

## May 2018

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Kathleen Thomas



I love this grand weather, spring moving into June. And on this day, this Napa Valley Writers president would like to say thank you for allowing me to be part of your leadership team. You've all given me so much to be thankful for. You've taught me so much, and you continue to do so. I look forward to each and every time

we meet.

Your participation, your leadership and inspiration, your willingness to put your thoughts and words on the page, and then to share in critique groups, at open mics, with other writers - that is definitely a profile in courage. I know, because I've had to learn to do the same thing.

As a writer, it's easy (or not) to sit at the keyboard and pull characters, plots, and all the itty bitty pieces of a story together. First for your own peace of mind. For the thrill of it. And then for others. It's a marvelous life.

Especially rewarding after writing your first novella (which only started as a short story - with pirates!). It truly is a tale in a league of its own. And then you sit back and wait until you receive ten, or twelve, lovely rejection letters, each one asking you to write to them again. Yes. Certainly.

Today, though, all the writing I'm doing is right here. With the annual election of officers and trustees on the horizon, I want to give grateful thanks to the preceding trustees of the Napa Valley Writers. I can't wait to see who next walks the path. You do know, don't you, the trustees can't do a thing without your support.

May opens up to a celebration of 6 years of Napa Valley Writers! Please put your hands together

### Special Guest Speaker Back by Popular Demand!

### Ellen Sussman presents Fiction: Truth of Lies?

### May 9, 7-9 pm

Napa Valley Writers will host Ellen Sussman, a New York Times bestselling author of four novels: "A Wedding in Provence", "The Paradise Guest House", "French Lessons", and "On a Night Like This". She is the editor of two critically acclaimed anthologies: "Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave" and "Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex".



Sussman's novels are not autobiographical. Yet she claims that by writing other people's stories she can get closer to her own truth. In this presentation she'll talk about how writers can transform life stories into fiction. She'll also discuss ways in which we can dig deep to write more substantial fiction and memoir.

Visit her website: [www.ellensussman.com](http://www.ellensussman.com)

**Nathaniel Robert "Bob" Winters** will be May's member reader, reciting an excerpt from his novel, "Past the Future", and a poem of his own imagination.

for your colleagues, each one of whom is an exemplary member of your Napa Valley Writers Board of Trustees, past and present.

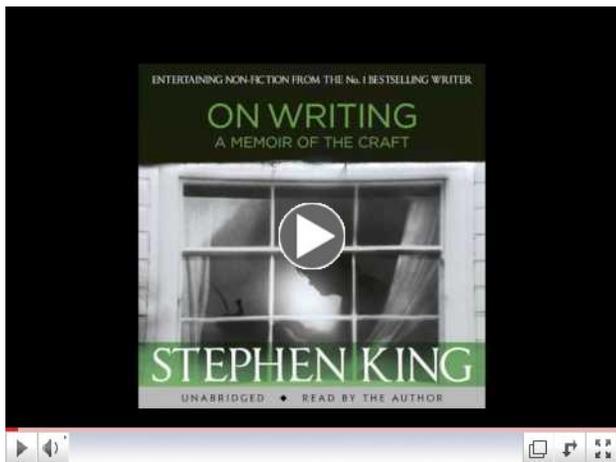
*Vicki Baird, Doug Brozell, Lance Burris, Edgar Calvelo, Marilyn Campbell, Debra Grove, Lenore Hirsch, Sue Kesler, Sarita Lopez, Gary Orton, Madeline Rogers, Karen Stern, Barbara Toboni, Cheryl Velasquez, Roberta Wright, and Michael Wycombe.*

I'm honored to be part of such a stellar show of non-profit leaders.

Each and every one of you reading this newsletter, attending meetings, encouraging yourself and others, is why the branch keeps going. We need your help!

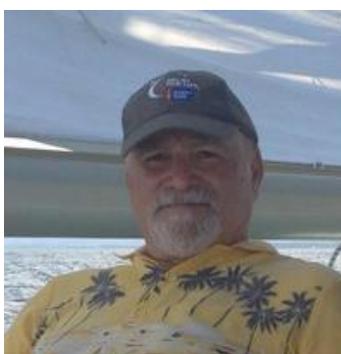
Let's hear it for those team members who find speakers for us each and every month, for those of you in publicity, creating and plastering posters and online notifications everywhere. Let's hear it for our Open Mic coordinators, and for our member readers who are invited to show us their work each month.

Your writing, your books, your successes, and your willingness to keep coming back to do more, is a testament to your creative being. I applaud you, and appreciate you, more than you know.



Napa Valley Writer's Board Member at Large,  
By Madeline Rogers (Wycome)

Shortly after joining NWWC I was approached by Kathleen Thomas who had been encouraged to run for club president and was getting her "team" together. We met for coffee and chatted about the club and the challenges ahead: membership growth, getting our publicity/marketing/here we are bookmark printed, producing the club's first anthology, community outreach, website redesign; a zillion large and small projects.



contact [publicity\\_nvw@outlook.com](mailto:publicity_nvw@outlook.com) or see [napavalleywriters.net](http://napavalleywriters.net). Always open to the public.

*NVW fosters professionalism in writing, promotes networking of writers within the Napa Valley writing community, mentors new writers, and provides literary support for writers and the writing community through education, networking, and leadership.*

## COMING IN JUNE

Please join Napa Valley Writers in June to learn from special guest speaker David Colin Carr.

Carr will speak to the publicity you'll do for your book. Do you stumble when friends ask you what you're writing?

The Back Cover Copy specifies your intention, makes a promise to the reader, and is a guard rail so your writing stays on course.

You'll want to know more from this expert!



[www.davidcolincarr.com](http://www.davidcolincarr.com)



Napa Valley Writer's May  
Member  
Reader will be Steve  
Villano, author of "Tightrope".

Congratulations to NWW

I enjoyed attending the general meetings but was not interested in joining the boring-board. In fact with so many gifted writers in the club, I felt unworthy. So I agreed to help distribute our monthly meeting flyers around downtown Napa (I enjoyed the walk-about) and to facilitate getting the copy-ready bookmark produced (little did I know I'd have to learn a bit about photo shop).

These small contributions garnered so much appreciation that I was inspired to take the plunge when asked to join the board as the Member at Large.

The MAL is a "gateway" board position requiring a willingness to apply one's individual talent and interests to promote and support the Napa Valley Writers Club. The MAL attends board meetings and general meetings (not a requirement) and generally pitches in when needed. It was my pleasure to help with the anthology launch party and later organize a couple of bookstore - author events to promote it. After Kathleen introduced snacks to the monthly meeting, she asked me to take that on...easy peasey for someone who mostly "writes" recipes.

Any NVW member is qualified and encouraged to join the board. So don't be shy, give it a try!

---

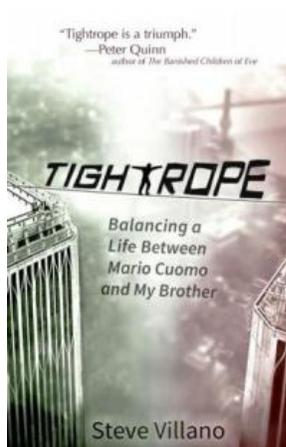
Lucky Penny Productions is again inviting writers who live in Napa, Sonoma, or Solano Counties to submit an original short story to the Lucky Shorts, Short Story Festival. Eight finalists will be selected to be performed on Aug. 19 at the Lucky Penny Community Arts Center in front of a live audience.

Many of our Napa Valley Writers have previously participated in this great opportunity and look forward to another go round. Who will take the chance?



Top 5 things to keep in mind:

1. Stories may be on any topic. Humor is always welcome. Content should be "G" or "PG-13" rated for this family-friendly event.
2. Writers must reside in Napa, Sonoma, or Solano County.
3. There is no entry fee.
4. Entries are limited to original work, previously unpublished,



member Steve Villano on his wide ranging book tour and upcoming appearance at the Napa County Library on May 19. Steve will be read from his book, "Tightrope: Balancing a Life Between Mario Cuomo and My Brother."

More details can be found at the Napa County Library calendar online:

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=1870&month=5&year=2018&day=19&calType=0>

**Please note: NVW's previously scheduled May 12 workshop with Malena Watrous (The First Page: How to Write a First Page that Hooks the Reader) has unfortunately been canceled.**

**A new workshop is in the planning stages and we will notify you as soon as details are finalized.**

**Thanks for your patience.**

Thank you to Kymberlie Ingalls, one member of NVW's programming team for her work on our behalf!

Putting together the speaker programs for our monthly meetings is like working at a jigsaw puzzle. First, it's searching through scores of people who like to talk about their expertise and assessing what they have to offer to educate us in our craft, which can encompass many aspects. I like to start with people I've seen in person, and also look at recommendations from other members. I research to see if they're someone we want to spend an hour of our time with: are they energetic, friendly, interactive? After I've decided to pursue someone, it becomes a back-and-forth of contacting them, informing those who aren't aware of Napa Valley Writers or the CWC of what we offer, and learning what topics they are comfortable in presenting. Sometimes it is exciting to inspire each other! Last is piecing together the schedule. We don't want repetition and I'm also working with their calendars too. Once it all gets worked out, the best part is bringing quality authors, booksellers and other artists to the meetings and introducing them to our community. I am proud to have this responsibility and to show others what a great group we have!

~ Kymberlie Ingalls,  
Rainfall Press  
[WriterOfTheStorm.com](http://WriterOfTheStorm.com)

---

We'd like to extend big thank you to everyone who attended the April NVW membership meeting in order to cast their votes for NVW Bylaws changes. The changes

which can be read in 10 or fewer minutes.

5. Entries must be postmarked by May 25, 2018 and mailed to Lucky Penny Productions, 1758 Industrial Way Suite 208, Napa CA 94558. Sorry, no email submissions.

Good Luck!!

More information here:

[https://napavalleyregister.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/lucky-penny-hosts-short-story-contest/article\\_f65c02c1-e358-5ace-93a3-f3587d14d8f2.html](https://napavalleyregister.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/lucky-penny-hosts-short-story-contest/article_f65c02c1-e358-5ace-93a3-f3587d14d8f2.html)

## HELP WANTED!

Will you please help with the Napa Valley Writers' Newsletter? We're looking for an editorial team to continue production of the Newsletter.

Responsibilities: Discover events of interest to our members and readers for announcement in the newsletter. You will get much of this information from community members and organizations.

Coordinate with other NVW members and leadership to gather items of interest for newsletter content.

Create, edit and publish newsletter once a month, using Constant Contact as the publishing platform.

You are free to bring up new ideas, new content and new design as we all move into the coming year. Change is good.

Time commitment: 2-6 hours a month.

Mentoring available to get you started.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact [Kathleen Thomas](#).

Thank your for your willingness to serve!



We wish to extend a special thank you to the leadership and members of [Arts Council Napa Valley](#), [Arts Association Napa Valley](#), and [Napa Valley Writers Conference](#) for your continued collaboration in our arts partnerships. Thank you to the owners and staff at [Napa Bookmine](#) for your support of our writers and readers. Our thanks also

were voted in by voice vote with no objections.

A slate of proposed Napa Valley Writers officers and board members will be announced at the upcoming meeting, May 9. If uncontested, those nominees will be presumed elected.



"If more than one person is nominated for any position, an election will be held by written ballot (including email), distributed as soon as practicable thereafter as

decided by an Elections Committee appointed by the President and Secretary.

Results will be announced to members by email.

Thank you all for your participation and support!



## WRITERS CONFERENCE

Napa Valley  
Writers' Conference

The annual Napa Valley Writers Conference takes place the end of July and once again, features an amazing lineup of speakers and faculty.

There are many ways to enjoy the conference, and you don't necessarily have to be a fulltime conference student to do so. We're fortunate as locals that we can attend daytime lectures and evening readings, all open to the public at low cost.

Another popular feature is the free Guided Reading Class at the St. Helena Public Library, offered prior to each evening reading.

***If you're able to host a student in your home, you may attend all the above functions as an honored guest. If you want to learn more about hosting, please contact [Lenore Hirsch](#).***

to the [Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley](#) for their monthly donation of NWW Board meeting space.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

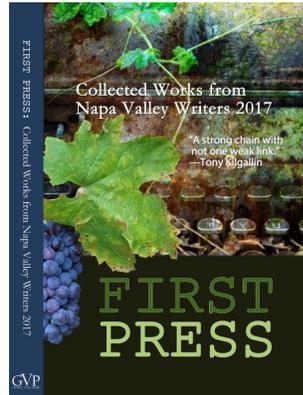
We are eager to receive your newsletter submissions. Please keep poetry to 24 lines or less. Other articles of interest, including short prose, should be approximately 300 words or less.

Send us your photos, current events, news of interest to writers, new publications, conferences, etc., no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Thank you.

**Kathleen Thomas**  
Interim Newsletter Editor

## The Perfect Gift: First Press



Are you looking for the perfect gift any time of the year?

Copies of *First Press: Collected Works from Napa Valley Writers 2017* is now available for your gift giving needs. Find yours at Napa Bookmine, Copperfield's in Napa and Calistoga, and online at Amazon.

\$15 for *First Press!*

**NAPA VALLEY WRITERS**  
A Branch of the California Writers Club

Home of accomplished and aspiring  
writers in the Napa Valley.  
[www.napavalleywriters.net](http://www.napavalleywriters.net)

## LINKS

[Contact Us](#)

[Join Us](#)

[NWW Website](#)

[California Writers Club](#)

[Speakers](#)

[Events](#)

[Blog](#)

[MeetUp](#)

