Next Meeting August 3, 1:00!

There’s always a 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 have 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 de-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

President’s Message
Nance Crawford

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!

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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.

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!

“... 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, 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. -=rm=-

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!
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. -=rm=-

*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
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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 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.

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.

The Scribe and ‘Publication.’

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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.
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-SFY.ORG

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.
For details, see www.calwriters.org/s=lit-review

SoCal Writers’ Showcase is soliciting submissions.
See SoCal Showcase, pg. 5

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

BIRTHDAYS!
July
Ethel Ann Shaffer 4th
Gary Wosk 12th
Bill Hitchens 27th
Karen Gorback 30th
August
Gabriella Owens 9th
Kathy Highehove 11th

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

Motion Picture Television Fund
Katzenberg Pavilion
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

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The Newsletter of the
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We solicit submissions from members.
(See Bulletin Board: “SUBMISSIONS”)

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Staff
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Columnists Nance Crawford, Ray Malus
Staff Photographer

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California Writers Club
San Fernando Valley Branch

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & BOARD MEMBERS

President, Nance Crawford Nance@NanceCrawford.com
VP-Membership, Andrea Polk andipolk4@gmail.com
VP-Programs, Rita Brown ritakeeleybrown@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Mary Freeman mfreeman2207@yahoo.com
Secretary, Gabriella Owens spoiledgrrrapes@att.net
Central Board Rep., Ray Malus cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com
Pre-Session Leader, Bill Sorrells N/A
Publicity, Gary Wosk slider105@earthlink.net
Webmaster, Ray Malus cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com
Newsletter Editor, Ray Malus cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com

LOTS of great information at our
Website:
www.cwc-sfv.org