

SACRAMENTO WRITER



CWC Sacramento Monthly Meeting Beginning Again: Putting Fun Back into Writing Saturday, May 20 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 Kirsten Casey, Author

Nevada County Poet Laureate, Kirsten Casey, wants you to enjoy the process of writing, even if you feel undisciplined and blocked. Her approach to writing will entertain you and inspire you. Remember why you started to write and come to renew that sense of inspiration.

I will boost your creativity, through a glimpse into the ways I find inspiration, and I will provide prompts to renew your curiosity and love for writing.

You will learn where to look for inspiration when you don't feel inspired.

- the internet is your friend, the internet is your enemy.
- accountability in writing, what does that mean to you?
- fun prompts that are useful in any genre of writing.
- encouragement without judgment, learning to accept your own approach.

Kirsten Casey is the current Nevada County poet laureate, and an active California Poet in the Schools. As laureate, she is writing poems celebrating local historical places, people, and events. She is also holding community workshops to promote poetry and to make the process of its creation more accessible. Her second book of poetry (with the working title Instantaneous Obsolescence) explores historical and literary characters struggling with social media. [Kirsten Casey](#).



Writers Network May 5 Get Emotional with Your Writing

Friday, May 5, 2023

9 – 11 am

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

or

[Join with Zoom](#)

Passcode 811481

Pete Cruz
Author

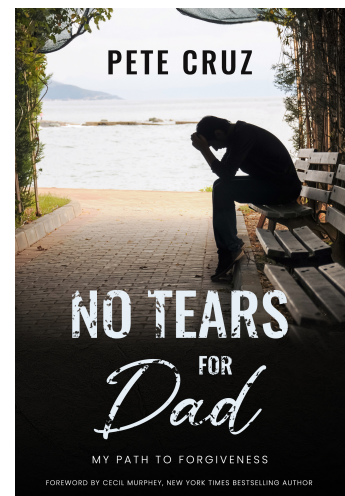
Why Evoking Emotions in Writing is Vital to Engaging Readers

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 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.

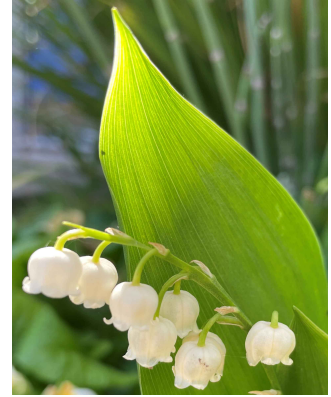


Dear Members,

Every month is my favorite, but May always beckons me forward. I offer this example of Lilies of the Valley, illuminated in my morning garden.

Our senses are easy prey to the sights and sounds of spring, the new awakening that engulfs us. The life that surrounds us, and the new opportunities that await us.

This is what I want to introduce to you this month
– new ideas and new opportunities.



AI, or Artificial Intelligence. Don't let this term put you off, it is often misunderstood.

I am not going to talk about Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Terminator, or how AI will soon dominate the world, steal our jobs, enslave us, and destroy all humanity.

Get real. We are a writers' club, not a philosophy forum.

Wait... SciFi writers! Dystopian apocalypse! Dare I mention *Girl Electric*?

Instead, I would like to introduce to you some AI tools that are coming to everyone's attention in the media. Some of these tools can be useful to writers who may (or may not) want to employ them.

ChatGPT – An artificial universe of hype surrounds this tool. I will avoid the usual technical acronyms; I will simply refer to it in laymen's terms as a 'language processing tool'. Yes, you can chat to it through a keyboard interface, yes it will give you responses, and yes it will appear "Intelligent" (whatever that means). But remember – all it is doing is processing natural human language. I have used and tested this tool and found some useful abilities.

Editing – with the appropriate prompts, ChatGPT can correct the text that you give it. The free version is limited to about one page of text at a time, so this is tedious at best. However, I found the improvements to be very good. Whether this can replace a human editor is subject to debate.

Writing a book – yes you can prompt ChatGPT with something like 'write me a story about Jane and John'. You can then ask it to improve its first response with something like 'Say how they fall in love'. You can then continue down this iterative path to develop some kind of story.

In my opinion, this is a SUPER-DUPER tool to break writer's block. Forget writing a book, by all means, use ChatGPT as a text mirror where you can bounce ideas around. It could help you to get your writing juices flowing in the right direction.

Audiobooks – who wants to create, or has created an audiobook? This is one of the fastest-growing areas for publishing. Hiring a human to record the voice is expensive and I fully understand why. There are several text-to-speech AI tools that claim to do the job for you.

I have looked at several and one of the best I found is Revoicer. Please note, I do not endorse this, I simply use this as an example. If you wish to discuss further, please contact me. Tools like Revoicer offer numerous voices to render your text, these can be male, female, mature, young, including cultural accents.



The voice can even be set to neutral, excited, happy, sad, etc. This can be changed on a per line or word basis. I tested Revoicer and found that it was very near perfect for narration. So, if you want to create a technical or narrative voiceover document, then this is possibly the thing for you.

For novels, I found that dialog was less than useless. I tried various ways to get the language processor to work to my liking, for instance, changing the punctuation, breaking the paragraphs, etc. Nothing seemed to work. One interesting thing I experimented with was different voices for different characters. This may solve the dialog problem, BUT it requires a LOT of work to create a working audiobook.

This could be a new Wowie Zowie audio product, a bit like an audio play. A separate voice for narrator and each character. Remember, you first heard this idea here. If you become a squillionaire with this idea, I want 10%.

I seriously think this is a great idea.

One last thing I want to leave you with.

This is your club and I want members to shine and promote their work.

In times past, we used to have posters of our books displayed at all meetings. I want to return to this, and maybe we can do this electronically. I will need help doing this and if you are interested or have any good ideas, please contact me.

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

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)

P.S. In September I am scheduled to give a presentation at the First Friday Network meeting. Let me know if there are any urgent things you need me to talk about.

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. Editorial experience can be impressive when a writer applies to a writing program or a company job. Why? Because it shows commitment, reliability, judgment, and ability to manage or seek relevant content for readers, constituents or customers. Many companies use a newsletter as a marketing device. 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, as member Rosi Hollinbeck lays out the newsletter. However, 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. To find out what the job involves, please contact Jenifer Rowe at jenifererowe@gmail.com.

MEMBER NEWS



Carol Menaker’s book *The Worst Thing We’ve Ever Done: One Juror’s Reckoning with Racial Injustice* is her intimate and eye-opening account of her twenty-one-day jury sequestration in the 1976 murder trial of a young Black revolutionary charged with the murders of two white Philadelphia prison wardens. More than forty years after Menaker voted to convict Frederick Burton of murder, she tells a devastating story of uncovering how her naiveté and white privilege may have led her to convict a man whose shoes she never could have walked in.

carolmenaker.com

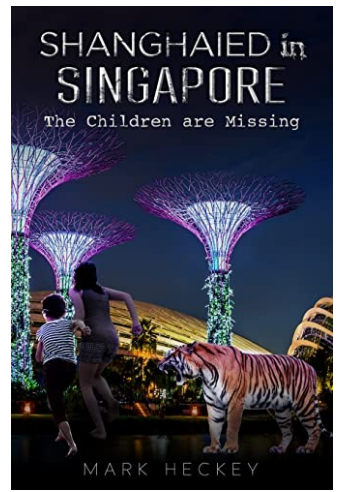
Brina Patel has put together a FREE 11-page Freelance Writing Roadmap which includes:

- How to create a portfolio with ZERO experience
- The BEST places to find writing jobs
- A list of outlets that PAY writers
- Tips for pitching editors + an email TEMPLATE
- PLUS an actual pitch that helped her land a story in Business Insider

[HERE'S YOUR FREELANCE WRITING ROADMAP!](#)

Please direct member news to Sacramentowriters@gmail.com.

We are saddened to report that we have lost member **Mark Heckey** to a sudden and unexpected death. Mark served as a member of the board of CWC-Sacramento from July 2020 until March 2022. He recently published his first novel *Shanghaied in Singapore* as a Kindle book. He will be missed, and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family.



Daydream

By Mark Heckey

The clock hand suspended,
A quiet moment upon us descended.
We stood at a cliffside trail,
Below, azure ocean with boats a-sail.
The seaside village arranged in red tiles geometric,
Bright sun and gentle shadow melded an image eclectic.
We breathed in a joyous atmosphere,
For this moment life was simple and dear.
Then we heard reality begin to speak,

“I am sorry to interrupt, but your ten minutes are now up.”

This poem was written by Mark Heckey on a trip to Italy with his wife Jan in April 2023. Mark was a retired urban planner who filled his time with writing, hiking, traveling and volunteering. He was a member of CWC Sacramento, served on the Board, and had recent articles in [Comstock](#), [Sacramento News and Review](#), and [California Update](#) (caupdate.com). His Kindle book, [Shanghaied in Singapore](#), is available on Amazon. Another thriller, [Executive Privilege](#), will be out soon. Mark was fine tuning this poem just a few hours before his death on April 25. – Marcia Ehinger





2023-24 OFFICER NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!!

The club functions due to the help of five officers: President, First Vice-President/Programs, Second Vice-President/Membership, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please consider joining a great team. You can make a difference and have fun serving our club. While serving as an officer, you gain new skills, expertise and contacts. You can build your platform, expand your network of writers, and add to your resume. Officer positions are for a one-year term, from July 1 through June 30.

Board positions and descriptions are as follows:

President: The President manages the board and has overall responsibility for branch operations. He or she provides vision and leadership, and encourages an open forum for ideas and discussion. Typically the president represents the branch at the Central Board, unless he or she designates this function to another member.

1st Vice President/Programs: The 1st Vice President coordinates speakers for the monthly membership meeting, which occurs 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.

2nd Vice President/ Membership: Focusing on Membership, the 2nd Vice President processes new member applications and collects renewal dues. As the assigned administrator for the membership roster of the Sacramento Branch of the CWC, this officer ensures that membership renewals are properly processed and coordinates with the Central Board as needed.

Treasurer: The Treasurer handles the finances of the club, interfacing with the Central Board of the CWC to meet club requirements. The treasurer insures that speakers are paid and that all other expenses are properly paid in accordance with standard financial practices.

Secretary: 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 to begin to learn how it functions without requiring much time or involvement.

Serving as an officer requires no special skills other than a willingness to work with others and serve the club. If you believe you might be interested, please contact Nominating Chair Jason Orta at jasonjorta@gmail.com by May 15, 2023.

APRIL'S OPEN READING DELIGHTS

Those attending the April 13th Open Reading were delighted by the selections and discussions. Due to unexpected cancellations, the five readers utilized the extra time for deeper discussions. Everyone delved into the works, the authors, and the inspirations for their shared pieces.

Nanci Woody, retired English professor, award winning author of *Tears and Trombones*, and other writing credits, started with a poem titled "A Question for the Gods." This prayerful piece requests that her husband's worn-out body be given a little more time to hold her hand.

Larry Mandelberg, who solves complex problems as a fourth-generation businessperson, is Chairman of Innovative Education Management, and a business consultant, is awaiting the release of his book, "*Businesses Don't Fail, They Commit Suicide*." The story he excerpted from the book juxtaposed a consulting task wherein he was assigned an old, tired, dirty desk in an unused portion of a building finding the only item inside the desk was an uncashed check for \$365,000.00.

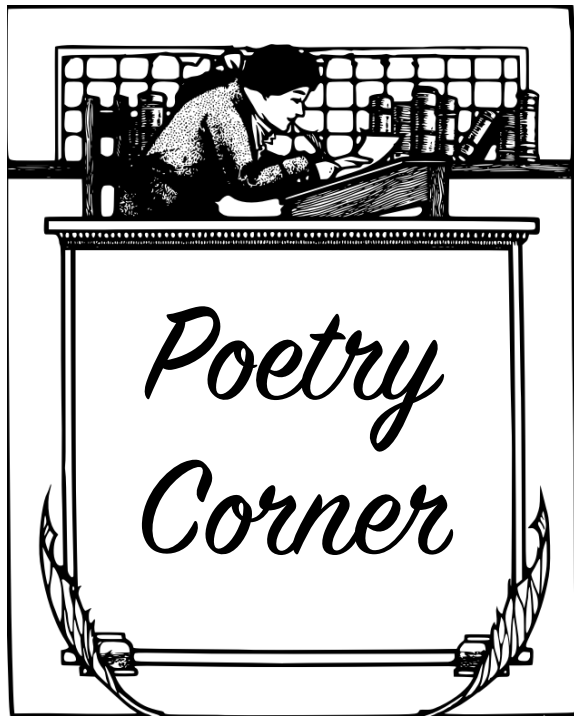
Marcia Ehinger, a retired physician, who's published poetry and "California Update" articles, etc., and a long time CWC member, read a poem set in the 1880's. Marcia grew up around train tracks and has been fascinated with trains. Her story of Big Mike, the steam locomotive, took listeners on a journey.

Susan Dlugach retired English teacher, current word nerd, published in anthologies, Las Vegas Daily Optic, and California Update, first shared her praise and hope for the Kings! She read a few poems: "The Wonder" about youth; "Whiling Away the Day" about fanciful youth with imaginary play outside; "Jambalaya Land" reveals cooking heritage rooted in East Texas and from fleeing thirties' Germany; "Born a Braid" examines a similar theme using a Pablo Neruda prompt; and she ended with "Planning my Garden," a capture of spring.

John Patterson read an excerpt from his forthcoming memoir detailing how the seven-year-old learned he's allergic to penicillin.

Stay tuned and look for the announcement of the Summer Open Reading, to appear in next month's Newsletter and on our web page. Meanwhile, think about some event, character, or scene description you've written and would love to share!





Myra Viola Wilds was born in Kentucky. She authored the poetry collection *Thoughts of Idle Hours* (National Baptist Publishing Board, 1915), in her own hand after losing her eyesight due to overwork as a dressmaker.



Myra Viola Wilds

THOUGHTS

What kind of thoughts now, do you carry

In your travels day by day
Are they bright and lofty visions,
Or neglected, gone astray?

Matters not how great in fancy,
Or what deeds of skill you've wrought;
Man, though high may be his station,
Is no better than his thoughts.

Catch your thoughts and hold them tightly,
Let each one an honor be;
Purge them, scourge them, burnish brightly,
Then in love set each one free.



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 - Bonnie Blue
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