

SACRAMENTO WRITER



CWC Sacramento Monthly Meeting Pitching to Agents or Publishers



**Saturday,
April 15, 2023
1:00–3:00 p.m.**

**Arden-Dimick Library
891 Watt Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95864
Free Meeting Open to the Public**

[Zoom link](#)

**with
Jordan Bernal**
Author

Craft Your Pitch to Draw Agents' Attention

You've written a great book, now learn to draw an agent's interest enough to request a sample of your writing. Bring your pitch and receive feedback on ways to hone it.

You will learn how to:

- Learn the Key Components of a pitch
- Be concise: short is sweet
- Enjoy the conversation
- Understand the ultimate goal of pitching
- Develop other uses for your pitch

Jordan Bernal is the author of *The Keepers of Éire*, *The Keepers of Alba*, & *Reluctant Paladin*—dragon fantasies that encourage readers to let their imaginations take flight. Jordan publishes through Dragon Wing Publishing, her independent press. She's been a member of CWC Tri-Valley Writers since 2010. Follow Jordan at <http://www.jordanbernal.com>.

Writers Network April 7

Freelance Writing Tips

Friday, April 7, 2023

9 – 11 am

CH Cafe & Grill (formally Perko's)
6215 Sunrise Blvd (just off Greenback)
Citrus Heights

or

[Join with Zoom](#)

Passcode 811481



Brina Patel

How to Pitch Your Story Ideas to Editors

As writers, we understand the importance of building an audience for our work. While networking with fellow writers, sending email newsletters, and posting updates to social media are important steps, there's one often overlooked method — having our writing featured in the media. Why does this matter? For starters, there's a low barrier to entry, and it's an excellent way to build credibility. However, the biggest questions remain: *Where* do we send our story pitches? And *how* do we increase our chances of getting a story commissioned? This presentation will address these questions so that writers can pitch their ideas with confidence!

Attendees will learn:

- The benefits of being featured in the media
- How to hone in on story ideas for articles
- Seven steps for crafting a compelling pitch
- Helpful do's and don'ts for the pitching process
- Which publications accept story ideas from (and pay!) freelance writers

Brina Patel is a former freelance writer, whose bylines have appeared in *Business Insider*, *Well+Good*, *Byrdie*, *Verywell Mind*, *Brown Girl Magazine*, and various other publications. She also edited the *Rituals* anthology with Bell Press Books, and her creative nonfiction has been published in *Heartwood Literary Magazine* and *LEVITATE Magazine*. Brina currently works at Reframe, the #1 alcohol reduction app, where she helps with content creation and email marketing. In her free time, Brina enjoys traveling, reading, going on adventures with friends, and sharing writing tips on her blog at www.brinapatelwriter.com.



Message from Bernard Wozny, CWC Sacramento President.

Dear Members,
April showers bring May flowers.

The arrival of spring always beckons me outdoors to explore the gardens. While living and growing up in England, I spent a lot of time traveling around Europe. My motto emphasized the journey and not the destination: *If I was there, I wouldn't be here!*

Train travel for students was cheap. Cycling was healthy and adventurous. Hitchhiking was an acceptable form of travel. I used to keep notes on where I went, not to write a travelogue, but to remind myself of all the paths I followed. How I wish I could find those again, maybe I would write that travelogue.

Douglas Adams, who wrote for British radio and TV, conceived a famous travelogue titled *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Starting with radio, he published a series of such 'Hitchhiker' books which he referred to as a trilogy in four parts. He continued his career with screenplays and many books such as *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*.

As a professional writer, one of his reasons for success was diversification. Radio plays, screenplays, books, magazine articles, and speaking events. And getting out of the house and traveling.

Whether you are writing for fun or if you're aiming to be the next NYT bestseller, we should do the same. April is the month to begin.

At the very least we could diversify our subject matter. You've heard the saying – if you're stuck on a problem, park it for a while and go do something different. When you return to the problem, your mind will be revitalized, while the different task(s) you do may also be of benefit.

We have two great speakers in our April meetings, who can help us to cultivate our reach in the writing world.

On Friday, April 7th, Brina Patel will be giving us tips on freelance writing. She will explain how to get your stories out into the field, and how to get them sold. This is a great way to diversify your writing and even how to make money.

On Saturday, April 15th, at Arden Dimick Library, Jordan Bernal will be explaining how to get your pitch put across to a literary agent. Jordan has told me that if you have a pitch, she will appraise it as time allows. There will also be scope for open discussion, so even if you don't yet have a pitch, get yourself to this meeting to learn how.

At Jordan's request, I will **not** be recording her presentation. I have published a Zoom link for this meeting on our website, but this is also subject to her approval.

There are two new members on the Board - Jason Orta and Susanne Lakin. Both have mountains of experience and will bring fresh new ideas to the club. Like me, you should welcome both to the Board, and I invite you to check their Bios on our website.

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)



MEMBER NEWS



We welcomed five new members in the last month! Please welcome the following folks if you run into them at a meeting this month:

Deanna Jones-Guinasso writes nonfiction, training manuals and children's lit.

Suzanne Marriott writes memoir and travel.

Carol Menaker writes creative nonfiction and memoir.

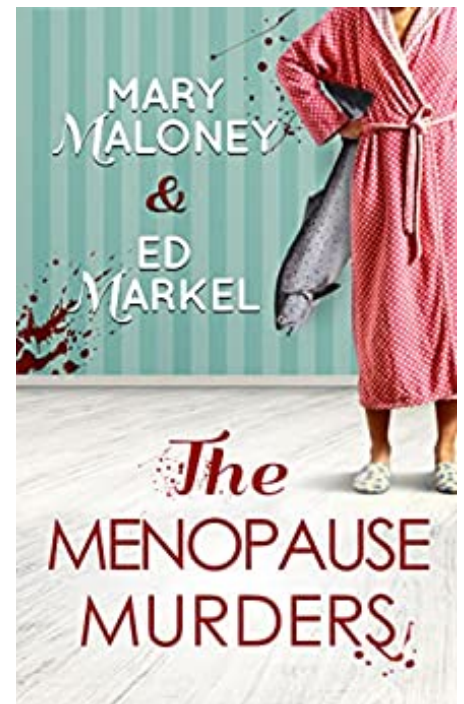
Tim Olson writes creative nonfiction, fiction, and freelance journalism.

Laurayne Mae Phalen writes expository literature, philosophy/insight, and creative nonfiction.

We hope that all of our newcomers will share a brief (200 words max) bio and a jpeg headshot for our website Members page. Remember that you can include a link to your own website in your bio! (And we hope the rest of you will do so as well!)

BOOK RELEASE

Member C.S. (Susanne) Lakin has released her latest novel, *The Menopause Murders*, written under the pen name Mary Maloney and with co-writer Ed Markel. "It's a slippery slide from hormones to homicide!" Meet Debbi Dickerson: mousy, codependent housewife who, at age forty-seven, feels her life is over. Her dreams of being an artist have long been discarded in the wake of her failing marriage, and her kids think she's invisible. ...



Please direct member news to Sacramentowriters@gmail.com.



THE CWC BULLETIN: A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR MEMBERS

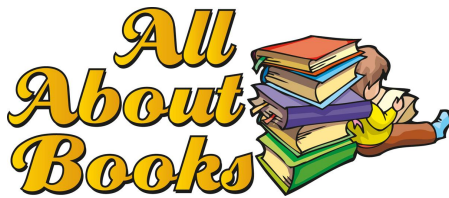
The California Writers Club *Bulletin* is a quarterly newsletter emailed to members of all 22 branches as a PDF attachment. The latest issue was sent on March 22. If you don't recall receiving it, you might want to check your spam folder, or if you're on gmail, the Promotions folder. The current and past issues of the *Bulletin* may also be found at <https://calwriters.org/bulletin>.

The *Bulletin* was extensively revamped and revised a year ago, and is now full of helpful articles on the writing craft, and publishing and marketing. Equally important, there are now several opportunities for members to promote their books and literary achievements.

Announce your latest book release in the Member Spotlight. Also welcome is news of literary achievements: short stories, poems or articles published, plus awards and honors. Send your announcements, 50 words or less, to editor@calwriters.org. Attach a copy of your book cover in JPEG format. Be sure to indicate which branch you belong to. This is a free service to CWC members, so do take advantage of it!

The *Bulletin* is also looking for articles on writing craft, marketing, publication, and the writing life. Word count can be anywhere from 200 for short tidbits to 1200 or so for long pieces. Send a brief proposal to editor@calwriters.org. Contributors receive a short blurb and a photo, so this is a great way to promote your books or your writing-related services.

The deadline for the next issue of CWC's *Bulletin* is **June 1, 2023**, with publication slated for June 15.



A special invitation to

***Authors, Illustrators, Publishers & Literary Exhibitors -
"All About Books" is a special event of the Paradise Chocolate Fest,
in collaboration with North State Writers.***

An added attraction for over 5,000 Paradise Chocolate Fest attendees to meet the authors, illustrators and publishers who call Northern California home. Here, authors from a variety of genres will have books for sale and even sign them for their fans. Meet your favorite Northern California author or discover your next can't-put-down read. Book subjects range from romance, mystery, children's stories, science fiction and everything in between.

AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR, PUBLISHER, LITERARY EXHIBITOR – *\$40.00

***This Special Fee is offered to Authors, Illustrators, Publishers & Exhibitors participating in "All About Books!"
All others, 10' x 10' Space - \$65.00 if received by 3/1/2023. After 3/1, Space - \$75.00**

In addition to having a booth, this year's All About Books/ Paradise Chocolate Fest will provide a spotlight for local authors and illustrators to talk and showcase their literary works and talents indoors for 45 minutes separate from their outdoor exhibit/selling space.

**The Paradise Chocolate Fest is a very special event of "Youth on the Ridge Community Foundation". For additional information, contact Debbie LaPlant Moseley, (530) 342-4896 or debbie@chocolatefest.us.
www.chocolatefest.us**



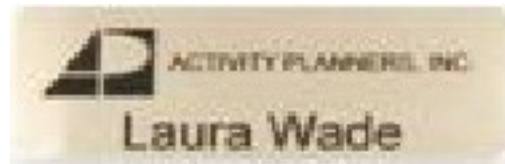
We look forward to seeing you at the Paradise Chocolate Fest!





Member Name Tags

ORDER YOUR NAME TAG TODAY!



- 2" x 3" name badge, gold metal with black embossed lettering, includes club logo and branch name
- Pin or magnet backing available
- (Subsidized) cost to club member: \$3.00
- Full replacement cost for lost name badge: \$10.00
- Pay at meetings or mail a check to: PO Box 1231, Orangevale, CA 95662
- Please provide the following information:
 - Full name as you wish it to appear
 - Choice of pin or magnet backing
- You may write the above information on the memo line of the check

Name tags will be purchased when we have a price point of 15 orders.

REMINDER:

OPEN READINGS

SIGN-UP TO READ—OR--TO LISTEN

THURSDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7:00 PM.

In our fourth year, the Open Readings event is a platform for sharing portions of our work from all genres, including poetry, and receiving immediate feedback.

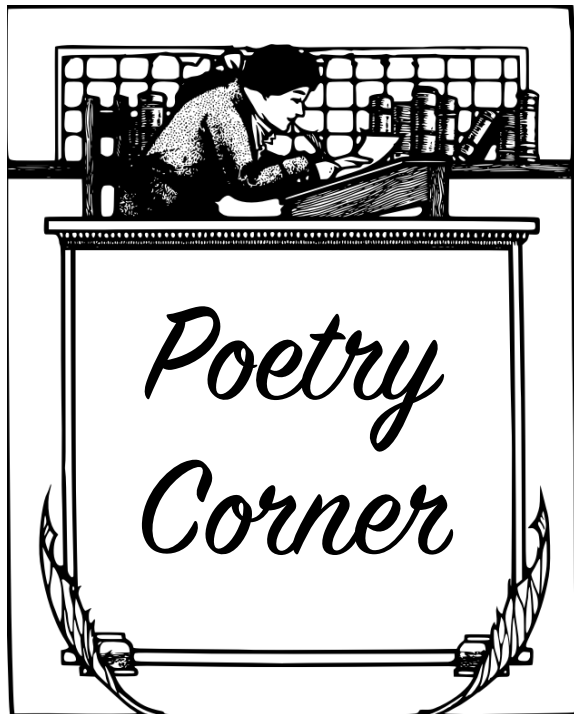
As April is National Poetry Month, this Open Reading will feature poetry from our members, but all genres are welcome. Come and listen to what our members have written. The Zoom link for the next Open Reading will be published in the March and April Newsletters and posted on our CWC-Sac website.

If you wish to read your material, contact 2johnpatterson@gmail.com to sign up for the Open Readings. There are still openings in the schedule.

The Zoom link to listen is open to all members. Please note, if you arrive after the reading has started, you will be admitted as soon as the piece is concluded. If you wish to read, contact John prior to April 13.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81621174042?pwd=NWZ5d2ZRUE45OWI0L1NGMEF2OUxzUT0>





Yona Harvey is the author of the poetry collections *You Don't Have To Go To Mars for Love* (Four Way Books, 2020) and *Hemming the Water* (Four Way Books, 2013), winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. She contributed to Marvel's *World of Wakanda* and co-authored with Ta-Nehisi Coates *Black Panther and the Crew*. She has worked with teenagers writing about mental health issues in collaboration with *Creative Nonfiction* magazine and received the inaugural Lucille Clifton Legacy Award in poetry from St. Mary's College of Maryland. In 2022, Harvey was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is an associate professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh.



Yona Harvey

Hickory Street, New Orleans

Like, the last thing I said to you was let's buy a duplex,
like, you live on your side & I'll live on my side & you'll rise when you rise & I'll rise when I rise & I said something like, let's divide these hurts & regrets & you get a stack & I get a stack & you walk a block & I walk a block & you get a poodle & I get a pug & you stub a toe & I twist an ankle & you get a wheelbarrow & I get chickens glazed with rain & you interrupt & I intercept & you call the Congressman & I call the Mayor & you blow a trumpet & I smash a tuba or maybe seal off all sound

sheltering the shuddering of the heart compressed

the high-pitched operas of trolley wheels breaking at the edge of midnight where magnolias shelter the stoplights & left-footed lovers, drunk on beignets & champagne-kisses & maybe struck by the distant drift of a giant sea turtle floating toward a green wave in a tacky, overpriced painting & somehow they're safe, the couple is safe & there's no parade stilts that will break, no stars that will bend, there's just an orchid tucked behind an ear & hours blurred together

& I said something

like —

& you said —

& I said —

Remember?



CWC Sacramento Club Positions FY 2022-2023

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Bernard Wozny
bpwozny@gmail.com

First Vice-President/Programs: Susanne Lakin (acting)

Second Vice-President/Membership: Jenifer Rowe
jenifererowe@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tim Schooley
timschooley@comcast.net

Secretary: Bonnie Gault Blue
beaublue4@gmail.com

Directors

Kimberley Edwards
Chris Hennessy
Jason Orta
Cheryl Stapp

Club Positions

Contest Coordinator - Judith Presnall
Historian - Julie Bauer
News and Events Distributor - Jenifer Rowe
Newsletter Content - Jenifer Rowe
Newsletter Layout - Rosi Hollinbeck
Open Readings Host & Coordinator - John Patterson
Publicity Chair (Print/TV/Radio/Social Media) – Chris Hennessy
Webmasters – Bernard Wozny, Jenifer Rowe
Writers Network Coordinator- Cheryl Stapp