

Napa Valley Writers



October 2017 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Kathleen Thomas



I spent some time recently up north in Crescent City CA, where I spent many years working and raising my three youngest children. It's a place close to my heart. The ocean calls to me on a regular basis, no matter where I lay my head.

Once settled into town, I had a few days until the writers conference (my reason for travel) would begin. I spent time in the college library where my good friend works. I made time to write, creating my own mini-retreat. I spent a few hours deciding on publications to submit my stories in the next few weeks. I had the company of my favorite pen and notebook. My ragged Thesaurus sat ready and waiting. The bright and airy room, students and staff were all welcoming, and many of them, intriguing. It was quiet (of course - it's a library!) and I was just blocks from the ocean I visited each day.

I staked out my cozy seat each morning at the table between the book racks, my eyes roaming past *The New Book of Unusual Quotations* (c.1966), *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *How Does a Poem Mean?* and my new favorite title - *Sister Bernadette's Barking Dog*.

I've attended the Annual North Coast Redwoods Writers Conference three times now. I'm always impressed with the quality of presenters and the overall effectiveness of this small gathering. I sometimes think it would be a viable project for NVW to produce, in conjunction with our partners in the valley.

The conference opened Friday evening with a panel of speakers and a full house. I was in the right place.

I listened in rapt attention to the Keynote address the

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
October 11, 7-9 pm

Special Guest Speaker
Ellen Sussman
"Fiction: Truth or Lies"



The New York Times bestselling author of four novels, *A Wedding in Provence*, *The Paradise Guest House*, *French Lessons*, and *On a Night Like This*,

Sussman is also the editor of two critically acclaimed anthologies, *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave* and *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex*. She teaches through Stanford Continuing Studies and in private classes.

[Ellen Sussman's](#) novels are not autobiographical, yet she claims that by writing other people's stories, she can get closer to her own truth. In this presentation, she'll talk about how we as writers can transform life stories into fiction. She'll also discuss ways in which we can dig deep to write more substantial fiction and memoir.

MEMBER READER

Steve Villano, a native of Brooklyn, New York, is the former head of Governor Mario M. Cuomo's New York City Press Office,

next morning, presented by Steve Wasserman, on the theme of the Conference, "A Writer's Space." Listening to the talk, I wished I could share Wasserman's words with you. Thoughtful and powerful words. I was excited to learn later that it's been posted online.

Just to get you started:

What do we think we mean when we say "a writer's space"? Is such a space different than, say, any other citizen's space? Is the space of a writer a physical place—the place where the writing is actually done, the den, the office, the hotel room, the bar or café, the bedroom, upon a desk or table or any available flat and stable surface?

Or is the "writer's space" an inner region of the mind? Or is it a psychological place deep within the recesses of the heart, a storehouse of emotions containing a jumble of neurological circuitry? Is it the place, whether physical or spiritual, where the writer tries to make sense of otherwise inchoate lives? In either case, is it a zone of safety that permits the writer to be vulnerable and daring and honest so as to find meaning and order in the service of story?

You can read the entire presentation here:

[Steve Wasserman: A Writer's Space](#)

P.S. Wasserman told me yes when I asked if he'd like to speak to Napa Valley Writers sometime. Shall I get back to him?



LAST MEETING

Kevin Fisher-Paulson

Kevin Fisher-Paulson kept the audience in stitches as he compared writing to a 12-step program. He offered

with decades of experience in public service, public education, public health, and as CEO of several



national, non-profit organizations. His new book, [Tightrope: Balancing a Life Between Mario Cuomo & My Brother](#), is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at Bookmine in Napa. Villano presently lives in Northern California.

Napa Valley Writers meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church, 1625 Salvador Avenue in Napa.

Cost at the door: \$8 for guests, \$5 for CWC members. Students with ID, free. Refreshments, networking, books published by local authors and NVW's "First Press: Collected Works by Napa Valley Writers 2017" available for purchase and review.

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 November 8, 2017



the following advice during his presentation at the August NVW meeting.

1. Never deny a reasonable request from another 12-step member.
2. Be in the right place at the right time.
3. Everyone has one story inside themselves.
4. Be aware of your relationship with the audience reading your work.
5. Be aware of what you write—it lives forever.
6. Characters have to have a life that lasts at least a week. (Make your character memorable)
7. Meet compelling people.
8. Tomorrow jump into a pond and become compelling yourself.
9. Let the pen take you across the page.
10. You have to keep generating fuel. Your life can be the fuel of your story.
11. When you're stuck for an idea remember it's like riding a bicycle. Get on—peddle—keep going. When you're writing and you're stuck, keep writing. Believe in the story and let the story take you on its journey.



Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." The November meeting will be a meeting of the minds in the form of a panel discussion on topics pertaining to writers.

The dynamic topics will range from the perfect pitch to discussion on idea generation. You won't want to miss this meeting!



Members will have an opportunity to visit each discussion offered in rounds of 15 minute intervals. Panel discussions begin promptly at 8:00 pm.

For more great ideas visit Kevin's mind at sfgate.com

COMING SOON

October 10, 2017

Farmer's Market Book Sales

Final event of the season.



October 14, 2017

Panel Discussion with First Press authors

Copperfield in Calistoga

October 15-21, 2017

California Writers Week



October 28, 2017

Ghostly Gathering Tulocay Cemetery

This is a member's only event. Members may bring a guest.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FIVE THINGS ABOUT

Carole Nelson



1. I attended Cal during the quiet years between panty raids and the Free Speech Movement. I majored in history and according to my husband, Gene, all you can do with a history major is "marry well." And so, I did!

2. After operating a catering business for a number of years, I put a slipcover over our stove and retired my apron. Dining out remains one of my favorite hobbies.

3. Upon retiring, we moved to Po'ipu Beach on Kaua'i, where we intended to stay just a year. We stayed 12 years and they were among the best years of our lives.

4. On Kaua'i, I joined a hula halau (school) and danced hula for ten years. The Hawaiian name bestowed upon me by my kumu (teacher) is Pahewahine, meaning

December 3, 2017 Hemingway's Holiday Party

A Glass of Cheer with your Writer Buddies: Every writer needs a break. Your \$20 prepaid gets you a substantial plateful of appetizers and a no-host bar in our private room at Compadres. Pay at a meeting, through PayPal, or send a check. For members only and their special guest. Book now as space is limited!

What Would Napa Valley Writers Be Without Authors and Writers?

Members of Napa Valley Writers are invited to display their published books, talk with others, and offer books for sale at our monthly meetings.

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

EXCERPT OF THE MONTH

How I Turned 46

© Kymberlie Ingalls / September 14, 2017

Celebrating an anniversary of my life was a daunting prospect when a month prior my doctor had put me at death's door. Many handed me the gift-wrapped rhetoric of "you've survived!" and "this year will be better!" I have learned to smile politely and say the things that people are looking to hear.



There are some things I have learned since blowing out the candles of my last birthday cake. I've learned how to die with both fear and grace. I have found my old sense of humor that had seemingly gone astray. I have realized the best thing I can do at times is to not say anything at all.

And I have at last found my worth.

People always ask, "Why do you write?" I never have a fully formed answer. I've often felt inferior in the face of other writers who have glorious imaginations or intense passions for the written word. For me, it's always been about having a conversation with myself. More recently, I've been working on a series of short

soft-mannered woman.

5. Since retiring, we have blissfully traveled to 38 of the 50 United States and to well over 100 countries.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Do you have an idea for Arts in April? Let us know. We're currently working with the Napa Valley Museum and DiRosa to plan exciting opportunities for you to share your work with our community .

Ghostly Gathering Spooky Salon



Saturday September 28
5:00pm-7:00pm
Tulocay Cemetery

Who's that shadowy spectator behind the tree? Cloaked in the night, he's reading with you, and me.

That's right! This Shadowy Specter of a Spooky Salon is not for the faint of heart. Only the bravest of souls are invited to join us on October 28, 2017 at Tulocay Cemetery for a salon type reading that will send chills up your spine.

Bring a lawn chair, a flashlight and a light jacket. The winds will howl and the spirits will rise as we set out to share our scary stories of things that go bump in the night.

This unusual adventure is for paid members only. Members can bring a guest...after all, you won't want to be left alone, in the dark! Refreshments will be served. RSVP to [Ana Manwaring](#).

Reminder: Members only event. Readings will be limited to 5 minutes.

fiction stories that tie in with my music obsession. But you see, I'm a writer of little imagination. Too often I am grounded in reality and despite the dark clouds that hover over me, I rather like it that way. Telling the very real tales that are universal yet uniquely different - it leaves me feeling that I have a place in what is a very large world.

Continue Kymberlie's Story [Here](#)

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 SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Five Things About...

Sue Kesler

1. When I was in elementary and middle school, my hair was long enough for me to sit on. I wore long braids, which froze in the winter if I'd had swimming in gym class.
2. When Fred and I were married, the best man and maid of honor were taking bets whether the grasshopper trying to climb my train would succeed in reaching my top.
3. I made sales calls at the World Trade Center representing the magazine I worked for to a large Japanese firm.
4. I was the local representative for AFS, the exchange program, and hosted three Colombians, one Aussie, one Chileno, one Dane, and sent one to Venezuela. They were Vintage grads, except the Chileno who taught at Napa High. Our first is running for president of his country. We had two long term adults exchange guests: one from the strange country of Southern California, the other, a couple from Switzerland, who now call a fifth wheel RV home and travel to various points around the globe.
5. I was a national scholarship kid at Macalester College, where I obtained a degree and a lasting antipathy for everything bagpipes.

Don't Miss This Opportunity



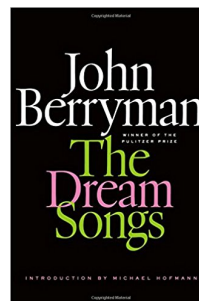
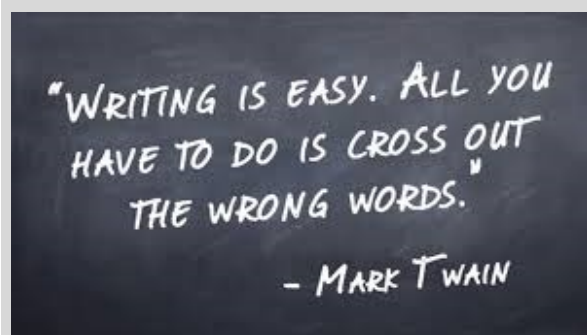
October 29, 2017

3:00pm-5:00pm

Napa Bookmine, 964 Pearl Street

[Open Mic at Napa Bookmine](#) is the perfect opportunity for writers of all genres and all levels to share their work. Don't miss this popular event. Readings are limited to a maximum of five minutes. There is no cost to participate. Invite your family and friends to this fun event.

Questions? Contact [Bernhold Rankenburg](#)



Poetry Book Club

October 3, 2017
6:30pm-8:00pm

[Napa Bookmine](#)

Six Word Challenge

Members are invited to submit a six-word caption for the photograph. What do you think of our submissions?



California Writers Club Literary Review



The California Writers Club

Literary Review is accepting

submissions for their 2018 edition. This juried collection contains superior poems, stories, fiction, and nonfiction by members of the California Writers Club.

Light, humorous works are highly sought. For complete submission guidelines, click [here](#) or visit calwriters.org.

Elizabeth Tuck of the Mt. Diablo branch and Scott Evans of the San Joaquin Valley branch have assumed management of the publication. The submission fee is only \$10 for two pieces of excellent work. Submissions may be previously published work as long as you own the rights.

Before you do another thing, [click here right now](#)

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2017

MEMBER NEWS

Bob Winters entered his poem, **Of Dreams** to the Voices of Lincoln poetry contest. Bob was informed that his poem had taken **third place out of 1400 entries**. Alan Lowe, a representative of the contest requested Bob to travel to Lincoln, CA on October 8th to read his poem. Check out Bob's winning entry in the **Poetry Corner** of this edition's newsletter.



Lenore Hirsch's story "Joy Ride" is having a ride of its own. Selected by Lucky Penny in 2016 for the "Lucky Shorts" program, Joy Ride was also published in Napa Valley Writers' anthology, *First Press*. Lenore submitted "Joy Ride" to the San Miguel de Allende 2017 Writers' Conference contest. It

Dina Corcoran:

We're off to run the government.

Sue Kesler:

I said bring a spare tire!

Edgar Calvelo:

Doll to robot: Why so sad?

Cheryl Velasquez:

We're not in Kansas, any more.

It's YOUR turn. What will you submit for next month's photo?



Submit your six-word caption to: [Six Word Story](#)

"Invite the Muse"

Free Writing Group, open to all interested adults.

Led 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? An aspect of artistic expression will be introduced in some of the sessions. Stand-alone lesson each month on 3rd Wednesdays, repeating the lesson on that month's 3rd Saturday. Bring a pen and a journal/book/paper, and express yourself! You're in good company!

Next Meetings:

Sat. June 17, 1:30-3:30 and Wed. June 21, 7-9 pm

RSVP required, to secure your spot.

3rd Weds. from 7-9, or third Saturdays from 1-3 pm

1520 Behrens Street, Napa, Art Association Clubhouse

For more info contact Emily:

emilyannbess@gmail.com

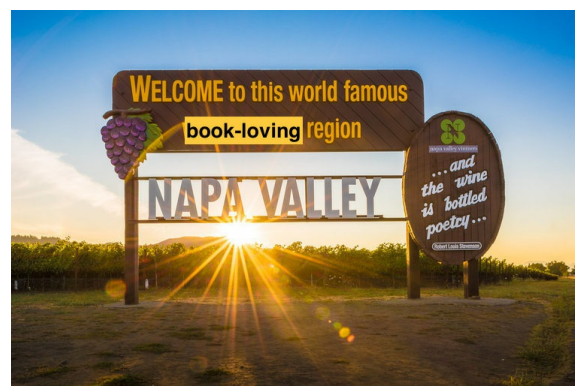
[707-224-5454](tel:707-224-5454)

A collaboration of
**Art Association Napa Valley
& Napa Valley Writers**

NAPA VALLEY BOOK FEST

didn't win a prize, but editors have chosen to be included in **Solamente en San Miguel**, the annual anthology of the San Miguel Literary Sala.

Larisa Stevenson launched a kickstarter campaign for her first children's book: *I, Lincoln, Did Not Ask For This*. *Lincoln spent the first nine years of his canine life as an only child with two Mommies. Needless to say, he was use to certain perks, and was quite distraught when Mommies arrived home one day with a HOOMAN baby brother. Check out Larisa's self-publishing kickstarter campaign details at: [I, Lincoln, Did Not Ask For This](#)*



Saturday, October 7, 2017 3:00-7:00 pm
Napa Bookmine 964 Pearl Street, Napa
No Admission Fee
[Reservation Required—Click Here](#)

Come for the books; stay for the wine at this brand-new book series. As part of the 18th annual Litquake Festival, readers and writers are invited to hear authors Heather Young, Angela Pneuman, and Malena Watrous discuss their latest works. Enjoy wine, cheese, and book sales opportunities.

50,000 Words-30 Days-you're A WINNER!



What do you get when you put 400,000 writers in a 30-day contest with the end goal of writing 50,000 words? NaNoWriMo, of course!

November 1, 2017 opens the 19th year of encouraging creativity and the power of the imagination through the largest writing event in the world. This 501(c)(3) nonprofit believes your story matters, and expects over 400,000 people to start a 50,000-word novel (or your memoir) in the month of November.

National Novel Writing Month better known as NaNoWriMo started in 1999 with 21 participants. In 2016 NaNoWriMo encouraged 384,126 participants, in 646 different regions, on six continents. More than 34,000 met the 2016 goal of writing 50,000 words.

Interested in joining the Napa Valley "NaNoWriMo" team? Sign up at the October NVW meeting or contact [Ana Manwaring](#) (415-827-1468) for info, support, and inspiration.

Make sure to register at [NaNoWriMo](#) for full contest rules, inspiration, events, t-shirts and more.

POETRY CORNER

Of Dreams

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream included the notion his children could live in a nation not be judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their character. Are the two Obama elections

Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964 & Braceros: The Napa Valley Story



The Napa Valley Museum invites you to join us for a celebration of our three extraordinary

Fall Exhibitions, celebrating farm workers and their contributions to the Napa Valley economy, community and culture. Meet Colorado artist Don Coen, who will speak about his stunning "Migrant Series" of paintings depicting migrant farm workers, as well as Oscar and Azalea Aguilar, and other members of the creative team who created the local "Braceros: The Napa Valley Story" exhibit celebrating the history and legacy of the Braceros in Napa Valley. And view the inspiring "Bittersweet Harvest" exhibition from the Smithsonian, depicting the history of the Bracero contract worker program through interviews and images. Reception is FREE for Museum Members; \$10 for Non-Members. Now through November 2nd.

what he saw from the mountain top?

After the election

I had my own dream.

Autumn, my golden lab said to Coco, my black lab,
"Can you believe that people care so much about the
color of one's coat?"

"No, that's so dumb. Dogs would never do that.

When I smell another dog's butt
we all look about the same."

*-Nathaniel Robert "Bob" Winters grew up in suburban N.Y.C.
After a Naval tour in Vietnam, he settled in Northern
California. The retired teacher now lives with his wife in the
Napa Valley. Despite having Parkinson's disease, he writes
almost every day and has published fifteen books in the last
ten years.*



...Our thanks to the leadership & members
of [Arts Council Napa Valley](#), [Arts
Associaton 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.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NAPA VALLEY

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.

[Cheryl Velasquez](#)
Newsletter Editor

From Pen to Published

**Save the
Date!
April 21
2018**

Finley Center
Santa Rosa

Redwood Writers Conference

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A Branch of the California Writers Club



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writers in the Napa Valley.
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