



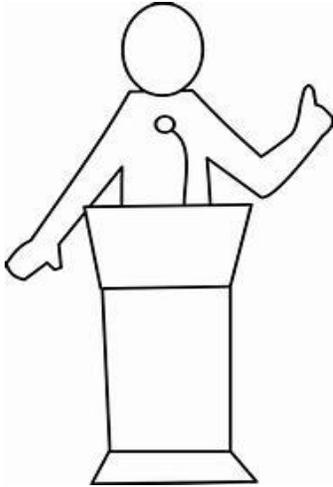
Writers
of the

PURPLE SAGE

Newsletter of the Ridge Writers

East Sierra Branch, California Writers Club

July 2018



July 5th Features Open Mic and Refreshments

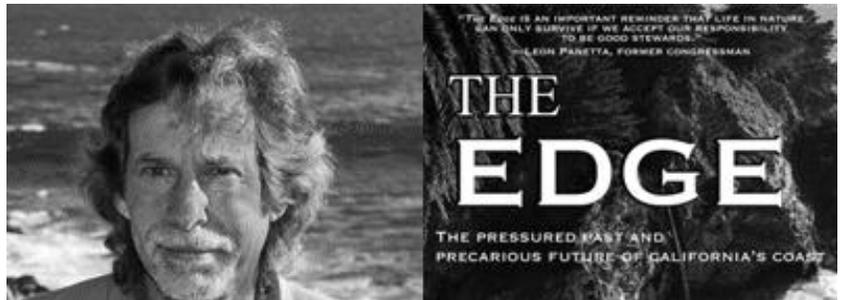
Ridge Writers and members of the general public will share and present their original works on Thursday, July 5, in the meeting room of Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church, 633 W. Las Flores. The monthly general meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone who has not yet signed up may still read simply for showing up, however, we limit each speaker to 5-7 minutes, and content must be in good taste.

We'll have light refreshments on hand, and of plenty time to socialize. Remember, the public is invited and admission is free. Bring your friends!

June Speaker Works Hard to Protect Coast – reported by Liz Babcock

Our June program featured Kim Steinhardt, a skilled interpreter of an important subject — California's coast and what's happening to it in this age of overpopulation and commercialization.



“We’ve overdeveloped and overfished a great natural resource to the limits and beyond,” he said, stressing the importance of citizen efforts to save the coastal wildlife and environment.

Steinhardt, author of *The Edge. The Pressured Past and Precarious Future of California's Coast*, has a background as a lawyer and judge, a childhood spent on Strawberry Point (near Sausalito), and a heritage from parents who were environmental activists. Add to that longterm experience as a photographer.

All these assets he has brought to bear on his book, which is highly readable and beautifully illustrated.

Our speaker was quick to acknowledge his co-author, Gary Griggs, who also has a heritage as a “coastal kid” and adds an impressive background as a marine geologist.

“Gary is very picky about his facts, and I as a judge am also very picky about facts,” said Steinhardt. He stressed that collaboration can bring much to a project “if you have the right partner.”

After an idea for the book hit him, Steinhardt quickly realized that his idea would work only if he could “get my buddy Gary to write the science part of this.”

Instead of approaching Griggs immediately, Steinhardt wrote the introduction, the concept, and the first three chapters. He emailed them to Griggs in the middle of the night and was elated to get an enthusiastic buy-in by the following morning.

Mark Your Calendar...

August 2 – **Amy E. Wallen**, author of the remarkable memoir *When We Were Ghouls*

Sept. 6 – **Kathleen Kaiser**, “Mistakes Indie Authors Make When Launching a Book”



What We Remember

For Father's Day this year, I gave my dad one of the books Donna had for sale at the June meeting – a journal called *A Father's Legacy* where a father could write down, once a day, a series of personal history stories about him and his family guided by prompts. It was a really great way to get someone to share a story by asking them a direct question. Originally, I thought my dad wouldn't want to do such a thing. He's a big oral storyteller, but not so much when it comes to recording this history for the future. I was going to offer this journal to my grandfather, if my dad didn't want it. To my surprise, he wanted it, and he has been dutifully writing his story – my family's story – in the journal every day. Now we have started a record of our family

to last for years to come.

What does this have to do with your writing? As creative people, we're always on the hunt for inspiration. We seek it in art, music, encounters on the street, history, moments of great change, in the higher aspirations of our species. But sometimes, the most powerful muse comes within your own heart and home. Sometimes, not always, we spend so much time looking outward for inspiration that we neglect those muses closest to us. Don't forget those inspirations you find talking with family and friends, your personal history, your family's story. All of those are wonderful muses.

I know when I read my father's history in his journal one day, not only will I gain new understanding of the man who raised me, but I'll also find new gems of ideas to employ in my work. All sorts of new dreams. So if you find yourself struggling to put together a new piece, don't be afraid to look inside yourself and draw from the inspiration that's already there. You may just tap into something magical.

Business Blast

California Writers Club annual dues became due effective July 1, 2018. True, the CWC allows a grace period through September. But please don't drag your feet. Last-minute payments increase and complicate our treasurer's job. Dues are \$45 for Annual and Associate members. If you can't attend a meeting, please send your check to our post box 484, Ridgecrest, CA 93556. Thanks.

Ridge Writers Leaders

President – Daniel Stallings
Vice President – C. R. Rowenson
Secretary – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Treasurer – Andrew Sound
Member at Large – John Anderson
Historian – Maryann Butterfield
Newsletter, Interim editors – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal & Daniel Stallings
Programs & Publicity – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
State Rep – Donna McCrohan Rosenthal
Youth Coordinator – Daniel Stallings
Webmaster – Julianne Black

To reach any of these leaders, use ridgewriters@yahoo.com. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RidgeWriters and our website CWC-ridgewriters.org.

The southern region of the California Writers Club maintains the "zine"-format socialwritersshowcase.com, containing monthly content from members, ranging from fiction, nonfiction/essays, and memoir, to poetry, interviews, discussion on writers' life and the craft, and news.



The Writers of the Purple Sage is the monthly newsletter of the Ridge Writers, East Sierra Branch of the 109-year-old California Writer Club. Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be printed without special permission in newsletters of branches of the California Writers Club and in the State Bulletin, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The author's name and original publication credit must be printed with the text.
- b. The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.
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Contact the editor by mail at P.O. Box 484, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 or by email, ridgewriters@yahoo.com. **SPECIAL NOTICE:** Photographs for publicity and newsletter uses are taken at all Ridge Writers events. By entering the venue, members and guests are granting permission that their likenesses may be used for publicity purposes.

June speaker report continued from p. 1

The two agreed about who would write which parts, but once launched into the book, they worked back and forth a lot. “Gary is prolific and fast,” said Steinhardt. “We really, really pushed each other.”

Another important asset is the right publisher — not easy to find in today’s world where publishers are increasingly unwilling to venture beyond a narrow niche. “I can’t overstress the importance of distribution in today’s world.”

What’s on the horizon for California’s coast? Steinhardt is not sanguine about the near-term prospects for our treasured coast, but he, Griggs, and other activists are keeping up the good fight.

He encouraged anyone who would like to learn more to send him an email at ourcaliforniacoast@gmail.com. And you can get the book at Red Rock Books or amazon.com.

Our Jack London Award Winners

We’re proud of the Ridge Writers who have won the Jack London Award, the highest recognition each branch of CWC can give outstanding members. The award was presented annually until 2005, and subsequently only once every two years.

Maryann Butterfield 1997
Casey Wilson 1998
Rlee Peters 1999
Judy Dutcher 2000
Curt Danhauser 2001
Judy Martin 2002
Donna McCrohan Rosenthal 2003
Holly Dworken Cooley 2004
Liz Babcock 2005
Allison Aubin 2007
Steve Wersan 2009*
Margaret Luebs 2013
Daniel Stallings 2015
Julianne DiBlasi Black 2017

*With a special
Charmian London Award
to Fran Wersan

COMING EVENTS

Read the Book, Meet the Author
(Summer Edition) Thursday, August 2

Amy Wallen – originally scheduled for April – will visit on August 2, 2:00 p.m. Participants buy and read the selected title in advance so that they can discuss it with its creator over tea and scones at My Enchanted Cottage, 214 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. The afternoon program includes the book, tea, scone, conversation with the author, autograph, and entry in a door prize drawing. Tickets are available, \$35 per ticket at Red Rock Books, 206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., 760-375-3454. Amy will give a different talk in the evening for the Ridge Writers general meeting.

WEIRD WEEKEND, Friday-Saturday, Sept. 21-22

Celebrating the stranger side of the desert – Indie Shorts Film Fest on Friday afternoon (calling for the weird, quirky, highly creative, up to PG 13 rating, horror, fantasy, science fiction, Death Valley themes, or “Twilight Zone-ish”), Weird Weekend Storytelling Competition on Saturday afternoon, and a Master Mystery Production interactive murder mystery for both nights, Friday and Saturday. Sign up at Red Rock Books (206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.; 760-375-3454) to present a film or reading.

This reached our desk. Although we cannot formally and officially endorse, it merits your attention.

F(r)iction Short Story Contest: Eligibility: All writers; Prize: \$1,000; Entry fee: \$15; Deadline: July 15, 2018. *F(r)iction* seeks previously unpublished works of short fiction, flash fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. In addition to prizes, winners in each category will be published in the Summer issue of *F(r)iction*, and discussed in the Untethered Podcast. The editorial staff favors stories that celebrate the weird, take risks, and are driven by a strong, unique voice. Details at: tetheredbyletters.com/submissions/contest.

LAUGH, LEARN, AND MAYBE WIN ...

PERSPECTIVES

"I just got an email about how to read maps backward, but it turned out to be spam."

Q: What do you call a pig with three eyes?

A: A piig.

Q: What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?

A: I don't know and I don't care.

Thanks for these to the *AARP Bulletin*

The East Sierra Branch (Ridge Writers) is the California Writers Club branch serving the eastern part of Kern County. Over the mountains on the west side of the county is our Bakersfield-based sister branch, Writers of Kern.



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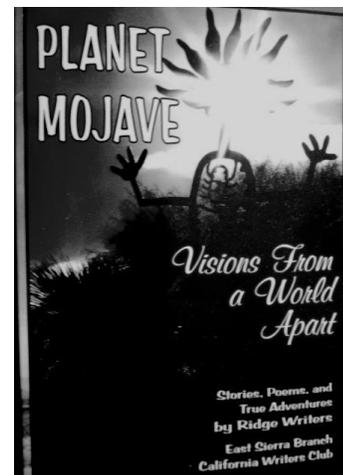
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Jack London Awards
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Coming Events
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Contests

Your Writing Could Win at the 2018 Desert Empire Fair

If you excel at Creative Writing and/or have a skill, craft, or hobby, consider competing to win a Best of Show, Best of Division Award, Board of Directors Award, or the Howard Laire Appreciation of the Arts Award. Among other categories and divisions: photography, baked goods, fine arts, quilts, collections, preserves, and table place settings.

Anyone can enter: juniors up to 19, adults 20-65, and seniors 65 and older. The fair runs October 19-21. The deadline for Creative Writing is September 21. Check out the guidebook at desertempirefair.com; click on the link. The new guidebook posts in early summer 2018, but don't wait to plan how you might participate. For more information: Desert Empire Fair office, 520 Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, California, 760-375-8000.



Our book *Planet Mojave: Visions From a World Apart* is available at Jawbone Canyon Station, the Historic USO Building, Red Rock Books, Maturango Museum, and online from our website.

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