





VOLUME 15 ISSUE 1

Newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Branch of the California Writers Club



Carol Tice Has the Scoop On Freelancing

he San Fernando Valley Branch of the California Writers Club is pleased to present freelance writing expert and entrepreneur

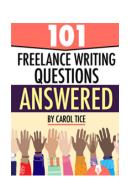
Carol Tice on Sunday, September 12 at 1:00 pm via Zoom with a presentation titled "Writing for Magazines and Other

Freelance Opportunities."

If you've always dreamed of seeing your byline in a magazine, you may have noticed print magazines are shrinking or going digital. Where is the opportunity in magazine writing now? Where else can you earn money from writing? Longtime freelance writing and business coach Carol Tice will guide you through the opportunities.

Tice is a Seattle-based, 20+ year freelance writer and former staff reporter for the Puget Sound Business Journal. Her byline has appeared in Forbes, Entrepreneur, Seattle Magazine, Seattle Business, Alaska Beyond, Delta Sky, Nation's Restaurant News and many more. Her corporate clients have included Costco, Deloitte and American Express.





Her blog Make a Living Writing has appeared in the Writer's Digest's "Top 101 Sites for Writers." Since 2011, she's helped more than 16,000 writers grow their income through her Freelance Writers Den learning and support community. She won a national Best in Business award from the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing (SABEW), along with many regional Society of Professional Journalists awards.

> Tice grew up in the San Fernando Valley, attended the University of California at Santa Barbara, and later studied journalism through UCLA Extension. She has lived in the Seattle area for 20 years. For more information, please visit caroltice.com.

—Karen Gorback, Ph.D. CWC-SFV President

Note: CWC-SFV members will receive a Zoom invitation to this presentation. Other CWC branch members may request a free invitation by contacting VP/Zoom Host Monte Swann by 6 pm on September 11 at cwcsfvhost@gmail.com. Guests may purchase admission to this lecture at cwc-sfv.org.

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elcome to September! I hope you enjoyed the special, August presentation by Silver Rose and feel a bit more motivated to keep those computer keyboards clicking!

Please take a minute to look over the flyer included in this issue of the *Scribe*, listing the complete program of your professional development opportunities for the year. Print it out and stick it on the fridge, so you won't miss a single presentation!

We'll begin on Sunday, September 12 with a lecture by freelance writing guru Carol Tice. Always wanted to write for magazines? Don't miss this one.

Heading into October and pumpkin latte season, we'll go back to Saturday meetings. I know you'll enjoy the presentation by Dr. Seth Wagerman, explaining "How to Use Psychology to Master Character Development." In November, we'll learn "How to Write Biographies – from Proposal to Publishing," by Cary Ginell. Finally, Barri Evins will bring us into December with a lecture titled, "Can You Hear Me Now? Developing the Writer's Voice."

We'll usher in 2022 with Jill Lublin's presentation titled, "Get Known Everywhere: Publicity Strategies for Authors." February is all about Valentine's Day, as well as Attorney Kendall Jones, a long-time friend of CWC-SFV, who will share with us vital information in a lecture titled "Self Publishing Contracts and Pitfalls." In March, we'll be honored with a presentation by Jonathan Maberry, bestselling author in multiple genres, explaining "The Genre of You."

To help us celebrate National Poetry Month in April, we'll be treated to a reading from Los Angeles Poet Laureate Lynne Thompson. Pure joy. In May, our own, fabulous Anat Golan-Wenick will instruct us on how to turn a novel into a screenplay. Finally, we'll round out our year with Pamela Samuels Young in a presentation titled "Write Your Next Page Turner!" I can't wait for this one!

So, get ready! September is wonderful for many reasons, including Labor Day to honor the nation's workers, the traditional beginning of a new school year in many states, the first pumpkin pies of fall at Costco, and the beginning of new learning opportunities for those of us who call CWC-SFV our literary home – albeit virtual for now.

Welcome to September.





Valley Writers



A BRANCH OF THE CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB

hether you have been published or have always wanted to write, please join the San Fernando Valley branch of the California Writers Club for monthly Zoom meetings to learn more about the craft and business of writing. This series is free for members from any branch of the California Writers Club. Please visit cwc-sfv.org for information about membership or single-lecture admission.

CWC-SFV SPEAKERS FOR 2021-2022

AUGUST 8, 2021

Silver Rose

"If You Don't Ask, the Answer is No"

Join us to welcome "Happiness Coach" Silver Rose for a motivational boost and a lot of smiles to kick off the program year!

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 (SUNDAY)

Carol Tice

"Writing for Magazines & Other Freelance Opportunities "

If you've always dreamed of a magazine by-line, join freelance writing expert Carol Tice to learn how.

OCTOBER 2, 2021

Dr. Seth Wagerman

"Using Psychology to Master Character Development"

Why fill out lengthy character sheets when you can build a resonant character using real psychology? You don't want to miss this.

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Cary Ginell

"Biographical Writing: From Proposal to Publishing"

Ever think about writing a biography but don't know how to begin or where to publish? Help is here!

DECEMBER 4. 2021

Barri Evins

"Can You Hear Me Now? Developing the Writer's Voice"

Writers with a *voice* have a distinctive style, setting the pros apart from the rest. Attend this lecture and find your unique professional voice.

JANUARY 8, 2022

Jill Lublin

"Get Known Everywhere: Publicity Strategies for Authors"

If the PR part of writing gives you nightmares, join Jill for a wake-up call. We need this!

FEBRUARY 5. 2022

Kendall Jones, JD

"Self Publishing Contracts and Pitfalls"

Learn to look beyond the hype and promises of selfpublishing with this not-to-be missed presentation.

MARCH 5, 2022

Jonathan Maberry

"The Genre of You"

If your muse beckons you to multiple genres but you're afraid to follow, don't be. Join Jonathan to learn why.

APRIL 2, 2022

Lynne Thompson, Poet Laureate for the City of Los Angeles

"Celebrating National Poetry Month"

Celebrate the joy of poetry with our city's acclaimed Poet Laureate. What a treat!

MAY 7. 2922

Anat Golan-Wenick

"Turn Your Novel Into A Screen Play"

Want to see your novel come to life on the big or little screen? Learn how, now!

JUNE 4. 2022

Pamela Samuels Young

"Write Your Next Page Turner"

Whether you write mysteries, romance or nonfiction, learn the tips and tricks best-selling authors use to keep readers turning pages.

Programs are subject to change.

CWC-SFV 3 SEPTEMBER 2021



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF THE CWC-SFV! YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE NOW THROUH SEPTEMBER 27TH!

HERE'S HOW TO PAY YOUR 2020-2121 DUES

DUES FOR RETURNING CWC-SFV MEMBERS—\$45. DUES FOR NEW CWC-SFV MEMBERS—\$65.

MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONERY ORDER PAYABLE TO CWC-SFV.
MAIL YOUR DUES TO:

PAT AVERY, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR P.O. BOX 902 CALABASAS, CA 91372



OR PAY ONLINE WITH **PayPal** OR A CREDIT CARD AT <u>www.cwc-sfv.org</u>.

CWC members will earn a \$20 rebate on renewal dues when you refer a new member!



DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL.

DO NOT MISS THE DEADLINE! HERE'S WHY:

IF YOU MISS THE SEPTEMBER 26 DEADLINE

YOU'LL BE DROPPED FROM THE ACTIVE

CWC-SFV MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. OY!

REMEMBER, REINSTATEMENT IS \$65.

n past years, our August meetings were light-hearted affairs. We'd host a potluck and after a few announcements were made, members shared the goodies, greeted each other and shared their news. But in 2021, such amiable in-person gatherings were not encouraged by health authorities. So your board members decided to schedule a fun speaker for our 2021 August meeting. SFV President, Karen Gorback, had a hunch that motivational coach, Silver Rose, someone she'd heard before, would boost our spirits and generate comments from the SFV gallery. Happily, Silver

Silver Rose advised us: "Focus on what makes you

smile! Laughter is an instant vacation!"

Silver Rose is widely known for her motivational talks to business groups, As I joined the meeting, I expected to hear a fast -paced, wisecracking presentation. But Silver surprised me. She was thoughtful, low key, and presented her points with doses of gentle humor. She hadn't come to prod us into more efficient salesmanship and team-work; she sought to help a group of writers prepare for a new experience: selling their writing to groups of impassive listeners or very selective editors, book agents and publishers.

accepted our invitation.

Silver Rose has built a stellar reputation as a canny businesswoman who, from early adulthood, has worked in every facet of the business world - sales, product promotion, staff management and team coordination. She has immersed herself in this ultra-competitive work environment and succeeded in every endeavor.

She related her struggles while working for "the boss from hell" who taught her the facts of business life. When she complained to him about a difficult customer, he'd reply: "In the time it took to complain, you could've been working on a solution." Silver inwardly seethed at his jibe, but would square her shoulders and return to the arena. Eventually, she felt able to handle all varieties of challenging situations.

But Silver admitted that the wins took an emotional toll, Each success was attained by stressful efforts that often left her



A Silver Rose best-seller: The Book of Delegation

wondering if the win was worth the pain. For 30 years she'd had bouts of severe depression and anxiety about her future performance. She had to confront and conquer dark moods, low self-worth and endured panic attacks. Silver termed these fears as her form of PTSD.

She decided to "train my brain" – coax it into a new POV.

"I decided to reject bad karma from the pessimistic
"harmful" part of my mind and listen to the helpful mind.

She tried to smile more, take deep breaths, meditate, enjoy nature and find multiple ways to laugh at herself and minimize her fears. In fact, she tried being a stand-up comic and then applied the crowd-pleasing patter to her new career as a Happiness Coach.

She advised us to follow our instincts and listen to the brain's "helpful mind" not the pessimistic "harmful mind." She suggested scheduling regular breaks from stressful chores and projects. "Take a walk, play your favorite music, dance, call a friend and chat —whatever turns you on and makes you feel good!"

At the end of her talk, many of her listeners were ready for comments and questions. Our gallery seemed to have enjoyed her talk. While listening to the lively interaction between Silver and her audience, I thought it would be fun to find out how SFV members reacted to her talk. On the next page you'll find two reviews that eloquently comment on Silver Rose's power point presentation.

—Kathy Highcove, "The Valley Scribe" Editor

TWO CWC-SFV MEMBERS FOUND MERIT IN THE SILVER ROSE AUGUST PRESENTATION



Anne Hansell

was drawn to Silver Rose's experiences with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). This disorder is characterized by extremely painful flashbacks and memories. I have had many experiences with people who have suffered from PTSD.

When my mother was a teenager, growing up in Honolulu, Hawaii, she witnessed the Pearl Harbor Attack -hand. Afterwards, she couldn't go visit the U.S.S. Arizona memorial without getting extremely painful flashbacks. As a teenager, I met several Japanese relatives who survived Hiroshima, and I witnessed how they and their friends, long after their service years, still suffered

aftereffects of their traumatic experiences. My cousin who had been a foot soldier for the Imperial Japanese Army in Manchuria, China, during the World War II. He developed a severe form of PTSD. During a Bible study session, I met a Vietnam War veteran who lost his hearing in an explosion who also developed PTSD. Now and then I still meet PTSD victims. I refer those with extreme cases, such as drug abuse or suicidal tendencies, to professional mental health workers.

I was impressed with how Silver Rose found helpful ways to deal with her PTSD. During her talk, she appeared well-adjusted and healthy. Many of the people I met who had PTSD still had problems such as depression, drug abuse, alcoholism, and mood swings.

Silver Rose's lecture discussed the two ways of seeing your life: through a pessimistic harmful mind vs. a helpful guide mind. Basically, she said a harmful mind involves negative thoughts and poor self-image while a helpful guide, creates positive thoughts and a better self-image.

To overcome the harmful mind, she emphasized self care and focusing on positive thoughts, such as telling oneself pleasant things, reconnecting with nature, doing exercises and developing new hobbies, such as gardening. She encouraged all of us to write for an hour or several hours to feel better.

Her suggestions reminded me of the basic coping techniques that have been used to treat people who suffer from PTSD. I know that some PTSD people use some type of meditation, such as yoga or prayer to get negative thoughts out of their minds. And her lecture was very helpful to me in one major way: it encouraged me to ignore negative thoughts and self-doubts so that I can go ahead and concentrate on writing my stories.

Anne Hansell



Mary Jane Atkins

think Silver Rose's presentation was very good for writers, especially for those like me who wrestle with their inner critic. I write so much better when I'm happy and in that magical place of being like a free little kid having fun.

I wrote for a few hours after our meeting on Saturday and had a relaxed good-time writing session because of Silver's input to our group. I always take notes during our speakers' talks and so I wrote down many of her suggestions. And I intend to use them in the coming months.

All that she spoke about, like singing, laughing, being positive etc. kept me buoyed the next day. I needed those reminders because I easily slip into bad habits, like listening to my harmful mind. Getting an outside person like Silver to remind me about being positive was really helpful. I want to practice staying in the Helpful Guide more often.

It's true; I really do write better when I'm happy and free, like that little kid Silver talked about. I want to practice that state of mind more often and her talk that Saturday was very inspiring. I felt truly uplifted.

Mary Jane Atkins

Satanas

By Michael Edenstein

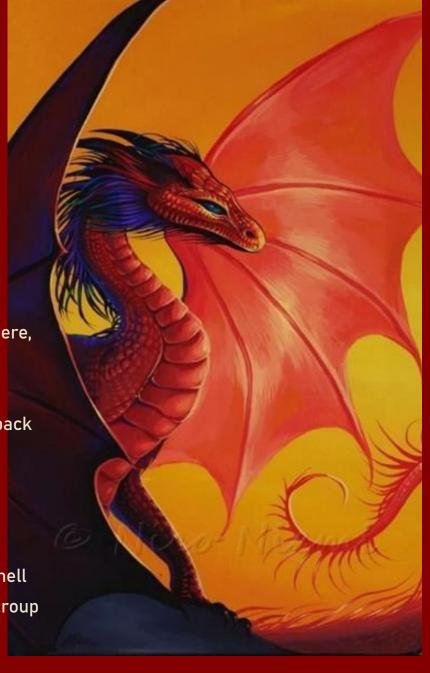
An angry bowl of blood-red soup Conjunctivitis' inflamed eye Florid carbuncle crimsoned *loupe* The sun incarnadined the sky.

The bloody disc looked down from high Terrifying through days of fear Cold sweat flowed in heat; afraid to die We prostrates clamored for God's ear.

The moon afraid disappeared. Where Were Selene and her zodiac?
Swallowed stars, gone. Darkened and sere, Sweet earth denuded, lost her claque.

Dragon breath's stench drove mortals back
Acridly bit our tongues dry swell
Turning night to carbonized black.
As fog - haze shadowed day's pastel.

Flames flowed through burnt nights of hell Sacred water poured, we gagged with croup Stark figures strong answered the bell Slew *Satana*, the devil's troop.



Falling Leaves



like paper birds
they float down
from ancient trees
blown with abandon
here and there
watered by tears of rain
within my thoughts

voices barely audible
I listen for love songs
lonely clarinets
children chanting nursery rhymes
amidst the falling leaves

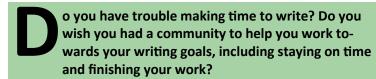
I listen for his chuckle
I listen for laughter
laughter brushing the sidewalk
laughter so illusive
I strive to recognize it
among the falling leaves

Lillian Rodich



NaNoWriMo and Beyond: 9 Writing Challenges for Novelists, **Poets and More by Nicole Dieker**

This article was previously published in THE WRITE LIFE



Many writers sign up for writing challenges to help them solve these problems and write a large body of work in a short amount of time — or even to build their practice and discipline of writing consistently.

Besides completing work you can be proud of, participating in writing challenges is amazing because you get to work alongside a group of other writers who all share the same goal: finish that novel, finish that picture book, or write those short stories and poems. You support each other and hold each other accountable.

Writing challenges that will push you forward

If you're up to the task, we've come up with some writing challenges to try, whether you're a novelist, poet, picturebook writer or something in between. Here are nine writing challenges to explore.

1. NaNoWriMo

Genre: Novel

This is the one you've probably heard of: NaNoWriMo, which stands for National Novel Writing Month, has been an annual November tradition since 1999. During NaNoWriMo, writers around the world challenge themselves to write a 50,000 -word novel in 30 days.

What's special about 50,000 words? As NaNoWriMo's organizers explain: "Our experiences since 1999 show that 50,000 is a difficult but doable goal, even for people with full-time jobs and children. The length makes it a short novel (about the length of The Great Gatsby)."

You'll need to write about 1,667 words every day to hit this target novel word count, but you won't be alone; the online NaNoWriMo community helps you track and share your progress while awarding badges for hard work and providing inspiration through interviews with well-known writers and other motivational tools.

Several writers have published novels they initially drafted during NaNoWriMo, including Sara Gruen's Water for Elephants and Erin Morgenstern's The Night Circus. If you're looking for a similar option, check out Camp NaNoWriMo to experience a writing adventure that offers more flexibility. Hosted annually in April and July, you can set your own writing goal and work on any writing project,

2. NaPoWriMo

Genre: Poetry

If NaNoWriMo is National Novel Writing Month, I bet you can guess what NaPoWriMo stands for.

National Poetry Writing Month takes place every April, and challenges writers to pen 30 poems in 30 days. You'll have access to daily prompts to help your creative juices flow, but you're welcome to ignore 'em, too.

Independently organized, NaPoWriMo is much smaller than NaNoWriMo, so don't expect your local library to organize NaPoWriMo nights — unless, of course, you want to organize one on your own!

Some writers share their NaPoWriMo poems on their websites or via social media, and help spread their love of poetry while showing off their ability to complete the challenge.

3. StoryADay

Genre: Short stories

So we've got novel-writing in November and poetry in April. What about short stories? That's in May and/or September (or whenever you want!), and it's called StoryADay — https://storyaday.org/

StoryADay is a little different from NaNoWriMo and Na-PoWriMo in that it focuses on completing a short story every day, rather than ending the month with a certain number of stories or a specific word count. But there are rules:

- a. If you miss a day or don't finish a story, move on. You still have every other day of the month (of your life) which is a new day, on which a new story can be told.
- b. Don't go back and try to finish yesterday's story. Leave it. Wash your hands of it. Move on.
- c. As long as you keep writing, you're not failing.

(Continued on page 10)

D. Starting — and finishing — a new short story everyday sounds like a much harder challenge than writing a 50,000-word novel in a month; but "sometimes you need a big, hairy audacious goal, to scare your Inner Critic into letting you write."

4. <u>12 x 12</u>

Genre: Picture books

If you write picture books, you might want to consider signing up for the 12×12 writing challenge created by Julie Hedlund, author of *My Love For You Is the Sun*. The challenge: write 12 picture books in 12 months!

Unlike other writing challenges, 12 x 12 comes with a membership fee. The basic package costs \$177 and grants you access to writers' forums, the member Facebook group, feedback from traditionally-published authors and much more. If you choose the higher level membership — which are only available to people who have already participated in at least one year of 12 x 12 — you get to submit your work directly to participating agents.

Do 12 x 12 writers get published? Absolutely. Check out their <u>list of published writers</u> to get inspired.

While 12 x 12 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, registration is closed for 2020 and will resume in 2021.

5. ChaBooCha

Genre: Young adult

Young adult writers can use NaNoWriMo to write their books, but there's also a writing challenge just for them: Cha-BooCha, or the Chapter Book Challenge.

Hosted by writer Rebecca Fyfe, ChaBooCha runs every March and challenges you to "Write one completed first draft of an early reader, chapter book, middle-grade book or YA novel," from the 1st to the 31st of March.

Your results could be anywhere between 1,000 and 80,000 words, depending on whether you're putting together an early reader or writing the next book in your YA series. Either way, ChaBooCha is there to help you get the job done, with motivational blog posts from authors, agents and publishers — as well as prizes.

ChaBooCha is open to writers under 17, too!

6. YeahWrite

Genre: Nonfiction, fiction, poetry, microstories

After reading about all of these programs that challenge

you to write 50,000 words or 31 new short stories in a month, are you ready for a writing challenge that's designed to fit your schedule?

It's time to check out <u>YeahWrite</u>, a writing site that issues one writing challenge each week for each of three genres: nonfiction, fiction/poetry and microstories.

This writing challenge differs from the others on this list because every week, community members vote on a challenge winner. You're not only participating in a writing challenge, you're also getting reviewed by other writers — and you might write well enough to win the week!

YeahWrite is all about community, so it's free to join. But a paid membership helps keep the site running and gets you access to editorial consultations with <u>Yeah-Write editors</u>. There are two membership packages that cost either \$25 or \$50 per year; each gives you access to editorial evaluations, discounts and more, so check them out!

7. NaNonFiWriMo

Genre: Nonfiction

The Write Nonfiction in November Challenge (WNFIN) was created by Nina Amir, a coach who inspires writers and bloggers to create published products and careers as authors. Unlike NaNoWriMo, this informal challenge comes with only one rule: You have to commit to starting and finishing a work of nonfiction in a month.

"No one counts how many words you write during the month or even checks what you write. You can write any type of nonfiction, such as a magazine article, blog posts, a white paper, or a book." And your WNFIN project can even be as short or as long as you like.

To help you along with the challenge, you can join the WNFIN Facebook page, and the Remote Writing Room provides you with a virtual group of writers you can chat and write twice per week. Plus, check out Nina's blog for more inspiration and tips to improve your nonfiction writing process.

8. 365 Writing Challenge

Genre: All genres are welcome

The benefits of discipline and daily practice can't be underestimated, and that's what the 365 Writing Challenge wants to help you develop. Created by Jessica White and her group the 10 Minute Novelists, this challenge has helped hundreds of writers over the past five years write

(Continued on page 11)

more than 100 million words. To be able to participate, you must be a member of the 10 Minute Novelists Facebook Group.

All you have to do is set aside 10 minutes every day to write, which is about 100 words a day. You can also use that time to reflect on the writing process, set weekly writing goals, or even flesh out a setting or a character.

Upon choosing a <u>membership tier</u>, you'll be provided a Google Sheet to help you keep track of your daily word count, and at the beginning of each month, Jessica awards badges for the prior month's achievements.

It doesn't matter if you spend 10 minutes or 4 hours a day writing — "the key is consistency so you can grow as a writer and finish your projects." Look out for 2021 registration details later this year.

9. The Writer's Games

Genre: Short stories and poetry

The <u>Writer's Games</u> is a free competition designed to help each individual writer improve his or her craft at an accelerated rate. This free six-week, multi-challenge writing competition comes with feedback for every entry, opportunities for publication throughout the competition, and the ability to use judge feedback on previous entries to improve them.

Here's how it works: Each week starting in May and September, a surprise Event is announced and writers have 72 hours to create a short story or poem that fits the Event requirements. Every entry received before the deadline is

judged and critiqued by a team and winners are published in a charitable anthology.

And don't worry about being eliminated — every registered writer is encouraged to try each of the six Events, even if one of their previous stories was disqualified, which is rare.

Registration opens April 1 and August 1 for two separate portions, and keep in mind that space is limited.

So, are you ready to take on one of these writing challenges?

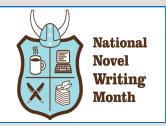
This is an updated version of a story that was previously published. We update our posts as often as possible to ensure they're useful for our readers.

Photo via G-Stock Studio / Shutterstock



About the Author: Nicole Dieker

Nicole Dieker has been writing about the business of freelancing for nearly a decade. She's also the author of The Biographies of Ordinary People, a Millennial-era Little Women.



Interested in NaNoWriMo? Here's the 2021 Participation Information

take part in NaNoWriMo in November, 2021, you'll need to sign-up and follow these four steps at: What is NaNoWriMo? - A Complete Guide | Freedom Matters

Most importantly: Take These Steps before the month of November:

- First, create a profile
- Go to <u>NaNoWriMo.org</u> and click "sign-up" to create your profile and connect with like-minded NaNoWriMo writers throughout the month
- Once you've selected a username, and password you will receive an email that will enable you
 to confirm your account. (Remember to check your spam folder!)
- Click on the link in the email and sign in.

CWC-SFV BRANCH INFORMATON



OUR LOCATION WHEN MPTF MEETINGS RESUME

BOARD CHAIRS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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Central Board Representative

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Critique Group Coordinator

Kathy Highcove
Editor of *The Valley Scribe*

Michael Rains

CWC-SFV Webmaster

WE WILL GATHER AGAIN IN THE SABAN COMMUNITY ROOM



INSIDE THE SABAN
CENTER FOR HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

CURRENT CWC-SFV CRITIQUE GROUPS

Tuesday Poetry Critique Group

Meetings held once a month on the 2nd Tuesday from 10:30 AM until 1 PM. Poetry only.

Tuesday Long Fiction Critique Group
This group meets Via Zoom on Tuesdays, once a month, from 1 to 4 PM. Focus is on long fiction.

Wednesday Daytime Critique Group
Meetings held 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 11:30
to 3 PM. Long and short fiction, memoirs and poetry.

Friday Daytime Critique Group
Meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 1 to
4 PM. All genres except poetry.

Saturday Critique Group
Meetings held 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 1 PM. Long and short fiction, memoirs and poetry.