

Surfwriters Newsletter

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K. C. Johnson, Editor & Publisher

December 2005

Party! -- Reading and Potluck Luncheon --

Plan to meet at 11:00 a.m., **December 16**, at President **Marcia Reed's** home, 613 Via Del Monte, PVE 90274. From PV Drive West, turn right (or left, if heading south) at Malaga Cove Plaza on Via Corta, then right on Via Del Monte.

Marcia reminds us, "We will not have a business meeting this month. Bring something to read (no more than five minutes' worth of material)."

As for the potluck lunch, Marcia suggests we divide names alphabetically, with the first half bringing salads, second half, desserts. Marcia will provide the drinks.

-- Performance --

Mark Your Calendar!

Mary Vandever

Redondo Beach Public Library,
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mary Vandever will read from her novel
Inventions of an Enigmatic Kind.

She joins authors Alan Cook (Hotline to Murder),
Dave Kenney, (Goodbye Wichita),
and Louise Watkins, (Sweet Justice).

-- Anthology in the News --

Last month, members continued discussing the **Surfwriters' Anthology** and decided to include --

- Both prose and poetry in one volume
- Sketches, line drawings (by members, perhaps)
- All materials, whether unpublished or previously published.

If we target publication to coincide with **Poetry and Music in the Gallery**, April 8, we would need to submit material no later than year-end.

Ildy and KC, two members of the "anthology committee" agreed to investigate publishing options and costs before the next meeting.

November Speaker, Anne Hulegard

During her talk last month, award-winning writer/producer/director **Anne Hulegard** invited members to share their writing processes. Anne acknowledged that writing could be painful, cathartic, revealing and satisfying all at once, especially when using our own lives for material. She cited as an example, playwright Neil Simon who has drawn on his experiences for forty years with immense success.

Anne asked, "What experiences from your early years were negative ---or positive---regarding writing or art?"

Bernadette Shih spoke of political threats that attended the release of her book about Mao Tse Tung. **Debbie Paul** recalled her intense desire for adventure, à la Hemingway and Michener. Others shared their recollections, as well.

Anne suggested, "Go home and write down all comments or experiences that were negative. When done, tear up your paper. What are some of the positive things? Write those things. Keep them."

Additional Tips from Anne:

- Write, write, write
- Embrace your process
- Trust your talent; don't judge yourself
- Get support (join a writing/critiquing group)
- Know your strengths and exploit them
- Market your work; "put it out there."

Anne concluded, "Although we may wonder if our work is good enough, if anyone will read it, we should trust our instincts. There is no perfect way to write."

Congratulations

...to **Anne Wittels**, who was awarded not one, but two prizes. Anne's "**It's About Time**" was awarded **1st Place** in the exhibit, "Art as Book as Art" on display at the Peninsula Center Library through January 13, 2006.

An excerpt from her description states, "This artist book is a poem written on glass. Each page, made of curved, self-standing glass, contains a phrase of the poem."

The poem, etched into beveled, gracefully curved panels is a pleasure to behold. Here is the text:

It's About Time

Annie

Be here now.
The past imprisons.
Dreams seduce.
The future beckons
with promises it cannot keep.
But there is only now.
Only now.
Only now.

Anne Wittels

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And Congratulations

...to **Ildy Lee**, who was awarded **3rd prize** in the Southwest Manuscripters 2005 Betty Simmons Annual Short Story contest for "The Kiss."

Catching Up

Mel Harter writes,

"We want to share some exciting news with you. After 14 months here in this 'Retirement Community' we decided that this is not the lifestyle we want. Although there are many good features and services in this place, we don't fit into the crowd or the 'cruise ship/posh resort' society. We miss Southern California, our friends, and the joy of spontaneity and surprise. We have been homesick.

In January we will move into a lovely house in La Quinta (Palm Springs area) and return to true independent living. We hope to see more of you after we move.

Our program takes us to London December 19 where we'll stay with our children and have the joy of the bat mitzvah of our granddaughter. We go to Israel for a week after the New Year, return home and move to the desert January 16.

We'll send you our address, telephone numbers, email, etc. as soon as we have it."

Raymonde and Mel



Members in the News

Mary Vandever has been active on the mystery scene. On November 5th, she attended the sixth annual Men of Mystery conference featuring William Bernhardt and Dean Koontz as luncheon speakers. Says Mary, "Both authors were entertaining and exceeded all expectations."

Check out **Debbie Paul** in Orange Coast Magazine online at <http://www.orangecoastmagazine.com>

Click on Master Calendar, and there she is, photo and all!



Guests

Inspirational singer/songwriter **Beth Eichel** shared her experiences in the creative process. Beth has recently released her third album, a new CD, "Women of Spirit"

Bernadette Shih brought her lovely new book of poetry, Song of Life, "a sophisticated melody of passionate prose..."

Newsletter Online

Look for the monthly newsletter online at the Surfwriters' website: <http://www.palosverdes.com/surfwriters/>



Reminder:

Is it time to renew your membership?
If you're not certain, please check with the Art Center at (310) 541-2479 or e-mail info@pvarcenter.org



-- Special thanks to contributors --

- Mel Harter
- Mary Vandever

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Please send your announcements for future newsletters to
kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

Happy writing!

Happy Holidays!

See you on December 16th at Marcia's.

"KC"

Looking Ahead:

We're back
to our regular schedule next month:
Our **January** meeting
will take place on the 27th
at the Art Center.



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