



CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB  
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## WRITERS CLUB MARKS 100 YEARS WITH TIME CAPSULE, MAP, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The 100-year-old California Writers Club has announced centennial plans that include a time capsule for which people are invited to submit ideas on what print media will be like a few decades from now. Additionally, there will be a literary landmark map, Centennial website, anthology, contests, workshops and conferences for members and the general public.

“Our board of directors met at the California Board Room in Disneyland to launch our centennial year,” explained CWC president Casey Wilson. “We tied in with their 2009 theme of celebration to underscore our excitement about 100 years of literary history.”

California had only been a state for about 50 years when Jack London and some of his friends started meeting. California had produced writers before, but suddenly there were enough of them to band together to support one another in their struggles. These gatherings became the California Writers Club, the oldest professional writing organization in the West. Today the CWC has 16 branches throughout the state.

“We mentor and encourage our members in the art and craft of writing,” said Wilson. “The centennial is a great chance for us to not only spread that word, but at the same time, to talk about what California writers have contributed to the world’s perception of our nation. They described the gold rushes, the frontier and the Wild West. Jack London, Mark Twain and Bret Harte cemented the notion that our borders extended from sea to shining sea. Others, like Helen Hunt Jackson, Upton Sinclair and John Steinbeck, have spoken out against injustice and fought for important changes.”

Among special events planned by the branches, the East Sierra Branch will tour a family and oral history workshop and the Redwood Branch will bring programs to schools. The South Bay and Redwood branches have also hosted writing workshops in January, and the Redwood Writers Conference will take place on October 24 at the Flamingo Hotel and Resort in Santa Rosa. The San Francisco / Peninsula Branch will hold the two-day Jack London Writers Conference October 10-11 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City.

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