

THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROSE, RWA® CHAPTER #52

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The World Of EMS

The Real Deal

Have you ever wanted to give your heroes or heroines careers in the public safety fields as either a fire fighter, police officer, paramedic or search and rescue professional, but didn't know enough about the job to make it sound believable? Well, now's your chance to get that information first hand from the men and women who are (or were) out there every day protecting us and keeping us safe.



If your story involves the hard-working people behind the scenes of an emergency, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Saturday, Nov. 18, Paramedic Wendy Unmacht with American Medical Response, Battalion Chief Niko King with the Sacramento Fire Department, Sergeant Hugh McGee with the Sacramento Police Department, and Kathy Roberts, former training officer with Placer County Mounted Search and Rescue, will talk about the day to day details of their jobs.

EMERGENCY, Continued Page 3

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Let's beat last year's total and raise \$700!

Annual Holiday Tea & Fundraiser

Want to help raise money for literacy? The annual Holiday Tea and Literacy Fundraiser is just around the corner. Dec. 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and donations are sought for the event. Items accepted can be new, slightly used, hand-crafted, gift baskets, and books.

Please bring your items to the Nov. 18 meeting or bring them the day of the tea. To ship items, please send to the chapter address c/o Judy Ashley: SVR Holiday Tea, 820 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816. For more information, call Anna Stewart at (916)425-9357 or via e-mail at SJA776@aol.com.

MEETING PARTICULARS

EMS Personnel

WHEN

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
9:30 a.m. check-in

PRICE

\$20.00 — Members
\$25 — Guests
(\$25 at the door)

WHERE

University Club House
(See directions on Page 3)

Holiday Tea

WHEN

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WHERE

University Club House
(See directions on Page 3)

PRICE

Bring your favorite
finger-food for the potluck

RSVP at least one week prior to the meeting

To Marlene Urso at:
(530) 644-4204 (hm)
or murso@innercite.com

SVR has hired a caterer for our luncheons. We will serve both regular and vegetarian fare. If you will not be staying for lunch, but plan on attending the meeting, please let Marlene know. A meeting-only charge will be assessed at the door.

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE PREZ

Looking Back...And Forward

BY ANNA J. STEWART

Sacramento Valley Rose President

It's been a great year for SVR! Our members are being published and winning contests left and right, and it couldn't happen to a greater group of people. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for 2006 and while I am glad to put the job behind me, I will miss celebrating the good news with mounds of chocolate (although I'll applaud from my seat).

On a personal note, I might not have achieved all the goals I set for myself this year, but there's always 2007. We have, however, moved forward as a chapter and you'll be seeing a few changes coming your way as we move into the new year.

First, we're in the process of launching a new website. While our website has been good, it will soon be great, with a members-only section that will serve as the hub of communication for our members. We'll also have a gorgeous new site that will bring new members in and showcase SVR as the amazing chapter it is. Stone Creek Media is doing an amazing job, and I truly cannot wait for you all to see their hard work on your computer screens.

We have a great bunch of volun-

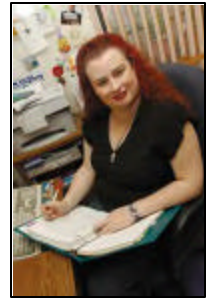
teers who have stepped up to serve on your board for 2007. My thanks, as always, to those who take on some of the work it takes to keep SVR running smoothly. Our programs lineup for next year is nearly full, beginning in January with best-selling author Sherrilyn Kenyon. We're expecting a huge turnout, so make your reservations early for this meeting.

We will be having our retreat in Sonora in April of 07, a year ahead of schedule. This one will be a little different, with lots of mini-workshops and plenty of solitary writing time (and of course a few surprise activities thrown in). We can promise you will go away from the retreat with completed pages along with a renewed passion for your writing. I hope you'll plan on attending. Watch for details in your next newsletter.

Well, I guess that's it from my end. Again, I thank you for electing me this last time as your president and, as I step down, I wish you all, for the last time, a flourishing, passionate and PUBLISHED writing career.

Cheers!

Anna J. Stewart



"SUCCESS IS A FINISHED BOOK, A STACK OF PAGES EACH OF WHICH IS FILLED WITH WORDS. IF YOU REACH THAT POINT, YOU HAVE WON A VICTORY OVER YOURSELF NO LESS IMPRESSIVE THAN SAILING SINGLE-HANDED AROUND THE WORLD."

—TOM CLANCY

MEMBER CONGRATULATIONS

❖ **PAMELA BRITTON** has signed on to write three more NASCAR books for HQN. Pamela was also featured on World News Tonight with Charlie Gibson featuring her NASCAR series.

❖ **SHERRIL GREEN AKA KATHRYNN DENNIS** signed a two-book contract with Kensington Publishing. Her first book **DARK RIDER**, a medieval historical, will be released August 2007.

❖ **BRENDA NOVAK** sold another romantic suspense trilogy to Mira. The scheduled release is back-to-back in the summer of 2008. In other news, **STRANGER IN TOWN** and **EVERY WAKING MOMENT** took first place in their respective categories in the Lories, and **STRANGER IN TOWN** took first place overall. Both books finaled in the Aspen Gold and The Award of Excellence, and **STRANGER IN TOWN** won both contests.



❖ **DEBRA SALONEN** recently sold her 20th book to Harlequin Superromance. The August 2007 release features a match-making Great Dane named George. The working title is, **LOVE, BY GEORGE**.

❖ **KIMBERLY VAN METER** recently signed with New York literary agent Pamela Dean Strickler, and her first novel, **THE TRUTH ABOUT FAMILY**, received a four-star review in Romantic Times magazine.

❖ **DONNA WIERZBOWSKI** recently sold her Latina romance novel, **OPERATION: FAMILIA**, to Floricanto Press. This is Wierzbowski's first sale.

EMERGENCY, Continued From Front Page

Bio information

Wendy Unmacht, paramedic, American Medical Response

Wendy Unmacht currently works full time for American Medical Response Ambulance (AMR) in Yolo County. She has been employed in the EMS field for over five years, first as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and currently as a paramedic in a high performance 911 system. In 2006, she was recognized by the California State Legislature as a "Star of Life," an honor given to her for saving the life of a farm worker who was involved in an accident.

Wendy is very active in promoting employee, community, and customer relations for AMR and has participated in AMR safety fairs, career day events and community blood pressure clinics.

Niko King, Battalion Chief, Sacramento Fire Department

Niko King started his firefighting career in 1990. Before that, he was employed seasonally by the US Forest Service during the

summer months and was a full-time student the rest of the year. In 1994, he was hired by the Sacramento Fire Department as a professional fire fighter. Over the last 12 years, he has served in the following capacities: firefighter EMT, training officer, spokesperson, battalion chief. He has been able to experience what it's like to pull hose into burning buildings, care for the sick and injured, instruct, supervise, and manage those in his chosen profession.

Kathy Roberts

Kathy Roberts joined the Placer County Sheriff's Search and Rescue mounted group in 1988. She held every position on the board, but her favorite is training officer. In 1996, she published Mounted Search and Rescue, and was awarded a commendation by California OES for formalization of techniques and practices in mounted search and rescue operations. She qualified as Placer County SAR-tech, and has taught classes on mounted SAR for Placer County, California OES and the National Association for Search and Rescue.

DIRECTIONS to the University Club House

From Highway 50: take the Howe Avenue/Power Inn Road exit. Head north on Howe (going South puts you on Power Inn). At the Swathmore signal light turn right (there is a turn pocket).**

From Business 80: take the Cal Expo exit east. Cal Expo Boulevard turns into Arden Way. Stay in the right-hand lane and turn right on Howe Avenue. Travel south past Fair Oaks Boulevard and American River Drive. The next signal is Swathmore, turn left.**

**This takes you into an office parking lot — you are not lost. Turn left at the yield sign, follow the road towards the tennis courts (watch out for the speed bumps) and park anywhere on the left side nearest the tennis courts. The clubhouse is down a small walkway.

WHAT YOU MISSED

BY DONNA WIERZBOWSKI

Tracey Lyons and Nora Profit

- **Who:** Tracey Lyons
- **When:** Sept. 23
- **Topic:** Goal Setting

Are you a piler or a filer? Do you make short-term goals or long-term goals? Do you make goals at all? Why even set goals at all? Does goal-setting dampen your creativity?

Tracey Lyons set us straight and spurred us to think. Most importantly, setting a goal provides structure for action, gives us something to work for, and is a source of motivation.

Why set goals? To clearly define what we want to accomplish, to help us differentiate between our short-term and long-term goals and to help us prioritize.

Setting and reaching goals is a four-step process: Setting the goal, taking action, assessing the outcome and evaluating. Tracey discussed the difference between measurable, attainable, realistic and time-limited goals.

1. Measurable goals show us progress, helps us to see change and manage future goals.

2. Attainable goals stretch us but are not impossible to achieve. For example, changing genres in your writing will stretch you enormously but it's a possible feat.

3. Realistic goals are do-able but not necessarily easy. For example, deciding to finish two chapters a week is a realistic goal for me, but writing five is NOT.

I kept hitting my head against the proverbial brick wall when I tried to write five (or one per day). I find that I have to cogitate, percolate, contemplate a lot before each new chapter. THAT takes time.

4. Time-limited goals set a clear timetable for us, provides a measurable target. Setting time limits prevents us from slacking off and procrastinating. Having a writing buddy or critique partner with whom you check in weekly also helps with time limits.

Tracey reminded us that it takes 21 days to build a habit, so it's important to BE CONSISTENT. Goal setting is a way to give your writing career the kick start or restart it might need. Additionally, it's a great way to build confidence! Be true to yourself; only you know what's going to work for you.

- **Who:** Nora Profit
- **When:** Oct.28
- **Topic:** Ten Things to Avoid in your Writing

It was apparent from the get-go that Nora Profit had done her homework. She cited several facts about romance novels, including the mention that \$1.2 billion in book sales are romance novels. In her enthusiastic presentation, she not only talked about the various workshops and writing services that her company, The Writing Loft, offers online and off, but she spoke about the importance of writing style. Among her many reminders:

1. Learn your craft. A sentence can be grammatically right but rhythmically wrong. A helpful hint is to read your sentence aloud to hear its inherent rhythm (or lack thereof).

2. Do not doubt yourself. As a former New Yorker with lots of "chutzpah," she knows whereof she speaks.

3. Be a master of metaphors. Not the trite ones, but original ones.

4. When you manipulate the language, you manipulate the tone of the piece as well.

5. Transition from regular nouns and verbs to spectacular, precise nouns and verbs.

6. Be concise. Never use two words when one will do. In today's cinematic style, this is especially important.

7. Avoid beginning a sentence with a dependent clause (she called it an "introductory" clause). Put the main clause first. Example, write "She moved the gun to the table after he sat down." Not "After he sat down, she moved the gun to the table."

8. Word choice is important.

9. Use dialogue tags sparingly. Use the narrative portion to show emotion rather than use lots of adverbs ("...she said excitedly").

10. Avoid misplaced modifiers or any ungrammatical convention that causes the reader to stop in order to figure out the meaning of a sentence. The story should roll along compellingly.

11. Regard your lead lines (the first few sentences of your story) as so important, they will compel the reader to spend \$25 to read on. The lead lines regarding your story hook: if you don't hook the reader, you'll never sell your story. The lead lines are vital regardless of the genre you're writing in.

12. Write a focus statement. This helps the writer to stay on track. For example, "I am writing this book to prove ---"



Nora Profit covered the gamut of writing style but if you'd like to find out more about The Writing Loft and what it offers, check out www.thewritingloft.com or email her: noraprofit@thewritingloft.com.

Everything You Never Wanted To Know About Taxes

BY SUSAN SHAY

Diane O'Brien Kelly, lawyer and CPA, made taxes way more interesting than I ever thought possible, and that was quite a feat.

Diane began by asking if we take deductions for writing. As serious writers, we should even if we've never sold a word that we've written. For instance: We could take 40 cents a mile when driving to and from the meeting. The worst that can happen is the IRS will send you a note telling you what you've done wrong.

The most interesting part of her talk was about the Hobby/Loss rule, the most misunderstood rule out there. Some people think if they enjoy an activity, it's a hobby not a business. The truth is, you can still deduct it, even if you enjoy it. The IRS knows everyone can't hate what they do for a living.

Here's how you tell: Are you trying to make a profit? Are you conducting your writing as a business? Here are nine ways to make that determination.

1. Do you operate in a "business-like" manner? (Record keeping, submissions, etc.)
2. Do the time and effort you put into your writing indicate an intent to make money? (Of course!)
3. Do you depend on the income from your writing for your livelihood? (The answer doesn't have to be yes—we all hope to someday.)
4. Are your losses due to circumstances beyond your control or are losses normal during the start-up phase of a writing career? (Absolutely!)
5. Do you change your methods of operation in an attempt to improve profitability? (That's why we keep writing new stories and new genres, going to chapter meetings and conferences.)
6. Do you have the knowledge needed to carry on a successful writing business? (Also why we go to RWA meetings and conferences.)
7. Were you successful in making a profit in similar activities in the past? (The answer to this doesn't

have to be yes.)

8. Does your writing make a profit in some years, and how much profit does it make? (The answer to this doesn't this have to be yes.)
9. Do you expect to make a future profit from the appreciation of the assets used in the activity? (YES! YES! YES!)

The Hobby/Loss rule is almost myth. It's too wishy washy to rely on. It is up to you to prove you are a business. Remember the rule doesn't say you're not a business if you don't show a profit.

The best way to do that is to be organized in your record keeping. Keep receipts, business cards on which you've noted pertinent information, submission/rejection information and contest entries in order to get your work in front of an editor or agent someplace that's easy to find.

Deductible expenses:

Depreciation: Way too complicated for me to understand, much less explain, but the first year it's 20 percent, year two is 32 percent, year three is 19.2 percent, year four 11.52 percent, year five is 11.52 percent and year six is 5.76 percent.

Meals/entertainment: Only 50 percent deductible.

Travel: 50 percent limit on meals. Travel deducted for research purposes is a red flag to the IRS.

Other expenses: Paper, ink cartridges, postage, envelopes, Internet services, books, magazine subscriptions, dues to RWA and other groups, highlighters, conference fees, contest fees, Web site expenses, tax-preparation software, tax-prep fees. Be sure to pro-rate expenses that are both personal and business.

Non-deductible expenses:

First phone line into home, raffle tickets, business gifts in excess of \$25 per recipient per year, health insurance coverage through another employer.

If you haven't taken the deductions, you can go back up

TAXES, Continued From Page 5

to three years after tax was due and 2 years after tax was paid.

Diane gave us copies of tax forms we'd need in order to take these deductions. They were the 1040, schedule C, schedule SE, form 4562 and form 8829. She then went into detail about lines to fill in and how to figure the amounts to put there.

Suggestions Diane made:

Keep tax records at least three tax years back. The statute of limitations is generally three years, but is six years in cases where a taxpayer has underreported income by 25 percent or more. There is no statute of limitations if a taxpayer fails to file a return or files a fraudulent return. Keep receipts relating to items that you depreciate until three tax years after item is fully depreciated.

Generally, you must have documentary evidence (receipts, canceled checks, bank statements, loan statements or bills) to support your deductions.

Keep your receipts or the IRS may deny your expenses. On receipts for meals and entertainment, write the names of those who attended the meal or event with you.

Keep a detailed mileage log. Keep documentation to prove you drove to the place you claim to have gone, if possible (i.e. handouts from conferences, gas receipts to show where you bought gas on trips even if standard mileage rate is used).

For home-office deductions, keep copies of utility bills, mortgage statements, insurance, property taxes, etc. For me now, taxes are much less scary, thanks to the Blarney Babe, CPA and lawyer.



Susan Shay sits on the board of Romance Writers Ink of Tulsa, OK and can be found waving her winning contest entry "Gypsy" over her head. She says it makes her back feel better. A long time PRO, Susan's critique partners are sure that this one will be the manuscript for which she gets "The Call."

THE BIG QUESTION

Self-Imposed Deadlines Inspiration or Insanity?

BY CAROL BURNSIDE

Setting deadlines to stretch yourself as a writer, or just to stay organized, can be a great motivator for increased productivity.

Meeting those deadlines gives you a wonderfully inspired feeling. You're Rocky raising his fists over his head, victorious in the ring! You're Snoopy dancing and performing the Risky Business slide when nobody is looking.

Oh, come on. Admit it.

We all have our "Yesss!" moments when we're inspired to go forth and conquer the next challenge in our writing career.

But what happens when we don't meet those goals? Maybe we've set them unrealistically high to begin with, or perhaps life got in the way. It happens. What matters is how we deal with the setback.

Let's peek in on Zelda Writemore, an average-production, pre-published writer with more than a smidge of talent and creativity. Zelda's goal is to finish her next manuscript much faster than the last one.

She's set an ambitious stretch goal. Her fingers fly over the keyboard for several weeks; pages pile up—then BAM! She gets a phone call that an elderly relative on her mother's side has died. Mom is upset and could use her support.

Zelda packs her trusty Alphasmart and her notes, throws a few clothes in a bag and leaves Zed and little Zoe with a determined glint in her eye: She'll write on the plane. Despite Zelda's best snubbing efforts, Chatty Cathy in the adjoining seat makes that impossible.

Fine. It's just one day. She'll write in the privacy of her old bedroom at Mom's. What's a little sleep deprivation? Everyone will assume she's grieving.

Surprise! Mom took in one too many cousins. Zelda has a roommate who's determined to catch up on the last decade. Quiet moments are a distant memory, sleep deprivation now a grim reality.

DEADLINES, Continued on Page 7

CHAMPAGNE WISHES AND A PUBLISHING DREAM

BY VIRGINA LESTER

Got the call. Answered the call. Was whisked off to exciting places. Had my picture taken for the back cover. Had my picture taken with the most delicious looking hunk of the year.

My book came out, made all best seller lists within 24 hours and I moved into a huge home complete with to-die-for furniture, carpeting, the works. Got a brand new car, new clothes, new everything. Sat in the lap of luxury which was furlined to say the least.

Then I woke up to an irritatingly ringing phone. The landlord said the rent is three months behind, my cat was wrapped around my neck, the lights were flickering on and off before going completely out because of nonpayment of the electric bill, the hunk was our building super who was on his hands and knees, hairy butt crack showing, trying to fix the toilet and my furniture turned out to be junk pile rejects.



Sacramento Valley Rose member Virginia Lester admits she didn't get that editor/agent call but said she has been known to lament "I thrive on rejection" and isn't about to give up just yet!

DEADLINES, Continued from Page 6

Zelda returns home, bemoaning four days lost and desperate for a long nap, but keeps that "can-do" chant going in her head. Unfortunately, the laundry has piled up in her absence, the grocery list is long and the latest kitty barf stain on the carpet needs her attention. Hubby Zed was preoccupied with a very sick and clingy little Zoe, and Zelda sees her goal fleeing from the zoo that is her life.

Sound vaguely familiar? Are you nodding your head? Been there, done that?

What should Zelda do? She's outlined her plan to her critique partners and several of her RWA chapter mates. Within her is the knowledge that someday soon she could be faced with this same kind of scenario coupled with a publisher-imposed deadline.

Failure to meet that deadline would not be an option. The doubt demons set in. Zelda stares in dismay at the piles of laundry looming in the distance and rocks little Zoe to sleep. A logical thinker and a practical woman, she shoves the defeatist thoughts aside and reassesses the situation.

Despite her best efforts, her original goal is doomed. It was a big stretch to begin with, and there's no way she can make up over a week's worth of writing. Trying to reach it now is insanity.

Zelda redraws her timeline and resets her goal date. With a little creative planning and help from Zed, she might still finish the book faster than the last one, though not as fast as she'd originally intended.

It's a doable goal rather than a stretch goal. She finds her writing friends surprisingly supportive and manages to finish this manuscript a full two weeks faster than the last. In the wee hours of the morning, she types "The End," punches her fist in the air and whispers an inspired, if tired "Yesss!"

Zelda has learned a valuable lesson while pushing herself as a writer:

Continuing to cling to a self-imposed deadline after a major setback, or a series of small setbacks is tantamount to setting yourself up for failure.

Next time she sets a goal, she'll build in enough flexibility for life's unexpected setbacks. And when the day comes to negotiate a publisher's deadline, or multiple deadlines, she'll have a more realistic idea of what her limits are.

Stretching yourself as a writer can keep the creative juices flowing, but do it with one foot grounded in reality. Doing so will mean the difference between inspiration and insanity.



Carol Burnside is a pre-published contemporary romance writer, and winner of a 2005 Maggie Award of Excellence. Visit her website at <http://www.geocities.com/carolburnside2004>.

NOVEMBER MEMBER RELEASES



BRENDA NOVAK, MELINDA CURTIS, ANNA ADAMS, ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS, Harlequin Superromance anthology, November 2006

In the spirit of Christmases past, present—and future

“Just Like the Ones We Used To Know” by Brenda Novak

Angela Forrester is determined her foster child will get the one thing she wants for Christmas: to meet her real father—even though he doesn’t know he has a little girl.

“The Night Before Christmas” by Melinda Curtis

Simon Castle’s on his way to a make-or-break meeting unseasonably scheduled for December 25—until the gorgeous redhead subbing for his limo driver takes him on a detour....

“All the Christmases To Come” by Anna Adams

Single dad Andrew Durham had resigned himself to losing Rachel Ford. After all, she wants more kids, and he doesn’t. But the minute he finds out his second child is coming he goes after Rachel...



DEBRA SALONEN, THE QUIET CHILD, Harlequin American, Miniseries: Sisters of the Silver Dollar, November 2006

Alex Radonovic isn't particularly looking forward to Christmas. Her sisters have all found their soul mates—even her mother has a romantic interest. Only Alex is alone. Until her ex-fiancé arrives with a preposterous suggestion. He wants Alex to help his son. Her first reaction is to refuse—after all, the child is proof of Mark's betrayal. But her heart goes out to the sad little boy. Could this be the meaning behind her mother's prediction? If she helps little Braden, will she finally be able to forgive his father?

Maybe this Christmas *will* be different from all the others.



EILEEN RENDAHL, IN ONE YEAR AND OUT THE OTHER, Pocket anthology, November 2006

“Midnight Kiss”

It was the year that Mikayla Jacob's New Year's Eve date slobbered all over her chin and drenched her velvet top with saliva that she began to suspect that her midnight kisses were prophetic. How else to explain a freak El Nino year and record rainfall in Phoenix after that awful date with Brad Layton? And that's just one example. So who can blame her for being a little uptight as she heads to her friend Amanda's house for a New Year's Eve party with no date.

Attention Authors

Please send new release information to Kim Van Meter at alexandria2772@hotmail.com to be included in the next newsletter.

DECEMBER MEMBER RELEASES

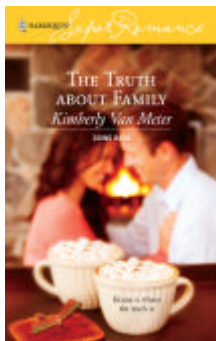


PAMELA BRITTON, COWBOY VET, Harlequin American, December 2006

The last person on earth Rand Sheppard wants to rely on is Jessie Monroe, but he needs a vet tech—yesterday—and she's the only one for hire. And unfortunately, it turns out she's pretty good at her job. That's too bad, because as soon as Rand can find a replacement, he's going to fire Jessie. He owes his cousin that much.

Yes, Jessie's made plenty of mistakes. Dating Tommy was one of them. One it looks as if she's never going to live down. If she can only make Rand realize she wasn't the reason his cousin went to jail, and she isn't the person Rand—and everyone else in town—thinks she is.

And that it's okay to fall in love....

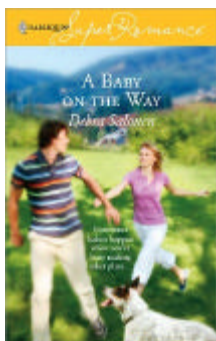


KIMBERLY VAN METER, THE TRUTH ABOUT FAMILY, Harlequin Superromance, December 2006

Leaving home wasn't hard for Erin McNulty and she had no plans to return. *Ever*. Until she gets a phone call... The aunt who raised her has been killed in a car accident, and her father, Charlie, is in critical condition.

Back in her hometown, police officer Colin Barrett informs her there was no accident—someone was trying to kill her father. Colin has no idea who—or why. Together, he and Erin probe Charlie's past for answers. But that's not the *only* answer Colin wants. He needs to know whether he and Erin have any chance at happiness.

For Erin, coming home means learning the truth about family...and the truth about love.



DEBRA SALONEN, A BABY ON THE WAY, Harlequin Superromance, December 2006

Nathan and his wife, Casey, have moved back to California so he can take a shot at making partner in his prestigious law firm. Even if it means being closer to the family he doesn't quite fit into. It'll also give him a chance to get to know his father-in-law better. Best of all, the move will allow him to reconnect with Casey. Especially important now that she's given up her own law practice to see if they can finally get pregnant.

What he finds is a law office in a mess, a family who needs him and a coworker who has her eye on him—and his job. And that's before Casey ends up on the opposite side of a legal battle.

“Writing is the hardest way of earning a living,

with the possible exception of wrestling alligators.”

—OLIN MILLER

Debbie Macomber Visits SVR For First Annual Readers' Appreciation Luncheon

BY A.J. STEWART

What began as a glimmer of an idea for SVR author Allison Brennan, came to fruition on Saturday, Sept. 9, with our first Readers' Appreciation Luncheon.

Held at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Sacramento, the event began at 11 a.m. with our published authors welcoming readers and SVR members into the Grand Ballroom. Decked out in colors of burgundy, gold, and mauve, the round tables were filled with lighted centerpieces and gifts for those who came to meet their favorite authors, some of the readers were so excited, they could barely speak.

Nearly 20 of our published authors participated, hosting tables on which they'd placed thank-you gifts for each of their guests. From mini-cruise bags, to baskets filled with plants, bundles of books, beautiful scarves, and holiday candles, all seemed the perfect way to say thank you to some of the most important people in a published author's life: readers.

As president, it was my honor to welcome everyone and see the smiling, relaxed faces of nearly one hundred people looking back. I had the privilege of sitting with our speaker, the amazingly talented Debbie Macomber, who later delighted the audience with stories of inspiration and dogged determination as she recalled how she followed her dream to publication. She didn't leave a dry eye in the room.

After lunch, the shopping began. Thanks to Barnes and Noble, we had our own mini-bookstore with titles galore for people to take and have signed. Some of our waiters even bought books for their girlfriends and Debbie herself bought books written by each of our authors.

My fellow committee members, Allison Brennan, Tracey Lyons, and I were glad to see the day turn into such a grand success. As a result, next year's event planning is already underway and we can confirm that Julia Quinn will be our guest speaker.

Much thanks to the SVR volunteers who helped, to Debbie Macomber for making the trip, to the Hyatt for a splendid location and lovely meal, and Barnes and Noble for stepping up to sell our authors' books.

Special thanks to all our SVR published authors who took the time to thank their readers, and, most importantly, thank you to the readers, who buy our books.



Above: a group shot of the authors who attended the first annual Readers' Appreciation Luncheon, held Sept. 9 at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Sacramento.

At right: Sacramento Valley Rose member Allison Brennan talks with Debbie Macomber at the podium.

Photos courtesy of Delilah Dawson



FINALISTS ANNOUNCED IN SVR WEB CONTEST

The first round of this year's Silver Rose Award for Web Site Excellence contest was incredibly competitive—all the contestants came within a few points of reaching the final round. Due to several ties, we have four finalists in each category instead of the usual three.

In the Home Grown category, for authors whose web sites were created with a little help from friends or family (amateurs who are not paid to design Web sites), the finalists are:

- **Catherine Chant** - www.catherinechant.com
- **Kate Duggan** - www.katepearce.com
- **Lilla Marcello** - www.liladipasqua.com
- **Sara Reinke** - www.sarareinke.com

In the Professionally Created category, for authors whose Web sites were built in exchange for payment or

by a professional who earns money to build Web sites for others, the finalists are:

- **Cherry Adair** - www.cherryadair.com
- **Gail Barrett** - www.gailbarrett.com
- **Sherry Brummel** - www.sherrylynnromance.com
- **Deborah Gonzales** - www.sabrinajeffries.com

The first round judges—Mili Daugherty, Melly Gaines, Terry McLaughlin, and Kim Van Meter—generously volunteered a great deal of their time to evaluate each site and provide feedback for the entrants.

Now it's up to the final judge, Justin Knupp of Stonecreek Media (www.stonecreekmedia.com), to choose the winner in each category.

The final results will be announced at the chapter's annual holiday tea in December.

SVR CONTACT INFORMATION

President	Anna Stewart	(916) 425-9357	sja776@aol.com
Vice President - Programs	Michele Acker	(916) 383-3863	macker_121@msn.com
Events Coordinator	Marlene Urso	(530) 644-4204	urso@innercite.com
Retreat Coordinator	Bobbie Fite	(916) 354-1048	bobbievf@sbcglobal.net
Tape Librarian	Sarah Palmero	(916) 363-2944	shadowhawk@shadowwings.com
Vice President- Membership	Tracey Lyons	(925) 606-6287	Traceylyon@aol.com
Publicity Coordinator	Marlene Urso	(530) 644-4204	urso@innercite.com
Fundraising/Gift Coordinator	Cathy Decker	(916) 359-3565	chdecker@winfirst.com
Secretary	Lisa Sorenson	(560) 899-1268	creekhouse@shocking.com
Treasurer	Diana McCollum	(916) 346-1045	dianamcc@vfr.net
Newsletter Editor	Kimberly Van Meter	(209) 604-3212	alexandria2772@hotmail.com
Web Mistress	Terry McLaughlin	(707) 442-6667	teedee@humboldt1.com
Published Author Liaison	Allison Brennan	(916) 203-3151	allison@lanset.com
Region Six Representatives	Jill Limber		jlimber1@cox.net
	Diane Pershing		Diper2@yahoo.com

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NOTE TO PUBLISHED AUTHORS: Please send your book covers, blurbs and release information by the 1st of each month to Kim at alexandria2772@hotmail.com.

BITS & PIECES

RESERVE NOW: Due to an overwhelming response to our January speaker, Sherrilyn Kenyon, event coordinators are opening reservations for this meeting for **SVR MEMBERS ONLY** early, beginning Dec. 4. Please note a location has not yet been selected and will be announced at a later date.

NEW BOOKSELLER: The Almost Perfect Book Store in Roseville is SVR's new bookseller. If you would like to order a book (new or used), please let Sarah Palmero know by the 10th of the month, and you'll receive at 25 percent discount on the price of the book. After the 10th, and the discount will be 10 percent. Sarah will bring the books to each meeting for purchase. Authors, if you have a release and you'd like your books sold at the meeting, please let her know. Sarah can be reached at shadowhawk@shadowwings.com.

BOOKSIGNING OPPORTUNITY: SVR members Debra Salonen and Kimberly Van Meter will be hosting a book-signing event at the Mariposa library, Dec. 9, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Debra will be signing her newest Harlequin Superromance release, *A BABY ON THE WAY*, and Kimberly will be signing her debut release in the same line, *THE TRUTH ABOUT FAMILY*. For more information contact Kimberly at author@kimberlyvanmeter.com

HISTORY HOYDENS: Love history and romance? Check out the History Hoydens, a bunch of historical authors (including SVR member Kathryn Dennis) who've just launched a blog.

Check it out at <http://historyhoydens.blogspot.com>

We are on the Web!
www.SacramentoValleyRose.com

SAVE THE DATES:

November 18—EMS Personnel: Stories From The Trenches
December 2—Holiday Tea: Annual Fundraiser

SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROSE

820 Alhambra Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95816-4413