

SACRAMENTO WRITER



GRANT FAULKNER - JUNE 16 SPEAKER

Executive Director, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) Author, Pep Talk for Writers: 52 Insights and Actions to Boost Your Creative Mojo

First 50 people who don't have Grant's book will get a free copy!

So many things conspire to keep you from achieving your goals as a writer. Self-doubt, lack of discipline, time management, writer's block, creative solitude, fear of rejection...the list goes on and on.

But just because you've been struggling with one or more of these challenges doesn't mean you have to abandon your creative goals and give up your dreams.

Grant Faulkner, executive director of National Novel Writing Month and author of *Pep Talk for Writers: 52 Insights and Actions to Boost Your Creative Mojo*, will show you ways to banish your inner editor, dive into your work with creative abandon, write boldly on the page and develop your self-confidence.

In this session, you'll learn how to:

- Set an audacious goal and a deadline.
- Track your daily progress.
- Connect with others in a creative community.
- Write what you love, not what you should.
- Find and nourish your muse.
- Use writing games and challenges to overcome writer's block.
- Deal with feedback and rejection.
- Achieve writing mastery.

11 AM–1:00 PM (10:15 Early-Bird Session BRING A BOOK COVER YOU LIKE OR WANT TO TRY TO IMPROVE)
Cattlemens, 12409 Folsom Blvd, \$15 members/\$20 guests



FIRST FRIDAY



Photo by Petra Hoette

HOW TO NAVIGATE SOCIAL MEDIA WITHOUT GETTING BOGGED DOWN AND LOSING WRITING TIME

First Friday, June 1, with Erika Mailman, Novelist

Everyone claims that authors must be involved in social media to help promote their books—but how do you do this without feeling like you're stealing time away from producing new work? Join us to hear Erika Mailman give tips to engage in short, effective bursts and to grow a follower base. This presentation will be of interest to writers of novels, nonfiction books, short stories, memoir, poetry, and dramatic formats.

Erika is the distinguished author of four historical novels: *The Witch's Trinity*, a San Francisco Chronicle Notable Book which Khaled Hosseini called "gripping"; *Woman of Ill Fame*, which is about a Gold Rush prostitute; *House of Bellaver*, which is a literary ghost story set in Oakland; and now *The Murderer's Maid: a Lizzie Borden Novel*. With an MFA in poetry from the University of Arizona, Erika has been a Yaddo fellow and has also served as a juror for the Shirley Jackson Awards. Under the pen name Lynn Carthage, she writes Y.A. fiction. Her websites are www.erikamailman.com and www.lynnarthage.com.

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

Bring Market Leads & Marketing Tips

A Question to the Group...

We've received numerous requests to bring Mark Coker of Smashwords back to Sacramento since the previously-announced postponement of his spring seminar. Please let us know if you and/or your writing buddies would be interested in Mark's seminar. Most likely it would be scheduled for a Sunday and would cost a fee. If there is significant interest, we will try to get Mark back sooner rather than later. Please email incoming V.P./Programs Chair Lisa Deines to express your interest.

msdkicks@gmail.com



A Lazy Day

Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1872 - 1906

The trees bend down along the stream,
Where anchored swings my tiny boat.
The day is one to drowse and dream
And list the thrush's throttling note.
When music from his bosom bleeds
Among the river's rustling reeds.

No ripple stirs the placid pool,
When my adventurous line is cast,
A truce to sport, while clear and cool,
The mirrored clouds slide softly past.
The sky gives back a blue divine,
And all the world's wide wealth is mine.

A pickerel leaps, a bow of light,
The minnows shine from side to side.
The first faint breeze comes up the tide—
I pause with half uplifted oar,
While night drifts down to claim the shore.



NEW MEMBERS

Nida Spalding from Elk Grove is our only new member this month. Nida works in the genres of self-help and autobiography.



MEMBER NEWS

Cheryl Stapp reports her 2017 self-published biography of the first ranch-owning couple in the Sacramento Valley is a Finalist in the 2018 Next Generation Indie Book Awards! Title *Before The Gold Rush - The Sinclairs of Rancho del Paso, 1840-1849*. Available on Amazon (and Amazon Kindle) <https://www.amazon.com/Before-Gold-Rush-Sinclairs-1840-1849/dp/1542983169> and at Sutter's Fort Trade Store.

Rosi Hollinbeck reports an excerpt from her novel-in-progress, *The Incredible Journey of Freddy J.*, has been published in the Noyo River Review 2018 edition.

Mark your calendar for CWC Coming Events

First Friday Network

June 1, 2018

Erika Mailman

How to Navigate Social Media without Getting Bugged Down and Losing Writing Time

Coco's 7887 Madison Avenue,
Citrus Heights

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Third Saturday Luncheon

June 16, 2018

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10:15 Early Bird Session

Grant Faulkner

Executive Director, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

Develop Your Creative Mojo and Write, Write, Write!

Cattlemens, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova
\$15 members, \$20 guests

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Elk Grove Writers Guild Conference.

November 4, 2018

www.EGAG.org

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WANTED

**Chair for CA Writers' Week
Social Media Manager
Flyer Design Help**



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 (Jerilys@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 Jerilys@me.com.

FOLLOW UP

Al Zagofsky

First Friday Meeting, May 4, 2018

by Lisa Deines

Al Zagofsky was the featured speaker for the May 4th First Friday Breakfast Meeting. His topic was “To Publish or Not to Publish, That is the Question.” He has led a varied life with careers that have spanned from engineering to white water rafting to writing. Al uses these experiences (and his sense of humor) in his communications.

In his presentation, Al said that stories have been told since people were sitting around a fire and that the original method of mass communication was the mountain top. He said that now there are basically three choices when it comes to publishing: don't publish, publish non-commercially (no pay), or publish commercially (for pay), and that one of the reasons some people choose not to publish is fear of being a target, including for criticism. Reasons for publishing include communication and monetary gains.

Al gave examples from his life of these different scenarios and talked about using pre-sales when publishing for profit. He then discussed different publishing methods (traditional, vanity, self) and the benefits and challenges of these different methods. A few members shared their own publishing experiences and Al pointed out that the publishing industry is changing with the popularity of online publishing avenues like videos, blogs, and podcasts.

Al has also embraced electronic publishing by establishing an online magazine called California Update (caupdate.com). This site features “slice-of-life” flash articles written by different authors, and he is currently looking for contributing writers.



Lee Foster

Third Saturday Speaker, Cattlemens

by Sandra Navarro

What do the following volumes have in common? (1) *An Author's Perspective on Independent Publishing*, (2) *Travels in an American Imagination*, (3) *The Photographer's Guide to Washington, D.C.*, and (4) *Minnesota Boy*?

The answer is that they were all written by Lee Foster, our featured speaker at the CWC Sacramento meeting on May 19.

CWC Sacramento was very fortunate to have Lee Foster of Foster Travel Publishing (www.fostertravel.com) as our guest speaker. The subject of his presentation, “Tips for Making Money from your Writing/Photography in Any Genre,” held the attention of each member of the audience. We learned about the latest must-have features of author websites and the benefits of independent publishing. We were introduced to the possibility of securing translation of our works in Chinese, thus reaching out to a vast market of readers many of us had not previous considered.

Mr. Foster was gracious in providing a copy of his PowerPoint presentation to CWC Sacramento. Watch for this posting on the CWC website (<http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org>).



OUR LIFE STORIES CONFERENCE

My Day at Our Life Stories

by Karen Holladay Durham

The eleventh annual cross-generational meeting of writers played out as advertised. Fiction writers tried on poetry; poets tried on memoir. We learned good tricks, ate good food and sat outside under many gorgeous trees. Attendees included members of the California Writers Club, Sacramento Poetry Center, Sacramento State University Renaissance Society, Shut up and Write and many other groups.

During lunchtime networking, each table was given a blank sheet on which to offer resources for meeting other writers and/or artists. CWC was used as the example of a great networking opportunity. The sources will be compiled and sent to each attendee some time during the summer.

The workshops pulsed with energy, and each of my three seminar leaders was engaging and very welcoming of questions and detours. Being a people-watcher, I enjoyed seeing folks run into friends unexpectedly in each session with cries of joy, and was amused at the carefulness of frienemies as they eyed each other across the room. I relished the periods when the only sounds in the room were the scratching of pens and the scratching of heads. Always, there was enthusiastic chatter as each session ended.

I grab at least one nugget from each conference I attend, so here they are:

Session 1, Establishing Setting: using research skills to unlock the past. Emily Bond was our leader. Emily started us with a quote by Virginia Wolf, “*Fiction must stick to the facts, and the truer the facts and better the fiction...so we are told.*” I would add to this, even fantasy must stick to the facts of the built world in which it resides. Emily used examples of attendees’ actual projects to demonstrate ways to dig deeper into research:

- Go directly to the people you are researching; seek out primary sources;
- Include in your search terms that address: *Who* (subgroups, superior groups, experts, the actual people); *what* (uses, inventions); *where* (geography); and *when* (history, future projection, current status)

Session 2, Painting With Words: Creating atmosphere in settings. The session leader was Kerstin Feindert. When creating a setting, use *all* your senses to set the scene in your first draft. You can cut later, but you don’t know which details will become integral to your plot, theme, or metaphors. Kerstin had the class select photographs and list everything we might experience in that setting, using all five senses. Then she offered a framework to write a long shot, middle shot, and close-up to play with the setting. Details should be included to:

- Manipulate the mood
- Reveal character
- Advance the action
- Signal the time period and place

Session 3, Writing to History and Culture: Bringing the past alive with the tools of the present. The presenter was Tim Kahl, who filled in admirably for the indisposed Indigo Moore. My favorite nugget of the day was that literature is about growing beyond your own space and time—with both respect and accuracy. Tim also gave tips on his strategy to enter into a poem or prose piece:

- Write a list of words that intrigue you in your researches
- Write about the words, how they affect you, how they speak to each other
- Think in terms of time, of me, of you, of us, of episodes, of moods
- What first draft of a story or poem has emerged?

Finally, have you heard of the **Center for Sacramento History**? Contact them for a visit: 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., Sacramento. 916.808.7072, centerforsacramentohistory.com. Call first to discuss your research topic; they’ll be happy to show you a treasure trove of artifacts.



CWC Sacramento Branch Leadership 2018-2019

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