

The Valley Scribe

Newsletter of the San Fernando Branch of the California Writers Club



CONTENTS

Karen's Corner	2
Paul Levine Review	3
Levine Chart	4
A Poem a Day	5
<i>Pause in the Rhetoric</i>	6
<i>Those Who Dance</i>	7
Great Gifts For Writers	8 & 9
<i>Sugar Cookie Moon</i>	10
CWC Zoom Meets	11
Prompt Responses	11
Ken's Pet Peeves	11
<i>Spoonfall Song</i>	12
Happy Holidays	13

I've learnt that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
~Maya Angelou

Learn the Art of the Query

Please join the CWC-SFV on December 5, at 1:00 pm, when we welcome guest speaker and author, Trey Dowell. He will speak in our Zoom Room on: "The Art of the Query."

In his Saturday talk, Dowell will focus on a writer's query letter, which has been termed the most important element of a writer's publishing project. Whether you are a writer pursuing an agent or submitting work to a publisher, your chances of success depend heavily on your query letter.

"A brilliant novel is meaningless," Dowell says, "unless you can entice someone into reading the first page."

Dowell has had personal experience with this initial marketing move. During his first pitch session; an agent told him, "I just don't get it." So, back to the pitching board he went and after several rewrites of the letter, another agent *did* get it. Consequently, his first novel, *The Protectors*, was published by Simon & Shuster in 2014. Incidentally, the first chapter of that novel won the fiction award at the Santa Barbara Writers Conference in 2012.

Dowell is the author of several short stories including, "The God of Speed," "Poseidon," "Ballistic," his flash short "Heat," which received a Readers Award for *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and his short crime story, "Lucky," which was a finalist for the Derringer Award.

Dowell recently said that his writing "... is a

desperate attempt to release the pressure generated by new ideas building up inside my head – and it's a good way to avoid mowing the lawn!"

He always wanted to be a storyteller. Early on, he showed a talent for what he terms "... basic verbal fiction. Something the rest of the world calls lying." As he grew older, young Dowell realized that writing fiction was a socially acceptable form of lying.

He received a BS degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Note that his degree was not a BA. Despite a strong love for the written word, he somehow managed to avoid all English classes beyond E-Comp 101.

Dowell resides in St. Louis, Missouri, where he is currently working feverishly on his next novel, a sci-fi thriller about three guys who run a time travel company. After that book released, out comes Dowell's sequel to *The Protectors*.

Please join our virtual gathering on Dec. 5th and hear Dowell's talk on "The Art of the Query."

NOTE Programs are free for club members who will receive an emailed invitation to this presentation via Zoom. Guest admission for any lecture may be purchased at



Trey Dowell



Karen's Corner



Nearly every day, you'll find me working in my home office, thoroughly engrossed in one project or another. Except on Thursday afternoons, when I dim the lights, kick off my shoes, and join my Chair Yoga class via Zoom. Chair Yoga adapts traditional yoga poses into a seated position on a chair, designed for those of us who cannot gracefully get down and up from the floor.



I first enrolled nearly three years ago, as part of my rehabilitation regimen following hip replacement surgery. Then, like legions of others who practice yoga, I grew to love the meditative exercises.

At the beginning of each class, our yogini instructs us to find an intention for our practice that day, something that fills and nourishes us. Following her directions, I sometimes bask in gratitude for my health and that of my family and friends. Sometimes my thoughts turn to the more banal, like how much I enjoy Costco's pumpkin pie. But sometimes, on more reflective afternoons, I think about the joy of creativity, how wonderful it feels to write an essay, compose a poem, or teach a new class. How do I keep that spark of creativity alive?

In last month's column, I shared with you the candid comments by author Jeff Kinney regarding the same question during last summer's conference of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He recommended that conference goers check out "Systematic Inventive Thinking" (SIT), a system for igniting creativity by thinking "inside" rather than "outside" the box. So, I did.

Systematic Inventive Thinking was developed in Israel in the 1990's.* At its heart, SIT involves using resources we already have to solve problems and spur creativity. Contrary to this, how many of us have spent eons at freakishly large conference tables in board rooms where we were implored to "think outside the box" to solve institutional problems? I have.

But the concept of *thinking inside the box* makes a lot of sense to me. For instance, we know that only six types of conflict exist in literature: character vs self, character vs character, character vs nature, character vs supernatural, character vs technology, and character vs society.** Yet, as writers, we manipulate this finite number of conflicts into infinite combinations. Music is another example of reorganizing a finite universe of notes into a myriad of permutations.

Systematic Inventive Thinking specifies five "thinking tools" to facilitate the reorganization of existing variables into something new or better. Here are examples from "Systematic Inventive

Thinking: The Power of Thinking Inside the Box," by Anne-Laure Le Cunff ***

Subtraction – removing something, like removing the recording function in a player/recorder to invent the Sony Walkman

Multiplication – multiplying an existing element, like the number of pixels on a smart phone camera for clearer pictures. [My own example is multiplying the number of heartfelt and humorous memoirs by ordinary people into a successful series of books titled *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.]

Division – as in dividing something into smaller parts, such as a computer screen becoming a new device called a tablet

Task Unification – assigning multiple tasks to an existing element, as smart speakers that both play sound and listen to your voice

Attribute Dependency – as when one element impacts another. SIT suggests that the impact can be altered, which led to the invention of waterproof phones that no longer depend on dry land to remain operable.

Phew. That's a lot to consider, but I *kinda* love it. It's both exciting and comforting to realize that all I ever need to cultivate creativity is already in my head and in my heart -- and it's in yours, too.



Namaste.

* Janse, B. 2019. *Systematic Inventive Thinking (SIT)*. Retrieved 11/14/20 from toolshero: <https://www.toolshero.com/problem-solving/systematic-inventive-thinking-sit/>

** <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/what-is-conflict-in-literature-6-different-types-of-literary-conflict-and-how-to-create-conflict-in-writing#>

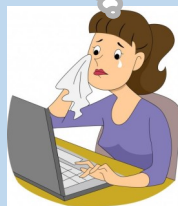
*** <https://nesslabs.com/systematic-inventive-thinking-inside-the-box>

From Your Keyboard to Money in the Bank

Our November speaker was CWC-SFV member Paul S. Levine, a lawyer who has headed the [Paul S. Levine Literary Agency](#) since 1996. Levine on gave a talk that attracted several listeners, including visitors from other CWC branches, to our Zoom gallery.

His topic? Authors of a potential best-seller, should learn how to manage the profits from their book sales.

Not many writers, new to the publishing world, are well versed in contracts, percentages, representation, and the costs of the books profits. Most find marketing and sales a whole new ball game. They look for a guide who'll give them legal advice and representation: a literacy agent.



Paul Levine has steered thousands of writers through the intricacies of publication, and contract negotiations with a publisher. Some of his clients have been fellow members of the CWC-SFV. In past years, Levine has given talks to our members on a variety of publishing topics. This visit, Levine concentrated on the four main ways a writer can reap profits from his/her book. He first outlined



the four ways that today's published writer are paid: advances; royalties; sale of subsidiary rights / licensing of subsidiaries; a best seller bonus.

Advances

Advances are payments the publisher makes to the writer (usually through the writer's agent) in advance of royalties. Advances are non-refundable, unless an author fails to deliver the promised book.

Advances are usually paid as follows: Half upon signing the contract and half after the book is delivered (i.e. when publisher accepts the manuscript for publication).

Levine said, "Beware. Unfortunately, quite often a publishers won't specify upon whose signature the advance will be paid. The writer may sign the contract right away and then the publisher might delay his signature, using it as an excuse to halt payment."

To avoid this outcome, Levine gave his listeners this

Paul S. Levine



advice, "The writer should ask the publisher to change the contract's language: specify the exact number of days after receiving a signed contract by the author.

"It's preferable to opt for a smaller advance if publisher guarantees book-promotion rather than a larger advance with no guarantee."

Royalties

Royalties are calculated differently in accordance with the book publication method. They are usually paid twice a year. If the fiscal year the publisher goes by is from January-June and July-December, the first royalty check will come around October and second around March of the following year.

Royalties will be cut by 1/2 if book is sold at less than market price. Levine advised, "Make sure the language that reads about cutting royalties are changed to reflect a cut by same amount as the discount."

Sale of subsidiary rights / Licensing of subsidiaries

This type of payment relates to sales that a publisher makes to magazines. "They are also known as *serialization rights*. This is typical of non-fiction books," Levine informed us.

The writer will receive 90% of whatever the magazine pays the publisher if the book hasn't been published yet and will split 50%-50% with publisher if the book comes out before the article. The publisher will usually lump this payment with the bi-yearly royalties check.

Best Seller bonus – Writer Nirvana

We learned that authors whose books are on the NY Times Best Seller List are paid \$5,000.00 bonus, usually up to \$50,000.00. Muted Gallery mouths mimed, *Wow! What a deal!*

During our Q&A, Levine was asked if he was also a writer, "No," he replied, "The only thing I know how to write is a contract. My writing would put you to sleep!" Paul Levine may not consider himself a creative writer, but his talks have inspired many SFV writers to look beyond the keyboard,

Kathy Highcove

To help you do the math, here's a chart that neatly sums up Paul Levine's talk:

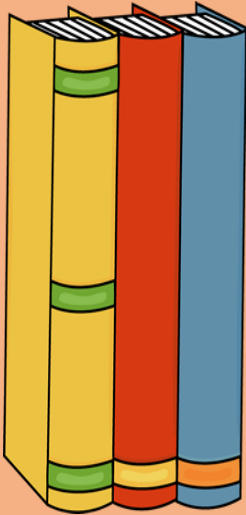



Type of Publication	Standard Royalty Calculation	Notes
<p>Hard Cover is the most profitable publication.</p> 	<p>15% – over 10,000 copies sold. Sometimes 15% will apply to over 20,000 copies sold</p> <p>10% – 5,000 copies sold</p> <p>12.5% – for next 5,000 sold</p> 	<p>Only hard cover book will receive book reviews in major newspapers. Libraries order just hard cover.</p> <p>Royalties are calculated based on suggested retail price/cover price of around \$30. Make sure the contract reflects that detail.</p> <p>There is a 50% margin in profit for book sales, but large retailers like Target, Walmart, etc. will pay publishers about 45–47%.</p> <p>About 60% of all hard-cover books are sold by the large retailer. All books in stores are on consignment and if not sold they are shipped back to the publisher at his expense.</p> <p>About 20% are sold by Amazon, 10% by bookstores like Barnes & Noble and the rest are small private retailers.</p>
<p>Trade Paperback</p>	<p>8% – 12% with a break at around 150,000 copies sold.</p> <p>Often, 8% will apply up to 150,000 copies and then 12% if more copies are sold.</p>	<p>Suggested retail price is around \$20.00.</p> 
<p>Mass Paperback</p>	<p>4% – 10% with a break around 150,000.</p> <p>Often, 6%, 8% or 10% will apply for over 150,000 books sold.</p>	
<p>E-Books</p>	<p>The cut is 25% of whatever the publisher gets from Amazon.</p> <p>The typical book on Amazon is sold for \$10.00.</p> <p>Amazon takes a \$3.00 cut.</p> <p>Publisher will pay 25% of the remaining \$7.00.</p>	<p>E-books currently account for about 10% of the market.</p> <p>Currently are sold through Amazon Amazon provides daily sales report Note that publisher has no marketing of shipping expenses.</p>
<p>Audio Book</p>	<p>The rate is about the same percentage as an e-book.</p>	<p>Audio books currently account for about 3% of the book market.</p>

Chart constructed by Anat Golan Wenick

A Daily poem from Ester Benjamin Shifren

Most writers have favorite genres and rarely stray from their comfort zone. But some experienced writers enjoy a challenge to their muse. Here's a sample of a new genre for a longtime CWC-member.

When the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic began in March, I started writing short daily poems about the new normal. That exercise soon developed into longer daily rhymes that I shared on social media sites. I never skipped a day, and now have 250 rhymes and still counting! I'll soon self-publish all, together with pictures of some of my paintings and other relevant clips, in a book titled, "Rhymes in Covid Times." I'm on a roll and have no intention of stopping! Rhyming—a gift inherited from my mother—comes easily to me, as does songwriting. I wrote this on November 21st for my birthday. It totaled 300+ responses from different groups—which proves the power of social media!

Ester Benjamin Shifren

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

Today this poem I write is only about me—
Because today's my special day—I'm turning 83!
I don't feel any different—my face just has more lines—
Each one of them confirms my life—and all of them are signs
That I have lived, and loved, bore kids,
and traveled far and wide. My life has been a river,
meandering with the tide... As child, and born in China,
I never thought I'd be A POW during wartime—
would be no longer free! My Shanghai life was blissful,
abandoned, and enjoyed, Until Japan took over,
and evil deeds employed! All Allies were imprisoned—
we were the enemy— Thank God we all were still alive,
when free at end year three. Restarting life was not an easy task
for most who were interned. The Japanese took all we'd bought
with money so hard-earned. We'd suffered malnutrition,
and illnesses as well, and some would not recover from incarceration
hell. In Hong Kong, when it seemed recovery was showing decent signs,
A Korean War embargo was imposed, dictated by designs
Of other powers that easily changed our recovery course,
midstream! So my parents then decided to fulfill a lifelong dream!
That's how we got to Israel, a newly developed state
Where refugees were arriving at a



truly marathon rate! The doors were open widely, a haven for those who chose Returning to the homeland from a past so sad—with blows,
From death, destruction, expulsion—crimes I can't tell here.

Israel was a blessing, escape from death and fear. Six years passed... Was soldier, got married, and I left to live in far South Africa. That year I was bereft, and missing all my family—then started with my own— That helped a lot with stopping me from feeling so alone. It helped, too, being an artist, in one way or another— I inherited great genes from both my father and my mother! I had four kids, I got divorced, then other countries beckoned. I emigrated to Canada— shift was harder than I reckoned! I stayed five years and loved it, but two kids were in LA. So once again I moved myself, and this is where I'll stay, In sunny California, where three kids now reside. Hope I'll no more be swept along by any errant tide! And so, I've had 5 passports, 4 kids, and prison years of 3! I'm counting all my blessings—singing:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!



Pause in the Rhetoric

In the midst of fear and unrest

Voices still heard

Voices of America

Speaking of the beauty and values

Speaking of integrity

Speaking of survival

Speaking of growth and change

Guided by conscience

Changes in faces and facts

Played as a drama against turmoil

Within a tapestry of truth

Spirit and tradition

Undying values survive

In conscience and concern

May those who guide be guided

Cleansed of malice and greed

Our country's unity ultimately

Reflecting its heritage

Lil Rodich

10/16



Those Who Dance

those who dance
find the earth covered
by uncertain clouds too illusive
to support heavy steps

mold the mist
into moving shadows
listen to musical leaves
hold waving branch arms
like partners in the wind

lie on beach sands
lifted by changing tides
ripple upon ripple
gently urging them
to join the waves

don costumes and
drift into a fading sunset
with the others
like wisps of clouds
disappearing at dusk

those who waltz at dawn
know the seasons
become part of them
move with swaying rhythm
across golden fields

become reflections
chandelier lights on night walls
petals falling from a rose
harp strings children's smiles

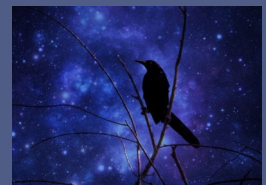
sing with violin voices
for how can they not
when their songs also dance
and their feet chant the lyrics

those who pirouette
are not afraid to cry
their spirits do not drown in tears
only bend with the wind
they remain resolute
and fall asleep in the arms
of a melody

those who dance are fireflies
flitting in a warm spring night
sometimes mistaken for

stars

Lillian Rodich



We all know Santa is very busy around the holidays. So why not save him and the elves a little time and steer them in the right direction of what a writer might wish for? Note that the prices are current for the time this article is written and do not include taxes or shipping costs.

For Writers Who Seek Knowledge:

Master Class is a series of lessons taught by professionals in various fields. When it comes to writing, there is plenty to choose from, and the site is currently running a buy-one, get-one deal on their yearly full access, so you can treat your friend and yourself. Prices are \$90.00 for one class or \$180.00 for One Year Full Access. Some of the classes include:

Malcolm Gladwell teaches how to write nonfiction that people can't stop talking about.

James Patterson teaches how to write page-turning fiction with surprising plots.

Shonda Rhimes teaches how to write screenplays for television and film.

R.L. Stine teaches how to write edgy material for younger audiences.

Judy Blume teaches how to make the reader fall in love with characters.

Margaret Atwood Master teaches how to create a compelling fiction creative narrative

The Novelty offers various writers' courses with prices varying by course, and a starting from \$125.00. They include subjects like Edit Your Novel, A Book in a Year, Ninety Day Novel and Memoir Course, Children's' Book

Books and magazines are also a great way to further writers' education and skills.

You Are a Writer (So Start Acting Like One) by Jeff is only \$6.13 for a paperback.

Dear Writer, You Need to Quit by Becca Syme costs \$9.99 for paperback and it's not the quitting you think of. There are five books in the series (price is for the first book). If the person you gift this to has Kindle, you can bundle the series for a lower price.

The Writer's Idea Thesaurus: An Interactive Guide for Developing Ideas for Novels and Short Stories costs \$7.77 for the paperback. It offers a collection of writing prompts and story ideas organized by subject, theme, situation categories, and listed alphabetically for easy reference. Author and award-winning writing instructor Fred



By Anat Golan Wenick

White shows how to build and customize these ideas to create unique plots that reflect your personal storytelling sensibilities.

Reading Between the Lines by Chaundra Scott costs \$15.00 for paperback and is a nice addition to the wonderful presentation by CWC-SFV Writers Club member, Ester Shifren, on self-publishing.

The Only Character Workbook You'll Ever Need by T.M. Holladay is a good gift idea for a writer who struggles with their heroes and villains and is priced at \$15.85 for paperback.

On Writing - A Memoir of the Craft by Stephen King can be purchased for a mere \$11.99 for a paperback; less than some of his fiction bestsellers. The author needs no introduction, and his book that was well received by both readers and critics, details his own personal journey as a writer and provides some valuable advice.

The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity by Julia Cameron has been an international bestseller and on the must-read list of writers for years. However, it is one of the more expensive books on this list at \$23.90 for a paperback.

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott is another bestseller that only costs \$8.69 for a paperback. The book aims to help you find your passion and your voice, beginning from the first really crummy draft to the peculiar letdown of publication.

Novel & Short Story Writer's Market 2020 might be more on the expensive side at \$28.49 for the paperback, but it's a great resource for listings of book publishers, literary agents, fiction publications, contests and more. A slightly cheaper option at \$27.07 for the paperback is the **Writer's Market 2020**. It contains thousands of publishing opportunities, including listings for book publishers, consumer and trade magazines, literary agents, contests and awards.

Don't care for fruit of the month? How about **Journal of the Month** (\$44.00-\$215.00 depending on the number of magazines)? These contemporary literary magazines publish exciting fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from new and established voices. Another (and much cheaper) option is **Poets & Writers Magazine**

(\$19.95 for 6 printed issues). **The Writer's Digest** (\$19.96 for 8 printed issues) is a magazine that offers specific advice on writing and selling fiction and nonfiction books, stories, plays, magazine and newspaper articles, scripts and more.

For Writers Who Seek Yools of the Trade

A set of [2 LED Powered Ink Penlights](#) (\$10.95) to light anyone's creative world. A [Personalized Office Pens with a Refill-Engraved Message](#) (\$19.99) to promote their book or just encourage them to write with a fun message. **The [Antique Feather Copper Pen Stem Metal Nibbed Pen Writing Quill](#)** (\$29.99) will make any writer feel like Shakespeare in the 21st Century. The [Fountain Pen Writing Set Case](#) 100% Handcrafted Bamboo Vintage Collection with Ink Refill Converter (\$24.99), is bound to make any writers fall in love with making notes the good old way, and the [Silver Chrome Rollerball Pen](#) Scrivener - Stunning Luxury Pen with 24K Gold Finish (\$28.99) is beautiful and is also available in black or red lacquer

Want your friends to really be surprised for the holidays? Check out [ScribedeDelivery.com](#) that promises to send a monthly curated, themed box that includes pens, notebooks and items designed to inspire to write for the price of \$12.00 or \$20.00 per mystery kit.

And if your friend was naughty this year, maybe you should go with the [Literary Insult Chart](#) (\$25.00)

For Writers Who Seek a Fun Break:

Want to encourage someone's creativity? Looking for a fun writers' game-night idea? Tired of gazing at the computer screen in a poor attempt to cure writers' block? Take a break with the following fun writing games.

[The Writer's Toolbox](#) was designed by a creative writing teacher, and at a price of \$20.31 it contains challenges and exercises that focus on a "right-brain" approach to writing. A little more expensive, [The Storymatic Classic](#) game costs \$29.95, but it is a fun way to tap into your imagination and get your creative juices flowing.

For the Writers Who Seek Time:

Writers want to write, not research and follow endless guidelines to submit their material. Several websites offer services to help with those tasks, but they ain't cheap! [Writersrelief.com](#) will evaluate and submit your book to various agents, design your website and/or do all the work to self-publish a book; all for a price that ranges from \$150.00 to \$589.00, depending on the service chosen. [Independent Book Review](#) will give an



Fountain Pen Writing Set Case



Rocketbook Wave Smart Notebook



Qwerkywriter S Typewriter



Digital Voice Activated Recorder



Blue Light Blocking Computer Glasses



Fred THE END Dramatic Bookend

independent analysis of your material. Prices vary by length of book and service requested, but a 35,000-word book review will start from around \$70.00.

For Writers Who Seek Gadgets:

Got a Smart Phone? Well, how about Smart Pens? [Livescribe 2GB Echo Smartpen](#) that sells for around \$200.00 will record your thoughts and ideas while the [Echo Desktop](#) software allows to save, organize and play back interactive notes from your Mac or Windows computer, as well as share notes and pencasts as images. A slightly cheaper option is the [Livescribe Symphony Smartpen](#) Bluetooth Digital Pen, which sells for around \$110.00.

The [Rocketbook Wave Smart Notebook](#) costs \$21.59 and is an environmentally-friendly notebook that can be re-used by simply... microwaving it. No worries, your ideas can be saved first to a cloud services like Google drive, Dropbox, Evernote, box, OneNote, Slack, iCloud, email and more using the free Rocketbook application for iOS and Android. The notebook requires using a Pilot Frixion Pen, marker or highlighter, but one is provided with the notebook, and they can easily be purchased in any office supply store. Sophisticated AI technology allows you to use Rocketbook's smart titles, smart search, and email transcription for easier naming and searching of your notes

Miss that feeling of typing on a real typewriter, but want the convenience of what a computer has to offer? Well, look no further than the [Qwerkywriter S Typewriter](#) Inspired Retro Mechanical Wired & Wireless Keyboard with Tablet Stand. Though pricy at \$269.99, it does fall under the "neat gadget" category.

[Blue Light Blocking Computer Glasses](#) might not be as cool as some of the other options, but it's moderately priced at \$16.99. With writers often spending hours in front of the computer, having a set of blue light blocking glasses can be just the thing they need!

Recording a Zoom talk? The [Digital Voice Activated Recorder with Password Protection](#) at \$39.97, makes a great gift for writers who always get the best ideas when they can't write them down.

I Promised - No Mugs, but I said nothing about trinkets writers may like. Consider the [Fred THE END Dramatic Bookend](#) (\$18.00), which is bound to put a smile on anyone's face. Or perhaps something that would appeal more to the female writer, like the [Book Lover Chapter One and The End Earrings](#) (\$10.50)

And of course, if you want to give the ultimate gift that keeps on giving, why not give someone a membership to the Writer's Club?

Sugar Cookie Moon

Half moon, overhead at noon,
overlooked in the noontime sky
snudged stencil, sponged white,
eyes cast down, chagrined at
at being seen n bright daylight,
for the laughing sun has bitten you
and left half a sugar cookie
on a blue translucent plate.

Thin, white, bite-bitten moon,
I emphasize since in the mornings
as of late I feel the sun
has taken a bite out of me
and I am half of what I was
yesterday.

Lenora Smalley, 2009

Collage, Anthology of the
California Writers Club/West Valley



Sharing CWC Zoom Meetings

Dear SFV members:

Your club membership is now better than ever, especially since many CWC clubs are currently conducting meetings online.

It has been the practice of the California Writers Club Central Board that any CWC member may attend a meeting of any other CWC branch for the same price as the host club members. Some clubs, like ours, have no additional charge for club meetings, which means that your attendance at their meetings would be *gratis*, also.

Some clubs charge a small fee for their club members to attend meetings, and you are welcomed to attend their meetings for the same nominal fee.

Learn about other CWC branch meetings at calwriters.org. The Northern California branches have an events calendar for your convenience. The Southern California branches do not have a consolidated calendar of events at this time; however, when you click on the name of the branch at any of the branch listings on the website, you will find contact information for each club. At this time, we recommend that you contact each branch in which you are interested to learn

more about their meetings and upcoming programs.

Please note that this practice applies only to club meetings and not to contests, submissions to a club's newsletter, or any other activity a CWC branch may organize.

So, put on your "Zoom shoes" and venture out into cyberspace. And keep telling your writer friends to join CWC-SFV - with reciprocity at all the other CWC meetings. Such a deal!
Karen Gorback, CWC-SFV President



Prompt Responses

Join us for a brief prompt session after our December 5th program. Have some fun, get those creative juices going and if the result is publishable send it to Kathy Highcove (kghighcove@gmail.com) for the January *Valley Scribe*. To be published in our newsletter, the length is no more than 500 words plus it must be edited and print ready. See you on Saturday!

Pat Avery

This cartoon was reprinted from *TheValley Scribe*. December, 2012.

The late Ken Wilkens, for many years, was a jovial, multi-talented mover and shaker in our club. He had a rich deep voice and often used it to narrate his stories and memoir pieces. Or call us to order when we got too noisy.

And for several years, he sent this newsletter a monthly jingle about his latest "pet peeve."

Here's a sample. Enjoy.

Kathy Highcove, Editor

Ken's Pet Peeves by Ken Wilkins

SHOPPING CART

ABANDONMENT

A vacant space in the parking lot?
It sure looks empty but it is not.

A shopping cart has been left behind.
Some thoughtless soul with a pea-sized mind.

Left to dent fenders, maybe a door.
Why can't the user properly store?

It takes but a moment to return
Saving someone doing a slow burn.

Show you belong to the human race.
Return your cart to the proper place.

— Ken Wilkins



What fool left
THAT thing there?!



Spoonfall

Poetry
in the air
Buried under silverware
Taking beavers to the chair so
slowly filled with eyes

When the dark
shiny trees Polishing
Blue mysteries
Better than the
crumpled stars make
our things
breeze Alike

We only want the love rats today
So go out in the sponge shine
That washed the sky away
All the spoons are shining so bright
raining down to let us know a
good time on the right

Pluto child
necks four green
close to open Tangerines
Just for Me
Leave free on Penny don't
be silly Mildred

I don't know
sew words many
boil clean socks too
funny yet
all we know the
smile went some
where somewhere
ever pours

We only wanted love rats today
We don't want any
rats that float
by stealing grapes of
eight

Lyrics by Michael Rains

We don't want rats
that float by
melons breathing
lakes instead

Rain spoon fills
with spoon
rain when Rain
Spoon full of rain
Spoons Knew rain
Spoons

What
We Meant
We meant we
meant to tell you what
we meant

So we
told you
what we meant
To tell you what
we meant to You

We only want the love rats today
So go out in the sponge shine
That washed the sky away
All the spoons are shining so bright
raining down to let us know a
good time on the right





Happy Winter Holidays To all
From the CWC-SFV
Board and Coordinators



Karen Gorback, Ph.D., President/Zoom Host
Monte SwannVice President/Program Chair
Pat Avery. Treasurer
Anat Golan Secretary
Andrea Polk Membership
Kathy Highcove Scribe Editor
Michael Rains Web Master
Bob Okowitz, Ph.D.CWC CenCal Board Rep

In the coming New Year, we hope you will be healthy, happy and joyfully connected with your family, friends and the CWC-SFV. In 2121, please continue to join us in our Zoom gallery.

