



California Writers Club – SFV

*“Serving the writers of Greater Los Angeles”*

# THE SCRIBE

*- established since 1983 -*

Vol. XXII, No. 6

[www.calwriterssfv.com](http://www.calwriterssfv.com)

June 2008

## COMING TO CWC JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>

### JUNE PARTY & OPEN HOUSE

It's party time again! We've had a great year with 18 expert speakers and entertaining events. Now it's time to celebrate. Food and drinks and friends for all.

“At our last writer's social, we played to a packed house. To say it was a success, would be an understatement. Some of us still wear scars inflicted by the mass of writers rushing the door, anxious to participate. After all, there is nothing more thrilling than watching introverts exposing themselves. And exposure is certainly what we will have.” – V.L

So we're doing it again, bigger & better. Included in our cast of thousands (hyperbole allowed), we'll feature, "Crisis," a live band fronted by the inimitable Venita Louise.

Then a dozen dancers will strut their stuff, showcasing Bill Bingham & Peggy Roller - and brought to us by super Stephany Spencer. And typically we'll have numerous noted writers and other celebrity literati in our audience. So come on down to meet n greet.

After our Open House, we'll have two months hiatus before resuming in September with a schedule chock-a-block with super speakers and entertaining events. – *The Scribe Editors*



### JUNE MEETING

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

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 14, 2008, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

**DIRECTIONS:** We're just north of Ventura Blvd, on the west side of Balboa. Plenty of Free Parking.

## THE WORD MECHANIC

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

Our California Writers are supported entirely by volunteers and the grace of its members. So here's just a little of what we've accomplished this year:

> Our membership has more than doubled, from 48 to 106. And we've added another 130 members from our online publicity site at: [www.writers.meetup.com/798](http://www.writers.meetup.com/798)



> We've moved into a permanent and upscale yet comfortable new home.

> We have x2 Open Mics every month, in around-town literary venues.

> We're getting valuable community name recognition for our membership – including commitments for a full next year's worth of expert & entertaining speakers and super special events. Keep it a secret but even the Mayor will soon be adding to our prestige.

> We've transformed our Website and received great critical reviews.

> In just our last season, we've provided our Members with eighteen terrific literary events.

> We've fully transformed, updated and published ten issues of **THE SCRIBE**, a formerly "homey newsletter" to a modestly "literary journal."

> And next year we'll be publishing an all-new and stellar Cal Writers literary Anthology.

This fine publication will be a Member exclusive and we're hoping your name will be part of it.

There's more, but that's why we need your help more than ever!

Remember the line from John Lennon: "The love you take is the love you make." By parallel, we need you to help us help you. We know that you care about the literary health of our community. So please share your kindness and generosity by volunteering your time and helping us out with our financial goals. Let's continue to create the best club ever.

Help us together to choose success.

My best wishes to all,  
Scott Alixander Sonders

### CWC-SFV TEAM

#### Executive Board

Scott A. Sonders, President  
George Hirai, Scribe Editor  
Leila Morris, Secretary  
James Ganatta, Treasurer  
Venita Louise, Membership Chair

#### Advisory Board

Stephany Spencer, Programs Chair  
Larry Fazio, Events Manager  
Mike Austin, Development  
Olivia Mohler, Hospitality Chair  
Patty Foltz, Webmaster

#### Team Members:

Lenora Smalley, SFV Spokesperson  
Bruce Zacuto, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Richard Deets, Open Mic  
Scott Sonders, State Rep<sup>1</sup>  
Cheryl Hector, Hospitality  
Elizabeth Cooke, Critiques  
Gordon Durich, Publicity

<sup>1</sup> also: VP of the CWC-Central Board

# REWIND

## Our May Monthly Meeting

By: Regina Apigo

Our May meeting featured a stand up routine by comedian and writer Pauline Williams and words of wisdom from



Kate Gale, founder of Red Hen Publishing.

Williams said that she and other kids used to laugh when they saw the Amish. But “look in the mirror” is what they should have told themselves.

Williams grew

up enveloped in what she called “cult-like thinking.”

A childhood within the Independent Fundamental Baptist Church in Indiana; teaching English in China; moving to LA; and divorcing and dating all became material for her stand up. She later said she actually felt freer while being monitored in China than she ever had growing up within her own church. Now that’s saying something.

Kate Gale compared publishing to giving birth. Until you’ve gone through it, you don’t really get what’s happening behind the white, swinging doors.

So the founder of Red Hen Publishing sought to demystify at least the publishing part. Gale not only provided an overview of the publishing world, but also talked to writers about everything from the third paragraph woo to the meaning of a rejection letter.

Red Hen isn’t one of the big publishers owned by foreign corporations. And those few companies, responsible for most of the US publishing, often expect book sales of 50,000 or more. Her Los Angeles-based company is a non-profit started in 1994.



The reason for publishing any of their 20 books annually is, “I love this. I’m into this. And I want this to appear in the world.” One goal of Red Hen is to create

an audience for literature, even in a poorly funded arts community such as Los Angeles. ♡♡



## THE WORDSMITH

### May Days

By: Cheryl Hector

Reaching for the phone but it did not ring,  
Playing out the scenario that is only a fantasy.  
When to wake up, when to sleep, when to die  
all in sync by the bell. Salivate to the bell but  
my belly becomes hard and bitter like the love you had for me.

Walking through the leaves of winter, leaving bills untouched  
to show my love for you, holding your hand that is now empty  
of possessions. Things that you loved instead of me now grace  
my fingers, my wrist and my neck. I swallow your pride and wear  
them as my badges of courage. Small remembrance of our time  
together, like breadcrumbs left on a plate for the birds.

If only the bell would ring one final time I could close my suitcase  
of baggage and send your ashes to my father's crypt.  
Not a mention of my name on the bronze medallion of your  
life in this world.

Please let's not meet again like this I fear the next time could be fatal.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**California Writers are about discovery** and transformation, about giving voice to those who've been silenced. Our members discover how to improve their writing skills, to advance communication, and to become more actualized. Our goal is to transform into a community that is truly listened to, not simply heard. Our hope is to transform from simple agreement to genuine understanding. We strive to transform from isolation to kinship.

**Our membership is diverse.** Some are screenwriters, poets, essayists, journalists, and writers across genre. Some are professionals, some are students. Many of our members once sacrificed their artistic dreams to help support their families, to become mothers and wives and teach English to our children. All of our members, developing or advanced, share the spirit of artistic adventure.

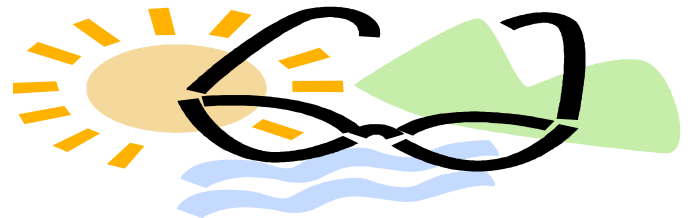
**Learning to write well is a great catharsis.** It's better than confession and cheaper than psychoanalysis. And California Writers Club reaches out to all who revere the written word. Our meetings provide a protective umbrella for the emulation and growth of authorial talent. We provide skilled professional speakers, an opportunity to safely critique our writerly works, and the occasion to make new friends, to socialize and to network in a literary setting. CWC welcomes you to share in the fun, the adventure and the transformation. -- © 2008 - by **Scott A. Sonders**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**We** do not rewrite; we *edit* and take out some of the filler. In my day job, I edit everything that comes in. I very rarely get complaints from authors. If I do get complaints, I just feel that it was edited to fit our magazine's guidelines. I don't actually say this but my attitude is that, if they want to publish an article as is, they can come out with their own magazine. -- *Leila Morris*

## REMINDER

**After our June 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting, we take a break to catch some rays, drink mojitos or whatever tickles our summer fancy. But we'll be back with another sizzling meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. See you all then. ♦♦♦**



## **GET YOUR 15-MINUTES OF FAME – NOW x2 OPEN MICS!**

- 1 - Barnes & Noble in Encino, Sign-ups begin at 6:45PM  
The second Friday of every month – 16461 Ventura Blvd.  
For info or advance sign-ups, email: [cwcsfv@gmail.com](mailto:cwcsfv@gmail.com)**
- 2 - Borders Books in Canoga Park, Sign-ups begin at 6:45PM  
The third Thursday of every month - 6510 Canoga Avenue  
For info or advance sign-ups, email: [rrdeets@socal.rr.com](mailto:rrdeets@socal.rr.com)**

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