

LUANNE OLEAS



Flying Blind
A cropduster's story

SACRAMENTO
NOVEMBER 2024

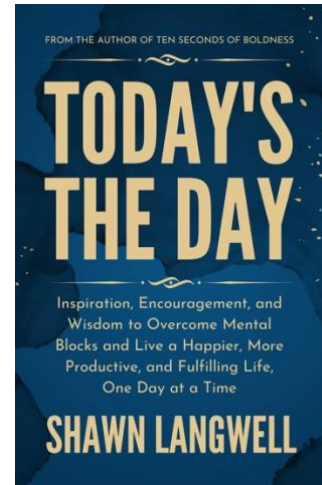


BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

SACRAMENTOWRITERS

Demystifying Book Marketing

Saturday
16
November



Shawn Langwell

Join us for fun, support, and exchange of information on publishing paths and book marketing. Bring books you have published to display. Please come prepared to share a bird's eye view of the following: did you use an alpha or beta reader; did you employ a developmental, line, or copy editor; did you use an agent and how did you engage him or her; how did you chose a publisher; and how much time from draft to published product?

After that, we'll have Sean Langwell in person speaking on:

Demystifying Book Marketing for Self-Published Authors.

Learn how to become a better shameless self-promoter and improve your book's visibility, ranking, and potential profits.

[Shawn Langwell](#) is the author of four books: [Beyond Recovery](#), [Ten Seconds of Boldness](#) with its eponymous companion workbook, and [Today's the Day](#). He is also the host of [Dare to Be Great, Dare to Be You](#) podcast.

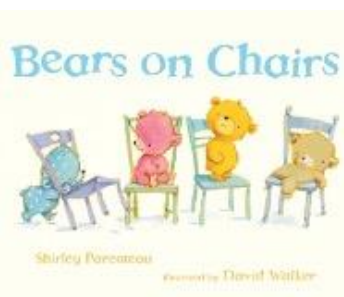
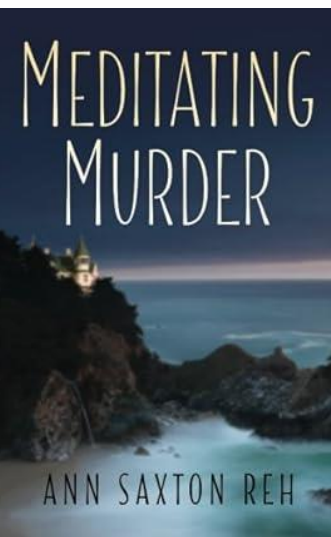
Saturday, November 16th, 1:00–3:00 pm
Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave, Sacramento

Suggested \$10 contribution to speaker's fund

Join on [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 831 1220 0475 Passcode: 568644



**JINNIK:
THE ASSET**
Gideon D. Asche

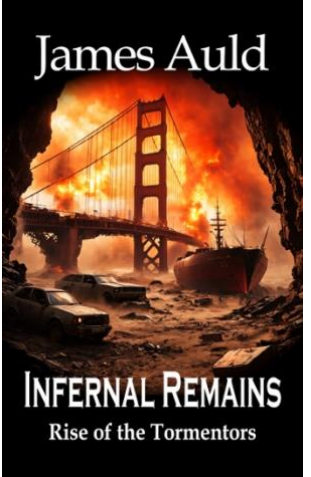


Writers of all genres welcome! Whether or not you've written a book, a writer always needs to look ahead – to your eventual collection of essays, compilation of reviews, anthology of stories, memoir, or book of fiction! Writers are here to support each other.

Meetings are free to the community. As a reminder, **we appreciate members' help with our Speaker's Fund** in lieu of a meeting fee. Thank you for showing your support of the club! The donation box will be on a side table.

FIRST FRIDAY NETWORKING MEETING

Lessons from the Grind: Perseverance and Hacks for Aspiring Authors



Friday
1
November

James Auld

Writing and self-publishing two full-length novels has taught me valuable lessons and solid habits that I'll share with you!

- The habits that helped me write a 600+ page novel in 4 months, twice.
- Gain an edge by harnessing AI (just NEVER to directly write your book!)
- Publishing your book 1: Author and book branding, manuscript writing and formatting, cover design
- Publishing your book 2: Uploading to KDP and IngramSpark, testing your eBooks, ordering author proofs and copies
- Publishing your book 3: The wonders of running targeted Facebook ads

James Auld has written the dark urban fantasy series, *Invasion: Hell*. Book one, [Final Remains: Dawn of the Knights Errant](#), and book two, [Infernal Remains: Rise of the Tormentors](#), have garnered positive reviews and enthusiastic readers. Auld, who lives in Elk Grove, California, splits his time between writing his novels and providing publishing services to outside authors.

Friday, November 1st, 9–11 am
[Denny's Restaurant](#), 8841 Greenback Lane, Orangevale

AUTUMN OPEN READING

by John Patterson

Sign Up To Read Your—Or—Listen To Your Colleagues' Work

Tuesday, November 19th 7:00 pm

Sign-up for the Zoom (link below) Open Reading at:
2johnpatterson@gmail.com

Tuesday
19
November

If you don't sign up to share a part of, or a piece, you've worked on, maybe only to gauge audience reaction, you're *still* invited to attend and listen to fellow members' work. We share comments and questions, but this is not a critique group. Please note, if you arrive after the reading has started, you will be admitted as soon as that piece is concluded. Pieces are approximately eight (8) minutes long.

Check-in for readers between 6:25 and 6:50, and audience before 7:00 pm.

John Patterson is inviting you to use this Zoom [link](#).

Meeting ID: 813 6741 5942 Passcode: 876999

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

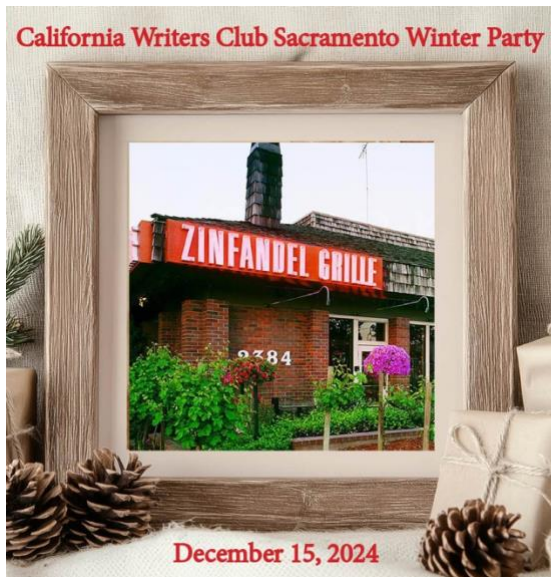
Winter Party 2024

This year, our winter party will be held at Zinfandel Grille.

2384 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA, 95824.

Sunday, December 15, at 12 pm

Sunday
15
December



[Zinfandel Grille](#) is a prestigious venue where I think you all will agree is a place to celebrate the end of the year. The food is of exceptional quality, and we will endeavor to have entertainment and prizes of equal stature.

We will be in the 'Z' room, which has its own private entrance and sports a fireplace. Seating is limited to 60 people, so make sure you book your place.

[Tickets are available here.](#)

[Website](#) will be updated soon with the games and prizes you can win. Last year we had exceptional prizes, and we will do the same again this year.



While at the Great Valley Book Festival, a woman was buying my Girl Electric novel for her teenage daughter. She asked me if the book had any words or phrases that were inappropriate for a young high school student.

Yikes! I wrote that book with young minds at heart. But that question also made me think about the flip side of so-called bad words.

How do you determine what a bad word is? Words like Gadzooks seem harmless enough, but

it was a curse in common use in the 1600s. Shakespeare used it in Othello, and it refers to ‘God’s Hooks’, or God’s wounds. Technically, it is taking the Lord’s name in vain. Oops, I just broke one of the Commandments.

If you want to swear like a Cockney in London, you may want to say, ‘Cor Blimey!’ You could say this if and when you see something or someone beautiful, or if you encounter something spectacular. Even that seemingly harmless phrase is bad. In slang, it actually means, “God Blind me”. Once again, our harmless phrase boards on the offensive.

It’s a pity we can’t close our eyes when reading, to avoid such offense.

Anyway, I don’t want our newsletter to get banned, so I had better change the subject.

We find encouragement from the book festival we held last June in McKinley Park. We’re going to continue this book festival next year on May 31st, each year we hope to get bigger and better. See the details in the announcement and on our [website](#), but we’ll hold the 2025 Book Festival at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, which is next to McKinley Park. We have a lot of details to iron out, but I’m proud of our team who are helping to put this together. Keep your eyes on the web page where we will announce the coming schedule.

We will continue to have booths for authors to sign and sell their books, but we will also organize events and presentations.

You may have heard about the Winter Party, which we have scheduled for December 15th. Once again, I ask you to check out our [web page](#) with details and booking options.

The first thing you will notice is that we have changed the venue to the [Zinfandel Grille](#). This is also visibly more expensive, but the board has agreed to subsidize the price. The food and entertainment promises to be worthwhile, and we will have another spectacular prize draw. We have a great space to celebrate, and seats will go fast, so make sure you get your tickets while you can.

Remember, your words must be read.

Bernard Wozny (bpwozny@gmail.com)

REVIEW OF OCTOBER PRESENTATION BY TIM SCHOOLEY

California Writers Week Celebration at the Avid Reader, Davis



We had a nice turnout for a celebration of California Writers Week at the Avid Reader in Davis in October. CWC Sacramento members [Judith Starkston](#) and [Tim Schooley](#), with [Laura Jensen Walker](#), spoke about the importance of selecting themes in historical fiction that resonate with modern audiences.

Judith discussed the role of women in leadership roles, focusing mainly on the Hittite Queen at the center of her historical fantasy ‘Tessa’ series which includes, among others, [The Priestess of Ishana](#) and [Flights of Treason](#). Tim described the theme of religious tolerance at the core of his novel [The Wool Translator](#), and the animal rights theme at the center of his upcoming novel [The Circus of the Vanishing Elephant](#). And Laura focused on the theme of the expanding roles for women during World War II at the heart of her new novel [Death of a Flying Nightingale](#).

And, yes, that is New York Times bestselling author [John Lescroart](#) sitting with his wife in attendance at the author talk!

SACRAMENTO BOOK FESTIVAL 2025



We are proud to announce that we will be holding the Sacramento Book Festival for the second year running. As we have planned, we are growing this into a Capital Event, and this year will be even bigger and better. We will be holding it May 31st at the [Shepard Garden and Arts Center](#), which is adjacent to McKinley Park, Sacramento.

This will be an indoor event, for author booths and presentations. There is also a spacious patio garden where we will enjoy literary events in the late May sunshine.

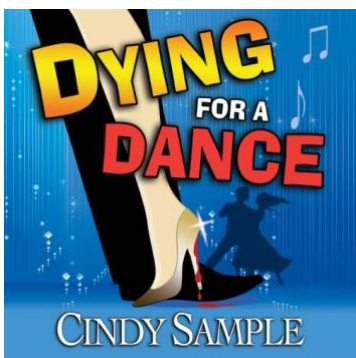
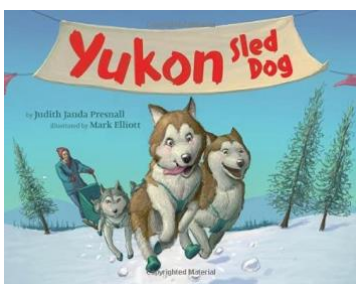
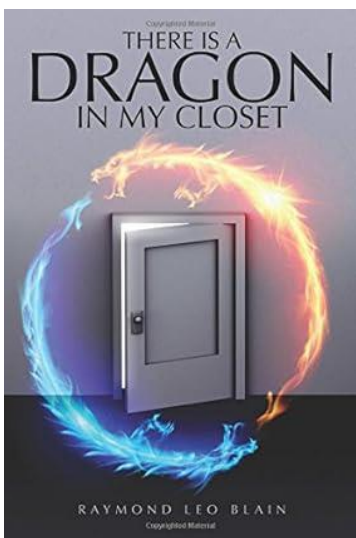
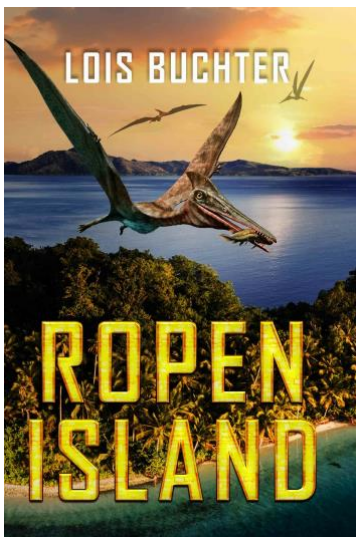
You can [learn more here](#), where we will keep you informed on the coming festivities.

REVIEW OF OCTOBER 4TH PRESENTATION BY MARI-LYNNE INFANTINO

Lois Buchter, The Perils of Screenwriting



CWC members had a rare opportunity to listen to [Lois Buchter](#), an accomplished artist, teacher, author, and optioned screenwriter who works to capture stories that inspire people to value life. Here are a few of the many ideas we scurried to write and remember of the valuable information shared at First Friday's Networking meeting on October 4. You can hear more ideas and information by reviewing Lois' recording on the CWC Sacramento [website](#).



Do you have a story that makes your eyes go wide? As a screenwriter, you should have thirty high-concept ideas ready for presentation:

- What idea fascinates you? Take it to an extreme.
- Raise the tension.
- Put opposites together.
- Does the idea include a unique environment or background?
- Reverse the norm.

Once the idea is found:

- Consider changing the career path of the leading person.
- Who are your opposing people?
- Switch locations.

A script is action and dialogue. Show, don't tell. Your script should have four events every ten pages.

- Something big should happen in the first 10 pages.
- A major conflict by page 30.
- Everything goes wrong between pages 40 and 60.
- Protagonist and antagonist should come face-to-face in pages 60-90.

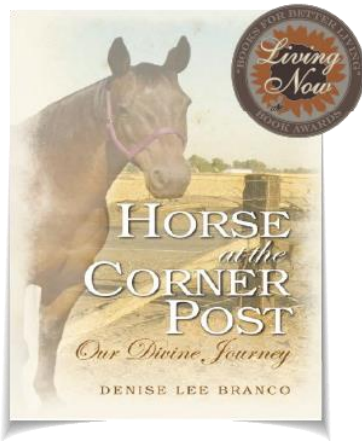
Read your project out loud. What is the hook? Is it based on a storybook or a movie?

The Synopsis should be 2–5 pages. Tell your audience why you're the right person to tell this story. Take a strong look at what you have written—what is going to make the story sell? Email the synopsis to yourself before making your pitch.

There are sixteen decisions that producers look for in a screenplay.

The Primary Decisions:

1. Marketable title.
2. Marketable concept—do you have a great visual? Something unique? Take it up a notch.
3. Target audience.
4. Genre choice (single genre best) that shows up strong in the script. Take into consideration your first scene.
5. Budget range that fits the market you are targeting—is your budget on a shoestring? Does it film inside? Or outside? Other



- countries buy rights to specific types of movies overseas. High budget (studio-level) production-wise and marketing wise.
6. Roles designed for bankable actors—who do you have in mind who might fit the role? You should have at least one.
 7. A transformational journey that will engage an audience—you will need a protagonist and antagonist.
 8. A conflict that grips us deeply.

The Secondary Decisions:

9. A truly compelling structure that is intriguing, in and of itself—is it unique, true, timely? What is the point of view?
10. Subtext throughout the story that has us live the story beneath the story.
11. Great lead character introductions.
12. Written through interest techniques and highlights trailer moments—it should be edgy with broad audience appeal.
13. An opening that lures us into the story through action, conflict, and a twist.
14. An ending that creates buzz and brings the main characters to the most interesting conclusion of their journey.
15. Action that delivers meaning and visual entertainment.
16. Dialogue that entertains and delivers character/deeper meaning—especially the first page.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Coast Writers Presents:

David Harris—Cracking the Code:

How to Get Published in Literary Journals

Central Coast Writers meet in the evening on the third Tuesday of the month at the [Center for Spiritual Awakening](#) located at [522 Central Ave., Pacific Grove, CA](#) (next to the PG Library). Doors open at 5:30 and the meeting starts at 6:15 PM.

November 19th, former *Reuters* journalist and short fiction writer David Harris will share what he's learned about the often bewildering landscape of literary journals. In addition to working as a journalist, David has also been a corporate communications consultant and a speechwriter.



A Big Contest for Small Poems

You still have time.

California Writers Club Small Poems contest ends on October 31, 2024.

Details are posted on the CWC website under [CONTESTS](#).

AWARDS: First Place \$100 - Second Place \$50 - Third Place \$25

Billy Collins, past Poet Laureate of the U.S.A. writes in his book, [Musical Tables](#), “I have faith in poets who can go short.” Here is an example of one of his poems from this book:

Falling Asleep

Walking backwards
into a dark forest,

I sweep my footprints
out of existence

with a large
weightless branch

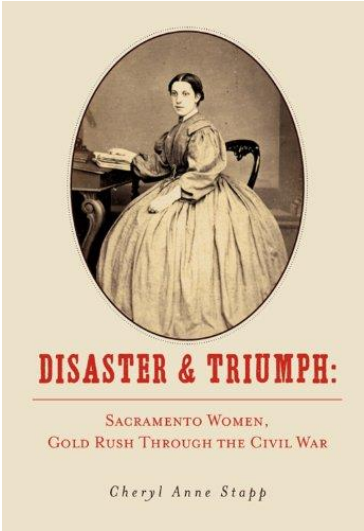
For questions, please contact [Les Bernstein](#)

Judges:

Les Bernstein, head judge, is an award-winning poet and anthologist whose poems have appeared in journals and anthologies in the United States and internationally. Her full-length book, [Loose Magic](#), was reviewed by the Los Angeles Review of Books.

Steve Trenam teaches poetry writing in the Santa Rosa Junior College Lifelong Learning Program. [An Affront to Gravity](#) was published in 2021 by Blue Light Press. His poems have appeared in a number of print and online publications.

Robin Gabbert has poems published in multiple local, state and international anthologies. Her chapbook *Diary of a Mad Poet* came out in 2020 and a book of ekphrastic poetry *The Clandestine Life of Painting in poems* in 2022. She is a frequent speaker on ekphrastic poetry.



Mt. Diablo Holiday Flash Fiction Competition



This contest is open to all members NorCal CWC branches
Topic: a holiday story of your choice.

Rubrics:

- Any genre
- 100-word limit
- Submit using the form
- No personal identifying data on the submission itself
- Use 12 pt Times Roman font and double spaced
- Indicate in top left-hand corner the number of words.

Prizes:

- 1st Place: \$50
- 2nd Place: \$35
- 3rd Place: \$15
- Shortest Story: \$20
- Funniest Story: \$20

Cost: Each submission is \$5.00 or \$10 for three.

Submission period starts: Friday, November 1st; ends: Saturday, November 26

Winners will read their pieces at the General Holiday Meeting on Sunday, December 8th.



We're excited to present the Fall 2024 edition of the California Writers Club *Bulletin*.

Inside you'll find tips on pitching agents, how to market your self-published book, critique group dos and don'ts, plus information on California Writers Week. This quarterly magazine is a valuable benefit of membership in your local branch, one you will definitely want to open and read.

Click on the front page to open the PDF or download.

Happy reading!

MEMBERS' CORNER

by Bonnie Gault-Blue

Critique Groups

Interested in finding a Critique Group? So many of us write alone and have gotten very little feedback on our work. Exposing our creative efforts to a group of like-minded and considerate writers is the first step towards sending our masterpieces out into the world.

Email Bonnie at sacramentowriters@gmail.com. Your names and genre will be collected and linked with other interested members. Your newly formed group can get help with getting started on our website under Members Resources then select Critique Group.

Calling for Beta Readers

If you are interested in reading a member's manuscript in full to give feedback on, there are people in the club interested in obtaining your services. Let us know at sacramentowriters@gmail.com

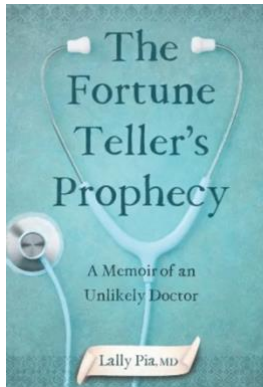
Editors from our Membership

Gini Grossenbach - find her at www.ginigrossenbach.com

Janey Ranlett - search for Janey Ranlett on Linked-in

Rebecca Partridge - find her at ripartridge.com

Announcements from Members



[Stories on Stage Davis](#) will be producing an excerpt of [Lally Pia](#)'s memoir on December 8, 2024 (Sunday) at 4 pm. Admission is free. Location is [Sudwerk Brewing Co.](#) in Davis.

Excerpts from two books will be featured and the authors will be present with their books. They hire actors to read the excerpts.

Needless to say, Lally is elated.

Name Badges

Would you like a name badge for when you attend the CWC-Sacramento meetings? The 2" x 3" gold metal badges with black embossed lettering are for the low price of **\$3.00** (the club pays the rest of the cost). Besides your name, they include the club logo and branch name.

To order a badge, please include the information below:

Name as you wish it to appear: _____

Backing: Magnet _____ Pin _____

Full replacement cost for lost name badge is **\$10.00**

Make checks payable to CWC-Sacramento and mail to:

CWC-Sacramento

P.O. Box 1231

Orangevale, CA 95662

From Legal Appeals to Appeals to Keep Writing



[Ron Javor](#)

How and when did your interest in writing begin?

During my almost eighty years, my writing has gone through numerous phases. As a high school newspaper writer and editor, I was encouraged to pursue journalism in college, but family “counseling” resulted in a pre-med curriculum. That morphed several years later into poli sci/public administration, and I completely missed all the English/writing college classes in order to avoid being drafted due to late graduation.

In the late 1960s, I was assigned to Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a community organizer for 18 months, a physical and psychic shock from balmy and welcoming Los Angeles. There the next phase of my writing career started: during the depressing Midwest winters and the national socio-political uproar of 1968-1970, I started writing what I now would call *dystopian* short stories: the deterioration of society due to racial, military, police and class unrest and warfare.

In the early 1970s, I decided to become an attorney serving lower income, homeless, and/or disabled people. For the next forty years, my *writing* was limited legal briefs and opinions, complex legal financial documents, and laws and regulations—not good training in writing for general readers and, in fact, a difficult habit to break!

By 2013, I was frustrated when I spoke with various social organizations about homelessness and remedies, primarily because of all the erroneous myths and stereotypes about homeless people. A friend suggested I write a children’s book about a homeless child finding “home” and I wrote my first one. It turned out to be good for adults as well as children and led to seven illustrated children’s books

about children with barriers such as homelessness and disabilities which continue to be available today.

As COVID shut down the country, I was trying to write the next one on climate change and how to understand and deal with it. Unfortunately, I couldn't come up with a happy ending! With time on my hands, that morphed into [Our Forever Home](#), a full-length book for young adults and adults about a place where the last of every animal becoming extinct goes to live. The story reviews millions of years of Earth's history (Dinosaurs! Saber-tooth tigers! Neanderthals!) and reveals the animals' current fears about currently increasing extinctions impacting Our Forever Home, resulting in them trying to find a way to warn humans without being able to leave OFH. Spoiler: they do!

I'm now in the final pre-publication phase of another adult book, tentatively titled "Murders and Mayhem at Muscle Beach." It revolves around some valuable contraband smuggled back by Vietnam War veterans who have died mysterious deaths. Its location was lost, except for some clues, and now is being sought and fought over by various competitors including competing groups of homeless veterans and their respective supporters.

BTW: I lost all my copies of my dystopic short stories during multiple relocations after 1972, but recently found old faded, brown xerox copies of some that my parents (inadvertently?) saved. I'm thinking about rewriting and editing them and possibly doing a depressing compilation.

What training helped you to improve your writing?

Three things. First, for me, it's been important to benefit from writing about what I know about rather than making up stories with completely fictional characters and situations; also reading other authors' books in the same genres as mine. Secondly, not being able to commit to taking school classes again, I've improved my skills by taking advantage of programs and resources of CWC, NCPA and Elk Grove Writers Guild. Finally, being encouraged to start writing short stories and receive constructive criticism helped me to learn to focus on techniques and avoid common errors (such as writing looong, complex lawyerly sentences).

What in your writing career are you most proud of?

Before ten years ago, it was filing and writing successful appeals on behalf of tenants at both the U.S. Supreme Court and the California Supreme Court. Since then, it is reading one of my children's books in a grammar school classroom and hearing a child's response such as, "He's/She's just like me but I have a nice home. Can I help someone like him/her?"

What type of reading do you do when not writing?

Historical fiction, mysteries, and legal action novels (vicariously living the lives I missed while writing legal briefs and financial documents?). Also, once I started traveling abroad after I retired, I like to stop at local bookstores and ask about local authors' books they recommend that have been translated into English.

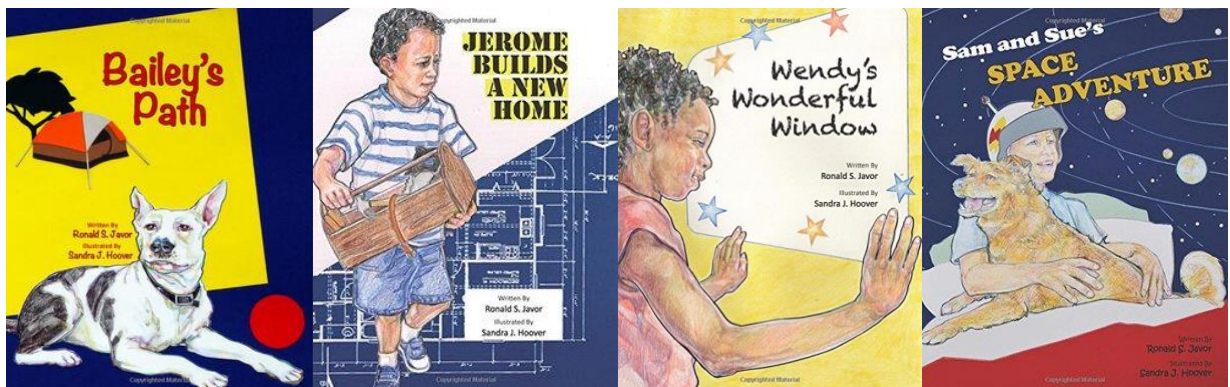
What words of encouragement would you give to new writers?

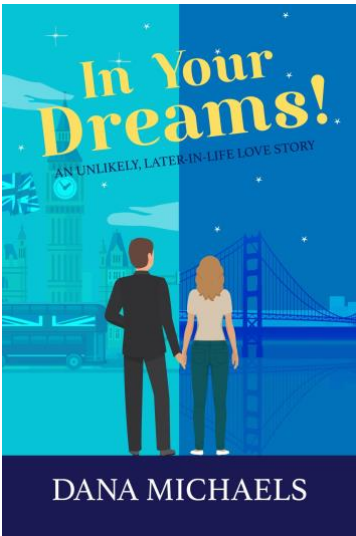
I wish someone had encouraged me many years ago to begin keeping a journal of people, events, and experiences that had meaning for me on a particular day or place, not necessarily writing something every day or about my feelings, but what I experienced. Trying to remember them and writing about them years later doesn't seem to ever do them justice without my sensory experiences at that time. Also, of course, just keep writing!

Biography

Ronald Javor lives in Sacramento and worked as an attorney and volunteered with numerous local nonprofits assisting people with income and other barriers to achieve safe, accessible and affordable housing. Since "retirement", Ron volunteers his time directly assisting homeless people, providing hot meals and counseling. He lives with his two rescue partners, an elderly chow mix named Mooch and a tortie christened Nova by the SPCA.

Ron has written seven children's books on young people confronting and overcoming barriers such as homelessness and disabilities, several of which earned NCPA awards; they illustrate that all children, despite their handicaps, have the same goals and desires. His 2021 [Our Forever Home](#) features an extinct Galapagos tortoise and dodo exploring the past and present worlds of extinct animals now living in Our Forever Home, the perilous effects of climate change, and what these extinct animals might be able to do to stop climate change and stem the increasing influx today's extinct animals and humans. He is completing an adult mystery-action novel, [Murders and Mayhem at Muscle Beach](#), scheduled for 2024 publication. His website is ronaldjavorbooks.com.





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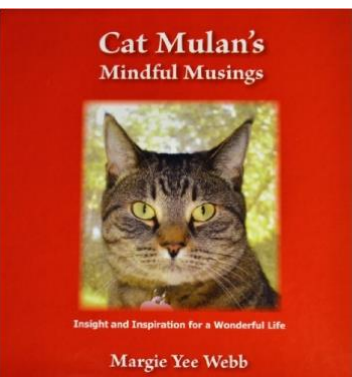


O.R.P. Orzeł

The Spirit of Poland



Bernard Woźny



POST SCRIPT

November is the time to gear up for National Novel Writing Month ([NaNoWriMo](#)). Creative people around the world begin to write a 50,000 word novel on November 1st, with the goal of having a first draft on November 30th. This means averaging nearly 1,700 words a day, which requires the discipline to write daily (you've set this goal before, right?) and to forego editing as you write (you can edit and rewrite in December ... and January ... and February).



NaNoWriMo

“Write first! Ask questions later!” Chris Baty, NaNoWriMo founder.