

SACRAMENTO WRITER



Kudos and Prizes!

The 2018 CWC Sacramento Short Story Contest winners were announced at the June 16 luncheon meeting by Judy Presnall, Contest Chair. The awards were presented by Kimberly Edwards, CWC President, and Judy Presnall.



Winners of the 2018 Short Story Contest

(From left) Kimberly Edwards, CWC Sacramento Branch President

Judy Presnall, CWC Sacramento Contest Chair

Anita Garner, First Place

Kathi Hiatt, Second Place

Judy Vaughan, Third Place

The winning entries are available on the CWC Sacramento website and may be accessed via these links:

First Place, Anita Garner, “Good Lookin’ Tomatoes”:

www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/wp-content/uploads/Good-Lookin-TomatoesCWC-2018-Contest-entry-.pdf

Second Place, Kathi Hiatt, “Be My Valentine”:

www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/wp-content/uploads/Valentine-Boudoir.pdf

Third Place, Judy Vaughan, “The Last Watermelon in Mora”:

www.cwcsacramentowriters.org/wp-content/uploads/Last-Watermelon-in-Mora.pdf

FIRST FRIDAY

Michelle Hamilton

Author of 39 Fantasy and Adult Novels



Crossing Genres: Benefits and Challenges

ML Hamilton has been teaching high school English and journalism in Central California for the last 25 years. Teaching students to appreciate literature was rewarding; however, she always dreamed of publishing her own novel.

That dream came true when her first novel, *Emerald*, was published by Wild Wolf Publishing in 2010. In 2015, she decided she had learned enough from her publisher to venture out on her own. She independently published the remainder of her novels, 39 to date, with many more planned in the future. In 2017, she began editing the works of others. To date, she's facilitated the publishing of 40 manuscripts.

In addition to teaching and writing, she has three sons, two dogs, and three cats. And sometimes a stray rabbit living under her deck.

Visit ML Hamilton at her websites: authormlhamilton.net or blackcatediting.weebly.com.

Planning your Summer with CWC

There are no luncheon meetings on Saturday at Cattlemens in July or August. The next luncheon meeting will be on Saturday, September 15. Mark your calendar now to save that date. However, there will be Friday morning networking meetings (with speakers) at Coco's in Citrus Heights [7887 Madison Avenue].

Speaker Follow-Up

From Lee Foster, a video:

<https://www.fostertravel.com/the-gradual-empowerment-of-modern-writers-authors-how-writers-photographers-can-market-and-monetize-successfully-today/>

From Al Zagofsky, a reminder:

The California Update July 2018 edition is available at caupdate.com.

From Rivers to the Sea (1915) by Sara Teasdale, a poem of unrequited love:

Debt

What do I owe to you
Who love me deep and long?
You never gave my spirit wings
Or gave my heart a song.

But oh, to him I loved
Who loved me not at all,
I owe the open gate
That led thru heaven's wall.



Love Songs: The Lives, Loves, and Poetry of Nine American Women

Review by Marcia Ehinger

For those of us interested in American literature, women writers, biography, and / or poetry, there is a new book which contains separate but collective biographies of nine American women poets who wrote in the early 1900s and influenced the emergence of New York City as America's literary capital. As contemporaries, they were acquainted with each other and knew each other's work. Their stories are set chronologically, as times changed with important events (such as the first World War and the Great Depression). There are intriguing tidbits about each woman's life, starting with birth and family circumstances, and proceeding as they grew and were educated and faced challenges in their world. Some became very involved in contemporary politics as well as the literary scene.

However, the author's focus is on the lyric poetry written by these women, primarily on the topic of love, and there are many examples included in this hefty tome (477 pages, plus copious scholarly notes at the back).

Despite the book's length, these biographies are well written and fascinating to read. Some of the revelations are soap opera worthy. Stories about relationships, health issues, depression, and substance abuse are all present, along with those describing great creative energy and courage, and advances to American poetry and literature, as well as social consciousness.

I was not a literature major in college and unaware of several of these women. This was the first time that I learned Edna St. Vincent Millay received her middle name from the hospital where her expectant mother's favorite brother was treated successfully for a grave illness.

Love Songs: The Lives, Loves, and Poetry of Nine American Women was released at the end of March 2018. The women included in the book are Leonie Adams, Louise Bogan, Amy Lowell, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Marianne Moore, Dorothy Parker, Genevieve Taggard, Sara Teasdale, and Elinor Wylie - all of whom were widely published and quoted in their day, and some were the luminaries of the early to mid-20th century.

The author, John Dizikes, is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). He is a former Provost and co-founder of Cowell College at UCSC. (Both he and this reviewer are proud Banana Slugs, UCSC's mascot.)

This hardcover book is available at Amazon, and at the book's website (where you can purchase an autographed copy and have it shipped for \$40): www.johndisikeslovesongs.wordpress.com.



NEW MEMBERS

Edric Cane, whose genre is non-fiction.

James Holder, who supports his wife Loy in her writing endeavors.

Linda Holderness, who is a local journalist, and also interested in memoir and non-fiction.

Monica Stark, Editor at the Valley Community Newspapers. Her passion for community journalism has expanded to include her first novel. [See her bio at sacramentowriters.org]

Nancy Zarenda, who is also interested in non-fiction.



MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Gini Grossenbacher, who says, "Everyone, I'm so excited! *Madam of My Heart* just took Honorable Mention at the 2018 San Francisco Book Festival in the General Fiction category. Thanks to all my friends and supporters!"

Jay Greenwood would like to let us know that his novel, *Race to Marathon*, has just been published. It is available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Michele Wogec has volunteered to be CWC Sacramento's media chair. Thank you, Michele.

Mark your calendar for CWC Coming Events

First Friday Network

August 3, 2018

Michelle Hamilton

Crossing Genres:

Benefits and Challenges

Coco's 7887 Madison Avenue,
Citrus Heights

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North State Writers

(CWC Chico / Paradise)

Successful Self-Publishing

(How to become a self-published author on Amazon)

July 15, 2018

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Oxford Suites, 2035 Business Lane,
Chico, CA

Special price for CWC members: \$65

Seating is limited: Call (530) 864-1186
or email chaseca310@gmail.com

PayPal and more information on their website: www.northstatewriters.com/speakers-workshops.html

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Elk Grove Writers Guild Conference.

October 27 — Holiday Inn

www.EGAG.org



ANNUAL RENEWAL NOTICE 2018-19

California Writers Club, a Non-Profit Organization

Timely renewal ensures your continuing membership in the oldest writing club on the West Coast. Membership offers you:

- Twenty-one speaker meetings per year;
- Access to writing and publishing experts not usually available to local writers;
- Reduced fees to luncheons and seminars;
- Your own biography page on the branch website, providing you with a link for pitches to agents and editors;
- Four quarterly *Bulletins* from the State CWC;
- Annual copy of *California Literary Review*;
- Opportunity to apply for stipend to writing conferences;
- Writing community, including critique groups, to help you work toward your goals.

Simple to Renew

A. Send check to (note new address):

CWC Sacramento
P.O. Box 1231
Orangevale, Ca 95662

- Please be sure that your name appears on your check.
- Provide any changes in address, telephone, email, or genre in the past year.

or

B. Pay with check or cash at an upcoming meeting. Look for Gini Grossenbacher, First V.P./Membership, or Jerilyn Ring (Jerilyns@me.com), Incoming First V.P./Membership.

An online renewal process is being formulated, but is not yet available for use. Renewals are due by September 5. Late renewals are subject to an extra \$20.00 in addition to the \$45.00 renewal fee.

Not Yet a Member But Thinking of Joining?

Now is the time to maximize your benefit of membership!

Membership Fee: \$45 + One-time Joining Fee \$20 = \$65

High School/College Students: \$25 + One-time Fee \$20 = \$45

Submit check or cash with application or contact Jerilyn Ring

FOLLOW UP

Grant Faulkner

Third Saturday Speaker, Cattlemens

NaNoWriMo Insights - and a free book!

By Marcia Ehinger

The Saturday luncheon meeting on June 16, 2018, featured Grant Faulkner, the man who brings NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) to the world each November. NaNoWriMo encourages authors (and wannabe authors) to write a 50,000-word novel in 30 days (or about 1700 words per day). Grant has also written a book [Pep Talk for Writers: 52 Insights and Activities...](#); copies were provided free to all meeting participants.

Grant's topic for his presentation was, "Develop a creative mindset and write!", and he shared with us "The 5 things I wish I knew when I became a writer" to encourage us in our endeavors. Here are his 5 insights:



1) Goal + Deadline = Magic

Constraints are advantages in disguise. We work better with deadlines.

2) The Art of Banishing My Inner Editor

We are too critical of our own writing and tend to harbor "creativity wounds".

3) Writers Block Doesn't Exist

He uses techniques and prompts to get words on the page.

One technique is a "word sprint" in which you write as fast as you can.

4) Recognizing the Benefits of Failure and Rejection

Rejection is one of the best revision tools for a writer.

5) Building and Nourishing a Creative Community

Many writers become too solitary.

(Join California Writers Club, and - a critique group?!)

He left us with some goal setting ideas for 2018:

What project would you like to complete by year's end?

How long can you write each day? How many words can you write during that time?

FOLLOW UP

First Friday Meeting, June 1, 2018:

Erika Mailman

by Carolyn Radmanovic

Erika, who is a writer and blogger, gave a talk on "How to Navigate Social Media." She talked about how publishers will want to know about your marketing platform, such as how many people are your friends on Facebook, followers on Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, Goodreads, etc.

She posed the question, did social media really help? She felt it wasn't imperative, but if a writer wants to do the best they can in marketing, they should give it a try, plus it can't hurt.

Also, social media can be fun, but a lot of time can be wasted if you aren't careful. Like eating Oreos, you can get addicted scrolling through Facebook. It should be more task-based, and a time limit set. She suggested logging out of social media, to make it more difficult to get back into it. Setting realistic rewards, such as, type two pages and then let yourself check Facebook, or obtain an online alarm where it goes off after a designated amount of time can be helpful. If you used up more time than you planned on Facebook, let go of guilt. After all, it is a way to relax and may increase your Photo by Petra Hoette productivity and help you let off steam.

Her other suggestions were when creating a Facebook account, set up an author page separate from the personal page. Post a notice in Facebook offering a free Skype interview for book clubs. If you put up a YouTube video, you can write blogs about it. You can use social media for your book launch or to announce awards. When you try out new social media, such as Twitter, jump in and experience it slowly. She warned that when using

Twitter, everyone sees your posts. A hashtag helps you manipulate what you see, and helps pare down the vast information. It is a way to create rooms in a roomless space. Hootsuite, a social media management platform, can help you preschedule tweets about certain things you want to announce. Goodreads allows you to track your following, and they have a rating system. It is more likely people will read your book if you discuss others' books, and ask them questions on the author page. Don't be blunt about pushing sales, but more into making friends and using messages as a way into selling books. Social media may help you connect to people so you can sell your books later. When posting, humor is important as well as good content, such as giving insider information, or anecdotes and tips. Basically, it is all about making connections with people.

Erika Mailman's newest book, *The Murderer's Maid: A Lizzie Borden Novel*, was published in 2017. The focus is on the Irish maid, whose point of view was discounted because she's Irish. For readers, this is a fresh perspective. She also has a series of young adult books under her pen name, Lynn Carthage.



Photo by Petra Hoette

By Dale Manolakas

Beyond Technicalities: Extending Your Image as an Artist through Self-Publishing Products

Todd Boyd is a self-published author and the coordinator and host of *Writers on the Air*. He knows the importance of creating your own writer identity. He emphasizes extending your image as an artist through self-publishing your products and creating that identity by combining the written word with other artistic mediums such as illustrations.

He gave us insight into the creative and artistic side of writing as well as branding as an author, and marketing tips. Todd brings a lifetime of living and writing experience to bear on his view of writing as a creative art. Todd started writing in the late sixties and began collaborating with other authors in Juneau, Alaska in the seventies. From construction worker to social worker, Todd shared his six decades of valuable authorship and writing experiences.

He encourages writers to see how their written words can be combined with other media, such as visual art or drawings. He uses “broadsides” (one-page publications) and “chapbooks” (tiny books) to get his written art circulating for free. He uses Vistaprint(Vistaprint.com) to create larger “chapbooks” for excerpts or poems. The examples at the meeting were motivating as tools. Some authors hand out thousands. He also mentioned refrigerator magnets, t-shirts, coffee mugs, and other branding suggestions. Working to get your book on a bookstore shelf is also a wonderful way of getting your art in front of readers. Even if the books stay on the shelf, they are there.

He started his now well-know radio show *Writers on the Air* by recording in a closet with friends. This is a perfect example of his independent tenacity as an artist seeking to promote his identity and help other authors with branding. The show eventually graduated to being recorded at Son-of-a-Bean coffee shop, and now is at the Sacramento Poetry Center. There are two featured artists who read from their works each month, but for all of those who want to participate he also has open mic time. So, come prepared and add to your own identity and branding as an author. For Todd this monthly gathering and show is all part of our writing community. You can bring books to sell and sign, or just gather and socialize both before and after. It is a safe place for writers to express their art through readings and invite feedback.

Writers on the Air (WOA) airs on KUBU, 96.5 LP-FM and is streamed at accesssacramento.org. It can also be accessed online at writersontheair.com. Featured Readers have included CWC members such as Amy Rogers, Katya Mills, Frederick Foote, and Pete Cruz. WOA also produces an iTunes podcast called *The Writers On the Air Show*.

**[Other venues with regular or periodic open mic opportunities were mentioned, such as:
Sacramento Poetry Center, every Monday 7-9 p.m.; Luna’s Poetry reading every Thursday; Shine on some
Wednesdays; Stories on Stage; Story Teller Café in Woodland; Face in a Book in El Dorado Hills]**





CWC Sacramento Branch Leadership 2018-2019

Officers

President	Kimberly A. Edwards
Vice President & Programs	Lisa Deines
Vice President & Membership	Jerilyn Ring
Secretary	Sandra Navarro
Treasurer	Larry Mandelberg