



The Redwood Writer



April 2011 - www.redwoodwriters.org - Writers Helping Writers



President's Message:

Embrace the Magic!

By Linda Loveland Reid

Eighteen women actors took their places and the lights slowly rose, bathing the scene to magic as warm colors spread across the stage. I'm directing a play, and I've been thinking a lot these last weeks about creativity. Where does it come from? Does it matter?

Creativeness is one of the major differences between humans and other creatures. We can turn the routine into an imaginative adventure. After we peeled a banana the same way for a bit, we'd start looking for a faster way, maybe make a pattern on the pulp or a hat out of the skins. Whether it's creative financing (we've seen quite a bit of this over last few years!), painting a picture, designing a theater set, molding a statue, crafting a song, or writing a novel, the ability to create through innovation and synthesis makes our lives rich with color, texture, and fun.

"Ah, good taste – what a dreadful thing! Taste is the enemy of creativeness," said Pablo Picasso, who was always changing his technique and style, always exploring the next realm. Perhaps his comment meant that doing things the expected, traditional way would mean all things were and would remain the same. Boring. Thinking "outside the box" can sometimes cause a kerfuffle.

What gets your endorphins moving? When you first start a project, a new play, an art piece, or that new story, do those peptides produce feelings of well-being? Are you soon, however, engulfed with concerns, filled with self-doubt? You could fail. There is risk. This is when we have to push on and persevere; before long our neurotransmitters are jumping all over the place. Adrenalin flows.

There's "mind over matter."

There's Goethe's question, "How does mortal man become the maker of immortal things?"

There's Gaga wearing a hat made of her own hair. (Really?)

There's yellow/orange/red, colors that sing with activity.

There's blue, a place of relaxation.

How do we create? There are a thousand ways to see the world, and each has an idea inside. What was the most touching thing you saw yesterday? Write about it. What color resonated with your soul while scanning the green hills through rain drops? What annoyed you at the grocery store? Or go to the kingdom of silence. Relax, think, and then write without judging yourself.

Creativeness is inspiration. The more we welcome it, the more it will fill us with wonder. We have this magic ability to create. How lucky is that?

The First **Redwood Writers Play Festival** featuring our contest winners plays will be held on **April 29 & 30th**. See page 3 for information.

Editor's note: We welcome **Mark Adair** to *The Redwood Writer* editorial staff. See his introductory column on page 4 of this issue.



April 10th Redwood Writers Meeting

Screenwriter Pamela Gray will be the guest speaker at the Redwood Writers meeting on April 10th at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. Sign-in and social time starts at 2:30 p.m. The meeting will take place from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The address is 2777 Fourth St. A small fee of \$5 for members, \$8 for nonmembers, is asked to cover speaking fees and light refreshments. For more information see www.redwoodwriters.org.

HAVING CONVICTION: A SCREENWRITER'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

Pamela Gray will talk about the joys (sometimes) and challenges (always) of life as a professional screenwriter, the craft of screenwriting, and the exhilarating journey from script to screen.

Pamela Gray wrote the screenplay for CONVICTION, starring Hilary Swank and Sam Rockwell, which had Gala Premieres at both the 2010 Toronto and London Film Festivals, was the opening night film at the Mill Valley Film Festival, and was chosen Best Picture at the Boston Film Festival. Pamela's other credits include MUSIC OF THE HEART, which earned Meryl Streep an Oscar nomination, and a WALK ON THE MOON, which stars Diane Lane and Viggo Mortensen, and was named #9 on *Entertainment Weekly's* list of the "50 Sexiest Movies of All Time."

The winning poets from the 2011 Redwood Writers Poetry Contest will be announced at the April 10th RW meeting.

Redwood Salon April 20th - Spring Surprises

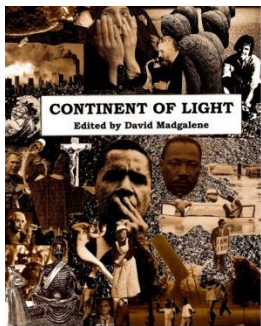
Attend the next **Redwood Salon** which will be held in Cloverdale. This is our Redwood Writers hosted literary salon. Meet members and other writers in a social setting. Your guests are invited but all attendees must RSVP to learn the location and sign up to read. The Redwood Salon offers a relaxed atmosphere to practice for your book signings, hear other writers read from their work, connect with your peers, and sign-up to be informed of openings in writing groups.

It's free!

At this ranch setting the hostess advises blue jeans and absolutely NO high heels. It'll be country casual. Carpooling is advised.

For registration, 5 minute reading sign-ups, and directions RSVP to: Sher Gamard, email gward@redshift.com

To volunteer for the food committee, email sandybaker131@gmail.com



Come to SoCo Coffee on Saturday, April 9th to enjoy an afternoon of coffee and readings. The 1st hour will feature Sonoma County poets published in the anthology *Continent of Light* edited by David Madgalene. Featured poets may include Jennie Frost Butler, Tom Mariani, Juanita J. Martin, Cynthia Helen Beecher, Don Hagelberg, and Abby Bogomolny during the 1st hour. After the break we'll have open mic readings.

Arrive at 2:30 p.m. to sign up for Open Mic. (1st come, 1st serve.) Allow about three minutes per reading - 3:00 to about 5:15 p.m.

These monthly readings at SoCo are sponsored by Redwood Writers and hosted by Abby Bogomolny and Charlene Bunas. **Take time to enjoy coffee and a snack from the SoCo menu.**

For information on the readings:

Abby Bogomolny: house@bbbooks.com

Charlene Bunas: 2charbee@att.net

You may also sell your books at SoCo Coffee. Contact **Leslie Dale** for book sales. She's now featuring authors' photos on a new *Hemingway Wall of Fame* at SoCo. They will also work with local authors to schedule their own readings and book signings at SoCo. Contact her for those arrangements. **Leslie:** altadalethree@sonic.net (707)217-8075

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Redwood Writers Play Festival

Fundraiser featuring winning 10-Minute Plays



April 29 7 p.m.
April 30 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ten-minute plays are hot! Aspiring and seasoned playwrights submitted their plays to the Redwood Writers 10-Minute Play Contest.

The winning plays will be featured in the Redwood Writers Play Festival Fundraiser on April 29 & 30. **Awards** were presented to winners at Redwood Writers February 13, 2010 meeting.

Redwood Writers Play Festival
April 29 7 p.m.
April 30 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Arrive ½ hour early.

An Original Production
Showcasing Winning Plays from
Redwood Writers 10-Minute Play Contest

Directed by: Maureen Mary Studer
Assistant Director: Linda Loveland Reid
Assistant Director: Lennie Dean, Acting Coach
Produced by the Redwood Writers branch of the
CWC

Location: Private theater in Cotati. Directions given upon reservation.

Tickets: \$20/ person or \$35/ couple
Payment for tickets will be made at the door.
Space limited to 45 patrons a night.

Must have reservations. To reserve your space, contact:

Linda L. Reid 707-664-1524
lindareid100@sbcglobal.net

Play Festival fundraisers include wine and hors d'oeuvres served at intermission. Proceeds to benefit Redwood Writers programs.

Join us for these exciting performances of original theater, served up with hors d'oeuvres, wine and the camaraderie of local authors.

Reservations required. Limited seating. Call to reserve your tickets now!

About the 10-Minute Play Contest Judges:

Lois Pearlman—Co-producer of *Tapas*, actress, board member - Pegasus Theater
Shirley Nilsen Hall—Actress and director
Mary Gannon Graham—Actress and singer. Mary portrayed *Patsy Cline*

The winning playwrights:
Nancy Lockard Gallop
Play: *I Can't Remember*

J.R. Brady
Play: *Martha*

Elaine Maikovska
Play: *Dying Secret*



Laura McHale Holland
Play: *A Better Story*



Maureen Mary Studer
Play: *Compassion*

Natasha Yim
Play: *Offing the Witness*





Technology, a Lesson in Humanity—Mark Adair

My past and technology's history intertwine. Before I understood the ramifications I'd jumped into the technology field as a wet-behind-the-ears software engineer. Like the other early adopters/creators I found it exhilarating, exhausting, and addicting. With a never-ending promise of new, it beckoned us to follow. And it delivered on its promise, transforming our idea of stability into one of never ending transition. Thanks to technology, change is no longer that occasional bump in the road of life. Change *is* life.

A bit of history, if I may: I've watched the kings come and go. More than that, I've bowed before their altars and lived in their inner courts. When I entered the field, the mainframes of IBM, Burroughs, and Honeywell ruled the kingdom. Rooms packed with their mammoth circuitry, drives, and printers flaunted their permanent place in our society and in our pocketbooks. Like many emperors, they brought new laws and new ways of thinking. They dared you to stand in their way as their generals made a Sherman-like march through the Confederate state of the way-we-used-to-do-it. Their unspoken motto echoed in the techno valleys, "Resistance is futile; you will be assimilated."

One day this nerdy, introverted college dropout managed to parlay his toy operating system into IBM's next step in dominance, the personal computer. The monolith knew how to manipulate the geeks. They may be geniuses, but they weren't business people. This Bill Gates would be no exception. They would siphon off what they wanted and burn the rest. Besides, a personal computer?! We make real computers for real business; no one wants a computer in his or her home!

Before you could say "the emperor has no clothes", Microsoft banished the old guard and the world announced its allegiance to the new and sexier one, as did I. After years of living off IBM's success, I dumped them like an old cell phone. I traded in my blue three-piece suit for a fun, sporty red tee-shirt. I hope you appreciate the enormity of what Microsoft introduced. I know there are plenty of Redmond haters and I feel some of their pain. But regardless of who should be credited for creating the GUI interface – Xerox, Apple, or some teenager in a basement who mysteriously died shortly thereafter – Microsoft put Windows in front of people and boldly led the way into a new paradigm in computing.

And they put a human face on it. Quickly, tell me who ran IBM during the 70s, 80s, 90s? Anyone? Who ran Microsoft? William Henry Gates III showed us that someone who couldn't comb his hair need not be ashamed, because he could rule the entire world. Almost overnight he challenged and defeated the time-tested, business maxim that one must look good to be taken seriously. Do you understand the ramifications of what I'm saying? Maybe he didn't intend to, but he made computing personal and approachable.

Well, you know the rest of the story. The company from the Northwest turned into a huge success, and then it grew to the point where it could no longer adapt, at least not quickly. Bill, the very human techno geek, stepped down; Steve, the business-like salesman, stepped up. They overestimated their corporate place in the world and underestimated the hunger and passion of their competitors, and the technology addicted masses. In their lethargy they slid into the IBM trap. Meanwhile Google, Facebook, Twitter, Apple, and myriads of open source types busted their butts, working night and day, to perfect their niche technology and then expand it to more mainstream concerns. Quick aside: I believe Microsoft will find its place in the new land of Social; I very much like my new Windows Smartphone.

Sorry for the longish post, 40 tweets worth, but there's a point begging to be made. Technology is a transitory enabler – the codependent of all codependents. It will never tell us to stop or slow down or think twice about our addictive behavior. It embraces and encourages us, whispering sweet nothings in our ear – consume, consume, consume. It makes grand promises yet it may not be around tomorrow to fulfill any of them. As an author I appreciate how technology assists me in my writing journey. But I must remind myself that it is a tool, nothing more. It can't love me or correct me (well, spell check maybe). No innate ability to create art, music, or stories. It mimics but does not invent. Technology is not human...in spite of our best efforts to humanize it. It makes a pathetic king and an even more pathetic god. And it can't measure up to the lousiest of friends who at least cares for us a little.

Technology can teach us valuable lessons though. If we take a moment to sit in technology's classroom and listen to its stories we can learn a great deal about humanity: we like to be entertained; we enjoy being in control; we're addicted to new; we can learn technology but not necessarily the associated ramifications. But the most important subject on which it educates us? What it cannot do and why we must turn to one another. In a way it calls out to us, reminding us that all of its glorious silicon efficiencies and entertainment-friendly facilities cannot compare to a single interaction with the stranger next to us...much less our friends and loved ones.

Class dismissed. Don't forget your homework.





Member in the Spotlight: John Abbott

– Interview by Ken Weaver

John, I'm more familiar with your fiction than your professional writing, but you write for a living; you've written for a living for a long time. How has that taken shape?

I went through journalism school, and then immediately entered the business and corporate world as a writer (which has been paying the bills for 25-plus years), although when I look in the mirror I see a fiction writer. I've been very lucky in the sense that I've had opportunities to do some very creative sorts of business writing. I've had story assignments that have allowed me to, for instance, ride on a Mardi Gras parade float and to travel out to offshore oil rigs. I've been able to do interviews with Muhammad Ali, Prince Charles, astronauts, political figures.... Again, it's not fiction, but

it's a very cool, creative type of nonfiction, and those experiences tend to bleed into my fiction.

For instance, at one point I traveled to Saudi Arabia on assignment and spent about a week there writing stories about the oil fields and the people who live and work there. I could not have gone to that sort of place unless I had a business visa to get over there. I was able to get out into the desert and meet some Bedouins, and that actually turned into a short story three years later. It's sort of the blending of those two worlds that I've been lucky enough to have in my writing career.

How has your nonfiction writing impacted your fiction beyond this?

When you're in a journalistic setting and forced to consider an audience that may not be as familiar with your subject as you are – when you first realize you're giving your audience an insight into a world that they not only are not experienced with, but may never have the chance to experience – it almost forces you to accept responsibility for creating very vivid scenes and characters and worlds in which to transport them. When I go to an oil rig 180 miles off shore, I want to really capture that experience for the reader in the same way that if I wrote a short story about it, I'd want to capture a world that feels very particular and real and solid, and rhythms of speech that, even if they don't sound familiar, sound true.

What fiction projects are you working on currently?

Like most writers, I've got a number of projects in motion at the same time. I'm currently working on three novels: one is complete and I'm shopping it with agents, a second is in progress, and the third is a collaboration with a long-time friend and photographer. I've also been working more on short stories recently, which is a new challenge: get in, get out; make an impact in just a few words.

[Learn more about John at www.JohnAbbottCommunications.com.]

Why I Write

I write because I must. I come awake with word pictures and choice verbiage in my surfacing consciousness. These words, images and ideas don't simply disappear when I've had my first cup of coffee. They hang around and taunt me, haunt me, and yes, even seduce me until I sit down and give them the attention they crave. —**Patrice Garrett**

To put words together cleverly is like working on a challenging puzzle. To see it finished is the soul strengthening surprise. I am personally impassioned by the whole process which brings me such deep inner joy. Writing completes me. I have journaled since I was nine. To see into my soul helps me work at improving to help bring a little happiness to others. —**Debra Cordone Warner**

Redwood Reading List:

I'm rereading *The Great Gatsby*! What a book. I had forgotten how well F.Scott Fitzgerald could string words together. His description of the room Nick Carroway enters to meet his cousin Daisy is worth the read. Fitzgerald evokes time and place with perfection.

I always learn something new each time I read one of his works. —**Patsy Ann Taylor**

Member News

Redwood Writers members **Eva Cooper** and **Diane H. Davis** are happy to announce the distribution of 200 copies of *A Lucky Good Life*, by Diane H. Davis, as a gift to those attending the annual tri-guild luncheon of the three quilt guilds in Sonoma County. Eva is president of Petaluma Quilt Guild, and Diane is a Publisher of Davis Publishing. "It is wonderful to see our members networking in the area of arts and entertainment for the benefit of all," said RW President Linda Loveland Reid.

—Diane Davis



My essay entitled "Blackberry Magic" will be published by the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* folks. Publication should be in April of this year. It's a simple, true story of a grandpa, his dog and two munchkins from the Children's Village going blackberry picking. It was fun writing it.

—Hank Mattimore <http://yagrowsoryadies.blogharbor.com>



Congratulations to **Juanita J. Martin**! She was featured in an article in the San Francisco Examiner on March 16th, for her devotion to the arts of poetry and writing.

http://www.examiner.com/poetry-in-san-francisco/the-poetic-essence-of-juanita-martin-poet-laureate-of-fairfield?fb_comment=30934196

Come meet the authors at Copperfields Books, 138 N. Main St., in Sebastopol, one half block north of Bodega on the west side of the street, on **Saturday, April 30** from 1 to 3 p.m., with 'q & a' following. It will be a combined book signing for both Frank Baumgardner's regional northern California history, *Yanks in the Redwoods Carving Out a Life in Northern California*, New York, Algora Publishing, Oct., 2010, and the just published story about Sebastopol, *Sebastopol's Gravenstein Apple Industry*, from Arcadia Publishing. Come meet and greet the co-authors, **Frank Baumgardner, Evelyn McClure, Stacy Ruppert, and Rae Swanson.** —Frank Baumgardner

My story, "The Broccoli Dance", is now posted in the latest edition of Harlot's Sauce Radio, on the net. — **Susanna Solomon**

<http://harlotsauce.com/guest-writer/2011/03/15/broccolidance/>



I am a new member of Redwood Writers (as of January), and I am also a member of a writing group in Cloverdale, affiliated with the Cloverdale Arts Alliance. We have public readings about four times a year, and the Night Writers will hold a public reading of their prose and poetry on Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. at the First Street Gallery, located at 105 East First Street in Cloverdale, just off Cloverdale Boulevard. This peer critique group has been meeting for over four years. Admission is free. For more information call me at (707) 478-1460. —**Michelle Wing**

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Redwood Writers Branch:

Charlotte Asher, Helen R. Conrad, Raleigh Elliott, Nancy Uber-Kellogg, Nelson Kellogg, Shannon Ledger, Sunny Lockwood, Jerri Miller, Charles Wrightson, Rick Niles, Ted E. Calvert, and Jeff Allee.

May you enjoy all that we have to offer, and again, welcome to our writing family that now consists of 234 members.

—**Julie A. Winrich**, RW Membership Chair

Redwood Reading List: I recently finished *The Awakeners* by Sheri S. Tepper. Science fiction about people getting along — and warring — with human-like talking birds. Also a love story and subtle lessons about racism, sexism, classism and religion for our culture today. Well-written and well-laid out. Many characters and a glossary, just like my science fiction novel *Zohu*. —**Farrell Winter**

Seattle
—Kent Sorensen

What can I say about Seattle?

It's overcast again, the substance of loneliness.
It's the time a man wants to crawl inside
The protective boundaries of his body
Just to keep warm.

When it's cloudy outside
Even the windows look dirty,
And it's hopeless to hear a distant laugh.

Everything is quiet . . .

Today's artist has painted the city in tones of grey
And the house across the street has its curtains drawn.
And the clouds don't seem to matter anymore.

Spirit

—Ana Manwaring

Look how the breeze ruffles the eucalyptus
tousles the box oaks outside my window.
Hear the Cooper's hawk cry for a mate.
I breathe the blossom scented air
warm in the paths of sunlight
that ease across my studio floor
with the afternoon.
Be still. Be filled.

Amonnia Sunrise

—Catherine Bramkamp

miniature sun squeezed
into a ball
reflects up against the thinning sky
stretched across a rack
to dry,
hard and brittle
so transparent
infinity is almost visible

*(From the upcoming chapbook Amonnia Sunrise)
—August 2011, Finishing Line Press*



Editor's Note: Poetry Place is now a regular feature in the newsletter. Each month, a poem or two will be selected to be printed in the newsletter. Poems will be chosen based on the space available. Send one poem per person. Use a 12 point Times New Roman font. Shorter poems work best.

Send poems as a Word document and email to:

Juanita J. Martin,
Acquisitions Editor

freelance@jmartinpoetwriter.com

** Note: Poems need to be sent by the 10th of the month to be included in the following month's edition.

**In Honor of April as National Poetry Month we feature this book review on
Finnish-American Poetry by Johanna Hauhala, Bill Vartnaw and Don Hagelberg
Review by Arletta Dawdy**

What was I thinking? Asked to review the chapbook *Finnish-American Poetry* by Johanna Rauhala, Bill Vartnaw and Don Hagelberg, I said yes. After all, I'd happily bought a copy from Don and sent it off to my Finnish-American brother-in-law in Texas. That qualified me to review it, didn't it? Well, no, it didn't but here I am anyway.

A recent on-line edition of *Contemporary Poetry Review* reported on last summer's literary conference in Gunnison, CO devoted to Poetry Criticism...yup, a whole conference and not to be the last. Poets and critics in all their varieties conferred, debated, proposed and opposed the history, the merits, the nuts and bolts of literary criticism as it applies to poetry. From my reading, I gained this understanding; the connection between poet and reader is so unique, so dependent on each person's aesthetic bias as to obviate generic critique. A poem is a poem is a reader's connection (or lack thereof.)



Don Hagelberg

Ethnic poetry reflecting our melting-pot complexion is mostly left to those of the group so reflected upon. Here is a little (58 page) book that comes from the hearts, talents and efforts of three people of common heritage. Their connection to family and roots is apparent as with Rauhala's opening lines in her lovely poem *Departure*:

"She's packed each vase
in news, outlines of bone
china swathed in urgency
and fact: *She's moving.*"

In *Iron*, Rauhala provides us a glimpse into an elder's life as the Finnish National Railroad marks his constricted life: "Ten meters from the track to his door: local runs twice a day, first train to Helsinki at nine. Conductors knew him and waved...an old man sitting alone on the stoop." In each piece, a life story is told in vibrant imagery.

In Vartnaw's *Cousin Rick*, the rhythmic incantations tell us "he went to Vietnam," he "was not a statistic," and "he was my first playmate." The pain seeps through, a suppurating injury stretched over the years. In *Sustenance: for my Finnish family*, the old place is gone but in its place the wild berries grow and the family lives on.

Hagelberg's *Steam-Cleaned*, illuminates the fine old Finnish tradition of the sauna in graphic description of the hierarchy of seating and purging. We learn of the soul cleansing involved: "Spiritual dirt drips dead, while soap, rag and rinse finish the bath. In the ante-room we dress in our old social roles..." Will you ever enter a sauna again with old expectations? I don't think so.

With *Rebetis for Thanasis Maskaleris*, Hagelberg invokes Finnish folklore with his reference to Tuonela, the underworld river not unlike the River Styx: "I'm in exile from the waters of life, an exile next to the waters of Tuonela. I sit and mumble with the frozen others, thirsting for the heats of the old café..." To be "in exile from the waters of life," has to reflect on isolation and depression of the deepest sort. He cries out: "Poet, teach my poems how to dance...how to pray."

Connecting to another soul may be the ultimate goal of a poet's wordage. For the reader to feel the emotion, see the image or to emerge from the reading with renewal, hope or simple understanding isn't such a lonely experience after all. The *Finnish-American Poetry* offers such an opportunity if you will but read it and find your own connection.

The winning poets from the 2011 Redwood Writers Poetry Contest will be announced at the April 10th RW meeting at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. See pg. 2 for meeting information.



Announcements:

Parent and Child Poetry Time:

Redwood Writers member Diane H. Davis is offering, through Davis Publishing's Community Outreach Program, a two hour workshop, **Rhyme Time Easter Poem** for parent and child, on **Sunday April 17th**, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Be creative together in Penngrove. \$15 parent/child team rate. Materials and snack provided. Register with Diane, 664-8656. Lots of fun. www.davis-publishing.biz

QUICK START WRITING WORKSHOPS by Pat Tyler

Writers writing together in a fun, **safe** place
Thursdays - Rohnert Park Community Center
9:30-11:30 a.m. - Corner of RP Expressway and Snyder Lane
Bring pen, paper or laptop, and a friend.
Questions? Call Pat Tyler at 707-696-9640
www.writetoday.net



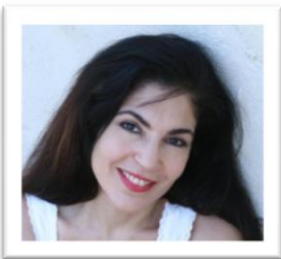
Webinar with Patricia V. Davis: I will be conducting a webinar for *Writers Digest* on **April 7**. The webinar is essentially a more detailed presentation of **Book or Bestseller: What Will You Choose**, which I presented at the Writers Digest Conference in January 2011 in New York City. The cost also includes a personal evaluation of each participant's blog or marketing plan for his or her book.

For information see: <http://www.writersdigest.com/webinars>

—**Patricia V. Davis**

editor-in-chief, HS Radio

415-455-8001 www.patriciavdavis.com www.harlotssauce.com



Writing classes with Ana Manwaring

IN PENNGROVE:

Craft and Critique

For seasoned and new writers looking to improve their writing, we'll discuss the basics of prose craft for fiction and creative non-fiction and the how-to of literary critique. Handouts, short lectures, prompts, suggested readings, critique practice, and lots of inspiration.

6 Mondays: June 6-July 18 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Limited to 10. \$125

PenGrove Revision Groups for long fiction and memoir (on-going) for writers working on their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd books only.

New section opening soon: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Call for info 415-827-1468 Limited to 6. \$80 per 4 meetings.



IN ST. HELENA

Napa Valley College Creative Writing

Spring sessions: 707-967-2900

Creative Writing Workshop Thursdays 1-3 p.m. New section starts 4/21 5 meetings \$80

Special class: Susan Bono will speak 4/14 **Free!** Email for info

Mostly Memoir Workshop: 5 Mondays 3-5 p.m. Starts 4/18 \$80

Information and to register for writing classes:

Ana Manwaring www.anamanwaring.com Read my column in the Petaluma Post: www.petalumapost.com

Blogs: <http://saintsandskeletons.blogspot.com> <http://anamanwaring.wordpress.com>

The Redwood Writer

P.O. Box 4687
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Deadline is the 15th of each month.

Why I Write submissions are limited to 60 words.
Redwood Reading List submissions are limited to 60 words.

Editor/Layout: **Robin Moore**

Acquisitions Editor: **Juanita J. Martin**

Copy Editor: **Arlene Miller**

Copy Editor: **Farrell Winter**

Technology Writer: **Mark Adair**

& special thanks to **Rob Koslowsky** for advice

Lowfat Fiction: A Short Story Writing Workshop with Guy Biederman, M.A.

Dive into this invigorating workshop, and learn the art of expressing more with less. Strive for sinewy prose and stories that charge the moment. Create stories between 250 and 1000 words. Inspiration, guidance, and deadlines—in a supportive atmosphere. All levels welcome.

4 Wednesdays, April 6-27, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Santa Rosa Junior College, room 1684 Emeritus Hall. Course #9148, register w/ SRJC Community Education online. Fee: \$102

<https://busapp02.santarosa.edu/CommunityEducation/ListCourse.aspx?CourseVrsnNbr=00938404&ID=2011348&AvailToPublic=1>

Writers Forum

Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Petaluma Community Center, 320 No. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma
\$15 at the door

Writers Forum proudly presents: Matt Stewart

Trying get published? Frustrated from waiting to hear back from readers, agents, publishers who are taking their time to review on the most important work of your life? So was author Matt Stewart--until he took matters into his own hands by releasing his debut novel, *The French Revolution*, on Twitter, whipping up global media coverage, driving buzz, and ultimately landing a book deal. His novel has launched in hardcopy form to rave reviews, including selection as one of the San Francisco Chronicle's Best Books of 2010.

Matt will discuss:

- His story and lessons learned, specifically the role of social media v. traditional media
- Creative ways to build an audience
- Productive editing / listening to feedback from the right people
- Finding angles to get the most people to care about your story

Matt Stewart's debut novel, *The French Revolution*, has been called "wildly imaginative," "brilliant," and "an excellent achievement," and was named a Notable Debut by Poets & Writers and a Best Book of 2010 by the San Francisco Chronicle.

He's mildly infamous for releasing the novel on Twitter first. His stories have been published in *Instant City*, *The Millions*, *McSweeney's*, *Opium Magazine*, and more, and he blogs for *The Huffington Post* and *The Nervous Breakdown*. Learn more at <http://matt-stewart.com>.

Poets & Writers, July August 2010 issue lists Matt's book as one of the "Ten More Notable Fiction Debuts:

"Last year Matt Stewart's **The French Revolution** (Soft Skull Press, July) became the first full-length novel to be released—in approximately thirty-seven hundred tweets—on Twitter. Beyond that headline-worthy experiment in twenty-first century publishing, however, there's an entertaining, multilayered plot based on the eponymous historical event.

For information about Writers Forum: www.thewritespot.us

—Submitted by **Marlene Cullen**

California Writers Club Literary Review

Announcement and Invitation

Submission for first issue must be received by April 15, 2011

A New Publishing Opportunity Knocks

The California Writers Club will launch a literary review late this spring and thereafter three a year—spring, fall, and winter. Our magazine-style publication—think *New Yorker* but yet to be named—will host writing from members through a blind selection process, and include fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Unique graphics and photography may also sneak in on a limited basis. Your co-editors, Joyce Krieg of Central Coast Branch, and Dave LaRoche of South Bay Branch, solicit your work for inclusion. Your submissions may have been previously published or fresh from your vivid imaginations, and, of course, sent with single-use rights.

The *CWC Literary Review* (working title) will be mailed out to all members in hard copy and, in time, made available for non-member subscription. We intend a prestigious publication, both shining light on the included authors and bringing cachet to the club. You will want to be included.

Submission requirements and deadline dates will be repeated in each issue and apply to the next. For our first issue the following applies:

- Submissions in email attachment, MSWord, doc or rtf format, space and one-half with one-inch margins, New Times Roman 12pt—no special formatting.
- Maximum length is 2500 words, fiction; 1500 words, nonfiction; 50 lines of poetry. These may be adjusted in future issues
- All work should be error free and must include a cover sheet with author's name, email address, number of words, and title. The remaining pages to be free of all ID except title (upper right) and page numbers (lower center).
- Submissions for the first issue must be emailed not later than April 15, 2011.
- Include in your transmittal email the statement, "I (your name) own and convey the right to publish this work(s) (name it/them) one time in the CWC Lit-Review."

Our first issue will include the rules for a Name-the-Lit-Review Contest—and identify a prize for the member whose name is chosen.

We are excited about this venture, another value in club membership; and have aspirations that will see the review on shelves in bookstores and in e-distribution. Of course you are a big part of it, so join in and have fun. Send your work, limit 2 on a given submission, to Dave LaRoche, dalaroche@comcast.net by April 15, 2011, then sit back and watch our *CWC Literary-Review* grow.



TOM HOWARD/JOHN H. REID SHORT STORY CONTEST - LAST CALL

19th year. Ten cash prizes totaling \$5,550. Top prize \$3,000. Seeks short stories, essays and other works of prose, up to 5,000 words. Winning entries published online. Both published and unpublished work accepted. Fee per entry is \$15, payable to Winning Writers.

Postmark deadline: March 31. Judges: John H. Reid, Dee C. Konrad.

Submit online or mail to Winning

Writers, Attn: Tom Howard Short Story Contest, 351 Pleasant Street, PMB 222, Northampton, MA 01060. Winning Writers is proud to be one of the "101 Best Websites for Writers"

(Writer's Digest, 2005-2010).

More information: www.winningwriters.com/tomstory

Tuesday, April 5, 2011--San Francisco Main Library, Lower Level

Children & Youth Services and the Fisher Children's Center of the San Francisco Public Library presents:

The 15th Annual Effie Lee Morris Lecture: TRICKSTERS!

Guest lecturer: Gerald McDermott

Gerald McDermott and the Art of the Folktale

5 p.m. Reception and Book Signing—Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room

continued....

6 p.m. Lecture– Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin Street (at Grove), San Francisco, CA
(415) 557-4277 www.sfpl.org

Writers of children’s literature, please attend this event... a tradition in San Francisco. **Effie Lee Morris founded the San Francisco Chapter of Women’s National Book Association.** This annual lecture is just one of the many legacies she leaves for readers and writers. <http://wnba-sfchapter.org/>



SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR – WRITING CONTESTS:

The Literary Arts Department at the San Mateo County Fair offering contests in these categories:

DIVISION 342 – THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE: NOVEL, MEMOIR, OR SHORT STORY

Sponsored by Teresa LeYung Ryan, author of *Love Made of Heart* and *Build Your Writer’s Platform & Fanbase In 22 Days* <http://writingcoachteresa.com>

DIVISION 335 – “HEROES ARISE” SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY NOVEL CHAPTER

Sponsored by Laurel Anne Hill, author of *Heroes Arise* www.laurelannahill.com

DIVISION 336 – SAN FRANCISCO/PENINSULA CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB:

THE MOST PROMISING WRITER OF THE YEAR SHORT STORY CONTEST

DIVISION 337 – THE VERNA DREISBACH “WHY WE RIDE” NONFICTION

Sponsored by Verna Dreisbach www.vernadreisbach.com

DIVISION 338 – THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEMOIR WRITERS: THE POWER OF MEMOIR www.namw.org

DIVISION 341– “I’M DYING TO TELL YOU” MYSTERY NOVEL CHAPTER

Sponsored by Frank M. Kahren, author of *Brand Loyalty?* www.fmkahren.com

DIVISION 324 – CHILDREN’S NOVEL CHAPTER OR STORY CONTEST

Sponsored by Parenting on the Peninsula www.ponthep.com

DIVISION 323 – THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Sponsored by the Peninsula Arts Council www.peninsulaartscouncil.org

The Capitol City Young Writers Award

Youth Grades 6-12 Sponsored by Verna Dreisbach, President and Founder www.capitolcityyoungwriters.org

Also, there are contests for essays, poetry, and more!

For General Rules (**how to enter; where to send your entries**) to these contests through the Literary Arts Department at the San Mateo County Fair, please click on:

<http://lovemadeofheart.com/blog/general-rules-for-2011-writing-contests-from-san-mateo-county-fair-literary-arts-dept/>

PLEASE NOTE: **Deadline** for all literary contests at the San Mateo County Fair is 7:00 pm, **Friday, April 29, 2011.**

Registration to compete can be done online <https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/competitive-exhibits/departments/literary-arts>, but no literary entries via email will be accepted without three (3) copies of your written material as well, which can be mailed (**must be postmarked by April 25th, 2011**) or delivered to the office by the deadline noted in the General Rules.

