



The Redwood Writer



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



President's Message: Networking Notes

By Linda Loveland Reid

Dear Members,

Please read this message about using Redwood Writers social media outlets.

Since there are over 200 of us, your Board and I want to do a good job of making sure we all understand how to use our social media tools. As a member you have access to all of these outlets. Networking is an important function of our club's purpose and we wish to encourage and facilitate this as much as possible.

Netiquette for Redwood Writers



Social media outlets of Redwood Writers:

[Yahoo Group Listserv](#) [Newsletter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [Website](#)

Rule: These outlets are used to facilitate communication among members regarding the craft of writing, opportunities for our work to be published and/or marketed, and the business side of publishing.

Rule: These outlets are not to be used for furthering personal political, religious, or other views that do not pertain to writing.



RW Yahoo Group listserv:

- All members may use this email service.
- The address is: redwoodbranchmembers@yahoogroups.com
- When you email to this address, all members will receive your message.
- Make sure your message is about writing, in some fashion.
- Be considerate of "overload" and try not to post multiple times in a day.
- If you know of several writing opportunities or great blog posts with worthwhile advice, consider consolidating all the information into one post.
- If your response is to encourage or congratulate someone, you should hit "**Reply,**" and send only to the sender - not to the entire RW list. These warm fuzzy "atta girls" and "atta boys" while nice, strain an overloaded inbox.
- If your response will add more information to a topic that will be beneficial to the membership, then hit "**Reply All.**"



If you don't want to be on Yahoo Group listserv:

- If any member wish to decrease the amount of emails received, the listserv can be consolidated into a *summary* or *daily digest*. You will get only one email each day containing a list of all emails sent via the RW listserv for one day.
- You can also subscribe to the listserv, but receive *no* email. To read the messages you would then have to go to the Yahoo Groups homepage. You can still post to the list, but will not *receive* messages from listserv.
- The Membership Chair can help you decide which is best for your needs and make the switch for you.



Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and other RW social media sites

- All members may go to these sites and leave messages.
- The same rules apply as to proper content.



Politics and Religion

- Personal political or religious opinions are not appropriate content for these RW sites.
- With over 200 members, if all members promote their favorite charity, solicit donations for their favorite candidate, or air their likes and dislikes about religious or political ideas, there will be no room for writing concepts. However RW allows for the posting of *writing* opportunities for political issues.
- Example: mentioning that there is a call for submissions in an upcoming anthology regarding domestic violence is acceptable.
- Example: posting personal opinion about a public figure accused of committing domestic violence is not allowed.
- Blog posts: If you have written a blog post about a political or religious topic, you can include a link to it on the RW Yahoo listserv and invite members to visit your blog and read your essay.
- Political and/or religious discussions are not allowed on RW outlets because it is too easy for these types of discussions to get out of hand and for harsh opinions to take over the site.
- There are many forums for political discussions on the internet for anyone to join.
- Of course, you may post your political and religious opinions on your own Blog, Facebook, Twitter, etc.



What to do?

- If you run into an inappropriate email or posting, please contact the RW President, a Vice President, or any Board Member. You will be contacted. This will keep a premature and possibly hurtful discussion from taking place with all members involved.
- If you are not clear on whether a post or email that you want to do is appropriate, again, contact a Board Member.



Violations of rules will result in a private message reminding the member of the rules. Any further similar infractions may result in moderation of that member's messages.

We all want to write and conduct our membership as Redwood Writers in a friendly and supportive environment. Let's work together as we always have toward our best club ever!

**Linda Loveland Reid, Redwood Writers President
and the Board of Directors.**



Pulitzer Prize Winner Katherine Ellison to speak at RW December Meeting

At the Redwood Writers meeting on Sunday, December 11th Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Katherine Ellison will speak on the topic *"From the global to the personal: one writer's journey from investigative reporting to memoir."*

Time for the RW general meeting is from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Come sign-in starting at 2:30 p.m. to enjoy visiting time with other writers. Fees of \$5 for members, and \$8 for nonmembers, are asked to help cover the room rental and refreshments. The meeting will be in the Empire Room at the Flamingo Hotel, 2777 Fourth St., Santa Rosa, 95405, (707-523-4745). For more details: www.redwoodwriters.org

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Katherine Ellison will talk about her career as an investigative journalist covering international events as Central American wars and figures such as Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos to shifting gears and writing nonfiction books including a memoir about her son's ADHD.

Bio:

Katherine Ellison is a Pulitzer-Prize winning investigative journalist, former foreign correspondent, writing consultant, author of four books, and mother of two sons. Her latest book, a new memoir titled *Buzz: A Year of Paying Attention* (Hyperion Voice), is an engaging and humorous account of life with a high-spirited child, combined with a scrupulously reported journalist's overview of the controversies surrounding Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and how best to manage it.

Ellison has written widely on recent developments with ADHD, now estimated to affect at least 10 million adults and nearly 5 million children, for national media including The New York Times and The Washington Post. Hers is an informed and entertaining perspective as both an investigative journalist and a parent of a child diagnosed with ADHD and who was diagnosed as having it herself.

Ellison's previous books include "The Mommy Brain: How Motherhood Makes You Smarter," "The New Economy of Nature: The Quest to Make Conservation Profitable," and "Imelda: Steel Butterfly of the Philippines." From 1987-99, she was chief of Knight Ridder Newspaper bureaus in Mexico and Rio de Janeiro.

Redwood Salon December 15th

Redwood Writers presents: "The Spirit of the Season," December Salon!
To be held on Thursday, **December 15** from 6:30 - 9:00 p. m. in northern Santa Rosa.
Share the season's joy through your stories, poems, memories, and recipes. Readings are up to five minutes each and guests are welcome.

RSVP: attendance and directions, Sher Gamard gward@redshift.com
Catering committee for our potluck dinner, Ana anamanwaring@gmail.com

Editor's Note: There will NOT be a **SoCo Coffee** open mic reading sponsored by RW in December. The schedule picks up again in 2012 with winter dates set for Jan. 28th, Feb. 25th and welcoming spring on March 24th. Come join us! 3





Kate Farrell (L) presented Ana Manwaring with the Helene S. Barnhart Service Award at the Nov. RW general meeting. Photo by Jonathan Hayden

Ana Manwaring, Recipient of the Helene S. Barnhart Service Award

—By Kate Farrell

Ana Manwaring is the second biennial recipient of the Helene S. Barnhart Service Award. It is an award named in memory of our founder, Helene Schellenberg Barnhart, who established the Redwood branch of

CWC in 1975.

It is particularly fitting that the award be given to Ana Manwaring this year since in many ways Ana is similar to Helene:

- Like Helene, Ana is a teacher of creative writing and memoir
- Like Helene, Ana is active in numerous critique groups, giving generously of her expert feedback and editing skills to her fellow writers
- And like Helene, Ana promoted membership in Redwood Writers branch to her own students, particularly those from Napa County, when the branch needed rebuilding and direction.

Over the years, Ana’s service and leadership has not only been dedicated and promotional, but she has put in considerable time doing those gritty jobs that non-profits require. Here are some:

- Treasurer and Membership Chair 2007-9, setting up the treasurer’s first professional reporting forms based on her CPA expertise, and the original database for our membership roster.
- Began the first database of critique groups for networking among members
- To promote one another’s works and craft, Ana began the Redwood Salon, an informal literary gathering, and with others, the Odd Month Reading at local libraries
- Co-edited Vintage Voices anthology twice from selection to proofreading, as well as contributed her work, then proposed and organized the first three Vintage Voices launch parties
- Launched the first memoir contest
- With Karen Batchelor, organized the Revision Workshops series in 2008, now the Winter Workshops, and for the second year will be the committee chair in 2012

Ana’s most visible contribution over the last four years has been the Redwood Stage at the Sonoma County Book Festival, a completely professional setup with sound and a redwood stump lectern, all designed along with her husband, David. She has been committee and speaker chair for the stage, and the Readers Circle for the last two years.

Ana is a teacher, writer, longstanding and extraordinary Redwood Writer volunteer, one who Helene S. Barnhart herself would be pleased to honor with an award given in her name.



The three new **Vice Presidents** of Redwood Writers chapter of CWC include, L-R: **Elaine Webster, Arlene Miller and Frances Caballo**. They were voted into office at the Nov. RW general meeting. Former VP, **Jeane Slone**, will remain on the RW Board as a member. Thank you, Jeane, for your years of service as the RW V.P.—Photo by **Jonathan Hayden**

Genre Groups

We would like your input about "groups" to meet before the general meeting. We're tentatively calling them "genre groups" but can be fluid about content. I'd like to start off with genre: for instance-3 groups composed of memoir writers, mystery, and romance. The purpose is to meet, network, exchange info and resources, read material if time. Meetings will be flexible but we will start about 1:30 p.m. before the general meeting at the Flamingo, in the Empire Room. We can explore mixed genre, tech groups, publishing process, ebook groups. The sky's the limit! We could even break out into critique groups. Please email me directly if you are interested. Add your thoughts and ideas, especially if they are not already included above. Email me at pigtails@sbcglobal.net. —**Thonie Hevron** , RW Secretary



Announcing
2012 Vintage Voices: Call of the Wild

Submission Dates:
January 1, 2012 to March 1, 2012

As if you weren't busy enough with NaNoWriMo (whew, that's done!), and the holidays, yes, it is time to seriously start thinking about your submissions to the 2012 Redwood Writers Anthology, *Vintage Voices*. This issue of *Vintage Voices* (thank you, Kate Farrell, for the wonderful idea!) will be not only a tribute to the spirit of Jack London, but also a fundraiser for saving Jack London State Park. We

feel it is befitting of us as writers to honor a local literary hero whose spirit we all aspire to (and who helped found California Writers Club) by dedicating the anthology to him and by donating a portion of each sale to saving the beautiful Jack London State Park. We are unsure if the price of the anthology will be increased to accommodate this contribution.

The editorial team includes Arlene Miller (editor), and Jean Wong and Charles Markee (co-editors). We will also need at least six or seven editors to work with the authors, proofreaders, and someone skilled in formatting in Word. Joann Rosen of Wordrunner Press will once again be taking care of our production. CreateSpace will be printing the book.

To get you all inspired, we thought we might have a prompt – a quote from Jack London, to get your creative juices flowing. I had trouble picking one, so take your pick:

I would rather be ashes than dust!

I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot.

I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. – Jack London

I write for no other purpose than to add to the beauty that now belongs to me. I write a book for no other reason than to add three or four hundred acres to my magnificent estate. –Jack London

You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club. –Jack London (That one is my favorite!)

Here are the guidelines:

1. The prompts from Jack London are just to get you thinking. Writings do not have to be about Jack London or connected to him in any way. We just want to capture his spirit: passionate, prolific, an activist.
1. Each Redwood Writer member may submit one poem and one prose piece. (This includes the editorial team and anyone else who helps us.) All submissions are FREE.
2. The following types of writing will be accepted: Poetry, Flash Fiction, Short Stories, Memoir, Essays, Interviews, and Journalistic Pieces.
3. Please limit poems to two pages. Prose should be a maximum of 2000 words. However, flash fiction should be a maximum of 500 words.
4. Please submit all pieces by e-mail. Paste your writing into the body of the e-mail. No attachments, please. Send each submission (if you have two) in a separate e-mail. Please also include an approximately 50-word biography.
5. Please proofread your work, bring it to your critique group, work with an editor – whatever will make it your most fabulous writing! No typos or misspellings, please.

E-mail your submissions to anthology@redwoodwriters.org. **Arlene Miller**, Editor 2012 VV Anthology

One more thing. Please send me an e-mail at the above address voting for your favorite subtitle:

1. *Vintage Voices: Call of the Wild* or
2. *Vintage Voices: The Spirit of Jack London*



Arlene Miller,
2012 VV
Anthology
Editor



RW April 28th Conference News

Mark Coker: Be Your Own Publisher

—Leigh Anne Lindsey

One of the featured speakers at the Redwood Writers “Next Step” Writers Conference on April 28th, Mark Coker says that he is a “*Barbarian at the gate*” when it comes to traditional publishing. In an interview with Novelist’s Inc. he says, “Authors are becoming more powerful and have more options. A few years ago, publishers controlled the printing press, and they controlled access to distribution. Now the printing press has gone virtual. It’s in the clouds, it’s free and available to everyone.” Distribution has become fully democratized because authors have choices today that they didn’t have before.

On October 11, Coker said in his blog that Apple expanded the international reach of Smashwords’ ebooks by distributing their catalog to 26 new iBookstores across Europe and Scandinavia for all Smashwords authors, publishers and agents. Smashwords distributes their ebook titles currently through Apple iBookstores in the US, Canada, U.K., Germany, France and Australia, Austria and Belgium. However, that *premium catalog* distribution is only if your ebook passes through their ‘meatgrinder’ – a feat which one of my ebooks has yet to complete after weeks of effort. With this new Apple distribution, *every* Smashwords customer benefits.

In San Francisco on November 3rd during the [PublishersLaunch eBooks for Everyone Else](#), he said that the myriad e-publishing options can sound intimidating for first-time [ebook](#) authors, agents and publishers and urged that they not make their e-publishing adventure more complex and expensive than necessary. “Complexity,” he said, “limits accessibility and availability.”

Mark is co-author with his wife of *Boob Tube*, a novel that explores the wild and wacky world of Hollywood celebrity. He wrote the *Smashwords Book Marketing Guide* (how to market any book for free), and the *Smashwords Style Guide* (how to format, produce and publish an ebook). In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, traveling and hiking tall mountains, the tallest of which has been Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Poetry and Prose Contests at the RW Conference

Poets and writers are invited to submit entries to two contests connected to Redwood Writers’ 2012 Next Steps Writers’ Conference, April 27-28 in Santa Rosa.

“Poetic Journeys” is the theme of Next Step’s Poetry Contest, which is open to poets in Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Lake, Solano and Mendocino counties. The contest’s top three winners will be dinner guests and featured readers at the conference’s April 27 Poetry Night at the Flamingo Hotel, 2777 Fourth St. in Santa Rosa.

“Odyssey” is the theme of Next Step’s Prose Contest, which is open only to registrants of the April 28 writers’ conference at Santa Rosa Junior College. Contest winners will be announced at the conference luncheon, and their work will be considered for inclusion in Redwood Writers publications.

For both contests, the first-place winners also will each receive a \$100 prize. The second-place prizes are \$50 each, and \$25 each goes to the third-place winners.

Contests guidelines, fee schedules and other information can be found at the conference page of www.redwoodwriters.org. —Robert Digitale

Coming up for the RW Conference:

- **Al Young**, Poetry Night Keynote Speaker, **Juanita J. Martin**, Poetry Night MC
- **David Corbett**, Conference Keynote Speaker
- Speakers: **Jody Gehrman**, **Geri Spieler**, **Christopher Gortner**, **Debra Grabien**
- Breakout Session Speakers: **Frances Caballo**, **Arlene Miller**, **Jeane Slone & Abby Bogomolny**



Member Spotlight: Karen Hart

Her Inspiration Comes From Life. — Written by Patrice Garrett

Meet Karen Hart. This Redwood Writer recently reentered the workforce with a bang, as a freelance writer for *North Bay Biz* magazine and editing website content for health organizations. Several of her *Biz* articles have already appeared. Her next, “On the Chopping Block,” is scheduled for publication in December 2011. She’s a published author, is completing her second novel, and is contemplating writing two more.

Hart has been a writer all her life. “My favorite childhood toy was my parents’ typewriter,” she says. All grown-up now and the mother of two teenage sons, she has a first novel under her belt. “The idea of writing a novel was always my passion. I love fiction,” she says.

It took Hart ten years to complete *Butterflies In May*. Her young adult novel explores relationships, love, sex, and unplanned teen pregnancy. It was released in 2006 by Bancroft Press and is still available through Bancroft and Amazon. “It was actually something I started thinking about even in high school when I saw pregnant classmates. What was it like to be them?”

“It’s still out there doing its thing,” she says of the book. “I continue to get emails from teens who enjoyed it, saying “It’s so realistic I felt like it was happening to me.” She even hears from adults who find the story engaging.

Butterflies In May, originally written in third person point of view, required a rewrite. “The publisher wanted the story from a first person point of view,” she explains. “I didn’t know it then, but that’s really how young adult novels work best for the audience,” she says, and adds that although she was initially overwhelmed, she finds the process of revision writing enjoyable. “I already have the bones of the story. They just need a different flesh out.”

Hart’s second novel is close to completion. *The Colour of Love*, is all about the power of first love, the complexity of marriage, and how easily and casually a good marriage can be destroyed. It’s a story about how love is often seen in superficial ways. The book is a fictional exploration of the difference between infatuation and the experience of true authentic love. “I’ve always been fascinated by what attracts one person to another and how relationships work,” she says. Her inspiration comes from her own life.

Two interested agents connected with Hart at a Redwood Writer’s Agent’s Day event. “I gave them a one-minute pitch speech and my first chapter. I call it speed dating with agents,” she says with a chuckle.

“I’m currently completing extensive revision work on the book and my critique groups are so helpful. It’s a great reality check for me.”

Karen Hart has some useful tips for her fellow writers:

1. Write. Write. Write. “Even if you’re uninspired, even when you feel like the writing’s terrible — write three ‘morning pages’ every day.”
2. When you’re writing your book “keep moving forward. Don’t stop to edit your pages—finish first. That’s the magic. Your characters will take on a life of their own, as will the story.”
3. “Get into a critique group. Having people react to your writing helps immensely.”

If you’re looking for a good read, Hart recommends *The Passionate, Accurate Story: Making Your Heart’s Truth into Literature* by Carol Bly. “It takes you beyond writing a technically accurate story, to one that is emotionally deep and has heart.”

Karen Hart, who has a degree in Journalism and extensive corporate editing and writing experience, is currently in transition herself, remaking her life, and looking forward to her own personal, next chapter.

Writer’s Guide to RW Marketing Blog As Linda Loveland Reid mentioned during a recent meeting, Redwood Writers’ Social Media Editor **Frances Caballo**, owner of a social media consulting firm, will handle our blog starting in mid-November.

As the title of the blog states, the focus of the blog will be on marketing. “We spend years crafting our novels, short stories and poems and revising them. Through the years we learn how to become better writers but we also need to become great marketers,” Caballo said. “This series of blogs will endeavor to help the members of Redwood Writers master the next steps to selling their books.”

The plan is to write a new blog post twice a month. Frances would like this to be an organizational endeavor and invites RW members to submit blog posts about their own unique marketing *faux pas* or successes. All blogs will be announced on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Blogs written by members will also be marketed on Frances’s social media channels for maximum exposure. Questions? Contact **Frances** at socialmedia@redwoodwriters.org. 7

Member News



Here's some good news regarding my latest children's book with audio titled *Jazz Fly 2: The Jungle Pachanga*. It's won five national awards including:

- *Foreword Reviews Best Books of the Year, Gold Award Winner
- *Best Books 2010 Winner, USA Book News
- *International Book Awards Winner
- *Parents' Choice Award
- *Moonbeam Children's Book Gold Medal



And here's an adorable video of a school play based on my original *Jazz Fly*, performed by kids in Queens, NY (with the help of their VERY dedicated teachers): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXQ1FURp9RU>.

As for speaking, I've been performing at schools and literacy conferences in NY, CT, CA, and TX—in the last two months alone. The travel part of it can be taxing, but it's rewarding work that seems to actually inspire kids and parents to read for fun.—**Matthew Gollub**

www.matthewgollub.com



Natasha Yim's ten-minute play, "Offing the Witness", has been selected to be performed at the Short+Sweet Festival in Singapore, Dec. 7 - 9, <http://shortandsweetsingapore.blogspot.com/>.

Originally written (with the help of a lot of caffeine and adrenaline) for the Ukiah Players' Theatre's 24-hour play festival in 2009, "Offing the Witness" was previously performed at the Secret Rose Theatre in Los Angeles in 2010, and was one of the winners of the first Redwood Writer's Ten-Minute Playwriting contest. It was

performed in Cotati in March 2011.



I'm happy to let you know that my short story "I Won't Tell" was accepted by *The Writing Disorder*, an online journal, and is due out next spring. BTW, this is my first short story ever published, so I'm a happy gal. Here's to many more.

—**Amanda McTigue** amctigue@gmail.com www.amandamctigue.com



My story "Love in the Locker Room" was published by the *Point Reyes Light* in their Nov. 3, 2011 edition. This is the fourth story of mine that the newspaper has published.

I was one of the readers at **Quiet Lightning** in San Francisco on November 7. This was at Chez Poulet on Caesar Chavez St. (Quiet Lightning was a submission process— took me a year to get accepted!) I read "Sheriff's Calls," about the reality-challenged people of West Marin. —**Susanna Solomon**



Member **Diane H. Davis** has completed her seventeenth chapbook, *Life Should Make You Smile*, being published by Davis Publishing. The release date is December 5th, and it will run (at all Sonoma County outlets) until January 2, 2012. It is billed as the "best little stocking stuffer ever," guaranteed to touch your heart with love and laughter. www.davis-publishing.biz.

Additional news, Diane's publishing company, Davis Publishing, has published a new book by author **Alan E. Adams**, *Easy Steps to Find Happiness and Make Sense of the World*. It can be found at retail outlets until December 4th, or ordered directly from Davis Publishing.

Please welcome **Lindsay Pasdera Marquez, Margaret Raymond, John Miatch, Patricia Driscoll** and **Lilith Lynn Rogers**. Hope you enjoy Redwood Writers and "Writers Helping Writers." —**Julie A. Winrich, RW**

Membership Chair



(L.-R.): Barbara Toboni, Patsy Ann Taylor, Barbara Moehring, and Amber Lea Starfire. Our fifth member, Christina Julian could not attend.

Our critique group: **WE Writers of the Napa Valley** presented our third open mic for the Napa writing community on Sunday, November 6.

Copperfield's bookstore in Napa opened their doors for this event. Our group wants to provide a place for Napa writers to share their work. The feedback we've had at each of these open mic events has been excellent. They are open to the public and there is no charge.

We are planning future readings at Copperfield's. The next one is sometime early in 2012. We invite our CWC members and the public to participate and enjoy the readings.

Enclosed is a photo of our critique group: WE Writers of the Napa Valley. Visit our website for more photos and information:

www.napavalleywriters.org

—Submitted by **Patsy Taylor**

Redwood Reading List:

I am always buried in books, both fiction and nonfiction. I recently read *Room* by Emma Donoghue after it was recommended on Facebook. It is a wonderful book, told from a child's point of view, and I highly recommend it. I also just finished *No Plot? No Problem* by Chris Baty, who is the originator of NaNoWriMo. I read it in preparation for NaNoWriMo, and it is very helpful. I am currently reading *Sage-ing While Age-ing* by Shirley MacLaine. I have always liked her and her books because I enjoy reading about the paranormal. She is very knowledgeable.—**Arlene Miller**

The Connected by H.B. Reid. Our own Harry of the lovely land. Protagonist invents cure for Alzheimer's. Side-effects make it a recreational drug, becoming so ubiquitous the government takes it over and makes it mandatory. The protagonist has Harry's laid-back approach. Overall, a touching love-story, intelligent and reader-friendly. I especially like the daring and effective presentation of dialogue. — **Farrell Winter**

Why I Write:

I love to stand under my understanding in the cave, womb-space of creation, where my unspoken words write themselves. I love to discover word roots, original meanings before cultures and religions re-defined them. I write to explore concepts, play with words, follow spirit's drumbeat down into my soul's imaginings.—**Jan Boddie**

Save the Date! RW Winter Workshops, January/Feb. 2012

Featuring GENRE:

Jan 21—Mystery, Thriller, Suspense with **Kelli Stanley and Camille Minichino**

Hosted by Malena Eljumbly

Jan 28—Romance with **Rachael Herron, Sophie Littlefield and Juliet Blackwell**

Hosted by Sharon Hamilton

Feb 4—Mainstream and Literary with **Jeanne Miller and Joan Frank**

Hosted by Patsy Ann Taylor

At the Petaluma Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Member cost: all three \$90, individual \$35 each

Non-members: all three \$105, individual \$40 each

Pre-register www.redwoodwriters.org or Workshops, 10106 Old Redwood Hwy. Penngrove CA 94951

Please list dates on check.

Poetry Place

Robin in the Orchard

—Catherine Montague

I feel my mate stir next to me and I uncover.
Brightness beyond the tallest trees
tells me when to drop below,
down where the light
will touch the wet and shine, shine with cold.

Cold flows over my feet,
silent, still,
only the earliest voices sound,
crows marking location. High in the needle trees
they wait, hoping
something they can eat will be careless and linger
too long
as the light grows.

We stay together,
not far above the fallen fruit and leaves,
warm decay rising all around.

We listen,
warm light will wake what we eat,
its eagerness to move in the dead growth will
betray it,
we will drop upon it.

Our voices will rise in the still air,
lift above the bare branches,
song,
fulfillment of desire,
awaken to flight.

Again and again we rise, we fall.
Living food
calls us to the steaming earth,
light stirs us higher and higher
into the sky.

ENCIRCLED (June 2011)

—Carol Hoorn

What goes around comes around.
Ah, if only I knew this to be
true

Death comes around, this I know
to be true.

So, I must hasten to love, travel,
pray to all my lesser gods:

Music
Laughter
Children
Nature

Let me absorb like a living
sponge.
all that is dear to me.

When death does come, I want
to be full to the brim,
spilling over with gratitude,
enriching eternity with my
bounty.

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 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 issue.

Announcements

CENTER LITERARY CAFÉ

Presents: An Evening of Shared Performance, Literary and Culinary for the entire community
All Open Microphone to celebrate another year of Literary Café magic

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 FREE

Program: Prose, Poetry, Drama

Open microphone presentations (3 minutes max.)

PLEASE NOTE THESE ONE-TIME CHANGES FOR THE DECEMBER PROGRAM: VENUE: HEALDSBURG LIBRARY, NOT SENIOR CENTER AND SECOND WEDNESDAY, NOT SECOND TUESDAY.

To read, please sign up via email OR the night of the performance.

Encourage your cheering fans to come along.

Musicians welcome to play during the breaks.

Bring food to share if you wish. (Pssst . . . Holiday bakers: Now's your chance!)



BOOK & CD SALE TABLE FOR AUTHORS & HOLIDAY SHOPPERS: Show your love!

Buy local!

You don't have to be a presenter to sell.

Healdsburg Regional Library

139 Piper Street (corner of Piper and Center, south of town plaza)

Healdsburg, CA 95448

Cynthia Helen Beecher 707 696-1111 centerliterarycafe@gmail.com

See the flyer www.centerliterarycafe.wordpress.com after Thanksgiving

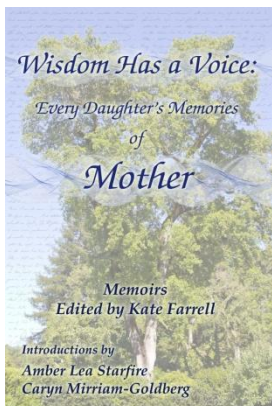


Juanita J. Martin will be one of 15 poets laureate reading in the Laureates Speak of the World event, **Sunday, December 18**, 2-5 pm, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave, Pleasanton, CA. The cost is \$5 at the door. Students get in free with a student ID.

Some of the laureates include Penelope LaMontagne and Stefanie Freele of Sonoma County. Other counties represented include Alameda, Marin, Napa, Lake, San Jose and Contra Costa County.

The reading will be followed by holiday treats, opportunities to meet and speak with the laureates, purchase books and have them signed. Parking is available in the rear of the building.

For more information, go to www.firehousearts.org or contact Cynthia Bryant, Pleasanton Poet Laureate at 1(925) 399-5520 or email pleasantonpoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us



Wisdom Has a Voice:

Every Daughter's Memories of Mother - Editor, Kate Farrell

This compelling anthology of beautifully written memoirs about Mother was just released and launched in September and October. Redwood Writers are well represented among its diverse 27 authors; in order of appearance the Redwood members include: Amber Lea Starfire, Jeanne Jusaitis, Elizabeth VanPatten, Barbara Toboni, Clarice Stasz, Ana Manwaring, and Laura McHale Holland. It is a wonderful gift for any mother or daughter!

Available online: Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, CreateSpace: www.createpace.com/3679231

Price: Paperback \$14.99, e-Book \$2.99 ISBN: 978-1-58832-217-3

Publisher: Unlimited Publishing LLC Distributor: Ingram to Bookstores and Libraries on request



Kate Farrell

For more information about the project: www.wisdomhasavoice.com

On **December 17** Patricia V. Davis will share everything an author or small publisher needs to know about:

- getting bookings in brick and mortar bookshops and other venues
- how a small publisher needs to compete with larger legacy publishers when dealing with bookshops
- how to market to get attendance at your book events
- when it's better for an author *not* to organize book tour, including some alternatives.

Date & time: Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 12-5 p.m.

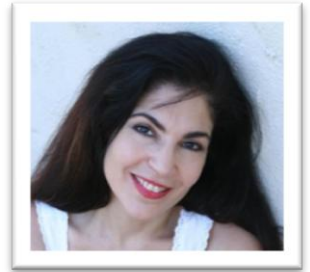
Cost: \$30 per registrant, which includes a buffet and wine, coffee and dessert. (So it's like a holiday party that you can write off! Shhh...)

This event will take place in Patricia's home in Sleepy Hollow in Marin County. Maximum number of attendees is 25. Registration closes December 3.

To register: email Jane Hunter: timothyrosspublicists@comcast.net. Upon registration address for event will be sent to you.

About the Presenter

Both an author and a publisher, *Patricia V. Davis* has conducted two successful national book tours of her own. Her new book, *The Diva Doctrine: 16 Universal Principles Every Woman Needs to Know* (Bonneville Books 2011) is a manifesto for our time. The bestselling *Harlot's Sauce: A Memoir of Food, Family, Love, Loss and Greece* was published in 2009 by Harper Davis.



Diane H. Davis is offering two hours of fun for parent/teen or friend/friend teams, "Create a Christmas Poem." The workshop is sponsored by the Community Outreach Program of Davis Publishing, and the low *team* rate of \$10 covers materials and refreshments.

Date & time: Sunday December 18th, 3:00 to 5:00pm. Call Diane at 664-8656 to register and get directions. Let's enjoy time together, having fun.

Davis Publishing publishes local writers on self-help topics that are timely and of general interest. A guide sheet and editing help is available to assist in developing your book – almost everyone has some hard-won knowledge that could be organized and shared:

www.davis-publishing.biz.

IN PENNGROVE:

Craft & Critique

In **2012**: seasoned and new writers looking to improve their writing, we'll discuss the basics of prose craft and the how-to of literary critique. Handouts, short lectures, prompts, readings, critique practice and lots of inspiration. Six class meetings

PenGrove Revision Groups

In **2012**: for long fiction and memoir (on-going) Tuesdays 9:30-12:30

call for info 415-827-1468 Limited to 6. ana@amanawaring.com

IN ST. HELENA

Napa Valley College Creative Writing

Three Spring sessions: 707-967-2900 www.napavalley.edu

Creative Writing Workshop Thursdays 1-3 pm



CWC is Calling All Bloggers

The world of communication has seen its share of changes over the past century, and CWC membership has reflected them. Early on we had novelists, essayists, journalists, short story writers and poets. The arrival of cinema added screenwriters. The Golden Age of Radio accounted for an influx of radio writers. Not long after, TV writers joined our ranks. Throughout the decades, some became quite prominent.

What about now? Surely we have bloggers. Perhaps some command sizable audiences. How ironic. They could have global outreach, yet pass under our radar. So here are a few questions to update the radar: (Continued) 12

Do you maintain a regular, topical blog for mass-market consumption such as the blog made famous by “Julie and Julia”? How much traffic does it get? In the same vein, do you send out regular, topical email blasts to readers other than family and friends? If yes, what is the subject? Do you blog or broadcast issues related to writing or creative pursuits? Do you manage to plug the CWC from time to time?

Recently, Redwood’s Robin Moore emailed me, “I wrote a blog today about the closing of Jack London State Park. My inspiration was a posting on our Redwood website by our RW Web Editor Lynn Millar....” Good work, Redwood.

Everyone else, if you have CWC success stories that could help branches and members to get the word out, please send a note to pr@calwriters.org.

Your advice could turn up in a future column.

Thanks in advance and sail on! —**Donna McCrohan Rosenthal**, PR chair for CWC, contact: pr@calwriters.org

How to Win Poetry Contests

--Part 3

Tweaks, Tricks and Tips for Entry Success
by **Wanda Sue Parrott**, Central Coast Writers
branch of CWC

Imitating Walt Whitman can help you win writing contests. If you use his technique, you’ll be able to enter your work-in-progress many places, multiple times.

How? Consider these facts:

- Many, if not most, writing contests call for “unpublished” works. If your piece has been previously published in a book, magazine or just a newsletter, online website, blog, or club anthology, it has technically been published even if only a handful of people have seen it.
- If you revise it, you create a new edition that has not yet been published.
- Submit your latest version of your work in progress, provided you own the copyright.

To achieve this Whitmanesque feat, tweak a title by adding or removing a word or two, changing it completely, or giving the original title a super-head or sub-head that complements the old wording. Rewrite the opening line, stanza, paragraph, or change a few key words in the beginning, middle or end.

Is this cheating? Plagiarism? I have yet to hear of any writer who sues himself or herself for stealing his/her own wording. So, if you want to enter a poem or piece of prose in a contest that calls for previously unpublished works, you must be the judge about whether to tweak the piece to upgrade (and disguise) your earlier version of previously published prose or poetry.

Does conscience play a role? You be the judge!

A few words of caution to poetry-contest entrants: avoid the world’s most-overused rhyme: *love/above*. Every poet has used this rhyme. It works for greeting card verse for

weddings, to celebrate birth of a new baby, or to offer condolences on the death of a loved one, but it is a no-no in legitimate poetry contests.

A tip shared by Yvonne Nunn, Dean of the Cyber-college of Online Poetry, (byrdbardlett@yahoo.com) and Nora Profit, author of *Ten Glaring Mistakes Amateur Writers Make . . . and How to Avoid Them* (www.thewritingloft.com), is to limit the use of most adjectives and adverbs. Adjectives describe. Adverbs end in “ly.”

Yvonne and Nora advise against using “ing” words to start sentences. Most writing instructors agree, but I take exception. The letters “f-i-n-g”—combined properly—have been my key to the Sesame of Writing Success. Use these letters judiciously to avoid dangling participles.

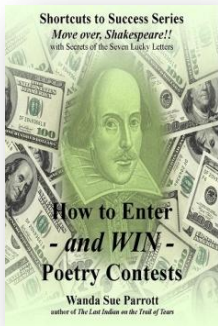
I gerundize my lead line by turning a verb into a subject by adding “ing” at the end of the word, as in this article: *Imitating Walt Whitman can help you win writing contests*.

My next statement starts with “If”: *If you practice Whitman’s technique, you’ll be able to enter your work-in-progress many places, multiple times*.

Therefore, in order to qualify for contests, despite having previously published your entry, write a manuscript like Whitman’s “Leaves of Grass”—that remains a lifelong unfinished work-in-progress that reaches its final edition only when your pen is laid to rest.

—**Wanda Sue Parrott** is co-founder and administrator of the National Annual Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition for American poets age 50 and older. www.amykitchenerfdn.org

Editor’s note: Parrott has turned the three-part series into a little book entitled *Move Over Shakespeare! HOW TO ENTER AND WIN POETRY CONTESTS*, and it is in the process of coming off the press. Great Spirit Publishing is printing it. Subtitle will be “With the secret of the seven lucky letters.”



Thank you Wanda Sue Parrott for permission to publish three excerpts from her new book: **Move Over Shakespeare! How To Enter and WIN Poetry Contests.**

Parrot is a member of the Central Coast Writers branch of the CWC. We published selections in the Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2011 issues of *The Redwood Writer*.

— **Robin Moore**, RW
Newsletter Editor

'Newbie Writers Contest: (Closes Dec. 10th!)

'Newbie Writers and Rainstorm Press have teamed up to offer the ultimate newbie experience!

We want to read about your worst nightmare! With Halloween still lingering creepily behind us, what a great chance to come up with a short scary story?! Take a dream you've had and turn it into a fictional horror story. One way to describe this contest is the idea that any experience can be turned into a story, so in this case, your worst nightmare can become your best story. Send it to us!

The ten best entries will be published in a collection by Rainstorm Press, with a copy going to each winning entrant.

Out of the ten stories chosen, the top pick, will not only be published in the collection, but the author will receive the opportunity to submit a full-length piece to have a novel published by Rainstorm Press. Final publication and publishing agreement will be at the discretion of Rainstorm Press.

This competition will run from **November 10, 2011 to December 10, 2011** with winners notified by email and posted up on www.newbiewriters.com on the 15th of December.

Entries need to be between 3,000 and 10,000 words and submitted in standard word document format. Please ensure the story is in the body of the email and not a file attachment. File attachments will be disregarded. Also ensure your name, the title of the story, and the competition name are in the title and body of your email. This allows for better tracking of submissions for us.

Entrants must be previously unpublished (articles in magazines are okay) as we want to appeal to all those new writers out there. This could be your chance to have something published!

All submissions need to be mailed to competition@newbiewriters.com

—Submitted by **Catharine Bramkamp**



The Redwood Writer

Deadline is the **15th** of each month

P.O. Box 4687

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Editor: **Robin Moore**

Acquisitions Editor: **Juanita J. Martin**

Copy Editor: **Arlene Miller**

Copy Editor: **Farrell Winter**

Are You Buying from Barnes & Noble?

The High Desert branch of CWC is having a Barnes & Noble Book Fair during the week of **December 11 through December 16, 2011.**

We are NOT asking for money!

We are asking that *if* you plan to purchase Barnes & Noble products soon, to purchase them AT ANY B&N STORE IN THE U.S.A. or online at the Barnes & Noble website (www.BN.com/Bookfairs) and use the **voucher code #10620284** when placing your orders between **12/11/11 and 12/16/11.** If you follow those instructions, our HD CWC Branch will get a percentage of the sales generated during that time!

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The key is to mention **Voucher ID #10620284** or present the attached voucher to ANY Barnes & Noble store in the country.

Again, we are NOT asking you to spend money!

For those of you who do plan to buy Barnes & Noble products, just please do it between December 11, 2011 and December 16, 2011 with this voucher #10620284 and thank you again!—**Bob Isbill**, President, High Desert branch of CWC

Redwood Writers Officers, Board, Committees (Nov 2011)

Officers – elected June	Find emails on website: www.redwoodwriters.org
President	Linda Loveland Reid lindareid100@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Frances Caballo - Social Media and Blog Editor
Vice President	Arlene Miller - Anthology Editor 2012
Vice President	Elaine Webster – Conference Treasurer
Secretary	Thonie Hevron – Genre Groups Coordinator
Treasurer	Julie A Winrich - Membership Chair
Additional Board Members	Robin Moore – Newsletter Editor
Jeanne Jusaitis – Book Certification Project	Michelle Wing – PR Meetings Coordinator
Abby Bogomolny – CWC Rep	Karen Batchelor (Past Pres Ex-Officio)
Jeane Slone – Odd Month Readings	Osha Belle Hayden – Publicity Director
Carylon Alexander - Past Treasurer	
Website Team - Editor Lynn Millar About CWC/RW = Kate Farrell Member in Spotlight = Osha Hayden	Contests /Conference/Books = Ann Philipp Membership = Julie Winrich Events = TBA Pres Msg, Newsltr, Calendar = Susan Littlefield
Speaker Coordinator	Linda McCabe (also serves as Yahoo Listserv Monitor)
Nominating Committee	Brenda Bellinger, Chair; Kate Farrell; Sharon Hamilton
Publicity Team - PR Director Osha Hayden Press Releases - Patrice Garrett and Joan Frenz Gen Meeting Press Releases - Michelle Wing Electronic Calendars - Natalie Moon-Wainwright	Social Media/Blog Editor - Frances Caballo Photo Coord/Flickr - Jonathan Hayden Flyer Designer - Jean Wong (April Green – intern) Meeting Announcements - Susan Littlefield
Newsletter – Editor Robin Moore Copy Editors Farrell Winter, Arlene Miller	Acquisition Editor Juanita Martin
NorCal Representatives	Frances Caballo, Elaine Webster, Arlene Miller, Linda L Reid
Mail Coordinator	Sharon Hamilton
Historian	Juanita Martin
Redwood Salon	Ana Manwaring, Chair; Sher Gamard
Odd Month Readings	Jeane Slone, Chair
Anthology	2011 Editor Cynthia Helen Beecher; 2012 Editor Arlene Miller
Accreditation Committee	Julie Winrich, Chair; Linda McCabe; Karen Batchelor
Writers Conference April 28 Poetry Night, April 27	Overall Chair - Sandy Baker: Abby Bogomolny, Linda Reid, Jeanne Jusaitis, Kathryn Miller, Robert Digitale, Robbi Bryant, Leigh Anne Lindsey, Elaine Webster, Blake Webster Poetry Night Chair - Juanita Martin
Member Reader Chair	Juanita Martin
Fundraising: E-scrip	Jean Wong, Chair
Book Festival 2011	Linda Reid & Ana Manwaring Co-Chair: Ana - Reading Circle Chair. Kate Farrell, Sandy Baker, Mary McElroy, Jolynn Lauer
Registration Team for Membership Meetings	Julie A Winrich, Chair: Sher Gamard, Mona Mechling, Kathryn Mehl Miller, Julie Henig, Pat Tyler, Farrell Winter, Elspeth Benton, Nancy Gallop, Al King, Marilyn Reynolds
Author Launch	Jeane Slone, Chair (October 2012)
RW Author Launch 2012	Jeane Slone, Chair October 2012
Winter Workshops	Ana Manwaring, Chair
Open Mic at SoCo Coffee	MCs Abby Bogomolny, YOUR NAME HERE; Chairs Jeane Slone & Linda Reid
Jack London Park – Save	Lynn Millar, Osha Hayden
Contests Coordinator	Linda L Reid
Contest Short Plays	Linda L Reid, Chair (deadline Feb 29)
Contest Conference Prose	Kathy Rueve, Chair (deadline March 15)
Contest Conference Poetry	Barbara Toboni, Chair (deadline March 15)
Contest SiFi	TBA (deadline July 15)
Contest Mystery/Thriller	TBA (deadline Sept 15)
Contest Young Adult	TBA (deadline Oct 15)
Redwood Young Writers	Pam Pizzimenti (ages 8-18) sponsored by RWs
RW Mailouts Team	Gretchen Mannix labels; Debra Warner mailout

These categories and names change as new events open and old ones close.