



Member in the Spotlight

Each month, we feature a member of SJVW, highlighting their background and interests in writing. If you would like to be featured or would like to nominate someone to be featured in the spotlight, let us know by [clicking here](#). We hope you enjoy getting to know other members!

January 2024

Rose Cordero-Gonzales

Rose Cordero-Gonzales is an artist, writer, and teacher. She naturally weaves her rich storytelling skills into her prose, poetry, and children's books to connect with her readers. Her path in life is to encourage others to find the positive side of life's bumpy road.

Her work is a testament to the power of hope, faith, forgiveness, and the resilience of the human spirit. She strives to make her words come alive on the page.

She holds a B.A. in Speech Pathology and an M.A. in Special Education. She draws her inspiration from the simple things in life and the beauty of the San Joaquin Valley of California. With her family and pets by her side, she enjoys her life's journey as a lifelong learner and as the grape picker's daughter.



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February 2024

Kimberly Wiley

Kimberly "Kim" Wiley is a retired physician and member of not just SJVW, but also the Elk Grove Writers Guild. Since childhood, she had her sights set on the world of medicine. But writing lurked in the background until it called her out to put fingers to keyboard. She enrolled in a UCLA extension course and fell in love with flash fiction. She published her first short story, "Putt, Fore Murder" in the 2023 anthology *Obsidian Tales, Part One*. That same year, she published two flash fiction pieces, "#Modern@Medicine" and "Disappointment A La Carte," in the SJVW anthology *Great Valley Stories: Portals to the Past*.

Having worked with so many patients, physicians, and medical staff with varied personalities in her practice, she likes to think she has a story reservoir. And maybe she'll return to a cozy mystery she began years ago featuring an African American female physician turned amateur sleuth. Yes, indeed, she has a reservoir to draw on.





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March 2024

James Fox

James Fox is a husband, father, grandfather, former Scoutmaster, and retired credit manager for a steel wholesaler. A former State Parks volunteer canoe docent, his experiences in California's mountains and rivers are often the basis for his short stories. But he also admits to stalking family and friends for story ideas! He is a member of Heritage Writers Community and California Writers Club.

Writing from Lodi, California, James was first published in a trade magazine, later in Pure Inspiration Magazine, Scouting Magazine, and Haiku Journal. A dozen of his short stories have appeared in various periodicals. In 2015 Writers Digest awarded him an Honorable Mention for "Polka Dots and Sunshine Teardrops." Usually writing in the creative non-fiction genre, James also writes fiction and poetry. His one lament is that the late Andy Warhol only promised us all a few minutes of fame—fortune would have been so much better!



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April 2024

Pamela Pan

Pamela Pan is an English professor at San Joaquin Delta College where she teaches reading, writing, and literature. She has a Ph.D. in Education from UC Davis, a master's in Bilingual/ESL Studies from UMass Boston, and a bachelor's in Engineering from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. She has won prizes in competitions such as the Flash Memoir contest by Writer Advice. Her poems, essays, and short stories have been published in various magazines and anthologies, including Poets' Espresso Review, Center of Attention, Phases, and Voices of the Valley. Her story "Baba's Accordion" will be published in California Writers Club (CWC) Literary Review 2024 and "Waiting" in the CWC Anthology Vision and Verse 2024. Her article "Turning Family History into a Historical Novel" is featured on the Historical Novel Society North America website.

In her spare time, Pamela loves audiobooks, yoga, walking, and spending time with her family.





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Nicolas Harrison

Nicolas Harrison was born and raised in Stockton, California and works for the Defense Logistics Agency in Tracy. The DLA supplies food and other essential items overseas to our warfighters, although Nick works in the environmental branch, ensuring that the base is sustainable, and hazardous materials are safely disposed of.

He is a new author who has published his first book on Amazon and is working on the sequel. Both works are centered around fantasy and mythology, specifically the Greco-Roman myths. He has also written a few short stories which he has submitted to contests, though one was rejected and the other is still pending. He is a member of the Northern California Publishers and Authors as well as the San Joaquin Valley Writers and hopes that the expertise and experiences of others with a passion for writing can help him improve the quality of his work.



May 2024



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For this month, we have chosen to do a special spotlight to honor June Gillam, outgoing president and co-founder of SJVW. Thanks, June, for all you have done for our group and writers in general!

June Gillam

June Gillam is an avid writer and member of writers' groups. Her published works include award-winning poetry and crime fiction. At present she is completing the last book in her six-book Hillary Broome series and plotting a Thriller Trilogy for her new publisher, Bedazzled Ink, to be set at Lake Tahoe and San Francisco.

A lifelong learner, June's MA was in Creative Writing, Poetry, and her doctoral dissertation was a Cooperative Inquiry into Writing Conflict. June has taught English at Delta College since 1990 and although retired from full-time, she teaches Intro to Literature online. A co-founder of Gold Country Writers and San Joaquin Valley Writers, she also belongs to Capitol Crimes, Sacramento Chapter of Sisters in Crime; Northern California Publishers & Authors; and Town Square Writers.

June and her books will be in the Authors Booth at the CA State Fair July 20, 21 and 24. Come say Hello!



June 2024



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July 2024

Cami Rumble

A Modesto native, Cami Rumble graduated from California State University Stanislaus with an English degree. Cami wrote for fun growing up but took a long time to call herself a writer. She has found that writing poetry has taught her a lot about paying attention to the prism that is life, both outward and inward. Her poems often capture a snapshot of the ordinary and explore how it relates to the common human experience. Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Crank Magazine*, *Penumbra*, *Levitate*, *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, and *Poetry Breakfast*, as well as several California Writers Club anthologies.

Cami is a wife, administrative professional, and mom to two of the world's cutest and most exasperating children. When not obsessively straightening furniture in her home, Cami sews, spends time with family, and eats chocolate peanut butter cups.



Cliff Mansfield

The newest member to join SJVW, Cliff is a Desert Rat Born in Phoenix, Arizona and raised in Blythe, California. His job brought Cliff and his family to the Central Valley after seventeen years of working in the southeastern area of the Mojave Desert. He went back to school in 2004 and captured a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. He got a master's degree in business from Liberty University. During his time in higher education, he discovered his passion for writing. Over the last fifteen years, Cliff has written eight novels. Three are complete and five are in progress. He has set a goal to complete editing one of his novels this year and begin the process of getting it published. He also makes it a habit of journaling daily.

Cliff is married to Sheila, and they are celebrating 49 years of marriage in August of this year. They have three children and nine grandchildren.



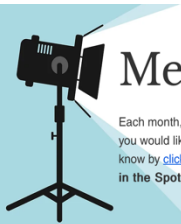
August 2024

September 2024

Julie Jose

Julie is a true introvert, currently lovin life working as an English Professor at San Joaquin Delta College. She recently completed memoir courses at Stanford, attained an Ethnic Studies certificate from CSUSF, and attended a memoir workshop in Paris, 2024. The most important fact Julie learned while in Paris is the importance of building one's platform. Her poetry has been published in Espresso Review; Portals of the Past; Center of Attention; Joaquin Magazine; Vision and Verse, 2024. She is a member of San Joaquin Valley Writers group and Transformative Writers' group. She was recently selected as a member of the Board of Directors for Tuleburg Press.

For fun, Julie enjoys reading, writing, hiking, running, traveling, her cats and coffee with her daughter and granddaughter. She loves "Let's Talk Memoir" podcasts and sings (not very well) along to an eclectic genre of music: The Beatles, Mariachi, Smokie, Bocelli, Tupac, Tchaikovsky, Morisette, Teddy Swims, and much more—except polka :-)



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October 2024

Dorajane Gummer

Hi, my name is Dorajane Grummer, and I write under the pen name Jo Donahue. I currently live in Sacramento, California, and Afton, Oklahoma. I grew up listening to my grandmother tell stories of her travels from Kentucky to Oklahoma and the days of living on the homestead during the 1900s-1960s. Often in the evenings, she would tell stories of how the Native Americans helped them with their farm and kept the homestead from landgrabbers. She frequently read stories to us from Zane Gray and Mark Twain. The great depression taught her the importance of being a steward of the land and protecting their family by preserving food and good land practices.

Years later, I am returning to this homestead and both her stories and new stories about this time in history. Join me in my adventures both through my characters and the stories they have to share. My website is www.jodonahue.com.





February 2025

Deborah Grochau

Deborah Grochau grew up loving history. Perhaps, it was because she was born in Delaware, the first state to ratify the Constitution. Her passion for history led her to travel throughout the United States and to study in Europe. When she moved to California and started teaching junior high school, she discovered that not everyone loved history as much as she did. Her students weren't interested in history that was chronologically and geographically distant from their own experiences. Those eighth graders taught her that students are more interested when they can relate to what they are learning. The same is true for readers.

Now retired from teaching, Deborah writes historical novels with universal themes she hopes will appeal to her former students (now adults) and other readers. Sign up for her newsletter to follow her progress toward publication. www.deborahjoangrochau.com



March 2025

Emily Patton

As a child, Emily lived in the country outside Fresno and spent time telling stories to calves. In college, she published short stories and poems in collegiate magazines, along with writing feature articles for both the school newspaper and the local press. Her working career spanned forty-five years of preparing financial documents and writing financial staff reports for local governments. Over the years, her passion for story telling never eased, and she wrote drafts of six novels (none published--yet) and numerous short stories. Now retired, she plans to hone her writing skills and publish her first novel, a supernatural fantasy about sasquatch. She has been a member of California Writer's Club Walnut Creek and Sacramento Branches before joining the San Joaquin Branch. She enjoys being part of a community of writers. She lives in Modesto with her husband and assorted cats.

