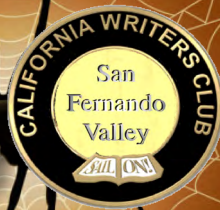




The Newsletter of The San Fernando Valley Branch

The Valley Scribe

"Our Members' Voices"



Vol. 6

October, 2013

No. 2

Next Meeting: October 5, 1:00!



October's Speaker:

Joan Blacher, PhD.

"Solving the Mystery."

by Rita Keeley Brown

Love a good mystery?

Always wondered how mystery authors come up with all those chilling plots, unforgettable characters, and surprise endings?

Don't miss the CWC-SFV meeting on Saturday, October 5th! We are excited to have Dr. Joan Blacher share her secrets with us in her presentation "Solving the Mystery."

Dr. Blacher is a practicing psychotherapist and an author of many mystery stories as well as numerous articles for education journals, magazines, newspapers. She has been interviewed on NPR radio and also served on and chaired many vital commissions such as the Ventura County Mental Health Board and the Council Against Domestic Abuse. With all her expertise and experience she also co-authored an important book entitled *Difficult Teens: A Parents' Guide for Coping*, for which the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists awarded Dr. Blacher its Carl Vincent Award for her literary contributions to mental health.

Regarding mystery writing she points out, "Mystery writers are illusionists, doing lots of slight-of-hand tricks as they lay out their tales of murder and mayhem riddled with clues, red herrings, twists and turns, and unexpected zigs and zags. Their goal is, of course, to mystify the reader until the shocking end." With her understanding of the 'human animal' and her talent for writing you can look forward to an exciting adventure into the world of mystery writing and how to create and bring all those puzzle pieces to conclusion. Two of her mystery book titles are *Murder Canyon* and *Lethal Lake*.

Remembering Betty

by Yolanda Fintor

Betty Freeman's memorial plaque has been installed in the library of Stark Villa, the residential building where Betty lived until her death in the spring of 2012. The Stark Villa is just across the courtyard from Katzenberg Pavilion.

Ellen Hawkins of the Motion Picture and Television Fund is planning a short dedication ceremony in the library on October 5, just before our meeting, from 12:00 - 12:30. Punch and cookies will be served.

California Writers Club-San Fernando Valley was the first California Writers Club branch to be chartered in Southern California. (There are now six more.) Betty was co-founder of CWC-SFV and was a driving force in the growth of the club. But Betty was so much more, and tributes to her and her accomplishments can be found in the April, 2012 special issue of the Scribe.

Due to Betty's efforts and love of CWC-SFV, we have the use of the beautiful meeting room in the Villa Katzenberg.

Thank you, Betty.

In This Issue

Feature

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(Click on title to jump to item)



Kendall T. Jones:

E - I - E - I - Uh-Oh!

First, let me say that Kendall Jones is among our finest speakers. She is charming, energetic, and — above all — knowledgable. In short, she is a treat!

However none of these qualities could ameliorate the substance of her presentation: “Contracts are a minefield.”

Jones started simply enough, and on a highly positive note. The message was, “There’s more money in the world than there are good ideas. Writers should, and can, be in control of their own intellectual property.”

She went on to delineate the differences between ‘Services Contracts’ (Freelance Writing Contract, Independent Contractor/ Work for Hire, Writer’s Services Agreement [WGA]) where the writer has virtually no rights, and ‘Rights Contracts’ where the writer retains his rights.

She reminded us all that, “If one person wants what you write, others will too.” and emphasized, “Everything is negotiable.”

She went on to liken the licensing of intellectual property to farming: You can sell the farm, or you can lease it to someone, or you can pay someone to run it for you.

She gave us sources for sample contracts from which to start. It seemed like a fairly simple procedure — if *you* write the contract.

But then we moved into situations where a more apt metaphor would probably have been ‘Underwater Treasure Hunting.’ Here, sharks cruise and needle-toothed moray eels lurk in innocent-looking crevasses. It seems that, as in the ‘Sierra Madre,’ trust goes out the window when there’s “gold in them thar hills.” Blindly signing a contract can cost you lots of money and, even more

important, the recognition you deserve.

Jones explained how even trivial agreements can contain hidden booby-traps for the unwary. She postulated Kendall’s Rule: “GOBBLEDYGOOK is NOT necessary!!!!”

Indeed, many of the pitfalls she illustrated *were* concealed in verbose, confusing paragraphs. But not all.

Much of the peril comes from specialized jargon that has little meaning to the novice. Jones went over some of these terms:

Confidentiality/ Trade Secrets/ Non-Disclosure
Exclusivity
Assignability
Independent Contractor/ Work for Hire/ Rights
REVERSION OF RIGHTS
Indemnification/ Warranties
Credits
Residuals
Moral Rights

(She was very thorough. Unfortunately, space — and my limited note-taking — precludes my expanding on this.)

She was concise when defining what every contract should include:

EVERY CONTRACT SHOULD STATE:
WHO are the Parties?
WHEN does the Agreement become Effective?
HOW LONG does the Agreement last?
HOW AND WHEN does the writer get paid?
WHO owns the rights?
WHAT are the parties’ obligations?
WHAT is a breach and what happens then?

Jones then spent some time discussing Representation Agreements. She endorsed Agents (‘ten-percenters’), who are regulated, but advised caution with higher-percentage, unregulated ‘Managers.’ She approved of Publicists, who work for ‘flat-fees.’

Given all this, you might conclude that one very good solution to this angst is to actually have contracts reviewed by your own attorney.

Jones agrees, and advises:

NOT ALL ATTORNEYS ARE CREATED EQUAL!
NOT ALL ATTORNEYS WILL TAKE ALL OF YOUR MONEY!

NEGOTIATE!!!! Flat Fees are GREAT for writers!
LOOK ONLINE for form contracts.

Use cheap online resources like Rocket Lawyer.
Don’t try to get attorney advice beyond an initial consultation for free.

Understand that entertainment lawyers are connected throughout the business and can help you. Be nice to them!

Entertainment law is a vast and complex subject. Kendall Jones explains it simply, cogently and entertainingly. I am certain we will ask her to return many times.

As a matter of fact, I have this contract in my pocket....=m=

More information about Kendall T. Jones can be found at:
<http://www.kendalljoneslaw.com/about.html>.

CWC Embraces Community

by: Georgina Tagliere

CWC-SFV actively reaches out to nearby communities in Calabasas, Agoura, Thousand Oaks and West Lake Village to bring new talent of all ages into our membership program. Fresh new talent is not only the future but the new pulse of the organization. What? I guess the Tin Man (CWC- SFV) got a new heart!

Their most recent endeavor occurred last month when CWC- SFV joined forces with *The Acorn* newspaper to announce the winners of the 100 word Fiction contest. About 300 contestants submitted their short manuscripts covering romance, adventure, drama and science fiction topics. The winners were broken down into two categories; those 18 and under and those 18 and over.

John Loesing, who is *The Acorn* Managing Editor, proudly announced the



*The winners (l. to r.)
Kritin Karkare, Taylor Boyd,
John Loesing, Daniel Huang*

following winners, beginning with Taylor Boyd, 14, who wrote *In With*

the Rain, a touching story of her grandmother drenched in the rain while going back in time to where she is young again! In the 18 and over category, Daniel Huang, 41, received his award for writing *Slag*, an action story about a group of snails going to war against the Spiders! Perhaps they were black widows? Also introduced was Kritin Karkare, who won the junior award in the Thousand Oaks region.

A total of 10 first-place winners were selected for the Acorn's newspaper chains, each receiving a \$50 prize with their biography in the newspaper.

After announcing the winners, existing members were inspired by the vast talent that our future youth possess. We're thrilled to gain Taylor Boyd and Daniel Huang as new members of the CWC- SFV. More is yet to come! .gt.



*John Loesing
Announcing the awards.*

A HUGE Thank You to
Gary Wosk, Gabriella Owens, Rita Keeley Brown and Karen Gorback for the REFRESHMENTS.

This is BOOK FAIR year!

Celebrate the Holidays and our CWC-SFV Recently Published Authors.

by Rita Keeley Brown

Every other year CWC-SFV holds a Book Fair when any paid member who has published a book in the last two years can give a 3-minute talk about their book and have table space reserved for the sale of their book(s). This year it will be held as our December 7th meeting event. Please contact Rita Keeley Brown or Karen Gorback before November 1st to reserve a place if you wish to participate. More details will be forthcoming, but we need you to notify us ASAP as space and time are limited. As a presenting author you will be re\$ponsible for all monetary con\$ideration\$. The information we need now is your name, title/s of your book/s, genre, and date of publication. Additional features of the Book Fair will be described later. We ask that you get in touch with Rita at ritakeeleybrown@yahoo.com or Karen at Karen.gorback@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Watch for more Book Fair news!



President's Message Nance Crawford

How terrific to be able to write that the September meeting was a rip-roaring success, with Acorn Managing Editor Jim Loesing presenting the local "Fiction in a Nutshell" award winners, and the return appearance of Attorney Kendall Jones.

This upcoming year may put paid to the adage, "writing is a lonely business," for those of us who will want to take advantage of the many activities becoming available to us, both individually and as a group.

The Memorial Plaque honoring the late Betty Freeman is now in place, and MPTF is planning a short dedication ceremony on *October 5th*. If you would like to attend, please be on the patio, near the Membership table *shortly before noon*, and Yolanda Fintor will guide us to the library. (Sign-ups for Open Mike will begin at 12:30, as usual.)

Writers' conferences are happening all over the Southland, and we have been invited to participate as sponsors at one of the newest and best, the Digital Author and Self-Publishing Conference, at Valley College, October 12 & 13.

Members who help staff the CWC-SFV table will get super perks! Hurry! There are limited slots. See the announcement, check out the Program of Events at <http://www.wcwriters.com/da/program.html>, then call Yolanda Fintor to schedule your time. The first four members who respond will be able to attend conference seminars free! If you're at our table until lunch break, you can brown-bag - or pay the nominal \$20 fee for lunch and the Keynote Speaker of the day; if you choose an afternoon shift, the same will apply, in reverse: attend morning sessions, join the luncheon (or not) and put in your time at the table in the afternoon.

It's a pleasure to thank Anne Haskell for accepting the position of Hospitality Chair.



The Annual Digital Author and Self-Publishing Conference

Saturday and Sunday, October 12-13, 2013

Los Angeles Valley College

The Digital Author and Self-Publishing Conference is a full weekend focused on the new paradigms for authors in an increasingly digital world where the publishing giants are Amazon, Apple, Book Baby, Smashwords, and other digital resources, rather than the "Big Five" Publishers. The conference offers highly informative, educational and inspirational sessions tailored for today's authors, presented in a progressive manner, so you learn all weekend.

**For details, or to register,
go to**

<http://www.wcwriters.com/da/program.html>

**Remember to check out (and send submissions to)
our CWC-South Showcase website:**

<http://www.socalwritersshowcase.com/>



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

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represents fiction and nonfiction mss. They're seeking fiction that includes adventure, comic books, ethnic, experimental, fantasy, historical, humor, multicultural, mystery, poetry, science fiction, suspense, and young adult material. They're particularly open to nonfiction alternative lifestyles, Americana, animals, creative nonfiction, environment, ethnic, foods, gardening, memoirs, military, multicultural, nature, nutrition, politics, recreation, regional, spirituality, sports, war, women's issues, world affairs, and young adult material. For poetry, submit 3 sample poems and all queries to contact@shipwrecktbooks.com.

Responds to queries within a month. All unsolicited manuscripts will be returned unopened.

Contact Info: P.O. Box 20, Lanesboro, MN 55949

E-mail: publisher@shipwrecktbooks.com.

Submission to: contact@shipwrecktbooks.com.

Website: <http://www.shipwrecktbooks.com>.

Imprints: Rocket Science Press (literary), Up On Big Rock Poetry Series, Lost Lake Folk Art (fee-based publishing).

GLASS PAGE BOOKS

Needs: strong fiction mss. including adventure, contemporary, fantasy, historical, humor, literary, mainstream, military, regional, religious, romance, science fiction, suspense, war, western, young adult, dramatic literature (modern, period, or historical), family saga, Christian fiction drama or personal testimony. Query with SASE for fiction submissions. Nonfiction- autobiography, biography- Please query with SASE for nonfiction submissions.

"Please provide a verifiable author bio with all queries." Contact: Pamela Alexander, owner/publisher. Ms guidelines available online at website. Responds in 1 month to queries, proposals, and mss. Pays 25% royalty on wholesale and retail price. 10-12 published titles per year.

Imprint publishes 5-6 titles per year.

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THE CHARITON REVIEW SHORT FICTION PRIZE

Truman State University Press

100 East Normal Ave., Kirksville, MO 63501-4221

E-mail: chariton@truman.edu.

Website: <http://tsup.truman.edu>.

An annual award for the best unpublished short fiction on any theme up to 5,000 words in English.

Prize: \$1,000 and publication in The Chariton Review for the winner. Three finalists will also be published in the Spring issue.

Costs: Include a nonrefundable reading fee of \$20 for each ms submitted. Make check payable to Truman State University Press.

Needs: short stories.

Mss must be double-spaced on standard paper and bound only with a clip. Electronic submissions are not allowed. Include 2 title pages: 1 with the ms title and the author's contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail), and the other with only the ms title. (The author's name must not appear on or within the ms.)

"Enclose a SASE if you want to be notified when your ms is received. Mss will not be returned."

THE 49TH PARALLEL POETRY AWARD

Western Washington University

Mail Stop 9053, Bellingham, WA 98225

E-mail: bhreview@wwu.edu.

Website: www.bhreview.org.

Prize: \$1,000.

Costs: \$18 (\$10 for each additional entry).

Poetry: The annual 49th Parallel Poetry Award offers 1st Prize of \$1,000, plus publication in and a year's subscription to Bellingham Review. Runners-up and finalists may be considered for publication. Submissions must be unpublished and not accepted for publication elsewhere. Considers simultaneous submissions, but work must be withdrawn from the competition if accepted for publication elsewhere. Submit up to 3 poems. "Poems within a series will each be treated as a separate entry." For each entry, include a 3x5 index card stating the title of the work, the category (poetry), the poet's name, phone number, address, and e-mail.

"Make sure writing is legible on this card. Author's name must not appear anywhere on the manuscript."

Include SASE for results only.

Deadline: April 1.

Member Website Showcase

Dr. Gagik Melikyan: <http://www.csun.edu/gmelikyan/>

Usually, to qualify for this review, a member needs his own domain on the web. But Dr. Melikyan's case is a little different. His home page is hosted at CSUN, and rightly so.

Dr. Melikyan is a prestigious Professor and researcher at that University. He is also a member of CWC-SFV, and the author of, *Guilty Until Proven Innocent*, a report (actually, an *exposé*) on food and cosmetic additives.

This makes his site very different from most members' (including my own) in that it is not a 'vanity' site. You will not find a lot of links to other pages containing his poetry, short stories, vignettes, or books for sale.

The site is really only about two things: The man and the book. You will find a lot of information and links about Dr. Melikyan's credentials and his crusade to inform the public about chemical additives. (I have read his book, and recommend it. However, this is a review of his website, not his writing.)

As you would expect from a website hosted by a major university, the site is very 'clean' and well organized. The design is restful to the eye. Links are in simple tables, with no drop-downs or animations.

The page is equally divided between Dr. Melikyan and his teaching activities, and the book.

Although the book is prominently featured, the user doesn't feel 'hyped,' or 'over-sold.' There just seems to be an honest attempt to get you to read it and evaluate its findings.

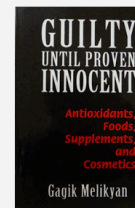
Dr. Melikyan is unusual in our club, in that he doesn't seem to primarily be promoting an author or book. Instead, he is promoting information. He is a sincere journalist and researcher, using publication to alert the public to something which concerns him — a time-honored tradition, perhaps not honored enough. --rm--

California State University
Northridge



Melikyan research

New book on antioxidants



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[Curriculum vitae](#)

[Publications](#)

[Book chapters & Reviews](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Research productivity](#)

This book is the only one on the market that tells the truth about antioxidants, natural compounds, green tea, red wine, coffee, hair color, food supplements, sunscreen lotions, and parabens, which are widely used in cosmetic formulations.

The book is written for the general public, and also for professionals from academia, food industry, government agencies, public and university libraries, consumer protection and advocacy groups.

Every household in the country should have "Guilty Until Proven Innocent," because reading it will become a truly eye-opening experience. [The book is available through Amazon, \\$29.99 \(incl. tax & S & H\), and also from the Mator bookstore on CSUN campus.](#)

[Sample chapter & Preface](#)

[Book outline](#)

[Why this book is so special](#)

[Why should everyone read this book](#)

[Quotes & Readers comments](#)

August MEET & GREET Contest

We received several entries for our little contest. Doug Douglas and Judy Presnall both tied, with perfect scores. Doug 'won the toss' and was awarded a copy of *Ashes In Yonkers*. (No awards ceremony is planned.)

(Correct answers are on right.)



- | | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 1 - Ester Benjamin Shifren | 1=P |
| 2 - Betty Bross | 2=M |
| 3 - Peter Brothers | 3=K |
| 4 - Nance Crawford | 4=J |
| 5 - Doug Douglas | 5=L |
| 6 - Yolanda Fintor | 6=R |
| 7 - Howard Goldstein | 7=S |
| 8 - Pirhiya Goldstein | 8=Q |
| 9 - Sherry Lynn Harris | 9=E |
| 10 - Leslie Kaplan | 10=H |
| 11 - Marganit Lish | 11=B |
| 12 - Normie Molesko | 12=D |
| 13 - Sylvia Molesko | 13=C |
| 14 - Sheila Moss | 14=A |
| 15 - Gabriella Owens | 15=N |
| 16 - Andrea Polk | 16=I |
| 17 - Lillian Rodich | 17=O |
| 18 - Bill Sorrells | 18=F |
| 19 - Georgina Tagliere | 19=G |
| 20 - David A Wetterberg | 20=T |
| 21 - Gary Wosk | 21=U |



Who Is It?

Very recently, you received an email containing your CWC User ID and Password. (It came from *Hypermart Form Processor*.) Using these, you can request a new Critique Group ('About Us->Critique Groups->Propose a NEW Group'), and re-write your Bio ('Membership->Member List and Photos->Edit Your Bio').

More important, these are your keys into the California Writers Club Member Record Management System (MRMS). This is a secure (hence the ID and Password), on-line data base that contains all our branch's membership records.

MRMS was instituted two years ago as a means to track our members, their status, and their payments. All this has been an enormous help to our Officers at both the Branch and State levels. But it also has some very powerful benefits for you, as a member:

1. You can look up other members in the On-line Directory.
2. You can maintain your own record.
3. Because it is secure, MRMS can offer services *exclusively* to members of CWC.

And it can restrict this by Division (i.e., 'NorCal' or 'CWC-South'), by Office (i.e., 'Treasurers only') by Branch (i.e., 'only SFV Members'), or by individual Member (i.e., 'only YOU').

Logging on is very easy. Simply go to our website (<http://cwc-sfv.org>). Find 'Members Only' near the bottom of any menu, and click on it. You will be taken to the MRMS portion of our site.

The first thing you will notice is that the *look* is different. Since MRMS is available to all Branches, it was tactful not to splash "San Fernando Valley" all over people's screens. We went with gold.

Near the top of the page, you will see a 'Picker' ("Choose Branch"), where you must select our Branch, 'San Fernando Valley.' (MRMS is available to all members, but our *Branch data is only available to us*.) Now enter your ID and Password, and click on 'Log In.' (Please

use copy/paste if your default password is difficult. You can change it once you've logged on.) You will arrive at the Member Directory page. (If you didn't choose a Branch, MRMS will nag you about it. You cannot log on without specifying one. Go ahead. Try. I'll wait.)

You are now at the On-line Directory. You may look up the Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address, and Genres for any of our Branch Members.

Simply enter part of the name in the box, and click on 'Search.' You will see *all* members that have this entry in either their first, middle or last names. (If you leave this blank, you will see *all* our members.) These will display five-at-a-time. You can use the 'Navigation' links ('First,' 'Previous,' 'Next,' 'Last' above the listing) to go through them.

You have other search choices. If you click where it says 'Name', you will see that you can also search by Genre, Birth Month (You didn't think I actually remembered everybody's Birthdays, did you?), Status, or Zip Code (really handy for setting up car pooling).

Next to the 'Search' button, you will see another that reads: "Edit My Record." Click on it, and you will see all your personal information. You can change any of it (in fact, *we encourage you* to keep it up-to-date), even your ID and Password. (Choose something hard to guess — easy to remember!)

There is even a little Picker (near the bottom of the page) that lets you 'Hide' your entry from other members. However, if you choose to do this, you will forfeit your MRMS privileges until you 'Un-Hide' your record again.

Remember to 'Submit' any changes you make.

(NOTE: Any time your record is changed, you will receive an email informing you of the change.)

The 'Log Out' button will take you back to our familiar San Fernando Valley pages.

There is one more very important button on this page.

Our Board wants very much to make our Branch what you want it to be. We are absolutely certain we know how to do this. We are just as certain that we're 90% wrong. We just don't know which 10% is right. So, we need your feedback.

Clicking on 'General Survey' will take you to our opinion poll. (I say 'our.' This poll is available to all members in all branches, but the results are 'segregated.' In other words, our dear friends in High Sierra branch may not care about 'Open Mic,' but if *you* do, the survey will tell us.

The survey is easy to take. It's mostly a bunch of 'On a scale of 0 – 9, how important is xxxx to you?' questions. You simply click on the value you want. You can stop in the middle, save your work, and continue later. Each of us has one individual copy of the survey. You can even go back and change your responses ("Hmmm. Maybe Open Mic *isn't* that great.")

Board Members can instantly look at a combined average for the Branch, and see how well we're serving you.

In the future, there will be more and different surveys.

We urge you to use the 'Members Only' section of the website. We urge you to take the survey. We urge you to use the On-line Member Directory — and to encourage you, next month, we'll show you some of the nifty things you can do with it. —rm—

An Interesting Exercise by Leslie Kaplan

“Okay! I can do this!” I take a deep breath and continue this conversation with myself before I walk into this dance hall. “Hold in your tummy, shoulders back, boobs up, tighten the butt. There!

Now...go for it!”

I’m wearing one of my daughter’s short perky little black dresses. It makes me feel young and flirty even though it’s been ages since I went to a singles dance... like about thirty years.

With my head held high and my best tall walk I head for the bar. Just as I’m about to order a confidence drink, I feel a tap on the shoulder. I turn to see an older looking gentleman with well cut silver hair wearing a well fitting suit on a tall, well managed body,

“Would you care to dance?”

I’ve come here to dance haven’t I? So without hesitation I say, “Yes.”

While leading me through a fox trot which he does well... as well... he begins to make small talk.

“Can you guess my age, lass?”

“No. Why? Would you like to tell me?”

“I’m proud to say that I’m ninety two and I go dancing every week. I eat very carefully... love the ladies... and...I have regular.... bowel movements!”

I swear!

We dance through a rhumba as he tells about his youth in Scotland, two wars, the wearing of kilts and showing no sign of weariness, while I’m ready to sit the next one out. I watch this gentleman dance the evening away with one lady after another. A charming character with a sweet Scottish brogue who will probably dance his way into infinity.

As I’m cooling down with a Kahlua and club soda, a much younger man approaches. He points to the dance floor, draws an invisible circle with his pointing finger, so I silently nod as we head for the dance floor.

Brown hair, tied back ponytail, baby face with blue eyes, he appears to be about thirty five or so. At about 5’8” I fit right into his strong arms, except... he has absolutely no sense of rhythm and keeps stepping on my toes. Twice so far.

“So waddeya do?”... he asks.

Tongue in cheek I reply.... “I sing.”

So he says, “That’s COOL!”

I’m praying that the music ends soon as we — thank God — dance in open position to a soft rock tune. I’m sure he cannot hear the beat as he wiggles his assets like a

fish out of water.

“So,” he says, “What else do ya do?”

“I.... DANCE.”

“That’s COOL!”

Before this dance is over I learn a few new pop phrases, like, “You look hot.”

This doesn’t mean, “I’m over heated.”

Or like, “You are cool.”

This doesn’t mean, “Put on a sweater.”

So much for the younger man!

Who could know that in the mid-life, by some quirk of fate, I would find myself single again. Too young for the old and too old for the young, but still a little “cool,” and sometimes even a little “hot.”

Couples of all ages, sizes and shapes circle around the floor in a merry-go-round maze of color in motion. As I watch this dancers’ parade, a third gentleman presents himself. Now this character is the spitting image of Adolph Hitler complete with hairstyle, mustache and a heavy German accent. I swear!

Not wanting to hurt his feelings, I accept.

He’s twirling me around in a Viennese waltz. I don’t have the nerve to say, “Do you know who you look like?” But I know he must be Adolph reincarnated, and Hitler is not anyone I dream of dancing with.

All in all, the evening is a charm, filled with characters that stories are made of. Occasionally, when the mood moves me, I will put on my silver dance shoes and head for a ballroom. I still love to dance and find it a great exercise.... in more ways than one.

We are pleased to announce that

Anne Hansell

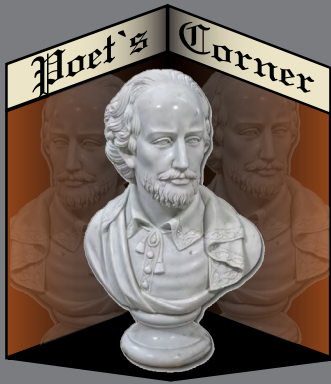
has agreed to serve as
HOSPITALITY CHAIR

And that Georgina Tagliere
(who helms our ‘TO MARKET’ column)
has agreed to also compile our
KUDOS COLUMN.

Please send your
Good News Announcements
(25 words or less)
to Georgina at:

stories4kids@yahoo.com

HUGE thanks to both of them.



I WAS THERE WITH GENERAL RABIN

by Norman (Normie) Molesko

*It was my sole encounter with the General,
who was the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.A.
He was on one of his fund-raising jaunts
that brought him to Connecticut in 1971.*

*He was standing next to his armed guard
in the living room of a rich person's home.
He shook hands with each of the dignitaries
who were lined up in a single queue of ten.*

*The words that ensued indicated to me
an external facade of shallow cordiality.
It was one dignitary following the other.
What was socially said was not profound.*

*The queuing and hand-shaking ended.
The General was standing there relieved,
only flanked by his trusty armed guard.*

The General had an appearance of being at ease.

*I had observed him from 20 feet across the room,
watching each movement made by the General.
Then his eyes met mine, We approached each other.
For ten good minutes we talked, our souls entwined.*

*His fund-raising meetings had been superficial in kind.
Our meaningful encounter was intimate up to the end.
I recall the comment General Rabin directed just to me.
He laughed and emphatically said, "You're a Mensch."*

You can check out Normie's monthly blog at
<http://homeboundresources.com/blog/category/tammys-team>

October Family Ghosts ***by Keyle Birnberg-Goldstein***

Like dark silhouettes at night
Ghosts come in bundles
Taking possession of memories
Left behind by old souls-

I fold things, hang-up clothes
Re-arrange heavy drawers
Hearing whispering old voices
Settling inside handkerchiefs and gloves-

Memories come creeping quietly
Into folds of yellowed shirts and scarfs-

Climbing up old stairs
Smelling dark-rich-coffee,
Fragrance teasing my nostrils
Just like Grandmas' did years ago...

I stop! Going directly into my past
A day I left many years ago...
Seeing maroon dark velvet drapes with
old dust
Grandmother's brocade-heavy-stuffed
sofas ...
With gold threads hanging uneven unto
the floor

The ghosts come all at once
Frail, paper-thin with yellow skin
Squeezing through the broken clay-roof
Allowing the gold-light-shreds
To filter sun patterns down below ...

However, I know
The ghosts are always there
Friendly and playful
Hiding behind old doors-

Chronicle of a Clarinet *Lillian Rodich*

musical notes imprinted
like coins of silver
on black ebony
a clarion voice yet to be heard

section by section
out of a red velvet box
one day put together
like pieces of a puzzle

a dusty store's mosaic of instruments
rentals and purchases
clarinets and piccolos
and a wide-eyed boy

a silent symphony
violins drums and clarinets
and printed sheets singing notes
to a wide-eyed and wondering boy

a price a purchase a treasure
a promise a future a friend
all held tightly in the hands
of an awkward and wide-eyed boy

and then
silver sonnets unsung
mouth pieces and reeds
agony of squeaks
painful in the midst
of clear and counted measures
and ragged breaths
fingers dancing
over a silver buttoned keyboard
the joy of a wide eyed boy

and then...
polished with pride and singing
with ten clarinets
and ten drums
marching around Poly's field
mellow notes' perfection
caressing sounds and trumpets calling
youths like toy soldiers in perfect harmony
the tallest one a wide-eyed boy

and then
no voice no measured breath
no music past his lips
a dulled silver and ebony clarinet
packed into a worn red velvet case
a cherished dream
reluctantly surrendered to the past
by a wide-eyed youth

and then
friend to friend
a gift given,
carefully reassembled to life
in glittering perfection
a soldier in an Army Band
notes swelling across the sea
still singing,
realizing a life of its own
while a wide-eyed man remembers



• 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

October 5th, 1 p.m. — Solving the Mystery.
Open Mic: 12:30 p.m. (Sign-ups start at 12:00)
Website CWC-SFV.ORG

Do YOU have a website?
Be the
'Member Website of the Month'!
Send your URL to:
cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com

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

Articles/Essays
Short Stories
Poetry

Submission deadline is the FIFTEENTH of the previous month. ("Beware the Ides....")

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!

October
Pirhiya Goldstein 20th
David A Wetterberg 29th

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. Proceed to Steven Spielberg Drive and turn right into the campus.

(If questioned at the gate, tell the official that you are attending a CWC meeting.) At the 'T', turn left and follow the road to the large parking lot on the left for Villa Katzenberg.

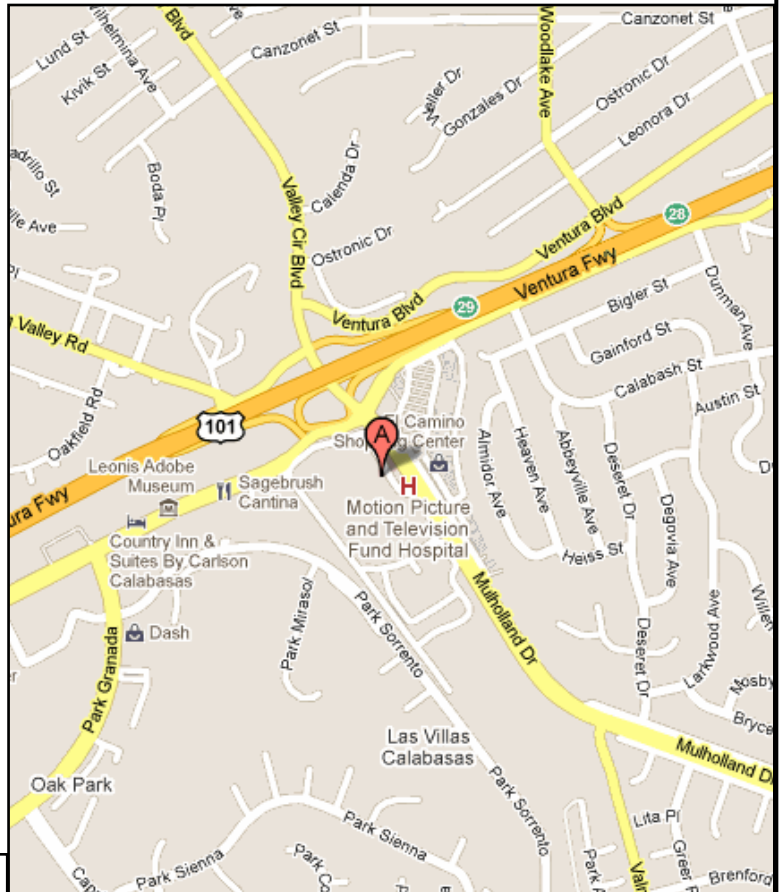
Parking is free in any of the lots.

(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

Website:

www.cwc-sfv.org