

SACRAMENTO WRITER



**CWC Sacramento
Monthly Meeting**
**TELL ME WHY: CREATING
REALISTIC &
BELIEVABLE MOTIVATION FOR
(ALL) YOUR CHARACTERS**
with Anna J. Stewart, USA Today
Bestselling Romance Novelist

Saturday, June 17 2023

Cattlemens
12409 Folsom Blvd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Networking & Coffee: 11:30 am.

Book display – Bring a copy of your book to display

Book giveaway – Bring a used book you think others might enjoy

Meal: Plated, with vegetarian option

Meeting cost: \$32, advance purchase; walk-ins, \$37. Meeting cost, required of all attendees, can be tax deductible; receipt available.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Attendee takeaways – applicable to all genres:

- What is motivation and how does it apply to character
- Why motivation is important to your characters and your story as a whole
- Film and TV examples of strong (and not so strong) character motivation
- The difference in creating motivation for villains versus heroes
- Motivation examined in relation to goals and conflict.

Native Californian Anna J Stewart is the author of more than 50 romance novels and novellas. Currently under contract with Harlequin and ArcManor, she writes sweet to spicy happily ever afters across the romance genre. A former Holt Medallion winner, a Daphne, and National Readers' Choice finalist, she's also been lucky enough to have one of her books optioned for a TV movie.

Special post-meeting club fundraiser: "Public Speaking Tips for Writers," by member Linda Champion, Toastmasters District Champion, Speech Evaluation, a 30-minutes verbal presentation, written tips, and plenty of time for questions! (Attendees who stay to hear Linda are invited to give a donation to the club!)

Writers Network

Pulling Your Readers in Close: Mastering Deep Point of View

Friday, June 2, 2023

9 – 11 am

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

or

[Join with Zoom](#)

Passcode 811481



Judith Starkston Author

Attendees will learn about:

- How to recognize what deep point of view is and why you want it
- How to fix common ways we distance our readers
- How to add details that close the distance
- How to get physical without clichés
- How to put deep point of view into your setting

Judith Starkston has spent too much time exploring the remains of the ancient worlds of the Greeks and Hittites. Early on she went so far as to get degrees in Classics from the University of California, Santa Cruz and Cornell. She loves myths and telling stories. This has gotten more and more out of hand. Her solution is her brand: Fantasy and Magic in a Bronze Age World. Hand of Fire was a semi-finalist for the M.M. Bennett's Award for Historical Fiction. Priestess of Ishana won the San Diego State University Conference Choice Award. Judith is represented by Richard Curtis.

For more information, visit www.judithstarkston.com/



Tesha Series



Hand of Fire

Message from Bernard Wozny, CWC Sacramento President.



Dear Members,

I usually like to start with an observation about the coming month. This time I'm not going to mention any flower or birthstone, instead, I'll talk about elections. By that I mean the club elections – that is about as political I will ever get on this forum. As I always say in any election, use your vote, even if you think it won't count. Whatever you vote for has a say on what happens in the future, so put your vote out there.

Speaking of elections, we have two important board vacancies, and we have not received any nominations. First VP to chair the monthly Saturday programs. I must admit, this is a tough spot to fill, see the description for details. Also, Club secretary which is relatively easy and provides insight into the workings of the board.

The deadline for nominations has passed, but if you have a burning desire to fulfil either of these roles, let me know.

The Newsletter Editor is not subject to any election but is totally voluntary. This is a great role for any member wanting to expand their horizons. All it involves is to meet the publication deadline once a month. Prompt the submitters and gather their articles together, the actual formatting is done by Rosi Hollinbeck. The completed Newsletter is then emailed to all members and all CWC branch presidents.

The title of CWC Newsletter Editor would look fabulous on any Resumé! So would Club Secretary or First VP!

Cattlemen's – This month's Saturday, June 17, meeting will be held at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Rancho Cordova. Starting at 11:30, we have a very full meeting agenda. First, Anna Stewart will talk about character motivation. This is followed by Linda Champion, Author & Toastmasters District Champ, who will give a 30-minutes interactive presentation.

We will also have a **member book display**, so bring your novels and stories to show off. I want all our members to try to sell their books. Some of us have Square Peg readers so can accept credit cards, others accept cash or check. Why not do a book swap? If your book is the same price as another member, then ask to do an exchange!

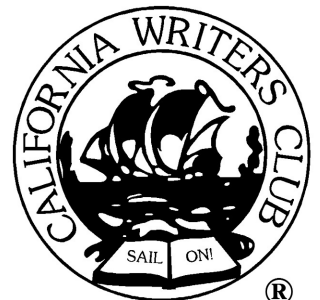
Once you have read a member's book, please write a review on their sales site.

In July and August, the monthly Saturday meetings are cancelled. We have done this traditionally as members may be absent during the summer. I am open to continue impromptu Saturday meetings, where we can have general chit chat, readings or open discussions.

The regular Friday Network Meetings will continue through the summer.

Membership renewals – Yes, it's getting close to renewal time so I'm urging everyone to keep ahead of the curve. We are a franchise of a statewide organization and must keep pace with the central board.

In this respect our board has accepted an incentive to encourage timely renewals. If you submit your membership renewal by June 24th, then you will be entered into a prize draw for a free year's membership. See the renewal details below, but if you submit in a timely manner, then you could be saving your renewal fee.



Critique groups – Many members have asked if there are critique groups to join. We do have a list on our website of existing critique groups. [Critique Groups - California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch \(cwcsacramentowriters.org\)](http://critiquegroups-california-writers-club-sacramento-branch.cwcsacramentowriters.org) Some of these have vacancies, but if you want to create a new group, send staff an email at sacramentowriters@gmail.com.

Volunteers – As if I haven't asked for enough. I'm always on the lookout for volunteers to help at meetings or other online events. Let me know if you want to take part in helping or organizing.

Do you have an idea for a meeting or the website? Let me know!

One last thing I want to leave you with. This is your club and I want members to shine and promote their work.

In the meantime, keep writing and tell me what you think.

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PAYMENT

DUE by JULY 1st!!

\$45

Get your payment in June 24th and be entered in a drawing for a free year membership.



You can renew online with a credit card at
<https://california-writers-club.square.site/> - Or -
Mail a check for \$45 to: CWC, PO Box 1231, Orangevale, CA 95662

MEMBER NEWS



We welcomed two new members in the last month. Please say hello if you see them at a meeting:

Darlene Kapur writes Fiction, Non-Fiction and Narrative Non-Fiction.

Angie Sherbondy writes Social Drama Fiction.

New members and the rest of us are invited to share a brief (200 words max) bio and a jpeg headshot for our website's Members page. And you can include a link to your own website in your bio!

We are sad to announce that Judith Presnall, a member and our contest coordinator, has suffered a stroke. She is presently in a hospital recovering. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Contact Bernard for more information at bpwozny@gmail.com

Our member, **Dierdre Wolownick**, has spent the month of May in Spain, speaking to various groups & organizations around the country, signing books, and going rock climbing. Her book, *The Sharp End of Life*, is published in 4 European languages. Last year she spoke in Italian in 3 countries, and this year she'll speak in Spain and in France, in Spanish and in French. (This is the advantage of having been a foreign languages teacher for 44 years.)

Recently, member **Brina Patel**, a local Sacramento writer and freelancer, conducted an interview with member Dr. Lally Pia. Dr. Pia is a Child Psychiatrist and Author of the forthcoming memoir, *The Fortune Teller's Prophecy: A Memoir of an Unlikely Doctor*, (Publisher She Writes Press, April 2024). In her memoir Dr Pia chronicles her arduous path to becoming a psychiatrist. Most recently, Dr. Pia was also a finalist for [America's Next Great Author](#), a TV pilot.

Please click on the link below for details of the interview.

<https://brinapatelwriter.com/interview-with-dr-lally-pia-psychiatrist-memoirist-and-americas-next-great-author-finalist/>

Larry Mandelberg is announcing the recent publication of his book *Businesses don't fail. They Commit Suicide*. Here's an idea of what it contains:

Understanding the Causes of Business Failure

Most businesses fail because their success brings unfamiliar problems that leaders and managers do not know how to solve, NOT from external forces. Inside, you'll find...

- Three reasons businesses fail
- Eight indicators of businesses sustainability
- How to identify the real causes of problems, not the symptoms
- Why businesses fail at each stage of growth
- How to prevent failure before it happens

The book is based on over 40 years of experience and interviews with over 250 business leaders. It includes real-life stories to illustrate the points made.

Critique Groups

Interested in finding a Critique Group? So many of us write alone and have gotten very little feedback on our work. Exposing our creative efforts to a group of like-minded and considerate writers is the first step towards sending our masterpieces out into the world.

If interested, email me, Bonnie, at sacramentowriters@gmail.com. I will collect your names and link you up with other interested members. I can also help with ideas for how to get started and provide guidance for creating a safe and supportive group.

Please direct member news to Sacramentowriters@gmail.com.

100 Years of Little Light

CWC Sacramento Member Emeritus Kiyō Sato turned 100 in May, celebrating with more than 100 devoted friends and relatives at a local community center filled with balloons, buffet, and musicians.

Sato joined our branch in 2005, when she met a member who helped her get her book, *Dandelion through the Crack*, published by Willow Valley Press in Nevada City. The book won the 2008 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing New Nonfiction. Symbolically, the cover featured a dandelion, whose seeds spread in the breeze. Sato's father addressed renewal in a Haiku poem found in her book:

Dandelion,
How long have you been stepped upon?
Today you bloom.

Dandelion recounts Sato's local experience in 1942, when notices called for the internment of "persons of Japanese ancestry." With ten days' notice, her family was rounded up, her home searched by the FBI, and they were forced to leave their strawberry farm.

"Molly and Dicky were so nervous," says Sato of her pet dogs. "They ran around us as if to corral us to stay. We finally put them in the back shed with plenty of food and water. We cracked the door so that they could get out after we left. Even now I shed tears thinking how they must have searched for us all over each day. I know they died of grief."

Packed in trains and trucks in 127 degree heat, her family was sent to barracks in Poston, Arizona where public latrines, nine holes in a row, added to the humiliation.

Sato would later learn that their home was ruined, filled with squatters, and possessions left in the nearby church gone along with the church itself. She would go on to college, join the army, become a public health nurse, and work as a school nurse in a local school district. She developed the Blackbird Vision Screening System for young children. In 2011, two of her brothers were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for those who served in the segregated and highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

Rights for Sato's book were purchased by Soho Press of New York. The title was changed to *Kiyō's Story* and the dandelion cover replaced by a photo of a young Sato.



When invited to speak at the Smithsonian, Sato saw letters she had written to her teacher that had been confiscated by a Military Intelligence Officer. She asked to talk with him, now age 94. *Someone should write about those horrendous conditions you people lived in*, he told her. Thought Sato to herself, *You obviously haven't read my book.*

Sato recalls that after her father died, she found his notebook, filled with Haiku. "He always encouraged us kids to keep a diary, and here he had done the same. That's when I told myself, you better get going with that book, girl; you're 80."

So she started writing *Dandelion*, every morning at the crack of dawn in a donut shop. "My father taught us to never give in, to follow the little light."

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD POSITIONS

Our club functions due to the help of five officers: President, First Vice-President/Programs, Second Vice-President/Membership, Treasurer, and Secretary. Officer positions are for a one-year term, from July 1 through June 30.

After asking for nominations in the beginning of this month, the proposed nominees for our board positions are as follows:

President: Bernard Wozny has been nominated for the position of President for the upcoming year. You have met his sunny presence at almost every meeting we have held since he took office in September of 2022. While on the Board, Bernard has offered his computer skills to update the CWC website. Since becoming president, he has worked to make this a club where members can develop their skills in writing and publishing. It is his aim to build this club into a friendly community where we all advance our horizons.

Bernard is a writer of science thrillers.

1st Vice President/Programs: POSITION AVAILABLE

The 1st Vice President coordinates speakers for the monthly membership meetings, which occur the third Saturday of the month except for July and August. The person filling this position contacts speakers, gathers relevant information for the newsletter and website, and introduces the speaker at the meeting. In addition to consulting on various branch program activities, the 1st Vice President takes over if the president is absent.

This position is unfilled. If you feel drawn to help with creating the club's program, please let us know.

2nd Vice President/Membership: Bonnie Blue, MA, has been nominated for the VP of membership position. After a career in counseling, she loves engaging with people and plans to look after the needs of the membership by helping organize critique groups, sharing the accomplishments of the membership in the newsletter, and generally helping out where needed.

Bonnie writes memoir.

Treasurer: Tim Schooley has been nominated to be the Treasurer for the next year. Tim has volunteered as the financial officer of a club previously. His career as a lawyer has trained him well to decipher the legalize in financial documents.

Tim is a writer of historical fiction.

Secretary: POSITION AVAILABLE

The Secretary records the minutes of each Board meeting and distributes the minutes to the members of the board afterwards. The Secretarial position is an ideal way to join the Board and begin to learn how it functions without requiring much time or involvement.

We have no nomination for secretary. So please consider being the one to take notes on our ramblings one time per month (our meetings are mostly on Zoom) plus an hour for writing them up.

Serving as an officer requires no special skills other than a willingness to work with others and serve the club. If interested, let us know at sacramentowriters@gmail.com.



Add a Nugget to Your Writing Portfolio!

The branch Newsletter Editor position is open and available to a member who wants experience in putting out an online monthly. The CWC branch position offers the opportunity to garner an inside track on speakers and events, and member news. Only a few hours

a month are required for collecting articles, and then member Rosi Hollinbeck lays out the newsletter. There is room for expansion and new ideas, depending on an editor's interests. The editor can network with other branch newsletter editors, broadening his or her own reach and professional contact list. If interested, email staff at sacramentowriters@gmail.com.

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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.

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Those of you writing a book or interested in writing a book – please put Sunday, Oct. 8 on your calendar. That's when we'll be offering a day-long seminar with **The Book Architect** (<https://www.bookarchitecture.com/about/>). Several years ago he came to town and filled the room. We're looking forward to having him back again. Details including cost for the seminar coming soon!

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Save the date!!

Holiday Party for CWC-Sacramento will be on December 17th at Cattlemens Steakhouse in Rancho Cordova.

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The 19th Annual Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest began during April, National Poetry Month.

The theme of this year's contest is "The Five Ws Of Life: Who? What? Where? When? Why? . . . Discover The Answers Through Poetry."

The five (5) new contest categories include the following: "

Who" Is The Most Important Person In Your Life?

"What" Is Your Most Cherished Memory?

"Where" Do You Want To Be Tomorrow?

"When" Did You Do Something That Made A Difference In Someone's Life? "Why" Should You Never Stop Dreaming?

Poets may submit a maximum of three poems, no more than one in each of three of the five contest categories.

Everyone is encouraged to enter the contest. Poets do not have to live in Lincoln, CA to be eligible.

There is no entry fee. Young Poets, 18-years of age or under, are encouraged to submit poems and will compete in a special "Young Poets" category.

Contest Rules and Entry Form can be downloaded from my blog:

<https://slolowe44.blogspot.com/2023/03/2023-voices-of-lincoln-poetry-contest.html>

or requested from me, Alan Lowe, Contest Coordinator, at slolowe@icloud.com. All poems must be received no later than Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the address on the Entry Form.

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ANNOUNCING FALL'S OPEN READING

SIGN-UP TO READ

—OR—

COME & LISTEN TO YOUR COLLEAGUES WORK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 7:00 PM.

To Sign-up for the Open Reading, contact 2johnpatterson@gmail.com .

You may join in to read to, and/or listen to, fellow members' work. After each piece we share comments. However, this is not a critique group. Please note, if you arrive after the reading has started, you will be admitted as soon as the piece is concluded. Your piece should be approximately 6-8 minutes long.

We're taking the summer off, so make note of this opportunity now and pencil it in your calendar.





Listening to Pete Cruz's talk was like a drink of water to this thirsty writer.

May 5, 2023, California Writers Club – Sacramento Branch

by Mari-Lynne Infantino

Leaning forward in my seat, I listened intently to the message that Pete Cruz had to impart during his presentation. Get Emotional with Your Writing...a topic that we struggle to learn. The golden rule of "Show, don't tell" is something writers hear all the time from our editors and critique groups, but how do we apply it?

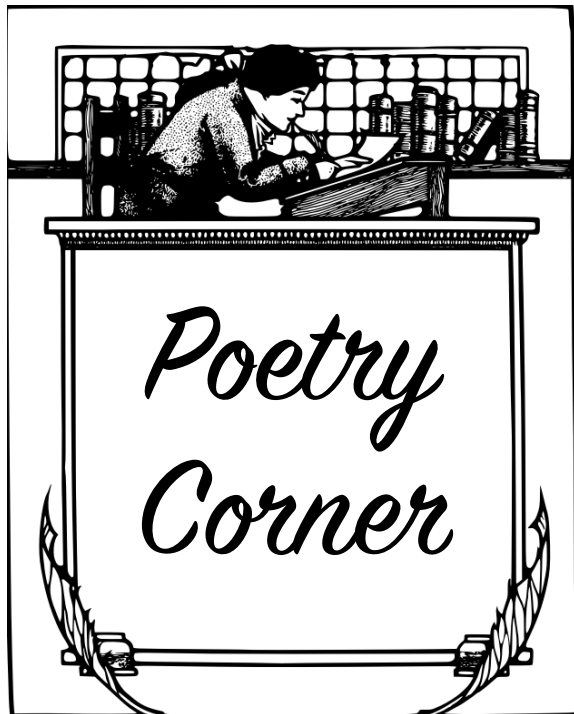
Pete drew me into his presentation by reminding us that readers read to have their own experiences. He stated that our words, our stories, belong to the readers when we take them on an emotional ride. He mentioned that he was once told by a counselor, "Don't be stingy with your feelings." Instead of saying, *He wouldn't like it*, illustrate your meaning. *He'd be furious!* Bold sentences will incite, excite and color our words, indeed our worlds, when we read them through our emotions.

I laughed as he illustrated his point with the following sentence, "*Anxiety darted inside my stomach, like bees inside a hive.*" He followed up this illustration with, Words are like onions; peel enough layers and you're going to cry.

Pete went on to tell us that connecting with our emotions is like its own physical therapy. Grade your pain, and give them a number. There are degrees to emotion. By minimizing our emotions, our minds will protect us in denial. What's your unhappy pain range? What are your emotions telling you?

Our words have to be more effective to reach our audience. Wear your emotions on your sleeve. Pete's examples were simple, but their imagery was excellent; twisting your ring, chewing on my pen, my heart leapt. Journaling has kept Pete moving forward. Journal to write problems, but also the things in your life that are happy for you.

Pete Cruz spoke with clarity, honesty, and emotion. His words were a drink of water to this thirsty writer. Be sure to read his book *No Tears for Dad. My Path to Forgiveness*, published in 2022, and winning an Illuminations Book Award. It is Pete's sensitive and raw memoir of recovery from childhood trauma – thanks to the pursuit of his Heavenly Father. His examples from his memoirs were raw and heartfelt. As he spoke, you could visualize his powerful story through the strength of his emotions.



Instructions on Not Giving Up

In 2022, Ada Limón was appointed the United States poet laureate. Born on March 28, 1976, she is originally from Sonoma, California. As a child, she was greatly influenced by the visual arts and artists, including her mother, Stacia Brady. In 2001, Limón received an MFA from the creative writing program at New York University. She splits her time between Lexington, Kentucky, and Sonoma, California.



Ada Limón

More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out of the crabapple tree, more than the neighbor's almost obscene display of cherry limbs shoving their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate sky of Spring rains, it's the greening of the trees that really gets to me. When all the shock of white and taffy, the world's baubles and trinkets, leave the pavement strewn with the confetti of aftermath, the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin growing over whatever winter did to us, a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then, I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all.



CWC Sacramento Club Positions FY 2022-2023

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Bernard Wozny
bpwozny@gmail.com

First Vice-President/Programs: Open

Second Vice-President/Membership: Bonnie Gault Blue
beaublue4@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tim Schooley
timschooley@comcast.net

Secretary: Open

Directors

Kimberley Edwards
Chris Hennessy
Jason Orta
Cheryl Stapp

Club Positions

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