



# The Redwood Writer



[www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org) -- April 2010



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Why do we write?

**Linda Loveland Reid**

This is the question posed by our new newsletter editor, Robin Moore. She is inviting you to send in a 60-word essay to be printed in future newsletters. Here is mine...

*I write because I didn't think I could. Or, put another way, I write because I can, which was not always the case. Not that my arm was broken, but my confidence was misplaced. I came lightly to the written word, tip-toeing around, fashioning poems behind closed doors, falling in love with Dickens secretly. Perhaps I write to prove that I am here.*

Robin is an example of the unique people we have in our group, now over 168 strong! Each month I am knocked out by the volunteer spirit and the talents being shared. Please take a moment to review the Volunteer List to see how many are helping to make RWs the "Go To" place for writers in our area. We are truly "writers helping writers."

And why do they keep joining? Because of all the work done by many hands. Because we offer workshops, conferences, seminars, and professional speakers. There is value in a Redwood Writer membership. Build it and they will come...and they have!

Hats off to Jeanne Jusaitis and her committee for organizing our first **Agents Day**. That's right! On June 6 you can pitch your work to agents. Sign up online or watch for a sign-up table at the next membership meeting. \$55 for a day that includes a luncheon, 10 agents, and a networking wine party. There is room for only 70. This is for members only, so make your reservation soon (see the committee on *Volunteer List*, included in the Newsletter). (continued on pg. 2)

Exciting news! A new website is just around the corner. We thank webmaster Catherine Keegan for many years of dedicated service and guidance. Technology offers new options, and we are indebted to the work of Kate Farrell and Donn Clark, who have investigated ways for us to meet the needs of a growing club. Stand by for more info soon.

Don't forget to check out *Dates to Remember*, a listing of upcoming events included in the newsletter. See you at the **April 11 meeting at the Flamingo**. We will be awarding the Poetry Contest Winners, along with our usual speaker presentation.

**Keep writing! Linda**

**April 11<sup>th</sup> - Redwood Writers Meeting** 2:30-5 p.m. at the Flamingo Conference Resort & Spa – Courtyard Room #1. We've added an adjacent room for socializing, books for sale by our members, & club merchandise. We ask for a small fee of \$5 from members and \$8 from non-members to cover the costs of speaker fees and light refreshment. **The winners from the Poetry Contest will be announced.**

2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 – Phone (707) 545-8530

**Presenter at the Redwood Writers' meeting:**

**Clara Rosemarda**

**Title: RESONANT PROSE: Developing the Intimate Voice of a Memoirist**

**Description: Fiction often rides on plot, but memoir relies on an intimate voice and resonant prose. We will discuss techniques for developing intimacy and resonance in your writing, using examples to illustrate different memoir styles.**

**About Clara Rosemarda:**

Clara Rosemarda, MA, writer, writing coach, counselor, and workshop leader, has been in private practice in Santa Rosa for over twenty-five years. A memoirist and poet, Clara works with beginning as well as mainstream writers, and teaches workshops internationally. She is co-creator and coordinator of the popular writer's program, *The Writer's Sampler*, at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. Her prose and poetry are published in literary journals and anthologies. Her most recent book, published by Interlink Books, 2004, is *Steeped: In The World of Tea*.

## **Agents Day: Time to Pitch That Book**

We are currently planning our first annual **Agents Day**, which will be held at the Flamingo Hotel on **Sunday, June 6th**, noon to four. This is a place where you can pitch your book, for five minutes, to a literary agent, an editor, and/or a publisher. A buffet lunch will be served at noon. Two hours of pitch sessions will be followed by wine, dessert, and networking. The event will be open to members only at a cost of \$55 per person and will be limited to the first seventy members. **(Please note, your dues must be up to date. Please don't wait until June 1<sup>st</sup> to renew.)** Stay tuned for further information concerning registration and particulars.

**There will be a sign-up table for Agents Day at the next Redwood Writers meeting on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Bring your checkbook.** Submitted by **Jeanne Jusaitis**

# THE BIG READ 2010

The National Endowment for the Arts has chosen *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* for **THE BIG READ 2010**. To encourage members and nonmembers of Redwood Writers to read Mark Twain's classic and discuss it, I have reserved the board room of The Glaser Center at 547 Mendocino Ave. in Santa Rosa on **Thursday, April 8th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** Admission is free. Snacks will be potluck. One dollar a ticket, or ten for half a sawbuck, will get you a chance to win a Mark Twain blank journal. In addition to literary discussions, there will be games of marbles, swashbuckling, and a bow and arrow contest. --

**Tom J. Mariani**  
[marianis@sonic.net](mailto:marianis@sonic.net)



"...after listening to Tom, (Joe) conceded that there were some conspicuous advantages about a life of crime, and so he consented to be a pirate. ... Who were to be the subjects of their piracies, was a matter that did not occur to them. Then they hunted up Huckleberry Finn, and he joined them promptly."—from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*



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## Celebrate Spring and National Poetry Month

with the "Art of Words", featuring **Gwynn O'Gara**,  
**Sonoma County Poet Laureate 2010-2011**. Gwynn O'Gara is the author of three poetry collections, **Snake Woman Poems, Fixer-Upper, and Winter at Green Haven**.

There will be a book signing by O'Gara, an open mike session and light refreshments.

This event is hosted by Juanita J. Martin, 2009 Sonoma County Library Slam Champion.

For Info: Contact [freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com](mailto:freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com)

This event will take place **Sat., April 10th**, 2010, 5:30-8:00 pm,  
**Barking Dog Roasters**  
18133 Hwy 12,  
Boyes Springs, Ca. 95476

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**Why I Write:** People I worked with in politics used to bring me their work to proof, or their ideas to write about. One of them said, "You know, you should write a book." I did, and the response to it was terrific. So I wrote another and another. It became an addiction. And still is. Writing makes me feel good.

—**Ron Pasquariello**



The next Redwood Salon will be Sun. April 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. in Penngrove. The Salon is open only to members and their guests.

Please rsvp by email to: [programs@redwoodwriters.org](mailto:programs@redwoodwriters.org)  
Please indicate if you're willing to bring food & if you wish to read some of your work for 5 min.



**Gwynn O'Gara**  
Sonoma County  
Poet Laureate 2010-2011

## Member in the Spotlight:

**Ellen Boneparth** has a long and varied history of careers including employment in the U.S. Foreign Service and in academia. She now lives in Santa Rosa. Following is an interview with Carol Collier.

**Q.** Ellen, I find an underlying theme in your books: the exploration of love—romantic love, familial love, and emotion between friends. Is this a deliberate examination of love on your part, or is it a subconscious element of your stories?

**A.** Good question. I find myself addicted to love stories, but I never realized that even my family saga and my book about a women’s group were also about love relationships, either between family members or among women friends. For me, love, in some form or other, defines the novel.

**Q.** What do you enjoy most about writing?

**A.** I probably get most pleasure out of crafting the plot. I don’t do it ahead of time. Rather, I let the characters tell me how to relate their stories. Thus, perhaps my novels are character driven, but it’s more about how the characters work through their life stories than about how they evolve as personalities. Essentially, more than anything else, I’m a storyteller.

**Q.** Please describe your published books.

**A.** My historical novel, *Days of Atonement*, is about the Jews of Greece during World War II. My next novel, *Tatiana*, is about a Russian woman who comes to America to be treated for ovarian cancer and ends up healing the circle of American women who have joined together to help her. *Salud y Amor* is about an ambitious high tech lawyer, her husband, and her lover. She has a car accident that changes her life.

I’ve also written a memoir, *Nona: A Different Kind of Motherhood*, which is about being a godmother to my Greek goddaughter.

**Q.** What advice has helped most in your life?

**A.** If you mean writing advice, it was never to mix up the first draft and editing. I learned to write the “down” draft while exercising my right brain and then go into left brain mode for the “up” draft to do the editing. I think keeping the brain functions separate as much as possible really works for me.

**Q.** Tell us about your current writing project.

**A.** I am currently writing another memoir, this one about travel. I’ve been an active traveler for 30 years, have gone to an extraordinary number of exotic locations, and want to share with others what I’ve learned about the world. Right now, I’m presenting nongovernmental organizations in the developing world that serve women and their families on

[www.womensgivingtree.org](http://www.womensgivingtree.org). Subscription is free!

Ellen, thank you and good luck with your many projects including your blog. Submitted by

**Carol A. Collier**

# National Poetry Month - Trends in Poetry

by Juanita J. Martin

April is National Poetry Month. We celebrate the literary art form of poetry. The idea of a National Poetry Month was originally inspired by the success of Black History Month and Women's History Month. In 1996, the Academy of American Poets launched the first National Poetry Month celebration. They proposed an annual celebration in April. In 1996, President Clinton signed a proclamation to honor, yearly in April, National Poetry Month. *"National Poetry Month offers a welcome opportunity to celebrate not only the unsurpassed body of literature produced by our poets in the past, but also the vitality and diversity of voices reflected in the works of today's American poetry ... Their creativity and wealth of language enrich our culture and inspire a new generation of Americans to learn the power of reading and writing at its best."*

The Academy of American Poets wanted to introduce more Americans to the pleasure of reading poetry. They also wanted to broaden the minds of the public as to various forms of poetry and availability. This would be accomplished by a myriad of events held through education, publishing, art organizations, and the poets themselves.

The genre of poetry was once thought of as a dying art, resigned to coffee shops and street corners. Poetry has resurged as an expanding art form, although it's still not widely recognized in the mainstream market. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle's*, "New Math of Poetry" article by David Alpaugh, anyone can start an online journal for \$100. There are more than 2,000 markets for poetry. According to Alpaugh, "If this trend continues, there will be 35,000 markets by the year 2100."

Poetry gained momentum with the influx of poetry slams. Construction worker Marc Smith, who wanted a more active and exciting way to present poetry, introduced this form of poetry. Poetry slams have grown monetarily, in size, and in popularity. Open mike venues are well known in the Bay Area and Sonoma County. Any day of the week, you can hear, read, and perform poetry. You can also find poetry on various websites, blogs, journals, and poetry forums.

In the last two decades, poetry has come out of the books and onto the stage. Poetry has migrated into a musical art form, combining hip-hop beats with stimulating, intellectual lines, and a powerful message, causing the listener to "think and reflect" on a higher plane. This notion of consciousness-raising is evident in hip-hop poetry. Such conscious hip-hop poetry is performed by artists such as DJ Common, Floetry, and KRS1.

During National Poetry Month, all poets should celebrate by reading, writing, or performing a poem. Introduce poetry to someone new. Visit works of some of the masters of the genre. You cannot write good poetry if you do not study good poetry. In poetry, there's something for all generations.

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In honor of **National Poetry Month** *The Redwood Writer* proudly features poems from four Redwood Writers members: Brenda Bellinger, Juanita Martin, Deborah Taylor-French and Don Hagelberg.

## Flowering Light

Seedlings burrow upward, snaking their way through damp soil.  
Fueled by the alchemy of decay, they break open.  
The blueprint of flowering is the same.  
Flowers make light of what is lost.

There is no power like bursting into bloom.  
Heartwood pumps buds to tender stems,  
The blushing tips crave heaven's breathing.  
Candelabras, branching skyward,  
Adorn the blue morning in blossoming luminescence.

Deep in fruit trees, wood-grain traces orbits, the curving distant  
Yearnings, the years hurtling through dark matter,  
Solitary, blindly fixed on return, for this,  
A day when cherry petals swarm the verdant earth.

--Deborah Taylor-French

## Completion

Naked with words . . . no meaning.  
A pen drifts. Creation wades deep in the recesses.  
Attempts at clever repartee,  
dramatic discovery, leave restless rants,  
scattered on the page.

A writer deliberates.  
Verbs accentuate thoughts, call attention to alliteration.  
Splashes of color accessorize,  
trim a body of work line by line,  
until a poem emerges fully dressed.

--Juanita Martin

## Becoming Nana

A ribbon woven into my long, red braid  
The sizzle and steam of her iron in the cellar  
Handmade calico curtains for my playhouse  
Warm raisin pies with a lattice crust  
I thought only trinkets and memories were left,  
    until I saw her impatience in the twiddle of my thumb  
Now, she looks out of my mirror,  
    her jaw set as I remember  
I am slowly becoming the person  
    that my children never knew.

--Brenda Bellinger



Deborah Taylor-French



Juanita Martin



Brenda Bellinger



Don Hagelberg

### BIOS:

**Brenda Bellinger** enjoys writing poetry and memoir. She is currently working on her first novel. Her story "First Smile" was the non-fiction winner at the 2009 Mendocino Coast Writers Conference. Brenda is looking forward to becoming "Nana" to her first grandchild this year.

## **The Other Died in Suddenness**

The Other died in suddenness  
and while there were  
other Others in life,  
this Other defined:  
Other as husband, Other as wife.  
The left-behind Other wept  
tears of anger, fear, despair,  
and felt haunted by  
the passionate throb of heart-ache  
while running in a mind of stumbled sleep.  
The survivor, who endured, felt both  
the sense of emptiness inside as  
a stomach without food, perhaps, as  
well as the pressing weight of a  
pile of rocks growing on their chest.  
Imagined, ghost-hands grasp  
the survivor's throbbing artery as  
tightly as if it held a suggested neck,  
and that one who remained felt  
this phantom's strangling fist-  
stop the flow of blood,  
collapsing the red conduit ahead,  
bursting the weak bulge of the vessel behind.  
Grief syringed into the heart like adrenaline  
kills like an overdose of heroin.  
Addicted to life? –Yes!—Yes!  
But the Other still died in suddenness.

**-Don Hagelberg**

## **BIOS:**

**Don Hagelberg**, a born Easterner and a raised Westerner, was first published in *The Oakland Tribune* at twelve. Published in the Finnish-American community's publications and newspapers, his work has also appeared in *Axolytl*, *Poetalk*, *Kippis Literary Journal* and *Exit #13*. He created, produced and hosted a weekly radio program, "Live Poets," in the 1970's.

**Juanita J. Martin** is a multi-talented and award-winning poet, writer, and performance artist. She is also a Sonoma County Library Slam Champion, poet-teacher, and coach. She has held several positions in Redwood Writers, including Central Board Representative, Poetry Workshop Leader and Poetry Committee Chair. Her poetry has appeared in journals such as *Street Spirit*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *Soma Literary Review* and *Blue Collar Review*. Juanita gives readings and performances all over Northern California.

**Deborah Taylor French** has written everything from business articles, grant proposals, video scripts and nonprofit relations to poetry and fiction. She loves writing poetry and is currently working on her first novel.



## Short Story Contest



**Eligibility:** Residents of the Redwood Empire, which includes the counties of Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Lake and Mendocino

**Due Date: May 15, 2010**

**Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25**

All winning entries will be printed in a Special 2010 edition of the Redwood Writers Newsletter.

Winner will be considered for inclusion in *Vintage Voices* anthology.

Two entries per person maximum. \$8 fee/each entry for members, \$10 each entry for non-members

### Requirements:

- Maximum 2,000 words.
- Put word count on first page (upper right-hand corner).
- Entry to be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times Roman, with 1.5" margins.
- Number each page and title each entry.
- Previously unpublished work only (no on-line or self-published work).
- Submissions will not be returned.

Include a separate cover sheet with the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Title of the story

**DO NOT** put your name on the manuscript. Manuscripts with names will be returned unread.

**Subject Matter** Any theme. Have fun! We are looking forward to reading your work!

**Judges: Dan Coshnear and Stephanie Freele**

E-mail your entry to [contest@redwoodwriters.org](mailto:contest@redwoodwriters.org) and pay on-line using PayPal

Or, if you'd prefer, you may send a check, the manuscript with word count, and the required cover sheet to  
Redwood Writers Short Story Contest  
P. O. Box 4687  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

## Biographies of Judges for the Redwood Writers Short Story Contest:



### Stefanie Freele

Stefanie Freele, Healdsburg Literary Laureate 2010-2011, is the author of the short story collection, *Feeding Strays*, published by Lost Horse Press. Her recent and forthcoming work can be found in *Glimmer Train*, *American Literary Review*, *Night Train*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Necessary Fiction*, and *Literary Mama*. Stefanie has an MFA from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts: Whidbey Writers Workshop. After serving as the 2008 Writer in Residence for SmokeLong Quarterly, she joined their editorial staff. Stefanie teaches creative writing at the Healdsburg Plaza Arts Center and is also the Fiction Editor for the Los Angeles Review. [www.stefaniefreele.com](http://www.stefaniefreele.com)

### Daniel Coshnear

Daniel Coshnear lives in Guerneville, California with his wife and two children. He works at a group home for men and women with mental illnesses and substance dependencies and he teaches writing at a variety of SF bay area university extension programs. He is a recipient of an Editors' Prize from The Missouri Review and a Christopher Isherwood Foundation Fellowship and he is author of *Jobs & Other Preoccupations* (Helicon Nine 2001), winner of the Willa Cather Fiction Award, and a Bay Area Book Reviewers' Association Award. He is also a contributor to and editor of *95% Naked: Fictions and Nonfictions* <https://www.createpace.com/3417260> a new anthology of work by his writing workshop in Penngrove. E-mail: [dan@coshnear.org](mailto:dan@coshnear.org)

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## **Beatitude Golden reading in Petaluma**

**On Sat, May 8, 2010**, there will be a reading for the anthology **Beatitude Golden**. It will be held from 2-4 p.m. at the **Pelican Art Gallery**, 143 N. Petaluma Blvd., Petaluma, CA.

Some of the readers will include **Bill Vartnaw**, **Ed Coletti**, and **Juanita J. Martin**. Juanita will read her poem "**Calling Mother Africa**". For information contact Juanita: [freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com](mailto:freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com)

## 95% Naked: Fictions and Nonfictions

Writers from the new anthology 95% Naked: Fictions and Nonfictions will be reading **two times over the next 4 weeks.** They will be reading essays and stories from Dan Coshnear's writing group.

The readers at both events will include: **Kathleen DePuydt, Harry Reid, Linda Loveland Reid, Lee Stein, Jo-Anne Rosen, Teresa Ruden, Jennie Orvino, Jena Parsons, Elaine Maikovska and Dan Coshnear,**

On **Tues. Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>** they'll read at the **Center Literary Café in Healdsburg from 7-9 p.m.** (doors open at 6:30) This will be at the Healdsburg Sr. Center, 133 Matheson St., one block east of the Plaza. This is part of the monthly Center Literary Café open mike sessions. **Contact Cynthia Helen Beecher: 707-696-1111**

On **Sat, May 1st, 2010, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm** the same group will read at **Barking Dog Roasters**. This event is part of the **UniverSoul** open mike series created and hosted by **Juanita J. Martin**. This is a free event. Donations are appreciated.

Also included at both events are open mike sessions, book signings, and light refreshments.

**For more info: Contact Juanita J. Martin, Sonoma County Library Slam Champion, Redwood Writers Historian, Host of UniverSoul Open mike**

Email: [freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com](mailto:freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com)

## Writers Forum of Petaluma proudly presents Teresa LeYung Ryan and Elisa Southard

**Thursday, April 15, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Petaluma Community Center, 320 No. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma**  
\$15 at the door

### "Writers' Talking Tagline to Build Fame"

with Elisa Southard and Teresa LeYung Ryan

Every writer who attends this workshop will get a chance to craft and build a unique talking tagline to be used in person, in blogging, in press releases, and on talk shows.

**ELISA SOUTHARD** is accredited by the Public Relations Society of America and author of the [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) business bestseller, *BREAK THROUGH THE NOISE: 9 Tools to Propel Your Marketing Message*. Elisa knows what it takes to turn an encounter into a marketing moment. Her combined experience as an author, public relations/marketing consultant, television moderator, and sought-after speaker give her a deep understanding of the challenges facing authors charting their own careers. She has led seminars for such organizations as the California Society of CPAs, the Women's National Book Association, and audiences at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. Currently working on her second book, *Bring Your Inner Motorcyclist Out*, for professional women launching a new pursuit, Elisa is often quoted as saying, "Don't kill a marketing moment, execute it."

<http://BreakThroughTheNoise.com>

**TERESA LEYUNG RYAN** says, "You are THE expert of your experiences. Whether you're writing fiction or nonfiction, make your name synonymous with the themes/subject matters/issues in your writing. Teresa wears three hats: as Coach Teresa of Major League Tryouts to Build Your Name workshops; as author of *Build Your Name, Beat the Game: Be Happily Published* (a 22-day playbook); and as a community spirit who uses her novel *Love Made of Heart* to inspire adult children of mentally ill parents to speak openly about the stigmas their parents suffer. <http://WritingCoachTeresa.com>

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### WHY I WRITE:

I write, because I love words. My creative process comes up with a situation, setting and characters. When I sit down to write, I come up with the words and construct them in any way I choose to tell the story. What can be more invigorating than this? --Susan Littlefield



## Odd Month Reading

**Sat. May 8<sup>th</sup> 2-4 p.m.** Healdsburg Library, 139 Piper St., Healdsburg

**THEME FOR THE MONTH: POETRY:** evoking emotional or sensual responses

Redwood Writer, **Jeane Slone**, will emcee this afternoon of literary delights from Sonoma County authors.

Don't miss this opportunity to read your work in public!

Sign-up by emailing [omr@redwoodwriters.org](mailto:omr@redwoodwriters.org)

<http://www.redwoodwriters.org/>

### MEMBER NEWS:

\*My book, *Tax Justice: Social and Moral Aspects of American Tax Policy*, which was published in 1985, is for sale on Amazon for \$399.00. I am as surprised as you are because usually my books sell for about half of the cover price. Some are selling for twice their cover price.\*--**Ron Pasquariello**

### What I Won:

Don here. I won the first prize in the **Kippis Literary Journal** competition, which ended in December. The rules of submission were three poems, one short story, or one hybrid media. I entered in all three categories, and won in the poetry category. The prize was \$200.00, which has already been spent on writing supplies!

The URL for information about **Kippis** is <http://www.finnala.com/index.html>. **Kippis** is the official publication of the Finnish North American Literature Association [FinNALA].

The other organization to which I belong is <http://www.poetrytherapy.org/>. This organization, **The National Association for Poetry Therapy**, publishes poetry and reviews in *Museletter* and organizes professional convocations for the sharing of technique and practice.

I hope that other members of Redwood Writers will share the URL's of organizations to which they belong along with a descriptive sentence or two.

--**Don Hagelberg**

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### WHY I WRITE:

Sometimes the ideas and words just flow out of me, and I feel the need to get them down on paper. It's always been like this. I absolutely LOVE to write, and I love the challenge of rewriting. Finding that perfect word is a thrill. I write because I must write. --**Sandy Baker**

I've always written for myself, while busy working and raising a family. A series of events led me into a new occupation—which I found I didn't like—so I retired. Now I have the time to learn the craft of writing to see if I am capable of telling a story in a way people enjoy reading.--

**Donn Clark**

I cannot not write. I have drawn pictures, written stories and recorded my dreams as long as I can remember. I am bombarded by a constant stream of stories that crave to be written. Sometimes I catch them and put them on paper. Sometimes I sit with a pen in my hand and they start writing themselves. --**Farrell Winter**

## **Workshops by Members of Redwood Writers:**

**April 6 & 8 - Writing Class with Patricia V. Davis - Descriptive Writing That Your Readers Can 'Taste', 'Smell', 'Feel', and 'Hear'** 7-9 p.m. at Sir Francis Drake High School (in classroom 308) Marin Adult Education ([www.marinlearn.com](http://www.marinlearn.com)) Cost \$45

"Cerulean blue water and halcyon days". "Eyes that sparkle like stars." Yuck.

No one can picture a location or a character through these cliché, meaningless phrases. A good writer helps readers truly visualize the setting and the characters they are describing. But portraying the place where our action happens, and depicting people in our story, all without falling into the "been here-done-that-and-it's-all-so-boring", is one of the most challenging components of writing. In this workshop, participants will read samples of descriptive writing that overcome the formulaic, and discuss what it is about them that creates a mind image for the reader. Then, with some simple but effective writing exercises, the class will leave armed with new techniques for crafting vivid word visuals of their own.

**April 20 & 22 - Writing Class with Patricia V. Davis - A Platform and a Blog: What, Why, Where, When, and How?**

Redwood High School Marin Adult Education ([www.marinlearn.com](http://www.marinlearn.com)) Cost \$45

New writers who are looking to publish their first work are told that they need a 'platform', and that an easy way to build one is to create a 'blog'. In this seminar for both aspiring and experienced writers we will discuss what exactly a 'platform' is, what a 'blog' is and why blogs are so valuable to writers who are seeking to either gain and/or widen their audience. You will learn where the best spots to blog are, when a writer should blog, and most importantly, HOW each individual writer's blog should vary, meaning what the topics, lengths, frequency, etc., should be. Participants will leave this workshop with a working online blog in place, and concrete knowledge of how, in as little as two hours per week, we can build our platform and readership to help our book sales.

**April 17 & April 24 - 101 Ways to Improve Your Writing and Speaking – A workshop with Arlene Miller**

Santa Rosa Junior College; 2 Saturdays, 10 AM - Noon; \$98 fee includes the book.

To register:

<https://busapp02.santarosa.edu/CommunityEducation/ListCourse.aspx?CourseVrsnNbr=01036201&ID=201034>

Do I use who or whom? Is it affect or effect? What do I do with a semicolon? This course has all the answers to the most common grammar questions and issues. Designed for professionals, job seekers, recent graduates, students, and anyone who would like to be more confident when writing and speaking, the course begins with the basics such as parts of speech, parts of a sentence, punctuation, and capitalization. Using fun quizzes, lectures, and class discussions, we will cover dead words, parallel structure, often-confused words, commonly misspelled and mispronounced words, and how to write paragraphs, letters, and reports.

Text: *The Best Little Grammar Book Ever!* by the instructor is covered by the materials fee and will be distributed in class.

**Arlene Miller**, MA, has taught for six years and has over 20 years of experience as a writer and editor.

**April 22 – May 13 - 101 Ways to Improve Your Writing and Speaking – A workshop with Arlene Miller**

Kentfield Campus, Harlan Center 161; 4 Thursdays, 6:10-7:30pm.

Fee \$64 (Includes \$12 materials fee - which is the book) Register for College Of Marin (March 4)

[www.marincommunityed.org](http://www.marincommunityed.org).

(Same course description as above.)



**Wisdom Has A Voice: Daughters Remember Mothers**

**Saturday, April 24, 2010 \* 9:00 am – Noon** The Sitting Room 170 East Cotati Ave., Cotati

**Cost \$35.00 \* Limited to 12 participants (women only)**

Gather your thoughts about mother into memories and memoir into truth

Discover the hidden legacies of daughter-mother wisdom

Leave with a keepsake memoir of your mother

**Workshop Leaders:**

**Kate Farrell**—Author, Educator, Storyteller and Officer, CWC-Redwood Writers

**Lynn Henriksen**—Author, Workshop Leader, Memoirist and President, Women’s National Book Association-San Francisco Chapter, Member CWC-Marin

**To reserve your place, contact the workshop leaders:**

Email: [Lynn@wisdomhasavoice.com](mailto:Lynn@wisdomhasavoice.com) Phone: **Kate Farrell**, (707) 577-8912, Santa Rosa

**Creative Writing Class with Ana Manwaring –**

**Napa Valley College, Upper Valley Campus 1088**

**College Ave., St. Helena 707-967-2900**

**Next session: January 21 - May 27, 2010**

PenGrove Revision Workshops (opening available) On-going facilitated revision groups for long fiction on Monday morning.

**The Second Step Workshops (8 week sessions) Sundays in Penngrove 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Quick Start Writing Workshops by Pat Tyler**

Rohnert Park Community Center - Thursday mornings - Sept to June - 9:30 to 11:30 - A fun, safe place to get that story started. Bring your pen, notebook, ready smile and passion for listening.

**EDITING WITH PUBLICATION IN MIND** by appointment

For more information: [www.writetoday.net](http://www.writetoday.net) - [pat.tyler@att.net](mailto:pat.tyler@att.net) - 707-696-9640

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**The Redwood Writer**

P.O. Box 4687

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

[www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org)

Submissions due the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

Why I Write: 60 words maximum

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**Editorial Volunteers:**

Juanita Martin – Acquisitions Editor

Arlene Miller – Copy Editor

Farrell Winter – Copy Editor

Robin Moore – Editor/Layout

& a special thank you to Rob

Koslowsky for advice

## Redwood Writers - Volunteer List

Officers	Member Name
*President	Linda Loveland Reid ( <a href="mailto:lindareid100@sbcglobal.net">lindareid100@sbcglobal.net</a> )
*Vice President	Karen Batchelor
*Secretary	Brenda Bellinger
*Treasurer	Carylon Alexander
*CWC & NorCal Rep	Kate Farrell
*Membership Chair	Linda McCabe (assisted by Donn Clark)
*Publicity	Rob Koslowsky
Hospitality	Mona Mechling
Speaker Coordinator	Marlene Cullen
Program Coordinator	Ana Manwaring
Webmaster	Catherine Keegan
Website Team	Kate Farrell, Donn Clark, Linda Reid
Historian	Juanita Martin
Newsletter	Robin Moore
CWC UP Publishing	Kate Farrell
Salons (Critique Groups)	Ana Manwaring, Chair. Robin Moore, Sandy Baker, Mona Mechling
Odd Month Readings	Jeane Slone
Copy Editors	Arlene Miller and Farrell Winter
Writers Conference Team Members	Marlene Cullen, Chair. Rob Koslowsky, Linda Reid, Karen Batchelor, Donn Clark
Vintage Voices Anthology	Karen Batchelor
Accreditation Committee	Linda McCabe, Chair. Karen Batchelor, Kate Farrell
Flamingo Liaison	Linda Reid
Member in the Spotlight	Osha Hayden
Member Reader-Gen Meetings	Karen Batchelor
Annual Revision Workshops	Karen Batchelor, 2010; Cynthia Helen Beecher, 2011
RW Blog	Linda McCabe and Ann Wilkes
Poetry/Short Story Contests	Linda Reid
So Co Book Festival	Linda Reid, Chair; <b>YOUR NAME HERE?</b> Booth
RW Meeting Announcements	Susan Littlefield
RW Scribes	Jean Henig (back up: Mary Lynn Archibald, Pat Tyler)
Registration and Membership Meetings	Julie Winrich, Chair. Donn Clark, Robin Moore, Mona Mechling, Sandy Baker, Sher Gamard, Thonie Hevron, Elaine Maikovska, Juanita Martin, Chlele Gummer, Julie Henig, Pat Tyler, Farrell Winter
Social Networks	Pierrette Mimi Poinsett and Julie Winrich
Day With an Agent	Jeanne Jusaitis, Chair. Kathryn Miller, Persia Woolley, Mary Lynn Archibald, Robin Moore, Karen Batchelor, Linda Reid, Elizabeth Beechwood
Holiday Committee	Juanita Martin, Chair. Elaine Maikovska, Deborah Taylor-French, Linda Reid
Fundraising - EScrip	Jean Wong

\* Elected Officers

## Redwood Writers - *Dates to Remember*

Details for events: [www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org)

To send email to total **membership**: [redwoodbranchmembers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:redwoodbranchmembers@yahoogroups.com)

To send email to all **Officers/Chairs**: [redwoodbranchofficers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:redwoodbranchofficers@yahoogroups.com)

Reserve for **Odd Month Reading**: email [info@jeaneslone.com](mailto:info@jeaneslone.com)

Reserve to attend **Salon**: email [anamanwaring@gmail.com](mailto:anamanwaring@gmail.com)

Contact **President** Linda Loveland Reid: [lindareid100@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindareid100@sbcglobal.net)

(This report generated March 25, 2010)

<b>2010</b>	<b>Events</b>
March 14	General Membership Meeting – Flamingo 2:30
March 1	UP Publication – Submit Jan to March 1
March 1	Poetry Contest deadline – Submit Jan to March 1
March 1	Anthology Deadline – Submit Jan to March 1
March 27	Odd Month Reading – Petaluma Library 2-4pm
March 27	Screenwriting Workshop – 10:00-11:30
April 11	General Membership Meeting – Flamingo 2:30 Poetry Contest Winners announced
April 25	Redwood Salon -- Sunday 2-4pm
May 15	Short Story Contest – deadline to submit
May 16	General Membership Meeting – Flamingo 2:30
May 8	Odd Month Readings – Healdsburg Library
June 1	RENEW Membership (\$45)
June 6	Agents Day – Flamingo – Noon-3:30
June 13	General Membership Meeting - Flamingo
June 23	Redwood Salon
July 11	General Membership Meeting New Authors' Book Launch
July TBA	Odd Month Readings
Aug 8	General Membership Meeting - Flamingo Short Story Contest Winners announced
Aug 15	Conference Writing Contests Deadline
Aug 22	Redwood Summer Salon – Sunday 2-4pm
Sept 12	General Membership Meeting - Flamingo
Sept 25	Sonoma County Book Festival – 10:00-4:00
Oct 10	General Membership Meeting - Flamingo
Oct 27	Redwood Salon
Conference	Redwood Writers Conference
Oct 29 Poetry Night	6pm – Flamingo – Poetry Contest Winners
Oct 30 Conference Day	8:00am -7:00pm – Flamingo – Prose Contest Winners
Nov 14	General Membership Meeting – Flamingo 2:30
Dec 12	General Membership Meeting – Flamingo 2:30

Dates to Remember will be emailed out periodically with updates.

Refer to [www.redwoodwriters.org](http://www.redwoodwriters.org) for final dates and any changes.