

SACRAMENTO WRITER



FOCUSING YOUR MEMOIR OR FAMILY HISTORY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS - April 21 Speaker

Presenter Jacqueline Doyle is a prolific author who has published memoir essays in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Under the Gum Tree*, *Full Grown People*, *NOR: New Ohio Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Under the Sun*, and many other literary journals. Her work has earned four Pushcart Prize nominations and numerous awards, including Notable Essay citations in *Best American Essays 2013*, *Best American Essays 2015*, and *Best American Essays 2017*. She is a professor at California State University East Bay.

**Bring a photo of a relative from a previous generation (preferably one or two people, or one or two that you can single out in a group photo) for a short writing exercise.*

We'll talk about why and how you can use photographs in your memoir or family history, and look at examples from Dorothy Alison, Paul Auster, Sharon Olds, Judith Kitchen, and others.

Photographs are often all that remains after a loved one has died. They remind us of those we've known well and have lost, introduce us to distant relatives who are no longer here to tell their stories, or conjure ancestors we never knew.

Whether you include the actual photographs or not, spending time on written description and written exploration of what you see in family photographs can significantly deepen your memoir or history project.

Attendee takeaways will include some written description, avenues for imaginative speculation, and ideas on how to use what you've written. Join us at Cattleman's, 12409 Folsom Blvd. \$15 members/ \$20 guests (lunch and speaker) at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 21.



First Friday

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES



First Friday, April 6, with **Roger S. Peterson**

Editor, Writing Coach, Business Writer

Maintain Your Credibility by Avoiding Language Misuse

From politicians to sportscasters to company CEOs - people who should know better are mistreating the English language. Writers can avoid common blunders by listening to editor Roger S. Peterson. A long-time business writer, writing coach, and West Coast editor of *The Business Book Ghostwriters*, Roger will make us laugh, squirm, and roll our eyes at egregious errors made by prominent people while he reminds us of pesky language traps to avoid.

9-11 AM Coco's, 7887 Madison Avenue, Citrus Heights

Don't miss this opportunity for marketing your writing

- and enjoying chocolate!



Several members of the North State Writers Branch of CWC visited our meeting at Cattlemens on February 17 and invited us to participate in their "All About Books" segment of the Paradise Chocolate Fest on Saturday, May 12, 2018. A 10' x 10' vendor space costs \$85, but CWC members may reserve a booth for only \$40. Applications are due by April 30, and space is limited. Applications may be found at <http://chocolatefest.us/getting-involved/applications>.

The 13th annual Paradise Chocolate Fest is scheduled for May 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Terry Ashe Park & Recreation Center, 6626 Skyway, Paradise, CA. Admission is \$5; children 4 and under are free. Admission includes free chocolate samples, and free chocolate pie and ice cream eating contests. There will be free children's activities, music, and demonstrations. Parking is free, and a park & ride shuttle is provided.

In past years, over 5,000 attendees have enjoyed the chocolate extravaganza, and have had the opportunity to meet authors, illustrators, and publishers from all over northern California. The California State Fair has rated the Paradise Chocolate Fest as one of the "Top Festivals in the State."



The Abandoned House

by Marcia Ehinger

Window frames
Without the glass
Peer into the dim interior
Focusing the light
On what lies within.

Naked innards
Picked nearly clean
By the vultures of time
Leaving morsels
Of memories behind.

The first networking meeting of 2018 featured speaker Kathy Boyd Fellure. Her topic was “The Real World of Fabricated Fiction” and she covered a number of important points, from marketing to critique groups to elements of character, plot, setting and dialogue. This poem was inspired by a prompt to use non-human elements to add character and depth to a story, by incorporating symbols and inanimate objects to the plot. (See article by Robin Ginley in Sacramento Writer, February 2018.)

BRIEFS

Club offers members permanent name badges for networking and promotion

Gold metallic badges feature embossed name and club logo

The club is offering permanent gold-metal name badges for members to wear at meetings and at outside events for networking and promotion purposes.

The badges are two by three inches and feature black embossed lettering, the club logo, and branch name.

Members have the option for magnetic or pin backing.

The cost for participating members is \$3 by April 30. After the initial orders have been submitted, the cost of a new or replacement badge will be \$10.

Orders will be taken at club meetings, but payments are also being accepted on the club website.

The permanent take-home badges will replace paper badges now being stored in our accordion portfolio at meetings.

Deadline extended to April 30 for 2018 short story contest

The club's annual writing contest is under way with an extended deadline of Monday, April 30.

The category is short story, and length is limited to 1,000 words. The topic theme is "A Surprising

Encounter." However, entrants should develop their own story title.

Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format or Adobe PDF, and the manuscript itself should not contain your name, because judges will be reading, blind to the name of the author entrant. Entries must be double-spaced in 12-point Times Roman font, using standard 1-inch margins with page numbers in upper right hand corner.

Work must be original and not previously published.

The entry fee is \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members. Fees will be paid at the club's online store accessible from the club's website at www.SacramentoWriters.org,

Writers may make multiple submissions, but each requires an additional entry fee.

Club board members are not eligible to enter.

Prizes will be \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.

Specific directions will soon be placed on the club's website.

The contest chairperson is Judith Presnall, whose email address is judypresnall@hotmail.com.

Mark your calendar for CWC Coming Events

First Friday Network

April 6, 2018

Roger S. Peterson

Maintain Your Credibility by Avoiding Language Misuse

Coco's 7887 Madison Avenue,
Citrus Heights

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Third Saturday Luncheon

April 21, 2018

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10:15 Early Bird Session

Jacqueline Doyle

Essayist, East Bay Professor

Focusing Your Memoir Through Photographs*

*(Bring relatives' photo from an earlier generation)

Cattlemens, 12409 Folsom

Blvd., Rancho Cordova

\$15 members, \$20 guests

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Our Life Stories Conference

April 28, 2018

<https://ourlifestories.org/about/>

Gold Rush Writers Conference

May 4 - 6, 2018

<http://www.goldrushwriters.com/>

California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch

Board of Directors' Officers - Nominations

Reference: *California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch, Policies and Procedures, June 2014.*

The officers of the CWC Sacramento Branch are:

1. President
2. First Vice President/Programs
3. Second Vice President/Membership
4. Secretary
5. Treasurer

The membership shall elect CWC Sacramento Branch officers each year. A Nominating Committee prepares the ballot. Ballots may be distributed in May via U.S. Postal Service. If only one name appears on the ballot for each of the officer positions, the Nominating Committee Chair shall declare election by acclamation.

Proposed Ballot of Officers for FY 2018-2019

POSITION	SUGGESTED NOMINATION	DUTIES: POLICIES & PROCEDURES
President	Kimberly A. Edwards, incumbent	Page 5
First Vice President/Programs	Lisa Deines	Page 6
Second Vice President/Membership	Jerilyn Ring	Page 6
Secretary	Sandra Navarro, incumbent	Page 6
Treasurer	Larry Mandelbert, incumbent	Page 6



New Members

Jay Greenwood

Jay's genres of interest are historical fiction, fantasy, and thrillers. He has been working on a trilogy. The first book will be released soon.

T.R. Leton

Todd Leton spent the last 20 years in marketing and graphic design; he is also a musician who has

written and released two studio albums. However, he has always loved hard-boiled detective stories. He began writing his recently released novel, A Cold-Blooded Rain, in 2011 with genre-appropriate soundtracks in the background as the characters and story evolved. Books 2 and 3 are already written in rough draft, and he has outlines and notes for many more.

Carolyn Radmanovich

Carolyn is fascinated by the wild west and earned a history degree from San Jose State University. Before she wrote her first book, she worked as a paralegal. Then, an incident occurred and she almost drowned in the Russian River, compelling her to write her first book. The Shape-Shifter's Wife includes a near-drowning scene after the heroine time travels to the 1840s California Gold Rush, and is saved by a handsome Frenchman. Sequels are planned, and she is also editing Bacchus, a book inspired by her late nephew. She considers herself a mystical/visionary fiction writer.

Member News

Virginia V. Simpson

Virginia's 500-word essay "Don't Delete Me," was chosen as the first "Never Too Late" submission to be published on Reese Witherspoon's new website www.hello.sunshine.com. Virginia is also the author of the memoir *The Space Between: A Memoir of Mother-Daughter Love at the End of Life*. See Virginia's essay at: <https://hello-sunshine.com/post/never-too-late-dont-delete-me>.



T.R. Leton

Todd Leton's first release in his detective series, A Cold-Blooded Rain, was selected in the category of E-book Mystery, for the New Apple Literary's 2017 Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing. (see Twitter @NewAppleAwards and www.newappleliterary.com/awards.html)

Rosi Hollinbeck

Rosi's children's story *Jack Grants a Wish* appeared in the March issue of Highlights High Five magazine. Her haiku won first place in the Cromaine Library True Grit writing contest, poetry division. Her memoir *Together Again for the First Time* was published by Storyhouse.org (<http://www.storyhouse.org/rosi.html>).

FIRST FRIDAY

FROM FACT TO FICTION

Contributed by CWC Guest Karen Sepahmansour

Our presenter at the March 2 networking meeting, Anne da Vigo, is a former police reporter and newspaper feature writer. In her presentation, Anne discussed “Creating a Story from Real Events, From Fact to Fiction.”

In her presentation, she clarified some important points to consider when we are transitioning from facts to fiction in our stories. She incorporated some examples of her own work and other authors’ work as well. Her book, Thread of Gold, is a thriller about mysterious deaths based on a clip from the New York Times given to her by her mother.

Her presentation was interesting and informative in that we emerged with more details about investigating a topic or fiction story that we would like to create. The points that she highlighted were the following, in summary:



1. **Do not libel:** You cannot libel dead people, but be careful with checking references and about how your words can impact heirs. One person in our group mentioned, “If in doubt, leave it out.” Check with an attorney if you are not sure and have doubts about something that may have any “irreparable harm” or results that may cause you legal problems. In other words, be prepared to analyze, and if necessary, create a more fictionalized version.
2. **Research your “real” characters:** For example, in Anne da Vigo’s research, she facilitated better descriptions and details because she found out about the personalities of the dairy men by checking the environment where they grew up and by interviewing the people.
3. **Use minor characters:** “Minor characters can add salt.” For example, Anne used some of the neighbors’ details. She read more information about the insurance investigator.
4. **Make your characters vulnerable:** Point out qualities along the way that engage the readers in your characters’ behavior.
5. **Put yourself in the characters’ shoes:** Use symbols to spark empathy and enliven your readers’ imagination. For example, she used a story about a girl picking strawberries with her mother, so that the reader could connect those images to the reality of a girl becoming a woman. Connect your descriptions with the emotive results.
6. **Show the changes in characters by putting in some interesting twists that demonstrate notable changes:** For example, characters may be crusty and/or snobbish, and later become different or changed.
7. **Make the setting more interesting:**
 - a. Use aromas, plants, weather.
 - b. Describe seasons and the environment.
 - c. Utilize symbols including building structures.
 - d. Analyze war scenarios in settings.
 - e. Color your words with house décor and descriptions, such as sizes of houses. (She used Zillow.com.)
 - f. Utilize diaries of historical events.
 - g. Include characters’ moods and personalities.

Anne’s presentation was excellent, inspiring us to improve our skills by thoroughly investigating and connecting our plots with colorful transitioning from fact to fiction.

FOLLOW-UP

STEVEN NIGHTINGALE, Novelist, Essayist, Poet

Speaker at CWC Sacramento Branch Meeting, March 17, 2018

Submitted by Sandra S. Navarro

Facts about Steven Nightingale are:

Steven Nightingale was born in Reno, Nevada. He studied literature, religion and computer science at Stanford University. His first novel is *The Lost Coast*, and the second is *The Thirteenth Daughter of the Moon*. His six books of poetry are *Cartwheels*, followed by *Planetary Tambourine*, and four collections of ninety-nine sonnets each. He released *Granada: A Pomegranate in the Hand of God* in 2015. *Granada* is about his move to Spain, the history of Granada's gardens, the sacred geometry in Islamic tile work, the Sufis, the history of flamenco, and the life and poetry of Federico García Lorca.

Steven delighted the CWC audience with proverbs, stories, sayings, and quotations, all based on the question, "Why write?" Steve incorporated the viewpoints of philosophers, poets, sages, and storytellers from around the world to answer the following: "Why do I write?" "Why should I write?" "How should I write?"

Steven shared Emily Dickinson's poem:

"Had I not seen the Sun
I could have borne the shade;
But Light a newer Wilderness
My Wilderness has made."

Steven repeated Emily Dickinson's poem twice, by heart. This poem embodied his theme, that is, use language to be honest, clear, grateful, thankful, hopeful, and selfless.

Thank you, Steven Nightingale, for your inspirational talk to the California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch!



Steven Nightingale and the "Cave of Ali Baba"

Deadline April 30, 2018



Our annual writing contest is open to members and non-members for original work, fewer than 1,000 words, not previously published in print or online. The deadline is April 30, 2018. Member fee is \$15 and the non-member fee is \$30.

Send us a fictional short story under theme of 'a surprising encounter'

Attachment: Submission. Author's Email your entry with subject line: 2018 Contest Submission. Body of email name and contact information must

must state manuscript title, author's name, phone number, email address, and assurance that the story has not appeared in print nor online media. A

Attachment: Submission. Author's name and contact information must NOT appear anywhere on manuscript. The CWC Sacramento Branch reserves the right to make final determination on issues related to published work. Entries must be double-spaced in 12-point Times Roman font, using standard 1" margin with page numbers in upper right hand corner.



Prizes

Deadline Extended to April 30

\$100 First Place
\$50 Second Place
\$25 Third Place

Eligibility

Open to CWC members and non-members; branch board members excluded.

Awards and Recognition

First Place: \$100 ~ Second Place: \$50 ~
Third Place: \$25

Winners will be recognized at or before the June, 2018, luncheon meeting.

Entry Fee

\$15.00 per entry (CWC members); \$30 nonmembers. Entry fee to be paid online (SacramentoWriters.org) at time of submission. Writers may submit multiple entries, each with a separate entry fee. CWC Sacramento may, with author's permission, use a portion of entries in publicity materials.

What to Submit

Email, subject line: 2018 Contest Submission. Body of email must state manuscript title, author's name, phone number, email address, and assurance that the story has not appeared in print nor online media.

Attachment: Submission. Author's name and contact information must NOT appear anywhere on manuscript. The CWC Sacramento Branch reserves the right to make final determination on issues related to published work.

Entries must be double-spaced in 12-point Times Roman font, using standard 1" margin with page numbers in upper right hand corner.

Deadline and Submission Address

Payment must be made by April 1, 2018 to the SacramentoWriters.org, online store. The deadline is absolute; no exceptions. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

Submit entries or questions to Contest Chair Judith Presnall, judypresnall@hotmail.com.

Submit by email; pay fees online at www.SacramentoWriters.org



CWC Sacramento Branch Leadership 2017-2018

Officers

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Vice President & Programs	Ted Witt
Vice President & Membership	Gini Grossenbacher
Secretary	Sandra Navarro
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