

California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch

We welcome all writers, from aspiring to professional; to educate and encourage writing and marketing skills.



Cindy Sample *Dying for a Dance*

February's luncheon meeting speaker is Cindy Sample, author of *Dying for a Dance* and *Dying for a Date*. As her titles imply, her books are mysteries with a touch of romance and much humor.

In Dying for a Dance, lead-footed Laurel gets talked into learning a choreographed foxtrot routine for her best friend's wedding. After tripping her instructor and crashing into a pair of dance pros, Laurel discovers ballroom dancing can be dangerous. When she stumbles over the body of a dance instructor, she realizes it can also be deadly.

The title of Cindy's talk is "The pothole-filled path to publication and promotion."

"I'm a marketing nut, so I thought I'd discuss promotion and what it takes to sell books these days."

She will also address the difficulties of crossing genres; in her case, mixing mystery with romance and humor. She says publishers don't always know what to do with those books.

"I figure I've done almost everything you can on the way to getting published," she said. "People are always interested in other author's journeys, especially when they are with a traditional publisher, but I'm looking at other options going forward."

Cindy is a former columnist for the Gold River Community Newspaper, and past president of the Sacramento Chapter of Sisters in Crime. She is co-chair of the Left Coast Crime Convention, which will be held at the Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel March 29 to April 1, 2012; www.leftcoastcrime.org/2012.

For more on Cindy, visit: www.cindysamplebooks.com.



Upcoming Speakers

CWC Sacramento Branch luncheon meetings are held the third Saturday of every month.

March 17

Group Genre Workshop. Attendees will meet in groups according to genre or interest to exchange ideas and compare projects.

April 21

April is National Poetry Month, and this month our luncheon meeting will feature **Dr. Andy Jones**, poet, UC Davis faculty member, radio talk show host, academic technology center academic director and public speaker. For learn more about Jones and his work, visit www.poetryindavis.com and www.poetrytechnology.com.

May 19

Patricia Fry has been working with freelance writers and authors for more than two decades. She is a literary and manuscript consultant, an editor and a teacher. For more, visit www.Patriciafry.com and www.matilijapress.com.

Saturday, February 18, 2012 - Luncheon Meeting 11:00 a.m.

Tokyo Buffet, 7217 Greenback Lane in Citrus Heights, 95621 (see back for directions)
The Public is Invited to Attend

Members \$12.00

Non-Members \$14.00



Writers Network Meeting News

by Andrea Roth



President's Corner

by Marsha Robinson

Cheryl Stapp, local author and Sacramento resident, shared her California state tax knowledge with the attendees at the January 6 Writers Network meeting.

She related her knowledge of accounting, the tax forms required for organizational and personal use, the proper way to complete forms, and the ins and outs of filing state taxes. After all, it is getting to be that time of year once again!

As authors are their own bosses with their own business – a writing business – respectful payment to the government is garnished through taxes.

For example, did you know that the purchase of raffle tickets for any event is not an accepted write-off through the IRS? Did you know that the United States Congress members make all the rules and regulations for its continental citizens, having hired and incorporated the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) to fulfill it tax captures? Also, did you know that your writing business/ authorship must be listed as a hobby if it is not an employee position that requires a W-2 form?

Cheryl is in the process of self-publishing her first book, *Disaster and Triumph: Sacramento Women, Gold Rush Through the Civil War*. For more, visit her website: www.CherylAnnStapp.com.

The CWC Writers Network meets the first Friday of every month, 9 a.m., at International House of Pancakes (IHOP), 2216 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova (north of Highway 50).

Thanks to the hard work of Kim Edwards, Margie Yee Webb and Robert Cooper, the first of four CWC Sacramento Branch Writing Academy workshops is scheduled for March 10. “Get Polished to Get Published” with Melanie Bowden will offer tips, ideas and exercises for improving your stories and articles. Sign-up and join fellow writers for a Saturday well spent. Look for registration information in this newsletter and on the CWC Sacramento Website at CWCSacramentoWriters.org.

“The Plot Whisperer,” Martha Alderson, joins us in April for a workshop dedicated to helping writers find the deeper meaning of their stories and learn how to transform descriptive phrases in order to fully capture that essence.

On another note, I’d like to welcome Julie Bauer back as editor of the branch newsletter, replacing Shawn Hansen, editor since June 2011. I will miss Shawn's energy, enthusiasm, and helpfulness; qualities I value, especially in a volunteer position. I enjoyed working with Shawn and wish her the best. I will also miss Jamie Ervin (Laster) who is leaving the club. She was an active volunteer, chairing the Raffle and Contest Committees. I am seeking volunteers for these positions. If interested, please send me an email at marshar@quiknet.com.



Visit our Branch website

www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org

Read about upcoming club events and link to “Resources for Writers” to learn about conferences, organizations and other events and activities of interest to writers. CWC-Sacramento dues-paying members can customize their own member page. Post your bio, discuss your books, and link to your website, Facebook page or Twitter. To request a member account, please contact **Amy Rogers** at Amy@ScienceThrillers.com. The website also lists links to media coverage about club members. If you have appropriate press coverage you’d like added, send it to Amy.



Open Mic for Writers

Sponsored by the CWC, Sac. Branch
Second Friday of each month, 7 p.m.
(Sign-ups begin at 6:45 p.m.)

Next Open Mic is February 10

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Birdcage Center, 6111 Sunrise Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Readers and Listeners Welcome
Contact: **Julie Bauer**; joolieb@aol.com;
(916) 344-5778

CWC Writing Academy



Now that the New Year is here, look for the CWC Sacramento Branch Writing Academy, a series of fee-based workshops to help nudge you into your writing groove. March 10 is the first, featuring Melanie Bowden presenting her topic, "Polish Your Writing to Get Published." Melanie scored points when she spoke at the Writers Network meeting, and now she rejoins us to deliver a mini-booster of tips and techniques. The Early Bird registration fee has been extended to February 10. Space is limited. Please review the enclosed flyer or consult the website at www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org.

Upcoming Workshops

April 7

"Transform Your Writing and Your Life through the Universal Story," with renowned "plot whisperer" and international plot consultant Martha Alderson. This is an exclusive Sacramento appearance for Martha.

May 12

"SuperCharge Your Writing Like a Pro" with Karen Sandler.

June 23

"How to Identify Hot Publishing Markets" with Jennifer Basye Sander.

For questions and further information, contact Margie Yee Webb at Margie@CatMulan.com; 916-213-0798.

CWC NorCal Writers

The Northern California branches of the CWC have joined forces in the pursuit of ideas, opportunities, and events that speak directly to the craft of writing and the means to getting published.

CWC NorCal Writers meets the first Saturday of even months at no cost. Any member of CWC is welcome. www.cwcnorcalwriters.org

Resources for Writers



The following listings are provided as a courtesy and do not constitute an endorsement by CWC.

Second Annual Northern California Storybook & Literature Festival, April 14, 2012, sponsored by the Place, Roseville, and Sacramento public libraries. Authors, illustrators, editors, literary agents, and publishers will be participating.

www.roseville.ca.us/library/programs_n_events/lit_fest.asp.

San Francisco Writers Conference, Feb. 16-19, 2012 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill. Event is for both fiction and nonfiction writers, and includes an optional Agent Speed Dating session. Even if you're not interested in the conference, sign up for their newsletter as it is a great resource covering many author events and opportunities in Northern California; www.sfwriters.org.

Left Coast Crime, an annual writers conference specializing in mysteries and thrillers, will be held in Sacramento March 29-April 1 2012; www.leftcoastcrime.org/2012.

March 30 Deadline

2012 BAIPA Book Awards for books self-published in 2010 and 2011. Entry fee: \$25 and you must be (or become) a member of BAIPA—an organization with monthly meetings in Marin.

www.baipa.org/2012/01/02/2012-baipa-book-awards-contest

May 1 Deadline

81st Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition

The Grand Prize manuscript will win \$3,000 cash and a trip to the Writer's Digest Conference in New York City. Ten genre categories to choose from.

www.writersdigest.com/competitions/writers-digest-annual-competition

April 20 Deadline

Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards

The Grand Prize manuscript will win \$3,000 cash and a trip to the Writer's Digest Conference in New York City, and an endorsement and submission to major review houses. First place winners will receive \$1000 cash and promotion in *Writer's Digest*.

www.writersdigest.com/competitions/selfpublished



Where to Send Member News

Send news of your sales, awards, contest wins, etc. directly to the newsletter editor. **Please indicate that you are a CWC member. If you use e-mail, please note in the subject that it is for CWC.**

Julie Bauer
7173 Stanford Oak Dr.,
Sacramento, CA 95842
joolieb@aol.com

Please proofread. We are not responsible for errors, misspellings or inaccuracies.

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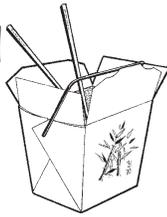
Send all Address Changes, e-mail or mail to:

Ken Umbach, CWC
P.O. Box 1157
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-1157
ken@umbachconsulting.com

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How do you want your newsletter?

If you wish to change how you receive your newsletters (e-mailed PDF document or snail mail), contact Julie Bauer, joolieb@aol.com; (916) 344-5778.



February Luncheon

Tokyo Buffet
Citrus Heights

The Club's next luncheon meeting will be Saturday, February 18, 11:00 a.m. at Tokyo Buffet, 7217 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights 95621. It is located in the same parking lot as Sam's Club, between Sylvan Road/San Juan Ave and Citrus Heights town hall.

Non-members are welcome. Reservations are not necessary.

Cost to attend: **Members \$12.00; Non-members \$14.00.**

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Our condolences to Mike Finch, former longtime Branch meeting organizer, who lost his mother in December.

A big thanks to Bob Quinlan, who had to resign as Writers Network facilitator, and welcome C.J. Larson, who is taking over.

Member News



Ingrid E. Lundquist, author of *Results-Driven Event Planning*, has a new venture called The Book In Hand Roadshow.

www.TheBookInHandRoadshow.com.

The event is a half-day seminar to connect authors with cover designers, formatting experts, and photographers. Jennifer Basye Sander (*The Idiot's Guide to Getting Published*) will give an overview of self-publishing and Ingrid will talk about crafting a book event.

Steve Liddick's new novel, *Old Heroes*, has just been published in digital (eBook) format. It is a story of two elderly World War II army veterans living in a Sacramento assisted living home.

You can view a free sample on www.Amazon.com by searching the book and clicking on the book cover. You can borrow the book free if you have a digital device (Kindle, Nook, etc.) and are an Amazon Prime member.

**California Writers Club
Sacramento Branch
www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org**

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Email correspondence should include CWC in the subject line.

The next deadline for submissions is **Feb. 10 for the March issue.**

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Subscription rate is \$15 a year for print. Free for PDF version via email.

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Please put CWC in the subject line for any correspondence



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Serving the Greater Sacramento Area

California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch www.CWCSacramentoWriters.org

“Writers Making The Write Connections.”

March Writing Academy Workshop

WHAT: Hands-on workshop with seasoned instructor Melanie Bowden sharing tips, ideas, and exercises on how to spit-shine writing to boost the odds of getting into an editor’s office. Being an author means getting published, making yourself known as an expert, and getting your work out through various marketing means. Come prepared to improve your writing and increase your chances of opening doors. Attendees may bring a piece of writing they’re working on. The goal is to polish to get published!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Writers at all levels looking for craft tips on tightening their work which will serve them in various ways, regardless of genre.

WHEN: Saturday, March 10, 2012, 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Sam’s Hof Brau, 2500 Watt Avenue (near El Camino Ave.), Sacramento 95821

COST: Early Bird, Register by February 10: \$35 for CWC members; \$49 for Non-members
Fee Starting February 11: \$45 for CWC members; \$59 for Non-members

LUNCH: Attendees will purchase lunch at Sam’s Hof Brau, long-time Arden-area Sacramento eatery.

ABOUT MELANIE BOWDEN: Author of *Get Your Articles Published!* and *Why Didn’t Anyone Tell Me? True Stories of New Motherhood*, along with countless other stories and articles, Bowden has coached writers for more than nine years. She has written about steps to publication and finding ideas and interview subjects. Her credentials include classes and presentations on *Writing Query Letters that Sell*, *Managing the Writer/Editor Relationship*, *Negotiating for Higher Fees*, *Preparing Manuscripts for Submission*, and *Reprints and Rewrites: Sell and Resell your Articles*.

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Sign me up for **Get Polished to Get Published!**

Name: _____ Genre: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Early Bird Fee Register by 2/10/2012: ___\$35 CWC Member, _____Branch ___\$49 Non-member

Fee starting 2/11/2012: ___\$45 CWC Member, _____Branch ___\$59 Non-member

Print, clip and submit with payment to: Robert Cooper, CWC Treasurer, 829 Haggin Ave., Sacramento, CA 95833. You will receive email confirmation.

Questions? Contact Margie Yee Webb at Margie@CatMulan.com or 916-213-0798.