

SACRAMENTO
NOVEMBER 2023



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

SACRAMENTO WRITERS

Dierdre Wolownick-Honnold



Saturday
18
November

will give a presentation at our Third Saturday Meeting
Her topic is yet to be decided—details will be [posted](#) when available.

FIRST FRIDAY NETWORK MEETING

What makes a great book cover?



Friday
3
November

Karen Phillips

We all judge books by their covers.
Investing in a professional cover will help sell your book.

[Phillips continued on page 2]

Leland Stanford Mansion
State Historic Park, N St.
at 8th, Sacramento

[Phillips continued]

Attendees will learn about:

- The three most important elements of a book cover.
- Before and after examples of covers.
- Tips on using the cover to its fullest potential.
- Best practices for formatting the interior of a book.
- Typical costs for book cover design and formatting.

[Karen A. Phillips](#) has a degree in Applied Art & Design. She has been designing book covers and book formatting for many years. She especially enjoys working with self-published authors. In 2023 she published her debut mystery, [A Deadly Combo](#)—and yes, she designed the cover.

Meeting is November 3 at:

[CH Cafe & Grill](#), 6215 Sunrise Blvd (just off Greenback), Citrus Heights

or

[Join with Zoom](#)

Passcode 227171

CALIFORNIA WRITERS WEEK RECAP

4 Events, 21 Authors!

by Tim Schooley

Many thanks to the twenty-one authors, all fellow club members, who read from, discussed, signed, **and sold** their books at four events spread across the Sacramento region. And thanks also to the club members who turned out to support the readers. It was a great California Writers Week celebration of writers and their works.

We started off strong at the Avid Reader bookstore in Davis with a standing room only audience, where Judith Starkston, Pete Cruz, Carol Menaker, Lally Pia, and Edric Cane read from their books. In case you missed it, Chris Hennessy put together an amazing [video of the event](#).



The next night, we were treated to book discussions and readings at Ruby's Books in Folsom, featuring Cindy Sample, Bernard Wozny, Jenifer Rowe, Larry Mandelberg, and J. Scott Coatsworth.

And the night after that, we shifted to the Avid Reader on Broadway, in Sacramento, where our authors were Cheryl Stapp, Tim Schooley, Kathy Lynne Marshall, Kim Edwards, and Glen "Rocky" Meyers. [Writers Week continued on page 3]

[Writers Week continued]

Finally, our regular third Saturday meeting was transformed into a Writers Salon at the Fair Oaks Library, where readings were presented by Terri Dorow, Rosemary Covington, Bonnie Blue, Lynda Smith Hoggan, Sandra Navarro, and Mari-Lynne Infantino.

Thanks also to Bernard Wozny, Tim Schooley, and John Patterson for acting as MCs at the various events, and Mari-Lynne Infantino for her work preparing posters and flyers for the bookstore events. And special thanks to Chris Hennessy for his inspiring video.

In the wake of the pandemic, it was wonderful again to be able to provide opportunities for our club members to present their books to the public and to sell books. The board has ideas for other book events, so stay tuned!

WRITING IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

by Chris Hennessy



Norman Plotkin explored the challenges of creating with artificial intelligence.

Norman's talk covered some of the limits of AI in producing written material. Though AI might be useful for stimulating ideas, AI will never be able to replace the human capacity for understanding the nuances of our questions. One example of its limits is that AI can never be ironic.

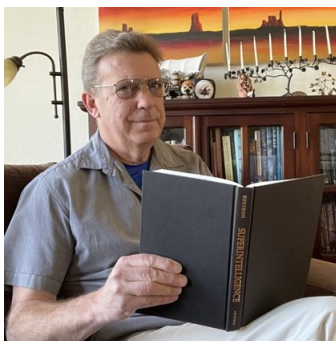
Norman's talk stimulated an interesting discussion on AI. You can listen to his talk on our website in our meeting archive at:

[Video recording](#)

[PowerPoint Slides](#)

Q Street at 16th
Sacramento

SACRAMENTO BRANCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



November is one of my favorite months. Why? Because we celebrate Thanksgiving. This tradition goes way back, even before the Pilgrims. Elsewhere in the world it's imaginatively called a harvest festival. The tradition goes something like this.

“The days are getting shorter, and the harvest is in. What do we do now?”

“Oh, let's eat!”

All the celebrations fall into place after that. As a club, we have a lot to celebrate!

We had a successful Writers Week, where 21 of our published members did readings from their books. This happened in 3 bookstores and 1 library. The audience turnout was amazing, and members were able to sell books. Tim Schooley did an amazing job of organizing these events. This success is not only something to celebrate, but it spurs us on to expand this project for next year.

I believe we did the best outreach for Writer's Week than any of the other branches of California Writers.

Chris Hennessy has produced a video to capture the atmosphere of Writer's Week. He filmed this at The Avid Reader bookstore in Davis. You can [watch the video here](#).

Another celebration is for Gloria Pierot Dyer, who received the Jack London Award in October. This award is given by the CWC central board, to those who provide exemplary service to their branch. Gloria has served our Sacramento branch for many years, as Vice President and program chair. During that time, she has found informative speakers to provide us with valuable teachings. Since she retired from that role, we have not been able to replace her.

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned something called groups.io. This is a social media site where discussion groups can be created. I have since created one for our club, you can access the [CWC-Sacramento group here](#).

OK, no need to pop the champagne cork for this one. It is experimental, but this could lead to ways of communicating with other club members.

There is an upcoming celebration to look forward to—our Winter Party on Sunday, December 17th, at Cattlemen's Restaurant. Details will be announced soon. If you want to help organize this, contact Cheryl Stapp (chermail1@yahoo.com)

In the meantime, keep writing and celebrate with pride!

Tell me what you think!

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP

We welcomed two new members in October. Please say hello if you see them.

Michael Selvester writes youth fiction.

Lois Buchter writes non-fiction and fiction (adventure/science fiction)

MEMBER'S CORNER

by Bonnie Blue

New members 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. Please send to sacramentowriters@gmail.com. You can have your published books listed in our Members Book section by sending a description and a picture of its cover to [Bernard](#).

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 [Bonnie](#). Your names and genre will be collected and linked with other interested members. Your newly formed group can get help getting started by reading articles on our [website](#).

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Calling out for those who would like to help create our Holiday get-together:

We could use a few members to help us put on our Holiday Party this year. It is just a bit of decorating and some planned activities.

It should not take much time and members of the Board will help.

Our Holiday party (scheduled at Cattlemens for Sunday, Dec 17th) has always been the biggest gathering of CWC-Sacramento members each year. It is an opportunity to celebrate with good food, friends, and fun.

Please help if you can. Let Cheryl Stapp know at chermail1@yahoo.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Carolyn Radmanovich](#) is hosting a Zoom launch and book raffle for her new novel, The Mummy's Gift, on Sunday, November 5, from 1–2:30 p.m., and an intimate, in-person book launch on Sunday, November 12, from 1–3 p.m. at 2813 Fox Den Circle, Lincoln, CA. Please contact [Carolyn](#) to RSVP for either event.

[Jenifer Rowe](#)'s new book, Madam Pantaloons: Gold Rush Pioneer is now available at the [Sacramento Public Library](#). Congratulations, Jenifer!

American River from
William B. Pond Park,
Carmichael

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AFIELD

Karl Henwood, a writer slogging it out in the trenches, is putting on a free range day for interested writers. It will teach basic firearm safety and operations, as well as familiarize them with several types of firearms common in fiction.

This event is for any writer (at any point in their writing career) or writing-adjacent person (agent, editor, etc.) who is interested in a basic familiarization with a variety of firearms, or anyone who is already familiar but wants some practice.

Some hands-on familiarity with both early and late-model weapons will be provided. Ammo for the provided weapons, lunch, shooting location, and water at the range are included.

This event isn't to teach anyone how to do cool stuff with guns, or that guns are cool. It's to familiarize people with firearms enough that they could unload one safely if they found it, and to give them a sense of how firearms work to inform their writing.

Sunday, November 19th, 2023. 0930 to 1630. The [gate to the Henwood Ranch](#) is east of Yuba City, off the Hammonton Smartsville Road. Anyone interested in participating should reach out via email at karl.henwood.lit@gmail.com. Cutoff is the evening of 17 November 2023.

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The Next Generation Indie Book Awards (NGIBA) and Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group (IBPPG) Introduces the 2024 [Next Generation Short Story Awards](#) This not-for-profit awards program offers 25+ categories, and is open to all authors, even first time authors, writing original short stories (5,000 words or less per story) in English.

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[Journaling for Mental Health](#) led by local creative writing specialist, Dr. Nena Larieze Guzman.

- Activities will be centered around the theme of acceptance, the ability to allow people, situations, and circumstances be as they are without resistance.
- Explore this theme through guided prompts for self-reflection, poetry, meditation, and art to craft your journal.
- Beginner and experienced writers are welcome.

Friday, November 17, 2023, 4:00–5:30 PM Fair Oaks Library, Fair Oaks Meeting Room. Registration required. Please contact Katie Ball at kball@saclibrary.org or 916-264-2893 to register.

Golden1 Center

CWC SACRAMENTO POSITIONS 2023-2024

Board of Directors

Officers

President: Bernard Wozny bpwozny@gmail.com

First Vice-President/Programs: OPEN

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

Treasurer: Tim Schooley timschooley@comcast.net

Secretary: Mari-Lynne Infantino

Directors

Kimberly Edwards

Chris Hennessy

William MacDonald

Jason Orta

Cheryl Stapp

Club Positions

Contest Coordinator: OPEN

Historian: Julie Bauer

News and Events Distributor: OPEN

Newsletter: William MacDonald

Open Readings Host & Coordinator: John Patterson

Publicity Chair (Print/TV/Radio/Social Media): Chris Hennessy

Webmaster: Bernard Wozny

Writers Network Coordinator: Cheryl Stapp

Capitol Park