

SACRAMENTO WRITER



**CWC Sacramento
Free Monthly Meeting
(includes in-person Q&A)**

**Saturday,
February 18, 2023
1:00–3:00 p.m.
Arden Dimick Library
891 Watt Avenue
Sacramento, CA
with**

Somadhi Kakwasu

Author, Storyteller, Writing Teacher

**Let's celebrate Black History Month together.
Join us at the library for coffee or tea, cookies
and community!**

– or –

Join with Zoom

Passcode 868719

Powerful, Braided, Creative Nonfiction

Join me on a dive into braiding differing themes to create unforgettable creative nonfiction for your reader's heart and mind.

Attendees will:

- * Learn what makes a creative nonfiction essay braided.
- * Learn how braiding (or threading) adds meaning to the overall message
- * Learn how to create coherence or unity in a braided essay
- * Learn where to find additional resources on the braided creative nonfiction essay
- * Learn a 5-minute mind-map to discover 2-3 braids for your creative nonfiction

In 2007, **Somadhi Kakwasu** earned an MFA in creative writing to help her settle into authoring in her senior years. She's published "Coming Forth by Day," a novel, two children's books, and her flash fiction stories have appeared in Flash Fiction magazine, an online literary journal.

Writers Network March 3 Get Emotional With Your Writing

Friday, March 3, 2023

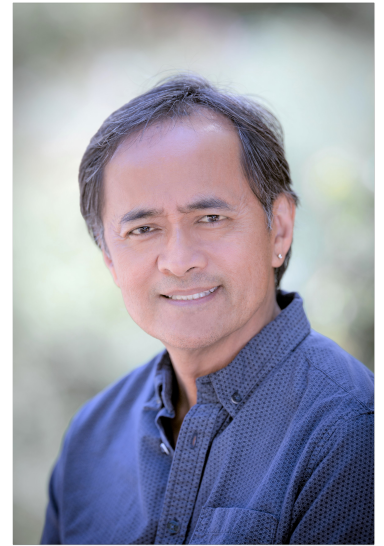
9 – 11 am

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

or

Join with Zoom

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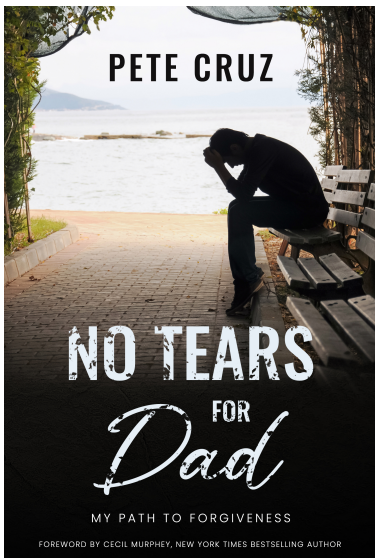


Pete Cruz
Author

Why Evoking Emotions in Writing is Vital to Engaging Readers

Attendees will learn about:

- Why emotions are significant to telling a story
- Challenges to feeling our emotions
- How to access emotions
- Why *Show, Don't Tell* is the golden rule.
- Tools and tips for writing emotional content



Pete Cruz is a member of our California Writers Club–Sacramento Branch. He has won awards for short stories, served on writers panels, editing teams, and presented talks and workshops on a variety of subjects during his professional career in adult education and as a trainer and consultant for the State of California.

His memoir, *No Tears for Dad*, was published last November. It's his raw and sensitive account of recovery from childhood trauma and its effects on adulthood. He calls his book the most significant thing he's ever have done in his life, besides being a father to his daughter. For more information, visit www.PeteCruz.com, Facebook: PeteCruzAuthor, Instagram: @PeteCruzAuthor.

Message from Bernard Wozny, CWC Sacramento President.



Dear Members,

As I write this, it is Ground Hog Day (again). I have heard on the news that Phill, the illustrious weather forecaster, has seen his shadow. This means we have more winter weather to come.

You don't need to worry, because we have some very warming news on upcoming events!

The next Monthly Meeting will be on February 18th from 1-3 at Arden Dimick Library. We plan to have coffee or tea and cookies on hand to liven up the meeting and celebrate Black History Month.

And in March, we'll be returning to a meeting at Cattlemens Restaurant in Rancho Cordova for a special presentation. Yes, we were all so enthralled with the Winter party that we decided to return to Cattlemens for our Monthly Meeting in March.

To start with, we will have one meeting on Saturday, March 18th. I say one meeting because we don't want to disappoint the Chef, he's a very sensitive fellow and only likes cooking for large crowds. If he likes the crowd that turns up in March, then he says he'd like to cook for us more often.

See the website posting (coming on Feb. 19) for details but keep that date in your diary. An article in this newsletter will introduce our speaker, Stephanie Chandler, and give you further information.

Another hot topic is that I will be spending this year getting us to market and sell our books. As well as speakers talking about the skills of plotting stories and writing books, I'll be looking for speakers to educate us on the skills needed to market and sell.

To support this endeavor, I have set up a [Members' Books page](#). Please have a look and tell me what you think. This is not just showing off our books to other members, I intend to get search engines to reference our books better.

If you want your books included on this page, **see the following article for details.**

I have mentioned before that I set up a community group on [Goodreads](#) for our club. If you aren't a member of Goodreads, I recommend that you become one now – it's free. Once you have joined, you can connect to the group I set up on Goodreads for our club, look for "CWC Sacramento Writers".

I have a very strong suspicion that in the very near future, I will give you a presentation at the Friday Network Meeting to promote Goodreads and many other marketing tools.

In the meantime, enjoy the winter while it lasts and look forward to the Spring. Keep writing and tell me what you think.

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)



Invitation to Join the Members' Books Page

We have added a new page to our website to promote books that have been published by members of the CWC Sacramento Branch. Please visit the page at [Members' Books page](#). This is a good opportunity to promote your work, not just to other club members but I hope to get search engines to recognize this page.

If you want your books included on this page, please send the following information to Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com).

Book Title
Author
Publisher
Date published
ISBN
Genre/category
Blurb
Format (paperback/eBook/Hardback)
Link to where to buy (i.e. Amazon etc.)
Cover image – if you don't have available, I can download from Amazon.



34 Writing Contests, Prizes, and Fellowships for Writers

Please click on the link below to review a long list of contests that are available now for writers.

[34 Writing Contests, Prizes, and Fellowships for Writers \(Up to \\$80,000\) \(freedomwithwriting.com\)](https://freedomwithwriting.com)

OPEN READINGS: THURSDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7:00 PM

Sign Up or Come to Listen



Now kicking off 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. Other forms are welcome to fill out our remaining time slots. 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.

Typically, with time for about six writers, the one and half to two-hour event has provided not only casual writer-to-writer interaction, but insight and entertainment for all participants. Members gain insight about the work of other members, as well as their writing inspirations and goals.

The pieces read are expected to be self-contained, such as a chapter or a little story. However, those are not limitations. A vivid description of a character, event, scene, or essay is also welcome. We have not yet had a screenplay piece. The Moderator, John Patterson, requests each author submit a brief introduction of the author and/or the piece to be read. The reading time limitation is eight (8) minutes. All readers are encouraged to practice reading their piece out loud (which is slower-takes more time-than reading to yourself).

Writers who've signed up will receive additional information from John about two weeks prior to the event. Those who come to listen are reminded to consider the reader's needs: thus, no use of chats; big physical movements; eating; talking; etc. during the actual readings. John will open the event at 6:40 pm for visiting. Please plan to arrive before 7:00 pm. If you link in during a reading, the moderator may wait until the end of the reading to admit you.

MEMBER NEWS



Lally Pia was one of two winners of the 2022 STEP contest (She Writes Press and SparkPress Toward Equality in Publishing). The purpose of this contest is to support inclusivity across publishing lists, and to give voice to women writers. The prize is the full services of either the She Writes Press or the SparkPress Publishing Package (each valued at \$8500). Lally's memoir *Doctor of Doctors* has a publication date of April 30, 2024 with She Writes Press.

Long-time member **Elva Anson** passed away in December. She was the author of six books, three of which sold close to 20,000 copies. Elva was inspired by her friend, Kiyo Sato, to write her memoir, *Wondering Around God*. Here is how one reviewer, Elisabeth Kersten, retired Director of Calif. Senate Office of Research, describes it. "Elva Anson is a first-rate storyteller. She knows just how much detail to give the reader to get you engaged. She packs in stories from every phase of her life. She really captures life in the Central Valley. This is the story of an amazing woman who found love, a teaching career, a counseling profession, as well as unshakable faith and inner peace—in spite of living during the tumultuous times of World War II and the Korean War. Her humility, humor and resilience are truly remarkable and life affirming. She ends with practical aphorisms but her narrative is not pedantic, just real and honest."

Jim Guigli has published another Flash Fiction crime story, "[Ben Hurt](#)," which you can read online. He has also recently published "Not Funny" (where a standup comedian borrows trouble) in *Guilty Crime Story Magazine, Issue Seven*. And finally, his story "Blood on the Stairs," another Bart Lasiter tale, appears in the new anthology by Murderous Ink Press, *CRIMEUCOPIA We'll Be Right Back -- After This!*

Congrats to Jim, and to all of our other short-story writers! Keep on keeping on!

Rosi Hollinbeck's children's poem *Sky Zoo* was published in the October 2022 issue of Highlights Magazine.

Please direct member news to Sacramentowriters@gmail.com.

March 18: Special Event for Members and the Sacramento Community

Members are excited to return to our Cattlemens Restaurant meeting location, to hear speaker **Stephanie Chandler**, national speaker, marketing guru, and head of the Nonfiction Writers Association.

A former bookstore owner and nationally sought speaker, Stephanie knows book marketing like no one in the Sacramento area. Her conferences feature the *Who's Who* of Writing! Innovator of the MasterMind concept of creative problem solving, Stephanie shares expertise on self-publishing, owning your niche, creating a business plan, and using the Internet to successfully market books. More on Stephanie's presentation to follow on the club's website.

Details on the event:

What: Special California Writers Club Sacramento meeting with Stephanie Chandler

When: Saturday, March 18, 12:00 – 2:00; coffee and networking begins at 11:30

Where: Cattlemens Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

Who: Featured speaker Stephanie Chandler, members, and guests

Cost: \$30 (online ticket purchase at CWCSacramentoWriters.org or SacramentoWriters.org) \$35 walk-ins. Vegetarian alternative available

Includes all-you-can-eat buffet, pre-meeting coffee and networking, answers to all your questions from premier marketing guru Stephanie. Bring your latest project to show off

Members unable to join us will be able to access a recording of Stephanie's presentation. Zoom attendance will not be offered.

Come see your fellow writers! Hear what everyone's working on! Find new friends who share your genre!

2023 Humor-Writing Online Conference

The '23 humor-writing online conference is open for registration, and Early Birds can get a discount of 20% by using the coupon "20-off." Here's a link with information about the online event, on April 1st, <https://thinkingfunny.com/register-for-thinkingfunny23>

This year's conference will include information on creating comic characters, self-publishing via Kindle, a newbie-humor-writer's panel, a panel of columnists and publishers, stand-up comedy, writing funny song lyrics, and an agents/editors panel, too. Write me if you need more information. I'd love to see writers step up and try to put some laughter in their work. Do join us for the conference and the fun.

And if you already have some fun stuff written, then submit it to one of our humor-writing contents. Several of these have no-fees-to enter and include categories for young writers.

Do check us out at www.thinkingfunny.com .

Sincerely,

Robb Lightfoot
robb@thinkingfunny.com
cell/text 530-524-0423

Robb Lightfoot is a humorist, author, and a semi-retired communications teacher. He lives in Northern California with Karin, his wife of 40+ years, and their many pets. He is the newest member of CWC-Sacramento.



THE LAST “OPEN READING” TRANSPORTED LISTENERS

Seven writers from our branch shared their word craft at the last Open Reading on Dec. 1. The evening Zoom event permitted the writers’ authentic voices to create virtual experiences.

Writers read self-contained pieces in short reads. Many have won awards and all shared insights from profound experiences. We heard the mind voyages as listeners were taken back in time and around the world.

Judy Presnall, who has written thirty books and won third place in children’s non-fiction at a CWC Asilomar Conference, read a piece being developed for young people about Rachel Carson, widely considered to be the heroic force behind the modern environmental movement.

Chris Hennessey, a Board member and winner of numerous awards for writing, directing, and producing films, read “This is What I Just Went Through.” This multi-year recounting takes us quickly through a battle with cancer, radiation treatments, follow up treatments, and medical issues. His recounting takes us to the next life step where his very premature daughter is also fighting to survive. She is now thriving, and Chris’ current activities indicate he is thriving as well.

Bonnie Blue recently finished her memoir and had a tale about her family raccoon published in our CWC-Sac Anthology. Bonnie read a piece with observations about birds and gardening from her spiritual journey in the Findhorn, Scotland community.

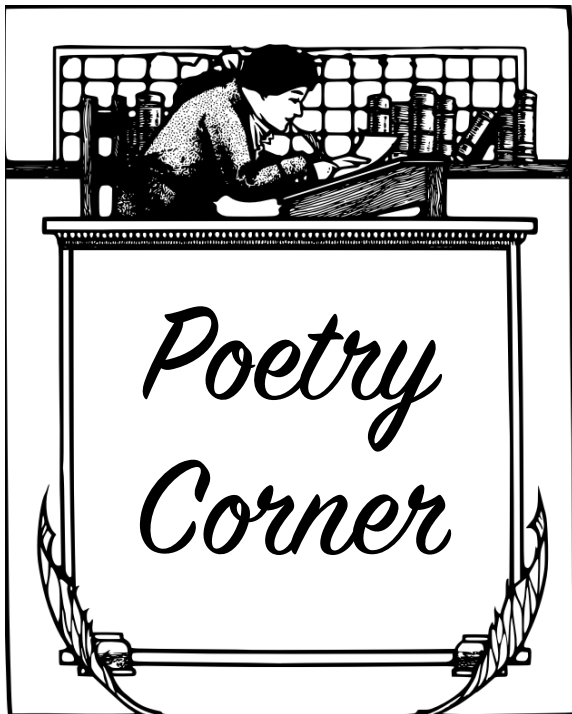
Dr. Lally Pia, a child psychiatrist who has two chapters of her memoir published, one in our Anthology and another in the CWC Literary Review, read about her youth in Kumasi, Ghana. Her successful Tamil parents took the family, fleeing Sri Lanka to Ghana on haunting bus rides to escape the pogroms against the Tamils.

Marcia Ehinger, a retired physician and professional medical writer, a winner of this Branch’s Jack London Award, and with publications in California Update and Visions, read poems centering on historic Portuguese women.

Larry Mandelberg, a columnist and author of *Businesses Don’t Fail, They Commit Suicide*, read some history of his family’s multi-generational businesses, continually re-inventing themselves as they moved through much of North America.

Tim Schooley, a retired attorney and law school professor who won the 2022 U.O.P. Creative Writing Conference’s Jameson Award, for *The Wool Translator*, read from a current work in progress, *Bread and Circus*. This journey, after he graduated from Clown College, took us to circus trains and tents with great looksees behind the curtains.

Some members came only to listen to members’ work while hearing more about the world. You should consider our next event, April 13.



Lisel Mueller was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1924. Her books of poetry include *Alive Together: New & Selected Poems* (Louisiana State University Press, 1996), which won the Pulitzer Prize. Her other honors include the Carl Sandburg Award and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. She lived in Lake Forest, Illinois and died on February 21, 2020.



Lisel Mueller

When I Am Asked

When I am asked
how I began writing poems,
I talk about the indifference of
nature.

It was soon after my mother died,
a brilliant June day,
everything blooming.

I sat on a gray stone bench
in a lovingly planted garden,
but the day lilies were as deaf
as the ears of drunken sleepers
and the roses curved inward.
Nothing was black or broken
and not a leaf fell
and the sun blared endless
commercials
for summer holidays.

I sat on a gray stone bench
ringed with the ingenue faces
of pink and white impatiens
and placed my grief
in the mouth of language,
the only thing that would grieve
with me.



CWC Sacramento Club Positions FY 2022-2023

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Bernard Wozny

bpwozny@gmail.com

First Vice-President/Programs: Gloria Pierrot-Dyer

qquill76@gmail.com

Second Vice-President/Membership: Jenifer Rowe

jenifererowe@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tim Schooley

timschooley@comcast.net

Secretary: Bonnie Gault Blue

beaubleue4@gmail.com

Directors

Chris Hennessy

Kimberley Edwards

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