

Surfwriters Newsletter

Vol. XXXXVIII Issue 11

K. C. Johnson, Editor & Publisher

April-May 2007

-- Announcements --

—Meeting—

Friday, May 25, 2007

10:00 a.m. -- Business Meeting -- 10:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. -- Guest Speakers -- 11:00 a.m.

What do editors look for in a working relationship with a writer? Friday, May 25th, Darlene Gunther, Deputy Editor for Special Advertising Sections of the *Los Angeles Times*, tells freelance writers how to snag assignments and create an ongoing friendship with an editor.

Darlene Gunther,
Los Angeles Times



About Darlene Gunther

Following a successful stint as a Canadian journalist, Darlene Gunther joined the *Los Angeles Times* as a writer in 1984 and was promoted to assistant editor shortly thereafter. Since then, she has worked as editor, deputy editor, writer, designer, and producer of a variety of projects at *The Times*.



Currently Deputy Editor, Special Advertising Sections, Ms. Gunther also is the editor of the monthly supplement, *Living Well*. She considers covering the issues of her generation to be one of the greatest highlights of her career.

Freelance Writer, Kim Kabar

Assisting Darlene Gunther on the 25th will be local freelance writer Kim Kabar, who works with Ms. Gunther, frequently writing the cover stories for *Living Well*.

**Join Darlene Gunther and Kim Kabar
as they share their views on creating and building a solid working relationship with an editor.**

Guests are welcome!

Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 W. Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes 90275
(310) 541-2479

See you there!

◊◊ -- Events -- ◊◊

-- Poetry Reading --

Featured Readers and Open Reading

Saturday, May 12 and June 9, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

at the

The Artists' Studio Gallery

Bring a favorite poem or two!
Enjoy poetry, art and refreshments!

Free to the Public

Suite 300C The Village
627 Silver Spur Road
(just west of the Peninsula Library)
Rolling Hills Estates 90274
Call (310) 265-2592 for information.

-- The Ruskin Art Club --

-- Reading --

Two of today's best contemporary poets,
Kathy Fagan and Angie Estes

Friday, May 18, 8:00 p.m.

Special Free Reception
\$10/\$5 students & seniors

-- Workshop --

Saturday, May 19, 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Writing by Ear: Poetry as a Foreign Language
with Angie Estes and Kathy Fagan**
-\$75-

Lunch and snacks included
Morning only audits - \$45

Advance reservations are required for workshops.

The Ruskin Art Club

800 So. Plymouth Blvd.
Los Angeles 90005
One block south of Wilshire/
three blocks west of Crenshaw

For details: Elena Karina Byrne,
Literary Programs Director
Ekduende@cox.net: (310) 669-2369
Check the website for the complete schedule.
www.ruskinartclub.org

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-- Palos Verdes Village Players --

(Surfwriters and Others)

Present a Reading of

**Neil Simon's Comedy
Last of the Red Hot Lovers**

Saturday, May 19, 2:00 p.m.

Free to the Public

The Artists' Studio Gallery

Suite 300C The Village
627 Silver Spur Road
Rolling Hills Estates 90274
(310) 265-2592

Enjoy the play, art exhibit and refreshments!

-- Writers Guild Foundation --

-- Workshop --

Breaking Into The Box

Saturday, May 19, 2007, 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM.

The Writers Guild Foundation

presents its first workshop focused entirely on writing for television. **Breaking Into The Box** will feature some of the top writers, showrunners, and TV execs in the business giving a comprehensive and in-depth look into the many aspects of a writing career in TV.

Tickets and Schedule: <http://www.wgfoundation.org/>
\$150, general public; \$125, WGA members;
\$110-full-time students with I.D.

A light breakfast, snacks, box lunch and an evening wine and cheese reception are included in the registration fee.

Writers Guild of America, west
WGAw, Second Floor
7000 West Third Street (at Fairfax)
Los Angeles 90048

Information: (323) 782-4692

-- Panel Discussion - Plus Q & A --

IWOSC

Independent Writers of Southern California
May General Meeting/Panel Discussion:

The Playwrights Round Table:

Why Write for the Theater in Tinseltown?

Monday, May 21, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (7:30 sharp)

Veterans Memorial Building,
4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City 90230

General admission: \$15. IWOSC members: Free.

Reservations are required. Space is limited!

Contact info@iwosc.org or 877-799-7483 for reservations, directions, or information. Reservations will be honored until 7:15.

-- One-Day Writing Workshops --

**Two Saturday Workshops at UCLA
with Rebecca Forster!**

May 19, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Straight Talk for the Unpublished Crime Novelist:
A One-Day Crash Course for Realists**

English 728.95, Reg. No. S9570U, English, \$95

"This fast-paced seminar is designed for the self-starter who understands that creativity is more than a state of mind--it's a business."

May 20, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Straight Talk for the Unpublished Crime Novelist:
A Limited-Enrollment Workshop**

English 728.96, Reg. No. S9572U, \$110

"Limited to 15 participants who want direct guidance on how to maximize chances for publication, this workshop applies information discussed in 'Straight Talk for the Unpublished Crime Novelist'..."

Here's an opportunity to learn from Rebecca Forster, author of 24 novels, including *Keeping Counsel* and the book series *Silent Witness* and *Hostile Witness*. Ms. Forster is a *USA Today* bestselling author, and her most recent book, *Privileged Witness* (Signet Books/New American Library), debuted on the Barnes & Noble top-seller list.

For details or to enroll, go to --
<http://www.uclaextension.edu/> or call (310) 825-9415.

-- Writers Guild Foundation --

Presents

Spring Storytellers

-- Discussion - Plus Q & A --

Thursday, May 24, 7:30pm

Ted Elliott And Terry Rossio

Co-authors of some of the most successful films of the last 15 years, Elliott and Rossio are also a popular resource of screenwriting know-how and wisdom through their Wordplayer.com website. Moderator: F.X. Feeney. An audience Q&A and reception conclude the evening.

TICKETS: <http://www.wgfoundation.org/>
\$20 - general admission; \$15 - WGA members and faculty;
\$10 - Full-time students

Writers Guild Theater
135 So. Doheny Drive
Beverly Hills 90211

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-- In the Community --

Gallery Exhibit

March 9-May 20

Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Free to the Public

Where Photography Becomes One With Being Well!

"Come explore the gallery exhibition entitled "Of Mind and Body: Images of Being Well," where photographs of physical, emotional, and mental good health collaborate and become one, as presented by the Photographic and Digital Artists."

MaGriffe Galerie, 3624 So. Gaffey St.
San Pedro, CA 90731, (310) 547-2154

Photographic and Digital Artists (PADA): PhotoDigiArt@yahoo.com

Art Jam

This Month's Theme:

"Time to You"

Friday, May 25, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Art Display, Poetry/Prose,
Music and Song, Refreshments

Free to the Public

Summer Studios Arts Academy

25004 Narbonne Ave.

Lomita 90717

(north of PCH, east of Crenshaw)

Call David Parsons, Executive Director,

for information at (310) 325-8801.

Southwest Manuscripters and City of Torrance

Present

Author Ray Bradbury!

Friday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

Free to the Public

Toyota Meeting Hall

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

3330 Civic Center Drive

(near Torrance Blvd. and Madrona Ave.)

Torrance, CA 90503

Call (310) 750-6001 for more information.

-- Summer Workshop --

Writing in the Garden

with Regina O'Melveny

Thursdays, June 21-July 26

6:30-8:30 p.m.

South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG)

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

(between PCH and PV Drive North)

Call SCBG, (310) 544-1948, to enroll.

-- Members in the News --

- In Memoriam -

The Passing of Two Adventurous Spirits

Regrettably, we said "so long" to two of our members, **Eleanor Nicholson** and **Julia Foster**, in March of this year. We miss you, wish you well on your journey and send the best to your families.

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Eleanor Nicholson, member of Surfwriters since 1983, left this world on March 1st. Eleanor's younger daughter, Cyndy Castain says that being part of Surfwriters meant a lot to her mother and helped keep her going on her writing projects.

Eleanor loved to write. Not long after she graduated from Scripps College in Claremont, the promise of writing and the prospect of glamour led her to Paramount Pictures where she found stars, directors, authors, exotic movie sets, travel and adventure!

She met her future husband, Russ (not an actor), on a set in 1944 and married him six years later. They lived as "Guests of the King" in Saudi Arabia for more than 30 years, through her husband's employment with Saudi Aramco.

Eleanor expressed first hand knowledge of the country in two books, *In the Footsteps of the Camel*, recognized by the Saudi government as a valid history, and *Through the Lion Gate*, which offers a personal view of Saudi's governing families.

Ever open to adventure, international citizen Eleanor wrote, "Nothing occurs of its own accord. You must put yourself in a position for something to happen." And that she did. Hers is the story of an exciting life, well-lived!

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Former Surfwriters president and 22-year member, **Julia Foster** passed from this world on March 19th, leaving a brother, six children, eleven grandchildren and friends who remember her optimism, humor and sunny smile.

Julia loved travel; she embarked on her first big adventure in her early 20's after graduating from the University of Iowa. Julia left the Midwest for Manhattan, where she landed a position as copywriter and editor for Union Carbide Corporation.

It was in New York that she met Army Air Corps pilot, John Foster, and began her next adventure as a military wife. She and John crisscrossed the country from base to base with the children every two years and even served a tour of duty in Japan at the foot of Mount Fuji.

When John retired from the Air Force, they settled in Palos Verdes, and she entered the next phase of her life. Freelance writer and photographer Julia wrote travel pieces as well as in depth personality profiles. Local and national newspapers and magazines carried her articles.

Always ready for new experiences, she once said, "Japanese expressions fit my life. I like the phrase, 'Bend with the bamboo.'" That led to a rewarding life for Julia, who enjoyed it all and shared her enjoyment with others.

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-- Members in the News --

Wanda VanHoy Smith

Wanda's poem "It Takes Trees to Make a Forest" appears in the March issue of *Get Underground*.

http://www.getunderground.com/underground/poetry/article.cfm?Article_ID=2150

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Travels with Maria, Mary, and Deb

Maria Ruiz

World traveler Maria Ruiz recently returned from an event-filled trip to Japan and China, following a two month hiatus in L.A. -- after her visit to New Zealand! Where is Maria now? Off to the Hawaiian Islands! Where does she write? On board ship and in foreign cafés!

Mary Vandever

Club President Mary Vandever enjoyed all the excitement of the Kentucky Derby and will have news for us at the May 25th meeting.

Debbie Paul

These past few months, Deb has been busier than ever, traveling to Ireland, Arizona and points between!

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A Few Words from Debbie

"Debbie Paul is taking the liberty of sending a free, 12-month gift subscription of Orange Coast Magazine to all her Surfwriter pals. So, in case one shows up hogging the space in your mailbox, you can blame her. For those who want a subscription, but aren't in the Surfwriter roster, please e-mail your address to: Circulation@orangecoastmagazine.com Attention: Laurie. And just tell her that you are one of our Surfwriter members."

Mel Harter

- Mel's essay "But Is It Funny?" will be published next month in the Potpourri section of *Exceptional Magazine*, an e-zine at <http://www.exceptionalmag.com/>
- His article "How To Read A Person Like A Book (A Humorous Look At Social Science)" will appear in the fall edition of *Going Bonkers* distributed at most Borders stores.
- Mel plans to attend a one week seminar on memoirs in France by prize winning journalist and non-fiction author Judith Reitman.

Congratulations, Mel! The desert air must agree with you!

Stephen Smoke Off to Chicago!

In a "one-night farewell tour" on May 9, Surfwriters' friend, author-teacher Stephen Smoke played guitar, sang and read his poetry at Lily Miura's Redondo Beach Pacific Edge Bistro. Bernadette Shih, "Libby" and KC Johnson shared a few poems. Smoke's long time friend, musician Barry Keenan added to the fun with his musical compositions.

We'll see Stephen again; he and his wife, Margaret, plan to check in every other month.

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-- Writing Workshops --

(Free of Charge)

Millie Ames Writing Workshop

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Peninsula Center Library
Conference Room (Main Level)
701 Silver Spur Road
Rolling Hills Estates 90274
Purpose: To help writers get published
Facilitator: Jean Shriver
Frequency: Meets Weekly
(no meeting the last week of the year)
Genre: Fiction and Non-Fiction
(no drama or poetry)

Writing Workshop/Critiquing Group

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Community Room at Christ Episcopal Church
400 So. Broadway (at Pearl Street)
(Between PCH and Catalina Ave.)
Redondo Beach 90277
Purpose: To help writers get published
Facilitator: Nina Murphy, (Murfink9@aol.com)
(Organizer, Jody Wilkinson; Previous Facilitator, Edith Battles)
Frequency: Meets Weekly
Genre: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Drama

Writing Workshop

Genre: Poetry/Short Prose
Frequency: Meets Bi-weekly
Mondays 2:00-4:30 p.m.
(Next meetings: May 21, June 4)
Palos Verdes Estates
Purpose: Explore voice, form, and style;
support/critique work;
share publishing opportunities
Facilitator: Rotating
(Everyone who wishes will participate as facilitator!)
Questions? Contact kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

-- Ongoing Activities --

**Spoken Word/Poetry at Coffee Cartel
Guests and Open Mic Readings**

Poets Featured in May and early June

May 15	Lee Rossi
May 22	Open Reading
May 29	Richard Modiano
June 5	Michelle Mitchell-Foust
June 12	Joan Job Smith and Fred Voss

1820 So. Catalina Avenue, Riviera Village
Redondo Beach 90277

Tuesdays 8:10 p.m. (Sign up for open mic at 7:45 p.m.)
Hosts Jim Doane, Larry Colker & Stephany Prodromides

Call (310) 548-5344 or visit www.redondopoets.com.
<http://www.redondopoets.com>

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-- Submissions --

River Styx

International Poetry Contest

A prize of \$1,500 and publication in *River Styx* is given annually for a group of poems. Alan Shapiro will judge. All entries will be considered for publication. Submit up to three poems totaling no more than 14 pages with a \$20 entry fee, which includes a one-year subscription to *River Styx*, by **May 31**.

Visit the Web site for complete guidelines.

River Styx, International Poetry Contest,
3547 Olive Street, Suite 107, St. Louis, MO 63103
www.riverstyx.org

Runes: A Review of Poetry/Runes Award

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Runes: A Review of Poetry* is given annually for a single poem. This year's theme is "connection." Robert Hass and Brenda Hillman will judge. Submit three poems with a \$15 entry fee (\$3 for each additional poem), which includes a one-year subscription to *Runes*, by **May 31**. Send an SASE, e-mail, or visit the Web site for complete guidelines.

Runes: A Review of Poetry, Runes Award,
Arctos Press, P.O. Box 401, Sausalito, CA 94966-0401.
runesrev@aol.com; www.members.aol.com/runes

New Millennium Writings/New Millennium Awards

Four prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in the 2007 issue of *New Millennium Writings* and on the journal's Web site are given for a poem, a short story, a short, short story, and a work of creative nonfiction that have not appeared in a publication with a circulation above 5,000. Prizes are given twice yearly, in the spring and the fall. Submit three poems of no more than five pages total or up to 6,000 words of prose (or 1,000 words for a short, short story) with a \$17 entry fee by **June 17**. Send an SASE or visit the Web site for complete guidelines.

(See Recent Winners.)

New Millennium Writings, New Millennium Awards,
Room A, P.O. Box 2463, Knoxville, TN 37901.
Don Williams, Editor; www.newmillenniumwritings.com

Teachers & Writers Collaborative/Bechtel Prize

A prize of \$3,500 and publication in *Teachers & Writers* magazine is given annually for an essay that relates to creative writing education, literary studies, or the profession of writing. Submit an essay of no more than 5,000 words by **June 29**. There is no entry fee. Call, e-mail, or visit the Web site for complete guidelines.

Teachers & Writers Collaborative, Bechtel Prize,
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2020, New York, NY 10018.
(888) 266-5789; editors@twc.org; www.twc.org

-- Looking Ahead --

Surfwriters will hold a luncheon meeting in June,
location and date to be announced.

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

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-- Membership, Et Cetera --

-- Associate Members --

Is it time to renew your Associate Membership?
If you're not certain, please check with Membership Chair,
Marilyn Litvak at mltrvlarng@hotmail.com.

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-- Membership, Et Cetera --

-- Active Members --

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

----- Wishing the best of good health to Marcia Reed and all our members! -----

----- Thanks to contributors -----
Marcia Reed, Virginia Twohy, Mary Vandever, Mel Harter, Wanda VanHoy Smith, Debbie Paul and Larry Colker

Read the monthly newsletter online at the **Surfwriters website**: www.palosverdes.com/surfwriters/newsletters.htm

=== Events, Past and Future ===

Poetry and Music in the Gallery, April 28

Guest poets Regina O'Melveny, Larry Colker and Jim Doane joined musicians of La Mer Consort and eleven Surfwriters/poets for a delightful afternoon performance in the art gallery of the historic Malaga Cove Library, surrounded by vibrant paintings crafted by local school children. Special thanks go to Program Chairs Elayne Sidley and Wanda VanHoy Smith, who organized the event sponsored by The Palos Verdes Library District and Surfwriters.

July in Idyllwild for Writers and Other Artists

"The Idyllwild Summer Program— after 50 years, this annual tradition continues to offer rare opportunities for creative self-discovery in the arts. Every summer, more than 1,300 children, teens, and adults attend Idyllwild's workshops under the pines, pursuing interests in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts—and taught by some of America's finest artists. Weeklong festivals and special programs, including the famed Native American Arts program, bring an added dimension and depth to specific artistic pursuits. The resulting experience is unforgettable, stimulating, and fun."

<http://www.idyllwildarts.org/summer/summer.html>

E-mail: summer@idyllwildarts.org
or call (951) 659-2171 ext 236

Welcome to Surfwriters
Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 West Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

