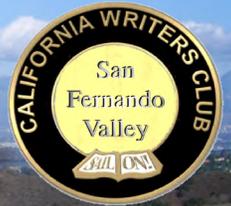




The Newsletter Of The San Fernando Valley Branch

The Valley Scribe

"Our Members' Voices"



Vol. 6

July, 2013 (Special July/August Interim Issue)

No. 0

Next Meeting August 3, 1:00!



President's Message

Nance Crawford

There's always challenge in change, and the leap from being a member of a group that has successfully re-organized and revitalized itself during the past two years, to President of that selfsame group is an awesome responsibility. It's not a job that can be done alone and I am very grateful that so many of my fellow members are willing to step up and help steer the ship.

Retiring Scribe Editor Kathy Highcove did a thorough job of presenting the Board in the June issue, reporting changes in volunteer's positions and the slate presented for election but, for those who missed the issue, among elected Board members, Andrea Polk continues as Vice President/ Membership Chair; Mary Freeman (a founding member of CWC-SFV) is Treasurer; Rita Keeley Brown, Program Chair, now has the assistance of Karen Gorback; and returning member Gabriella (Gabe) Owens was elected Secretary.

Gary Wosk has stepped in to handle Public Relations. His access to the media has already resulted in impressive local coverage of the election and I've no doubt that his enthusiasm and industry will generate a higher profile for CWC-SFV and help increase interest from potential new members.

I have asked Ray Malus, our Webmaster, to fill in as interim Editor of the Scribe.

The new Board recently met informally. Although most of the other branches of CWC meet once a month, the tradition at CWC-SFV has been to take off the months of July and August because attendance had been seen to drop off during those two months. Since our fiscal year actually runs from July 1 to June 30, and MPTF has granted us use of our meeting place year-round, we'd like to give a year-round meetings another chance.

Since it's a little late to plan a general membership meeting for July, when the new Board meets officially for the first time, it was decided to focus on August.

A MEET 'N' GREET FINGER-FOOD POT LUCK! Chips - Dips - Cookies - Cheese 'n' Crackers - Crisp Veggies - whatever your heart desires, bring it along! We'll figure out how to use the coffee pot and I'll bring my punch bowl and fill it with Granna's Snappy Hollywood Punch (tart, fruity and dee-licious!). Plenty of time to visit, exchange info, and get to know each other better.

Save 1 p.m., Saturday, August 3rd! We're gonna Party Down! — Nance

Don'ts and Dues

DON'T forget that CWC is a really great bunch!

DON'T forget that we would miss you if you went away.

DON'T forget that nobody really understands you but us.

DON'T forget to bring your renewal **DUES** to the August 3rd meeting.

DO plan to join us!

In This Issue

Feature

Page

(Click on title to jump to item)

To all my friends who served on the CWB-SFV board with me, 2011-2013

Thank you (and the club) for the beautifully inscribed journal and pen set. It adds such class to my new roll-top desk.

I will use it as a constant reminder to write every day.

And, of course, each time I do write, I will think of all of you with whom it was a privilege to work these past two years.

I know you will keep the ship on course.

Fondly,
Yolanda

A "thank you" from a Great Lady.

Yolanda Fintor retires as President (returns to actually writing) after two years at the helm.

Thank us?
No. Thank YOU!

and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clear winner.

His final challenge was this: Some say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. Please explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand.

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. But, when you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

His answer was received with a standing ovation lasting over 5 minutes and it entitled him to receive an invitation to dine with the Queen, who decided to call him after the contest.

He won a trip to travel around the world in style and a case of 25 year-old El Dorado rum for his answer. -mm-

"... even if it didn't happen."

(Occasionally, when they merit it, we will re-print anonymous squibs we find on the Internet. We make no claim for their actually having occurred. We simply HOPE they did. In the words of Ken Kesey, "... it's a true story, even if it didn't happen.")

Complete Vs. Finished

It has been said that no English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.

However, in a recent linguistic conference held in London, England,

**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH**

The San Fernando Valley Branch is one of nineteen 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.

Order In The Court!

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Ray Malus. I was Editor of *The Valley Scribe* from September of 2009 until June of 2011. I have been asked to assume that position again.

Before beginning, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Kathy for her hard work. She has earned a rest.

When I became Editor four years ago, I printed what is below in the very first issue. Almost all of it is still valid. (I have marked the passages that do not apply, but have included the entire text for accuracy.)

From Your (New) Editor

Being a fan of "Citizen Kane," I feel it is traditional to start my tenure with a statement to you all. My name is Ray Malus, and I am your new editor.

I am not an editor by nature. Rather, I am a writer — the natural prey of editors (C'mon, you editors, it's a joke!) — so it is with some trepidation that I take on this task. *[I have one advantage: I am not replacing an existing editor (Ethel Ann was generous enough to act as "Temporary Editor," and did a wonderful job), so]* hopefully I will not be facing conflicting loyalties and comparisons.

So what are my aims as editor?

Well, two: I would like "The Valley Scribe" to present a dynamic and attractive face to the community at large — to reflect the energy and creativity of our membership. I would also like it to be a "lab," where our writers can experiment and explore the boundaries of literature.

I will not be working alone. We have a staff, both credited and un-credited, that will assist in this: proofreaders, columnists, and — most important — contributors. You.

As editor, I feel it is our job to insure that published pieces are within certain guidelines of punctuation, grammar, spelling, formatting, layout, and... — well that's about it. Content is mostly your affair. Your name is on the piece. We assume you carefully think out the ideas you express, the words and phrases you choose. We will try never to change these.

Within very broad guidelines (and space permitting), we will try to publish what you submit faithfully. On rare occasions, we may suggest changes. If you do not wish to accept them, we will either publish as submitted or (in exceptional cases) drop the piece. We will not re-write.

We recognize that our membership has a broad spectrum of sensibilities. However, we also believe that a "Writers' Publication" should allow as much latitude in content as possible. Therefore, occasionally, controversial pieces will be put in a supplement — at the very end of the newsletter — called "For The Adult or Curious." If you are neither, simply skip this section.

Please understand that "proofing" and "paste-up" are complicated and arduous processes. Therefore, submissions MUST be received within ten days after the monthly meeting. *[Publication will be the second week of the month.]*

We also strongly encourage you to discuss our content during social breaks at our meetings. Acknowledge contributors, and be generous! Mean-spirited criticism is never heard.

In this spirit of generosity, I am announcing a CONTEST. (YAY!) The first person to give me a hard time will win! The prize? You will be appointed the new Editor of "The Valley Scribe!"

Good luck. =m=

The Valley Scribe is distributed to each of our members — as well as to the Presidents and Newsletter Editors of eighteen other CWC Branches. The newsletter itself represents our Branch, but its *contents* represent *you*. Its purposes are to inform you, and to inform others *about you*.

You can hold me to these promises:

We will try to publish whatever you submit.

We will not 'improve' your work without your consent. Your name is on the work; your reputation is on the line. (However, if you misstate a fact, we will ask if you want to correct it.)

You retain ownership of your work. You are granting us one time permission to publish your piece. Requests from other publications for permission to re-print will be forwarded to you.

We will print essays and opinion pieces, as long as they are of general interest and are not inflammatory or

& WHAT WE NEED

WHAT WE WANT

This is a sad, lonely issue. (That's why I labeled it "Vol. 6 No. 0.")

It suffers from two huge faults:

1. There's not much in it.
2. What *is* in it is mostly from me.

I promise to try to not let this happen again.

But you will have to do your part.

Here are some of the regular features we'd like to see in *The Scribe*:

This Month's Program — a really enticing description of why people should attend the next meeting. (*Rita Brown has volunteered to do this.*)

Last Month's Program — This is a courtesy to our Speaker and a service to future members of the Branch. (It needs a positive approach — and could rotate.)

President's Message — I think we already have a volunteer for this one.

.ORG ("dot-org") — A monthly column about our website and its capabilities. (I'll take this.)

TO MARKET — Publishing possibilities and contacts. This used to be one of our finest columns, but the member retired. **WE NEED THIS!** (And the columnist gets a one-year subscription to *Writer's Market!*)

KUDOS — Everyone likes a pat on the head, and everyone's success encourages us all. This columnist simply serves as a focal point for good news.

Monthly Member Website — This column features a different member website each month.

(If you'd like to see examples of these, go to the archived [May 2011 issue](#) on our website.)

We need an editorial staff: columnists for these features, proof-readers, and someone with a color printer for a few hard copies each month.

If you can take on any of these duties, and are at all interested, please contact me at cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com. Don't worry about experience; we'll provide it.

For now, We are seeking volunteers. Coercion will follow. -rm-

(*'Order...' cont'd from pg. 3*)

defamatory.

We are promoting community not conflict.

We will need to be judicious in printing 'sales' or 'promotional' pieces, but brief 'success' announcements and triumphs are welcome.

Members may be represented by one piece of prose, or — up to — two short poems, each month (space permitting).

Members who serve additional functions may also submit pieces dealing with those functions. For example, if you are Membership Chair and Critique Group Coordinator, you could submit a Membership article, a Critique Group Review *and* a piece of 'Creative Writing.'

Here are guidelines for submissions:

Articles/Essays	500 words or fewer
Short Stories	800 words or fewer
Poetry	40 lines maximum

Deadline is two weeks after the regular meeting.

These guidelines have some flexibility. This is not 'Open Mic,' and we will not chop your essay at the five-hundredth word.

But try to work within the spirit of these rules!

If there is call for it, we will occasionally print supplements, where those of us who create larger works can share samples of them.

As writers, we are fiercely independent. But as an organization, we are communal. One of the hallmarks of a community is 'sharing.' We encourage you to share your work with us all in *The Valley Scribe*. -rm-

The Scribe and 'Publication.'

I gather there have been questions about how publication in *The Scribe* affects your submission standing with other publishers.

My opinion is this: It will vary with the editor/publisher in question.

Certainly, you should disclose the fact that the piece was published in *The Scribe*.

(And no, I do not agree that changing one word makes it a "new piece." That's just

'weaseling.' We're better than that! Just tell them! If it matters to them, so be it!)

Should this constrain you from submitting? Well of course that's up to you.

Is everything you write for sale or for competition?

Writing for your own pleasure and the pleasure of others is a luxury you owe yourself.

Share yourself! We want to read what you write. -rm-

*Most of us will recognize this poem.
Many can even recite the last few lines.
But how many of us have actually read the whole (very short) work?
Please!
Indulge yourself
— and be reminded of the transcendent power of words.
THIS is what we can do!*

**THE NEW COLOSSUS
EMMA LAZARUS**

**NOT LIKE THE BRAZEN GIANT OF GREEK FAME,
WITH CONQUERING LIMBS ASTRIDE FROM LAND TO LAND;
HERE AT OUR SEA-WASHED, SUNSET GATES SHALL STAND
A MIGHTY WOMAN WITH A TORCH, WHOSE FLAME
IS THE IMPRISONED LIGHTNING, AND HER NAME
MOTHER OF EXILES. FROM HER BEACON-HAND
GLOWS WORLD-WIDE WELCOME; HER MILD EYES COMMAND
THE AIR-BRIDGED HARBOR THAT TWIN CITIES FRAME.
"KEEP, ANCIENT LANDS, YOUR STORIED POMP!" CRIES SHE
WITH SILENT LIPS. "GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR,
YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE,
THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE.
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST-TOST TO ME,
I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR!"**

SoCal Writers' Showcase

*California Writers Club has a new Website specifically for the
showcasing of work by our Southern California writers.*

It is actively soliciting contributions.

Check it out at:

<http://socalwritersshowcase.com>

Look for more details in our September Issue.

The Bulletin Board

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 Andrea Polk, VP-Membership, at the meeting entrance or e-mail andipolk4@gmail.com.

MEETINGS

ARE HELD AT 1:00 P.M. ON THE 1st SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
Katzenberg Pavilion, Motion Picture & Television Fund
23388 Mulholland Drive, Woodland Hills, CA 91364
(Directions & Map on last page)

UPCOMING MEETINGS
August 3rd, 1 p.m. — Members' Meet 'n' Greet

Check our Website CWC-SFV.ORG

ATTENTION! CWC LITERARY REVIEW

is now accepting submissions.
Submission window is from JULY 1 through AUGUST 30.
Prose: 2500 words or fewer.
Poetry: 40 lines or fewer.
For details, see www.calwriters.org?s=lit+review

[SoCal Writers' Showcase](#)
is soliciting submissions.

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, Nance Crawford.

- 500 words or fewer
- 800 words or fewer
- Limited to 40 lines

Submission deadline is two weeks after the monthly General Meeting.

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.

BIRTHDAYS!

July

- Ethel Ann Shaffer 4th
- Gary Wosk 12th
- Bill Hitchens 27th
- Karen Gorback 30th

August

- Gabriella Owens 9th
- Kathy Highcove 11th

The Fine Print

**San Fernando Valley Branch
of California Writers Club
meets at:**

Motion Picture Television Fund
Katzenberg Pavillion
23388 Mulholland Drive
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Directions

From the 101 Freeway exit on Mulholland Drive South, go south to 23388 Mulholland Drive. Turn right onto Steven Spielberg Drive, then turn left and follow the route to the large parking lot on the left for Villa Katzenberg.

(If you are stopped by the MPTF Security, tell the official that you are attending a CWC meeting.)

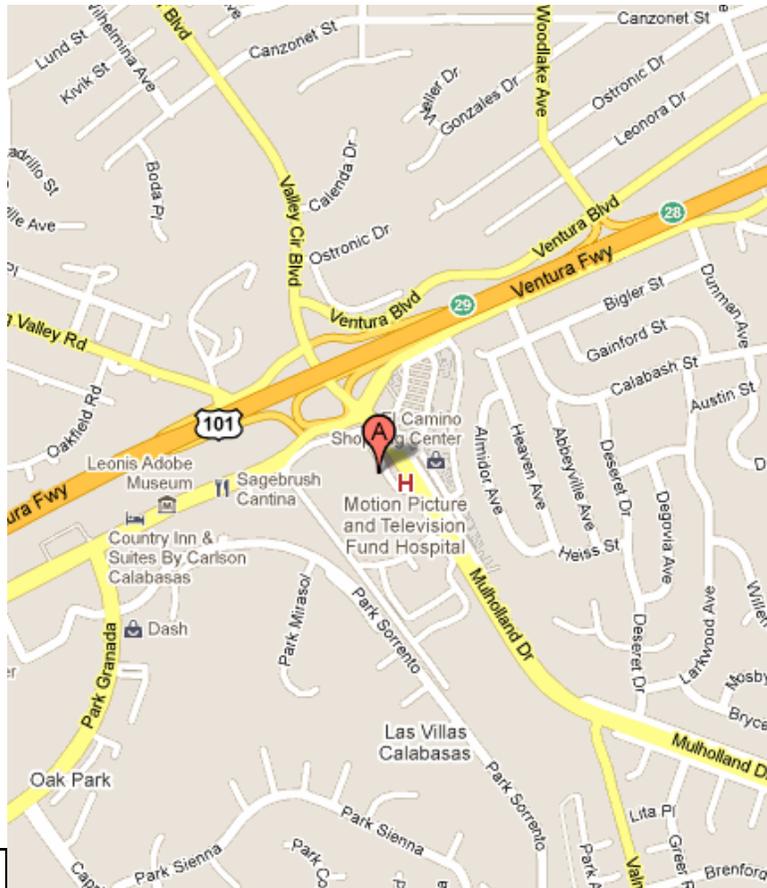
Parking is free in any of the lots.

(Please do NOT park on any of the streets.

You will be ticketed!)

Interactive maps at:

<http://cwc-sfv.org/Meetings/Location.php>



The Valley Scribe

The Newsletter of the
San Fernando Valley Branch
of
California Writers Club

is published monthly.

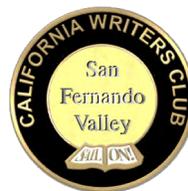
We solicit submissions from members.
(See Bulletin Board: "SUBMISSIONS")

Editor
[Ray Malus](#)

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**California Writers Club
San Fernando Valley Branch**

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LOTS of great information at our
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