



SACRAMENTO WRITERS

A Class Given by Stuart Horwitz



Sunday
8
October

Finish Your Book in 3 Drafts

Crafting Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction with the Book
Architecture Method

It's the age-old battle between the outliners and the pantsers—those who meticulously script every writing session, and those who pilot solely by feel. Finding your unique approach requires a method rather than a formula. The Book Architecture Method has helped bestselling writers transform their messy manuscripts into polished books. Accomplished and aspiring writers alike will learn the secrets of how to painlessly create a complex narrative such as:

- what *plotting* actually means, and why there isn't one narrative arc but several
- how to make sure your book has one theme—and one theme only
- how to separate your work into scenes and use this disassembly to diagnose what's going wrong with your manuscript
- the secret to why some narratives feel like they are all coming together at an emotional pay-off while others do not.

[Horwitz continued on page 2]

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This workshop will introduce writers to a process for organization and revision that includes in-depth exercises to be completed throughout the day so that attendees leave with a new perspective on their book's core, its structure, and where the work of revision lies most clearly. The workshop assumes nothing of a writer's previous knowledge of technique, nor how much of his/her manuscript is complete.

Stuart Horwitz is a ghostwriter, independent editor, writing coach, and founder of [Book Architecture](#). His clients have reached the best-seller list in both fiction and non-fiction, and have appeared on Oprah!, The Today Show, and in the most prestigious journals in their fields. He is the author of three acclaimed books on writing: [Blueprint Your Bestseller: Organize and Revise Any Manuscript with the Book Architecture Method](#) (Penguin/Perigee), which was named one of the year's best books about writing by *The Writer* magazine, [Book Architecture: How to Plot and Outline Without Using a Formula](#), which became an Amazon bestseller, and [Finish Your Book in Three Drafts: How to Write a Book, Revise a Book, and Complete a Book While You Still Love It](#).

Horwitz holds degrees in literary aesthetics from New York University and East Asian studies from Harvard University. He is also an award-winning poet and essayist. He recently relocated to California with his family from New England, something he should have done years ago.

Sunday, October 8, 2023, 9:30–3:30 at [Cattlemen's](#) 12409 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. [Registration](#) is \$149.00.

FIRST FRIDAY NETWORK MEETING

Writing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Norman Plotkin CHt explores the challenges of creating with artificial intelligence.



What participants will learn:

- The pace of change means there are no experts.
- The ability to bring your work to market has never been easier.
- Artificial is, well, artificial.
- The powerful play goes on and you can contribute a verse!
- Never lose your true North.

Friday
6
October

[Plotkin continued on page 3]

[Plotkin continued]

Norman Plotkin spent 25 years working for the California State Legislature. Cancer awakened a desire to serve others. He writes about the experience in *Take Charge of Your Cancer*. Plotkin's second book, *Master Mind Master Life*, is about hypnotherapy. His third book, *Meditation and the Meridians*, was published recently.

Friday, October 6, 2023, 9–11 am CH Cafe & Grill
6215 Sunrise Blvd (just off Greenback) Citrus Heights
(or [Join with Zoom](#) Passcode 227171)

CALIFORNIA WRITERS WEEK

COME OUT TO SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS OCTOBER 16 to 22, 2023

We're happy to announce that several local bookstores have agreed to provide forums for our authors to read from, sign, and sell their books during California Writers Week this year. Come out to one or more of the following bookstores to hear your fellow club members read from their books. Your support really helps the local writing community!

Monday, October 16, 2023 – Children's Book Event

[Details are still being worked out. More info to follow.]

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

[Avid Reader Books](#), 617 2nd Street, DAVIS

- ❖ [Judith Starkston](#), *Priestess of Ishana*
- ❖ [Pete Cruz](#), *No Tears for Dad: My Path to Forgiveness*
- ❖ [Carol Menaker](#), *The Worst Thing We've Ever Done: One Juror's Reckoning with Racial Injustice*
- ❖ [Lally Pia](#), *The Fortune Teller's Prophecy*
- ❖ [Edric Cane](#), *Teaching Intuition, Mathematics*

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

[Ruby's Books](#), 724 Sutter Street, FOLSOM

- ❖ [Cindy Sample](#), *Dying for a Double*
- ❖ [Bernard Wozny](#), *Girl Electric: Twin Falls*
- ❖ [Jenifer Rowe](#), *Unexpected Findings*
- ❖ [Larry Mandelberg](#), *Businesses Don't Fail, They Commit Suicide*
- ❖ [J. Scott Coatsworth](#), *The Gauntlet Runner*

[California Writers Week continued on page 4]

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 4:30–6:00 p.m.

[Avid Reader on Broadway](#), 1945 Broadway, SACRAMENTO

- ❖ [Cheryl Stapp](#), *Rise, Ruin & Restoration: A History of Sutter's Fort*
- ❖ [Tim Schooley](#), *The Wool Translator*
- ❖ [Kim Edwards](#), *Sacramento Motorcycling: A Capital City Tradition*
- ❖ [Kathy Lynn Marshall](#), *Finding Daisy: From the Deep South to the Promised Land*
- ❖ [Glen Rocky Meyers](#), *Feral Eyes: Book One*

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 1:00–3:00 p.m. CWC-Sacramento Writer's Salon

Arcade Library 2443 Marconi Ave, Sacramento

- ❖ Published writers from our membership will read from their work
- ❖ Certificates and prizes will be offered

In 2003, the California State Assembly officially declared the third week in October each year as California Writers Week. The Assembly's declaration formally recognizes the purpose of the California Writers Club to teach, mentor and encourage all writers for the good of our society.

For more information, contact [Tim Schooley](#), this year's chair of California Writers Week events.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Scary things happen in October.

Should I be afraid? Will I lose my head?

My mother always told me, "If you want to get a head, get a hat."

So, I guess that gives me reason to don appropriate head dress to scare others?

There seems to be a definite celebration of fear in October, culminating in Halloween. Perhaps it's because of the impending winter, shorter days, and longer nights. People do continue to gather, and surrounding yourself with like-minded friends, one can make jest of any fears that arise.

I think that's why I enjoy the company of this club. For the most part we work together, and I like to think that we work well together.

But I would like to work together in a better way.

I would like us all to communicate together in a better way.

Who remembers Thumper, from the movie Bambi? What did his mother remind him not to say?

Well, I like to hear the good AND the bad. I think it is important to hear both sides of a story.

After all, isn't that what we expect from the protagonist and antagonist in any novel? It is also important to understand both perspectives in real life.

I keep asking people to tell me what they think.

Sometimes, they tell me. When they do I feel enriched and empowered.

In return, I want to do something that will empower YOU as members.

[Branch President's Message continued on page 5]

I am looking to something called [Groups.io](https://groups.io) where we can have an online exchange of information. Some threads we could run on groups.io are—Announcements, Genres, Events, Complaints, (I had to throw that in) Suggestions, etc. but I want similar threads of communication.

This is a way YOU the members can chat with each other AND you can chat with me directly.

I am open to suggestions for similar tools.

By the way. Sometimes I could not understand what my mother was talking about.

English at school was never my strength, nouns versus adverbs or adjectives. But I eventually found I got this phrase wrong.

It is actually, “If you want to get ahead, get a hat.”

So, I must don an appropriate persona in order to progress.

As writers, we all do that when working our craft. We immerse ourselves in a character in order to bring it to a semblance of reality.

So I'm not dressing to scare people. Nor will I bury the past. Instead, I will seek the true way forward to progress us all ahead together.

Hallows Eve is always followed by All Saints.

Speaking of saints, Tim Schooley, our club Treasurer, has performed magic to organize [California Writer's Week](#). We have three events set for that week. See the link for details. We still want to do more events, so stand by for more details. In particular we are looking to set up a children's book session. Let [Tim](#) know if you are interested.

One final message.

On October 8th, we will be hosting a workshop with Stuart Horwitz, also known as [The Book Architect](#). We worked hard to arrange this workshop, but we have a good reason for doing so. Stuart's methodology is renowned, and many authors have been more than successful in using his ideas. The original cost was far higher, but we negotiated the price to be more acceptable.

The full day workshop includes a plated meal with full menu options.

I will certainly be there!

I hope to be there with you!

In the meantime, keep writing and;

Tell me what you think!

Tell me what You feel!



Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)

POETRY CORNER

Sunday Morning Nap by Michael Theroux

Softly, you lie
tucked into a slow Sunday nap
breathing gently
drifting through only the kindest dreams.

Outside, it seems
the sun should melt the frost, and yet
the grass still sparkles so
 the deer remain unseen
 their quiet presence felt
 just inside the bramble.

Morning light
drifts lazy, as smoke in calm air ...
loose leaves
turn once, again, to the slight breeze.

Winter thickens light
slanting through iced window panes
 sweeping out last night's gloom
 to walk broad swaths
 slowly across our room.

You have curled up
under mounds of covers
tucked into a late morning nap
 all soft and curly
 dodging the lazy sun
 swirling with golden motes.

If I am quiet
I can match the steady surge
of your sleepy breathing
 to join you in this cozy space
 I'll tell the day, "Go elsewhere,
 we're napping..."

First published in [The Lothlorien Poetry Journal](#), 6/25/2023

[Poetry Corner continued on page 7]

Vivid Blue by Michael Theroux

The winds sweep east, from ocean to crest
Across this broad valley, shaking loose dust
Street cleaning the glass steel and concrete
Strumming spring songs in the eucalyptus

New growth springs forth, in fluorescent hue
Green canopy edges pulse against vivid blue

Spring carries cautions of heat to come
The winds take vapor from everything
Crisping buds well before their bloom
Rain squalls soak, refreshing, renewing

River falcons nest in the eucalyptus
My dazzled eye traces their swift grace

Rains come back, yet I seek no shelter
I'll pull wet light into my winterized shell
There are dark corners to be swept clear
With the spring weather, all will be well.

First published in the [Ariel Chart International Literary Journal](#), March, 2023

Michael Theroux's career has spanned being a botanist, environmental health specialist, green energy developer and resource recovery web site editor. Entering the creative writing field late in life at 72, Michael is now seeking publication of his cache of art writings which include two novels and perhaps 400 poems and short stories.

OPEN READING REVIEW

Words Give Life to Memories & the Unexpected

by John Patterson

At the Branch's last Open Reading, [John Patterson](#) hosted six members who shared their stories. The tales brought new insights. Personal experiences, challenges, evaluations, first person historical accounts, new worlds, and tent worlds were brought to life.

Despite the different genres read, all the selections were appreciated. Each reading prompted discussions and questions. All were exposed to novel situations, brought to life by each author's word craft.

[Open Reading Review continued on page 8]

[Mari-Lynne Infantino](#), a retired administrator who has published a suspense novella, Grace Period. She read from her adult romance novella, The Sum of Her Love. A long-term relationship between an children's book writer and her memory care housed illustrator is tested by both Alzheimer's and a stepdaughter.

[Bonnie Gault-Blue](#), current Board member and retired psychotherapist, has published a memoir, Finding My Soul, about her time with the Findhorn Community in '80s Scotland. She read a story about redemption. Her brother's U.S.M.C. and fifteen-year French Foreign Legion experiences were driven by self-idealization, fueled by alcohol, and through sibling connections, found a grounding in family.

[Larry Mandelberg](#), a prior Board member, current Chairman of Innovative Education Management, is the author of Businesses Don't Fail, They Commit Suicide. He read another fascinating anecdote. "The Problem With Success" showed how the rapid growth of revenue should've predicted the need to prepare the staff for the next level.

[Katherine Henderson](#) is a retired income tax preparer. Her first book is the fictionalized Chrisman Clinic. She has compiled three other books of genealogy and family letters. She read two letters from 1931 detailing the elements of daily life for some in the mid-west and travelling by wagon, when dealing with a check was an issue and apples were 25 cents a box.

[Marcia Ehinger](#), a prior Board member, is a retired doctor who specialized in genetics, and has been published in magazines and anthologies, read an excerpt from her new science fiction story. Five-year old Nadja, a Golon, wants to learn about her family, after living with Trolons on another planet.

[Tim Schooley](#), a Board member, and a retired Managing Attorney for the Court of Appeals, published The Wool Translator last year. He read from his forthcoming novel, The Circus of the Vanishing Elephant. Here, we picture King Minos, the boss, trying to manage Henrietta. She, a somewhat fickle elephant, ends a problematic evening walking out of the tent taking his hand with her dorsal finger.

Everyone enjoyed hearing members craft and creativity. They all thought more members should participate and that these readings should happen more frequently.

MEMBERSHIP

Please give a warm welcome to the newest members of our group:

- James Christian (Chris)Meares of Davis writes comedy and absurdist drama
- Elaine Westendorf of Granite Bay writes non-fiction
- Daniel Babka of Lincoln, a fiction writer
- Eileen Inches of Orangevale writes fiction and poetry.
- Dawne Lange of Carmichael writes fiction, poetry, and children's stories

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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A long-term member, Rosi Hollinbeck, has retired. She was an ongoing contributor to the club and will be missed. Every month for years, she worked on the layout and design of our newsletter. She also created the Poetry Corner for the newsletter, offering us a wide selection of poems, and she included the poet's photo and biography. She wrote young adult and children's fiction, non-fiction and poetry. You can read of some of her writing accomplishments in her biography below. She is part of a well-established critique group of children's authors (they are looking for more members for their group, so if interested, email [Bonnie](#)). We are grateful for all she has contributed.

Rosi's work has appeared in *Highlights*, *High Five*, and *Humpty Dumpty* magazines. Her story-poem "The Monster Hairy Brown" was published in *Thynks Publishing* (London) anthology 50 Funny Poems for Children. Several of her short pieces have won contests including second place in a recent CWC contest. An excerpt of her novel The Incredible Journey of Freddy J. appeared in the *Noyo River Review*, and her children's story "Jack Grants a Wish" has appeared in the *High Five Magazine*. She regularly writes book reviews for *San Francisco* and *Manhattan Book Reviews* and on her [blog](#). Rosi is also a long-term member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

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[Gloria Pierrot-Dyer](#), a previous vice-president and interim president of the CWC-Sacramento Branch, has been awarded the Jack London Service Award for her exemplary service to the CWC. She will receive this honor, along with other award recipients, on October 22 in Oakland.

Gloria's first book, Allensworth: Two Tales of Triumph (2020), is set in the tiny, originally all-black town of Allensworth (now a part of the California State Park system) where she grew up and attended its two-room school. Gloria has received media coverage about her experience in Allensworth.

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[Member's Corner continued on page 10]

Member [Curt Canfield](#) has just had a new book published [The Errors of Mankind: Mistaking the True Conditions for our Well-Being](#)

This historical fiction novel examines human nature, probing into the circumstances which gives rise to its evil side and the possibility of redemption. The main characters are: Will, a retired consultant and Vietnam veteran; Johann, a distant relative of Will's, who is a German veteran of World War II; and Lena, an Auschwitz survivor. The novel progresses through four cycles of increasing self-awareness for each character as they interact with one another. Together, they reconcile their limited understanding of the world with the infinitude of the divine reason that created it. The characters are fictional, but the historical events relayed are real; both provide the reader with a view of history and human nature that is frequently not explored.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New novel by Carolyn Radmanovich

[Carolyn Radmanovich](#) is happy to announce that her new book, [The Mummy's Gift](#), will be available for a pre-sale [Amazon](#) purchase on October 15. Please save the dates for a Zoom book presentation and giveaway 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.

This gripping tale is set in the California Gold Rush era of the late 1840s. To find one another, two sisters time travel at separate times. Each encounters romance, danger, and mystical insights through either shape-shifting or visions. Heather's world is turned upside down when she finds herself in the jungles of Ecuador, searching to return a belt to a mummy at the top of a volcano to stop her husband's curse. Arsonists, grizzly bears, and a missing sister besiege Angelica. Both sisters must tackle a common enemy who is set for vengeance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AFIELD

Jordan Rosenfeld Workshop

Nail Your Story's Voice & Tone

Saturday, October 7th, 10 am to 1 pm; [Registration](#) is \$80

Redwood City Yacht Club (441 Seaport Ct, Redwood City, CA)

Every genre has its own unique signatures readers come to expect, known as voice and tone. These elements make it possible to identify the genre within a few pages and often reflect the personality, mood, and spirit of your characters and your themes. Nailing your novel, memoir, or short story's voice

[Announcements from Afield continued on page 11]

and tone will ensure you meet readers' expectations while increasing your chance of publication. This workshop will explore such things as: how voice emerges from character and personality; sentence structure and other voice mechanisms; how emotion creates voice; specific word choices, and much more.

Jordan Rosenfeld is author of the forthcoming novel *Fallout* (Running Wild Press, 2024), as well as the novels *Women in Red* and *Forged in Grace* and six books on writing craft, most recently *How to Write a Page-Turner*. Her freelance articles and essays have appeared in hundreds of national publications such as *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and *Writer's Digest*. She is a freelance manuscript editor and writing teacher. Find her at Jordanrosenfeld.net.

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The 2023 Gold Country Writers Short Story contest attracted 56 writers who entered a fiction story of no more than 1500 words. The ten finalists will be honored on October 7, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:30 with an event held at the Auburn City Hall City Council Chambers. 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn. The stories winning first, second, and third will be awarded cash prizes in American gold coins. The event is open to the public and free. The contest and celebration are sponsored in part by the Auburn Arts Commission, the Arts Council of Placer County, Poets & Writers, and Gold Country Media.

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An appeal for a Mystery Writer:

My cousin Ray Krone was twice convicted and spent 10 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. Family and friends were able to free him by finding the real killer. I wrote a book about the case, [Jingle Jangle, The Perfect Crime Turned Inside Out](#). My book tells the true story.

I am interested in retaining a creative writer to help me write a sequel (book/screenplay) based upon this true story in which there are 4 scenarios for the murder and in which I speculate that the person now doing time for the crime is also innocent.

Also, I would be happy to provide copies of my book, free of charge, for interested people to evaluate. Let me know. Thanks, [Jim Rix](#), 530-318-2477

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Accepting Play Submissions for 2024 Staged Reading Series

Valley Players is seeking short, one-act and full-length play submissions for a series of staged readings to be held in the summer of 2024. We want compelling, challenging, delightful plays; all genres (except musicals) will be considered. For more information about submissions and details on how to submit, check out our [website](#). Deadline is November 1, 2023

Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested! June Alane Reif, Artistic Director, Valley Players

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Thin Air Magazine is accepting submissions for our 30th issue until October 15th, 2023! This year's theme is *Uprooted!* We invite work that reflects on how personal and/or collective uprooting transforms us. Consider: personal identity, physical locales, relationships, language, life circumstances, and all else. However, all art uproots us so you are welcome to submit your work regardless of how directly it speaks to this year's theme. We accept fiction and nonfiction up to 3,000 words, or up to three poems. We are also seeking visual art submissions that might serve as the cover for Issue 30. View submission guidelines and submit via the [Thin Air Magazine Submittable](#).

We are also accepting submissions for the fourth annual Bird In Your Hands Prize. This contest celebrates and centers BIPOC writers. We accept submissions of under 500 words in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from September 15th to November 5th [on Submittable](#). This year's judge is National Poetry Series winner Kinsale Drake.

We are excited to read your work!

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