

It's time to renew your Napa Valley Writers membership.

We now provide three easy ways to pay:

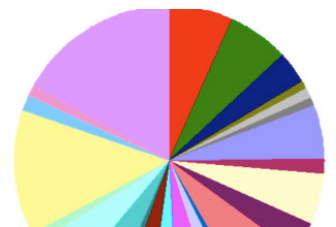
1. At the monthly membership meeting, June 14 (cash or check)
2. Mail a check to NVW, P.O. Box 5901, Napa CA 94581
3. Online at <http://napavalleywriters.net>

Three easy steps

1. Click on the Joining tab.
2. Scroll down to Available Classes of Membership.
3. Pick one and you'll be magically transported to PayPal to complete the process. Most of you will choose renewing member, a few of you, and you know who you are, will choose dual/joint or student. If you have questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Roberta Wright.

If you're not yet a dues-paying voting member of Napa Valley Writers, this is the perfect time to join.

All NVW members are urged to cast their votes in the June 14, 2017 annual Board of Directors election. This will be the first order of business at the monthly meeting, 7 PM sharp. Each and every one of our members is a very important piece of our quorum pie. If you're



unsure of your membership status, please contact [Roberta Wright](#), Membership Chair, immediately. Thank you for all you do. See you June 14.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Kathleen Thomas



Writing in the corners of life.

Introducing Micah. I've spent the better part of the last two years watching over my youngest grandchild and his two sisters while my daughter has been attending nursing school and her husband was working. Mollie graduates this month from the PUC nursing, following in her mother's footsteps to become an

RN. Of course, I'm so proud of her. And Micah, well, he makes me laugh so much. His imagination and creative mind is on fire. I'll really miss our one-on-one time with Kindergarten just around the bend.

June 1st heralds summer vacations, retirement "what shall I do today?" comments, hot times in the great outdoors, and for me at least, more writing. I'm excited to report I've been accepted as a participant in the upcoming Napa Valley Writers Conference. Would you believe I'm still working on my manuscript? Revise, revise, revise. End. If you're up to it, I'll give you a full report later this summer.

Please, would you let me know what you'd like to see Napa Valley Writers provide in the future? What are you interested in learning in your writing life? What activities would you like for your enjoyment and edification? What would you like to do with Napa Valley Writers?

For those of you reading *First Press: Collected Works from Napa Valley Writers 2017*, would you consider submitting a review on Amazon? You'll find the web address at the bottom left of this newsletter.

And please, please, be sure to vote on Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m. at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church Sanctuary, 1625 Salvador Avenue, Napa.

Your vote counts...almost as much as you do.

LAST MEETING

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 14

7 - 9 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker

Didi Balle

A Playwright and Stage Director, Balle will be presenting a fascinating talk about creating, writing and directing Symphonic Plays for major American symphony orchestras.

Didi has been awarded nine commissions to create, write and direct Symphonic Plays premiered by major orchestras, most recently "The Rachmaninoff Trilogy" for the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Canter in April 2017. She has created a new genre of writing with her Symphonic Plays. This will be an intriguing look behind the scenes of a playwright creating her work and collaborating with orchestras and symphonic conductors from Marin Alsop to Yannick Nizet-Seguin to Stephane Denuve.



For all writers, each and every scene is unique, it propels the story. Writers of every genre will add to their arsenal of scene from Didi's talk.

Visit her website: [DidiBalle](#)

MEMBER READER

Freddy Piedrahita

Piedrahita offers his investigations and experiences to people who are facing adverse situations and have an honest desire to make significant changes in their





Lynda McDaniel kept the audience at NVW's May meeting in rapt attention with her enlightening talk.

Answering many questions from the audience, she was quick to reply from her own insights and experience. Her talk addressed

writers of all genres in creating each scene they put down on paper, reminding us that when a screenwriter is limited to 120 words on paper, every word must count.

She provided relevant handouts addressing several tricks of the trade, including writing about what your character yearns for, what the set/up and pay/off is each step of the way, and my favorite, how to write 100 words for 100 days; do that and you'll be ahead 10,000 words.

submitted by Kathy Thomas

COMING SOON

For NVW Members and their guests!

Napa Valley Writers Spring Salon



Set aside a bit of time to socialize, enjoy our member readings, and pick up a few refreshments at the annual NVW Spring Salon.

June 11, 2017

lives. He will read from his book, "Sed de Venganza", which can be found at [Sed-Venganza-Amazon](#)



Napa Valley Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club, holds monthly meetings at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church Sanctuary, 1625 Salvador Avenue, Napa.

Cost at the door: \$8 for guests, \$5 for CWC members. Full time Students with ID, free.

For more information about this upcoming meeting, or any other questions, please contact Publicity Chair [Sarita Lopez](#) or see [Napa Valley Writers](#). NVW events are open to the public.

Coming July 12, 2017

MELISSA CISTARO

Melissa will talk about what sustained her through the many years of working on her memoir, and the compassion and forgiveness that can be found in the act of writing. If you have a story you need to tell (fiction or nonfiction) - she believes there is no better time to write it.



Topics will include:

- * Sticking with the story you need to tell.
- * Finding the arc of forgiveness.
- * The single sentence that kept her writing through the years.
- * Why she started her memoir as fiction.
- * Struggling with structure.
- * What she's learned from working in a bookstore.

Melissa Cistaro is the author of the memoir *PIECES OF MY MOTHER* (winner of the 'Best Nonfiction Book of 2105' selected by The Northern California Independent Booksellers Association). Melissa's stories, essays, and interviews have appeared in *The New Ohio Review*, *Brevity*, *The Huffington Post*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *PBS: To the Contrary*, *Bookish*, *Good Housekeeping* and the anthologies *Love and Profanity* and *Cherished*.

For more information, please see [NapaValleyWriters](#) or [Melissa's website](#)

3 - 5PM

...at the home of Doug Brozell.

To RSVP, for more details, and to receive Doug's home address, send an email to [Doug Brozell](mailto:Doug.Brozell).

Please bring a drink - or drinks - of your choice, and finger food to share, according to your last name:

A-M: Savory items

N-Z: Sweet stuff

Five minute readings.

Space is Limited! Reserve yours today.



Save your space and register today for the upcoming IRIS DUNKLE Workshop

"Talking Back to History"

In this talk, Iris Jamahl Dunkle will discuss the tradition of talking back to history in poetry and her own process for writing poetry series from primary documents. She will also lead students in hands-on writing exercises.

**June 17, 2017
9 am - noon**

Networking, & refreshments, and sign-in
8:30 am

Synergy Fitness Center
3421 Villa Lane
Napa CA

Please contact [Lenore Hirsch](mailto:Lenore.Hirsch) to register for the workshop.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FIVE THINGS ABOUT ME

Michael Wycombe

1. I trained as a scientist, planned to be a nuclear physicist or a professor, but went into computers and software, and never looked back.

2. I have worked in and/or visited approximately 30 countries. My longest commute was twice monthly from SFO to Lisbon, Portugal.



3. I did four start-ups as a V.P. or Exec. My score was two wins, one draw, and one loss.

4. I am the holder of two patents and have co-written countless others.

5. I enjoy playing competitive cribbage, attend several tournaments each year, and teach cribbage as a volunteer at the Senior Center.

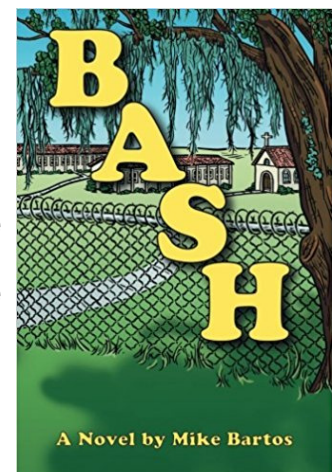
BOOK EXCERPT OF THE MONTH

BASH

by Mike Bartos

Roswell was a good looking athletic teenager, six feet two, with dark brown hair and piercing blue eyes. He dated the cheerleaders and prom queens.

But he was inexplicably drawn to the freckle-faced girl with braids and a middle initial but no middle name who wrote poetry and didn't have a lot of time for the



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Carolyn Patricia Scott

Five Things About Me

1. I rode a camel in the shadow of the Great Pyramid in Egypt.
2. I rode an elephant in one of Thailand's ancient provinces Ayuthaya.
3. I worked as a radio music director in my youth.
4. I love, love, love to dance.
5. Some of my guiltiest pleasures are devouring whole: British mysteries and police procedural's, the news, certain magazines, books about Ancient Egypt, waffles and more.



Napa Farmer's Market Big Win



Napa Valley

Writers held their first booth on Saturday, 5/20 at the Napa Farmers Market. Cheryl Velasquez, Marilyn Campbell, Barbara Toboni, Patsy Ann Taylor, and Sarita Lopez featured their published works, along with copies of NVW's anthology, First Press. Sales and connections were made, with many locals expressing surprise and excitement that such an established writers club was in their backyard.

old Southern ways. She was going to go to New York and be a writer when she had the chance and leave Cheraw in her rearview mirror once and for all.

That summer before college, they would take long walks by the tobacco farms and watch the field hands hang the large fragrant leaves in the open sheds. They would tell each other stories, and she would read him her dreamy poetry. He started to write some poetry and short stories, and she would critique them. He wrote all his poetry in rhyme, while she in free verse.

The spring and summer of their high school graduation year, 1991, was one of young infatuation. It was that summer, at age seventeen, that Sally J Gaffney gave to Roswell Chamblee the love she thought she would save for marriage. She had brought a blanket so together they could lie out under the stars and count the constellations. The gnats and no-see-'ems were impossible, though, so they fled to the screened deck behind the old Chamblee mansion, near the tobacco fields. It was late. Roswell's mom and dad had long gone to sleep.

A quick thunderstorm had doused the countryside minutes after they found themselves on the blanket covering the wooden deck, listening to the rain pelt the tar paper roof above them. They laughed about how lucky they were. The rain dissipated, the clouds rolled away, and bright moonbeams shined down on the fields outside Cheraw, gently illuminating her soft pale skin. A chorus of frogs, grateful for the rain, covered the fields and trees with so much racket that Sally J and Roswell didn't need to worry about being heard. They could hardly hear each other whispering, although their faces were inches apart. But Roswell could feel her warm sweet breath on his cheek. He was her first love. No matter what happens in life, your first love remains your first love.

* **BASH is available now at [BASH-Bartos-Amazon](#)**



Napa

Valley Writers will continue to have a booth at the Napa Market on the 3rd Saturday of each month until the season ends in October. A range of different books would be welcome, along with new volunteers (around 4-5 a month) to man the booth. To sell your books and participate, please email [Sarita Lopez](mailto:Sarita.Lopez@nvw.org). The booth is no cost to club members; just donate your time."

Reports from the field...

Cheryl Velasquez:

"The Farmers Market is the perfect place to meet many amazing people interested in local writers. I met a screenwriter from Florida. She purchased my book, and may consider making it into a movie."

Sarita Lopez: *"I've always loved the Napa Farmers Market for its sense of community. I felt that sense stronger than ever when people flocked to the NVW booth to meet us volunteers and to find out more about the club. I printed 20 copies of the membership application and almost all were gone by the end of the day. I highly recommend club members to take a few hours out of their day to volunteer at least one day - if anything to sell a few books!"*

Marilyn Campbell: *"It was a very positive experience to meet locals and visitors alike at the farmers market. There were a number of writers who were aware of Napa Valley Writers, but had not yet had a first hand chance to meet and talk to us. Applications, bookmarks and other materials were given out. Folks who had learned about our anthology were eager to purchase a copy of First Press."*

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to NVW member Lance Burris as his "Place Settings" is set to open at St. Helena Public Library.

If you'd like an excerpt from YOUR book featured in this newsletter, please send your request with a short Word or text excerpt and a jpg of your book cover to [Sarita Lopez](mailto:Sarita.Lopez@nvw.org).

Caption Me! A picture is worth a thousand words...or maybe only six.



Welcome to our newest brain-teasing exercise: **"Caption Me"**.

This interactive writing feature will stretch your imagination and challenge

your ability to make each word count. 1) Study the photograph. 2) Construct a six-word story related to what you see in the photograph. It's as simple as that. Each month we will post a photograph asking you to tell the story using only six words. The top ten entries will be posted in the following month's newsletter. Try your hand at this fun exercise in creativity. **Remember:** use only six words. One submission per person. Have fun! Be creative! Send your six word entries to [Cheryl Velasquez](mailto:Cheryl.Velasquez@nvw.org)

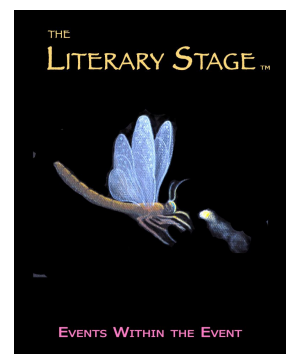
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Pigs and Poetry at a County Fair? You bet!

Look what they're up to in San Mateo.


What do you think? Is Napa County ready for something like this?

<http://cwc-peninsula.org/the->



[literary-stage/](#)

Napa Valley "Place Settings"
 Paintings by Lance Burris



June Reception & Talk

Twelve paintings that take a local perspective on the Napa Valley. Join us for a talk following the reception to hear the accompanying narratives for each piece.

Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, June 15th, 7:00 pm
 St. Helena Public Library, 1492 Library Lane

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY FRIENDS & FOUNDATION, ST. HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Mendocino Coast
 Writers Conference
 August 3-5**

Plenty of time to register for this event and get over to the coast.

<http://mcwc.org>



**Why Attend
 BABF 2017?**

"I couldn't believe the long lines of cheerful readers, the hugely appreciative crowds, the authors on offer (many of them heroes of mine since boyhood) and the ease and compactness of setting up a teeming Book Festival in the middle of a crowded city! The Bay Area Book Festival shows how a spirited, thoughtful and fun idea can come together with an engaged, deeply literate, alive community and make magic."

...Pico Iyer, author

For all the reasons to attend and be part of the Bay Area Book Fest, see their website: <https://www.baybookfest.org>

June 3 & 4 - Downtown Berkeley...



Napa Valley Writers Library + Reviews

Calling all Authors!

Donate a copy of your published book to the new Napa Valley Writers Library for a chance to get up to a least four reviews a year. Here's a chance to read the amazing works of your peers, and to get word out about yours.

For more information, please contact [Sarita Lopez](#).

**What Would Napa Valley Writers Be
 Without Authors, Readers, and Writers?**

Authors of Napa Valley Writers are invited to display and offer their books for sale at our monthly meetings.

Doors open at 6:30. Browse, network, and gather with local writers and readers. If you're interested in this opportunity to showcase your books, please contact [Sarita Lopez](#), NVW Publicity Chair.

POETRY CORNER

"My feelings of wretched incompetence are interrupted at random intervals by total impotence."

Author asked to remain Anonymous.



...Our thanks to the leadership & members of [Arts Council Napa Valley](#), [Arts Association Napa Valley](#), and [Napa Valley Writers Conference](#) for your continued collaboration in our arts partnerships.

...Thank you to everyone at [Napa Bookmine](#) for your support of our writers and readers

...Our thanks to the [Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley](#) for their monthly donation of NVW Board meeting space.



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We are eager to receive your newsletter submissions. Please keep poetry to 24 lines or less. Other articles of interest, including short prose, should be approximately 300 words or less.

Send us your photos, current events, news of interest to writers, new publications, conferences, etc., no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Thank you.

[Kathleen Thomas](#)
Interim newsletter editor

**"Invite the Muse"
Writing Group**

NO FEE- MONTHLY AND ONGOING THROUGH JULY

Every 3rd Wednesday from 7-9 pm
Repeats every 3rd Saturday, 1:30-3:30 pm

Facilitated by Emily Freiman & Roberta Wright

Interested in poetry and narrative? New to writing, like to write, been writing on your own, or writing for a long time -in secret? Ready to take the next steps-to listen, learn and share in a safe, comfortable environment with others? Emily Freiman-Art Therapist, artist, and writer- will present one new lesson a month, with specific ideas or themes to grab hold and fly with, sure to inspire you. She will incorporate an aspect of artistic expression at each session. One new lesson a month, held twice! Bring a pen and a journal/writing book/paper, and be sure to invite your Muse! Next groups held April 19 & 22.

A collaborative project of the
Art Association Napa Valley
and **Napa Valley Writers**

RSVP required, to secure your spot.
707-224-5454 emilyannbess@gmail.com
Held at 1520 Behrens Street, Art Center, Napa



July 30

Open Mic

Napa Bookmine

964 Pearl Street in

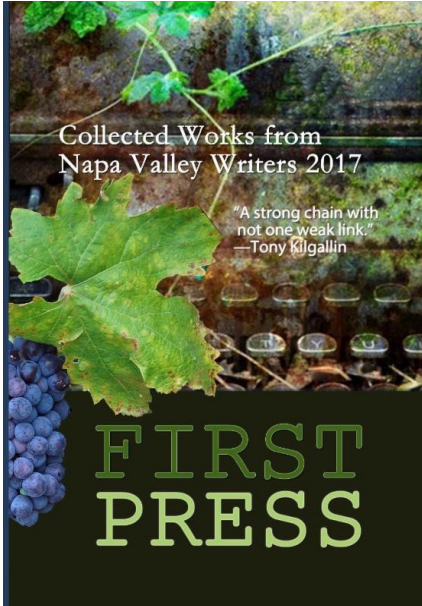
Beginning June 1, this and all future issues of the NVW newsletter will be available online at



Napa

You've got plenty of time now to get that "5 minutes or less original work" ready to read.

FIRST PRESS: Collected Works from Napa Valley Writers 2017



"*First Press* is a strong chain with not one weak link. Each slide-of-life entry adds an additional beautiful flower to the garland...Take one strong feeling. Add characters. Stir with conflict. Allow all to sizzle. serve at room temperature." from Tony Kilgallin's forward.

Get yours now. Read it and post a review!

Available now at Napa Bookmine and at [First Press - Amazon](#)

Napa Valley Writers and other social media sites. Share and share alike!



LINKS

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Try it free today