

# SACRAMENTO WRITER



## CWC Sacramento Live & Zoom Presentation (includes Q&A)

Saturday, November 19, 2022

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Arden Arcade Library

2443 Marconi Avenue

Sacramento, CA

– OR –

[Click here to join via Zoom](#)

with

**Paul Zeidman**

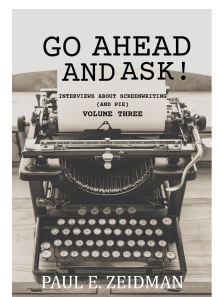
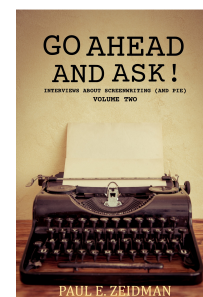
Award-winning Screenwriter

Every film begins with the script. Knowing the basics of writing a screenplay can set you on the right path.

Attendees will learn:

- The importance of “Show, don’t tell”
- What should and shouldn’t be on the page
- What do we mean by structure, and why is it so important?
- Familiar, but different, OR, Where have I seen this before?
- It’s a marathon, not a sprint

**Paul Zeidman** is an award-winning screenwriter and the author of the three *Go Ahead and Ask* screenwriting books. Paul has also been running his screenwriting blog Maximum Three since 2009, co-hosts the Creative Writing Life podcast, and has been the featured guest on several screenwriting podcasts.





## Message from Bernard Wozny, CWC Sacramento President.

Without you, I am talking to myself.  
It is our members that make this club.

As President, I will reiterate the fact that I am not your leader, instead, I am your guide and inspiration. I am also a channel for your questions.

Talking about questions, we sent out a survey asking you – the members – for your input. I encourage everyone to take a little time to answer these questions. Don't be shy, you won't hurt my feelings. The survey also gives you some scope to ask me questions and add comments.

I thank everyone who responded, your feedback is welcome, and helps us to build a better club for you.

I want to remind everyone that both monthly meetings are now on Saturdays. I encourage everyone to attend in person. Face masks and social distancing are perfectly acceptable. We will continue with Zoom for as long as we can. When you can't attend, a recording will be available at [www.sacramentowriters.org/meeting-archive/](http://www.sacramentowriters.org/meeting-archive/)

The next **Writers Network** is at Perko's, at 9:30, on Saturday, November 5th. Cheryl Stapp will discuss the pros and cons of pen names, plus much more.

The next chapter's **Monthly Meeting** is at Arden Arcade Library, on Saturday, November 19th. Paul Zeidman will talk about writing screen plays.

More details of these meetings are on the home page of our web site [www.cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org)

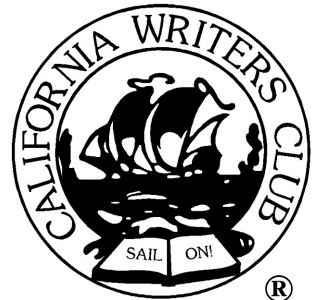
I want to announce something very special!

On Saturday, December 10th at 1 pm, we will be celebrating a **Holiday Party** at the Cattlemens Restaurant in Rancho Cordova. We used to meet here on a regular basis, and I'm glad we can now return for our winter festivities. Read further in this newsletter for details.

It's November, which means, this is NaNoWriMo time! If you wish to participate, you need to write 1,667 words per day. Phew! Sounds like a lot. I am very much behind in my writing, but I hope to use this month to draw my proverbial pen to paper. What I need is a support group to help me along.

And so ... in the last newsletter I mentioned a New Year's Resolution. At the next Writers Workshop meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>, Gini Grossenbacher will be our special guest to tell you about the classes she wants to run in the New Year. She is the embodiment of the phrase "Writers Helping Writers".

Stay tuned and stay connected.







# Writers Network November 5

## Strategies for Success: Pen Names & Niches

**Saturday, November 5, 2022**

**9:30-11 am**

**Perko's Cafe Grill**

**New name: CH Café & Grill**  
**6215 Sunrise Blvd (just off Greenback)**  
**Citrus Heights**

OR

[Click here to join Zoom meeting](#)

**Cheryl Stapp**

**Award winning nonfiction author, California history**

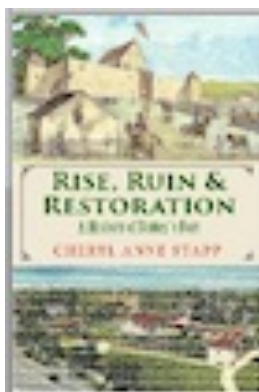
**The pros & cons of using a pen name**  
**...plus, the advantages of creative specialization**

### **Attendees will learn about:**

- Why use a pen name instead of using your own
- Copyright rules & legal regulations re pen names
- Best-selling authors who do/do not have pen names /specialize
- Having a specialization (niche) is a good thing
- How to find your own niche

**Cheryl Stapp** is an award-winning writer-historian who has published six nonfiction books on California's vibrant past; two published by the prestigious History Press. She served as 1st VP-Programs, CWC-Sacramento, for two presidents; and facilitated the Writer's Network breakfast meetings for three years. Website & weekly blog devoted to California history at

[www.cherylannestapp.com/](http://www.cherylannestapp.com/)  
**"California's Olden Golden Days."**



**Put Us on Your Writing Calendar!**  
**The CWC Sacramento Holiday Party—December 10<sup>th</sup>**



Join the fun! Meet and mingle with fellow writers, old and new--members of the greatest and oldest professional writing club on the West Coast! Did you know that our Sacramento CWC is nearing its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday? Back in 1914, Honorable Members included Jack London and John Muir! And, our club is the originator of the Legislative Resolution, signed at the State Capitol, that established California Writers Week. Lots to be proud of!

We look forward to seeing you, one and all, at the party! We want to hear about your latest writing project and if you have a published book, bring it along! In addition, there will be an opportunity to respond to a funny prompt, to exchange white elephant gifts, and much, much more!

As always, we are "writers helping writers."

**Here are the details:**

**What:** Writers Holiday Party

**When:** Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 p.m.

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

**Who:** CWC Sacramento members and guests

**Cost:** \$40 (tax deductible) price includes buffet, soft drinks, and dessert. Meat will be tri tip. There will be a vegetarian option of mushroom porcini, and the bar will be open for guests to buy drinks.

[Click here for tickets.](#)

**Stay tuned for more details to follow later!**

**Your Enthusiastic Planning Committee:**

Gloria Pierrot-Dyer, First V.P./Program

Chris Hennessy, Board Member/Publicity/Social Media

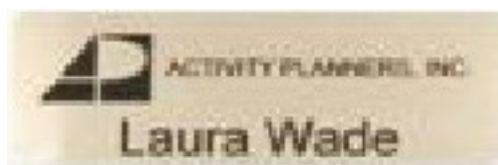
Kimberly A. Edwards, Board Advisor & Immediate Past President

Linda Champion, Former Network Meeting Coordinator





## Name Badges



We are again taking orders for name badges for the members of CWC-Sacramento. The subsidized cost to members is \$3.00. If you wish to order a badge, please print and fill out the form below and mail it in to our post office box with a check made out to CWC-Sacramento. We will take orders through mid-December and have them ready for distribution **at meetings** starting in January 2023.

Name as you wish it to appear:

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Backing:

- Magnet \_\_\_\_\_
- Pin \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment (\$3.00):

- Check \_\_\_\_\_ (Make payable to CWC- Sacramento Branch)

Description:

- 2" x 3" name badge, gold metal with black embossed lettering, includes club logo and branch name
- Cost to club member: \$3.00
- Full replacement cost for lost name badge: \$10.00
- Mail a check and this form to:

CWC-Sacramento  
P.O. Box 1231  
Orangevale, CA 95662

- Deadline for orders Dec. 20, 2022

## **SIGN-UP OR COME TO LISTEN To The Next OPEN READINGS: THURSDAY, DEC. 1 AT 7:00 PM**



Completing our third year, the Open Readings event is a platform for sharing portions of our work from all genres, including poetry, and receiving immediate feedback. Come and listen to what our members have written. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86252974943?pwd=Nkw2ZlZlM010aE11NWJXaERodHhBdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 5297 4943  
Passcode: 317636

If you wish to read your material, contact [2johnpatterson@gmail.com](mailto:2johnpatterson@gmail.com) to sign up for the Open Readings.

Typically, with time for about six writers, the 7:00 to 8:30 pm 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 runs about 6-8 minutes. All readers are encouraged to practice reading their piece out loud (which is slower-takes more time-than reading to yourself).

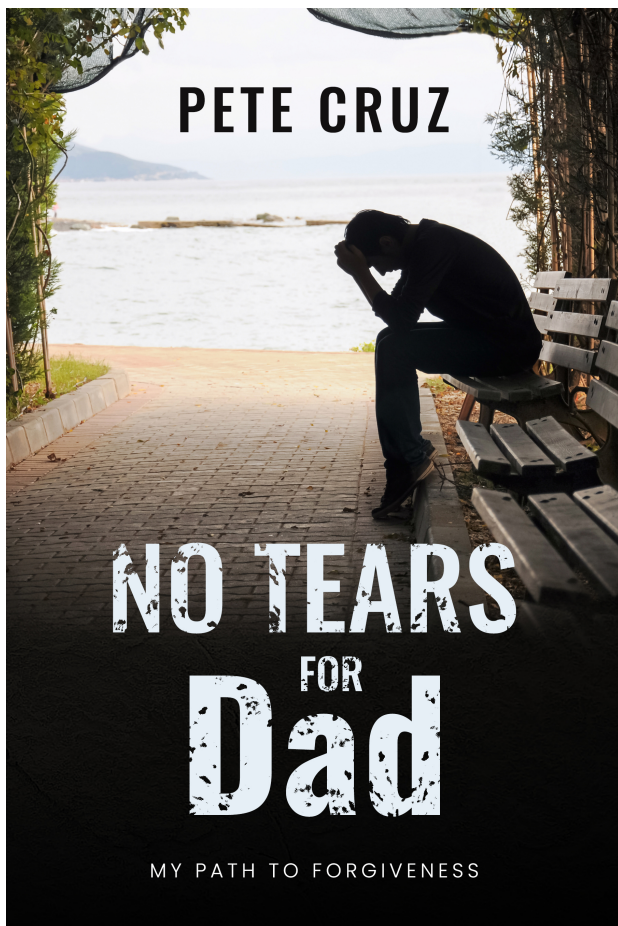
Writers who've signed up will receive additional information from John about two weeks prior to the event. Those who come to listen are reminded to consider the reader's needs: thus no use of chats; big physical movements; eating; talking; etc. during the actual readings. John will open the event at 6:30 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



**Kimberley Edwards** sold an article to The Antique Motorcycle. "Sacto Club Album: Early Motorcycle Clubs of Sacramento" appears in the November-December issue.



*No Tears for Dad*, a memoir by **Pete Cruz**, is now available for purchase through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Redemption Press, and his website [www.PeteCruz.com](http://www.PeteCruz.com).

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Please direct member news to [Sacramentowriters@gmail.com](mailto:Sacramentowriters@gmail.com).



# **On the Road With Kim and Linda**

By Linda Champion

Early on the morning of October 8<sup>th</sup>, Linda Champion and her husband, Ken Champion, hit the road for Manteca, California. They were headed for the Great Valley Bookfest. Also on the road was our out-going President, Kim Edwards.

Several writing groups were to present panel discussions at the fest. Along with them were Kim and Linda, representing the California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch. Their discussion topic was "Tips for Writers: Information You Wish You Had Known in the Beginning of Your Writing Experience."

To get things rolling, Linda introduced Kim, who presented information about our club. Both women handed out professional-looking club brochures, complete with updated inserts about meeting dates, times, and locations. Special thanks to Ted Witt for the brochures and Tim Schooley for the updated inserts!

Kim continued with her presentation, sharing tips for the aspiring writer. Then she gave the mike to Linda, who added her own tips. For those of you wanting to have these little gems, see below.

The discussion finished with a lively question-and-answer period that allowed for good interaction between audience members and speakers. Linda completed her talk by asking the audience if they had any tips to share with her and Kim. After all, we can all learn from each other. Not true?

When the presentation was completed, everyone left with smiles on their faces. The California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch, was well represented.

## **Tips for the Writer:**

### **Information You Wish You Had Known in the Beginning of Your Writing Experience**

**By Linda Champion**

Champion Writing Creations, LLC  
California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch

1. Read Stephen King's book, *On Writing*, and Mark Levine's on *The Fine Print of Self-Publishing*!
2. Write what you love. For me, it is the fairy tale.
3. When writing your first draft, write with total abandon! Don't worry about crossing t's, etc. Get in the zone!
4. Invest in heavy-duty, high-quality editing.
5. Read your written copy aloud, especially the dialogue. Check for flow and smoothness.

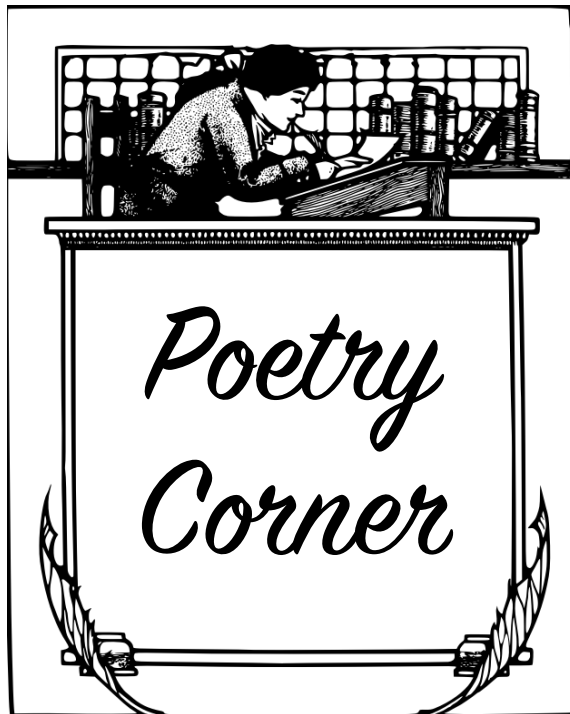
6. Join a critique group! If one doesn't work for you, try another.
7. Keep in mind, a book **IS** judged by its cover. Aim for an eye-catching jacket. Make sure your interior is also effective, one that works well with the overall look of your book.
8. Carefully, select your publisher. Don't wait for that one-in-a-million book deal. Consider self-publishing! Self-published books **ARE** accepted at your local bookstore.
9. Promote your book whenever you can and get others to help you. Advertise on social media!
10. **BEST TIP:** Join your local branch of the California Writers Club! We are from the CWC Sacramento Branch! See us at [www.SacramentoWriters.org](http://www.SacramentoWriters.org).

## **Things I Wish I would Have Known When I Started Writing – A Partial List**

**Kimberly A. Edwards**

Past President California Writers Club Sacramento

- ✓ Writing is 1/3 talent, 1/3 perseverance, and 1/3 studied craft. Yes, studied craft!
- ✓ In anything you write, know what you want to say. Everything should support that quest. Avoid distractions, even if you love them.
- ✓ It's okay to spend money on yourself as a writer. Clubs provide camaraderie and support, while long-term process/generative writing sessions (input, discussion, reading, discussion, etc.) have the potential to provide deep and lasting writing improvement. Many community colleges offer classes where lessons are delivered, readings are examined, and classmates' writing is "workshopped."
- ✓ We learn how to bring a piece of writing to life through scenes, reflection, and summary, organized in just the right order to hit the reader emotionally.
- ✓ Read writer's magazines and understand publishing trends.
- ✓ Don't assume that the reader wants to hear about your experience – if you're writing memoir. No matter how traumatic the experience, the way the story is told has to bring the reader in and not let him/her go. This is the job of the writer – learning how to do it successfully.
- ✓ Writing requires a thick skin. We tend to feel protective of our writing, but we have to get over it.
- ✓ Input is most helpful from readers who know how to put a story together and also use literary devices such as setting, dialogue, and pacing. Avoid relatives and close friends for input.
- ✓ Learn how to write a pitch/query letter and/or a book proposal.
- ✓ Editors and agents are busy. They are inundated by queries and pitches. Most pitches and queries are not particularly good or not appropriate for their publication/area of specialization.
- ✓ Follow the careers of writers you like. Also, look into their agents and publishers.
- ✓ Never say never. There are many commonalities among genres. Skills used in one genre can be applied to others, and may take you down exciting new paths you never expected!



Aimee Nezhukumatathil was born in 1974 in Chicago to a Filipina mother and Malayali Indian father, Aimee Nezhukumatathil is known for writing poems that sit at the intersection of three cultures: Filipino, Indian, and American. She received her BA in English and MFA in poetry and creative nonfiction from Ohio State University in Columbus. Nezhukumatathil is the author of four poetry collections and an essay collection *World of Wonders* (Milkweed Editions, 2020), a New York Times bestseller and Barnes and Noble's Book of the Year. Her awards include the Charles Angoff Award from *The Literary Review*, the James Boatwright III Prize from *Shenandoah*, the Richard Hugo Prize from *Poetry Northwest*, and several fellowships. She is professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Mississippi and lives with her family in Oxford, Mississippi.



Aimee Nezhukumatathil

## I Could Be a Whale Shark

I am worried about tentacles.  
How you can still get stung  
even if the jelly arm disconnects  
from the bell. My husband  
swims without me—farther  
out to sea than I would like,  
buoyed by salt and rind of kelp.  
I am worried if I step too far  
into the China Sea, my baby  
will slow the beautiful kicks  
he has just begun since we landed.  
The *quickenings*, they call it,  
but all I am is slow, a moon jelly  
floating like a bag in the sea.  
Or a whale shark. Yes—I could be  
a whale shark, newly spotted  
with moles from the pregnancy—  
my wide mouth always open  
to eat and eat with a look that says  
*Surprise! Did I eat that much?*

When I sleep, I am a flutefish,  
just lying there, swaying back  
and forth among the kelpy mess  
of sheets. You can see the wet  
of my dark eye awake, awake.  
My husband is a pale blur  
near the horizon, full of adobo  
and not waiting thirty minutes  
before swimming. He is free  
and waves at me as he backstrokes  
past. This is how he prepares  
for fatherhood. Such tenderness  
still lingers in the air: the Roman  
poet Virgil gave his pet fly  
the most lavish funeral, complete  
with meat feast and barrels  
of oaky wine. You can never know  
where or why you hear  
a humming on this soft earth.





# CWC Sacramento Club Positions

## FY 2022-2023

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

President: Bernard Wozny  
[bpwozny@gmail.com](mailto:bpwozny@gmail.com)

First Vice-President/Programs: Gloria Pierrot-Dyer  
[qquill76@gmail.com](mailto:qquill76@gmail.com)

Second Vice-President/Membership: Jenifer Rowe  
[jenifererowe@gmail.com](mailto:jenifererowe@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Karen Terhune  
[koyotesky@gmail.com](mailto:koyotesky@gmail.com)

Secretary: Bonnie Gault Blue  
[beaublue4@gmail.com](mailto:beaublue4@gmail.com)

#### **Members at Large**

Chris Hennessy  
Tim Schooley

#### **Advisor to the Board**

Kimberley Edwards

#### **Club Positions**

Contest Coordinator - Judith Presnall

Historian - Julie Bauer

News and Events Distribution - Jenifer Rowe

Newsletter Content Editor - 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- Tim Schooley