

Published Writers of Rossmoor Featured Author for May 2017 -
Addie Mattox

Barbara Kirbach, PWR Publicity Board Member and Featured
Authors Coordinator

Addie Mattox will be the
Published Writers of
Rossmoor's (PWR) club
Featured Author during the
month of May 2017. Addie
will have a book display in the
Rossmoor Library in May
2017.

"Saigon USA" is a novel that
was inspired by Loc Barnes, a
Rossmoor resident and
realtor. After writing Loc's
story at the request of her
family, Addie became
intrigued by the unique
challenges faced by
Vietnamese immigrants who
decided to leave their home
country after the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.



In preparation to the writing of "Saigon USA," the authoress
interviewed immigrants living in California, Wisconsin, and
Australia. She also interviewed Vietnamese Americans Tony To
and Trang Robinson.

The story is set in 1990. Callie O'Neil is an English Second
Language teacher at night and a middle school English teacher in
the day. She inadvertently becomes involved when Tran, the only
Vietnamese student in school, is victimized by bullies. Callie's
relationship extends to Tran's family, which leads to romance and

difficult decisions.

Callie's adult students pour out their lives in their memoirs. Cam, one of the best writers in the class, invites Callie to her family's reunion where multi-generational family members weave a colorful pattern of their Vietnamese past experiences and their lives in America. Some family members remain bitter, others confused, but most are hopeful as they continue to thrive economically and socially in their new "adopted" country.

"Saigon USA" delves into the hearts, hopes, pasts and future aspirations of one "Americanized" family: the older generation holds firmly to their Vietnamese roots; a middle generation continues to keep one foot in each country; but, the members of the "youngest" generation are "thoroughly" American.

Her first novel, "Hot Air and Love," published in 2014, features a female hot air balloon pilot in Kenya.

Addie attended the University of Toronto, and later graduated from California State University. She also completed the University of California Los Angeles Masters in English as a Second Language. She has been an English instructor in classes for foreign adults in Los Angeles. In 1971, she joined IBM as a market support analyst, and subsequently graduated with a Master's in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. At a technology trade show, the authoress met Gray Mattox, whom she then married in 1974.

Addie Mattox started an independent consulting firm, specializing in automated office systems. Her clients included several oil and gas companies, who hired her to work in Scotland, Peru, France, Canada and England.

In the 1980's, Addie and Gray Mattox opened a B&B in Glen Ellen, just north of Sonoma. She describes these years as "most" challenging, because of multiple work-related responsibilities: she continued to work as a full-time consultant, as well as regularly

cooking “gourmet” breakfasts for her guests.

The couple moved to Rossmoor in 2006 to be close to their daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters, who live in Orinda. Addie is well known in the Rossmoor retirement community as a pickle ball player and instructor. She has won many tournaments, including the Senior Nationals. Before she discovered pickle ball, she was a dedicated tennis player.

“Saigon USA” can be purchased from [Amazon](#). Interested readers can borrow this book, at no cost, from the Rossmoor Library.