April Featured Speaker:  
**Deborah Riley-Magnus: Author Success Workshop**

Deborah Riley-Magnus is an author and an Author Success Coach. She has a twenty-seven year professional background in marketing, advertising and public relations as a writer for print, television and radio. She writes fiction in several genres as well as non-fiction.

Deborah produces several pieces weekly for various websites. She also writes an author industry blog, [http://rileymagnus.wordpress.com](http://rileymagnus.wordpress.com) and teaches online and live workshops as The Author Success Coach. She belongs to several writing and professional organizations. In 2011, she has two novels and one non-fiction, *The Author Success Coach Book*, being released.

She’s lived on both the east and west coast of the United States and has traveled the country widely. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she currently lives, works and writes in Los Angeles.

(Editor’s Note: Deborah has done presentations for several other Branches — to RAVE reviews.)

DO NOT MISS!

Other Deborah links:
- [http://theauthorsuccesscoach.com](http://theauthorsuccesscoach.com)
- [http://coldincalifornia.com](http://coldincalifornia.com)
- [http://deborahriley-magnus.com](http://deborahriley-magnus.com)
- [http://whispersofthemuse.org](http://whispersofthemuse.org)
- [http://twitter.com/rileymagnus](http://twitter.com/rileymagnus)
- [http://www.facebook.com/deborah.rileymagnus](http://www.facebook.com/deborah.rileymagnus)

**BOARD MEETINGS**

Our SFV Branch holds its Board Meetings every month after the Speaker’s Presentation.

Non-board members may not participate, but are encouraged to audit and observe these meetings.

**12:30 Sharp!**

**MEMBER SHOWCASE**

*Lenora Smalley — “Poetry”*

**In This Issue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah R. Magnus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL FOOL!</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March-in-Review</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Corner</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TO MARKET</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writeous</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering The Aviary</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member WEBSITE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watts Towers of Triumph</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Gallery</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out and About</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Board</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fine Print &amp; Directions</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Click on title to jump to item)
Doping Scandal: ‘Genius’ Einstein Discredited

(Geneva) Famed Physicist and Intellectual, Albert Einstein, was stripped of his title of ‘Genius’ today, when drug testing on his exhumed body revealed the presence of abnormal amounts of both fish and safflower oil — both considered to be powerful brain-enhancing substances. Exhumations of Leonardo DaVinci, Rene Descarte, and Issac Newton are scheduled for later this month, as ‘Braingate’ continues.

April Meeting Starts Promptly at 12:30! — Or Whenever People Show Up

Feds Announce New Transportation Initiative: Cars To Run On HOPE!

The Obama administration announced today that it is allocating $500,000,000 to the Ford Motor Company for the development of new automotive HOPE (Highly Oxygenated Poly-Ethanol) vehicles. The grant will be used to develop Ford’s new ‘Optimist,’ which uses this new extremely inexpensive energy source. (Currently HOPE is trading at a mere $1.20/bbl.)

In a related story, British Petroleum announced today that it has successfully negotiated ninety-nine year lease agreements for all HOPE deposits in the contiguous forty-eight States. This gives B.P a virtual monopoly on HOPE development. They have contracted with well-respected contractor, Halliburton, who is expected to begin development of sites early in 2031, but warns weather conditions could lead to delays which might increase costs slightly. However, they are optimistic that such delays would be minor. A spokesman for the company said in

HOPE On The Rise

(NYSE 4:50 pm) Commodities traders announced a sudden, unexpected surge in the price of HOPE (Highly Oxygenated Poly-Ethanol) futures, just before the closing bell today. This was accompanied by a spike in the price of raw HOPE from $1.25/bbl. to $175.

Analysts are reassuring the market that this is temporary: “The US is the World’s largest exporter of HOPE. We have vast untapped reserves, that will easily last into the 2030s at our present rate of export. Unless something unexpected happens to grossly increase the World’s rate of HOPE consumption, there is absolutely no threat of a shortage.”

Even at the present rate of use, our

(See “HOPE,” pg. A-45)

Lieberman To Keynote 2012 Tea Party Convention!

(Washington DC) In a surprise announcement, today, Tea Party spokesman, Andre Lipton, announced that the Keynote Speaker for next November’s National Convention will be Senator Joseph Lieberman (I. Conn.). Lieberman, a former Democrat who changed affiliations in 2006, has asserted that he is not a candidate for 2012. Speculation is rife that this may signal a move on his part to more active role in the fledgling Tea Party movement.

Despite his protests (“Hell, I don’t even like tea...”), Lieberman has a reputation for “being his own man.” This led to his breaking ties with the Democrats (although some speculate that it was his failure to win nomination, rather than ideological

(continued on pg. D-12)
March Meeting-in-Review:
E. P. McKnight
by the Scribe Staff

President’s Corner
Stephanie Sharf

This is a JACK LONDON AWARD year... and we have a winner! At our March meeting I was proud to announce that our Board has chosen Ray Malus as our Jack London Award winner! The Award is given every two years to a California Writers Club member who has done exceptional service for their branch.

Ray is our pre-session leader at each meeting, Scribe editor, and webmaster. In addition, he was a member of the team that put our branch “back together” a couple years ago, and he arranged for our current meeting place at the Church. Personally, I can’t think of anyone more dedicated to the branch than Ray is, as evidenced by the time he puts in to help.

The Award will be given on July 31st in Oakland and we hope Ray will make it up there to receive it in person.

I want to thank each of you who helped make our March meeting a success. We had a dynamic speaker, E.P. McKnight, and an enthusiastic audience. Thanks go to Peter Brothers for suggesting our speaker and providing the refreshments, as well as to Pirhiya Goldstein for setting a lovely table and making sure we had coffee and tea.

Speaking of coffee, Mark-Paul Sebar ran up the street to get us regular coffee and hot cocoa when he saw that we had only decaf (caffeine addicts thank you, Mark).

Our next speaker, Deborah R. Magnus, is receiving rave reviews wherever she goes. When I attended the Southern California regional meeting on February 27th in Pasadena, I heard that Deborah was a wonderful speaker for two of our branches already and a third was trying to get her. Please join us to hear this sought-after author coach at our next meeting on April 16th. April is Poetry Month, and we will have one of our very favorite resident poets, Lenora Smalley, to kick off the meeting with a Member Showcase. Don’t miss this one!

Something To Ponder
All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think, we become.

– Buddha

My Webster’s Dictionary lists fifteen definitions and synonyms for “Community.” According to our March meeting’s motivational maven, Ms. McKnight, members may multiply those many meanings.

Using examples from her personal experiences and a myriad of familiar axiom, she asserts that true Community begins with realizing we’re all one and we need each other. To further this lofty goal, we must lead by example, use our talents, find our passion, make ourselves accountable to someone, and then channel these to help someone in need — and you don’t have to be J. Paul Getty (maybe not the best example, but it’s the first millionaire’s name that whispered into my mind’s ear). Again with the inappropriate allusion: the disembodied ear).

It’s not quantity, it’s quality! Be like children! Enjoy life!

Check out E. P. on the web:
http://www.iquestionamerica-fannielouhamer.com

Photo by Mark-Paul Sebar
TO MARKET, TO MARKET
by Ken Watts

(As always, please check the websites for more information before submission. When you see “ms.” or “mss.”, this means manuscript and manuscripts respectively. Best wishes and good luck to all!)  

**Fantasy Magazine** is an online magazine. It is open for new submissions on 1 May 2011. They are looking for fantasy, fiction, creative nonfiction, and interviews. Pays: $0.05/word. See their website for more information. Website: [www.fantasy-magazine.com](http://www.fantasy-magazine.com). E-mail: sean@fantasy-magazine.com.

**American Markets Newsletter**

**Short Story Competition** accepts fiction and nonfiction up to 2,000 words. It is presented to give short story writers more exposure. All entries are eligible for worldwide syndication whether they win or not. No limit to the number of entries you may send. See website for more info. Prize: 1st Place: $300, 2nd Place: $100, 3rd Place: $50. Entry fee: $12/entry, $20 for 2, $25 for 3, $30 for 4, $5 each entry thereafter. For guidelines, send SASE or e-mail. Deadline: June 30 and December 31. Actively encourages published and unpublished stories. Open to any writer. All kinds of fiction considered. They especially want women’s pieces — romance, with a twist in the tale — but all will be considered. Results announced within 3 months of deadlines. Winners notified by mail if they include SASE. Address: 1974 46th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116. E-mail: sheila.oconnor@juno.com.

**Dead of Winter** is a winter-themed horror fiction contest with a new topic each year. Open to any writer. I know it’s too early in the year, but keep this contest in mind for the coming winter season. Dead of Winter 2011 opens October 1, 2011 and closes December 21, 2011. After October 1st, visit their website to learn about the contest theme and word count parameters. Follow their online submission guidelines. No entry fee. Your cover letter should include name, address, e-mail, word count and title. Entries must be unpublished. Accepts inquires by e-mail. Prize: Amazon gift certificates in the amount of $20, $15, $10, and publication in Toasted Cheese. Contact: Stephanie Lenz, editor. E-mail: editors@toasted-cheese.com. Website: [www.toasted-cheese.com](http://www.toasted-cheese.com).

**Rattle Poetry Prize** is open to writers worldwide. Poems must be in English (no translations). No previously published poems or works accepted for publication elsewhere. No simultaneous submissions. Submit no more than 4 poems/entry. Multiple entries by a single poet accepted, however, each 4-poem group must be treated as a separate entry with its own cover sheet and entry fee. Include cover sheet with poet’s name, address, e-mail address, phone numbers, and poem titles. No contact information should appear on poems. Include SASE for results only, no poems will be returned. Poems may also be entered through online submission on website. Fee: $18, includes one-year subscription to RATTLE. Deadline: August 1 (postmark). Contact: Timothy Green, Editor. Address: RATTLE, 12411 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604. Phone: (818) 505-6777. E-mail: tim@rattle.com. Website: [www.rattle.com](http://www.rattle.com).

**Necrology Shorts: Tales of Macabre and Horror** is an online publication. Guidelines on website. It is searching for fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Nonfiction: needs humor, interview, photo feature, profile, reviews. Buys 1,000 mss/yr. Submit complete ms. Length: 300 - 25,000 words. Fiction: needs fantasy, horror, sci-fi. Buys 500 poems/yr. Submit complete ms. Length: 300-200,000 words. Submit complete ms by e-mail to submit@necrologyshorts.com. Please, allow them 1-2 weeks to review your work. If selected, it will be added to Necrology Shorts in 72 hours. You will be notified when it is posted. Poetry: seeking avant-garde verse, haiku, light-verse, and traditional poetry in genres of horror, fantasy, and sci-fi. Buys 500 poems/yr. Submit up to 5 poems at one time. Length: 4-100 lines. Columns/Departments: Book Review (2,000 words), Movie Review (2,000 words), Biography of Famous Authors (2,000-10,000 words), Interviews of Authors and Artists (2,000-5,000 words). In all submissions, they want and expect the deranged, warped, twisted, strange, sadistic, and things that question sanity and reality. Contact: John Ferguson, Editor. Address: Isis International, P. O. Box 510232, Saint Louis, MO 63151. E-mail: editor@necrologyshorts.com, submit@necrologyshorts.com. Website: [www.necrologyshorts.com](http://www.necrologyshorts.com).

**Chicago Review Press** publishes intelligent nonfiction on timely subjects for educated readers with special interests. They do not accept fiction submissions. Publishes hardcover and trade paperback originals, and trade paperback reprints. Accepts simultaneous submissions. Guidelines for #10 SASE, or online. Responds in 3 months to queries. Pays: 7-12 % royalty. Publishes 40-50 titles/yr. Receives 400 queries/yr. Receives 800 mss/yr; 50% of titles are by first-time authors; 50% of titles by un-agented authors. Publishes 18 months after acceptance. Pays $3,000 - $10,000 average advance. Needs: architecture, art, child guidance, creative nonfiction, education, environment, gardening, health, history, hobbies, memoirs, multicultural, music, nature, recreation, regional, and science. Contact: Cynthia Sherry, publisher; Yuval Taylor, senior editor; Jerome Pohlen, senior editor; Susan Bradanini Betz, senior editor. Address: 814 N. Franklin, Chicago, IL 60610-3109. Phone: (312) 337-0747. Fax: (312) 337-5110. E-mail: cscherry@chicagoreviewpress.com. Website: [www.chicagoreviewpress.com](http://www.chicagoreviewpress.com).

Go to TOC
“CUT...!”

(NOTE: This poem actually evolved as the column was being written. It is not previous work.)

This is only my opinion, but I see a lot of over-written poems. There is a belief that “Poetry is just prose, broken into short lines.” I disagree. I have said it before: “Breaking prose into short lines and calling it poetry is like putting a saddle on a giraffe and calling it a race horse.”

If novels are landscapes, then short stories are busts, and poems are jewels. It’s all a matter of scale. Even long poems are like strings of matched pearls — each section its own precious gem — if it’s a good poem.

Here’s some prose I just made up:

- It is a cold winter’s night in the middle of January. Ribbons of ice hang from the eaves of the house. The mood is somber, as if the house is in mourning — waiting for spring.

  It’s nice prose. Descriptive. Evocative. Even ‘poetic.’ I like it. Let’s make it into a poem:

  It is a cold winter’s night in the middle of January.
  Ribbons of ice hang from the eaves of the house.
  The mood is somber, as if the house is in mourning — waiting for spring.

Believe it or not, I see a lot of this. Is it a poem? Well, many people think so. I don’t!

Why?

It wastes far too many words. It’s not brief, terse. It’s flabby. It has too much useless verbiage. It’s still prose. If it’s a jewel, it’s certainly not polished. But it can be a good start.

Ask yourself, “What is the writer trying to say?”

Well, most important, is the mood: somberness.

Then: It’s winter, cold. There’s a house. Ice hangs from it. Now, the above is brief and terse. But it’s not poetry either. It’s not evocative. It doesn’t affect us the way the original did.

We’ve lost something: the ‘humanity.’ Let’s go back.

Look at the first sentence. Do we really need to tell the reader that January is in the middle of winter? Maybe not. And phrases like “It is” are usually unnecessary, too. So that leaves us with: “Cold January night.”

Now the second sentence. “Hang” is kind of a tepid word (unless your grandfather was a horse thief). Surely, we can find a word that carries more emotional impact. How about “Ribbons of ice dangle from the eaves...?” Well, it’s really not somber, is it? “Droop?” Lets leave it and come back, later.

“The mood is somber.” This is definitely unnecessary — and bad writing. We’re telling the reader instead of making him feel it. If we do our job well, we don’t want, or need, it.

The last part is kind of nice. It does evoke the mood. But we can certainly tighten it without losing the effect. How about simply, “The house mourns for spring?”

Doesn’t seem to lose anything. Let’s see where we are:

- Cold January night.
  Ribbons of ice dangle from the eaves of the house.
  The house mourns for spring.

I like this better, but I still see three things.

Two are problems: We repeat “the house” twice. (Do we really need to? Should we?) And “dangle” definitely conflicts with the mood we want to evoke.

The third is an opportunity: My rusty English Lit. education tells me this is close to an established form. It looks a lot like a Haiku! Let’s see.

Both a Haiku and our fledgling poem have three lines. Check!

A Haiku’s first line has five syllables; ours has six.

Close!

A Haiku’s third line has five syllables. So does ours! Great!

The middle line has twelve syllables. Haikus have seven. This would need a lot of changing. Let’s see if it’s worth it by playing with the first line.

Now, surely, there’s nothing sacred about the month of January. (Yes, it’s closer to the “middle of winter,” but is that so important? I mean, any cold month will do, really.) How about “December?” “Cold December night.” Five syllables! Voila! Houston, we have lift-off!

Now, that damned middle line: “Ribbons of ice dangle from the eaves of the house.”

Well, we’ve already said that the part about the house should go. And ‘dangle’ is not right either. We need something sad, mournful. How about “weep?”

“Ribbons of ice weep from the eaves?” Well, this is nice. Very nice! But, really, what are these “ribbons of ice?” They’re icicles, of course! So now, we do have a Haiku:

- Cold December night.
  Icicles weep from the eaves.
  The house mourns for spring.

Nobody would argue that this is not a poem. (Is it a good one? You, the reader, must decide.)

We’ve watched the evolution of a poem. As with ‘real’ evolution, there are many paths we could have gone down. This is only one; yours will be different. That’s what makes us individual artists. It’s ‘style.’

In particular, the branch we took when we decided to adopt a form will not always be available — or attractive. (We will discuss this next month.)

But this is a path you must travel. Cut useless words! Replace tepid verbs and adjectives with powerful ones! Always evoke an emotional response (never dictate one)! It’s painful, hard work. But it’s the essence of being a writer.
Enter the Aviary (for beginners)
by Jackie Houchin

“All the little birds on J-Bird Street,
Love to hear the robin go;
tweet, tweet, tweet...”

Thirty plus years ago Bobby Dee popularized the song Rockin’ Robin. But today there’s a plump little Bluebird “tweeting” in the world’s tree tops, via a mobile micro-blogging network called Twitter. For writers, Twitter can be a powerful tool to market yourself and your books, and stay connected to your readers. Here are a few tips for “Newbies” who want to “try their wings.”

Building your nest: Go to www.Twitter.com and set up a user profile which includes your user name (best to use your actual name or pen name), location, a website URL, and a short bio of who and what you are. Be sure to upload a photo or image. (Absence of a bio or photo could say “spammer” to perspective followers.) You can also customize your background.

Finding your flock: You will be prompted to see if your friends are on Twitter (It may surprise you how many are already tweeting). But be aware that Twitter does this by importing your email address lists and you must enter your email passwords to do it.

You can also click on “Who to Follow” for Twitter recommendations, or fill in a name or topic in the “Search” field. If you find an interesting “bird of a feather” click on the “Follow” button.

Tweeting is basically writing (and posting) tiny chirps of information (140 characters or less) that people want to read. Following someone (or their tweets) is simply reading what they say on a regular basis. Re-tweeting is passing on tweets that you like to your followers. You can also Reply and Message.

Be succinct and abbreviate; think text messages. There are also URL shortening sites such as tinyurl.com or bit.ly that will take your 56-character page address and shrink it to just 20-26.

What to Tweet: Introduce yourself, your writing, your website. Announce releases, signings, reviews, updates. Be interesting. Be funny. Share a joke, a fact, a useful tip, an inspiring quote, a recommendation, a pet peeve, an article you liked, even a recipe! (Yes, it can be done, see: http://twitter.com/#!/cookbook)

Be helpful. Write about others more than yourself. Do a little teaching. Send holiday greetings. Review a book/film/product. Write a haiku poem. Comment on other people’s tweets. Share someone’s (or your own) website or blog. Re-tweet a good tweet. Ask for recommendations or favorites. Ask a provocative question. Ask for prayer.

What NOT to Tweet: Rude, useless, degrading, incendiary things.

Who to Follow: Those who follow you (see exceptions below). Interesting, fun, inspiring, informative people/organizations/businesses. True friends. People with similar interests and values. People with dissimilar interests.

Who NOT to Follow: People who don’t post a bio or photo of themselves or image of their brand. People who never (or very seldom) tweet. People who follow too many people (compared to how many follow them: another sign of a spammer). People with websites that don’t exist.

Who to Un-follow: Deadbeats, salespersons. (You can also Block offensive Tweeters from following you.)

How to find stuff: Use hashtags (#) to look for something specific. Type a hashtag and the topic in the search field: #thrillers #noir #pets #musicals.

How to plug stuff: Use hashtags to announce a new book, blog post, or interview: (Linda O Johnston, author of Kendra Ballantyne #cozies #mystery #books on Killer Hobbies http://bit.ly/fIOro. (Ghost A La Mode now available on #Kindle #ghosts #mystery http://amzn.to/e3sHRm). (A true #lovestory that stretches back to #WorldWar2, Marion Green’s “A #Valentine Story” http://bit.ly/XPtoC)

To search hashtag topics go to http://hashtags.org/ and type your #topic.

Sing like a Canary: Post at least 10 tweets per day. (It’s okay to repeat your most important tweets more than once in a day, but change them slightly or Twitter will nix them. Read other people’s tweets. Visit interesting websites/blogs (and comment if you have time). Be an early bird and a night owl. Count on spending 20-30 minutes a day for good “presence.”

For more info, check out Twitter’s updated online tutorial (http://tinyurl.com/39s27bs); request “Twitter Basics” from author Avery Aames (www.AveryAames.com); or buy the latest “Twitter for Dummies” books (http://tinyurl.com/24tt7sc ).

(You can read more by Jackie at: www.jackiehouchin.com)
MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

The San Fernando Valley Branch is one of eighteen Branches throughout California, organized and operating under the auspices of The California Writers Club.

We are a non-profit professional organization whose goal is to provide a friendly and inclusive environment for members to meet and network; to provide professional speakers who will aid in writing, publishing, and marketing members’ endeavors; and other writing-related opportunities that will further members’ writing enjoyment and careers.

MEMBER WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

by (Guest Columnist) J. Raymond Kent

Ray Malus

Welcome To My World
Please feel free to make yourself at home and explore.

Raymalus.com is devoted solely to Malus’ creative work. As such, it contains a lot of surprises. (You will need a high-speed connection to enjoy some of them.)

Since Malus also designed our Branch website, you may notice some design similarities. The page pictured is not the home page (which is a simple ‘Welcome’ screen). Rather it is the Main Menu, and is representative of the rest of the site.

In the upper-left-hand corner of a midnight-black page, is a rather youthful picture of Malus. In the center, an animated globe of the earth spins. (Those with sound capability will hear an orchestral theme. Since Malus claims the site contains only content written by him, we can assume the composition is his.) The Menu appears on the left-hand side. (Selections light up a floating ‘Help’ box.) It presents a vast number of choices. They are:

- Home — The Main Menu
- Tour — A description of the site, with links — for those who don’t like menus.
- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Plays — Titles and descriptions (scripts must be requested by email) of several plays. This section also contains videos.
- Opinion — Op-ed and satirical essays
- History — A brief bio
- Books — Titles and descriptions of several longer works
- About Me — Personal information
- Music — MP3 files and lyrics to Pop and Country songs (performed by Malus), and theatrical scores.
- Extras — Miscellany

The site contains a lot of examples by a writer who seems to be in search of a genre — but does well in many. It can be overwhelming for people who need to ‘pigeon-hole’ artists, and several of the pages will provoke curiosity. Fortunately, each page contains a link to email the owner, and Malus welcomes correspondence. There is also a mailing-list sign-up page.

Well-organized (given its diversity), the site is easy to navigate. The ‘Tour’ is a nice feature we’d like to see included in more sites. Although the color-scheme (blue and red on black) is severe, the over-all tone of the site is warm and folksy. (One peculiarity is that most of the ‘text’ content is actually in image form — presumably to discourage copying.)

In summary, Raymalus.com is well worth a visit — if only for the free music.
It Could Be Verse

Lara
Edward Louis Braun

You are a poem ever new.
The thought, the sight,
The simple, sweet delight
Of you,
The endless skies
In your loving eyes
Send my spirits soaring.

You are like a wind
That penetrates
My heart and soul,
Like some pervading drug
You flow within my blood,
Sweeping me
To exhilaration.

When I drift
Into a restless sleep
Images of you
Envelop me,
My head swims
As the current of you
Swells about me,
And with a start
I come awake,
All but drowned
In thoughts of you.

In the fading light
When day succumbs to night,
I wash away
The sometime sadness
Of my life
By dreaming of the day
When I may
Happily contemplate
Songbirds and trees,
Changing skies,
And holding hands
Lovingly descend
Into the deep blue depths
Of your eternal eyes.

Inspiration
Ray Malus

We sit in gloom and mortal misery,
imprisoned in the mire of mundane things,
while taunting sparks of immortality
flit through our darkened cells, where silence sings.

And oh! To capture even one! And for
that blessed moment come to understand
its radiance, and reverently explore
the brief eternity held in our hand.

We build our fragile towers toward the skies
with words — like rough, unsteady slabs of stone.
In halting and abortive desperate tries
we strive to climb where only gods have flown.

Then — snatch the sacred wind that sneers at death,
and soar to ecstasy on heaven's breath.

MY POSITIVE ATTITUDE
Norman Molesko

Besides heart problems and concerns,
life impairments and ailments
have become commonplace for me,
due to aging and family genes.

Before the first of two cataract operations,
my eyes resorted to squinting day and night.
Distant vision was blurry and bothersome.
Corneal implants have restored my eyesight.

Before I was prescribed hearing aids,
sounds were muffled, words misunderstood.
My listening and hearing are improved.
The hearing aids I use do me some good.

Before...I had tooth aches with dental bills.
Upper teeth now exist, but they are not real.
My denture allows me to live my lifestyle.
I can still eat, talk, whistle and smile.

Fortunately I am one of those folks
whose days are meaningful.
Mostly I experience gratitude
and a positive attitude.

More poetry, pg. 9
Rules Rule!
J. Raymond Kent

“Never end a sentence with a preposition; always, find a more correct, discrete position!”
“Split infinitives are things one must decry.” These are rules to always doggedly live by.

Brief Reflections on Love
Edward Louis Braun

Sweet Remembrances
When nostalgia strikes
Out of the blue
I sometimes think of you,
Happy moments we knew:
Our kisses and smiles,
Tender embraces,
Clowning with funny faces,
How you could start
Music in my heart,
Set my soul afire.
I wonder where you are
And if you remember, too?

The Time of Love
The time of love
Can be short or long.
The sound of love
Can be a sad
Or happy song.
The time of love
Can be a funny time,
A sunny, exciting,
Together time,
A sad and lonely,
Depressing, rainy,
Tear running time.

A Tree Outside My Window
A tree outside my window
Sends forth a bouquet
Of leaves that form a lace
Between the earth
And clear blue sky,
Expanding the beauty
Of its earthbound place
With exhilaration, grace,
And honest delight,
Lifting my spirit at its sight,
And is so beautiful and true
It makes me think of you.

The Night Before Easter
Lenora Smalley

Easter basket, trimmed lilac and yellow,
marshmallow chickens cluck and preen,
peck m&m’s for multicolored feed,
lay pastel eggs on shredded plastic
Chocolate bunnies hop up and down,
play soccer on cinnamon pogo-sticks,
throw kisses into hoops of candied beads,
and play games of football with purple jelly beans.

More Verse
wonders of wizardry
one man’s
monumental masterpiece
a proud city
built of towers
pipes girded
with wire mesh
incongruous
among its neighbors
still at home
unafraid with
lopsided smiles
and bones of steel

barred entrances
hints of light
hints of life
behind the slats
this prism city
its mirrors just
shards of glass
looks down upon
huts of humiliation
tethered
by black bars
of fear
and frustration
among the towers
a chapel of stone
and serenity
its ceiling open
welcoming the star
filled night

within the
dusty crevices
a liturgy composed of
broken glass
broken lives
mended with
mortar and
old news headlines
of hope
imprinted into
awkward church walls

lopsided towers
each one climbed
painfully
dangerously
daringly
to add one more
embellishment
one element closer
to the sun
twisted tendrils
of steel
balancing in
silhouette against
a fading sky
the towers
never fall
they stand stubbornly
a city glued
together of relics
dishes and dolls
beer bottles
glass the colors
of the sea
stones
pottery and porcelain
and jewelry
tears, torment
the history
of South Central LA

surviving earthquakes, riots
neglect
the arrogance of downtown’s
edifices of progress
greed
and abandonment by
its maker
The Valley Scribe   April, 2011
Vol. 3 No. 8

The Gallery
(Photos by Mark-Paul Sebar)
(Captions by the Editor)

Stephanie and E. P. McKnight

Everyone gets a smiling welcome

Open Mic: Nance Crawford

Steph & Ray: “I won WHAT?!”
(See President’s Corner)
MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION
If you haven’t been qualified as an Active or Associate member of CWC-SFV as yet, please request an application from Lenora Smalley, Accreditation Committee Chair, and she will provide you with one to complete.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE:
Lots of really good stuff this month:
An important announcement about our State Bulletin (See pg. 13). Jackie Houchin guides you through the maze of “Tweeting.” A beautiful tribute to the Watts Towers, by Lillian Rodich. Poetry, reports, columns... and, of course, our yearly April Fools Page.

ENJOY the issue!

— Ray

URGENT: HELP WANTED!
KUDOS KOLUMNIST
We are still searching for someone to write our monthly Kudos Kolumn.
It’s not hard. Simply compile all our Branch’s good news for the month into one place!
If you like spreading Good News — PLUS being the first to hear it, this is the job you’ve been waiting for!

PROGRAM REVIEWER!
Also urgently needed: Someone to write the “Last-Month-in-Review” column.
Our Speakers are not paid. The least we can do is review their presentations.

Just contact Stephanie or Ray.

A Big Thank You
To Peter Brothers for the goodies, and to Peter and Mark-Paul Sebar for helping with the February set-up.

Much appreciated!

THANK YOU
Earn a Thank You — Volunteer!
Give a Thank You!
Tell us about someone who’s helped!

FREE BEER!!
Setting up for meetings is a large task. If you can help, please come at 11:30.
You’ll get to hobnob with friends, help the Club and earn our eternal gratitude.
(OK. We lied about the beer.)
California Writers Club
Literary Review

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

A New Publishing Opportunity Knocks

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

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

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

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

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

We are excited about this venture, another value in club membership, and have aspirations that will see the review on shelves in bookstores and in e-distribution. Of course you are a big part of it, so join in and have fun. Send your work, limit 2 on a given submission, to Dave LaRoche, dalaroche@comcast.net by April 15, 2011, then sit back and watch our CWC Literary-Review grow.
MEETINGS ...
ON THE 3rd SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(September — June)
AT ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Hannibal Hall
7136 Winnetka Avenue, Winnetka – South of Sherman Way
(Directions & Map on last page)

UPCOMING MEETINGS
April: Deborah R. Magnus — Author Success Workshop
May: Linda Ballou — “Make Travel Writing Work for You”
June: Eric Stone — “Taking Your Novel From Idea To Finished Work”

SUBMISSIONS
Members are encouraged to submit writing contributions to The Valley Scribe. This is your newsletter, and you should be part of it.

Submit your prose and poetry to cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com.
Please type “SUBMISSION” in the subject line.
If submitting a hard copy, please bring it to the meeting and hand it to the Editor, Ray Malus, or to the President.

- Articles/Essays:
  - 500 words or less
  - 800 words or less
- Short Stories:
  - Limited to 40 lines
- Poetry:

Submission deadline is one week after the monthly Open Meetings.

The Editor (or President) has license to accept or reject any work submitted based on available space or editing problems. All submissions must include an e-mail address or a phone number. Writings will not be returned and may be included in future issues.

GUEST DONATIONS
Non-members attending meetings, are asked to pay a $5 (tax deductible) donation. New membership is immediate upon application at door. For more information, contact Lenora Smalley, VP-Membership, at the meeting entrance or e-mail membership@cwc-sfv.org.

UPCOMING MEMBER SHOWCASE
April 16, 2011
Lenora Smalley

Go to TOC
ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
7136 WINNETKA AVE
CANOGA PARK, CA 91306

From San Fernando Valley
Take 101 Fwy to Valley. Exit Winnetka. Go
North (From Hollywood, turn right. From
Ventura, turn left) past Vanowen (almost to
Sherman Way). Church is on East side (right
side) 1 Bl. before Sherman Way.

From Simi
Take 118 Fwy to Valley. Exit DeSoto. Go
South to Sherman Way. Turn East to Winnet-
ka. Turn South 1 block. Church is on East side
(left side) 1 Bl. after Sherman Way.
Walk into the campus. Hannibal Hall is at
North end.