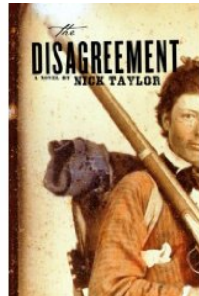




THE PENNINSULA WRITER

Saturday, October 18
Nick Taylor, *The Disagreement*



Nick Taylor's first novel, *The Disagreement*, published by Simon and Schuster in 2008, begins as the secession of Virginia develops into the Civil War. His protagonist, a medical student at the University of Virginia, becomes a physician to the troops, treating the war's gruesome casualties. In doing so, he grows increasingly conflicted, discord flowing from his views of the war itself into his family life and courtship.

The Disagreement has already been noted for its attention to detail and ability to evoke visions of 19th century Virginia. Reviews of the book have compared him to Crane and Fitzgerald, and he has been acclaimed by Civil War historians. It rates an average customer review on amazon.com of 4.75 stars, and one particular reader review beseeches him to "GET CRACKING, WRITE MORE!!" Truly, this is the type of book we all want to write.

Nick is a graduate of the MFA program at the University of Virginia, and recipient of fellowships from the Virginia commission for the arts, the William R. Kenan Trust for Historic Preservation and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. He is now an assistant professor in the department of English and Comparative Literature at San Jose State University, editor of the university's literary magazine, Reed, and a participant in SJSU's creative writing program.

Please join us to hear Nick tell us of his experiences in researching, writing, and publishing this well received work.

**FOR DETAILS ON MEETING LOCATION, PLEASE SEE
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CWC OPEN MIKE NIGHT



Wednesday, Sept. 17th
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@sfpenninsulawriters.com

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The market may be falling, but the sky seems to be staying up there just the same. The one thing you can control in out-of-control times is your writing life! Get down to that novel, memoir essay or short story. Dig in and let the words fly!

The last meeting was a terrific one. Laurel Hill and Alice Wilson-Fried gave us some great writing tips and we all enjoyed hearing about plot and style. Nick Taylor (*The Disagreement*) will be speaking on October 18th about researching a story and will have some cogent writing tips. Don't miss it!

Mentoring Session will be on sprucing up your Query Letter. Margaret Davis will take you through the paces. Remember, you have to keep your work out there! You can't have a touchdown without some players on the field!

At the last meeting I polled those present and it seems most of us are involved with fiction, although memoir and essay were right up there. Your board and I would like to make this next year craft-oriented and have all our speakers share not only their writing journeys but give us concrete writing tips and things to use in our own writing life. If after each meeting you can take one or two things away that will spark your writing, make you excited enough to write more, or send you off in new directions you might never before considered, then we will have succeeded.

At the next meeting, bring along a book or two gathering dust on your shelves so we can have a big free book swap! All leftover books will be put into the Belmont Library donation bin. So bring a book and take a book!

And don't forget to renew your membership!

See you October 18th.

Tory Hartmann

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2009 JLC CHAIR:

Because of the Club's centennial, the 2009 JLC will be a two-day conference. Out of respect for the sacred Jewish holidays, the date has been changed to Oct 10-11th at the Royal Crowne Plaza. It will be a lively gala with a tribute to Jack London, lots of speakers, twice as many agents, editors and publishers, and even more workshops. The conference theme is, "*Call of the Wild Mind*." Volunteers are needed. Anyone interested can contact Dale King, conference chair, at deking8@msn.com.

* * *

AND REMEMBER!!

Dues are due!!

**Next Group Mentoring Session:
October 18th, 2008 12:15-1:15pm**

**Facilitated by Margaret Davis
"YOUR QUERY LETTER"**



Bring 4 copies of your one-page query letter and receive on-the-spot critique from your peers. The first 10 writers to RSVP will get spots. Here's a template to help you get started:

Your Name Contact Info Your URL
Date Agent's Name Address
Re: Your book title (<i>italicized</i>) and genre
Dear Ms./Mr. _____:
(First line/paragraph) Why are you writing to this agent? You met her/him at a conference? A referral? You're a fan of an author whom Agent represents?
If you have an endorsement/advance praise for your book, insert that here (double indent so that it stands out). If your writing has received awards, share that information here.
(Second paragraph) the pitch - What is the book about?
(Last paragraph) Who are you?
Closing
Signature block

Margaret Davis, recipient of the Louise Boggess Award for years of dedicated service to CWC, has completed two novels. She has generously offered to facilitate "Your Query Letter."

Margaret is the author of two books of non-fiction. *Families in a Working World* was published in 1982 and *A Practical Guide to Organization Design* (with David Weckler) in 1996.

E-mail: Mentoring@sfpeninsulawriters.com and Joyce or Teresa will email back confirmation by Sept 18. Put "September CWC Group Mentoring" in the subject line. Priority is given to members of the SF/Peninsula branch, then other branch members, then non-members. Non-members can attend one group mentoring session per year.

Guest Mentors wanted for future Group Mentoring Sessions!!

If you are a current member of the SF/Peninsula branch of CWC and wish to be a guest mentor, please submit your proposal to Joyce Robins and Teresa LeYung Ryan, co-chairs for Group Mentoring Program. They are accepting proposals to fill November through June sessions. Group-Mentoring (usually 12:30-1:30PM) follows the general meeting of 10:00-noon.

Reminder!!

We will be having a Free Raffle for the "Harvest Gift Basket" at Saturday's meeting. If you want to enter, be sure to pass out those CWC flyers you picked up at last month's meeting. Each flyer you give to others is equal to one free raffle ticket entry for you!

Remember, the goal of this raffle is to encourage all of us to get the word out about this great organization!!!



What is Spark?

Spark arranges individualized one-on-one apprenticeships, where students work side-by-side with a professional in a field of their choice. Students may apprentice with architects, artists, pilots and other professionals in real workplaces, building confidence, motivation, and resourcefulness. Spark's mission is to inspire middle-school youth to pursue their interests and create bonds within their communities, to develop a lifelong passion for learning.

How does the program work?

Spark works with 7th and 8th grade students in after-school and summer programs in the Bay Area, and consults with schools and non-profits nationwide.

Spark is seeking a volunteer writer and/or reporter willing to work in the Redwood City area with a student passionate about learning what it takes to be a writer! We are hoping that a cooperative relationship between SPARK and CWC can work together to further encourage mentoring using contacts in the San Mateo County region willing to work with one of our students interested in learning about professional writing. We have one student interested in working with a novelist, and another interested in working with a journalist/reporter. Our program starts the end of October! Do you know anyone in the San Mateo county region would be interested in being an Apprentice Teacher who might be willing to donate some time to inspiring a student?

For more information, visit our web page at: www.sparkprogram.org.

Centennial Edition CWC Anthology Needs Your Fiction, Essays, and Poetry!

The California Writers Club, founded in 1909, is calling for submissions for its upcoming literary anthology. The anthology will help mark the club's centennial year!

We are seeking fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry written by our members. Please carefully read the submission guidelines if you are interested in submitting.

Submission Guidelines:

1. No more than 2000 words per fiction/nonfiction piece, 750 per poem.
2. Only electronic submissions can be accepted. Include your name, address, phone number, and CWC branch in the body of the email. Submit your work as a text or a Microsoft Word file to the following email address:
cwc_anthology@yahoo.com
3. Format your work in a professional manner, as you would when submitting to any agent, publisher, or contest:
 - Use white page background.
 - Use 10- or 12-point serif font (such as Times New Roman) for your copy.
 - Start your title page halfway down the page.
 - Include your name, address, phone number, and CWC branch at the top right of your title page.
 - Include last name, title (or abbreviated title), and page number in the header of every page except for the title page.
4. No more than 2 submissions in each category per author.
5. Topic of your choice.

Deadline: October 31, 2008.

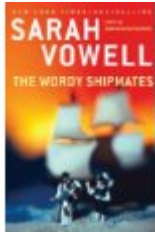
Please note that there are a limited number of pages and a selection process is in place in case of too many submissions.

Publication of submissions is NOT guaranteed.

Put your best work forward -- we're looking forward to reading it!

OTHER EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS OF INTEREST, COURTESY OF Kepler's

1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Store: 650.324.4321
www.keplers.com



Brunonia Barry

Sarah Vowell

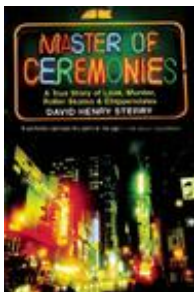
The Wordy Shipmates

Friday October 17, 2008 7:30p.m.

From the New York Times–bestselling author of *Assassination Vacation* and *The Partly Cloudy Patriot*, an examination of the Puritans, their covenant communities, their deep-rooted idealism, their political and cultural relevance in today's world, and their myriad oddities

In *The Wordy Shipmates*, Sarah Vowell travels once again through America's past, this time to seventeenth-century New England, where she studies the Puritan effect and finds their beliefs about church and state more interesting than their buckles-and-corn reputation would suggest.

As in all Vowell's bestselling books, this exploration of America's past is both poignant and entertaining. *The Wordy Shipmates* is rich with historical fact, humorous insight, and social commentary by one of America's celebrated voices.



The Art of the Memoir

Monday October 20, 2008 7:30 p.m.

David Henry Sterry: *Master of Ceremonies: A True Story of Murder, Roller Skates, and Chippendales*

Alan Black: *Kick the Balls: An Offensive Suburban Odyssey*

Beth Lisick: *Helping Me Help Myself: One Skeptic, Ten Self-Help Gurus, and a Year on the Brink of the Comfort Zone*

Find out what it takes to write, read and sell your life story from writers who've actually done just that.



Listen as memoirists read from their own work, then discuss the process of writing a memoir. Making a narrative of events of your own life, dealing with issues of privacy and family, figuring out how to navigate the stormy seas of the publishing world, and bringing your story to life as you read it before an audience will be among the topics addressed by this panel of memoirists, a book doctor who has helped dozens of first time authors get published, and the author of *Putting Your Passion Into Print*, the definitive book on how to get published. This will be followed by a Q&A session.



Poet Laureate Kay Ryan

Thursday October 23, 2008 7:30 p.m.

Location: Montalvo Arts Center – Carriage House Theatre, 15400 Montalvo Rd., Saratoga

Presented by Poetry Center San Jose & Montalvo

Library of Congress' 16th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry Kay Ryan will give an evening performance of poetry readings, a question and answer session, and book signing.

Ryan was born in California and obtained multiple degrees from UCLA. She has published several collections of poetry including *The Niagara River*, *Say Uncle*, and *Flamingo Watching* which was a finalist for the Lamont Poetry Selection and the Lenore Marshall Prize. Her awards include the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim fellowship, and four Pushcart Prizes, among others. Her work has been selected four times for The Best American Poetry and she was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2006. While this event is free, reservations are required. Please call the Montalvo Box Office at 408-961-5858. A donation (minimum \$10) at the door is greatly appreciated.

Reception to follow for Poetry Center San Jose and Montalvo Arts Center members.



Kirsten Menger-Anderson

Dr. Olaf van Schuler's Brain » [BUY NOW](#)

Thursday October 30, 2008 7:30 p.m.

In 1664 Dr. Olaf van Schuler flees the Old World and arrives in New Amsterdam with his lunatic mother, two bags of medical implements, and a carefully guarded book of his own medicines. He is the first in what will become a long line of peculiar physicians. Plagued by madness and guided by an intense desire to cure human affliction, each generation of this unusual family is driven by the science of its day: spontaneous combustion, phrenology, animal magnetism, electrical shock treatment, psychosurgery, genetic research. As they make their way in the world, New York City, too, evolves—from the dark and rough days of the seventeenth century to the towering, frenetic metropolis of today.

Like Patrick Süskind's classic novel *Perfume*, Kirsten Menger-Anderson's debut is a literary cabinet of curiosities—fascinating and unsettling, rich and utterly singular.

Kirsten Menger-Anderson's stories have been short-listed for the Andre Dubus Award, the Richard Yates Award, the Glimmer Train Short Story Award for New Writers, and the Iowa Review story contest and have appeared in a number of literary publications. She lives in San Francisco.

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 27th of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter to: Linda Okerlund, newsletter editor, at lokerlund@comcast.net.

**YOUR BOARD:**

President: Tory Hartman:

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Open Mic: Jim Hanna

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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 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!**