



The Valley Scribe

Volume 10

Interim Edition

Next Meeting September 3

Issue 1

President's Connections &
Interim editor, Andi Polk



Whoa? What is this, you ask? Well, the California Writers Club - San Fernando Valley Branch needs a newsletter editor for *The Valley Scribe*.

What happen? Where's Ray? Where are the beautiful pictures hiding behind the news? Where's the pizzazz? Well, if you read the August *Scribe* you would know.

He's still around. And we all wish him ample good writing time and deserved relief from the daily responsibility of the website and newsletter. As he said in August when I was embarrassing him with praise, "I haven't died."

Ray gave it his all and retired as *The Valley Scribe* editor effective with the August edition. He gave notice to our board in June, but I, like you, had plenty on my plate this summer. I have not been able to appoint another as *Scribe* editor. Had a few "thanks but no thanks." Perhaps by the time we meet September 3, we will have a new editor. Perhaps. So this is my attempt as editor. We need and deserve a *bona fide* editor. This issue is just to advise you of what we could have to look forward to ifYour club deserves better.

Scribe Editor Wanted

One eager CWC-SFV member, willing and able to design and produce our monthly newsletter. See the position description on page 2. Interested? Contact me at andipolk4@gmail.com.

Meeting Time and Location

See details page 8

Saturday, September 3rd at 1 PM sharp
At the Motion Picture Television Fund campus
23388 Mulholland Dr.
Woodland Hills, CA

Saturday, September 3, 2016
Ester Benjamin Shifren. speaker



You've Published Your Book, Now What?

Ester Benjamin Shifren, is the descendant of five generations of British Jewish Nationals living in Shanghai for more than a century. Her memoir, *Hiding in a Cave of Trunks*, is the story of her and her family's pre-war life and of their internment by the Japanese during World War II. She is a CWC-SFV member and international promoter and marketer of her memoir.

On September 3, she will share her experience, resources and methods. She learned the many social strengths authors need to make important contacts, produce the media material, contact print, television, radio resources and polish her public speaking skills.

Ester has prepared a digital presentation with handouts and Q & A. She traveled to all the countries and met with audiences her memoir touched. She travels with a box or trunk of her books, because, as she says, "You never know where you might find another customer interested in your story."

Yes, this is a follow-up to our June panel of recent self-publishing and marketing authors. We can no longer deny our need to learn these important facets of publishing. Don't miss this opportunity. See you there.

Table of Contents

Announcements.....	pgs 2, 4
Anthology Update.....	pg 2
Author Submissions.....	pgs 5,6
Editor Position Description.....	pg 2
Featured Speaker.....	pg 1
President's Connections.....	pg 1
Location & Directions.....	pg 8
Newsletter Survey.....	pg 7
Publications & Marketing Opportunities.....	pgs 3,4

Editor Position Description

The Newsletter Editor is responsible for the layout and content of our monthly newsletter, The Valley Scribe. The Valley Scribe is our primary organ of traditional communication between members, with the community at large, and with other branches throughout the state.

Aims include:

Disseminating information about events.
Disseminating information concerning the operation and activities of the branch and state organizations.
Providing a channel for members to publish their work.
Presenting an attractive image to the community at large, the state organization, and the membership of the branch.

Duties include:

Setting (and meeting) publishing and submission schedules and deadlines.
Designing the overall 'look and feel' of the publication. Organizing material in an attractive and meaningful way.
Assigning and coordinating regular features and columns.
Impartially, determining what content will be included, and how it will be showcased, with the aim of accurately publishing as much of members' work as feasible.
Actively encouraging participation/submission by members.
Attempting to eliminate 'ignorant' errors to maintain an image of 'competency.'
Enforcing prevailing standards of journalistic and publishing ethics.
Distributing copies to the general membership, and to recommended state CWC personnel.
Handling all correspondence having to do with the newsletter and/or the position of Editor.
Providing monthly written reports to the board.
Occasionally, orally reporting to the general membership.

Time investment: Approximately 25 hours per month.

(Last updated: August 25, 2014)

Club Announcements

Continued on page 4

Membership Reminder

Renewal dues! \$45.00

Remember the deadline to renew your membership through June 30, 2017 is **September 30, 2016.**

If you have *not* renewed by September 30 you will be dropped from our CWC-SFV rolls. Forgot? Bring your check or cash to our Saturday, September 3rd meeting, OR mail your check, made out to CWC-SFV, to Mary Freeman, Treasurer, at 9625 Fullbright Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311

CWC-SFV Anthology Project

The Submission Period for our SFV Branch Anthology has closed. The Anthology Committee members and I want to thank all of you who submitted your work! We are looking forward to the completion of this next period, which focuses on finishing all the Reviews. This period will end on September 15th.

Our final big challenge will be that of plotting and planning how the book will be arranged to present your work in the most attractive and readable layout as well as the title and cover art for the book and the process of getting it published – a huge task.

I've mentioned before that we would like any suggestions you may have for a title and design of the cover. The works themselves may give us insight into an appropriate title, but we do also want and need *your* ideas for the look of *your* book. Please give this some thought. There will be more about this later on.

I heartily thank all the wonderful members of the Committee who have worked so hard and been such a delight to share the load with as we plow our way through this huge project. Mary Freeman shouldered the biggest load of getting us set up on the *Submittable* process. Could not have done it without you, Mary!!

Rita Keeley Brown

Editor, CWC-SFV Anthology 2016-17

Publishing and Marketing Opportunities

Caution, do your own research!

Inaugural Nonprofit Press

WTAW Press, a nonprofit independent publisher of literary books will publish two full-length books of prose in 2017, our inaugural year, selecting the best fiction, essays, memoir, etc., that we can find. Building on the tradition of our award-winning Bay Area reading series, Why There Are Words, we will publish voices that need to be heard and welcome submissions from writers unpublished, extensively published, and in between. We want to publish books that show us more things on heaven and earth than we have dreamt of, and we will do all we can to bring our books to the attention of the readers they deserve. Authors will receive standard book contracts, hands-on editorial development and publicity, and more. Guidelines <http://www.wtawpress.org/submissions>. Deadline: Sept. 15, 2016

To Market

LITBREAK MAGAZINE

<http://litbreak.com/submissions> Short stories and excerpts from novels should range from 1,500 words to a maximum of 10,000 words. Other prose forms (essays, reviews, etc.) should range from 500 words to 1,500 words. For poetry we prefer but do not require 100 word minimums. We prefer longer submissions since it gives us a better idea of what the writer can do. Submission is open year round. There are no deadlines or submission fees. 1. Submissions are accepted via Submittable. Please include a biographical note with your submission. We will include your biography if we post your submission. 2. We pay all contributors. Payment is via your PayPal account. Starting with September 2016 postings, we will pay \$100 for every short story or novel excerpt that we accept. For other types of submission we will pay in a range from \$25 to \$50. We pay promptly on the first of every month for the previous month's posts. 3. Submitted work must be previously unpublished. We accept simultaneous submissions. Please inform us immediately if the work has been accepted elsewhere. The writer retains copyright. 4. With regard to fiction, there are no specific requirements on style and content. We value craft and originality. 5. For reviews and essays, we require serious, substantive discussion.

To Market, Mary Freeman

As always, please check the website for more information. Best wishes and good luck to all!

REAL SIMPLE MAGAZINE ninth annual Life Lessons Essay Contest. What was the most dramatic change you ever had to make? Maybe you had to move cross-country after being relocated for a job, opening up new possibilities along with fears. Or maybe you needed to sell your house or leave an apartment before you expected to. How did that situation influence the rest of your life? If one unavoidable shift changed your world—for good and bad—in enduring ways, write it down and share it with Real Simple.

Contest Rules: <http://www.realsimple.com/magazine-more/inside-website/contests-sweepstakes/eighth-life-lessons-essay-contest-rules> 1. **Online entry:** Ends

at 11:50 P.M. ET on September 19, 2016. Entry via **postal mail:** Must be postmarked no later than September 19, 2016, and received no later than September 26, 2016. 2. **Judging:** All entries will be judged by Real Simple editors. All submitted essays must be nonfiction. Incomplete and/or inaccurate entries and entries not complying with all rules are subject to disqualification. Decisions of judges are final and binding. Winner will be notified by telephone and/or e-mail after January 8, 2017. Names of winners will also be published in the April 2017 issue of Real Simple. 3. **Prize description:** The first-place winner will receive \$3,000. The second-place winner will receive \$750. The third-place winner will receive \$500. (NOTE: You may read last year's winners essays online via contest rules webpage: *Diane Penney*, the 2016 Life Lessons contest winner and second prize winner *Gladys Haunton*.)

INDIES UNLIMITED flash fiction contest:

<http://www.indiesunlimited.com/flash-fiction/>

CWC Branch Collaboration, Andi Polk. The High Desert Branch has organized a Book Fair fundraiser with Barnes & Noble Booksellers. They have been given a voucher number for use from September 17 through September 22 — Voucher #11903309. If anyone buys any book from B&N and uses the voucher number in store or on-line, High Desert will get a % of sales. IF you're buying use their number. When we need to raise funds for a special project we could enjoy the same cooperation from CWC clubs.

Publishing and Marketing Opportunities

(continued from page 3)

Interesting Opportunities

“The Beiging of America: Personal Narratives about Being Mixed Race in the Twenty-First Century” seeks submissions, has a submission deadline of September 15, 2016, and a scheduled pub date of June 2017. The publisher, 2Leaf Press, an imprint of the Intercultural Alliance of Artists & Scholars, Inc. (a NY-based nonprofit) will compensate authors with two copies of the book. Authors provide one-time rights to publication; beigingamerica@2leafpress.org.

Aesthetica Creative Writing Award 2016, an international literary prize now in its 10th year. “Prizes include publication in an anthology of outstanding poetry and short fiction, a consultation with a literary agent, subscriptions to leading writing organisations and a collection of books ... and £500 each for Poetry Winner and Short Fiction Winner.” Works previously published elsewhere are accepted. Deadline for submissions: 31 August 2016; www.aestheticamagazine.com.

“Nimrod,” a biannual literary journal published at The University of Tulsa, seeks poetry, short stories, and creative nonfiction for its Spring/Summer 2017 thematic issue, “Leaving Home, Finding Home.” What makes a home? When is leaving home a choice or an exile? Can home be an internal state of mind? “Open to all explorations of this theme.” Works must be previously unpublished, stories and nonfiction up to 7500 words, poetry up to eight pages. All contributors to the magazine receive two copies of the issues in which their work appears. Postal submissions (Nimrod Journal, University of Tulsa, 800 S. Tucker Dr., Tulsa, OK 74104) are free with an SASE; online submissions charge a \$3 fee: nimrodjournal.submittable.com/submit. Postmark deadline: November 5, 2016. Publication date: April 2017.

Club Announcements

(continued from page 2)

Kay Henden, New Webmaster,

Requests 1. All published CWC-SFV members please send a copy of your book cover(s) to her email. CWC@Henden.com. Size: vertical photo 2 inches wide x 3 inches high or 150 pixels wide x 225 pixels high. There will be a gallery of book covers on our new website.

2. Please check your biographical information (500 word limit) on our current website. Up date it, if needed and send it to Kay. If you wish send an updated photo, size: vertical 4 inches wide (300 pixels) x 6 inches high (450 pixels).

Your Speaker Calendar 2016

September 3rd Ester Benjamin Shifren, **Marketing**

October 8th (the second Saturday) Joey Okowitz.
Public Speaking

November 5th Barbara Abercrombie, **Writing Workshop**

December 3rd Victoria Zackheim, **Writing Adventures**

Author Submissions

Remembering Clare Goldfarb

Lillian Rodich

Last month my dear friend Clare Goldfarb was lost in a tragic and unexpected accident. She was an active member of CWC-SFV's Saturday critique group and an understated woman of many talents, not the least of which was creative writing. Her anecdotes and poetry were well crafted and shared with generosity of spirit although she was an exceptionally private person.

In addition, she was a gifted artist specializing in water color. A constant student especially devoted to history, she received her bachelor's degree in that subject when she was over sixty. Her studies also included Art History. Visiting museums was one of her favorite pastimes and she read and digested every bit of material posted with the art or artifacts. Accompanying her on a field trip was an educational experience. During her younger years she was actually a docent at the J. Paul Getty Museum and a tour guide at the L.A. Zoo. Yes, she was an animal lover too.

Clare loved the opera and ballet and could tell you the history and performance nuances of each one she attended. Going to a performance with her was like being with a gifted "tour guide." Folk dancing was another activity she loved for many years. It was in a dance class forty years ago that my husband Sy and I met her. And our "single-lady-friend" quickly became a "member of our family."

Clare was a loving and loyal friend and is deeply missed by all of us who knew her well. Her gift of true friendship will always remain a treasure in our memories.

Last Minute

Andi Polk

Need I, really,
Go on with silly?

To rhyme each time
I write a line.

"Couplet," you say
In just one day

How often I wait to the last
Creating work that will pass.

Just enough
For C plus.

I SEE THE WORLD IN THAT LIGHT

I cannot sanitize life,

what I sense,

what I discern,

my concerns.

Life offers both joys and sorrows.

I cannot sanitize life,

selecting from the good,

ignoring all that is bad is otherwise.

This is not my way to minimize

nor manage my life.

What I sense,

what I feel,

what I discern,

my concerns,

they stay with me.

My mind ponders away each day.

My poetry has always been positive,

positive but realistic too.

Within my mind and in my sight,

I see the world in that light.

© Norman Molesko, 2016

Ambassador For Seniors

City of Los Angeles

Remembering Buba, Leslie Kaplan

A translation from Yiddish. “It’s him ... it’s Yussel ... it’s my son !! I know his hands!” Buba could hardly contain herself. That was back in the 1940’s during World War II. I was a young teen at that time. We moved in with Buba who took care of me and my brother while Mom went to work at the dress factory everyday after Daddy died.

Russia was one of our Allies during that war. Buba did her share by collecting care packages for the Russian War Relief. When she came to American in 1923 four of her seven children came with her. Two younger ones had died in childhood, but her eldest son Yussel, or Joseph as we referred to him by, never left Russia.

In those days working-class people would never think of making a phone call long distance to another country. So Buba hadn’t any contact with Yussel for over twenty years except maybe for a letter once or twice. She did read the daily Yiddish newspaper ...the *Forward*; kept and up with the news of the world ... also the romantic Yiddish soap operas on the radio. She was well informed though she didn’t speak English. But she did understand it.

One Saturday morning as I was readying to go to the matinee at the Park Movie Theater on Diamond Street Buba was leisurely reading the *Forward* ... when she suddenly blurted out ...

“It’s Yussel ... It’s my son ! I know his hands.”

“Buba,” I say... “What’s going on?” She is so excited as she reads to me ... “General Joseph Lvov the first Jewish General in the Russian Army.” His picture is quite clear but it’s his hands that assures her that this is indeed her son Yussel. I guess that only a mother could be so sure about her child’s hands.

Our family name was Lemberg. There was a town in Russia by that name. It was changed to Lvov and that is why her son changed his name from Lemberg to Lvov. Well in all of this excitement we called the *Forward* editor and told him about my grandmother’s discovery.

We were inundated with reporters and my grandmother became a celebrity. That was just the beginning of her fame. Sometime after the war ended a long distance call was made and Buba got to speak to her son. To her it was a miracle.

My grandmother became 100 years of age and once again she was in the news and interviewed with my cousins as interpreters. She received telegrams from the President, Governor and the Mayor of Philadelphia. Her party was a big blast. I flew in to Philly from California with my little daughter Julie to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Her parting words to me were, “Life is so short.”

My cousins sent me two photo copies of news article interviews with my famous Buba from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. She was something else. She flew out to L.A. on a plane for the first time in her life at 92. Buba lived to be 107 and said she was then ready to be with everyone who preceded her.

MY BUBA. XO



Survey

The Valley Scribe

After seven years, Ray Malus has retired as editor of our newsletter as of the August issue. He may be of reasonable height, but he has very big shoes to fill. We cannot replicate his style, so we start anew. As president I need to appoint a new editor and this is an opportunity to publicly ask for a member to step forward. Although the new editor sets the design and content, this survey will be a part of the valuable information provided the new editor.

If you completed this survey in August, you do not need to complete this again.

Please bring your completed survey to the September 3rd meeting OR mail it to me.
Andi Polk
16915 Rayen Street
Northridge, CA 91343

This is about your interaction with previous issues of *The Valley Scribe*.
What was valuable and you wish to retain? Add? Delete? Expand? Change?

1. Do you regularly read the Scribe? _____.
2. If not, why not? _____.
3. Which features do you wish to retain? _____.
 - Front page table of contents? _____yes _____ no
 - President's remarks? _____yes _____ no
 - Featured speaker information? _____yes _____ no
 - Review of prior month's speaker? _____yes _____ no
 - Editorial opinion? _____ yes _____ no
 - To Market? _____ yes _____ no
 - Review and Refresh? _____yes _____ no
 - Member literary writings _____yes _____ no
 - The Bulletin Board? _____ yes _____ no
 - Directions & Meeting information _____ yes _____ no
4. The Scribe has been 11 – 12 pages long _____ OK _____ too long
_____ too brief
5. Graphical background? _____ adds to text _____ distracts from text
6. Is it easy to read? _____.
7. If not, why not? _____.
8. Please add more _____.
9. Please expand _____.
10. Please delete _____.

Comments

Directions and Meeting Information

Location

**Motion Picture, Television Fund campus.
23388 Mulholland Dr.
Woodland Hills, CA
We meet in the Katzenberg Pavilion**

Freeway Directions

Take 101 Freeway to the west end of the San Fernando Valley. Exit Valley Circle/Mulholland Dr. Go south over the 101 Freeway. Pass Calabasa Rd., on your right enter Spielberg Dr. the second entrance. Parking is free. Ask the kiosk attendant for directions to the parking lot with the trombone player statue.

The Katzenberg Pavilion room is beyond the Dog Park. Take the winding path to the courtyard. We will set up for sign-in outside our room at 12:30 PM

Program Schedule

Subject to change.

Meeting Dates: Normally the first Saturday of each month except July and August.

Registration: 12:30

Guests: Suggested donation \$5.00

Members only Open Mic: 1:00

Announcements: 1:30 – 1:40

Break, Meet & Mingle: 1:40

Feature Speaker: 2:00 – 3:00

Speaker Book sales and signing: 3:00

Clean up and doors closed: 3:30

The End

