

In the wine country town of Healdsburg, California, writers, in poetry and prose, write about the town they love. Sometimes reverent, sometimes irreverent, their musings hold up a mirror for locals and offer a charming memento for visitors. Color illustrations.

A Day in the Life of Healdsburg

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Healdsburg Literary Guild
Healdsburg Arts Council

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by Ray Degischer

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Healdsburg Literary Guild

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PREFACE

Healdsburg has been the inspiration for this collection of writings. In the spring of 2002 the Healdsburg Literary Guild embarked on a workshop open to all writers of our area and led by Guy Biederman of Santa Rosa Junior College with Armando Garcia-Dàvila, Healdsburg's Literary Laureate for 2002-2003. The group met four times, in four seasons. We chose areas of interest — the downtown plaza, close-by shops, an art gallery, the cemetery, the hospital, the police department, the farmers' market, the museum, and the animal shelter to write about.

After going off to our places of choice, we began observing and writing. We then reconvened to share our efforts and hear ideas on how to improve or expand upon our first drafts. Final manuscripts were forwarded to the editors for further evaluation. In a subsequent workshop, stories were added. The book in your hands is the result of those efforts.

Although our focus is on Healdsburg, we writers are not the chamber of commerce and we did not write to publicize our town. Writers often express themselves in quirky ways, and, as with our annual Graveside Readings, the selections are both reverent and irreverent. In any event, we do hope you enjoy these vignettes of Healdsburg as seen through the eyes of local writers.

Vilma Ginzberg

Walk 5

Early Monday Morning in a Quaint Upscale Town

around the town square
slants of empty parking spaces
wear oil-stained echoes of
yesterday's weekend bustle

lithe bicyclists
helmets wider than their thighs
sip their usual lattés
before the happening coffee place
itself being wakened
by morning newsprint
and Arabica

whiffs of cinnamon on new-baked muffin
escape the down-home bakery
waft their way like warm mother love
softly embracing abandoned corners
and empty benches

moist-eyed traffic lights blink
under faded lids
to no one in particular

garbage trucks using human hands
collect trash bags bulging
with last night's revelry, scraps

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Healdsburg Plaza Gazebo

from the jazz club gone mute
the movie house gone blind
the brewery pub gone dry
a trio of white-haired ladies
poured into pastel sweat suits
decide which neighborhood to power-walk today

last night's fog, sneaking away
like errant lover around the park's
ancient sentinel trees
mists the high-end shop windows
rendering their curtained couture fashions
as unattainable as a nurse's care
to the large, bearded black man
talking aloud to someone present
only to him

he wends his bull way
through the china-shop town
in each hand an oversized, overstuffed
black trash bag
in his ears the cacophony of a shattered life
wisps of highway overpass
stuck to his shoes

the town stretches,
yawns,
gets dressed for the day.

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