

# SACRAMENTO WRITER



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

**Saturday, September 17, 2022**

**Business 10:00-11:00**

**Presentation 11:00-12:00 p.m.**

**Arden-Dimick Library**

**891 Watt Avenue**

**Sacramento, CA**

**- OR -**

[Click here to register for Zoom](#)

## **I Write to Introduce You to the World**

**Jacquelyn Smithson Howard**

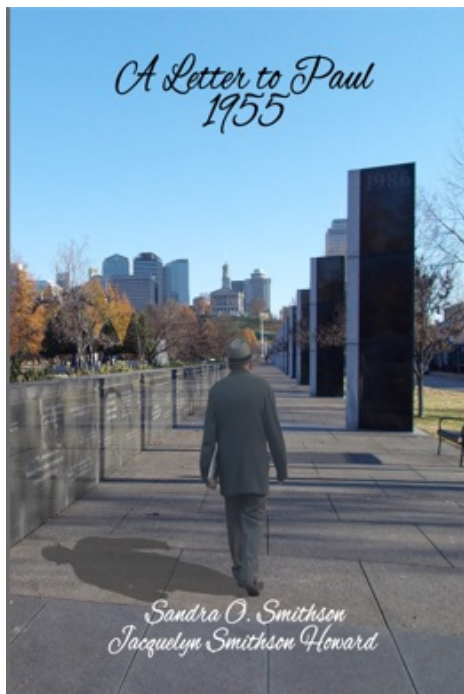
Poet-Author-Ghostwriter-Editor-  
Publisher

The lessons are the blessings. I help people tell their stories in ways they never thought possible!

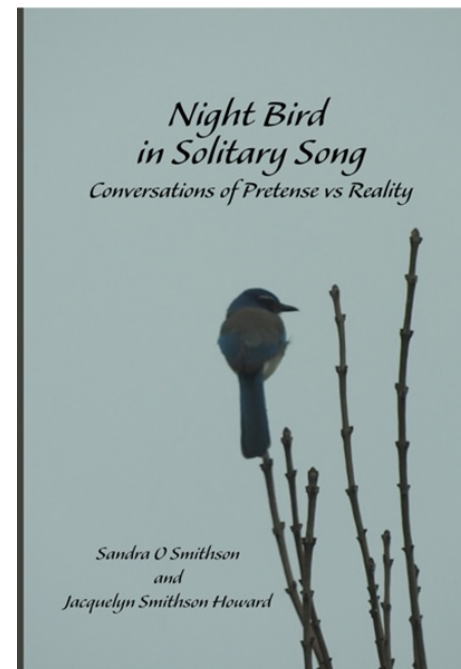
### About the speaker:

- I write between the lines.
- I don't follow academic rules.
- I follow my own God-Winks and Heartsongs.
- I am stubborn and unapologetic.
- The Dash is the Journey.
- I speak my truth and invented the Giggle N Smooch Club through my writing.

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**Jacquelyn Smithson Howard** is a freelance writer and poet who writes about the shared experiences of life and love and uses her stories to uplift others. She is a member of the ZICA Creative Arts & Literary Guild. She has published 19 books, three of which are with her 96-year-old Aunt, who was a Black Catholic Nun for nearly 70 years until her death on 5/13/22. The royalties for their books together fund a scholarship program for at-risk Black youth in their hometown of Nashville, Tennessee. She resides in Elk Grove, California, and can be reached at [itsmytimetosoar@gmail.com](mailto:itsmytimetosoar@gmail.com).



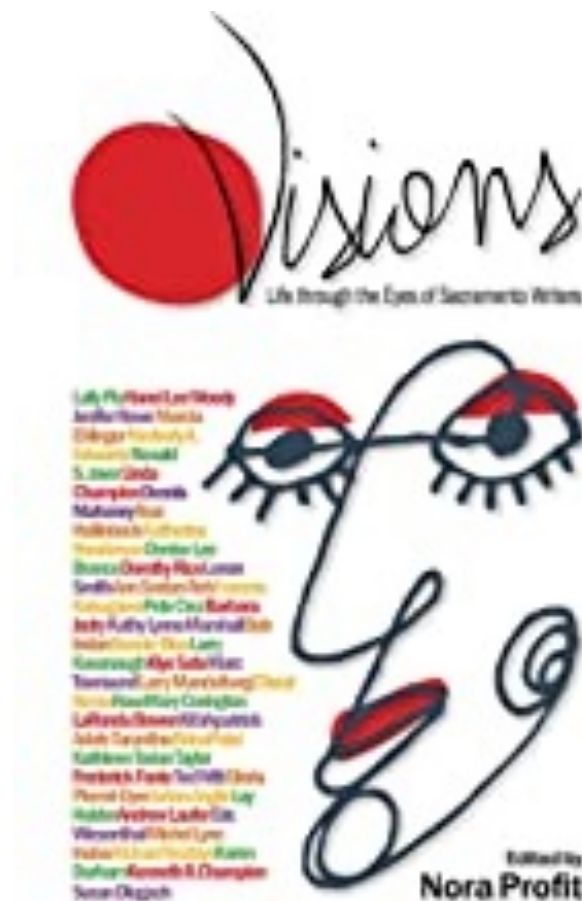
## No Writers Network in September

In October, we'll be back **in person** at a new time and location!

Stay tuned.



## Visions: Life through the Eyes of Sacramento Writers



We are pleased to announce that our club's anthology is now available on Amazon! You may order your copies at any time. After much hard work by many people, this beautiful volume has finally been brought to fruition. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated, whether or not your submissions were included. Please share the good news with your family and friends.





## **Message from Outgoing Interim President/First Vice-President Gloria Pierrot-Dyer**

To the members of the California Writers Club, Sacramento branch. Since it was announced in our June newsletter that Sandra Navarro would be our new president, I feel that it is important that you be informed about the reasons for a change.

As you may have noted, our past president Kim Edwards, ended her six-year tenure on July 1. She was immediately succeeded by Sandra Navarro. However,

Sandra changed her mind the following day, and chose to resign on July 2. As a result, following the procedures required by our club's bylaws, I, as First Vice President, became president. Calling an emergency meeting of our club's board of directors, I assured them that I would be honored to serve—but that, due to a heavy load of responsibilities in my business and personal life—as well as my continuing duties (engaging speakers) as first vice president at the same time—I could do so only on a temporary basis. Thus, I agreed to serve as interim president until another suitable candidate could be found. So, I have been our club's interim president since July 2. Even though it has been just short of two months, I have found it an honor and a privilege to serve the Sacramento CWC – happy to do all that I could to keep our wonderful club running smoothly in the interim. I have been assisted by an amazingly capable, cooperative, and supportive group – the rest of our board of directors!



Fortunately for our board, we found a great candidate—our club's erstwhile secretary, Bernard Wozny. Having been nominated and elected by our board of directors at our monthly meeting, he assumes office as of September 1. Bernard is a published writer, and he has had a long career in the technology industry. During his time as board secretary, he has shown himself to be very hard-working, reliable, dedicated and an extremely resourceful team player. He possesses many of the qualities that we look for in a good club president. Bernard was elected by unanimous vote of our board, and also has my full support. With his excellent professional skill set and creative ideas, he is equipped to lead our club well as we continue to move forward.

As for me, I consider it a privilege to continue to serve as First Vice President and Program Chair, a position I have held for the last two and a half years.

- Gloria Pierrot-Dyer

My dear fellow members of California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch:

As of September 1st, 2022, I would like to introduce myself as the new president of the club.

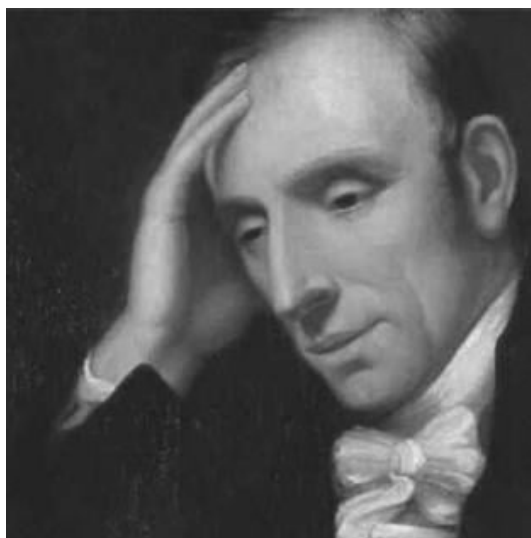
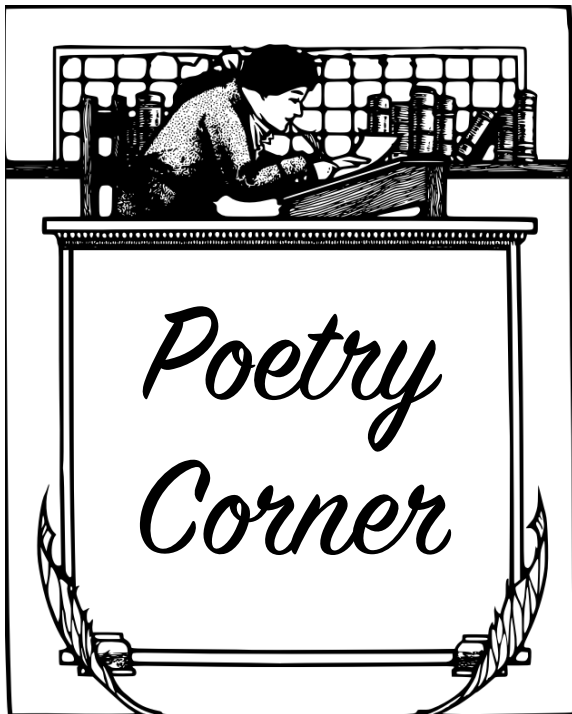
I would first like to offer my thanks and gratitude to Gloria Pierrot-Dyer, who has acted as interim president since early July. I uphold her as a remarkable president with excellent administrative skills. She has decided to remain as Vice President of Programs. In this role, she has been exceptional in recruiting valued speakers. I am proud that Gloria will continue to contribute to our club.



In the following month, I will publish my proposal for the club. First and foremost, I will pursue the club's mission statement and strive to support and improve our craft. Above all, I will remain open and receptive to the views and opinions of our members.

My motto is to live and learn and I look forward to us all in support of each other.

- Bernard Wozny



William Wordsworth

**William Wordsworth**, who rallied for "common speech" within poems and argued against the poetic biases of the period, wrote some of the most influential poetry in Western literature, including his most famous work, *The Prelude*, which is often considered to be the crowning achievement of English romanticism.

## *from The Kitten and Falling Leaves*

See the kitten on the wall,  
sporting with the leaves that fall,  
Withered leaves—one—two—and  
three, from the lofty elder-tree!  
Through the calm and frosty air,  
of this morning bright and fair . . .  
—But the kitten, how she starts;  
Crouches, stretches, paws, and  
darts!

First at one, and then its fellow,  
just as light and just as yellow;  
There are many now—now one—  
now they stop and there are  
none;  
What intenseness of desire, in her  
upward eye of fire!

With a tiger-leap half way, now  
she meets the coming prey,  
Lets it go as fast, and then, has it  
in her power again:  
Now she works with three or four,  
like an Indian Conjuror;  
Quick as he in feats of art, far  
beyond in joy of heart.

# A Day of Trickster Craft Talk

By member Susan Dlugach



July was supercharged for me this year, thanks to the opportunity afforded by our chapter to attend the day-long Poetry Summit at the 2022 San Francisco Writers Conference. Breezing westward along Highway 80 on that sunny Saturday of the 23rd, I arrived at the Hyatt Regency near the Ferry Building early enough to scope out the scene before workshops began.

Downstairs I found the room where poetry business would buzz all day. Tongo Eisen-Martin, San Francisco's poet laureate, facilitated the day's event, jazzing up his commentary with remarks about how artists such as saxophonist John Coltrane and pianist/composer Duke Ellington have influenced him.

"It's what you do before you pick up the pen that determines your life on paper," he told us, confessing that Coltrane inspired him to be a better person, to be a gentler person to himself and others. He finds meditation to be extremely helpful. "You have access to all your power."

He described poetry as a trickster craft. "Taking a thought and really poking around is the difference between good and great." Other speakers concurred. "Work your language. Revision means loving your work."

Poetry book publishers and sellers also held court that morning, offering advice for poets getting their poetry in print. Diane Frank, chief editor of the San Francisco Bay area Blue Light Press, selects imagistic and inventive work that presents a positive vision of the world.

"Put your most amazing poem first," when organizing a chapbook, she advised. "If you have an amazing book, someone will publish it."

She also emphasized reading and understanding the guidelines before submitting to a publisher as well as knowing about that press and being familiar with some of the books they have published.

Elaine Katzenberger, of City Lights Bookstore, the one founded in 1952 by Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Peter D. Martin, recommended looking for small presses, but also noted that self-publishing is a viable way to get one's work out. However, her caveat was that "there is a natural distaste for Amazon."

All representatives agreed that public readings are essential, especially since talent scouts, including today's speakers, attend readings and notice standout poets.

After lunch it was time to meet bay area poet laureates. In addition to Eisen-Martin, there were Kim Shuck, San Francisco's poet laureate before him. She is also a weaver and bead artist. And there was Ayodele Nzinga, Oakland's current and first poet laureate. Their conversations included talks about the poet's tools and the importance of good delivery in readings.

Soft spoken Shuck drew on her multiethnic background, which includes Polish and Cherokee heritages, mentioning "the walls between you and memory."

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Nzinga's poetic inclinations also serve her theater artist side, working at the intersections of cultural production and community development to foster transformation of marginalized communities. For example, she likes to see what happens when "young Asian children and young Black children write poetry together." To summarize, she doesn't think "there are any limits on how you can expand the inclusion of art, poetry and literature."

Eisen-Martin led the closing session, "Getting Your Poetry Out There." "Poetry readings are a meritocracy. The effect your poem has on people will get your poetry to go. Build your presence," he urged. Many poets and musicians have influenced him, including Audre Lorde, June Jordan, Etheridge Knight, Langston Hughes, Mahogany Browne and Salvadoran poet Roque Dalton.

Quoting Duke Ellington, "Every musician gets a shot." Then he added, "Don't turn down any gigs anywhere."

The Poetry & Jazz Party held that evening was an open mic gig that gave each of us a shot to show our stuff. Sign-ups were taken as drinks were filled. What followed was a rich assortment of poetic presentations. And yes, yours truly ventured up there and shared her piece.

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## MEMBER NEWS



I'm pleased to announce my Flash Fiction Story, *Listen to the Gunsmith*, was published July 18 on Guilty Crime Magazine Flash Fiction. You may read the story and comment here:

<https://www.guiltycrimemag.com/flash/listen-to-the-gunsmith-by-jim-guigli>

Jim Guigli

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## RENEWALS

Dear Members:

We have entered the final month of our annual renewal period. Those of you who have not yet renewed will be purged from the member database as of September 30 if you do not provide payment of \$45.00 (\$15.00 for student memberships.) If that happens, you will need to pay \$65.00 to rejoin the club. Please renew now and save yourself \$20.00! You can mail a check to P.O. Box 1231, Orangevale, CA 95662 or, even easier [click here](#) to renew on-line.

Thank you,

Jenifer Rowe

Membership Chair

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



# One Writer's Research Experience

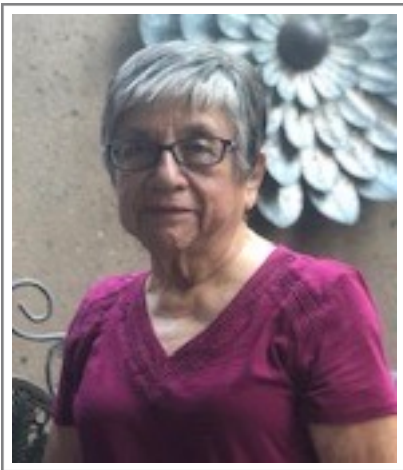
By club member Gloria Galloway

I've always been shy about reaching out to reference sources for information pertinent to my books. In my mind, that was a benefit that came with being a big-name author. I reasoned that if Stephen King contacted a research source, he was pretty likely to get a quick response.

Everything came together for me when I adopted the attitude--*What have I got to lose?* My book, *Summer's End*, is the story of a little girl named Summer who is diagnosed with neuroblastoma (NB), a rare cancer which mostly affects children under the age of five. Recognizing that cancer is too important to run the risk of not getting my facts straight, I delved deeply into researching this insidious disease. While looking into treatments, I came across a hospital website (Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio) which outlined a treatment called MIBG therapy. It involves administering high-dose radioactive iodine intravenously. It is so radioactive that a leaded, concrete room is required. Hoping for more info, I sent an email explaining I was an author researching neuroblastoma for a book I was writing. I was shocked to get phone call the next day from Dr. Mark Ranalli, a pediatric oncologist at the hospital. He was happy to help with my story.

As my exploration of NB expanded, I came across the Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation in Bloomington, Illinois. CNCF was created by the family and friends of Nick Tallungan, a young boy who at ten years old lost his battle with neuroblastoma. I called the foundation hoping to learn more about the disease. To my surprise, Pat Tallungan, Nick's mother, and the president and founder, answered the phone. She graciously answered all my questions. Pat even has a cameo in my book (under an assumed name, of course). I explained to her that my character struggles with her grief and she told me about a psychologist who works closely with the foundation's "angel families." Another surprise to learn that Dr. Hillary Vanhorn-Gatlin works at Kaiser South Sac!

A deer is featured prominently in my book. While looking up cemeteries in Placerville, I came across an alternative to burial in a cemetery—Better Place Forests, where ashes can be spread under a tree of your choosing. Forest animals wander in and out of these private forests, making the premise ideal for my story. Again, a phone call had me working closely with management at company headquarters. As a result, their PR team is going to help promote my book!



If I had not reached out beyond my comfort zone, I would never have gotten a deeper understanding of neuroblastoma and local burial alternatives. And I would not have the invaluable connections I've made along the way. It is incredible how simply reaching out with an ask can yield such great results. *Summer's End* is in the final stage of editing before being pitched to the Big Five publishers. I hope the next posting in the club's newsletter is news of the launch date!





**Enrolling Now**

**EST. 2013**

**EGWA**

**Fall Writing Course**



**Story Genius:  
Novels and Memoirs**



**Zoom, Wednesdays, 6-8 pm,  
September 21-November 16, 2022**

**Gini Grossenbacher, M.Ed.**







# **CWC Sacramento CLUB Positions**

## **FY 2022-2023**

### **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)

Acting Secretary: Bonnie Gault Blue  
[beaublue5@yahoo.com](mailto:beaublue5@yahoo.com)

### **Members at Large**

Brina Patel  
Frederick Foote  
Chris Hennessy  
Tim Schooley

### **Club Positions**

Contest Coordinator - Judith Presnall  
Historian - Julie Bauer  
News and Events Distribution - Jenifer Rowe  
Newsletter Content - Open, Interim Editor Jenifer Rowe  
Newsletter Layout - Rosi Hollinbeck  
Open Readings Host & Coordinator - John Patterson  
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Meetup, etc.) - Brina Patel  
Web Editor - Jenifer Rowe  
Writers Network Coordinator- Tim Schooley