

Member Spotlight

Anne Koch



By Cindy Harris

For such a petite figure, the size of Anne Koch's human connection is striking. All who meet her are drawn in by her ability to balance good listening skills and easy conversation; skills honed from years spent as an educator.

After graduating from UCLA with advanced degrees from Saint Mary's College of California and the University of San Francisco, Anne went on to become an educator at several prestigious schools, including De La Salle High School in Concord and Santa Clara University. Throughout her career she received a number of awards: "LaSallian Educator of the Year," Chapman University College "Teacher of the Year," and "Outstanding Teacher Award" from the University of California, San Diego.

As most educators can attest, the rewards go hand in hand with the challenges. One such challenge happened one day when an angry parent stormed into the school demanding to speak to the principal. A sharp secretary intercepted the agitated parent and explained that the principal was off campus. Truth be told, Anne was in fact the principal in disguise as the secretary. A difficult situation was avoided, and good material to be used for a future essay earned. *Fact is grander than fiction.*

After decades of writing academic papers for college courses, Anne decided to write, as she says, "As a way to figure out what I thought about questions that mattered to me but no one ever talked about." On a good work day, Anne will commit to four or five hours of uninterrupted writing with her Welsh corgi at her feet.

Anne's first book, **It's All About the Story-Composing a Life in Books**, is a collection of twenty-two essays giving tribute to popular fiction books. According to Anne, "The book brings to light places and times where books, especially popular mysteries and detective fiction, make a difference in our increasingly technology-focused world. It's about celebrating books in the midst of an electronic age, which threatens remembering the past and the lesson we're to learn from it."

When not writing, Anne loves to make things with her hands. She is an accomplished porcelain painter and calligrapher. Photos on Anne's website, <http://www.anneayerskoch.com/>, attest to her talent as an artist.

You might (or might not) find Stephenie Meyer and J.K. Rowling books in Anne's personal library, but you will find a few books by Ann Patchett, P.D. James and Robert Dugoni. A self-proclaimed mystery junkie, when Anne puts down her tome of murder and mystery, she delves into writing the reflective truth of her own genre of narrative essay seasoned with memoir flecks.

Anne is currently at work on **Sense Making Through a Paint Box Prism**, her second book of essays in a three set series. If it is anything like her first book, it will be another well thought out breezy read that is hard to put down. And if you should ever go to one of Anne's book signing events—ask for identification, the author may be an imposter.