

Surfwriters Newsletter

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K. C. Johnson, Editor & Publisher

October 2005

Ruth Herbert, our guest speaker this month, is an author, teacher and life story instructor. Ruth will speak on "Getting Started with your Memoirs."

Since 1998, Ruth has taught the Write Your Life Story class for Levy School in the Torrance Unified School District Adult Education program. A number of her students have completed their stories, with some being published and others bound for use by their families.

In collaboration with her husband, Ruth has written and published a book, *Yah-et-te*, describing the five years from 1914-1919 her father served as a missionary to the Mescalero Apache Indians in New Mexico.

Ruth is active member of the local community. Her love of books and the opportunities they afford is evidenced by her passion for Friends of Lomita Library, of which she is the current president. She and other members have accomplished many things over the years, most significantly, saving the Lomita Library from closure and then moving forward with improvements. And they're not finished: a future dream is to build a new community room for the library.

We thank Ruth Herbert for her efforts and look forward to meeting her on October 28, when she'll share her ideas on writing memoirs.

Mark your calendar!

Save the date!

Our next meeting

takes place at

10:00 a.m., October 28,
Palos Verdes Art Center,
5404 W. Crestridge Road,
Rancho Palos Verdes.

This month, we welcome
guest speaker, Ruth Herbert.

Guests welcome!

-- Other News --

Surfwriters held its first meeting of fall, September 23, in the Art Center conference room. **Marcia Reed**, President, welcomed guests and prospective members - **Jennifer**, **Sharon** and **Lielia**.

Members had been asked to bring a finished work or works in progress for analysis and discussion, and so they did! - from novels, historical works, personality pieces,

destination travel, memoirs, essays, to poetry - everything but grocery lists, said **Julia Foster**, who reported on the stimulating, well attended meeting.

Ildy Lee, VP and Assistant Program Chairman, volunteered to investigate a future anthology of members' works. Poet-songwriter Ildy will introduce our guest speaker, Ruth Herbert, on October 28th.

Announcements

Mel Harter, who wasn't at the meeting, weighed in via correspondence. Mel writes a column and book reviews for *Today's Senior* magazine.

Lily Miura and **Stephen Smoke** of MS Custom Books donated the new book, *Palos Verdes Peninsula Artists* to Surfwriters. Last spring, while hard at work on the book, they spoke to members about publishing.

Stephen Smoke will teach Novel Writing, a 10-week class beginning in January 2006, at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Art Center. Author of 26 books and a film director, he will include in his course topics such as research, developing characters, plotting, as well as working with bookstores. Please call the Art Center (310) 541-2479 for information.



Wanda VanHoy Smith, our own poet laureate, has entertained listeners from the South Bay to the West Valley and beyond - even to Santa Maria, where she read her work at the historic Santa Maria Inn, including a piece developed especially for the occasion.

Among Wanda's October-November dates and venues:

- King Harbor Yacht Club -10/15
- Southwest Manuscripters - 10/21
- Brand Books, Glendale - 10/27
- Cobalt Café, Canoga Park - 11/15

Wanda's own special brand of poetry appears in several anthologies, including one published by CSUN (Cal State University, Northridge).



The spoken word flourishes! As the impulse strikes, our various **poet-members read locally** at Coffee Cartel, Barnes & Noble, and some of them, at a new spot for poetry, the Lucky Monkey.

Look for **Julia Foster's** articles in *Palos Verdes Style*.

Virginia Twohy penned a profile of Gabrielle for *Peninsula People*. Virginia has done a great job on our publicity, despite challenges in her life. "It keeps me grounded," she says.

In her turn, **Gabrielle** has created a beautiful display of Surfwriters' books at the front of the Art Center gift shop, with an excellent description of the Surfwriters.

New member **Teri Apodaca** volunteered to be our PV Arts liaison, since **Elayne Sidley** has resigned the post. Elayne did a superb job for several years, and her work is greatly appreciated.

Travels

VP Program Chairman, **Julia**, is off to Germany again, to visit a daughter who lives there.

Deborah Paul, enjoying her promotion at *Orange Coast Magazine*, was on a press trip to Cabo San Lucas and missed our last meeting. Hope to see you this month!

Maria Ruiz, our globetrotting Toastmaster-poet, has recently returned from a four-day poetry workshop in Paris, and we're eager to hear the news of her trip. In between world travels and duties as Division C Governor for Toastmasters, Maria works on an autobiographical novel.

Mary Vandever, our "Moments" secretary, has been panning for gold; she brought some to the September meeting to show us.

Workshops

Jody Wilkinson still conducts her Thursday workshop, which now meets at 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. (check time with

Jody), since she now works days as a Teacher's Aide.

Jean Shriver's long-running workshop continues to meet in the conference room at the PV Library on Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.

And Thanks

Marilyn Litvak's husband did a great job with **Ann Wittels'** design for our stationery. We now have notes, envelopes, and full-sized stationery.

Thanks again to **Doug Shepardson**, who set up the new Surfwriters website at www.surfwriters.org. We hope to see Doug on the 28th if he's in town.

Epilogue

Lots of news this month!

Special thanks to contributors --

- **Julia Foster**
- **Marcia Reed**
- **Ruth Herbert**

Please send your tidbits and announcements for future newsletters to me at kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

Happy writing! See you on the 28th.

"KC"