Designed as a face-to-face workshop with professionals, the program featured speakers on topics such as crafting a pitch, editing, book cover design, manuscript formatting, and book production. The beautifully decorated conference room was configured with eight-person tables, where members remained in place while the speakers circulated. This gave each member of the audience a chance to hear sage advice and ask individual questions in a small group setting.

Janet joined the branch in 2016 after she and her husband, Will Zeilinger, were guest speakers. They spoke about their shared career as a married couple who co-write the Skylar Drake Mystery Series, with six titles so far. Long Beach is fortunate to call Janet one of their own, and proud to show her their appreciation with the Jack London Award.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Cathy Chase *North State Writers*

Over the last five years, Cathy Chase has served as both Vice-President and President on the Executive Board of the North State Writers. Cathy’s sense of humor and insistence on making the North State Writers member meetings fun has been a direct result of the branch’s steady increase of new members. When the Camp Fire devastated her community and displaced a number of members, Cathy’s efforts to encourage new membership continued on.

Over the years she has never hesitated to take the lead in all of the branch’s fundraising efforts, book signings, and member anthologies. A huge feather in her cap is her work with community leaders to coordinate the Chocolate Festival’s “All About Books” and Chico’s Thursday Night Market. She is also the branch expert at finding monthly speakers, and currently coordinates and leads the North State Writers critique group.

In spite of all the unforeseen setbacks (including COVID) Cathy has worked and continues to work tirelessly to bring her community’s writers and poets under the CWC umbrella. She is the shining star that keeps the North State Writers moving forward.

“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.”

Aristotle



Linda Hartmann
Mt. Diablo

Linda Hartmann had always felt torn between the arts and sciences. After a long career in critical care nursing, followed by a second pursuit as a scientist and senior director for numerous biotech departments, she decided to retire into the arts.

Linda has served the Mt. Diablo branch as Vice-President and is currently President. To bolster the branch's involvement with young people, she simultaneously has been a juror, coordinator, and chair for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and jurors each year for the Young Writers Contest.

As well as serving as President, Linda is a member of multiple committees within the branch developed partially in response to the pandemic.

Linda has said it takes a team to preserve and advance the branch. But her engagement, enthusiasm, steadfast presence, guidance, and humility have been the bedrock upon which the board has depended. She advised on difficult decisions, embraced new technology, encouraged members to become involved, and promoted new ideas to keep the branch thriving. Her dedication to service for the branch and her willingness to support new initiatives and outreach programs have been evident.

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

Dr. Seuss



Michael Wycombe *Napa Valley Writers*

Michael Wycombe was raised in England and trained as a scientist before immigrating to the US to pursue a career in computers and technology. After several startups, and senior and executive management positions, he moved to Napa to pursue his writing goals and quit the rat race. Michael currently serves as the webmaster for Napa Valley Writers. Previously, he was a board member and served as Secretary.