

Surfwriters Newsletter

Vol. 49 XLIX Issue 2

October-November 2007

~~~ Announcements ~~~

October-November 2007 Events: Were you there?

Ildy Lee in Concert!

Ildy thrilled everyone with her bell-like voice at The Wayfarer's Chapel, October 9th as she sang original songs and well-loved world favorites in many languages.

Author Barbara Abercrombie gave a delightful talk to Surfwriters on October 26th:

"What it's like when your book turns into a product to market, plus the odd path most of us follow to become writers."

Learn more about Barbara below.

Palos Verdes Village Players (PVVP) performed a dramatic reading of *Steel Magnolias* at The Village on November 10th.

The audience laughed and cried with the actors in Robert Harling's tale of love and loss.

Look for PVVP's next performance in February 2008, probably a lighthearted romp with Noel Coward or Agatha Christie.

—"Thank You" Celebration and Farewell Luncheon for Marcia Reed, November 16th —

Marcia is moving to San Diego next month, and we shall miss her!

At Friday's meeting, Wanda VanHoy Smith presented an original framed poem, entitled "Marcia, Marcia."

The club gave Marcia an angel dish and plant; Bertie Wood sang a charming song with her own lyrics;

members shared memories and cake, followed by a lively luncheon for all who could attend,

—twelve around a table, enjoying life with Marcia!

About our October Speaker, Barbara Abercrombie:

Barbara Abercrombie has published novels for adults and books for children, including the award winning picture book, *Charlie Anderson*. Her novels have been optioned for films and published in six languages. Her essays, articles and poems have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers, including *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and United Airlines *Hemisphere* magazine. Her latest book, *Courage & Craft: Writing Your Life Into Story*, was published in September 2007 by New World Library. Barbara teaches creative writing in the Writers' Program at UCLA Extension and conducts writing workshops for the Wellness Community. Check out her fabulous website/blog at www.writingtime.net.

◊Δ◊ -- Community Events -- ◊Δ◊

~~ Spoken Word/Poetry at Coffee Cartel ~~

Guests and Open Mic Readings

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

Readers Featured in November

13th	Candace Pearson
20th	TBA
27th	Lynne Thompson

1820 So. Catalina Avenue, Riviera Village
Redondo Beach 90277

Call (310) 548-5344 or visit www.redondopoets.com.

Larry co-featured with Andrea Selch Thursday, November 15, for Peggy Dobree's *A Horse of Another Color* reading at The Venice Grind, 12224 Venice Blvd., Mar Vista 90066.

~~ Art Jam ~~

(Next Art Jam: January 25, 2008)

Come to Summer Studios' Craft Fair!

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday

December 1st & 2nd

Art Demos and Kids' Activities

Summer Studios Arts Academy

25004 Narbonne Ave., Lomita 90717

(North of PCH, south of Lomita Blvd.;
east of Crenshaw Blvd., west of Western Ave.)

Ongoing Classes and Art Display

Call David Parsons, Executive Director,
for information, (310) 325-8801.

~~ IWOSC ~~

Independent Writers of Southern California

-- General Meeting/Panel Discussion, Plus Q & A --

Top Magazine Editors Talk Trends**Monday, November 19, 7:30-9:00 p.m. (7:30 sharp)**

Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
(Corner of Culver and Overland)
Culver City 90230

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

Reservations are required. Space is limited!

Write info@iwosc.org or call (877) 799-7483

for reservations, directions, or information.

Reservations will be honored until 7:15.

Parking entrance is on Culver Blvd., and parking is free.

~~ 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

Frequency: Meets Bi-weekly

Mondays 2:00-4:30 p.m.

(Next meetings: November 19, December 3)

Palos Verdes Estates

Purpose: Explore voice, form, and style;

support/critique work;

share publishing opportunities

Facilitator: Rotating

(Everyone who wishes may participate as facilitator!)

Questions? Contact kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

Genre: Poetry/Short Prose

~~ Submissions/Contests ~~

*(Short Stories, Novels, Poetry, Creative Nonfiction)***StoryQuarterly Fiction Contest**

The StoryQuarterly contest offers the following categories: short stories, short short stories, and novel excerpts. Entries must be previously unpublished, whether in print or online, and no longer than 8,000 words. First prize is \$2,500, Second prize is \$1,500, third prize is \$750, and ten finalists will receive \$100 each. **Deadline: November 30.** Entry fee: \$20. Online entries only. Entrants receive six months complimentary access to

Narrative Backstage. For details, go to:

<https://narrativemagazine.com/SQ/shared/contest.php>

American Library Association**W. Y. Boyd Literary Award**

A prize of \$5,000 is given annually to honor a novel set in a period when the United States was at war. Publishers or authors may submit seven copies of books published in 2007 by

December 1. There is no entry fee. Send an SASE, call, e-mail, or visit the website www.ala.org for the required application and complete guidelines. American Library Association, W. Y. Boyd

Literary Award, Governance Office, 50 East Huron Street,
Chicago, IL 60611. (800) 545-2433, ext. 3247.

Cheryl Malden, Program Officer. awards@ala.org

Beatrice Hawley Award 2008

Alice James Books welcomes submissions for the annual Beatrice

Hawley Award. Poetry manuscripts from 50-70 pages will be accepted with a \$25 entry fee. This award is open to emerging, as well as established poets residing in the United States. The winner is awarded \$2,000 and book publication. Additional manuscripts may be chosen for publication. Postmark deadline is

December 1, 2007. Click the following link for detailed guidelines and more information about *Alice James Books*.

Boulevard**Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers**

A prize of \$1,500 and publication in *Boulevard* is given annually for a short story by a writer who has not published a nationally distributed book. The editors of *Boulevard* will judge. Submit a story of any length with a \$15 entry fee, which includes a one-year subscription to *Boulevard*, by **December 15.** Send an SASE, call, or visit the website for complete guidelines.

(See Recent Winners.)

Boulevard, Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers, P.O. Box 325, 6614 Clayton Road, Richmond Heights, MO 63117. (314) 862-2643. Richard Burgin, Editor.
www.richardburgin.net/boulevard

Ellen Meloy Fund**Desert Writers Award**

A prize of \$2,000 is given annually to enable creative nonfiction writers to spend creative time in a desert environment.

Using the online submission system, submit up to 10 pages of creative nonfiction, a project description, and a biography by **December 31.** Call or visit the website for complete guidelines.

There is no entry fee.

Ellen Meloy Fund, Desert Writers Award, P.O. Box 484, Bluff, UT 84512. (435) 669-5326. Greer Chesher, Contact.
fund@ellenmeloy.com; www.ellenmeloy.com

~~ Members in the News ~~

These are exciting times for Marilyn Litvak! In September, she spent a week in Italy with her daughter. Marilyn wrote, "Loved Italy's Amalfi Coast--not unlike the PV Peninsula. Only seven people on the Gutsy Women trip. Stayed put...at the Europa Palace in Sorrento overlooking the sea and did day trips from there: Pompeii, Capri, Sorrento Cooking School, Mozzarella Farm, Wine Tasting, Naples Archaeological Museum, Greek Ruins at Paestum, Beach at Amalfi, Ravello. Best part of all was sharing the week's experiences with my daughter."

Marilyn has more news. Her article, "Egypt on Your Own" has been published in the October 29th issue of *TravelAge West*. Marilyn, her daughter and colleagues set the goal of seeing "as much of ancient Egypt in a week" as they could. What did they see? <http://www.travelagewest.com/articles.aspx?article=6822>

oΔo

Mel Harter, who moved to the desert nearly two years ago, said in a September note to Marilyn Litvak, "Thank y'all for missing me. I miss you, too."

"Now seven months into widowhood, I'm doing pretty well. Fixing the house to more masculine feel, dating a bit, writing a lot. I will undoubtedly start to shuttle myself to LA more often and will try to include a Surfwriters meeting or other event. Hug everyone there for me."

oΔo

Mel's article, "How to Read a Person Like a Book" appears in the Fall Issue of *Going Bonkers*, available at Border's. Also, check out the magazine at <http://www.gbonkers.com>.

oΔo

Congratulations to prolific author, Ruth Adams! Awarded first prize for her picture book manuscript during a Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) conference, Ruth also placed a middle grade novel with an agent for review. Yet another novel, *Once a Goblin*, is currently with a publisher.

oΔo

Beth Whittenbury wrote, "I'm so sorry that I won't be there to say 'goodbye' to Marcia. Please let her know I'll miss her." Beth is PTA president this year and her PTA Council meetings always fall on the fourth Friday of the month. "That's why you haven't seen me," she said. Mother and PTA president, with a law practice—lots of good fodder for a writer!

oΔo

Ziggy (Sigrid) Novak and husband, Richey will tour Germany, Austria and Poland for the next year, a long one for us!

oΔo

Welcome to new member Richard Leach, musician and poet.

oΔo

"Hello" to Edith Battles from everyone. What's new, Edith?

oΔo

~~ Awakenings Coffee House ~~

Internet Stations, Wi-Fi, Kids' Play Room
Corporate Functions, Birthday Parties, Concerts, Art Exhibits
Open Friday and Saturday nights for live music. Look for comedy improv performances the first Friday of each month.

24100 Narbonne Ave., Lomita 90717

(310) 325-2565

www.awakeningscoffeehouse.com

For more information, call the Special Events Department:
(310) 621-4282 or email bookings@awakeningscoffeehouse.com

~~ Beyond Baroque ~~

YEAR-ROUND FREE WORKSHOPS & OPEN READINGS

Since 1969, Beyond Baroque has provided a free workshop and open-reading program as a gathering place for writers to develop their voice, find support, build communities, and experiment. Bring copies of your work.

**Free Open Reading First Sunday of Each Month
(except August, September, and January)**

Reading 5:00 p.m.; sign-up 4:45 p.m.

Also, see Poets Beyond the Half Shell.

681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291, (310) 822-3006

www.beyondbaroque.org, beyondbaroque@aol.com

~~ Looking Ahead ~~

Our December 14th meeting will feature a potluck luncheon at Bertie Wood's home. First half of alphabet will bring salads and light entrees; second half -desserts.

Poetry and Music in the Gallery:

Malaga Cove Library, Saturday, April 12, 2008.

The next Writer's Seminar takes place in August 2008.

Committee members are Virginia Twohy, Marilyn Litvak,

Maria Ruiz, Kendel Cornwell, and KC Johnson.

~~ Membership ~~

-- 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.

-- Active Members --

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

oΔo

oΔo

----- Thanks to Contributors -----

Mary Vandever, Marcia Reed, Anne Wittels, Virginia Twohy,
Marilyn Litvak, Mel Harter, Ruth Adams, Beth Whittenbury and Larry Colker.

Please send newsletter announcements to Editor-Publisher, KC Johnson: kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

Trivia Quiz: Can you find a solid example of synecdoche in this newsletter?

~~ OUR OWN HAIKU CORNER ~~

Months ago, Marcia Reed suggested that we all bring haiku to the September meeting; we would then offer our material to the Art Center for inclusion in the newsletter. Three (only three!) members submitted haiku, just enough to begin *Our Own Haiku Corner*. (Please send your haiku to kcjohnson@starnetdial.net for the Surfwriters newsletter. When there is a sizable collection of haiku, our group will submit them to PVAC.)

Summer comes —and goes
We sweat some, then sweater up
Crazy days—September!
-Marcia Reed

beautiful, darting
swift yet sometimes languorous
joy in water•koi
-Anne Wittels

legends and lagoons
volcanoes and waterfalls
Kona Village calls
-Virginia Twohy

expressing our thoughts
making sense out of chaos
we rely on words
-Anne Wittels

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

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

