

July 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Gary Orton



I have just finished reading Margaret Atwood's 2002 *Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing*. It provides keen insight not only on the writing

process but on the challenges facing writers. As the Napa Valley Writers Board of Directors takes over the wheel from the capable leadership that has steered us for the past six years, I wanted to share some of her insights, review why we exist as an organization, and be mindful of how we can best serve our members. Ms. Atwood helped.

First, writers are special. Ms. Atwood confirms this. Quoting a dialogue in Kobo Abe's

The Woman in the Dunes, she shows that considering yourself a writer is more than egotism. *Being a writer* carries with it "a socially acknowledged role, and one that carries some sort of weight or impressive significance—we hear a capital W on *Writer*." It takes more than stamina and persistence. "You carry upon your shoulders the weight of other people's projections of their fears and fantasies and anxieties and superstitions. You represent mortality, whether you like it or not."

Although she leaves the reader to ponder how a writer who aspires to rise above a journeyman writing level can achieve artistry, she does provide some general guidance which may help us in formulating our

Next Monthly Meeting July 11, 7 - 9 p.m.

Presenting Being You, But Better by Kymberlie Ingalls

Writing is an expression of us. It is important to be unique and more important to be authentic, but it is imperative to present ourselves in the best way we can. For authors who wish to move their careers forward or to attract an audience, presentation takes as much practice as the craft of writing. Learn the finer points of speech, attitude, energy and how to command a room. The first 8 members to sign up at the meeting will be able to read a paragraph (250 words) of their work at this interactive meeting.



Kymberlie is the author of two compilations of personal essay, *Bridges* and *43*. Her works include memoir, prose, opinion and short fiction.

Visit her website: <http://www.rainfallpress.com/>



July's NWW Member Reader Molly Detwiler will read a new excerpt from *Satis House*, her novel in progress about the life of Miss Havisham before *Great Expectations*.

Molly Detwiler is a Sonoma writer and editor with more than 30 years of corporate communications experience, primarily in Silicon Valley, where she held editorial staff and management positions at high-technology companies such as Raychem, Oracle, and Adobe. She has been an independent marketing writer since 1998, building brands and developing voices for organizations of all kinds and sizes.

programs and activities in the next year to make us better writers.

How do we help writers find their "double"? We need to recognize that there is a difference between oral and written story-telling. Written story has permanence; it's "so much like evidence-like something that can be used against you." This creates great expectations for "originality," which can daunt writers. Atwood suggests you might need a "double"-the creative person you can detach from the live body, "someone to play the more exalted part while you're snoring with your mouth open."

Why do we write? Atwood points out it is impossible to write a story with no moral implications at all: "the reader will have opinions about the rightness or wrongness of the outcome, whether you like it or not. The reader will judge the characters, because we interpret, every day. Language is not morally neutral because the human brain is not neutral in its desires."

Can we help inspire writers? Composition of a novel may be one part inspiration and nine parts perspiration, but that one part inspiration is essential if the work is to live as art.

I look forward to working with the Napa Valley Writer's Board in listening to and serving our Writers (with a capital W). Please let me or other board members know what we can do to help.

Please Welcome our Newly Elected Napa Valley Writers Board of Trustees 2018-2019

In the next few editions of your newsletter, we will highlight our members in leadership. They are counting on you to join with them in taking Napa Valley Writers into the next chapter of this amazing journey. Be sure to congratulate them and to let them know where you'd like to see NVW go in the future, and how you can help!

Now she knows that giving voice to fictional characters isn't all that different. A native of Indiana, she earned a BS from Purdue University and, in 2010, an MFA in creative writing from California College of the Arts.

Napa Valley Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club, holds monthly meetings at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church Sanctuary, 1625 Salvador Avenue, Napa. Cost at the door: \$8 for guests, \$5 for CWC members. Students with ID, free. For more information, contact Sarita Lopez at publicity_nvww@outlook.com or see [Napa Valley Writers](#). 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.

Napa Valley Writers Summer Salon



Please join us for member readings (5 min limit) & refreshments in our highly anticipated end of summer Salon.

When: August 12, 2018

Time: 3:00- 5:00 PM

Where: Home of Bill Moore

Please RSVP no later than 7/29 to Madeline Rogers [Madeline Rogers](#). In return she will provide Bill's address to attendees.

Please bring beverages of your choice and finger food to share according to your last name:

A-M: Savory

N-Z: Sweet

This is a free event for NVW members and their guests. For more details or to ask questions about the Salon, please contact [Madeline Rogers](#)

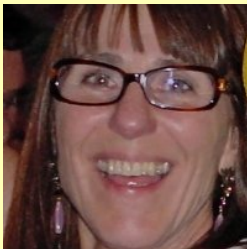


President
Gary Orton



Vice President
Sarita Lopez

(nom de plume: S.L. Cunningham) currently calls Napa Valley home after stints of living in Texas, Nevada, South America and Spain. Her first New Adult novel, [Fauxcialite](#), was published in 2016. She launched her cactus water company, Green-Go, in late 2017 while also completing her second novel and starting her third. Sarita will continue as Napa Valley Writer's Publicity Chair as well as taking on the new title of the club's Vice President.



Treasurer
Ana Manwaring



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Chair
Roberta
Wright



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Geoffrey Leigh



IT'S RAINING DUES

Thirty percent of our members have renewed their dues for 2018-19. That makes for a happy treasurer. We still have a ways to go. Please send your \$45 renewal (or \$25 if you are a dual member) to Napa Valley Writers, P.O. Box 5901, Napa 94581. Or go to Paypal from our website (click on "joining," then "renewing" and "pay now") to take care of this task and insure another great year with Napa Valley Writers.

\$20 of your dues goes to the California Writers Club, for which we receive liability coverage and financial oversight, including dealing with the U.S. tax code. Most of our rent for our meeting place is covered by meeting fees. The \$25 of your dues that we keep enables us to serve refreshments, give an honorarium to our speakers, offer scholarships (Napa Valley Writers Conference and Napa Valley College), provide training for our leaders, sponsor student writing contests, and to keep up our website and emails. With greater numbers of dues-paying members, we can do more, so please get out your checkbook! Thanks.

Please renew now and know that you are making a difference in the lives of writers young and old in Napa County.

Donald Hall died July 23rd at 89 years old. Here are the first and last stanzas of one of his many poems:

September Ode

And now September burns the careful tree
That builds each year the leaf and bark again
With solemn care and rounded certainty
That nothing lives which seasons do not mend.

...

The young are never robbed of innocence
But given gold of love and memory.
We live in wealth whose bounds exceed our
sense,
And when we die are full of memory.

Submitted by Bernhold Rankenburg

Member at
Large
Stephen
Bakalyar



Stephen had a diverse writing career as a chemist, producing marketing materials and publishing research papers in scientific journals. Now retired, he writes poetry, memoirs, essays and short stories. The subjects of his essays range widely, from the nature of water to the history of astronomy. His stories often concern the quandaries of older single men as they seek romantic relationships. He enjoys reading at our club's salons and open mics.



Member at
Large
Lori Narlock

BOOK SIGNING!!

We're excited to announce a special event for the fabulous

The Bunny Poets
By Barbara Tboni

Napa Copperfield's
on July 28

From 11 a.m. to
1:00.

Open Mic coming soon to Napa Bookmine



Sunday, July 29th, 3 to 5 p.m. Please join us in reading your original work, 5 minutes or less. All genres are welcome.

For more information, please contact [Sarita Lopez](#)

Judging Self-Published Books



Would You Like To Judge Self-Published Books?

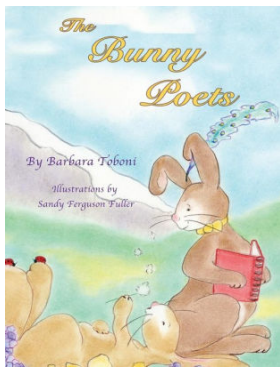
- Read in one of five genres (your choice): Fiction, Non-Fiction, Memoir, Young Adult, Children's, Poetry
- Judges will receive either a complementary BAIPA annual membership worth \$90 or an honorarium of \$75 (your choice).

By agreeing to judge books for BAIPA's contest, you will be making an important contribution to independently published authors. Awards conferred in this contest will give deserved recognition to authors and will assist in their promotional efforts.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SERVE AS A JUDGE.

Please contact Bev Scott <bev@bevscott.com>
Include your name, email, the college, library, or bookstore that recommended you as a judge, and which genre you would prefer to read.

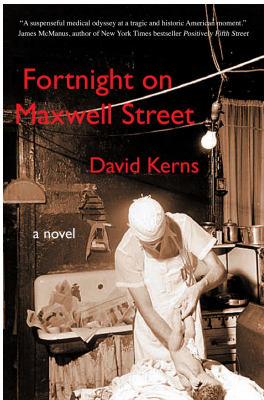
The Bay Area Independent Publishers Association



Come see this adorable book and get your very own autographed copy!

This beautiful book will make a great gift for a lot of young folk.

Book Excerpt from author David Kerns



Nick's prejudice was fearful, not hateful, and it was specific. He was afraid of black male strangers. In his defense, he was taught to be. He was told

that they might be dangerous, that they might have knives or guns. The west side and south side ghettos were forbidden ground.

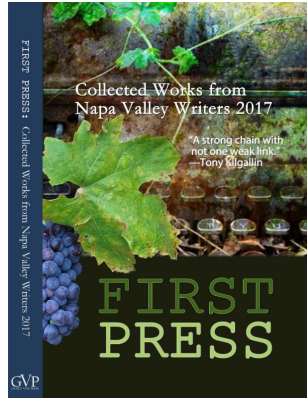
You would never choose to walk in those neighborhoods, you didn't even want to drive through them. Carjacking wasn't yet a word much less an urban epidemic, but the prospect of a brick through the windshield was deterrent enough.

There were exceptions, though. It felt okay in a crowd-on Maxwell Street on a busy Saturday or Sunday, at Comiskey for a Sox game, at the Chicago Stadium for the Blackhawks or the Bulls. He'd even gone with his high school musician pals to the

is a diverse and open group involved in the world of independent publishing, from folks who simply have a book idea to published authors, editors to illustrators, readers to reviewers, agents to printers, audio book experts to book shepherds.

-Becky Parker Geist, BAIPA Board of Directors, President

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*!

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



black blues clubs. Those adventures were something else again, spine-tinglers, the scared shitless price they were willing to pay to see and hear geniuses like Muddy Waters and Howlin'Wolf and Little Walter.

He'd known from the start of medical school, for almost four years, that his two week rotation at the Maternity Center was required and inevitable. He was not panicked or obsessed with worst-case scenarios about personal danger. His anxiety was mostly about screwing up medically. He was thinking about obstetrics and grateful for a break from the traditional grind of student rotations on the hospital wards. He looked forward to having a huge learning experience and surviving this remarkable cultural-professional immersion. Still, there was a quiet physical fear, a simmer, one part common sense discomfort on those authentically mean streets, one part paranoia amid dark skinned bogeymen.

FORTNIGHT ON MAXWELL STREET is the recent recipient of the Eric Hoffer Award for the Best General Fiction Book of 2018. The Hoffer Awards honor literary excellence from small and independent publishers.

The book can be purchased locally at Napa Bookmine on Pearl St. and at Oxbow Market, and is available in paperback and Kindle from Amazon.



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



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