



The Redwood Writer



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



President's Message:

Sit Down and Write

By Linda Loveland Reid

I'm shocked!

As I settled in to spend three days writing over at Bodega Bay a couple of weeks ago, it appeared that I might actually be rounding the bend on my second novel. I was shocked because it hadn't seemed I was so far along. Yes, I'd do the word count every so often, but that can be discouraging, especially when you have 60,000 words more to go! So, I just put my head down and wrote. Viola!

The message is so simple, but yet, complex. *Keep at it.* Duh, ever hear that before?

First, there is family, dinners to cook, gifts to buy, birthday parties to attend, and friends, emails, theater, emails, Redwood Writer business, emails. Oh, yes, and all those seminars and workshops about writing. We all have the same problem...time.

What makes the difference and keeps me going, is desire and passion. Many times people have said to me, "Oh, I could never write," or "Oh, I could never paint." My answer is, "Oh, yes, yes, yes you absolutely can, if you want to." Desire is the key. We all have creative juices; we just get excited about different things. I didn't paint until age 45. I didn't think I could possibly enter the world of art as had my sister and mother, who were both artists. I was a voyeur. Nothing wrong with that either. Harry and I spent hours wandering through galleries and I'd amassed a huge collection of art books. One day, Harry sat me down, put an easel in front of me with a set of paints and brushes, and said, "Just do it!" Me, the stick figure drawer?

To say my first attempt at painting produced a Matisse or Picasso is far from true. It was pretty awful. The second was better, and...well I loved painting, had the passion, and kept going.

When my own writing gets into trouble, I just put my head down and type. Almost like magic, within a page or two of drivel, a new idea emerges and energy takes hold. But, I'm doing things they say not to do. Too many main characters, all of them age 55. The plot is complex and I have lists a mile long to keep up with dates, and who does what, and when does the reader know this or that. Gads! Sometimes I wonder if the time spent has been wasted. But, I tell myself, it's about the journey. I echo clichés about it not being just about the stardom or the money. Ha!

So, write! Write with passion and desire. If you can't write every day, do it when you can. Enjoy the journey. I don't know how good my book will be, but it has pleased me to do it, it has challenged my creative bone, and come January (please cross your fingers on this one!) it will be fulfilling to have completed the venture.

I'm so glad I have all of you to inspire me. I see your successes, your intent, your desire, and your passion. All of this and more somehow keeps me writing. Oh, yes, and this too. I love it!

November 13th Redwood Writers Meeting



Author Terri Farley with a mustang foal

Speaker's Theme: *Writing a Series isn't Child's Play*

Are you interested in writing a series of books? Then come hear guest speaker **Terri Farley** at the Sunday, **November 13th** Redwood Writers meeting. The meeting will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Empire Room at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. Come as early as 2:30 p.m. to sign-in and enjoy visiting with other authors and poets. Nominal fees of \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members help cover the room cost and refreshments.

Guest speaker **Terri Farley** had to cancel speaking at the Redwood Writers meeting in August, due to an emergency. (Linda Joy Myers filled in as the August speaker.) We are now able to feature Terri Farley at the November 13th meeting.

Farley, the author of the well-known *Phantom Stallion* novel series, will speak about writing for teens and middle grades students. The meeting will be held from 3:00 to

5:00 p.m. at the Flamingo Hotel in the Empire Room. Please arrive at 2:30 p.m. to sign in and have time to visit with other writers. A small fee of \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members is asked to cover expenses and light refreshments.

Bio:

Terri Farley is a cowgirl at heart. Growing up in Los Angeles, California didn't keep her from saving her allowance for rides at nearby stables. After college, Farley taught remedial reading in an inner-city high school in Los Angeles, where she learned animal stories could touch even the most shielded hearts.

Farley's *PHANTOM STALLION* series is set in today's Nevada. *WILD HORSE ISLAND* takes place on a fictional Hawaiian island and *SEVEN TEARS INTO THE SEA* weaves the north coast of contemporary California with ancient Celtic legends of the selkie. It was nominated as an ALA (American Library Association) best book for young adults.

Her fact-based fiction is equal parts investigation and imagination and she doesn't mind getting her hands dirty. She's ridden across the Nevada desert in a Pony Express reenactment, spent ten days in the saddle for a Nevada-California cattle drive, and job-shadowed paniolos on Hawaii. As an Earthwatch volunteer, she hiked the sand dunes and swales of an uninhabited island off the coast of North Carolina, studying wild horse behavior. As a Marine Mammal Institute volunteer, she coaxed an orphaned sea lion to take her first bottle.

Farley has studied wild horses on the Nevada range and acted as a humane observer during BLM helicopter round-ups. She makes frequent visits to determine the condition of corralled wild horses. In March 2010, she broke the story that captive mustang foals' births and deaths were not recorded by BLM.

A graduate of San José State University, Terri Farley earned a B.A. and Secondary teaching credential in English, and a Master's degree in Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Farley holds memberships in the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. She loves making author visits in grades K-12, as well as presenting workshops for teachers, writers and librarians.

Her favorite presentations have been for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Texas Library Association and library visits she makes with real live mustangs.

Odd Month Reading Saturday, November 12th

THEME FOR THE MONTH: ***Rain! Here it Comes! Ready or Not.***

Location: Windsor Library, 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor

Time: from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

A member of the Redwood Writers, **Jeane Slone**, will emcee this afternoon of literary delights from Sonoma County authors.

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

To read at this event you must sign-up by emailing omr@redwoodwriters.org

Note, you **do not** have to stick to the theme to read.





RW Reading at SoCo Coffee

The next Open Mic Date for Redwood Writers Readings at SoCo Coffee will be on Saturday, **November 26th**. The address is 1015 4th Street, Santa Rosa, (corner of 4th and Brookwood.)

Time: 6-8:00 p.m. Come at 5:30 to sign up for open mic readings, (first come, first serve.) Reading time limited to 5 minutes.



—Photo by
Robin Moore

Please help support the venue with your purchase of a drink or snack from SoCo. For a full schedule through 2012, click [Open Mic Dates](#). (**Note:** There will not be an RW Open Mic Reading at SoCo in Dec.) For further information contact: Linda Reid, EmCee for Nov. 26th

lindareid100@sbcglobal.net .

SoCo Coffee's promotional plans and book selling system has changed. **Celebrity Promotions**, headed by **Bob Fischer** and **Jim Johnson**, are handling these activities. They will also work with local authors to schedule their own readings and book signings at SoCo. Contact jim@jimjohnsnassociates.info for book sales info at SoCo Coffee, or Phone 707-571-0226.

By-Laws Changes for Redwood Writers

Here are the changes that the membership voted on at the Oct. 9th, 2011 meeting for the Redwood By-Laws:

ARTICLE III: MANAGEMENT

Section 1: The corporate powers of the Redwood Branch shall be vested in the Board of Directors which consist of the elected offices of: the Executive Committee (the President, three Vice-Presidents, and the Past President), the Secretary, and the Treasurer, and any additional Board members. The total Board of Directors membership shall not be more than fifteen people, five of which are the Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers consisting of the President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer of the branch shall be elected at the general membership meeting in June. The duties of the officers are described in this article.

Section 2: The President and/or Executive Committee shall prepare agendas and preside over meetings of the Branch Board of Directors and the general membership. In the absence of the President at a duly called meeting, one of the Vice-Presidents shall assume the duties of the President.

- a. The President and Executive Committee shall, with the advice and consent of the Branch Board, conduct the affairs of the club in accordance with the By-Laws.
- b. Except for the nominating committee, the President and/or Executive Committee shall appoint such committees and chairpersons as necessary to conduct the affairs of the club. Such appointments end when the business of the committee is finished or at end of the term of the President and/or Executive Committee who made them.
- c. The President shall share the responsibilities with the Executive Committee.

Section 3: One of the three Vice-Presidents, to be determined by the Executive Committee, shall assume the duties of President in his or her absence. The Vice Presidents will work with the President and Past President in a five-person committee to share major oversight and responsibilities. One of the three Vice-Presidents, to be determined by the Executive Committee, shall become the nominee for President for the following year.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

Section 2: The slate of officers (President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be presented at the May general meeting and published in the Redwood Branch newsletter at least two weeks before the June general membership/election meeting. Nominations must have the consent of the nominee.

—Julie Winrich, RW Membership Chair

Jack London State Historic Park in Jeopardy

At the October RW meeting some of you heard that we are collecting donations to help save Jack London State Historic Park. Please check our [website](#) and look for a button labeled [Jack London's Legacy](#). (Click on the second hyperlink to go right there.) Once you go to the page you can read about the fundraising project, see a slideshow of the park and learn more details. There are also links to other groups for more information on the park, including my blog post. Please donate and visit this park that is an inspiration to writers. Jack London wrote 1,000 words a day, 6 days a week - not quite a NaNoWriMo pace, but he did it for longer than 1 month.

To view the slideshow,

- You can be patient and watch the pictures change or
- click on the < or > arrows at the side of the larger picture to move more quickly or
- click on a picture on the small filmstrip to enlarge it.

Please spread the word to help save this park.

If you have any questions or problems with the website, please let me know.

Keep on writing,

—Lynn Millar, RW Web Editor, (All photos on this page by Lynn Millar)

Send Donations to **Redwood Writers**, “for JLP” PO Box 4687, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.



Jack London Cottage & one of the park's view.



Will the CWC answer a PLEA FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE?



Jack London's Gravesite
—Photos by Lynn Millar

The California Writers Club has leveraged Jack London's name for the better part of 100 years. The CWC began as informal gatherings of London and his friends. We cite these stellar origins constantly. Now California State Parks has initiated closure proceedings for Jack London State Park.

If we as writers have a voice, we might want to use it now. If we do, we stand to benefit right along with Jack.

This is because PR teaches one lesson above all others: People do not want you telling them what to be interested in. No. They want you to tell them more about what

interests them already.

So here we have a unique opportunity. Published and unpublished members alike can attract an editor's eye, or a search engine, by writing about state park closures. The fact that California will shut down 70 state parks constitutes a hot topic. Submit an essay on the subject to a newspaper or magazine and you greatly improve your chances of acceptance.

At the same time, you get to wax eloquent about the CWC, and you come away with a publishing credit.

Arguably, we owe Jack London. Consider us one aspect of his legacy. We'd do well to champion the rest of it, including his ranch, cottage and yes, even his gravesite.

For more information, see

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/06/02/fall-of-the-wild/>,

<http://jacklondonpark.com/> and http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=712 . If you place an article, please let me know.

Good luck and sail on!

—Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, PR chair,
pr@calwriters.org



Scene at Jack London State Park

A Tribute to Beth Grimes

—Ann Wilkes

I met Beth Grimes at a Redwood Writers meeting in 2004. We both raised our hands to indicate our interest in forming a critique group and pow-wowed after the meeting. What a poised and gracious lady. That's what struck me immediately. Beth and I, and a few others, shared our works with each other for many years, meeting from house to house.

Beth was born and raised in Kansas. I'll never forget her story about having to add the yellow dye—by hand—to the oleo and being sent off to school with sandwiches made with the dreaded stuff.

I wish you all could have met her. The words that only begin to describe Beth are kind, hospitable, independent, loving, charitable, and gracious. Beth cared about justice and defended the underdog. In her early years, she stood—or sometimes "sat (in)"—for them. And she drew her pen at their oppressors. Together with her husband Oz, Beth embraced the anti-war and anti-nuclear movements of the 60s to the point of getting arrested at protests on six occasions.

She didn't let age stop her. She continued to write letters to the editor or opinion articles for online outlets or the local newspaper. She also started her own blog after joining Redwood Writers.

Beth often spoke of her grandchildren. Together with her granddaughter Emma, she wrote a complete draft of a young adult science fiction adventure, *Zorkon 7*, set on another planet with indigenous aliens, marauding enemies, and dangerous bear-like animals. I hope Emma takes up the project on her own one day, because it deserves an audience. And if she's anything like her grandmother, it will truly sing.

When I asked Beth's daughter Karen what advice she most remembered receiving from her wise mother, she said that, rather than dispensing advice, her mother "led by example, by demonstrating kindness and respect to everyone. She felt strongly that we all have a responsibility to our fellow humans and to all life on the planet, especially to those who cannot speak for themselves."

Beth will be missed and remembered by many. I know that I'm a better person for having known her.



NorCal News

The NorCal Group, a collection of enthusiastic folks from the ten northern California CWC branches, has been formed to provide a forum for sharing among branches and promoting common interests. The group's mission is to improve the ability of branches to better assist their members along the path toward successful writing and publishing. They meet bimonthly in Oakland. All CWC members are welcome to attend. You can visit their website at www.cwcnorcalwriters.org.

The NorCal Group is currently involved in two major events: 1) The rollout of the Publishing Pathways website and 2) Planning the second annual Leadership Conference. The **conference**, planned for May 5, 2012, will focus on "The Magic of Membership" and will cover the advantages of membership and member recruitment and retention, as well as how to develop members' skills in both leadership and in their craft. Attendees will discover how to generate the vitality that makes a writers club outstanding. The conference will wrap up with a wine tasting social where members can meet people from other branches and exchange ideas.—**Mary McElroy**, RW Representative to the Nor Cal Group.



Publishing Pathways

The NorCal Group has created a new website to assist CWC members with publishing and marketing their work. The website publishingpathways.com contains current information regarding publishers, agents, ebooks, and the publishing process. It also provides information on how to market your work and how to create platforms. Finally, it lists valuable resources and people who can assist you with marketing/publishing.

Members who wish to access this information may do so in two ways: They may access the website directly, or they may contact the Publishing Pathways Mentor for assistance. The Redwood Writers Publishing Pathways Mentor is Mary McElroy. You can contact her at maryemcelroy@yahoo.com or by calling 707-545-5313.

Members may also offer their services as editors, speakers on marketing/publishing, marketing/publishing consultants, or providers of other services related to marketing/publishing. Members who wish to offer their services via the website should

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Patrice Garrett and Sundance

Member Spotlight: Patrice Garrett

—Article by **Joan Frenz**

Who is Patrice Garrett? Public relations expert? Dancer? Western horsewoman? Writer of “Flash” fiction, short story, or novel? I am certain you have figured this out. Patrice is all of this and more.

As a Redwood Writers member, Patrice recently volunteered to assist publicity director Osha Hayden with writing press releases for Redwood Writers. Not only is Patrice well versed in writing press releases, she also has extensive experience—she has run her own public relations firm, Communications Ink, since 1998—launching print and broadcast media campaigns, planning marketing and advertising, and developing special events.

You name it, and Patrice has done it. She has had vast experience in business writing, handling major promotional and publicity campaigns, strategic article placement in local and national periodicals, as well as the capability and expertise to develop and direct television and radio advertising spots.

If you want someone to write your newsletter, develop your website content, or plan a publicity campaign, call on Patrice. Planning a museum fundraiser, wine festival, or book launch? Give her a call. Her “baby” for the past twelve years, The Marin Senior Information Fair, is held at the Marin Center. This event is the largest senior event in Northern California and has more than doubled in size under her leadership. When she describes this most labor-intensive event and the yearlong planning and execution, handled by Patrice and her band of volunteers, it is amazing that she is able to pull it together, even for one year.

Pat began her career as a dancer, and at one time ran her own ballet school. She married an entertainer, and the opportunity arose for her to do the publicity and bring in the musical talent for a three-day music, food, and performance festival—Midsummer Celebration.

Soon afterwards, her family of journalists and authors, recognizing her talents, pushed her into attending a job fair. She was immediately picked by a San Francisco public relations firm as an intern and placed on their payroll three weeks later. She began her career writing press releases and articles for San Francisco newspapers, and other local, regional, and national publications; and producing events such as the Nerd Unfashion Contests for the Gap. “I found that I enjoy writing as much as I do dancing.”

As hard as Patrice works with her business, I had to ask, “When do you have time to write for yourself, and how long have you been writing your novel? Pat replied, “Good grief! Five years. It’s not easy. With all the writing I do for clients, it’s difficult to sit at the computer and put in the necessary ‘me’ writing time.” She has completed some twenty plus chapters. “Like many writers I simply disappear into my story for hours when I sit down to write, so I have to meet my work deadlines first.”

Her novel is set in the old West during the turbulent mid-1800s. “I love to read both fiction and nonfiction set in this historical time. My novel was actually inspired by ‘Darkeyes,’ the main character in a short story I wrote for a men’s magazine. She stayed in my head and became the first of two women who are the main characters in my book. Even when I don’t have time to spend hours working on my novel, I often wake up in the morning with new information about my characters and what they are going to be doing next, how they are coping, etc., galloping around in my brain. I make lots of notes! The story is in me; it’s part of who I am.”

When the novel is completed, Patrice will happily launch it for Redwood Writers. She is also currently developing her website. You may contact Patrice at wwwcomink@gmail.com

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access the site and go to the *Changes and Additions Input Form*. They can fill in that information and forward it to Mary McElroy at maryemcelroy@yahoo.com. She will pass it on to the webmaster. Currently, input forms for services are

accepted only if routed through the Publishing Pathways Mentor.

Note: The Publishing Pathways website is a work in progress and will continue to grow based on member input.—**Mary McElroy**, RW Representative to the Nor Cal Group.

Redwood Writers 2012 Writers Conference

Leap Into the Future NOW with “Next Step” Writers’ Conference

—Sandy Baker, Conference Chair

Whether you take baby steps or giant leaps into writing and publishing, you’ll want to attend our Redwood Writers “Next Step” Conference April 28 at the Santa Rosa Junior College. We’re offering four tracks : Craft, Genre, Publishing, and Marketing—with four breakout sessions each. Do these titles of the breakout sessions intrigue you? “Undercover Agents,” “ Blogging as a PR Tool,” “I’m on Facebook—Now What?” “Super Sleuthing Research Techniques,” “Grammar—Don’t Skip This Important Step,” “Local Steps in Marketing,” are just a few of our breakout sessions.

Our lunchtime panel entitled “Leap into Tomorrow’s Publishing” is going to be a corker, and that’s because we have Mark Coker, Charlotte Cook, Joel Friedlander, and Laurie McLean getting together to give us an inside look at what’s happening in the publishing world. Linda McCabe will be our moderator. A second panel later in the afternoon—“eBooks: Leap into the Future”—will feature Mark Coker again, Robert Digitale, Scott James, and Rob Loughran. Kate Farrell will moderate.

If it looks like we’re doing a lot of leaping, we’re not. In some breakouts, our presenters will take you step by step so that you can take your own next step, whatever it is. We’ll offer sessions on character, mystery writing, indie publishing, historical fiction, children’s book writing, and techniques of poetry.

Speaking of which, Poetry Night kicks off the conference on Friday, April 27, 6:15 – 9:30 p.m. at the Flamingo Hotel. Juanita Martin, event chair, is pleased to announce that Al Young, California Poet Laureate Emeritus, is keynote speaker.

We’ll be conducting two writing contests in conjunction with the conference: a Poetry Contest with the theme of “Poetic Journeys” and Prose Contest themed “Odyssey.” The submission period for both runs from January 2 through March 5.

Interested? We hope so. You can find more information about the program, costs, speakers, and writing contest guidelines at www.redwoodwriters.org. **Early bird registration begins now through March 15.** It’s time to let us help you with your next step.



Barbara Toboni,
RW Conference Poetry
Contest Chair

Poetry Contest for the RW Conference

What would Poetry Night be without a Poetry Contest? And that’s exactly what’s happening on **April 27th** with the theme of “Poetic Journeys” for both the evening of poetry and the poetry contest. In celebration of National Poetry Month, Poetry Night is the kick-off event for the Redwood Writers Conference the next day.

Barbara Toboni, Poetry Contest Chair, announces that the contest runs from January 2 to March 5, 2012. Those submitting poems need not be Redwood Writers members but must reside in Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Lake, Marin, or Mendocino counties. Prizes are \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third. Winners will be invited to read their poems at the award ceremony during Poetry Night at the Flamingo Hotel. Judges are Nancy Long, Phyllis Meshulam, and Ed Coletti. For rules and more information go to the conference drop-down menu on our website www.redwoodwriters.org.

RW Conference Prose Contest

We’re having a prose contest for the RW Conference, as well as the poetry contest. This contest will be part of the April 28th RW Conference at the Santa Rosa Junior College. The prose contest will have the same submission dates, as the poetry contest, yet have different judges. The theme of the Prose Contest is “Odyssey”. Kathy Rueve is chairing this contest. Anyone who is a registered conference attendee may submit prose pieces to the contest. CWC members pay \$8 each and non-members pay \$10 for up to three submissions. You may submit on-line through the Redwood Writers website or snail mail. All guidelines, fees, and submission addresses are on the website. —Sandy Baker, Redwood Writers 2012 Conference Chair

Member News

The short story "Just a Domestic Argument", written by **Susanna Solomon**, was published by the *Point Reyes Light* on September 22nd. This is her third story they have published.

— www.susannasolomon.com



Hank Mattimore had articles for *Chicken Soup for the Soul* published in the last month. In *Devotional Stories for Tough Times*, page 325, "Hearing the Voice of an Angel" and in *Inspiration for the Young At Heart* "Blackberry Magic" is featured on page 13.

<http://yagrowsoryadies.blogharbor.com>

Hi Redwood Writers,

The links to the Vintage Voices Launch Party videos are now on the website. The VIDEO button links to Part I. On the home page are two ways to get to 2011 Vintage Voices Anthology readings where both parts are linked to the YouTube videos.

Congratulations on a great party and video. www.redwoodwriters.org.

Thanks, **Lynn Millar**, RW Website Editor



Redwood member **Natasha Yim**, (on right) along with **Gretchen Maurer** (left) and **Shirin Yim Bridges** presented three of the nonfiction picture books in *The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames* series at their book launch on October 15. The books are published by Goosebottom Books and illustrated by Peter Malone. During the event which was well attended at the Mendocino Book Company, an independent book store in Ukiah, the authors also offered their books in a raffle to benefit the Ukiah Public Library.

I'm happy to say I won a copy of Gretchen's book *Mary Tudor Bloody Mary*. Natasha also offered her book *Cixi The Dragon Empress* and Shirin donated a copy of her book *Agrippina Atrocious and Ferocious* to benefit the library.—**Robin Moore**, Editor of *The Redwood Writer*



Fellow Writers,

Snowfall Press, a custom printer for micro publishers, has posted on its Facebook site a guest article I wrote on my efforts to market my new fantasy novel. You can see it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SnowfallPress>

For those of you who already have been down this road, I'd love to get some feedback on what marketing strategies have worked for you. (For example, I found Charles Markee's recent note quite helpful.)

—**Robert Digitale**, author of the Fantasy novel **HORSE STALKER**

www.horcestalker.com .



Please welcome our new members: **Stephanie (Stephs) Vera Kaiser, Martha D. Peterson, Renelaine Pfister, Susan Starbird, Pamela Jackson, and Frank L. Kahl**—**Julie Winrich**, RW Membership Chair

Congratulations to RW member **Jan Boddie** for having her article “Crones in Training” published in the on-line magazine *Open Exchange*. Here is the link to Jan’s article: <http://openexchange.org/features/OND11/boddie.html>

Hello Everyone!

My company, Davis Publishing, began in 2008. It has published work by three authors so far: **Hank Mattimore, Louise J. Belle** and me, **Diane H. Davis**, with a fourth author’s book in the editing phase.

The current feature at retail locations in Sonoma County is “Stop the Blues from Stealing December”, by Diane H. Davis. It runs through November 6th. For a list of outlets, visit www.davis-publishing.biz.



Louise J. Belle



Hank Mattimore



Diane H. Davis

Dear Redwood Writers,

Don't forget to send me, your Membership Chair, a notice when you've met the requirements to upgrade your membership status to Active.

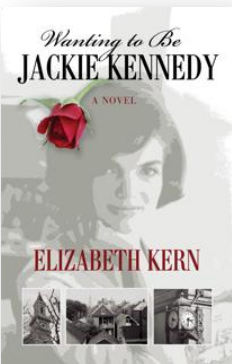
To be Active you must have published a book within the last 10 years, or be under contract to publish. Or, you must have published shorts stories, essays, poetry, etc., in magazines, three within the last three years (this includes being published in *Vintage Voices*). If you are not sure if you are an Active status member, check our website: redwoodwriters.org and check out the *Membership Qualifications* found on *Membership* pages and/or send me an email telling me the names of your publications, dates, and who published them.

So far, we have 109 Active members.

Congratulations to all you published authors out there, and for the rest of us, let's get writing and be published!

Also, whenever you publish a book, please let me know the title, date, and publisher, as I keep a record of them. Eventually they will be listed on the website.

—Julie Winrich, RW Membership Chair



Hello Redwood Writers,

At last, my debut novel, *Wanting to Be Jackie Kennedy*, has been released by Hill House Books, a small publishing company I created this year. My intention is to publish select books that are well-written, professionally edited, and packaged to compete with the quality of major New York City publishers.

As many of you know, writing the novel has been a labor of love over the past few years, largely because the book is set in my old Polish neighborhood in Chicago. While fictional, the landscape of the story reflects the atmosphere I grew up in. I hope the story, set during the Camelot years of the '60s, brings back memories (for those of you who were there) of a more innocent time, and that my story makes you laugh and cry a little.

—Elizabeth Kern



Redwood Reading List: I enjoyed *Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin. Back to my roots! She is the author who inspired me to write. First of 4-part *Earthsea* series. 15-year-old wizard-in-training inadvertently lets loose evil. At the end of the book, now a full wizard, he confronts it. In between he does lots of cool wizard stuff, including fighting dragons. Very well-written, paced well, descriptive, compelling. — Farrell Winter

Poetry Place

Afternoon

—Gail Larrick

Looking up from
the grass that day
where I lay in the park of the wobbly present,
I heard the counsel of azaleas above me,
the ageless momentary flower,
the accidental bee,
the one petal falling.

Flower at Santa Sabina

—Francis Caballo

Wrinkled like a linen blouse
worn all day,
fluffy teeth
crown streaks of red,
balanced atop a rising, bent stem
with errant leaves
large and small.
This bud of pleasure smiles,
maybe even giggles
in the sun
of this late spring day.

Caprice

—Renelaine Pfister

Why do we fall in love
Only to experience pain
Why is every encounter
A dying flame
Why does every kiss
Feel like the last
Why does every smile
Only come to pass
Why do we embrace
Only to pull apart
Why do we make promises
That only break our hearts
Why does every lie
Sound like a cherished vow
Why do we yearn for forever
But can only have the now



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 edition.

Hints on Winning Poetry Contests

HOW TO WRITE 3-LINE POEMS THAT WIN

by **Wanda Sue Parrott**, Central Coast Writers branch of the California Writers Club.

Money-making is easier if you know what you're doing. A shortcut to literary dollars lies in writing three-line poems. How much money are we talking about? Typically, \$25 to \$100 for 1st place; \$15 to \$75, 2nd; \$10 to \$50, 3rd.

So, how do you start?

1. Use a legal pad for 3-liner scribbling. Write and revise until you finish twenty poems in each of these three formats.
2. Type the best ones into your computer and save them.
3. Start submitting by researching "Poetry Contests" online; then, select those that offer specialty categories such as "12 lines or less" or "short rhymed poems" or "haiku/senryu."

I have spent more than twenty years running poetry contests, and swear it's true that good haiku are hard to find! In fact, what Americans call haiku are usually senryu poems—or simply one long sentence of prose broken up into three lines. That's because haiku and senryu are look-alike poetry forms. Don't be fooled! Each line should stand alone, yet wrap to the next. Easy? Nah, but once mastered, you'll win!

The basic structure is three lines. Haiku deals with nature and the nature of being; senryu deals with life, the foibles of humanity. Use no title, no capitalization (except for proper nouns) and no punctuation. Typical line/syllable count is: 5-7-5. To get the most mileage from so few words, avoid using articles such as "a" and "the" or empty words like "so" and "very"—and do not repeat a word. Here is one I wrote:

when my lights go out
please post this sign on the door
she kept a clean house

My advice? haiku is harder to write than senryu, so stick with senryu. Also try the Tercet and Triplet forms. Lee Ann Russell, judge in the 2012 Spring Writing Contest sponsored by Central Coast Writers, includes them in *How to Write Poetry—Ballad to Villanelle* as:

TERCET

Lines: 3

Syllables: optional

Rhyme Scheme: a-a-a or a-b-a

DUSK!

Twilight shimmers on the shore
Creeping toward the velvet night
Closing sunlight's golden door

TRIPLET

Lines: 3

Syllables: optional

IN THE BEGINNING

While traveling o'er this lovely land
of mountains high and beach's sand
We recognize His loving hand.

The two latter poems are similar, except Tercet allows the poet choice—to rhyme only lines 1 and 3, whereas the Triplet locks in all three lines with the same rhyme. According to Lee Ann, you should not mix metaphors or poetry formats; in other words, if you enter it as a particular poetic form, be sure it conforms to the rules.

Three liners can also earn money as jingles in commercials, and as greeting card verse in which Line 1 appears on the front and the rhyming couplet inside the card delivers the sender's sentiment/message.

Contact Lee Ann Russell through CCW's 2012 Spring Writing Contest. Wanda Sue Parrott is Contest Administrator for Central Coast Writers branch of California Writers Club at centralcoastwriters.org.

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Announcements



Dear RW members, colleagues, students and friends,

Some of you may be interested in my new blog, *Building a Better Story*—Writing craft, book reviews, and inspiration for writers.

It's at <http://analectures.wordpress.com> and is part of the content for my Napa Valley College creative writing classes.

The first topic we are exploring is: Tension, Suspense and Conflict in Your Writing. Each week class is in session, I'll add a new post. In between class sessions, I'll post little reviews of books on craft and other topics of interest to writers as well as other information.

If you've read a book, attended a lecture or workshop, or have information that particularly helped you improve your writing, I'd be pleased to consider your short essay/review/blurb for inclusion in this blog. Please send your pieces (this is not fiction, memoir or poetry please) to me at ana@anamanwaring.com.

I'd appreciate if you would send work in WORD and include your tags. You'll get credit for your work and gratitude from me and our readers, but I may not post everything I receive, and I reserve the right to edit any piece going up on my blog. If you believe in our motto: "writers helping writers" please think about sharing your knowledge and expertise with others through *Building a Better Story*.

Thank you writers of Sonoma and Napa!

—Ana Manwaring www.anamanwaring.com

For those who are interested in discovering book bloggers to potentially review your work, here is a link to a directory of book bloggers: <http://bookbloggerdirectory.wordpress.com/>

Bonne chance!

Linda C. McCabe, RW Member, RW Past President and author of *Quest of the Warrior Maid*



Diane H. Davis is offering two hours of fun for parent/teen teams, "Create a Thanksgiving Poem," through the Community Outreach Program by Davis Publishing. The \$10 fee covers all materials and refreshments. Sunday, November 20th, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call Diane at 664-8656 to register and get directions. Let's enjoy time together, having fun. Life should make you smile!

Davis Publishing publishes local writers on self-help topics that are timely and of general interest. A Guide Sheet is available to assist in developing your book—almost everyone has hard-work knowledge that could be organized and shared. Call the editor (Diane) at 664-8656.

Writers Forum of Petaluma proudly presents Rachael Herron

November 17, 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. Petaluma Community Center, 320 No. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma. \$15 at the door

The Dreaded Rewrite: Taking the Fear out of Revisions

Contrary to popular belief, the real fun is just getting started after a writer types "The End." Many balk at the idea of revision, thinking it's too big a job, unable to break it up into manageable pieces. Walk with Rachael through concrete steps to beginning (and finishing) revisions on your work and learn that the real magic is what happens after the first draft.

RACHAEL HERRON, author of *How To Knit A Love Song*, received her MFA in writing from Mills College, and has been knitting since she was five years old. It's more than a hobby; it's a way of life. Rachael lives with her better half in Oakland, California, where they have four cats, three dogs, three spinning wheels, and more instruments than they can count. She is a proud member of the [San Francisco Area Romance Writers of America](http://www.sanfranciscoromancewriters.com) and she is struggling to learn the ukulele.

Here's Rachael's delightful blog: <http://www.yarnagogo.com/>

For more information: www.thewritespot.us

HOW TO GET YOUR BOOK PUBLISHED!

With Bay Area Literary Agent, Andy Ross

Saturday, November 12, 1-3 p.m.

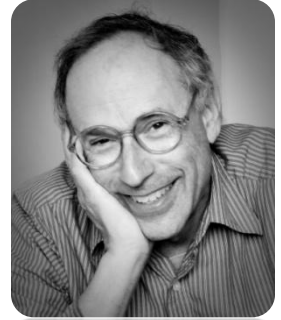
This two hour presentation by literary agent, **Andy Ross**, will discuss the steps necessary to submit your idea for a book to a commercial publisher. If you have an idea for a book or have a manuscript ready for publication, this seminar will give you the information you need to navigate the often confusing world of book publishing. The class will cover how to find an agent, how to write effective query letters and book proposals, the elements of the book contract, and what is expected of an author before, during, and after the book is published. The workshop will be held in downtown Sebastopol. Directions and confirmations will be sent upon registering.

Andy Ross is a literary agent in Oakland. The former owner of Cody's Books in Berkeley for 30 years, he has been in the book business for four decades. He began his agency in 2008 and has negotiated contracts for 25 books and a movie option. Andy is a member of the Association of Author Representatives. This is a great event for yourself or the writer in your life who needs a boost!

Check out his website at www.andyrossagency.com and his blog at www.andyrossagency.wordpress.com

\$65 per person - to register go to

<http://www.ceresprojectevents.org/eventdetails.aspx?EventId=2228>



Sandy Baker



Kay Mehl Miller
(Kathryn)

A Conversation with Local Authors

Sandy Baker and I (Kay Mehl Miller) are the first authors to volunteer for an event sponsored by **Celebrity Promotions**, a local company that, for now, promotes local authors and their works for free. Come to SoCo Coffee at 6:30 p.m. **Saturday, November 19th** as Sandy and I begin a conversation about writing. We'll talk for fifteen minutes and then yield to questions and comments from you. Should be fun. Closing is at 8 p.m. Plan to be there. Sandy is the author of a delightful children's gardening book with a plot, *Mrs. Feeny and the Grubby Garden Gang*, and I have recently published *Living with the Stranger in Me: An Exploration of Aging*, a creative non-fiction narrative based on my own experiences, knowledge and insights on aging. SoCo Coffee is on the corner of Fourth Street and Brookwood Ave in Santa Rosa.

Poetry Slams in Sonoma County

Due to the Sonoma County Library's lack of funds and cutback in hours, they cannot offer the Poetry Slams in 2011 - 2012. However, the UUCSR Writers has picked up the baton and will sponsor the Poetry Slams. **Mark Lowe** has agreed to have the Slams at the **Haven Coffee House in Video Droid**—one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County. The Video Droid is located at 1901 Mendocino Avenue in the Santa Rosa JC area. It's in the same parking lot as Big Lots and CVS Pharmacy. Parking is free.

Schedule: The Third Friday of each month except December

The next Sonoma County Slam will be **Friday, Nov 18th**. EmCee will be **Tom J. Mariani**, UUCSR Writers Poet Laureate, and Redwood Writers member.

2012 Schedule: Jan. 20th, Feb. 17th, March 16th, April 20th and May 20^h will be the **GRAND SLAM**.

POETRY SLAMS: each Slam begins at 7 p.m.

SIGN UP to perform 6:45 - 7:10 p.m.

PRIZES:

MONTHLY SLAM: 1st Place - \$50 gift card, 2nd Place \$30 gift card, 3rd Place \$20 gift card

GRAND SLAM: 1st Place \$125; 2nd Place \$75; 3rd place \$50.

For information contact **Georgette G. deBlois**, GGdeB@aol.com, <http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>