

SACRAMENTO
DECEMBER 2023



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER



SACRAMENTOWRITERS

Sunday

17

December

Winter Party

This year we are doing something special for our winter party. We will offer some spectacular raffle prizes!

First Prize;

A ticket to [InkersCon Online Conference](#), a value of \$199! This is an online conference, so no need to travel. You can access from the comfort of your own home, in your own time. This includes 14 days of classes, presentations, and Q&A, and more. You can attend these live sessions online or watch the recordings. July 20th, to August 2nd.

This offering is unprecedented.

Second Prize;

A personal consultation with Kristen Tate, owner and lead editor at [Blue Garret](#), an editorial services company. She helps authors transform their work from rough draft to finished book. This session is a \$150 value and can open doors to getting your book professionally edited.

Other cool prizes will complement our flagship offerings.

Raffle tickets will be available for 5 tickets for \$5. But you can buy 15 tickets for \$10. The more tickets you buy, the better chance you have of winning the best prize.

When booking your ticket, you need to select one of the 4 menu options, you can do this for each person you book. We need to inform Cattlemen of the number of different servings, this also saves time as they don't have to ask each person what their order is. You will be given a dinner place card to display your order.

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 12:30 – 3:30
Cattlemen's, Rancho Cordova, 12409 Folsom Blvd.

[You can book your tickets here.](#)

Good Luck Winning the prizes!

California State Capitol,
Sacramento
[photo by Cheryl Stapp]

Friday
1
December

Make a Lasting Impression

Kathy Boyd Fellure



Whether you are a shy introvert or an exuberant extrovert, you can be a guest speaker with confidence that packs a punch.

What attendees will learn:

- Effective preparation.
- Clear presentation.
- Your personal flair.
- Concise conclusion.
- Always leave the audience wanting more.

[Kathy Boyd Fellure](#) is the author of four children's books, the *Tahoe Trilogy* novels, and the second book in her *Across the Pond* five novel series releases in December of 2023. She teaches at writer conferences, guest speaks, and hosted the TSPN TV show, [Authors, Writers, Books, and Beyond](#).

Friday, Dec 1, 9 to 11 am

CH Cafe & Grill

6215 Sunrise Blvd (off Greenback), Citrus Heights

J Street at 2nd
Sacramento
[photo by Cheryl Stapp]

Presentation is Everything or What Makes a Great Book Cover by Karen A. Phillips, *Review by Mari-Lynne Infantino.*

CWC Sacramento's First Friday presentation on November 3 was everything I hoped it would be. Starting with the title of her presentation, I was keen to hear the information our presenter had to share. Karen Phillips is a professional graphic designer with a degree in Applied Art and Design, who, as her website informs us, has a passion for book cover design. As an author herself, she prefers to work with authors who self-publish. Karen packed her presentation with important information that many of us are not always aware of.

Almost immediately she grabbed our attention with the following statement. According to the Wall Street Journal, a book is judged by its cover within four seconds. In that amount of time, we need to grab our reader's attention with a cover that includes a storyline teaser, a brief author bio, and a book review or quote about the book if possible.

Karen provided a number of colorful book cover slides, each conveying a different feel by genre and its importance to the cover, as well as interior book formatting.

The following is a myriad of tips that Karen shared on why it is important to consider hiring a cover artist.

- Book covers need to show a clear genre, its color eye-catching with the mood and tone of the story conveyed. The font should be easy to read at a thumbnail size.
- Some of the key elements to formatting the interior of a book are that it be professional, easy to read, good leading, margins, limited widows and orphans, and justified setting.
- Printed books should be in 12 pt. font, 10 pt. is too small and cramped for easy reading.
- AI is becoming more usable in not only text but also in the art used for your cover. Discuss with your illustrator if you approve of the use of AI.

Your designer needs to understand what you want. Provide a synopsis of your book or, if time permits, a copy of the manuscript itself. Karen provides up to three concepts for the cover. Be sure to discuss with your book cover designer the cost of cover and inside formatting as well as the cost of revisions for both print and e-book design.

[Karen A. Phillips](#) is the self-published author of [A Deadly Combo](#), a cozy mystery, and yes, the book cover was designed and illustrated by her. For further information about book cover design costs and formatting, you can reach Karen at 530.401.1541. She is a dual CWC member with the Mt. Diablo and Sacramento branches.

Thank you Karen, for the excellent presentation and information you provided.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I think all that I need to do is to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

Deepavali or Diwali is now behind us. This festival of light is not just the victory of light over darkness. It also symbolizes our inner light.

Chanukah starts on December 7th. The festival of Chanukah, which means dedication, is also sometimes referred to as the festival of light.

And of course, there is Christmas. Although this festival doesn't refer to light, it certainly has developed into one.

The new year is rapidly approaching. The board is working hard to gather inspiring speakers for our meetings. We have lots of other great ideas. One thing high on the list is a Sacramento book fair. To date, there is nothing similar in this region. I think it is about time we did something about that.

I'm proud of how far we've come, but it wouldn't be possible without you. It is the membership that makes this club great.

One last thing on our agenda for this year is the Holiday Party. You can find all the details you need to reserve your spot at the party [right here](#). We have incredible prizes and some fun games. Space is going fast, so make sure you reserve your seat before it's too late.

All that remains for me to say is, have a wonderful holiday! Enjoy the time with family and friends and get ready for an exciting new year with CWC Sacramento!

See you at the party!

In the meantime, keep writing and celebrate with pride!
Tell me what you think!

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)

MEMBER'S CORNER

by Bonnie Blue

We welcomed three new members in November. Please say hello if you see them.

Julia Markel writes human interest non-fiction and mystery/suspense

Karen Phillips writes mystery, horror and poetry

Keaton Yost writes science fiction and fantasy

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](#).

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Critique Groups

Calling all Science Fiction/Fantasy writers: A new critique group is starting, so please let me know if you are interested.

Calling all Non-Fiction writers: A new critique group is starting, so please let me know if you are interested.

Email Bonnie at sacramentowriters@gmail.com. Your names and genre will be collected and when enough people have expressed interest they will be linked to be able to set up their meeting. Your newly formed group can get help with starting on our [website](#).

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A call for an artist for a children's book

Hello,

My name is Gabi. I wrote a short story for my English class and I want to turn it into a book. I'm not much of an artist so I'm looking for someone who is an artist and is familiar with children's books. Please contact me at lintzgabriel@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new member, [Karen Phillips](#), has two announcements:

“My short story "Found Art" was accepted into the SinC NorCal anthology [Invasive Species](#) due to be published early in 2024.

“My short story "Killing Karen" was accepted into the [Hidden Villains: Betrayed](#) anthology with author Kevin J. Anderson. Check out and support this project on [Kickstarter](#).”

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Golden1 Center



Pony Express
2nd & JSts.
Old Town Sacramento

[Cindy Sample](#) has a launch party for [Dying For A Decoration](#), the 9th book in my *Laurel Mckay Humorous Mystery Series* will be held at [Face in a Book](#), Town Center, El Dorado Hills, On Saturday, Dec. 9th from 2:00 to 4:00.



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A new member, Daniel Babka, announces a new novel, [Lightning Bugs And Aliens: A Small Town Coming-Of-Age-Story](#)

“During the summer of 1960, five imaginative, adventurous 13-year-olds, free from computers, cell phones and social media, suddenly must grapple with the loss of childhood security in this small Ohio town, first person, coming-of-age story. A tsunami of science fiction movies, Cold War paranoia about Russian missiles, and an explosion, trigger a joyful boyhood adventure while an insightful examination of friendship, race, and trauma weaves between the five of them, their neighbors, a grandfather,”

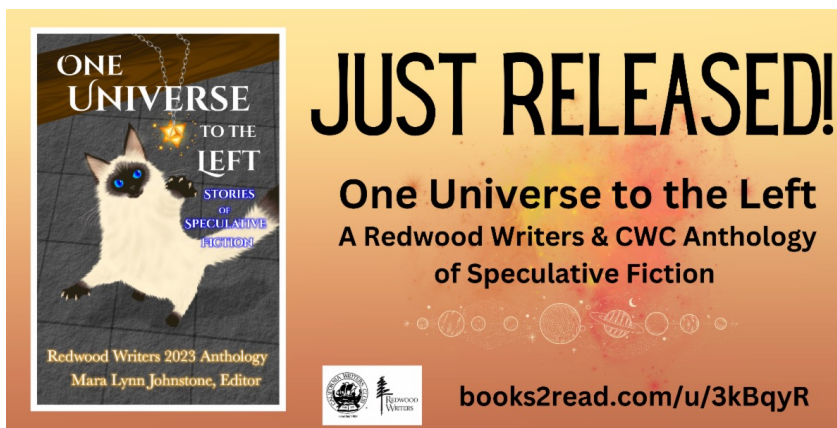


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Face in a Book is hosting a fun event on Saturday, December 2nd, 3-5, with the authors of The Unofficial Ted Lasso Cookbook. That TV show has a lot of fans (me, included!), the cookbook's super-cute, and we're going to have fun eating and playing trivia. Janis Herbert, Assistant Manager, [Face in a Book](#), 4359 Town Center Blvd, #113, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, 916-941-9401

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM AFIELD

Redwood Writers and The California Writers Club are pleased to announce the release of the 2023 RW/CWC Anthology, [One Universe to the Left](#). Both the print and e-book version are available. Members from branches across the club contributed 48 short stories for this new collection. If you love science fiction, fantasy, and alternative worlds this is the book for you.



Aliens, dragons, spirits, multiple types of wizardry, clones both magical and technological; what might you find in a world different from ours? Come explore the possibilities in the 2023 Redwood Writers prose anthology, where this year's theme is speculative fiction: sci-fi, fantasy, and related flavors of the fantastic. Writers from throughout the California Writers Club have joined the Redwood Branch in giving you a glimpse of what's happening one universe to the left.

San Francisco Writers Conference 2024



The California Writers Club is one of the sponsors of the San Francisco Writers Conference. The conference takes place February 15-18, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, San Francisco. See www.sfwriters.org/ for more information.

Every year, the SFWC offers 2 scholarships to each branch of the CWC.

1) The [Poetry Summit](#) is held on Saturday February 17th at 9am. This full day event has a standalone value of \$249. There is also a Poetry and Jazz evening event.

2) The Writing for Hollywood summit is on Friday February 16th at 9am. This is also a full day event; the details can be [found here](#). You may also get access to the Wine and Book tasting event at 7:30pm.

Both summits have a standalone value of \$249. Cost is waived for Recipients of the scholarships. Attendees must provide their own transport. We may reimburse reasonable travel expenses subject to approval by the board.



Details:

- ✓ Seminars are day-long—expected to be 9-5. The scholarship does not include lunch. Recipients should either bring a bag lunch or avail themselves of many nearby lunch locations.
- ✓ Hotel parking is likely available; the SFWC website carries a map showing additional places to park. The hotel is also available by BART or ferry.
- ✓ Recipients wishing to secure a hotel room should check with the Hyatt directly. Lodging is not provided by this program.

Contact Bernard Wozny or Kim Edwards to request a scholarship. Include the reasons you wish to attend, and if you would be prepared to present your experience at one of our meetings.

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

American River
William B. Pond Park
Carmichael