

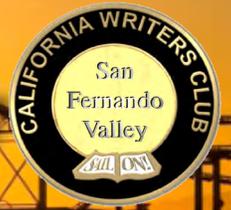


Founded 1909

The Newsletter of The San Fernando Valley Branch

# The Valley Scribe

"Our Members' Voices"



Vol. 8

Summer, 2015

No.12

## Next Meeting: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00!

**"COOKIE!! YUM!"** August's Program  
Mid-Summer Meet 'n'  
Greet.  
*Ray Malus*



What is it that writers never do?  
Talk with each other!  
On Saturday, August 1st, we'll

change all that!

We once again present our Annual Mid-summer Meet 'n' Greet.

No Speaker.

No Program.

No Structure!

NO GAVEL!

Just SOCIALIZING! (What a concept!)

To do:

- Share your Summer experiences!
- Share your plans for the new year!
- Share tips for writing and publishing!
- Share your ideas about our branch!
- Spend some time getting re-acquainted with your friends and colleagues!
- Try to borrow money!

Bring something to share! Chips - Dips - Cookies - Cheese 'n' Crackers - Crisp Veggies - You pick it!

(Lobster?! C'mon! *Somebody bring lobster!*)

We'll supply the coffee.

Plenty of time to visit, exchange info, and get to know each other better.

PLUS, we'll have a fun multi-media presentation featuring the past year in photos

... and a game

... with **PRIZES!**

Save 1 p.m., Saturday, August 1st! We're gonna Party Down!

...in a 'literary' way, of course. ☐



### Connections With Your President

*Andrea Polk*



Here's to our new year 2015 - 2016! I welcome you and your enthusiasm. I hope to see you August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 pm.

Remember why you joined? You had a story, an idea, and talent. Remember when frustration stopped you mid-word and the delete button broke, or the wads of paper spilled over the trashcan or when a friend suggested you would benefit from a writers' group? We realized then that we needed the comradeship of fellow writers or we realized we needed help learning the craft. What did we do?

We joined a writers' club. A club that educates us, inspires and encourages us to keep on writing. We are that club. Welcome to the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club. "Sail On" the club inscribes on their seal as if our inspiration, discipline and success will be as Columbus' journey onto the little-known vast Atlantic.

Each of us has been the beginner putting pencil to paper not knowing where the journey will take us. Yes, the beginner with an idea, the learner and the frustrated. It never changes. We evolve, grow and learn. The successful writers have trekked the same frustrating and exhilarating journey. They not only survived, they wrote again and again, published again and again, learned public speaking, and marketed their books through

## June Review:

### Deborah Edler Brown

By Doug Douglas

Deborah Edler Brown, an award-winning author and poet, journalist, and writing coach, brought our year to a rousing close with her thought-provoking talk entitled “The Freedom to Write Badly.”

Beginning by asking each attendee to take a few minutes to “... say the most beautiful thing, in words that will be remembered,” she demonstrated that initial thoughts rarely if ever “... like Venus, emerge fully formed out of the ocean in a clamshell.” Talk about imagery!

Per Ms. Brown, we set too high a standard, often holding ourselves back. We should be willing to fail, willing to write badly, willing to look stupid, because out of that we may be able to extract “... a second of brilliance from an hour of boredom.” Safe is rarely interesting. Safe is never authentic.

She said, “Don’t filter!” demonstrating this by reading her stream-of-consciousness essay (my words), and then reciting the excellent poem, *Another Blonde Boy*, she created from it. It’s like the photographer who takes a hundred photos to save one work of art. We must drill through layers of rock and debris to reach pure, clean water.

Ms. Brown finished by taking questions/soliloquies from the audience, plus a gem a of joke from our own Irma Kalish.

If you’re interested in more, visit Ms. Brown’s website at [deborahedlerbrown.com](http://deborahedlerbrown.com). She also teaches “Writing from the Well” as both on-line and West LA Living Room workshops. □

## GUEST POLICY

In general, guests at our meetings are asked to pay a small (\$5), tax-deductible donation.

However, each member of the branch is permitted to sponsor **TWO FREE GUESTS** during the year.

(Unfortunately, these do not ‘roll-over’.)

If you are sponsoring a guest, please assist them in checking in, and notify the Membership Chair.

*President (from page 1.)*

whatever means suited them. Those successful writers are among us. So are the frustrated.

As your newly elected president I want to be part of a club that is active and outreaches into the community, provides inspiration, quality instruction in the writer’s craft, strokes and honors your muse, applauds the writing risks you must take, and assists you in the many challenges you will face. I am a learner too. I believe in the human spirit to do the things we value. I’m interested in knowing what you value about our club.

There are so many opportunities to build our organization into a creative, vibrant force. It takes time, money, energy and goals. It takes you. First, I thank you for electing the officers of the board: In addition to me as your president, you elected Sylvia Moslesko, vice president; Doug Douglas, secretary; and Mary Freeman, treasurer. I also thank Ray Malus for continuing as newsletter editor, webmaster, photographer and club representative. Pat Avery, our newest member, stepped forward to become hospitality chair. Sherry Harris and Erica Stux have volunteered to assist her. Finally, Bob Okowitz has volunteered to become your member-at-large. Thank you all. I accept their initiative and appoint them to their positions. I welcome all of you and thank you for your commitment to your fellow writers.

To all of our members I ask, what do you want? Do you want to attend professional conferences? Produce a club anthology? Sponsor a college scholarship? Assist with a writers’ contest? Visit other CWC branches? Do you want more critique groups? Do you want an orientation to our website and all it provides? Want to learn public speaking? Marketing? What can we do? How can you help?

I will give the club all the energy and effort I can — short of burnout. As of today, we need volunteers for Membership, Program, and Publicity chairs. I believe the right member has not realized how beneficial these positions are. You would be in the thick of your professional development taking on any of these positions. Don’t hesitate, we know you are busy, but you will not be alone.

We have excellent officers and board members and we need at least three more. Join us.

The best to each of you,

*Andi Polk*

### Where Does It Come From?

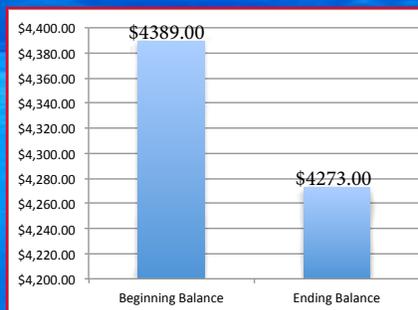
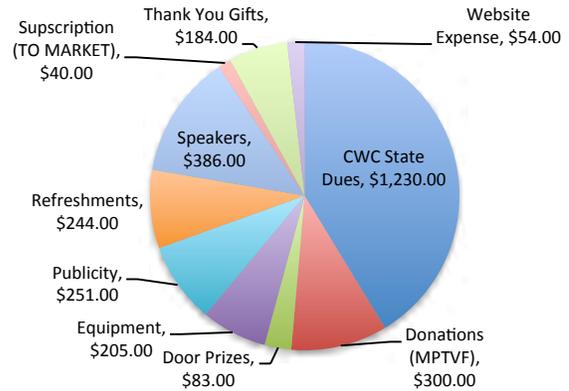
### Where Does It Go?

Our Treasurer, Mary Freeman, was kind enough to supply the answers. Thank you, Mary!!

FYE 2015 — Total Income: \$2861



FYE 2015 — Total Expenses: \$2977



## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

*The San Fernando Valley Branch is one of twenty 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.*

Reminder: Still photography may be going on during our meetings!



## ... And Then There Were Twenty!

Ray Malus

While we here in the San Fernando Valley have been simmering in the early summer heat, just to the north of us, folks have been busy.

After an almost year-long process, CWC has chartered our *twentieth Branch!*

The Branch has named itself 'Coastal Dunes', and meets in Nipomo, a small town up the coast from us. It serves the Santa Maria/Guadalupe area, which reaches from Santa Barbara north to San Luis Obispo, and charters with 38 members.

Coastal Dunes' charter initiative was spearheaded by former Orange County Branch Rep., Catherine Kitcho, who moved to the area about two years ago.

In a recent email, she reminisced, "At the January 2013 Central Board meeting, I made the announcement that I was moving to Nipomo the following month, and soon another person would be representing Orange County on the Central Board. Ray was the first person to speak up, and he said, 'New Branch!' I laughed. Here we are, two years later and it has come to be. Ray, how did you know?? ☺ Definitely psychic, I think."

Naw. I just knew Catherine would follow our maxim: "Sail On!"

(Coastal Dunes' website may be found at <http://www.coastaldunescwc.com/>)

Coastal Dunes CWC

## High Desert Authors to Present Horror Book Festival on October 3, 2015

Roberta L. Smith and Michael Raff of Nevermore Enterprises and members of the High Desert Branch of the California Writers Club, will present their second annual "Horror Book Festival," at the Courtyard Marriott, 9619 Mariposa Rd, in Hesperia California on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 to 5 pm.

Admission is \$8.00.

Screen, TV, theater actress, and author, Julie Adams, who starred in many films including *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* and *Bend of the River* will be a presenter. Nevermore Enterprises will also feature E. Van Lowe, author of *The Power*, *Child's Play*, *Never Slow Dance with a Zombie*, and many more books.

The Creature from the Black Lagoon will also make an appearance and pose for photographs.

Roberta L. Smith, author of *The Accordo*, *Chapel Playhouse*, *Dreamer of Downing Street* and *Distorted* will be presenting a short film based on a scene from *The Accordo*.

Michael Raff, author of *Scare Tactics*, *Seven: Tales of Terror*, *Special*, and the soon to be released anthology, *Shreds*, will be presenting a short film based on his story 'The Spider and the Fly', from the anthology.

Julie Adams, E. Van Lowe, Roberta Smith, and Michael Raff will have their books available for sale and autographs. Published writers in the horror/supernatural genre are invited to be on hand and sell their books. The fee for a limited number of half tables is \$20.00. Please visit [www.horrorbookfest.com](http://www.horrorbookfest.com) to request an application and details. Participating authors will have their photo, books and website link displayed on the Horror Book Fest website.

For further information, please contact Roberta Smith (760) 240-4822 or email [cwrlsmith@verizon.net](mailto:cwrlsmith@verizon.net)

Or contact Michael Raff (909) 645-0551 or email [mprseven@aol.com](mailto:mprseven@aol.com).

### JRK's Fifth Law

*The elevator cannot come until EVERYBODY has pressed the button!*

# The Bulletin Board

## GUEST DONATIONS

Non-members attending meetings are asked to pay a \$5 (tax deductible) donation. (Members may sponsor 2 free guest visits during the year.) New membership is immediate upon application at door. For details, contact our Membership Chair at the sign-in table or e-mail [andipolk4@gmail.com](mailto:andipolk4@gmail.com).

**MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 1:00 P.M. ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 p.m.  
Mid-Summer Meet 'n' Greet

Details on our website: [CWC-SFV.ORG](http://CWC-SFV.ORG)

Check out our writers on the **So-Cal Writers Showcase.**

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

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

## Summer's BIRTHDAYS!

Ethel Ann Shaffer July 4  
Gary Wosk July 12  
William Hitchins July 27  
Karen Faye Gorback July 30  
Gabiella Owens August 9

## 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](mailto:cwc-sfv@roadrunner.com)  
Please type "SUBMISSION" in the subject line.  
(We regret that we cannot accept 'hard copy' submissions. We simply do not have the personnel to re-type them.)  
Size limits (with a tiny bit of latitude):  
- 500 words or fewer  
- 800 words or fewer  
- Limited to 40 lines

Articles/Essays  
Short Stories  
Poetry  
Book Release Notices

Regular Features:  
Submissions:

- 150 words or fewer + front cover  
Submission deadlines:  
TENTH of the previous month.  
FIFTEENTH of the previous month.

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.

**The Fine Print**

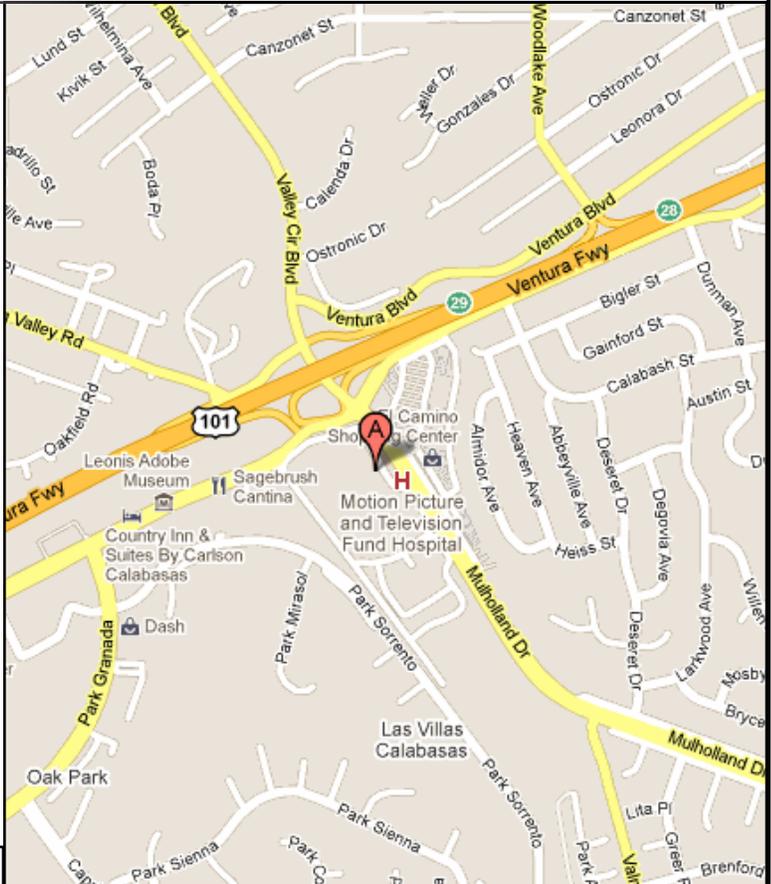
**San Fernando Valley Branch  
of California Writers Club  
meets at:**

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")

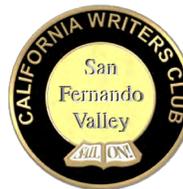
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[Ray Malus](#)

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San Fernando Valley Branch**

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- Programs, Currently unfilled
- Media Relations, Currently unfilled
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LOTS of great information at our

Website:

[www.cwc-sfv.org](http://www.cwc-sfv.org)