

Surfwriters Newsletter

Vol. 50 Issue 4

April 2008

~~~ Announcements ~~~

## EVENTS~ APRIL & MAY~EVENTS

~~ APRIL ~~

~~ National Poetry Month ~~

*April 12<sup>th</sup>*

Surfwriters and Musicians of La Mer Consort presented *Poetry and Music in the Gallery* at the Malaga Cove Library, and enjoyed a successful performance with 70-80 in attendance.

*April 19<sup>th</sup>*

Surfwriters: Two South Bay Events on April 19<sup>th</sup>

Wanda VanHoy Smith participated in *A Path for Peace* on the beach just north of the Hermosa Beach pier. The celebration portion of the campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace featured a labyrinth walk and rotating group of performers providing meditative poetry, plus acoustic music and song.

Mary Vandever, Maria Ruiz, and KC Johnson, along with other local poets and musicians, celebrated **National Poetry Month** and **Earth Day** with words and music at the San Pedro Regional Branch of Los Angeles Public Library, thanks to the LA Public Library and event organizer, Silvia Morgan.

*April 25<sup>th</sup>*

~~ Art Jam in "Downtown Lomita" ~~

Art, Music, Spoken Word (April - Open Mic)

Summer Studios Arts Academy supports the local arts community.

ART JAM night: fourth Friday of every month!

~~ MAY ~~

*Orange County Poetry Festival, May 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>*

*Maria Ruiz Speaks at Whole Foods Market, Torrance, May 7<sup>th</sup>*

*Surfwriters Meeting, Palos Verdes Art Center, May 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*10:00 a.m. - Noon*

Palos Verdes Art Center

5504 W. Crestridge Road, RPV 90275

(310) 541-2479

*Guest Speaker: To Be Announced*

*Please see the following pages for details of April-May events.*

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 ◊Δ◊ -- Community Events -- ◊Δ◊
 

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

***Maria Ruiz Speaks at Whole Foods Market***

Hear Maria Ruiz -Surfwriter, Distinguished Toastmaster, poet, storyteller, world traveler and broker- address the topic:

**"It's Your Life, What Are You Doing About It?"**

-An entertaining lecture/storytelling session that guides you to probe the questions, "Who are you, and what's important in your life?"

Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

Whole Foods Market Conference Room  
2655 Pacific Coast Highway (at Crenshaw)  
Torrance, 90505

Free to the Public

Sign up early at (310) 540-5635, as space is limited.

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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 & Stephany Prodromides

**Featured Readers, April-May 2008**

|          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 29 | Elena Karina Byrnes   |
| May 6    | Kathleen Tyler        |
| May 13   | Marie Lecrivain       |
| May 20   | Carine Topal Students |
| May 27   | Jonathan Klages       |

1820 So. Catalina Avenue, Riviera Village  
Redondo Beach 90277

For info, call (310) 548-5344 or visit [www.redondopoets.com](http://www.redondopoets.com).

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## ~~ Art Jam ~~

**7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Fourth Friday of Each Month**

*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.

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

Summer Studios Arts Academy  
Ongoing Classes and Art Display  
2161 Lomita Blvd., Lomita, CA 90717

(1/2 mile east of Crenshaw; one block east of Narbonne)

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

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

***Poetry in Orange County***

Orange County Poetry Festival Events  
May 2-8, 2008

Go to [www.poetix.net](http://www.poetix.net) and click the link on the front page for detailed descriptions of all events and background notes for all performers.

Sponsored by Tebot Bach/[www.tebotbach.org](http://www.tebotbach.org)

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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](mailto: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: May 5, 19)

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

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*~~ Members in the News ~~**~~Farewell to Our Friend~~  
Edith Battles*

Our friend and fellow Surfwriter, Edith Battles, died Saturday, April 19th in Aurora Grande, California. Edith loved life, loved education. She taught elementary students in Torrance Unified School District for 26 years and developed curricula for Torrance Adult Education.

Edith was more than an educator; she was a talented writer whose freelance poetry, short stories, and articles were featured in dozens of publications. Her credits also include children's literature and several professionally produced one-act plays. Always active in the writing community, she was a founding member of Southwest Manuscripters and enjoyed mentoring writers. Among her other activities, she facilitated a weekly writing and critiquing group in Redondo Beach.

What a full life she led! Hers was rich with family and friends who gathered to "celebrate her" at her daughter Margaret Holmes' Redondo Beach home on Sunday, April 27, 2008. According to family, she once suggested that a startling epitaph might be, "Well, it was a nice place to visit..." So typical of Edith's delightful humor! We shall miss her!

For further details,  
read Edith's obituary at [www.dailybreeze.com](http://www.dailybreeze.com)

If members have short anecdotes about Edith,  
please send them to [kcjohnson@starnetdial.net](mailto:kcjohnson@starnetdial.net)  
for inclusion in future newsletters.



Spring comes to Vétheuil, France, on the River Seine, less than an hour's drive northwest of Paris. Vétheuil is a peaceful, charming old village on the banks of the Seine, its 12th century church made famous by Claude Monet, who painted it more than 60 times.

*~~ Members in the News ~~**~~Ziggy's Corner~~:  
Sigrid and Richey Novak in Europe*

(--From a note by Ziggy and Richey--)

Vétheuil,  
April 22, 2008

Hello from France:

For the next three weeks we will be living in a small medieval village on the Seine River 30 miles west of Paris. Our ancient stone house is next to a 12th century cathedral, and it's absolutely beautiful. From the balcony we can see the Seine river in the valley down below. Church bells ring on the hour and half hour from seven in the morning until ten at night. Since it is still cool enough to have all the windows closed, the ringing doesn't bother us, but it probably will--especially the 7:00 a.m. call--when the weather gets a little warmer.

Spring is just around the corner now: tulips and narcissus, apple and pear trees are in bloom. Most of the others are on the verge, including Japanese cherry trees, wisteria, lilacs, roses, etc.

We haven't had much experience yet with the locals or with our rusty French. More soon, after we have had some adventures.

Many warm regards from Ziggy and Richey.

(Thanks to the Novaks for the photos of their cottage, adjacent to the cathedral in Vétheuil. In future, we'll include their piece, "Reflections on Community," about the small Berlin suburb of Hermsdorf/Teigel. -Ed.)

*~~ Anthology Update ~~*

As we prepare the material for publication,  
members will be consulted in the next few weeks  
regarding their submissions and copyright agreement.

*~~ 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 [mltrvlarnng@hotmail.com](mailto:mltrvlarnng@hotmail.com).

*----- 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!*

----- ado     ado     ado -----  
 ----- Thanks to ... -----  
 Ziggy and Richey Novak, Gloria Fuld, Wanda VanHoy Smith, Maria Ruiz and Larry Colker.  
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 ----- ado     ado     ado -----

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

~~ WRITING TIPS: OUR OWN TWO CENTS ~~

This month, Gloria Fuld sends "just a note" about writing, in the words of William Strunk Jr.

Rule 17: Omit needless words.

Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all sentences short, or avoid all detail and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.

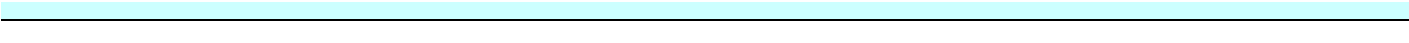
(William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White - *The Elements of Style*, Fourth Edition)



Our Ongoing Haiku Project:

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



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