



California Writers Club – SFV

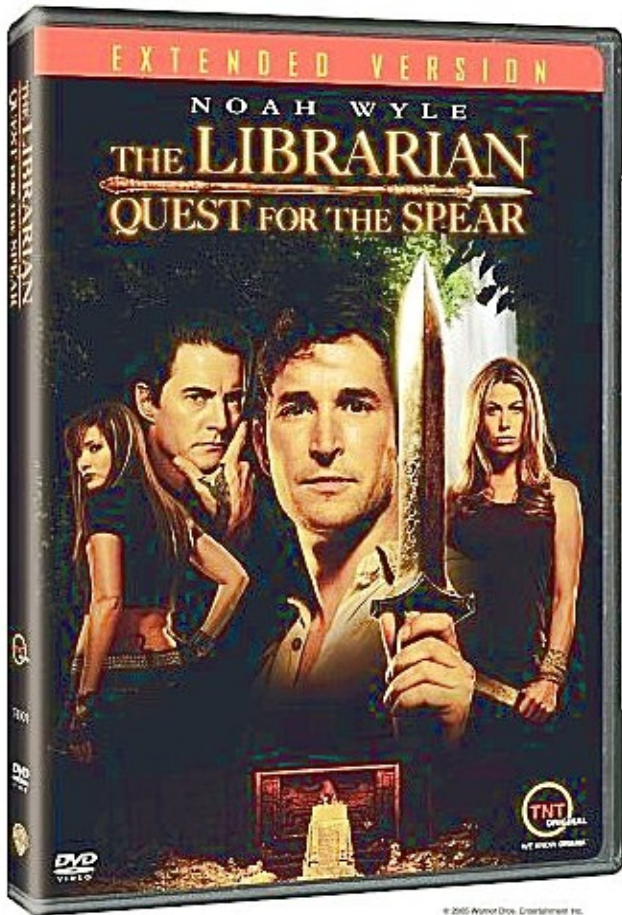
*"Serving the writers of Greater Los Angeles"*

# THE SCRIBE

*- established since 1983 -*

Vol. XXI, No. 2

October 2007



**Coming on October 13<sup>th</sup>  
-The Writer's Studio-  
An Interview with:  
DAVID TITCHER**

**Come face the heat and challenge  
our next speaker with your questions.**

**Discover SCREENWRITING AS A MARTIAL ART** and guess what these names have in common:

Jackie Chan of "Shanghai Noon" + "Rush Hour," Alyssa Milano of "Who's The Boss" + "Charmed" + "Melrose Place," Robert Culp, Punky Brewster, Jon Cryer, Lynn Redgrave, Tony Danza, Judith Light, Noah Wyle of "ER," Bob Newhart, Jane Curtin, Olympia Dukakis, Malcolm McDowell, and Larry Levinson of "The Poseidon Adventure?" – You're so smart, you knew from our eponymous title that they've all worked with David N. Titcher.

Some of David's in-the-trenches credits include: The Curse of King Tut's Tomb; his 2006 WGA Award winning, The Librarian – Quest for the Spear; Around the World in 80 Days; and television series, Punky Brewster.

Mr. Titcher is a true Valley Boy who was born & raised right here in Encino. He was a favorite of Prof. Lew Hunter, head of the UCLA Screenwriting Department, who is in Steven Spielberg's "fave five." David first earned his chops by reading for the likes of Jack Nicholson.

David is no elitist or "I-remember-when" type of speaker. His work, and the info he'll share, is fresh. His fingers ache from burning up the keyboard. His writing is all now. So, join us at 1PM, on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Encino Community Center – and start digging a trench! □□

## THE WORD MECHANIC

### RAMBLINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

By: **Scott Alixander Sonders, Ph.D.**

People, especially writerly people, too often lapse easily into inaction, letting others do for them what they should be doing for themselves. As new member Megan Masten said, the most valuable exercise writers can do is lift them selves repeatedly from their comfort zone. You might rejoin that taking action is also taking risks. And you know my answer: you can't win the lottery if you don't buy a ticket.

It's the moral obligation of every good leader to show by example, how we can take those risks necessary for success. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, my vision of SFV is a Club FOR its members, BY its members and OF its members. If we each volunteer and get involved in our club, together we can truly "serve the writers of greater Los Angeles."

Remember that it's said: we are only as good as our name. As we build brand recognition for CWC, we build our own visibility & credibility, our own prestige in the community of writers.

Member Diane Rodman advised me that "emotions metabolize more difficultly as our bodies age." I should know! But no pain, no gain. There are many things that go into the human body. But only two things come out: rarely, the secret diamond breath of god through our hands and onto the once blank page; and everything else – which is excrement.

So there are artists and good artists. The good ones work hard. They metabolize their emotions into the written word. They've mastered differentiating between the excretions: some are perspiration, some are putrefaction, and sometimes some are diamonds.

It's never too late to learn about crafting diamonds. Last semester, I was lecturing at one of my writing workshops. "In the English language," I said, "A double negative forms a positive. Though in some languages like Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, in no language will a double positive form a negative." – Then a voice from the back of the room snickered, 'Yeah, right.'

So what we think we know is not enough. Vision is not enough. Sweat is not enough. And Excrement typed on paper gets flushed before published.

Now, back at our Writers Club: we're going to have an amazing year. We're going to metabolize the old CWC into the new CWC. We're going to learn and critique and laugh and love until we make diamonds. We're going to write a lot, share a lot and become the missing pieces of each other's puzzle. – Write on, sisters & brothers, write on. □□

## CWC-SFV TEAM

### Executive Board:

Scott A. Sonders, President  
George Hirai, interim VP<sup>1</sup>  
Debra Zednik, Secretary  
James Ganatta, Treasurer

### Advisory Board:

Richard Deets, interim VP  
Venita Louise, Membership Chair  
Larry Fazio, Events Manager  
Mike Austin, Development Chair  
Olivia Mohler, Hospitality Chair  
Patty Foltz, Webmaster

### Team Members:

Scott Sonders, State Rep<sup>2</sup>  
Lenora Smalley, SFV Spokesperson  
Bruce Zacuto, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Leila Morris, Editorial  
Betty Goldstein, Editorial  
Megan Masten, Outreach

<sup>1</sup> also: Editor of THE SCRIBE

<sup>2</sup> also: VP of the CWC-Central Board

## **IS THERE A WRITER IN THE OPEN HOUSE?**

**By: Venita Louise**

Actually, the house was packed with writers. To say the CWC, September 8<sup>th</sup> Open House was a success, would be an understatement. Venita Louise, Bruce Zacuto and Mike Austin are still dressing wounds sustained from the large group of writers rushing the door, anxious to participate. Head counts neared one-hundred in spite of the chaos at point of entry and discovering that the Public Address system was down. As shown, inconveniences rarely prevent an assembly of wordsmiths.

So, our Open House & Social Gala began with an address from our illustrious president, Scott Alixander Sonders, describing the exciting events in the works for the coming year.



***This podium can also be used as a floatation device***

Aside from resuming our regular meetings, with amazing speakers scheduled in our beautiful new home, CWC will have a booth at the Taste of Encino Street Faire, taking place on October 14<sup>th</sup>. There is nothing more thrilling than watching introverts exposing themselves.

And exposure is certainly what we will have. Opportunities for growth abound.

Announcements were followed by introducing the Executive and Advisory Board members.

Each explained their involvement with the Club and what could be expected of them in the coming year. We have a very dedicated and ambitious team of volunteers who are working to make our branch the best ever. George Hirai has his capable hands full, taking over a portion of the vice president's duties along with editing the SCRIBE. You probably thought the room was already prepared when you arrived. Nope, Larry Fazio worked very hard to plan ahead and get things ready for us.

We had many interesting guests attending the open house, including journalists, literary agents and publicists. Scott's wordplay game gave our guests the opportunity to network, schmooze, and get to know some of our members. We heartily thank, Trader Joe's, for donating the sumptuous snacks made available, as well as our hospitality team, Olivia Mohler, Leila Morris and Glen Olson, who successfully arranged them at our refreshment tables.

A wide-angle lens was necessary to capture just a portion of the club as they listened to several of our members read poetry and prose at our Open Mike.



***Larry Fazio worked very hard to make all these props look like real writers.***

{“Is There” – continued...} It was a wonderful opportunity to hear some of the talent that we are so blessed to have with us. Stephany Spenser wowed the assembly by reciting the 105 prepositions. She is also our Public Relations Chair. Thanks, Stephany for all your hard work. Debra Zednik’s read was inspiring and she made sure everyone heard by casually strolling around the room. Additional readers included Glen Olson, Mary Black and Wayne LeVine. We are anxious to hear from all of our members as we know that some treasures are buried deeper than others, which it is why our mission is to give voice to our new, as well as our returning members. We value each and every one of you. Our Critique Meister, Richard Deets, collected a burgeoning list of writers who are interested in joining critique groups. It just goes to show how serious our members are about honing their craft. CWC-SFV serves the greater Los Angeles community by providing the platform for growing our talents and a springboard for those who wish to actually take off and fly. Just don’t forget about us when you’re signing copies of your book at Barnes & Noble. If our Open House was any indication of how well attended our meetings will be in the coming year, then we have a heck of a year coming up, so hold on to your keyboards, and write on! ☐☐

## **FAST FORWARD →**

### **In November: “Painting with Broad Strokes: A Picture is Worth 100 Words”**

**Don’t miss the fun and magic** of watching your ekfrastic words transform into a beautiful painting! This will be hands-on and exciting. Submit your best 100 words now. Email for details: cwcsvf@gmail.com

### **December: “Sharlene Martin Speaks Out!”**

**“Considerate Literary Management...** for the 21st Century” is the Martin Agency guideline. Tune in to find a local agent with big-time connections. Maybe you’ll be her next star.

### **Submission Requests for November Scribe**

Thank you for the items you submitted for the October *Scribe*. We received several poems, three of which we included in this issue. The Editorial Committee was disappointed that more articles were not submitted for consideration

We are now asking for a wider array of submissions for the November *Scribe*. Please send us: articles about writing, essays, memoirs, short stories, fiction/non-fiction excerpts, as well as film, book, and other reviews.

### **Guidelines for Submissions to Scribe**

- Articles about writing, essays, memoirs, short stories, excerpts from fiction/non-fiction, and general features: 500 words.
- Reviews of fiction, non-fiction, essays, and film: 300 words.
- Poetry. Not to exceed 32 lines. Poetry reviews: 75 words.
- Occasionally, on an as needed basis, we may extend the word number limits, as listed above.
- The Editorial Committee determines articles to be published in *Scribe*.
- There is no charge to members for *Scribe* submittals. There is a \$15 “reading fee” for non-members.
- Email all submittals to **THE SCRIBE** editor, George Hirai, as MS Word attachments, not as text messages.

## THE WORDSMITH

### LA Immigrant by Regina Apigo

Do you see me *señor*?  
I valet parked your car.  
I hammered the roof on your home.  
I cooked your food at the restaurant.

Do you see me *señora*?  
I blew the leaves off your lawn.  
I picked the strawberries you ate.  
I tossed the garbage from your trash bin

Do you seem me *niños*?  
I washed your laundry.  
I changed your diapers.  
I pushed your stroller to the park.

Do you see me?  
No? *Porque no?*

Ahh, what was I thinking?  
Here you go.  
I stole your jobs.  
I broke your laws.  
I drained your social services.  
I probably even caused the mortgage  
melt down.

*Gracias.* Now you see me.

\*\*\*\*\*

### TELL ME by James Ganatta

Tell me things I won't mind forgetting,  
My mind is too full of the world.

Tell me of the weather in Slovenia, the  
price of tomatoes last week,

Tell me you heard a horn blow around  
midnight.

Tell me your uncle once had a bad tooth,  
but didn't die.

{Tell Me – continued...}

Tell me you had a pair of socks with a hole  
at the heel.

Tell me your dog sneezed only yesterday.

Tell me you color your hair or that you  
heard the reservoir is full.

Tell me that you may mow your lawn day  
after tomorrow, but have yet to decide.

Tell me you believe, after long  
contemplation, that today you will have a  
gin and tonic, rather than the usual scotch

And let us sit awhile longer,

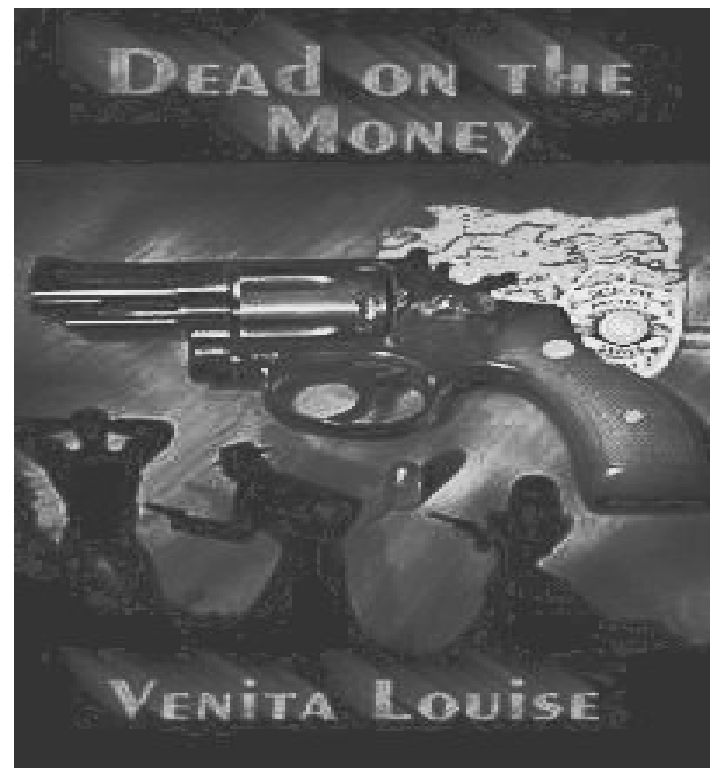
And say nothing at all.

\*\*\*\*\*

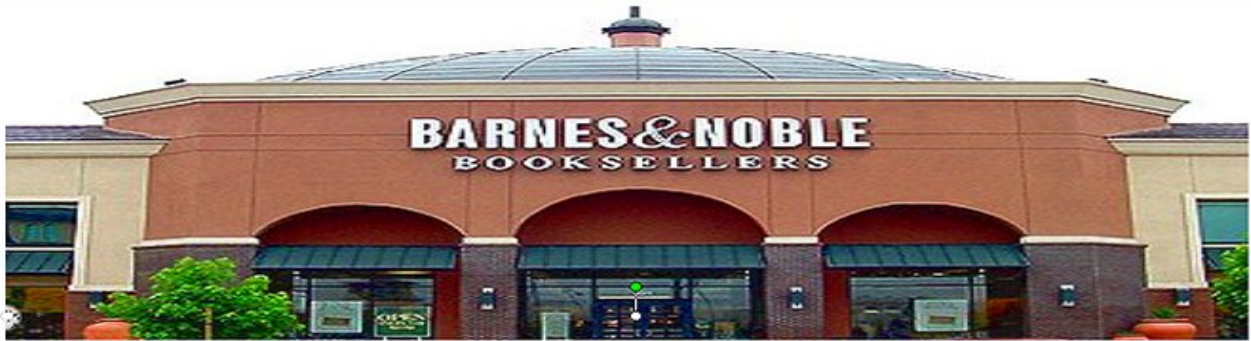
### ELLIPSES by Betty Goldstein

Each of us is the other.  
I am you, you are me  
but we are incomplete without...

\*\*\*\*\*



**Come Read at the best OPEN MIC in town!**



**Join us!**

## **California Writers Club - SFV**

**Hosted by: Scott Alixander Sonders**  
{Pulitzer nominated writer & poet}

**Inaugural Open Mic and  
Fall Book Fair Fundraiser**

**Barnes & Noble Encino  
16461 Ventura Blvd**

**Friday October 12, 2007 at 7:00 PM**

**Sign ups for 10 minute slots start at 6:30**

**A portion of all purchases made  
that night will go to CWC – SFV!**

**This is the first! – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month will  
be CWC-SFV Open Mic Night at B & N Encino.**

### **Letter to the Editor**

You've written a book and managed to get it published. That's great, but your work is just beginning. And no matter what your publisher tells you the job of marketing and promoting your book is going to be your problem. There are plenty of how to books on the subject of marketing, but not all of them are helpful. And that's one of the reasons I'm suggesting a small group of

like minded CWC members get together and help each other eliminate the plans and plays that simply do not work. As a group we can cover much more ground than we can as individuals and can likely save ourselves many hours of research by simply exchanging ideas about what advertising and marketing plans work and even more important what plans do not. Let's get together and talk. – **Tom Barnes**

*The Scribe: serving the writers of greater Los Angeles*



# Write On!

## California Writers Club

"Serving greater Los Angeles"



welcomes you to its "Open Mike" at Borders Books in Canoga Park every third Thursday of the month at 6510 Canoga Park Ave. (in the N. E. shopping center at Victory Blvd and Canoga Ave.). We meet on the second floor at 7:00 PM. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 pm.

**Your MC is award-winning poet Richard Deets**

If you would like us to list you as a reader at one of our events, contact Richard at [cwc.rdeets@gmail.com](mailto:cwc.rdeets@gmail.com)

Each reader is limited to 5 pages (10 minutes maximum).



\* Borders Books serves all the public, including parents and children. We therefore discourage reading works that contains R-rated language during "Open Mike" readings.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Encino Free Event

On Ventura Boulevard, just west of Balboa Blvd

**Sunday, October 14, 2007  
10 AM - 5 PM**

**Booth: California Writers Club – SFV**

**Food Court, Arts & Crafts, Beer & Wine  
Pavilion, Health Expo, Home Show**

**Family Entertainment. Three stages. Kids Play Area**



## WRITE ON!

-AND-

## THE WRITE STUFF!

**Two Master Classes in Across Genre Writing**

**w/ Scott Alixander Sonders, Ph.D.**

*President of California Writers Club - SFV*

**Starting: October 11<sup>th</sup> at Pierce College**

**Phone: 818- 719-6425**

**Starting: October 16<sup>th</sup> at Valley College**

**Phone: 818- 947-2577, Ext. 4172**

**Limited enrollment. Register now!**

**Email: [cwcسف@gmail.com](mailto:cwcسف@gmail.com)**

**"Anyone who believes you can't  
change history has never tried to write  
his memoirs." – David Ben Gurion**

## **OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING**

**WHO:** CWC-SFV Serving Greater Los Angeles writers

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 13, 1:00-3:30pm

**WHERE:** Encino Community Center 4935 Balboa Boulevard

**DIRECTIONS:** This is our second meeting in new home – and a worthy venue, at that! We're just north of Ventura Blvd and adjoining the east end of Encino Park. Plenty of Free Parking.

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