

SACRAMENTO
JANUARY 2024



BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

SACRAMENTOWRITERS

Saturday
20
January

Building a Critique Group

If you are in a critique group, want to be in one, or have had years of experience in critique groups, we invite you to join us for a roundtable discussion of what factors make a critique group a success. We have invited leaders of current critique groups to offer their perspective.

We will be looking at:

- The various **structures** of groups, what works, what doesn't work.
- The factors of **quality critiquing**, what information is useful, what is not.
- Different **genres**, what type of critiquing is useful to them?

Please join us to share your expertise, or simply bring your interest. This could be your New Year's resolution: To join or form your own critique group.

Saturday, January 20th, 1–3pm

[Arcade Library](#), 2442 Marconi Ave, Sacramento, CA, 95821



Sacramento River

First Friday Networking Meeting

My First-Hand Experience With A Hybrid Publisher *and the pitfalls to watch out for*



Friday
5
January

Larry Mandelberg

Understanding the benefits and pitfalls of using a hybrid publisher can save you hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars.

- My greatest benefits
- My greatest disappointments
- The book launch, talk about a master class in failure
- What marketing and promotion really means
- Who controls what, and what you can do about it

[Larry Mandelberg](#) solves complex problems. This consultant, speaker and author represents the 5th generation of his family's business and 170 years of experience with organizational success.

He's published 80+ columns, delivered 60+ keynotes and workshops, and guested on television, radio, and podcasts about business and entrepreneurship. His [book](#), based on 23 years of primary research into why businesses fail, provides an entertaining and thought-provoking perspective.

CWC-Sacramento Member Network Meeting

Friday, January 5th from 9–11 am

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#), Meeting ID: 854 8155 1153, Passcode: 227171

J Street at 11th
Sacramento

Coming in February

Narrative Authority



Saturday
17
February

Molly Dwyer

Narrative Authority comes from our sense that the writer is fearless and in control of the story they're telling. We will look at text by several authors to see what they're doing that creates the power of voice, and discuss why and how the text is working. Using visual prompts, we'll write two short pieces and share them, attempting to identify the sound of our own voices.

- To understand narrative authority and voice in fiction and/or memoir writing.
- To understand the power and uniqueness of your own authenticity.
- To examine the text of successful writing to learn what a strong voice can do.
- To discover more about your own voice through prompted writing and discussion.
- To consider the precision of language, and language's power to create.

Molly teaches creative writing at Mendocino College. She works as an editor, writing coach and workshop facilitator. Her debut novel, *Requiem for the Author of Frankenstein*, was nominated for the Northern California Book Award in Fiction and won the Independent Publishers Book of the Year Award and an Indie Book Award for Historical Fiction. She's founding president of the Writers of the Mendocino Coast, a branch of CWC.

Research for Writers



Friday
2
February

Kathy Lynne Marshall

Want to polish your research skills for novels and nonfiction books, and turn dry facts into engaging tales? Tune in!

- Learn how to find your motivation.
- Focus your book topic.
- Develop a basic research plan.
- Locate details that make books rich in storytelling and fact.
- Turn dry facts into engaging tales via a hands-on exercise.

Kathy Lynne Marshall is a Black Ancestor Biographer. She's written eight creative non-fiction heritage books that diversify the American Historical Record with previously hidden factual accounts of women and minorities. She also leads workshops to guide others in researching facts, structuring a manuscript, and publishing one's family stories.

Sacramento Branch President's Message



OK, the party's over. The holidays are behind us.

The days are slowly getting longer, the new light beckons our way forward. In my opinion, this means we must work together. To quote Celeste Ng, "*Spend too much time alone with your own words, and your writing grows anemic, in dire need of a transfusion.*"

There are many things I want to achieve this year, 2024, but I will begin with my most important number one objective for CWC Sacramento.

Critique groups. We have these, and I am overjoyed that they all seem to be full. I hear from new and existing members that many people want to join a critique group. So, I will make it my New Year's Resolution to facilitate new, open critique groups. I will also make sure each critique group has what it needs to work constructively.

I can guide you there, but ultimately, it is up to you to work together.

[This page may be able to help you on your way.](#)

Public speaking. This will be my number two resolution. This is another important topic I need to address to you all.

We can't sit in front of our computers all day, getting 'screen tan'. Neither should we sit in front of a book casting our eyes from left to right. Instead, we must get out in front of our fans and talk to them. We all have good voices, but we must practice our vocal cords, projecting ourselves outward.

John Patterson has for some time organized open mic readings. This is the greatest way to practice your voice, reading your words. John organizes this via Zoom. If he is happy to manage these more frequently, and if you are happy to attend, then I will enthusiastically support you. In fact, I am booked to attend the next session on January 25th. Feel free to join, even if you just want to listen.

Member Book Launches. Other than completing a novel, a book launch is arguably the most important event in an author's life. I would like to maximize such an event for all members. As a club we have gathered some experience to promote books. Collectively we can do even more! This is resolution number three. In 2024 to make sure all members who publish their books will have access to the club's book launch method. I cannot promise promotional success, but what I can promise is our club's experience and reach to get you and your book in front of local people.

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 four new members on the 1st of January. Please say hello if you see them.

- Theresa Lown writes memoir, non-fiction, and historical fiction
- Nalin Ratnayake writes fantasy, science fiction, and literary/magical realism
- Eric Sweigert writes non-fiction and historical fiction
- Evan Gage writes fiction, essays, and songs

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

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.

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

Announcements

Open Reading

Sign-up to read—or—come & listen to your colleagues' work
Thursday, January 25th at 7:00 pm

If you don't sign up to share a part of, or a piece, you've worked on, maybe only to gauge audience reaction, you're invited to attend and listen to fellow members' work. We share comments and questions, but this is not a critique group. Please note, if you arrive after the reading has started, you will be admitted as soon as the piece is concluded. Pieces are approximately 6-8 minutes long.

Contact [John Patterson](#) to Sign-up for the Open Reading on [Zoom](#).
Check-in for readers between 6:35 and 6:50, and audience before 7:00.
Meeting ID: 859 1155 4051, Passcode: 954497

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Central Pacific engine #1
The Gov. Stanford 1862
[California State Railroad
Museum, Sacramento]

Point of View Workshop

Mark your calendars to come on out to the [Avid Reader Bookstore](#) 617 2nd Street, Davis on **Wednesday, February 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, to hone your skills and increase your knowledge related to **point of view (POV)**, that essential topic for fiction writers.

CWC Sacramento members [Judith Starkston](#) (author of *Hand of Fire*, *Priestess of Ishana*, *Sorcery in Alpara*, *Of Kings & Griffins*) and [Tim Schooley](#) (author of *The Wool Translator*) will share their tactics for bringing readers deeply into the POV of their characters, an essential skill for increasing your readers' emotional response to your words by feeling what your characters feel.

The course is designed for both novice and experienced writers, and will cover: POVs used by contemporary authors, statistics about the use of various POVs today, when and how to avoid head-hopping, how to choose the "correct" POV for you, writing multiple POVs in one novel or story, and the all-important topic: writing in "deep" or "close" POV. The course will include exercises to help you stretch your POV wings.

Although there is no charge for the class, Avid Reader asks that attendees buy one of either author's books at the store on the evening of the program. Come out to enjoy an evening with fellow writers while studying some of the more challenging skills in fiction writing.

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Intuitive Self-Editing

*Transform Your 2024 Writing Journey with our weekly Zoom Course!
Final class is an open mic at Gini's Elk Grove house.*

Facilitator: [Gini Grossenbacher](#), M.Ed., Professional Editor, Published Author

Presented by Elk Grove Writers & Artists (celebrating our 13th year of writerly support).

Dive into a world where your creativity knows no bounds. We offer a nurturing and inspiring seminar environment designed to elevate and refine your writing skills. Our course is tailored for writers of all levels, guiding you through a rewarding process of self-discovery and growth. Techniques work for all genres of fiction and non-fiction, including poetry and flash fiction.

You'll learn to master the art of self-editing, infusing your unique style into every piece. We strongly emphasize constructive collaboration, teaching you how to embrace and utilize feedback effectively. Engage in lively discussions and hands-on practices, honing your craft to perfection.

Guest speaker, Rebecca Evans, M.A.

Join us and unleash the full potential of your writing, crafting works that resonate and captivate!

Cost: \$30/class, pay-as-you-go, PayPal or Check

When: Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:00 P.M. January 3-February 21, 2024

Email [Gini](#) to enroll and get the textbook title.

2nd St.

Old Town Sacramento

[Carolyn Radmanovich](#) is thrilled to share that [The Mummy's Gift](#), her latest time travel romance novel, has earned a Five-Star review from Pikasho Deka of the [Reader's Favorites](#). This recognition is a testament to the story's captivating blend of history, romance, and adventure.

Announcements from Afield

Join the 90 Day memoir Project!

Have you always wanted to write your memoir?

There has never been a better time to do it than right now.

The High Desert Branch is joining with [author Al Watt](#) to encourage you to write your memoir in the next few months.

Buy the book, review it, then join us for our zoom meeting with Al on January 30, 2024.

Write your memoir in the next few months, then meet again on June 25, 2024.

Don't miss this *free* Zoom meeting on the 90-day Memoir Project with Al Watt

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 6–7pm PST

Join the Zoom [meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 862 2078 4034 Passcode: 375034)

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Patterson Holiday Bookstore Bonus Recipients

[James Patterson](#) has awarded \$600 bonuses to selected employees of independent bookstores.

Included in the list are [Ruby's Books](#) in Folsom, and [Capital Books](#) in Sacramento.

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[California Writers Club](#) announces plans for a new CWC book in 2024 titled [Vision and Verse](#), a fusion of art and photography. [Vision and Verse](#) will be an [ekphrastic](#) book pairing artwork with poetry and short prose.

There are two phases to this project.

Phase one is an art and photography contest (deadline January 15)

Phase two will post the winning art and call for poetry and short prose submissions inspired by the selected works (deadline TBD)

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.



HOW TO DECIPHER THE
Wild World
OF AMAZON ADS
with Bryan Cohen

Saturday, January 13, 2024
9:00 a.m. PST on Zoom

redwoodwriters.org/amazon-ads

HOSTED BY REDWOOD WRITERS
& CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

Amazon is now the third largest advertising network in the world (behind Facebook and Google). As it becomes harder and harder to be seen on the major bookselling platform, learning how to run ads could be the difference between success and failure. During this talk, Author Ad School Founder Bryan Cohen will help you take your first baby steps into the confusing and rewarding platform.

Bryan Cohen is the CEO of Best Page Forward, a company dedicated to helping authors with ads, blurbs, and more. He's an author himself with 8 novels and over 150,000 copies sold. He was recently invited to be a part of the Amazon Ads Educators and visited Seattle to collaborate with the Amazon Ads team on new content for authors.

[Registration](#) for the online workshop: RW & CWC members \$25.00, non-members \$35.00.

Board of Directors

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President: [Bernard Wozny](#)

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Contest Coordinator: OPEN

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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

Epilog

This time of year we make resolutions to improve our lives. One easy way to enrich your future is to become more involved with this club. Take a few minutes each month to review a fellow member's latest book, write up your experience in attending an author's reading, or compose a note of thanks for one of our speakers. Email your musings to the [newsletter editor](#) and share your thoughts.

Writers are always looking for ways to promote their works, increase interest in an author's website, and spread the word about events. Notify your audience in this newsletter about new blog posts, stories or poems recently uploaded to the web, and upcoming readings.

Resolve to participate.

Mural in Downtown Commons
near 5th & J Sts.
Sacramento