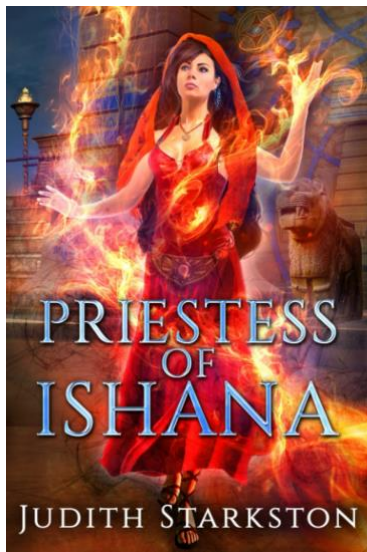


SACRAMENTO  
AUGUST 2024



BRANCH  
NEWSLETTER

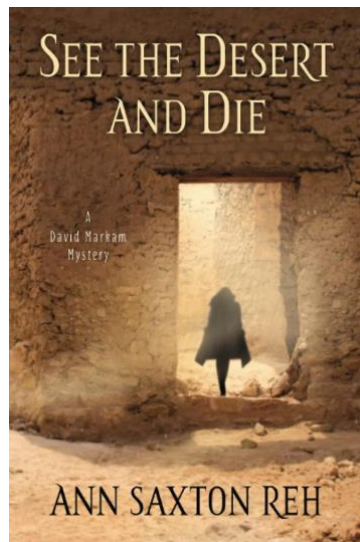


# SACRAMENTOWRITERS

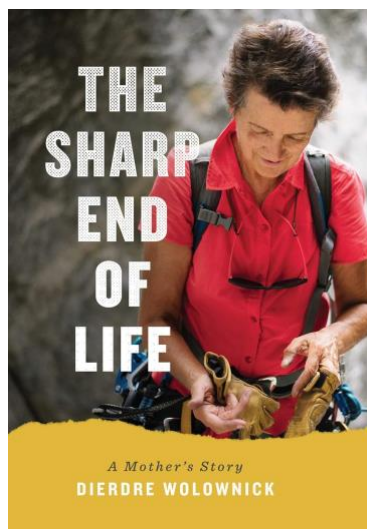
## What are you working on?

Come spend a Saturday afternoon sharing your writing journey with other writers, struggles and successes.

Get to know the members of your club a little better.



Saturday  
**17**  
August

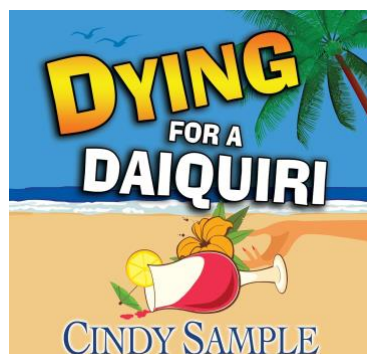


Perhaps find the help you need.  
Or get a chance to share what you have learned with others.  
*(Feel free to attend even if you are not presently working on something.)*

August 17, 1 to 3 pm

Arcade Library Meeting Room  
2443 Marconi Ave

Any questions, contact Bonnie at [beaublue4@gmail.com](mailto:beaublue4@gmail.com)



## MEMBERS' BOOKS EDITION

## Find Your Passion, Find Your Genre



Friday  
**2**  
August

[Carolyn Radmanovich](#)

Craft a universe in your genre so real you can see its wonders, hear its whispers, and breathe its air.

What attendees will learn from this presentation:

- Knowing what you're passionate about will determine what genre you choose.
- Find inspiring authors who have written in that genre and learn their techniques.
- Ground your world in research.
- Create a vibrant, immersive world.
- Have your characters live, breathe, and speak realistically in your genre.

Award-winning author Carolyn Radmanovich wrote [The Shape-Shifter's Wife](#) trilogy after a near-drowning experience on the Russian River. She holds a history degree from SJSU and has extensively researched the California Gold Rush.

**Denny's**, [8841 Greenback Lane](#), Orangevale, just west of Hazel Ave. 9 am.



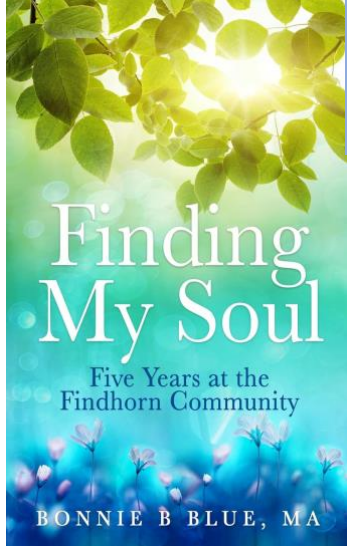
New  
Location!





# SUMMER OPEN READING

by John Patterson



## Sign Up To Read Your—Or—Listen To Your Colleagues' Work

Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Sign-up for the Zoom (link below) Open Reading at:

[2johnpatterson@gmail.com](mailto:2johnpatterson@gmail.com)

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 *still* 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 that piece is concluded. Pieces are approximately eight (8) minutes long.

CHECK-IN for readers between 6:25 and 6:50, and audience before 7:00 pm.

Topic: CWC-SAC Summer Open Reading

Time: Aug. 13, 2024, 7:00 pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

John Patterson is inviting you to use this Zoom [link](#).

Meeting ID: 813 6741 5942 Passcode: 876999



A Primrose  
in November



LUANNE OLEAS

## FREE WORKSHOP

by Tracy Napier

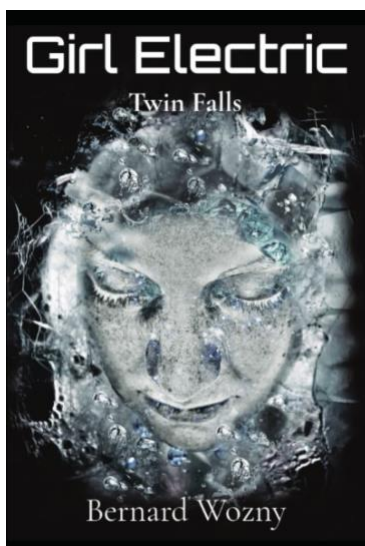
### “Discover Your Story”

### Workshop Featuring Capital Storytelling

Are you interested in learning how to transform your unique experiences into compelling stories? Do you want to master the art of structuring your personal narratives to captivate your audience?

Join [Jean Green](#) and [Jane Gorski](#) from [Capital Storytelling](#) in a **free** “Discover Your Story” Workshop!

Through individual reflective activities, you'll uncover your own unique stories and find deeper meaning in them. This oral storytelling workshop will guide you in unlocking memories and experiences and transforming them into engaging narratives.



Whether you're aiming to create content for your podcast, blog or memoir, or simply want to share captivating stories with your grandchildren, this workshop will provide you with the tools and techniques to make your stories unforgettable.

This will be a hybrid meeting. If attending in person, registration is not required but encouraged. Please use the QR code below to register and receive the Zoom link.



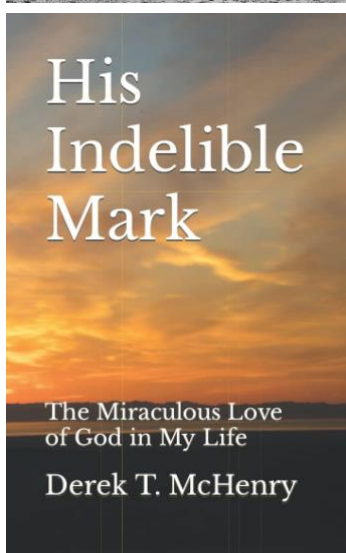
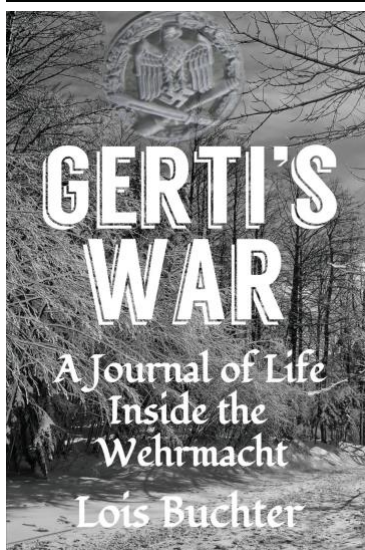
REGISTER HERE

Saturday, August 24, 2024 @2:00–4:00

Arden-Dimick Library, Community Meeting Room, 891 Watt Ave,  
Sacramento, California 95864

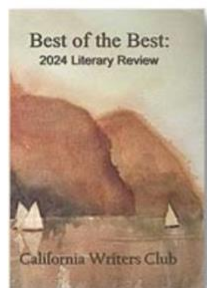
Questions? Contact [Tracey Napier](#)

Hosted by the Old Town Talkers Toastmasters Club



## Two New Releases from CWC Press

by Roger Lubeck, CWC President



CWC Press announces two releases for the summer of 2024: *Best of the Best: 2024 Literary Review* and *Vision & Verse, A Fusion of Art, Photography, Prose and Poetry*. Both books feature CWC members' literary and visual art and will be offered in electronic format as a member benefit.

Mike Apodaca (High Desert), Jenny Margotta (High Desert), Elisabeth Tuck (Mt. Diablo), Joyce Krieg (Central Coast), Roger Lubeck (Redwood), and the High Desert team have been working hard to bring you the *Best of the Best: 2024 Literary Review* by the California Writers Club. The *Best of the Best* is 383 pages with 68 pieces (half prose and half poetry). These works are from members in 17 branches. Each branch was able to choose the best prose and poetry from its members. The number accepted for each branch was based on the number of members; one prose and one poem per each 50 members in a branch. Some branches relied on their anthology editors, some held contests with judges, and others relied on their board to select poems and stories. In the

The CWC Summer 2024 Bulletin is available for [download](#).

## Robots and Writers: Innovations in Storytelling and Selling



Sunday  
**22**  
September

[Judy M. Baker](#)

The Creator of the Buzzworthy Book Experience

If you have used a smartphone, you are familiar with A.I. You'll explore the benefits of integrating A.I. into your writing and marketing. Judy will demonstrate how A.I. can enhance your creativity, improve engagement, reduce drudgery, and automate your marketing. Leave with actionable ideas and tools to revolutionize your writing process and expand your reach. Come prepared to play and learn. It will be an interactive and educational event.

What attendees will learn:

- Using AI tools to help you create personalized content
- Tools to streamline your editorial process
- Increase reader engagement
- Revolutionize research
- Timesaving and project management tools

The Queen Bee of Book Buzz connects with authors at every stage of their journey and offers personalized coaching, workshops, and programs designed to pollinate the path to success.

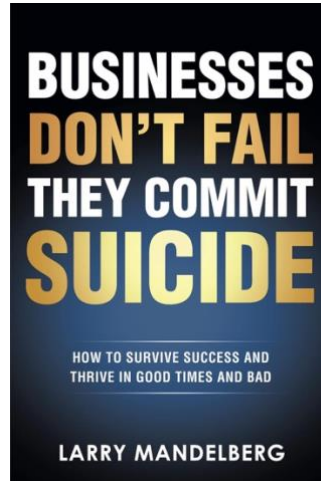
Judy's poetry and stories grace multiple anthologies, and her current publishing projects are infused with inspiration and practical guidance.

Since 2011, Judy has helped authors put marketing into everyday conversations, build buzz, increase business, amplify attraction, grow connections, and sell more books. She is the creator of the Buzzworthy Book Experience.

Cattlemens Restaurant, 12409 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742



## Visionary Goal-Setting: Charting Your Path to Success



Sunday  
**22**  
September

Larry Mandelberg

Following Judy Baker's presentation, member [Larry Mandelberg](#) is returning to lead a presentation and discussion that members have raved about in past years: "Visionary Goal-Setting: Charting Your Path to Success"

This enlightening 30-minute process will engage writers in reinvigorating their journey with visionary goal setting. Why not transform daily tasks into purposeful steps toward your dreams! Create a compelling vision that energizes, turning hard work into personal achievement and fulfillment! Learn a process that appeals to those interested in achieving goals and success. Start envisioning your success today! Larry Mandelberg a model of setting goals that lead to outcomes and success. A self-described organizational "savant," he solves complex business problems for clients in diverse industries. As the fifth generation of his family's business, he embodies 170 years of successful organizational experience. Start envisioning your success today! As a non-recovering serial entrepreneur, Larry has launched four start-ups, led a merger, and conducted a successful turnaround. Larry is author of [Businesses Don't Fail They Commit Suicide: How to Survive Success and Thrive in Good Times and Bad](#). He is author of many articles, largely in business media.

### Friendly Reminders

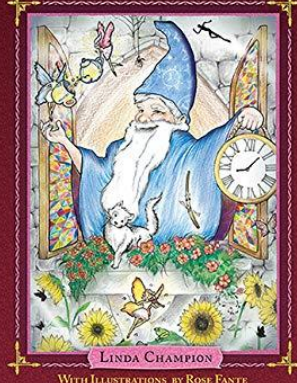
- **What:** Quarterly Luncheon Meeting
- **When:** Sunday, September 22, Noon (Social Hour: 11:30)
- **Where:** Cattlemens Restaurant Rancho Cordova
- **What to Bring:** Copies of your book or promo materials to put out on the display table.
- **How to register:** Details coming soon!

## Writing for the Inspirational Market

Friday  
6  
September

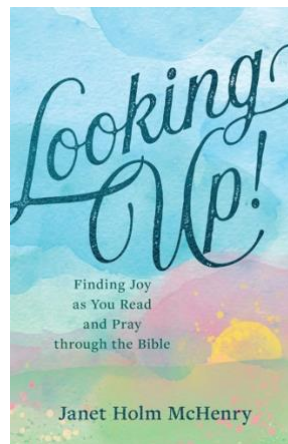
### *More Fairy Tales for Life*

A COLLECTION OF TWENTY  
ORIGINAL SHORT STORIES



LINDA CHAMPION

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROSE FANTE



Finding Joy  
as You Read  
and Pray  
through the Bible

Janet Holm McHenry

### Janet Holm McHenry

Learn how writing inspirational books can encourage, help, and equip readers so they experience hope and real personal transformation.

Janet McHenry is a speaker and the author of 27 traditionally published books—including the bestselling [PrayerWalk](#) and her newest, [Looking Up!](#) A journalism graduate of UC Berkeley and a writing coach, she teaches at writers' conferences around the country and hosts the Sierra Valley Writers Retreat twice a year.

What attendees will learn from this presentation:

- The Who: Understanding the Big Five and other independent publishers
- The What: Discovering the genres of faith-based publishing
- The How: Breaking in to the inspirational market
- The Why: Distinguishing between career and calling
- The Benefits: Finding personal purpose while making a difference in others' lives

Often described as a life juggler, upon graduation with a degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, Janet McHenry worked as a newspaper reporter and high school English teacher while raising four kids with her high school sweetheart husband Craig (aka The Rancher).

She is a writer, speaker, life and [Advanced Writers and Speakers Association](#) Certified Coach as well as the founder of the [Sierra Valley Writers Retreat](#).

### THE LEGEND OF CINNAMON VALLEY



LOIS J. FRAZIER

### UNEXPECTED FINDINGS

JENIFER ROWE

# SACRAMENTO BRANCH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At school, our teachers often encouraged us to write about what we did on our holidays. I would like to persuade you all to write something creative that can inspire us all.

I don't know how this will work, but I am open to suggestions. For instance, having a single story in our newsletter may create unnecessary rivalry. Perhaps it would be better to have stories published and stored on our website.

I look to you for guidance,

Below is my example and I hope everyone will consider sharing an inspirational story.



## Wimbledon July 2024

“Tennis is the perfect combination of violent action taking place in an atmosphere of Tranquility.” *Billie Jean King*. Winner of 39 Grand Slam Titles!

WTF! How many? Proof that women should not be trifled with.

I visited Wimbledon in July 2024. Primarily. It is a private tennis club in London, UK, with about 500 members. The cost of membership is, if anything, underpriced, but it requires strict regulation.

Wimbledon makes squillions of dollars every year through national and international championships. It is one of the four top Grand Slam Tennis events as defined by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The French Open, The American Open, the Australian Open and, of course, Wimbledon. The name alone strikes awe.

All the others either use hard courts or clay. Wimbledon is the only one that uses grass. This is not a trivial task, as each court needs to be raised and prepared for each year's game. Even the length of the grass has a strict definition, requiring it to be exactly 8 millimeters.

Experienced grounds persons are not just growers of grass who make sure the lawn is level and aligned for players. They even understand the depth of root and the crowding of grass per square inch. They abide by (and probably defined) a strict science determined by the ITF. Such definitions can and will influence the behavior of tennis balls in a match, and each match on each court must be equivalent.

If you know lawn tennis, then you know Wimbledon. Game, set and match!

“You cannot be serious!”



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

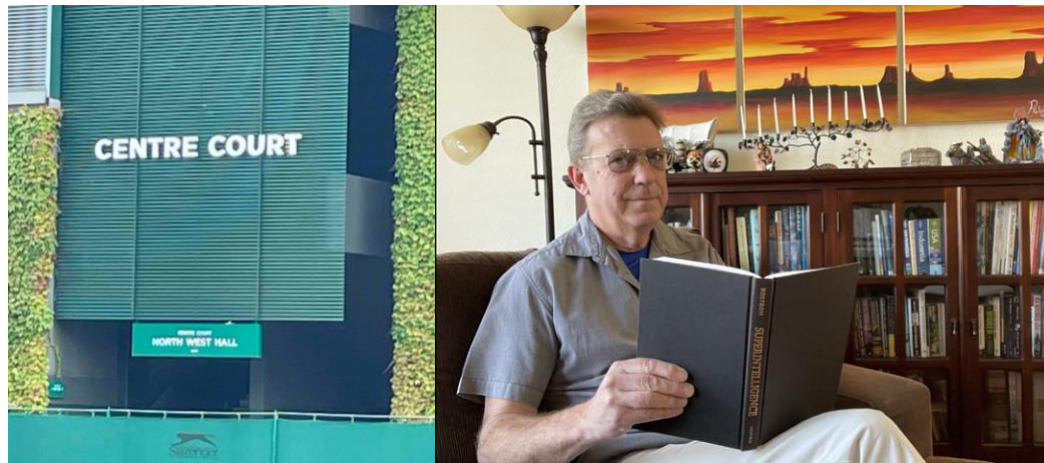
Such quotes reflect the weight on the souls and behavior of players. Preparing your life for world class competition builds your body, but can only place stress on your life. As a tourist, I wept in sympathy for these players. I also learned of the respect, friendship and bonding between some competitors.

On the stage, people may behave differently than in private life.

There is something that we all can learn from this. We all need to understand our art. We all want to be a shining success, showing the world how great we are. To achieve such heights, we may sometimes behave mis-appropriately. Deep down we are just ourselves, simple human beings, prone to error, but striving for success.

May I wish you success.

But above all, may I wish you the understanding that you need to succeed.



[Bernard Wozny](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



[Daniel Babka](#) invites you to check out his work:

Lightning Bugs and Aliens: A Small Town Coming-Of-Age Story, was just awarded the 2024 [IndieReader Discovery Award](#) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner for Fiction Novel among independently published, hybrid, and small press books. The award includes a cash prize & serious consideration for representation from a prominent New York literary agency.

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA PRESENTS  
Z O E T R O P E

# ALL-STORY



The annual **Zoetrope: All-Story Short Fiction Competition** and **American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition** are open for entries on our new platforms!

The [Short Fiction Competition](#) will be judged by [C Pam Zhang](#), an honorable mention in our 2016 competition who has since published two best-selling and critically acclaimed novels, one of which landed on President Obama's list of the best books of 2020. She's also been named a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree, a winner of the Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Award, and a finalist for prizes from the Booker Prize Foundation, PEN America, and the National Book Critics Circle; and her short fiction has appeared in the *New Yorker* and *Best American Short Stories*. Three prizewinners, along with seven honorable mentions, will be considered for representation by leading literary agencies; and the winning story will be published as a special supplement to the Spring 2025 edition of *Zoetrope: All-Story*. [Enter now!](#)

**Francis Ford Coppola** and the American Zoetrope staff will judge the [Screenplay Competition](#), with a cash prize to the winner and the top ten scripts receiving consideration for representation and development by the best talent agencies and production studios. Original television pilots are also eligible. [So ready that long-simmering idea, and submit!](#)

Thanks much. We're eager to read your work!

# MEMBERS' CORNER

by Bonnie Gault-Blue

We welcomed 3 new members this last month. They are:

**Dan Jerger** (aka [Gideon D Asche](#)) who writes historical fiction, military history and poetry.

**Gryffyd Dempsey** who writes science fiction.

**Lani Fehr** who writes contemporary and literary fiction.

Please say hello if you see them.

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](mailto: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.

Email Bonnie at [sacramentowriters@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentowriters@gmail.com). 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 under Members Resources then select Critique Group.

## Calling for Beta Readers

If you are interested in reading a member's manuscript in full to give feedback on, there are people in the club interested in obtaining your services. Let us [know](#).

## Asking for your help

We are looking for a restaurant to meet at for our quarterly Saturday meetings. It must have a separate meeting room. If you know of a place that you feel might work, please let us [know](#).

<=>

It's Time To

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

**\$45 Due**

CWC-Sacramento's membership year starts July 1st.

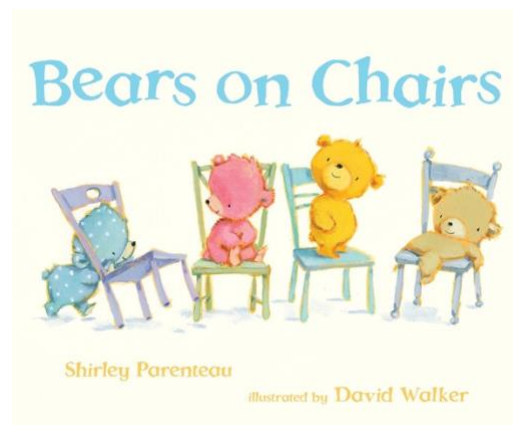
Please renew as soon as you can. You can renew online with a credit card at <https://california-writers-club.square.site/>

—Or—

a preferred method is to mail a check for \$45 to:  
CWC-Sacramento, PO Box 1231, Orangevale, CA 95662



## Listen, Learn, and Improve Your Writing



[Shirley Parenteau](#)

### **How and when did your interest in writing begin?**

When my husband and I moved from Salem, Oregon, to Elk Grove in 1961, the only published writer I knew was my mother. She subscribed to *Author & Journalist*, a magazine I pored over. By 1963, I had published a brief article in a small magazine and three short stories. When I read in *The Writer* of a California Writers Club conference coming up at Mills College in Oakland, I gathered my courage and attended. There I met published Sacramento authors who urged me to attend dinner meetings in a Sacramento restaurant and critique meetings then held once a month in members' homes. The friendship and encouragement my new friends offered became invaluable.

### **What training helped you improve your writing?**

I've attended many writer's conferences since that first one at Mills, learning from fellow writers as well as from fascinating speakers. Writing styles change and we need to stay aware of that. A picture book I sold when my children were young, a book that won a Children's Choice award, would be far too wordy for today's market.

### **What in your writing career are you most proud of?**

I'm most proud of my first Candlewick picture book, [Bears on Chairs](#). It's simple while urging readers to share through the natural bouncy rhythm of the story. This book has been printed in translation in many countries. It's especially popular in Japan where merchandising rights have sold so that the bears have appeared on house slippers, teacher's smocks, a gift set of bear and toddler-sized book, as well as other items.

### What type of reading do you do when not writing?

Currently, I'm reading a series of science-fiction and fantasy novels. I prefer reading fiction, but have acquired a library of books on various types of writing. Particularly useful is [The Emotion Thesaurus](#) by Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi. This amazing cliché-avoiding thesaurus lists physical and mental reactions to a large number of emotions your characters may be feeling.

### What words of encouragement would you give to new writers?

Writing often leads to rejection, no matter how many books we've sold. We need to develop a tough skin, close those rejections in a file somewhere, understand that story criticism is not meant to be personal and if that one can't be saved, to move on to the next project. For years, I was in a group of multiply-published novelists. Their comments could feel brutal. I kept thinking I would never return to the group, but I always went back because once the sting wore off, I realized those hard-hitting comments would improve my writing. I do urge writers to critique gently, especially with new authors, but while praise is nice, where writing is concerned, well-meant criticism is more helpful.

**Shirley Parenteau** was raised on the Northern Oregon Coast where her father logged and her mother wrote freelance articles for Portland newspapers. Shirley's writing career began with articles for travel magazines. She then moved into children's books, then to novels for [Ballantine Books](#) and for Harlequin Historical. She returned to children's books with a sale of (so far) nine titles in a picture book series beginning with [Bears on Chairs](#), illustrated by artist David Walker and published by [Candlewick Press](#). Candlewick also printed her three-book Friendship Doll series for readers from ages seven to twelve, based on a little-known 1926 doll exchange between American and Japanese children. Shirley's three submissions have been accepted by the CWC 2024 Ekphrastic Book, [Vision and Verse](#), to be printed later this summer.



VISION & VERSE  
A Fusion of Poetry, Prose, Art and Photography  
EDITOR LES BERNSTEIN

Welcome to the inaugural issue of [Vision and Verse, a Fusion of Art, Photography, Prose and Poetry](#). The multi-talented artists and writers featured within these pages have come together to create a dialogue between their respective mediums. This collection showcases the beauty of visual art married with the magic of the written word. In this celebration of imagination my wish for you is to immerse yourself in these pages and join in a journey where the boundaries of art and writing are blurred. The images and words are like rooms of memories, evoking anecdotes to be remembered, maybe even a treasure trove of inspiration for your own very unique expression. We sincerely hope you enjoy the collaborative work in Vision and Verse from the gifted members of California Writers Club.

## The Third Deity by Susan Marquez Owen

White Bird

You spread your long wings  
Under Mexico's hot sun  
Liberated  
on the edge  
Of a new farm.

You balance there  
Like an open fan  
Like a Holy Ghost  
Settling to rest  
As you once did  
on the Virgin's breast

I have looked for you in the Church of the Poor  
Have prayed to the Indian Yahweh—  
Black hair painted  
across the wall  
to fall  
in a frescoed waterway

I have knelt in the Church of the Rich  
Bowed to the Divine Spaniard —  
Gold-crossed banners  
Slung from pillar to pillar  
Loomed by a colonial weaver

Everywhere  
I go  
They say

God  
is  
Everywhere  
So then it is not surprising  
To finally find you here  
On this hedge  
Your head cocked  
Your wings high  
One eye towards the Earth  
The other towards the Sky.



Susan Marquez Owen is a former newspaper reporter for *The Oakland Tribune*, *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Los Angeles Times*. She has a master's degree in English and American Literature with an emphasis on poetry. Raised in dual cultures by a Mexican-American mother and an Anglo father, Susan's two cultural perspectives can sometimes be found in her poetry and short stories.



# CWC SACRAMENTO LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors

### Officers

President: [Bernard Wozny](#)

First Vice-President/Programs: OPEN

Second Vice-President/Membership: [Bonnie Blue](#)

Treasurer: Tim Schooley

Secretary: Mari-Lynne Infantino

### Directors

Kimberly Edwards (Board Member Emeritus)

Chris Hennessy

William MacDonald

Cheryl Stapp

### Club Positions

Contest Coordinator: OPEN

Historian: Julie Bauer

Marketing and Program Chair: OPEN

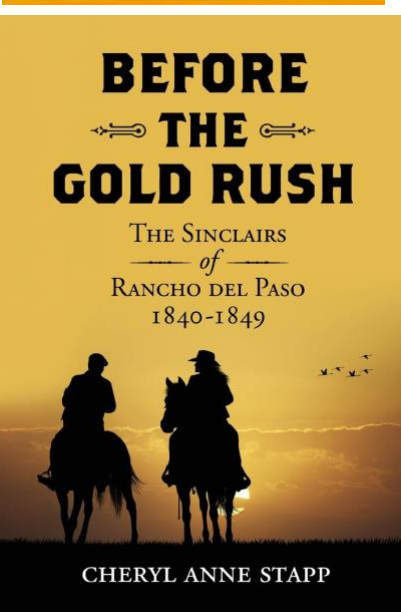
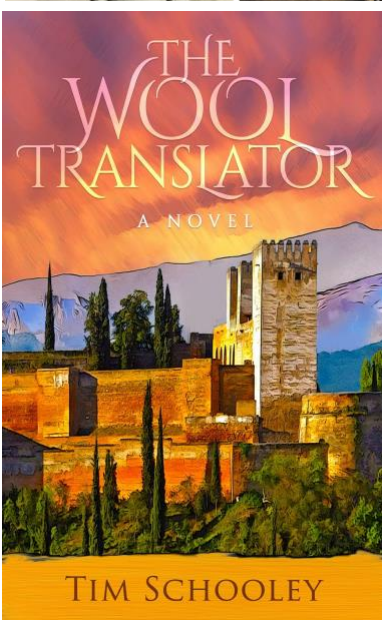
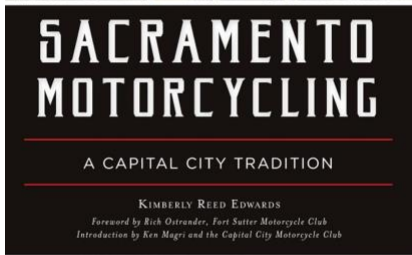
Newsletter: [William MacDonald](#)

Open Readings Host & Coordinator: [John Patterson](#)

Publicity Chair (Print/TV/Radio/Social Media): Chris Hennessy

Webmaster: Bernard Wozny

Writers Network Coordinator: Cheryl Stapp



## POST SCRIPT

For the past year this newsletter has highlighted places to see around Sacramento County. This edition of the *Sacramento Writer* features a sampling of books published by CWC members. If there is interest in seeing more of this type of content, we could incorporate this periodically. More titles can be found on the [website](#). If you haven't promoted your book in this venue, contact:

[sacramentowriters@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentowriters@gmail.com)