

The Valley Scribe

Volume 10

Next Meeting Saturday, January 7, 2017

Issue 5

President's Connections

Andi Polk

Seasons Greetings & Welcome 2017

Twenty sixteen was our thirtieth anniversary. Chartered in 1986, the California Writers Club - San Fernando Valley branch began by a local high school English teacher and a small group of writers and want-to-be writers. They were enthusiastic, adventuresome and supportive. In a few year years the club grew to more than one hundred eager members. The club published anthologies, organized successful fund-raisers, and held writers workshops and retreats. Two of the charter members are still active, Yolanda Fintor and Mary Freeman. They have the stories.

It is our future that needs attention. In 2017 I hope our organization grows with new writers, who can benefit from our organization, enrich its offerings and help keep it meaningful. There are over 1.8 million people in the San Fernando Valley and there are writers out there.

Our value is our community of writers, the potential networking with over three thousand statewide CWC members, our critique group support, and valuable guest speakers. During this 2016/2017 term we are producing our latest anthology. We have a new Program Chair, Lori Hamilton and for the first time a Social Media Chair, Samantha Berley. I am confident we can build on our efforts, grow our membership and our treasury.

Our writing life changes as with everything else, but this club should be here for decades to come to meet the needs of new writers. I wish us good writing and successful publishing in 2017.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

A Legal Update

Kendall Jones



January 7th Featured Speaker is back... "by popular demand" Kendall Jones, entertainment attorney.

She will provide us with "A Legal Update". She includes a review of libel and contract law especially for writers. Sounds dry? It isn't. She's dynamite. And it is very important for us writers to know.

Recent cases and California new state law (AB 1570) and will review the dos and don'ts of legacy publishing and self-publishing contracts. She will discuss risks without permission to use a real person's name in a memoir.

With over two decades of experience in litigation, always winning if the defendant is honest, she can provide ample evidence to keep us on the right track and out of a ditch. Don't count on your memory; bring your notepad and pen. Take notes & ask questions. See you there for this most valuable topic.

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Forgive me, but I just couldn't resist that title. Our well-known and highly regarded speaker and educator Victoria Zackheim has probably heard it a million times before and she seems the affable type. Because the subject of her presentation was "The Acorn Idea", we might have used 'attack' as one of the proposed seeds that can grow into a potential story, screenplay, essay or poem. As the saying goes, "Great oaks from little acorns grow." (Actually a 14th Century proverb per *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*.)

Ms. Zackheim suggested writers let their imagination go beyond their comfort zone, including exploring subjects they have trouble dealing with. It may help them cope and it may lead to an excellent essay or piece of fiction. Just be careful—don't play fast and loose with the truth in non-fiction. You don't want to be the next James Frey. Beware the wrath of Oprah. Hmmm....is that an acorn for a *Star Trek* sequel?

Sometimes expanding back-story can open up plot development as well. Per our speaker, even seemingly mundane Acorn ideas like 'Cheez-Its' can work (for me, it conjures up hopeless addiction akin to heroin). Attendees proffered several such 'seeds' and I'm certain we would have gone on for hours, but fortunately Ms. Zackheim was 'Saved by the Bell'.*

*If you've never seen that TV show, you'll think I'm a nutcase. If you have seen it, you'll probably think I'm even nuttier. Like Almond Joy or something.

UPDATING YOUR PROFILE – THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Your CWC profile information is stored in two different places, and can (if you wish) contain two entirely different sets of data.

When you first join, your profile is uploaded to the CWC MRMS system— basically, the club's repository for information on its members. Each member has a unique password to enter the system and change his or her personal information, which is done directly by the member. MRMS is accessible only by CWC members; the general public cannot view or access the system.

The profile that appears on the CWC-SFV website is completely separate from the data on MRMS. This profile is public; everything that appears on the website can be viewed by the world at large, whether or not they are CWC members. Personal information for all members on the website is updated by the webmaster rather than directly by the individual member.

PROCEDURE FOR UPDATING MEMBER PROFILE:

1. From any page on the website, click on "Members Only" on the menu bar and navigate to "Members Only (Log In Required)" page.
2. Enter the "Members only" password you received when you joined. Note that this is the same for all CWC-SFV members; it is NOT your MRMS password.
3. Under "UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION:" click on "Click HERE to update your profile in the SFV directory on this site".

(Continue next page)

4. Complete the Member Profile Change Form:

- a. Required fields include name and your email address as listed on the MRMS system. This email address does not have to be the same as the email address(es) you want to be shown in your profile; it will only be used to validate your request for changes.
- b. Scroll down and enter any changed information. NOTE that the information you enter will replace the existing entry, not add to it.

For example, if you previously listed “Jack London” as a pen-name and now want to add “Louisa May Alcott”, you should enter “Jack London; Louisa May Alcott” on the appropriate line.

- c. When you have made all changes, hit “Submit”
5. When the webmaster receives the Profile Change form, she will verify that the MRMS email address you entered is in fact the email listed on your MRMS profile. She will then respond to that email address, confirming the changes you have requested and asking that you approve entry on the website.

This step verifies that the profile owner is the person requesting the changes. You must respond to this email before the changes to your website profile will be processed.

6. If you want to update your profile picture, or the cover photo for the book listed on the “Our Members” page, send a separate email to CWCProfileUpdate@Henden.com and attach the photo(s).

That’s all there is to it! If you have any questions, just drop me an email at CWC@Henden.com, or use the contact form on the website. I’ll be happy to walk you

Opportunities: Publishing

Mary Freeman

OPPORTUNITIES For the month of January.

PAYING MARKETS:

The Masters Review – New Voices

<https://mastersreview.com>

Submissions for our New Voices category are open year round. New Voices is open to any new and emerging author who has not published a work of fiction or narrative nonfiction of novel length. You must not have a novel forthcoming at the time of submission. Published short-story collections do not count as a novel-length work and those authors are free to submit. New Voices are published online only and will feature a number of stories from new authors each month.

We are pleased to announce we now offer payment to New Voices authors. \$0.10/word up to \$200. We are thrilled to be paying for published pieces but will be highly selective in our choices for publication.

- New Voices submissions are open to new and emerging writers only (no novel-length published work forthcoming at the time of submission).
- We accept fiction and narrative non-fiction. We do accept a variety of genres and styles, our only requirement is that you show excellence in your craft. We want to be wowed. Bend genres, experiment with structure, and write your heart out. But please, send us polished work. Our aim is to showcase writers who we believe will continue to produce great work. Send us only your best.
- We accept simultaneous submissions but please notify us if your work is picked up elsewhere.

Opportunities continued from page 3

- All submissions must be less than 5,000 words.
- We do accept multiple submissions.
- Please include a cover letter with your publication history.

On The Premises

- <http://onthepremises.com/current-contest/>
- *On The Premises* is a web-based fiction magazine founded in 2006 by Tarl Kudrick and Bethany Granger. We publish issues in HTML and PDF formats (and at some point, ebook formats).
- Stories published in *On The Premises* are winning entries in short story contests launched each December and June. Each contest challenges writers to produce a great story based on a broad premise that we supply. Winning stories are published in [individual magazine issues](#) each April and October.
- We also hold “mini-contests” four times a year, in April, May, October, and November. Winning mini-contest entries are published on our [web site’s mini-contest pages](#).
- Our Purpose: *On The Premises* wants to promote newer and/or relatively unknown writers who can write what we feel are creative, compelling stories told in effective, uncluttered, and evocative prose. Our contests have **no entry fees**. Winners receive cash prizes and publication. Prize Money: Short Story 1st place \$220; 2nd place \$160; 3rd place \$120; Honorable mention \$60. Mini-Contests 1st place \$25; 2nd place \$15; 3rd place \$10; Honorable mention - publication.

Opportunities: Continued next column



NON-PAYING MARKETS:

Adelaide Magazine

<http://adelaidemagazine.org/submissions.html>

Categories accepted: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Translations, Book Reviews, Interviews, as well as cover art and photography. Submissions are welcome all year-round. We do not publish previously published work. (No simultaneous submissions in Poetry category) The Adelaide Magazine acquires first rights for publication. Upon publication, rights revert to the author/artist.

FEE-BASED MARKETS/CONTESTS (CHARGING A SUBMISSION FEE):

The Masters Review

<https://mastersreview.com/short-story-award-for-new-writers/>

We don’t have any preferences topically or in terms of style. We’re simply looking for the best. We don’t define, nor are we interested in, stories identified by their genre. We do, however, consider ourselves a publication that focuses on literary fiction and are looking for stories that dazzle us, take chances, are bold — and do so by focusing on more than plot. For a good idea of what we like you can read last year’s winners. Our [New Voices archive](#) is also a good reference.

Because of the popularity of our Short Story Award this summer and because the agents we work with were eager to see more, we are hosting a winter award. The winning story will be awarded \$2000 and publication online. Second and third place stories will be awarded publication and \$200 and \$100 respectively. All winners and honorable mentions will receive agency review by: **Amy Williams of The Williams Agency, Victoria Marini from Irene Goodman, and Laura Biagi from Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, Inc.** We want you to succeed, and we want your writing to be read. It’s been our mission to support emerging writers since day one.

Continued next page

Opportunities continued from page 4

- Winner receives \$2000, publication, and agency review
- Second and third place prizes (\$200/\$100, publication, and agency review)
- Stories under 7000 words
- Simultaneous and multiple submissions allowed
- Emerging writers only (We are interested in offering a larger platform to new writers. Self-published writers and writers with story collections and novels with a small circulation are welcome to submit.)
- International submissions allowed
- \$20 entry fee
- **Deadline: January 15, 2017**
- Please no identifying information on your story
- All stories are considered for publication

CONFERENCES 2017:

FEB – San Francisco, CA <https://sfwriters.org/>

APRIL – Las Vegas, NV

<http://lasvegaswritersconference.com/>

Website listing 30 Conferences -

<https://thewritelife.com/writers-conferences/>

Submittable.com, is a rich source of contests and publishing opportunities in all fields of creative arts.

Be sure to research these sites, we have not. Find what is best suited for you. Good Luck. Let our webmaster Kay Henden at CWC@henden.com know of your success.

If you're curious, a filler. The term *eighty-six*, most likely comes from the rhyming London cockney as *trial and strife* meant "wife" *eighty-six* stood for "nix" meaning "nothing" or "to dismiss". To quote Evan Morris author of *The Word Detective*, "How *eighty-six* then ended up in U.S. restaurants is a bit of a puzzle, but I'm afraid it's the best theory anyone has come up with so far." Accordingly in the 1930s it became kitchen slang meaning, "We're out of that item" or "stop serving that customer." Published 1999.

Announcements

Samantha Berley is our newest board member. She has agreed to develop our social media platform assisting the board in the outreach to the millennium writers. Enthusiastic about the potential results she will keep us in the social loop.

Geri Jabara will continue her outreach into the community libraries. She has been successful in directing guests to our club Allan Wills joined in September as a result.

Lori Hamilton, our new Program Chair is organizing speakers for the next year. She is scheduling for February and as soon as she has our speaker in place you will be notified.

Michael Edelstein is not well enough to assume the editorial duties of the newsletter. You deserve a more attentive editor than I have been able to be. I have been limited to using MS Word for all the formatting. Thus very few enhancements or illustrations have accompanied the essentials. I have limited myself to "just the facts, Ma'am."

Kay Henden, Webmaster has produced the policy and procedure for updating members' profile (biography). See pages 2-3.

Last week I was so sorry to hear of long-time member **Max Schwartz's** death. The members of the Tuesday Critique Group attended his funeral. They said thank you Doug Douglas for driving so many. Please read the memories and thoughts about Max on page 6 submitted by Lillian Rodich and Leslie Kaplan. He was an authoritative writer about engineering and the building of Jerusalem. He donated one of his books to the club for fund raising.

The year in review remembers the passing of three of our members. Robert Nagayama, poet and Getty docent. Clare Goldfarb, poet, short story writer, art historian and member of the Saturday critique group. Max Schwartz mentioned above. This was a difficult year of personal loss.

Remembering Max

HELLO MAX !!
Leslie Kaplan 12/12/2016

That's how I greeted you at every meeting. Our little family of writers will never be the same without you. We so enjoyed your stories about WWII when you were a very young soldier in the Army Engineer Corp ...building roads, bridges, and tunnels in so many different places across the military world. You took us on your journeys enhancing the experiences with your artistic drawings and sketches of the events.

We enjoyed the gentleman that you were and your kind and sweet personality. The tenderness between you and your wonderful daughter Nina touched us all. We love you and will never forget you.
GOOD BYE MAX

In Memory of Max Schwartz

He was that gentle man among us
Who had charm and wit and grace
Words of wisdom on his lips
And a smile upon his face.

Max Schwartz was truly a renaissance man...
a member of our Tuesday critique group
a kind and wonderful friend.

A man of multiple skills and talents
A man who loved his family, his friends and his life
A writer, an engineer, a true artist. An historian ...
And just a plain nice guy

He was a bright light in our group, an inspiration
and valued friend to me. I will always remember
him with love and admiration.

Lil

Poetry



Happy New Year, CWC!

Two-thousand-seventeen is here,
We're another year older;
Our membership has grown;
Our writers are bolder.

As we enter this new year,
Let's make a resolution
To attend our meetings
And be "*The Solution*."

And let's spread good cheer
Through welcoming each member;
'Cause, when it's all said and done,
That's what we'll remember.

Well, Happy New Year, everyone!

(By Stephany Spencer 2008)

Essays

God Bless America ... The Song

Leslie Kaplan, before November 8, 2016

Watching the 2016 presidential campaign reminded me of when I was a young kid in the early 1930's before W.W.II. The young people of today are not much different in their disinterest in politics or world news. Generally speaking and using my four grandchildren as an example ... for the most part this generation knows everything about their favorite sport stars ... sport events ... the current music and dance of the day. PERIOD!

Similarly my generation of tweenagers followed the big band music; the likes of Glen Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Cab Calloway. We knew all the words song by vocalists like the great Ella Fitzgerald and of course the one and only Frank Sinatra. And we went to the movies to see Jimmy Cagney, Humphrey Bogart and the pretty people. To name just a few beauties, there was Lana Turner ... Rita Hayworth ... Hedy Lamar. Anyway ... you get the idea.

The point is we didn't know or care much about what was happening in Europe when Hitler was invading country after country. Or know much about concentration camps. And who ever heard of a place called Pearl Harbor? Where was it anyway?

But in defense of those times we had no computers or internet to inform us minute by minute as to what was going on anywhere and everywhere in the world. There was no texting or opinion polls. We young people finally found out about world-shaking events when our President Franklin D. Roosevelt informed us that we were attacked and are now at war with Japan and Germany. The draft took away all or most of our young healthy boyfriends ... brothers ... fathers and the guys that hung out on the corner hangout. Young women became Wacs and Waves. And all the female riveters making war machines were called "Rosie."

I can't help but compare the rhetoric of Mr. Trump, which is frighteningly similar to that of Adolph Hitler way back in the late 30's. Hitler found a scapegoat in the Jewish people to blame for everything that was wrong while declaring the supremacy of the pure white super race. He repeated this so often that people believed it. So it is with The Donald and some of his white supremacy followers like the Ku Klux Klan. David Duke the leader of the Klan said, "Not all Jews are ... some might be okay."

Did Duke mean like Jesus the progressive Jewish Rabbi of his time? Or Einstein? Or Gershwin? Or Irving Berlin? Or the movie-makers in Hollywood? Or those in New York who produce the Broadway Shows? Or doctors who save lives like Jonas Salk? Is that what he means by some Jews?

When I think of politicians who helped make America the great and wonderful country that is ... along with all of those who are or were offspring of immigrants, I remember leaders like Lincoln, Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Clinton and Obama to name a few. And some women like Jackie ... Eleanor ... Michelle. They were and are role models for our girls.

So ... being the first born American of Jewish immigrants I will go to the polls to cast my vote. And Kate Smith would at the time of my youth become famous with her signature song as only she could sing ...

"God BLESS AMERICA"

A California Christmas

Andi Polk

The story of our first California Christmas was told repeatedly. At the time I was too young to notice or care, but my mother had her expectations that this sunshiny state would have a beautiful golden Christmas. Finally we were in a real house and Mom and Dad had a bedroom with a double bed. My younger brother and I had our own twin beds. Mom didn't have to cook on a Coleman camp stove—she had a real kitchen. It was post war, Montrose 1947.

We kids were told that Santa Clause was coming although we did not have a chimney. Santa was a special gift-giver, if we had behaved. We thought we had behaved. We did not realize that Grandma and Grandpa's German words meant they were discussing gifts. I just thought they spoke words that I did not know yet.

Mom and Dad did not have money for gifts. It was all about the tree. In Cleveland, trees were lush, fresh and cut down just before Christmas and decorated the night before Christmas. As was their Ohio custom, the night before Christmas Dad and Mom went out to buy a California Christmas tree. Everything was to be a surprise for us in the morning. However, what these immigrants from Ohio did not know was the west coast custom was to buy the tree much earlier, stick it a tub of water, decorate it early so only the children's gifts under the tree were from Santa.

My parents scoured the tree lots looking for a decent tree. The trees were dry, spindly rejected leftovers—on sale, but worthless. None of them were good enough. They had to have a tree. What's Christmas without a tree? So they bought two trees and made one. While we were asleep Dad took branches from one side and drilled holes in a bare spot and stuck in branches. The now stripped sides of the trees were wired together and the tree was draped with tinsel to hide more bare spots. The old glass ornaments dangled beautifully reflecting the old-style large multi-colored lights. With a star on top the tree nearly touched the ceiling. It dominated our small living room.

In the morning my brother and I ran out to see the Christmas miracle. We didn't expect a tree, so we were just as surprised as if it been the dense green tree Mom wanted. We went wild with the sight of a tree in our house with colored lights, and icicles dripping from the branches. Santa did come even though we did not have a chimney. He brought me a Betsy Wetsy doll and roller skates and he brought my brother a big dump truck and Lincoln logs.

This wintry California Christmas without snowdrifts, sleigh bells, snowmen, snowballs, or a fresh, lush green tree exceeded the dreams of two little kids. My mother looked out the window and realized she did not have to bundle us to enjoy the beautiful day, "just go out and play." California was a miracle.

May the miracle of faith, love, forgiveness and the joy of giving and receiving be throughout the year. As a new grandma, the wide eyes and warm smile from a child is all I need to brighten my day. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a joyful holiday season to all.

<i>Calendar Jan - Feb 2017</i>	<i>Directions and Meeting Information</i>
<p>January 4, Board meeting, MPTF Hospital ACR 10 A.M. to Noon, presided by Rita Brown</p> <p>January 7, General Meeting MPTF Katzenberg Pavilion, Featured Speaker Kendall Jones, Entertainment attorney, "A Legal Update." 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.</p> <p>February 1, Board meeting, MPTF Hospital ACR 10 A.M. to Noon, presided by Andi Polk</p> <p>February 4, General Meeting, Katzenberg Pavilion to be announced in next month's <i>The Valley Scribe</i>.</p>	<p>Location Motion Picture, Television Fund campus. 23388 Mulholland Dr. Woodland Hills, CA We meet in the Katzenberg Pavilion</p> <p>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 Calabasas 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.</p>
<p>Holidays</p> <p>New Years Day observed, Monday, January 2nd.</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, January 16th</p> <p>Valentine's Day February 14th (AKA Hallmark's day) Not an official holiday from work day.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Guests are asked to contribute a \$5 tax deductible donation.</p>
<i>January 7th Program Schedule</i>	
<p>12:30 P.M. Registration and sign-in for Open Mic</p> <p>1:00 P.M. Members 5 minutes Open Mic, bring an extra copy for interpreters</p> <p>1:30 P.M. Business Announcements & Introduce Guests</p> <p>1:40 P.M. Refreshments Break, Meet and Mingle</p>	<p>2:00 P.M Featured Speaker – Kendall Jones "A Legal Update"</p> <p>3:00 P.M. Clean up & Book sales and signing if Kendall has published her book</p> <p>3:30 P.M Doors closed</p>