

Published Writers of Rossmoor Featured Author for August 2016 -  
Mary Lou Peters Schram

By Barbara Kirbach, PWR Publicity Board Member and Featured  
Authors Coordinator

The Published Writers of Rossmoor (PWR) will honor Mary Lou Peters Schram to commemorate the launch of her sixth, self-published novel, "What Should We Do About Annette?" with a display in the Library this August 2016.

"What Should We Do About Annette" is about the Prescott siblings - sisters Leslie and Connie, and brother Alan, who have survived a miserable five years when their parents fell into dementia and had to be cared for by their children. Now, the parents have died, and all three children have separately left their homes in New York and moved to San Francisco to restart their careers and find a happy life.



And why shouldn't they? They are all attractive, energetic and well-educated? There is only one flaw in their new upward progress and that is Annette, Alan's recently divorced wife, who is none of the above.

Early on, Schram knew she wanted to write fiction. She grew up in northern Ohio and graduated from Bennington College in Vermont, where she studied writing with, among others, Howard Nemerov, later to be named US Poet Laureate. After a period of working in New York for Lever Brothers and Time Magazine, she

married and in 1970 moved to San Francisco to work in public relations and advertising.

She published a suspense novel, "Stranger in the Dark," with Berkeley Books in 1972. For four years, she was advertising and publicity director for KCBS Radio, the then number one station in the market. In 2004, she published "KLIK" a story about the highly charged atmosphere of major market radio in the 70's.

After she moved to Sonoma in 2007, Schram published "Taddy and Her Husbands," a story of a 17-year-old runaway in San Francisco in the 60's, who made a career of marrying wealthy men. Upon moving to Rossmoor in 2009, the author published "Pursuing Happiness - One More Time," a humorous novel about women living in an adult retirement community and still looking for love. Nancy Kaye, in a 2009 review for the "News" wrote "...the book is sure to pique the interest of Rossmoor residents."

In 2012, Schram published "Molly's Leap," the story of a young mother's escape from her humdrum life by getting involved in the California property frenzy. The book was based on the author's own experience in buying and renovating rundown rental properties. In his review of the book, Doug Hergert called Schram "...an entertaining, stylish and provocative writer..." and said the book "...held the reader on a sharp emotional edge."

Her fifth book, "The Light in Her Window," was published in 2014. The novel followed the life of a couple who married at 20 years of age and raised a family in the rapidly changing California of the previous 50 years. Doug Hergert praised this book for being "...deftly structured and beautifully thematic - the denouement as an unexpected blending of the past and present."

To further improve her writing skills and career, Schram has been a long-time member of Mary Webb's writing class. She has also served on PWR's Board of Directors and has been Program Chairperson for the past three years. She is a member of the Rossmoor Democratic Club and contributes articles for this

newspaper's Progressive View Column.

This year she is planning to move to Washington DC, to be closer to her son, daughter and three grandchildren—one of whom is also an equally talented writer like her grandmother.