



# THE PENINSULA WRITER

Saturday, January 19  
**\*\*At the Belmont Library\*\***

Creating the "Readable" Non-fiction Book  
 with:

Christine Comaford-Lynch, author of *Rules for Renegades*

Writer and renegade entrepreneur, Christine Comaford-Lynch, will share her wild and crazy ride in creating her non-fiction book.



A participant in our Open Mic nights when she was first getting started, she admits that it took a while for her to find her true literary direction, and called upon multiple writer friends to help evaluate her work on a chapter-by-chapter basis. In cutting the fat from early drafts, "you need a sharp machete to make it work," she says.

Her writing journey included several writing coaches, mentors, and readers.

***Whether you consider yourself a renegade or not, join us and learn!***

### ***RESERVATIONS ADVISED!!***

Please either call the club hotline (650) 615-8331  
 or send an E-mail to [Reservations@sfpeninsulawriters.com](mailto:Reservations@sfpeninsulawriters.com)  
 \$15 for Members, \$18 for non-members. Send checks to our Membership  
 Chair:  
 Chris Wachlin, 173 Wheeler Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061

**FOR DETAILS ON MEETING LOCATION, PLEASE SEE PAGE 7**

### **CWC OPEN MIKE NIGHT**



Wednesday, Dec. 16  
 7:30 PM

Twelve writers read for ten minutes each. A great opportunity for authors to get exposure and practice public speaking skills

Open to all!! Readers, writers, and passers by.

To reserve a spot, contact emcee Jim Hanna:  
[OpenMic@sfpeninsulawriters.com](mailto:OpenMic@sfpeninsulawriters.com)

WHERE: Borders Books and Music, 2925 El Camino Real, San Mateo  
 650-286-1895

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****Marketing Your Work**

There is a lot more to our writing world than getting agent and being published by a commercial publisher.

Just because we write mostly fiction, or poetry, non-fiction, children's stories or memoir, there is a place in the broader market for our work.

Our club decided to make our mission for this year to focus on the craft of writing over the struggle of getting an agent and being published.

Which brings us to the March workshop on freelance writing opportunities. While we are struggling with the book we never seem to have enough time to write, there are a host of publications looking for our work. It may be a chapter of a book that fits as a short story or an article in the right magazine.

Even if the publication only pays in "copies" the fact that it is published is a "credit". In newspaper parlance, this is called a "clip" and accumulating several clips increases the credibility as a published writer.

The world of freelance is not an "either/or" for anyone. It is more of an "also" and can increase confidence, craft and other publishing opportunities.

Join us at the March 15 meeting. You won't be sorry.

Geri

**California Writers Club Presents:  
Blockbuster Plots!  
with Martha Alderson**



**January 28, 2008  
9:30 am to 4:30 pm**

Writing a memoir, mystery or novel? This workshop will enhance your story. Join us with award-winning writer, coach, and international plot and story consultant, Martha Alderson. Explore the relationship between characterization and plot with a simple visual technique that helps develop and track your scenes.

Martha Alderson, MA, teaches plot writing workshops privately, through UC Santa Cruz, and at writers conferences and writing salons. She is the author of *Blockbuster Plots Pure and Simple*.

We are offering a special low price for CWC members that includes the Workshop, Continental Breakfast, and Lunch

Where: Lookout Bar & Grill  
605 Macara Ave., Sunnyvale  
(at the Sunnyvale Golf Course)

Early Bird Special! Register before January 13 and save!  
\$50 for CWC Members, \$65 for non-members

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAWS\*\***



The SF Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club proposes to amend our bylaws as follows:

***"No one person shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as president. In addition, any person serving two (2) consecutive terms as president may not run again for that position for a minimum of one (1) year following the end of their second (2nd) term."***

This amendment will be voted upon by the membership at the January 2008 meeting.

**GROUP MENTORING:  
January 19, 2008 12:15-1:15**

**Ready, Get Set, Write!**



The SF/Peninsula Young Writers Program is getting ready to blast off!

Starting in February, the Young Writers Program will be offering writing workshops, author readings, and much more.

Interested? Help us provide our young writers with grade-aligned workshops and age-appropriate authors on days and times that work best for you! Please complete a brief on-line survey to help us plan future events.

Help our program thrive! We are seeking volunteers to guide our young writers through the exciting universe of writing. Whether you can sit and be an editor at a writing workshop, would like to volunteer an hour to read and discuss your published book, or have a fantastic idea for your own workshop, please complete our survey by visiting this link:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=44kh9sQTP4r084eA1ciUpA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=44kh9sQTP4r084eA1ciUpA_3d_3d)

Happy Writing!



**"Your New Year Writing Resolutions!"**

After the general meeting, Geri Spieler will lead a dynamic session for fiction and non-fiction writers seeking advice on:

- Relentless research skills
- Using nuggets of research to excite your work
- Translating work into dynamic speaking skills

**Please bring your concise questions to Geri. She will facilitate round-table style mentoring.**

**May all your New Year Writing Resolutions be a Reality!!**

Geri Spieler, 2006-2006 branch president is a speaker, author and researcher who has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

The first ten to sign up will get to participate. E-mail Teresa LeYung Ryan and Joyce Robins, CWC's Group Mentoring Co-Chairs: [Mentoring@sfpeninsulawriters.com](mailto:Mentoring@sfpeninsulawriters.com)

Priority is given to members of the SF/Peninsula branch and members who didn't get to attend the December 2007 session. Non-members may attend one group mentoring session per year.



## 826 Valencia Adult Writing Program

826 Valencia is pleased to announce the first of its 2008 adult seminar series. Our first seminar, "Writing and Publishing the Novel" will be held on January 31, 2008. Panelists include Andrew Sean Greer, author of the national bestseller *The Confessions of Max Tivoli*; Ann Packer, author of the bestselling novels, *Songs Without Words* and *The Dive from Clausen's Pier* and Michelle Richmond, author of *The Year of Fog*. The moderator will be by Ted Weinstein, leading US literary agent. The seminar series is to benefit 826 Valencia's free student programming. Listed below are the details regarding the event. If you have any questions or which to register, please feel contact Lauren Hall, Seminars Coordinator, at [Lauren@826valencia.com](mailto:Lauren@826valencia.com).

### WRITERS ON THE WEB



If you thought that social networking sites were only for Gen-X-ers, wanna-be hipsters, swingers or the woefully dateless, you may want to re-think your position. We now have [www.redroom.com](http://www.redroom.com), a social networking site created exclusively to connect with your favorite authors, access current industry news, and comment on their many engaging features. It aims to foster true community between authors and readers, showcase esteemed writers and inspire the next generation.

As described in the Jan. 8 San Francisco Chronicle, Redroom.com aims to put writers of varying success on an equal footing. The site is meant to appeal to readers, authors, booksellers and publishers as a one-stop shop for industry information and events and one where members can network and promote themselves in the same way that emerging musicians do on MySpace.com.

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

William Saroyan Prize, Stanford University



Nominations are now being accepted for the third William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. This award, given by Stanford University Libraries in partnership with the William Saroyan Foundation, recognizes newly published works of fiction and non-fiction with a \$12,500 award for the winner in each category. The prize is designed to encourage new or emerging writers and honor the Saroyan literary legacy of originality, vitality and stylistic innovation. While normally biennial, this third round of the award is on a triennial schedule, having been timed to coincide with the Saroyan Centennial celebrations taking place in 2008. For entry forms and more information on the prize, including entry forms and rules, visit the Saroyan Prize website: <http://library.stanford.edu/saroyan/>

Entries must be received on or before January 31, 2008.

**Historic 'News Talk' AM 1240 KNRY****Imagine As One**

Thursday, January 10, 2008 3:05-4:00PM

**Teresa LeYung Ryan** will be one of the guest in an interview with **Ixchel Leigh, co-host of Imagine As One**

Radio 1240AM KNRY ~ Monterey , Santa Cruz, San Jose, Salinas

Live Streamed on Internet at: [www.knry.com](http://www.knry.com)

LISTENERS! CALL IN with questions: 831-373-1234

For questions, to advertise, or be a guest, call:

Ixchel Leigh 831.521.9920 ~ [www.vibrational.com](http://www.vibrational.com)

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**Central Coast Writers BranchPresents:****“ New Year Circle of Sharing”**

facilitated by

**Teresa LeYung Ryan**

YOU, our talented members, hold the golden keys to success. To kick off the New Year, Teresa LeYung Ryan will lead a fun brainstorming session to take our writing careers one step closer to the big goal. Teresa, who is co-chair of Group-Mentoring program for the Peninsula branch of CWC, says: “Get what you want with the help of friends, colleagues, and mentors.”

**CHOOSE TWO ITEMS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST AND BRING THEM TO THE MEETING ON JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>:**

Submission guidelines from 3 agents (usually their websites)

- List of clients from 3 agents (also usually on their websites)
- Home page of 3 publishers
- A magazine or newspaper that accepts “first person” type stories
- Submission guidelines from 3 magazines or 3 literary journals
- Home page of an on-line publication that pays contributing writers
- Name and contact info of a writers’ colony
- Submission guidelines to a national writing contest
- Bio and list of events of a living author you most admire
- Date and location (and focus) of a writers’ conference that you’ve been dreaming of attending
- Name of your favorite bookstore and their calendar of events
- Your local library list of events
- Your community of events (check City’s website as well)

*Love Made of Heart* will be available; Teresa's publisher is offering a 30% on the hardcover (\$23 is now only \$15).

<http://centralcoastwriters.org>

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Where: **Buzzard's Backyard BBQ**, adjacent to the TraveLodge at 2030 North Fremont in Monterey, across the street from Chef Lee's Chinese Restaurant. The dinner hour begins at 5:30pm and the program begins at 7pm. Order from a broad menu of BBQ, salads, sandwiches and beverages. Pay as you enter and your dinner will be brought to you in the meeting room. Please join us for dinner and social before the meeting.

Questions: Please email Program Chair Ixchel Leigh at [ixchel@vibrational.com](mailto:ixchel@vibrational.com),



### YOUR BOARD:

President: Geri Spieler.:  
[president@sfpensulawriters.com](mailto:president@sfpensulawriters.com)

Vice President and Program Chair: Tory Hartman  
[toryhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:toryhartman@hotmail.com)

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Linda Okerlund  
[newslettert@sfpensulawriters.com](mailto:newslettert@sfpensulawriters.com)

State Board Rep and Treasurer-Ann Foster  
[Afoster500@yahoo.com](mailto:Afoster500@yahoo.com)

Reservations: Chris Wachlin  
[reservationst@sfpensulawriters.com](mailto:reservationst@sfpensulawriters.com)

Open Mic: Jim Hanna  
[OpenMic@sfpensulawriters.com](mailto:OpenMic@sfpensulawriters.com)

Database Chair: Tory Hartman  
[toryhartman@hotmail.com](mailto:toryhartman@hotmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS



Have an announcement? Want to publicize an event, competition or writers forum of potential interest to other club members? If so, please submit your entries, no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter to: Linda Okerlund, newsletter editor, at [okerlund@ix.netcom.com](mailto:okerlund@ix.netcom.com).

### DIRECTIONS TO THE BELMONT LIBRARY:

**FROM HIGHWAY 280:** Take HWY 92 east to Ralston Ave. Turn left to The Alameda. Turn right.

**FROM HIGHWAY 101** Take the Ralston Ave, Belmont exit. Cross the El Camino to The Alameda. Turn left.

**FROM El Camino Real:** Head west on Ralston to The Alameda. Turn left.

Once on the Alameda, the library is two blocks further, to the right.

**BUS ROUTE:** Use SamTrans 295 on The Alameda or SamTrans KX, PX, or TX and get off at El Camino and Ralston in Belmont. Call 1-800-660-4BUS or check out [www.samtrans.com](http://www.samtrans.com) for further information regarding details on schedules and routes.

\*\*\***PARKING**\*\*\*: There is free parking at the library. Some free street parking is also available.

The library parking lot is very limited. **Please use the street and use the lot only if is absolutely necessary!**