

July 2017 Newsletter



FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Kathleen Thomas



"I want to wake up at Enchanted Hills, where the songbird sings hello..."

Enchanted Hills. For ten years now, I've been volunteering as an RN at the Lighthouse for the Blind's Enchanted Hills summer camps. EHC provides a wide range of activities and services, including nursing care on site, to

blind and disabled babies to the eldest seniors who make their way to camp each summer. It's an annual joyful reunion for our campers, staff, and volunteers. I've been here with little kids at camp, watch them as they get older, have summer romances, go home, go to college and return as staff and volunteers again.

Our campers live in a community of laughter, talent shows, archery, swimming, horseback riding, games, art, nature walks, meals and snacks in the dining hall and a good night's sleep in our cabins.

We have a small lake, boating, and the peace that nature and companionship brings. In my volunteer gig, I sort and pass meds, bandage cuts and scrapes, take the sting out of a sunburn, or ice up a knee that suddenly met the pavement. I don't get a lot of rest. Rest is overrated in the hills.

If you're someone looking for a volunteer opportunity, check us out.

As I finish up this NVW newsletter here at camp, I can hear out in the breezeway overlooking the lake, the good hearted jeers and joking at the foosball table, oars scraping the side of a bright yellow boat, birdsongs outside the window, and my fellow campers and friends enjoying another day at camp.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 12

7 - 9 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker

Melissa Cistaro

Author of the Northern California Independent Booksellers Best Nonfiction Book of 2105 memoir "Pieces of My Mother", Cistaro will discuss what sustained her through the many years of working on her memoir, as well as the compassion and forgiveness that can be found in the act of writing. She'll explore the concept that, with an open heart and mind, we are all capable of finding our narrative truths.



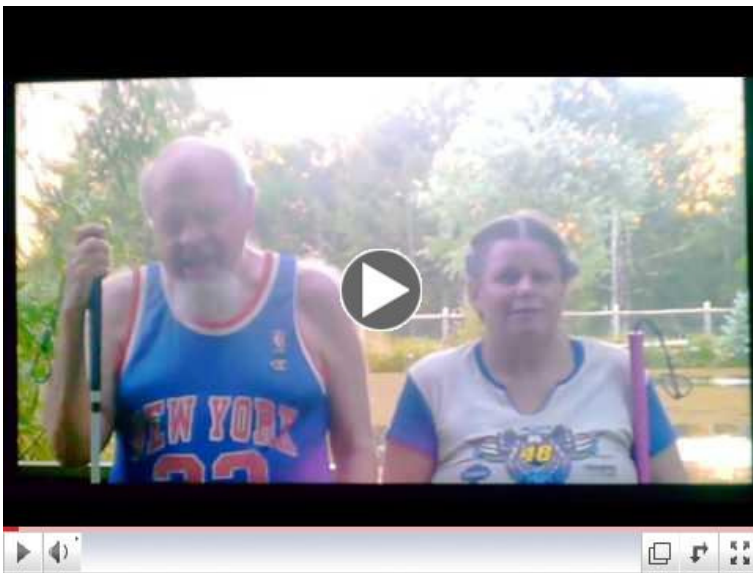
Melissa's stories, essays and interviews have appeared in The New Ohio Review, Brevity, The Huffington Post, Publisher's Weekly, PBS: To the Contrary, Bookish, Good Housekeeping and the anthologies Love and Profanity and Cherished.

Visit her website: [Melissa Cistaro](#)



July's NVW Member Reader is Cheryl Velasquez, reading from her book "What's In The Basement?", written under her pen name J.M. Berry. Cheryl holds a degree in Political Media and is a published writer of both fiction and non-fiction. By day, she works as a Director of Human Resources and at night she writes.

NVW monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 1625 Salvador



Happy Campers - an Enchanted Hills Camp film



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

We now provide three easy ways to pay:

1. At the monthly membership meeting, July 12 (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.

LAST MEETING



Didi Balle brought a bit of lyrical culture to our June meeting with several short classical pieces, crucial to her creation of

Avenue in Napa. For more information, please see <http://napavalleywriters.net> or email publicity_nvwa@outlook.com.

Cost at the door: \$8 for guests, \$5 for CWC members. Students with ID, free. Always open to the public. Refreshments, networking, books published by local authors and NVW's First Press: Collected Works by Napa Valley Writers 2017 are all available for the taking.

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.

NVW fosters professionalism in writing, promotes networking of writers within the Napa Valley writing community, mentors new writers, and provides literary support for writers and the writing community through education, networking, and leadership.

Coming Soon to Napa Valley Writers

August 9

ANNE PERRY

Perry is the bestselling author of two acclaimed series set in Victorian England: the William Monk novels, including *Dark Assassin* and *The Shifting Tide*, and the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt novels, including *The Cater Street Hangman*, *Calendar Square*, *Buckingham Palace Gardens* and *Long Spoon Lane*.



She is also the author of the World War I novels *No Graves As Yet*, *Shoulder the Sky*, *Angels in the Gloom*, *At Some Disputed Barricade*, and *We Shall Not Sleep*, as well as six holiday novels, most recently *A Christmas Grace*.



Symphonic Plays.

Seated in the audience with her laptop, her talk was interspersed with short clips of inspiring classical music not normally heard at the writers club

meetings

She regaled her audience with historic tales about Stalin's anti-Dmitri Shostakovich antics, dealings between Gustav Mahler and Sigmund Freud, and Richard Wagner and King Ludwig II.

She explained to the crowd that many of the actors who perform in her symphonic plays also work as readers for audio books. They have just the kind of voice, and patience, that is required to work with a symphony orchestra in performance.

An extra tidbit from NPR: [Notes for Stalin - Didi Balle](#)

submitted by Kathy Thomas

COMING SOON

Annual Napa Valley Writers Election

Some of you may know that the annual NVW election did not take place as planned in June due to the lack of a quorum of our membership. The slate of candidates has not changed and includes the following:

- Kathleen Thomas, president
- Edgar Calvelo, vice-president & program chair
- Michael Wycombe, secretary (webmaster)
- Lenore Hirsch, treasurer
- Roberta Wright, membership chair
- Madeline Rogers, member at large
- Cheryl Velasquez, member at large

The NVW Board of Directors appreciates your patience. We have reviewed our Bylaws and consulted with a number of other CWC branches and are looking forward to our July meeting when the new Board of Directors will take the reins.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of your Board members. You will find their email addresses listed on the Governance tab at [NapaValleyWriters](#)



July 30

Anne will present 'Put Your Heart On The Page: The Importance of Planning and Outlines', and how that can give your work strength, avoiding many of the pitfalls of writers block and numerous rewrites. She will also discuss rewriting and why it can be a pleasure, improving your work, polishing it and making it something you are proud to own the rest of your life.

Read more about Anne here: [Anne Perry](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FIVE THINGS ABOUT ME

Madeline Rogers-Wycombe



1. I've always liked architecture. As a child I drew floors plans for my parents' houses. As an adult, I have remodeled two homes and am currently working on restoring of our little Napa Victorian house which is a Grade 2 listed house.
2. In high school I was very active in theatre, performed in several plays, and spent each summer performing at the Woodminster Musical theatre. I spent the summer of my nineteenth year performing "dinner theatre" in New York City.
3. I developed a line of women's clothing that I sourced in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Haiti. I sold these garments in my two retail stores and wholesaled to other boutiques nationwide.
4. I love to cook for friends and family. I especially enjoy using the garden produce and herbs we grow in our Napa garden.
5. I have traveled to 43 of the 50 states, mostly for business, and to 25 foreign countries, mostly for pleasure.

Caption Me! In Six Words:

June's Submissions



Open Mic

Napa Bookmine

964 Pearl Street in Napa

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

Napa Farmer's Market

SATURDAY, JULY 15



Napa Valley Writers will have a booth at the Napa Market each 3rd Saturday of the month until the season ends in October. A range of different books is welcome, along with new volunteers (around 4-5 a month) to be at the booth.

To sell your books and participate, please email [Sarita Lopez](mailto:SaritaLopez@napavalleywriters.com). The booth is no cost to club members; just donate your time." See you there....

BOOK EXCERPT OF THE MONTH

BRIDGES

by Kymberlie Ingalls

Pretty Enough

I know I'm not pretty, but I'm okay with that. I'm a whole lot of things, that just ain't one of 'em. Strangely enough, I get 'cute' a lot - but cute in my mind is reserved for puppy dogs and cheerleaders, not dark souls like myself.



"After their wedding, I left town."
- Aletheia Morden

"I want you not a rose."
- Edgar Calvelo

"Enduring caresses reflect his velvet hands."
- Antonia Allegra

"He's out there. I know it."
- Cheryl Velasquez

July Challenge:



Do you have a six-word story for this photograph? Have fun! Be creative!

Send your submission to [Cheryl Velasquez](mailto:CherylVelasquez@napavalleywriters.com)

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Andy Demsky



1. I grew up in Arkansas but have sadly lost my southern accent.

2. I shook Bill Clinton's hand when he visited my hometown

It's said that when a woman reaches a certain age, her beauty flourishes because she has become more confident in herself, something that only comes with miles. I've definitely done the drive, but all that stares back at me in the rearview mirror are darker eyes and a tired soul.

More Wicked Witch than 'pretty' little Dorothy.

Last week I told my husband my eyes baffled me. They're not my mom's, not my dad's. Someone said a man could fall into them and never find his way out. Truth be told, I get that a lot. It's a good way to tell when someone is lying to me, because I'm not comfortable with eye contact - so how would they know? If our eyes are the windows to what's inside, I'd rather keep the curtains closed.

Used to be I had great legs. Long, and lean. They're still lengthy, but like my waist have grown in size. My last mini-skirt went out with my 20s and men no longer fantasize about climbing to the golden Himalayas.

Ironically, in my big weight loss a few years ago, my chest was first to shrink. No good deed goes unpunished.

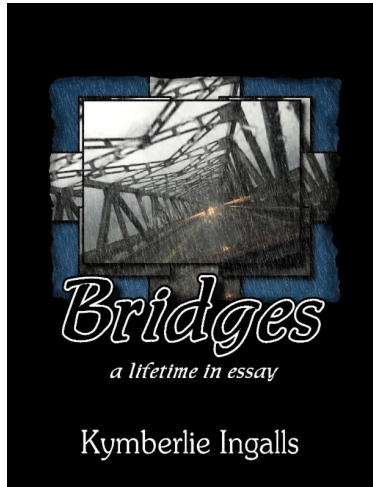
Over the years, I've asked men what about me attracts them? The answers have been varied - "sexy," "sultry," "there's a craziness in you." Even "vulnerability" has been tossed about. Then they throw in the eyes, or the legs or the neurotic mind. Okay, but those are all just pieces. Even a pit bull still has the heart of a dog.

Lately I seem to be obsessed with the changing of my Facebook profile photo. It's as if I up the odds with quantity, eventually quality's going to follow. I'll pose and click and post, putting my needful vanity on display, yet the same face glares back at me; if you can't be pretty on the inside, you're wasting your time.

There it is. I can prop up the old girls for an impressive display of cleavage, show off my pretty little painted toenails, try everything to turn my lumps and bumps into curves and contours, but at the end of the day it's all about the innards, isn't it?

Finally, I went to the ultimate judge: "Honey, when we first met, I was not like the other women you were dating. Why did you want to see me again? What was it you saw that first night?"

The pause only served to show his sincerity: "You were real."



while he was running for Arkansas governor.

3. I once had a job shoveling poop on a pigeon farm.

4. I once ghost-wrote a piece for Walter Cronkite (and he only changed one word).

5. I make a brief appearance in Train's "Drive By" music video (as do my kids).

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Valley Players is a community-based group from the Napa Valley whose mission is to empower women over 40 through the theater arts. Women, in general, and older women, in particular, are traditionally under-represented both on and off stage, even though they comprise the majority of theater audience members.



VP is actively searching for female playwrights over forty and plays that provide strong roles for women over forty. Collaboration with local writers seems a natural fit. Whether developing a new work, organizing a playwright's workshop, producing a series of staged readings, or even mounting a full production, we'd love to work with our local writers!

If you are interested, please contact us at [Valley Players](#), call 707-246-9662, or visit our website at [Valley Players](#).

Mendocino Coast Writers Conference August 3-5

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

<http://mcwc.org>

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](#).

MEMBER NEWS

Napa Bookmine New Book Launch

Congratulations to member Steve Villano on the publication of his book, *Tightrope*. Mark your calendars to meet Steve, enjoy refreshments and a bit of wine while you enjoy a few highlights of the book read by the writer himself.

Thursday, July 6, 2017 - 7:00pm

Napa Bookmine
964 Pearl St
Napa, CA 94559

For more information, see the following:

[Steve Villano at the Bookmine](#)

[Steve Villano in Writers Digest](#)



Good news from the CWC for two new discounts for all our members.

year subscription.

California Writer's Club members can receive a discounted Family Tree Magazine sub rate for 7 issues for \$24.00. *When ordering by phone (888-403-9002) club members should mention source key: 87DCWC.* Expiration on this agreement is 6/30/18.

2. **Writer's Digest** also is offering a discount to CWC members. Current online cost is \$21.96 for print or digital. They offer the same options (print and digital) to CWC members for \$14.95. Expiration on this agreement is 12/31/17.

The link: [Writers Digest](#). An opt-in box will appear reading "Please send me Writer's Digest's and F+W's FREE newsletter plus exclusive offers via e-mail." You'll also receive special offers from our marketing partners.

You can unsubscribe from those newsletters via the newsletters themselves. We will not share your e-mail



- Puppet Shows
- Book Folding
- DIY Fidget Spinners
- Book Sales
- Journeys to Compostela
- and Ukelele workshops!

All this and more at the Library - the air conditioned library.

[Napa County Library](#)

2017 Redwood Writers Author Launch

Sunday July 9, 2017 2:00pm-4:30pm

Flamingo Resort, Empire Room
2777 4th St., Santa Rosa

Napa Valley Writers Kymberlie Ingalls author [43 A Year of Loss, Life and Acceptance](#) and **Bob Winters** author of [Not Quite Kosher : My Memoir](#) will be among the readers. You Won't Want To Miss This Event!

address with any third party without your consent. For more information, please read our privacy policy."

CWC Members who do not check the box to opt in will exempt themselves from these special offers. The subscription discount will still apply to your subscription.

For more information, please contact Donna McChrohan Rosenthal at CWC: [Donna - subscription discounts](#)

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

The Burning of Wolf House

On a warm summer's evening, before the Great War,
an anguished cry goes out,
"Wolf House burning!" "Wolf House burning!"
as roiling clouds of acrid smoke blot out the star-filled sky,
and soaring embers, ruby red, give the moon a bloody eye.
Once again the cry is heard, now more desperate than
before,
"Wolf House burning!" "Wolf House burning!"
It echoes through the wooded hills above the valley floor
as blackened timbers, one-by-one, crash down upon the
pyre,
and volcanic stone turns magma orange within each
chimney spire.
And when the morning finally comes, and the air is fresh
and clean,
the smoldering ruin of Wolf House can be clearly seen.
A life's work lost in a single night (some say by accident,
others spite).
The truth we'll never know:
Why the ashes of the writer's dream fell like summer snow.

To whom does the writer turn when his heart is sorely torn?
None other than that standby, his old friend "John
Barleycorn,"
who dispenses solace by the glass, to ease a pain that will
not pass.
A friendship each night foresworn, but renewed again by
early morn.
And when the storied-writer's life comes to its tragic end,
and his ashes buried on a hilltop near the town of Ellen's



...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.



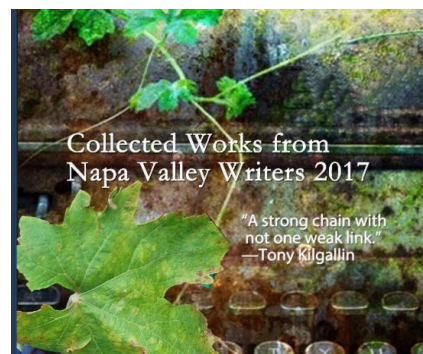
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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



"First Press is a strong chain with not one weak link. Each side-of-life entry adds an additional beautiful flower to the garland...Take one strong feeling.

glen,
 beneath a boulder in a secluded spot, with fencing all
 around,
 the ashes of the writer and his dream at last find common
 ground
 in western hills, where purple manzanitas bloom
 when springtime comes to the beloved Valley of the Moon.

Submitted by by Lance Burris



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!

"Writing is a line cast over the edge of time"

- Anonymous

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

**"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



NAPA VALLEY WRITERS
 A Branch of the California Writers Club

Home of accomplished and aspiring
 writers in the Napa Valley.
www.napavalleywriters.net

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