

# Surfwriters Newsletter

Vol. 50 Issue 3

February-March 2008

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## ~~~ Announcements ~~~

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### EVENTS ~ FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL ~ EVENTS

#### ~~ FEBRUARY ~~

~~ February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Surfwriters Meeting ~~

- Kathy Gould, Director of the Palos Verdes Library District, delivered an informative talk about the library's walk-in activities and services, as well as those available through its recently enhanced website at <http://www.pvld.org/>. There's something for everyone! After the meeting, members adjourned to a local restaurant for a lively luncheon. Our thanks go to Kathy Gould for a memorable time!
- Surfwriters business meeting/member planning session topics included: funding the anthology, preparing for Poetry and Music in the Gallery and the 2008 Writer's Seminar.

#### ~~ MARCH ~~

~~ March 28<sup>th</sup> - Surfwriters Meeting ~~

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Palos Verdes Art Center

5504 W. Crestridge Road, RPV 90275

(310) 541-2479

Discussion Topics: Poetry and Music in the Gallery, Writer's Seminar, Anthology

~~ March 28<sup>th</sup> - Art Jam in "Downtown Lomita" ~~

7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

#### ~~ APRIL ~~

~~ National Poetry Month ~~

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~~ Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Palos Verdes Village Players perform *Blithe Spirit* at The Village ~~

~~ Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - Many Activities! ~~

Poetry and Music in the Gallery, Surfwriters & La Mer Consort

Palos Verdes Village Players, *Blithe Spirit* at St. John Fisher

First Ever International Dream Seminar at Marymount College

~~ Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> - Poetry at San Pedro Branch, Los Angeles Public Library ~~

2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Poetry, Music, Refreshments

Come hear your favorite local poets!

*See the following pages for details of March and April events.*



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 ◇◇◇ -- Community Events -- ◇◇◇
 

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## ~~ Music, Art, Spoken Word ~~

## ~~ Art Jam ~~

7:00 - 9:30 p.m., March 28, 2008

Free to the Public!

Summer Studios Arts Academy supports the local arts community every month with ART JAM night! Artists sign up to bring an art piece for display, writers and poets a page to read, and musicians, a song to play for an exciting evening of cultural enrichment and relaxed socializing.

**Summer Studios Arts Academy**

Ongoing Classes and Art Display

March Theme is "DOWNTOWN."

**Celebrate Summer Studios' move to "Downtown Lomita!"**

2161 Lomita Blvd., Lomita, CA 90717

(1/2 mile east of Crenshaw Blvd.;

one block east of Narbonne Ave.)

For info call David Parsons, Executive Director, (310) 325-8801.

## ~~ Poetry Workshop ~~

*The Sounds of Poetry with Carine Topal*

"Discover your own voice and sources of personal inspiration through a series of writing exercises. Workshop members improve writing fluency, the ability to constructively critique personal work and edit work of their peers in a supportive environment. Writers become familiar with contemporary literature and generate work rich in language and imagination."

Ten sessions, 6:30-8:30 p.m., April 2-June 4, 2008

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

Activity/Course Code Number is 1504.201.

Price: \$68 - residents; \$78 - non-residents.

**Register in advance** online, via phone, fax, walk-in or mail-in.

**Registration is open now!**

City of Torrance

West Annex Registration Office

3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance 90503

 (310) 618-2720 or <http://www.torrnet.com/9087.htm>

## ~~ Drama/Comedy Performances ~~

**Palos Verdes Village Players**

(Surfwriters and Others)

present staged readings of

**Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit***

 Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.

Suite 300 The Village

627 Silver Spur Road

Rolling Hills Estates 90274

(310) 265-2592

 Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.

St. John Fisher, Fireside Room

5448 Crest Road

Rancho Palos Verdes 90275

(310) 377-5571

Free to the Public

## ~~ Dream Conference ~~

 April 12<sup>th</sup> All-Day Event

**International Association for the Study of Dreams (IASD)**

The first ever IASD Southern California Regional Conference will be held at Marymount College in Palos Verdes. On April 12, writers, artists, doctors, psychologists or people simply interested in the science and mystery of dreams will gather and explore this most fascinating of human phenomena. An all-day event, the conference begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. The keynote address will be presented by Lionel Corbet, M.D., followed by a full schedule of workshops with a break for a catered lunch.

Open to all interested parties. General registration, \$75. Students and IASD members \$60 plus \$10 CEU processing fee.

Marymount College, 30800 Palos Verdes Drive East

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

(310) 377-5501

For further information on workshops, participants

and the goal of the conference, please contact

 bbishop@marymountpv.edu or [AsDreams.org](http://AsDreams.org).

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## ~~ Spoken Word/Poetry/Music ~~

## ~~ Poetry and Music in the Gallery ~~

**Hear Surfwriters and Others**

 Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

\*Local poets read their own works.\*

\*La Mer Consort musicians in Shakespearean costumes play early music on authentically produced instruments.\*

Light Refreshments

Free and Open to the Public

Malaga Cove Library - Art Gallery

2400 Via Campesina

Palos Verdes Estates 90274

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## ~~ 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 &amp; Stephany Prodromides

**Featured Readers, April 2008**

April 1 Sherman Pearl

April 8 Steve Cohen

April 15 Neil Aitken

April 22 Brendan Constantine

April 29 Elena Karina Byrne

1820 So. Catalina Avenue, Riviera Village

Redondo Beach 90277

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

~~ Commemorating National Poetry Month ~~

Hear local poets read their work!  
**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Enjoy poetry, music, refreshments!

Los Angeles Public Library, San Pedro Branch  
 931 S. Gaffey Street, San Pedro 90731  
 (310) 548-7779

Free and Open to the Public  
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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**

Frequency: Meets Bi-weekly

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

(Next meetings: March 31, April 21)

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](mailto:kcjohnson@starnetdial.net).

Genre: Poetry/Short Prose

~~ Members in the News ~~

**Congratulations to Mel Harter!**

Fellow Surfwriter Mel Harter, retired doctor-turned freelance writer, recently published *Some Kind of Angel* -- a fast-paced terrorist thriller of murder, surprising choices and heroism. Visit Mel's website at [www.somekindofangel.com](http://www.somekindofangel.com)



~~ Members in the News ~~

**Catherine Balcom Named Executive Director, RTSB**

Rebuilding Together South Bay (RTSB), located in Los Angeles County, has named Catherine Balcom as its new Executive Director. Her primary goal will be to strengthen and expand RTSB's initiative to renovate houses at no charge to low-income homeowners throughout local South Bay communities.

RTSB is the nation's leading organization dedicated to bringing volunteers and communities together to preserve and revitalize low-income elderly, special-needs, and veteran homes. For applications, volunteer information, or donor/sponsorship support please contact RTSB, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

(310) 999-5050; E-mail: [RTSBLA@yahoo.com](mailto:RTSBLA@yahoo.com)

Catherine Balcom: [Balcom\\_RTSB@yahoo.com](mailto:Balcom_RTSB@yahoo.com)

~~ Sigrid and Richey Novak Tour Europe ~~

Ziggy (Sigrid) e-mailed from Vienna, where she and husband Richey spent many weeks enjoying "...a fairy tale experience of beautiful buildings, snow-covered streets, throngs of holiday visitors and shoppers," along with food and handcrafted art products sold at picturesque wooden booths on the grounds surrounding Vienna's "huge, neo-gothic," impressive City Hall or *Rathaus*."

As Ziggy and Richey began their third month in Europe, even freezing temperatures couldn't diminish their enthusiasm for a "fantastic, rich" experience enhanced by inspiring musical performances and Vienna's surprising cultural diversity.

In her latest report, Ziggy sent Easter greetings from Berlin. Happy travels to you, Ziggy and Richey!

~~ Mary Vandever's New Website ~~

Check out Mary's website at [www.marybleivandever.com](http://www.marybleivandever.com), and read her amusing observations in "Final Notice" and "The Good Old Wash Days," replete with her own special brand of humor.

**News from Deborah Paul**

"Just a friendly hello-- I'm still at Orange Coast magazine, though every day I go in, the new owners have eliminated another position. I'd like to stick around for all the new changes, but we'll see. Many of you know my new editor-in-chief, Martin Smith.

In the meantime, I joined a volunteer group to do public relations for Community's Child, the new transitional living home in Lomita for homeless women and their infants. (Melissa Evans did a really nice story in the Breeze about it.) I'll keep you informed about the September Western gala we are planning at the Empty Saddle Club. I'm also transferring my Ireland journal to my computer, as well as re-typing my life story after having lost everything a few months ago.

I'm going surfing in Costa Rica in March, but will be back at Surfwriters in April, perhaps with an adventure story (and no injuries) in hand.

Miss the Surfwriter hobnob, Debbie"

**Maria Ruiz and the Palos Verdes Village Players**

Congratulations to Maria Ruiz, who successfully directed and starred in a dramatic reading of Arthur Miller's post-World War II tragedy, *All My Sons*, at The Village, March 9<sup>th</sup>, this year.

**Marcia Reed Writes from San Diego**

We miss Marcia, who moved south in December 2007. She updates us regularly with her news. Her latest: "Did I tell you that I'm going to cruise the Panama Canal, April 19<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>?"

Sounds like fun! Have a great time, Marcia!



~~ Membership ~~

----- Associate Members -----

Is it time to renew your Associate Membership?  
If you're not certain, please contact  
Surfwriters Treasurer & Membership Chair,  
Marilyn Litvak at [mltrvlarng@hotmail.com](mailto:mltrvlarng@hotmail.com).

~~ Membership ~~

----- Active Members -----

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

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**Wishing best of good health to all our members in 2008!**  
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----- Thanks to ... -----

Gloria Fuld, Mary Vandever, Marcia Reed, Ziggy Novak, Wanda VanHoy Smith, Catherine Balcom, Debbie Paul, Mel Harter, and Larry Colker.

And thanks to Marilyn Litvak for her enthusiastic, behind-the-scenes efforts on the anthology funding.

Please send newsletter announcements to Editor-Publisher, KC Johnson: [kcjohnson@starnetdial.net](mailto:kcjohnson@starnetdial.net).

~~ OUR OWN BALZI CORNER ~~

Last year, Marcia Reed suggested that we all write haiku and forward them to the Art Center for inclusion in the PVAC newsletter. Three members sent haiku, which were featured in the October-November Surfwriters newsletter. Look for haiku tips in the September 2007 issue. **Below are a few of the haiku submitted this year by Gloria Fuld, along with her brief description of the form.**

What is a Haiku? by Gloria-Mary Cameron Fuld

A Haiku is a Japanese poem of three lines and 17 syllables, with 5, 7, and 5 syllables on each line, respectively. The aim is to express economically but in a highly evocative way the poet's reflection on some aspect of nature.

Content: 1) season 2) human emotions 3) natural phenomena to reflect the emotions 4) no punctuation

A snowflake settles  
lightly on a tulip bud  
showing spring is here

A morning of joy  
day breaks on the ocean waves  
veiled in floating mist

A rumble and creak  
mountains rise and canyons yawn  
earth quakes and stretches

Please send your haiku to [kcjohnson@starnetdial.net](mailto:kcjohnson@starnetdial.net). When there is a sizable collection, Surfwriters will submit them to PVAC.

Read the monthly newsletter online at the **Surfwriters website**: [www.palosverdes.com/surfwriters/newsletters.htm](http://www.palosverdes.com/surfwriters/newsletters.htm)

*Welcome to Surfwriters*

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

