

# Write On!

## Newsletter of the California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch

[www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org](http://www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org)



*Celebrating 106 years*



*February 2015 - Special Supplement*

*Welcoming all writers, from the aspiring to the professional; to educate and to encourage writing and marketing skills.*



## *Susan Spann*

### *Words on Fire: Rights or Risks*

### **Be Your Own Watchdog**

#### **The Questions You've Not Asked, the Answers You've Not Heard**

**Saturday February 21, 2015**, the California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch proudly presents **Susan Spann**. Writers of fiction and nonfiction can never hear enough on legalities... copyright, use of people's names, taxes, publishing contracts, scams, business plans and managing a writing career. If these issues concern you, you'll want to hear Sacramento's own "Writer-in-the-Right" attorney Susan Spann.

"People who don't know their rights are easier to take advantage of," says Spann. "And writers who don't know the industry are far less likely to get the best possible publishing deal. Knowing your rights, and how to protect them, makes you a far more effective manager of the business side of your writing career." Spann promises to cover new issues. "There have been interesting (not good) developments in some small press contracts that I'll be covering."

A California transactional attorney specializing in publishing law and business, Spann represents publishers, authors (traditional, self-published, and hybrid), editors, artists, and web developers. She herself is a writer. Her books include the *Shinobi Mysteries* (Minotaur Books, an imprint of MacMillan), featuring ninja detective Hiro Hattori. Her debut novel *Claws of the Cat* was a *Library Journal* Mystery Debut of the Month and a finalist for the Silver Falchion award for Best First Novel. *Blade of the Samurai* (2013), was followed by *Flask of the Drunken Master* (2014).

Spann's interest in Asian culture and mystery inspire her. When not writing or representing clients, she enjoys archery, martial arts, horseback riding, online gaming, and raising seahorses and rare corals.

Preceding Professor Mohr will be **California Writers Club Central Board President Dave George**, making a premiere appearance in Sacramento. A member of the Berkeley and the Mt. Diablo branches, Mr. George writes short stories and poems. His non-fiction has appeared in newspapers and periodicals. He has won several writing awards and has participated in critique groups for over ten years. Currently he is writing a novel and an anthology of modern fables.

**Join us Saturday, February 21st, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cattlemens, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova (Hwy 50 at Hazel). Meeting fee, \$14 for members and \$16 for guest, covers program-related costs. Lunch is also offered. The public is welcome to join us.**

## *Catching Up with Susan Spann*



Kim Edwards, VP Programs, is presenting a very exciting speaker to the California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch. Below Kim takes a moment to share a bit more insight into our upcoming speaker.

### **Q. What questions have you not addressed in the recent past that you hope someone asks you?**

**A.** The questions I never get to address are the ones that people are too afraid or embarrassed to ask. I hope people ask honest questions about the issues that really concern them. Sometimes the publishing industry seems opaque and confusing, and I hope authors understand that they're not alone in that confusion. I welcome all questions, at all levels of experience. I hope people ask the questions they most want answered.

### **Q. Why do writers need to know risks as well as rights?**

**A.** If you don't see a hole in the sidewalk, you're much more likely to fall in. Similarly, writers who don't understand the publishing business—both risks and rewards—stand to fall prey to traps and pitfalls.

### **Q. What's the issue most misunderstood by writers?**

**A.** Writing is an art, but publishing is a business. A startling number of writers don't realize how critically important it is to understand the business and to treat themselves, and their writing, as a professional endeavor.

You can find Ms. Spann at <http://www.SusanSpann.com>, on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SusanSpannAuthor>, or on Twitter (@SusanSpann), where she curates the #PubLaw hashtag, providing legal and business information for authors at all stages of their publishing careers.



*Joshua Mohr, previously announced speaker for February, has been rescheduled for later this coming Spring.*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB, SACRAMENTO BRANCH

### ENCOURAGE A WRITER FRIEND TO JOIN CWC

Name	_____	Phone	( )
Address	_____	City	_____
		State	_____
Email	_____	Zip	_____
		Genre	_____
Website	_____		

New member fee is \$65, which includes annual dues of \$45 and a one-time *new member* enrollment fee of \$20. When applying after January 1, half-year dues are \$42.50 (\$22.50 plus that one-time \$20.00 enrollment fee for new members). The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Renewal dues of \$45 are due July 1.

**Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check payable to CWC, Sacramento Branch

#### Membership Category:

- Active Member** – Published. Please include copies of published works and indicate genre.
- Associate Member** – Aspiring Writer. Please include writing samples and indicate genre.
- Supporting Member** – Writing Interest. Benefits include luncheon meeting and event discount and *Write On!*, the CWC branch newsletter.
- I do not wish to be included on the membership roster (for members' information only - newsletter, emails, etc.).

**Mail to:** California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch, P.O. Box 582138, Elk Grove, CA 95758

**Questions?** Contact Gini Grossenbacher, Membership Chair, at [ginis.writers1@gmail.com](mailto:ginis.writers1@gmail.com)

California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch proudly serves the greater Sacramento area and beyond,  
supporting writers and others in the literary community.

[www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org](http://www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org)

***Student memberships available. Inquire for details.***

### *Join and enjoy the many benefits, including:*

- *Networking and connecting with members and other writers*
- *Speakers and programs covering a range of educational topics*
- *Member discount for Luncheon meetings, seminars and other CWC events*
- *Receive the CWC Sacramento Branch "Write On!" newsletter*
- *Receive the CWC "Bulletin" newsletter*
- *Opportunity to be published in the California Writers Club Literary Review*
- *Invitation to annual CWC picnic for fellowship with members from other branches*
- *Be part of a community of over 1,800 members in 19 branches of CWC*



# 2014-2015 CWC Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

## California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch

[www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org](http://www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org)

*To ensure that your email correspondence does not look like SPAM, it should include CWC in the subject line*

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