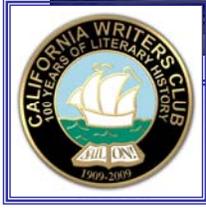




# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2011



**The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch**

**Presents**



## TAMIM ANSARY

Afghan American Author and Lecturer

Tamim directs the San Francisco Writer's Workshop, teaches through the Osher Institute, edits for other authors, and writes fiction and nonfiction about Afghanistan, Islam-and-the-West, democracy, education, history, current events, social issues, his cat, and other topics as they come up!  
<http://www.mirtamimansary.com>

Recently published works:

***West of Kabul, East of New York***, a memoir that depicts how it was to grow up, straddling the two vastly disparate cultures—Afghanistan and America.

***Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes*** which won the Northern California Book Award for Best General Nonfiction of 2009, and has been or is being translated into nine languages including Russian, Dutch, Indonesian, Korean, and Italian

***The Widow's Husband***, a historical novel set in Afghanistan in 1841.

Please join us with this informative speaker to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant. Everyone is welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers. The CWC, Mount Diablo Branch website address is <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.org>

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### February Meeting Details

**Date & Time:** Saturday, February 12, 2011. Check-in begins at 11:30, lunch at 12:00, and the program begins at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zio Fraedo's Restaurant at 611 Gregory Lane (near the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill). Parking is available both in front and behind the restaurant. The restaurant's phone number is (925) 933-9091.

**Cost:** \$20 for CWC members; \$25 for guests (Continued on Page Two)

**Menu:** Zio Fraedo's sumptuous buffet.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, February 9. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at [jeaniegpopps@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniegpopps@comcast.net), or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

**Please Note:** In accordance with our contractual agreement with Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, the club is charged for every reservation confirmed on the day before the meeting. If you are not able to either attend this meeting, or if you do not cancel your reservation prior to noon on the Friday before the meeting, you will be asked to remit a \$20 "no-show" payment.

## ***Coming Attractions ~ Upcoming Speakers for 2011***

**March 12:** Workshop - Carla King, Self Publishing

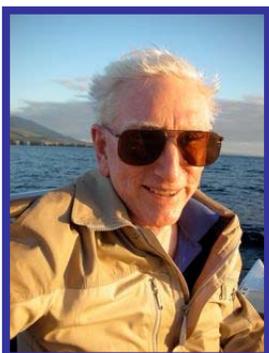
**April 9:** Naomi Epel – Author and Publicist

**May 21:** Young Writers Banquet - Abigail Samoun, Editor

**June 11:** Workshop - Jeff Carlson, fiction & non-fiction author  
Writing Process/Selling One's Work

## **President's Message**

***By Lee Paulson***



What would February be without a nod to Valentine's Day? Red roses, chocolate, and dinner are gifts touted as essential items a gal just has to have or some poor guy will get a demerit. Someone is missing a bet by not peppering the media with the message, "Give her a romantic book." A quick search of Amazon under the words Romantic Books turned up 1 of 209,379 results. Romantic Novels garnered 20,021 results including 423 Romantic Vampire novels, 284 Westerns, and 120 Time Travel – something for everyone. How can a guy go wrong with such a choice? Ladies, you need to weigh in on this issue. The guys need some guidance.

The next decision is whether to buy an actual book or give her a download to her Kindle. Of course, there is risk of being labeled a cheapskate by spending \$6.99 or even 99 cents versus thirty dollars or so for those long stem roses. She wouldn't think much of an electronic image of a dozen roses. Personally, I would recommend a hardcover, real paper book with a sexy cover, gift wrapped with a pretty bow.

We received feedback from several of our members that the sound system needs improvement at the Zio's luncheon. Those sitting in the back of the room had trouble hearing our guest speaker. We are working to improve the situation for future meetings.

Looking ahead, the CWC Mt. Diablo Branch website has undergone a major redesign to provide more information, a new look and user-friendly features. Board member Aline Soules is leading this effort.

The popular **Buck-A-Book** sale will be held at the February meeting. Bring your gently used books and for a dollar each, buy a new title or two. All money raised goes to support our Young Writers Contest.

## Member Profile

*By Catherine Accardi*

Member Profile: *Veronica Rossi*



Veronica Rossi was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Growing up, she lived in Mexico, Venezuela, and finally in California. Veronica says that "...when I landed in California as a teen, I knew I was home."

She attended UCLA for undergraduate work, and then had a change of heart, deciding she wanted to pursue fine art instead of a business career, and went back to the California College of the Arts in Oakland/San Francisco. Veronica says she loved school and wished she could be in school forever. Now, she is married with two sons. "They are really cool kids. My husband isn't bad either!"

Veronica began writing seven years ago when she and her family purchased their first family laptop. Her son was one and a half at the time. She had always been a creative person, but in the visual arts. Veronica studied oil painting after college and spent a semester in Italy.

For a long time, that was what she wanted to do, but, when her son was born, it became too difficult to carve out the hours needed to set up her studio and paint. So, when her husband brought home a laptop for work, Veronica confiscated it and began to type out a story, and was surprised at how quickly and deeply she fell in love with writing.

Veronica is currently completing the first book of a trilogy for young adults. It is a futuristic romance with, as she explains, lots of adventure! Lots of romance! This, her first book, is due to be released in the Winter of 2012 by HarperCollins.

She says she always thought there was some sort of magical process to getting a book deal. Some invisible barrier that separated published authors from aspiring authors. Now she knows that it's just about lots and lots of hard work and networking, as well as a dab of luck. "Someone once told me getting published is about 3 P's. Persistence. Patience. Passion. I agree, and would add a fourth P., People".

To the California Writers Club members who are trying to be published, Veronica would like to say, "Keep working hard. Put your work out there. Listen carefully to the feedback you receive. And keep at it!

HarperCollins picked up Veronica Rossi's futuristic Romeo and Juliet YA (young adult) trilogy for publication in September. Now, after a bidding war, a deal has been signed with Warner Brothers to turn her stories into a motion picture epic.



## Membership News

**By Catherine Accardi**  
Membership Chair

Here I am, the new CWC-Mount Diablo Branch Membership Chair!

In my first month of active duty, I am pleased to report that we have three new members in our Branch. They are:

- ~ C. "Gus" Kritikos - Associate
- ~ Marlene B. Vasilieff - Associate
- ~ Joan Wahl-Countryman - Associate

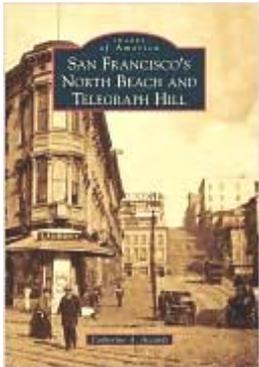
We are happy to have you in CWC. Please make our new members feel welcome as they join us in upcoming meetings. As of February 2011, our Branch has a total of 148 members. Let's continue to promote our wonderful club and add to that grand total.



## Member Events, News and Salutes



**Aline Soules** was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for her poem, *Apart*. The poem was published in the Houston Literary Review and Qarttsiluni. The nomination itself is a great honor. Congratulations, Aline.

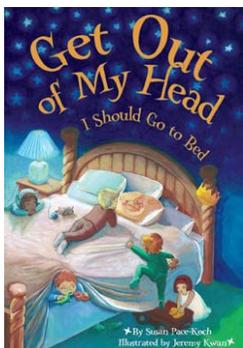


**Catherine Accardi** will be one of the participants in the San Francisco History Expo to be held on Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13. This event will take place at the historic San Francisco Mint at 88 Fifth Street, between Market and Mission Streets. The History Expo will take place both days from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Catherine will represent the Telegraph Hill section of North Beach with a PowerPoint presentation, historic vintage images, and her latest book for sale, *San Francisco's North Beach and Telegraph Hill*.

## More Member News and Salutes



An exhibit based upon **Nina Egert's** photographic essay *Noguchi's California: Poetic Visions of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Dharma Bum* will be presented by the Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park in conjunction with The Vinapa Foundation. The exhibit will be on display from February 12 through June 2011 at Peralta Hacienda, 2465 34th Ave. at Hyde in Oakland. [www.peraltahacienda.org](http://www.peraltahacienda.org)  
The author will be available for a book signing event, which additionally features a presentation of Japanese tea ceremony and flower arranging by students of Yoshie Akiba of Kojin-an Zendo. The event takes place on Saturday, February 12, 2:30-5:00 p.m.



**Susan Pace-Koch** has recently released the first book in a series of 'Get Out Books' entitled *Get Out Of My Head, I Should Go To Bed*. This is a picture book about kids who can't go to sleep because they have too much going on in their heads (this applies to adults too!) The second book, *Get Outside for an Adventure Ride*, 2012, will also be beautifully illustrated by Jeremy Kwan. Susan invites everyone to visit her website at <http://www.getoutbooks.com/>



**Veronica Rossi's** debut, a dystopian YA romance trilogy called *Under the Never Sky*, sold to HarperCollins in September in a major deal and has since been quietly selling internationally. Now, after being sold in 20 markets (and landing six, six-figure advances in those foreign sales) the book is headed to Hollywood. Warner Brothers has optioned the series, for feature adaptation, beating out both Summit Entertainment (which produced the Twilight saga) and Fox. Creative executive Chris Gary acquired the dramatic rights. The books, which are set in the future and are being billed as a post-apocalyptic Romeo & Juliet, were bought at auction by HC.

### **Calling All Members! Would You Like To Be Saluted?**

We would like to salute you in *The Write News*. We want you to share your good news! Have you had a sale, have an upcoming author event, or have you been published recently? (Whether paid or not.) If so, we would like to share your good news. Let your newsletter Editor know by providing your name and news, along with a photo if you would like. Contact Lyn Roberts at [editingonline@astound.net](mailto:editingonline@astound.net).



## From the Editor's Desk

*By Lyn Roberts*

As I begin the new task of Newsletter Editor, I find myself living that old adage, 'Until You Walk in Someone Else's Shoes.' In this case, as I write this, I am experiencing the awesome responsibility of filling the shoes of Catherine Accardi, your previous Editor. It is indeed a daunting mission. Deadlines, Drafts, Lists, Updates. Yikes! We have showered her with awards and our thanks, yet this seems insufficient until you jump in with both feet and then - You Get It! You live it. I am now aware of what is truly required to complete this task, month after month. Mind you, I am not complaining – honest! I simply find myself in the unique position of having the ability to fully appreciate her effort and accomplishment. And I want to say so. Thank you, Catherine. Job well done!

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## The CWC-Mount Diablo Branch Critique Group

*By Ted Wells, Critique Group Chair*

Dear CWC Critiquers,

As usual, we will meet at the Pleasant Hill Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, in the bar area, at 9:30-11:00 a.m., prior to the general meeting. Please drop in.

February 12<sup>th</sup>: [Four score and seven years ago...Critique Meeting Agenda](#)

- Short Discussion Topic: "How to Make Your Short Stories and Your Short, Short Stories Irresistible." 15 minutes.
- Oral and written critique on a non-fiction short story and a non-fiction short, short story. 30 minutes.
- Oral and written critique on a TV pilot or a poem. 30 minutes.
- Pass out new pieces from all attendees for oral and written critiques at our next meeting. Request short discussion topic ideas for next meeting. 15 mins.

I look forward to 5-10 typed pages of your manuscripts on any genre, fiction or nonfiction, for someone to critique. See you Saturday, February 12.

**To our great works.**



### ***The Back Fence***

*Don't forget* to hang out at our **Back Fence**.

That would be our Mount Diablo branch site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>. At The Fence you will find topics of interest to writers. You can also sign-up for Back Fence e-mails. If you haven't yet joined the Back Fence, go to the link above and follow the simple sign-up process.



## ***Call For Volunteers***

### **Would You Like To Be A Volunteer For Your Writers Club?**

Would you not want to further the mission of our writers club? Our mission, as defined on our statewide club website is: *"Educating writers of all abilities in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work"*. Sounds like a good plan to me. Our writers club runs smoothly thanks to our talented and dedicated volunteers. Our board members are volunteers, our program chairs are volunteers, and all the other people who assist with various projects and tasks are volunteers. We want you to be our next volunteer. For more information about what opportunities are available to you, contact Membership Chair, Catherine Accardi, at [caacat@comcast.net](mailto:caacat@comcast.net)

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## **New Website - Check It Out!**

***By Aline Soules, Board Member and Online Coordinator***

**Website news (<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.org>)**

As we develop our new web site, there are a couple of "helps" we need from you:

1. If you had publications or a blog or a website on the previous web site, this information has been moved to the new web site. Please check and make sure everything's both current and accurate. If not, send me an email ([soulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:soulesa@yahoo.com)) The pages you want to visit are these:
  - a. Members' Websites/Blogs
  - b. Members' Books
  - c. Members' Writing Awards
2. If you have additions to any of these pages, please also send them to me.

You will also note that we have a couple of additional postings on our home page. Of course, there's always a notification about our upcoming program, which is linked to the full information on a new page called Next Program, but there is also a post about the Young Writers Workshops, coming up soon, and a post will appear each month to remind you of our Critique Group.

Eventually, we plan more posts about events, upcoming writing opportunities, and so on, but it all takes time to put together, so please be patient.

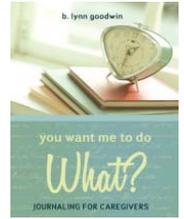
We welcome your suggestions.

Aline Soules  
Online Chair

## Writer's Markets Column

Looking for new places to submit your writing? In an effort to meet the needs of our membership, CWC—Mount Diablo now offers a "Writer's Markets" column in our monthly newsletter.

We need your help to make it as strong as possible. If you know of a publication that is seeking writers, please send their information to CWC member B. Lynn Goodwin, who will be writing the column. Her e-mail is [Lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net).



## Markets & Agents Compiled by B. Lynn Goodwin



Writers should know their audience, and I know that everyone of you has different material reaching out to different demographics. So here's another eclectic collection of people actively looking for prose and poetry from new voices.

Deadline: 2/11/2011

Submit to: Amy Knox Brown, Director of the Salem College Center for Women Writers, 601 South Church Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Entry Fee: \$15 First Prize: \$1,200

Type: Poetry (100 lines MAX), short stories, and essays (5,000 words MAX)

URL: [Salem College Center for Women Writers 2011 International Literary Awards](#)

Deadline: 2/15/2011

Submit to: 2011 Expatriate Travel Writing Contest. Type "Expatriate Writing Essay Entry" in the subject description of the e-mail. [Email Address](#)

Entry Fee: None First Prize: \$500 plus publication

Type: Essays (3,000 words MAX)

URL: [2011 Expatriate Travel Writing Contest](#)

Deadline: 2/15/2011  
Submit to: Passager, 1420 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-5779  
Entry Fee: \$20  
First Prize: \$500 plus publication  
Type: Poetry (5 poems, 40 lines MAX per poem). ONLY writers over 50  
URL: <http://www.ubalt.edu/passager/guidelines.htm>

Deadline: 2/20/2011  
Submit to: Tiny Lights Publications, P.O. Box 928, Petaluma, CA 94953  
Entry Fee: \$15  
First Prize: \$350 plus publication  
Type: Essays (2,000 words MAX)  
URL: <http://www.tiny-lights.com/contest.php>

Deadline: 2/28/2011  
Submit to: CutBank's Patricia Goedicke Prize in Poetry, Montana Prize in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction. Online Form  
Entry Fee: \$17  
First Prize: \$500 plus publication  
Type: Poetry (5 poems MAX), short stories, and essays (40 pages MAX)  
URL: <http://www.cutbankonline.org/page/contests>

Deadline: 3/1/2011  
Submit to: CONTEST, Selected Shorts, Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway, New York, NY 10025 or Online Form  
Entry Fee: \$25  
First Prize: \$1,000 plus tickets to Selected Shorts at Symphony Space, when the prizewinning story will be read.  
Type: Short stories (750 words MAX) on the topic of "Restaurants and Bars"  
URL: [http://www.pw.org/content/stella\\_kupferberg\\_memorial\\_short\\_story\\_prize](http://www.pw.org/content/stella_kupferberg_memorial_short_story_prize)

Deadline: 3/1/2011  
Submit to: St. Petersburg Review, Attention: Contest, Box 2888, Concord, NH 03302  
Entry Fee: \$15  
First Prize: \$1,000 plus publication  
Type: Poetry (3 poems MAX)  
URL: <http://www.stpetersburgreview.com/events.html>

Deadline: 3/1/2011  
Submit to: The Willow Springs Fiction Prize, Willow Springs, 501 N Riverpoint Blvd, Ste 425, Spokane, WA 99202  
Entry Fee: \$15  
First Prize: \$2,000 plus publication  
Type: Short stories  
URL: <http://willowsprings.ewu.edu/contests.php>

If you decide to give one or more markets a try, I hope you'll write to me at [Lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net) and tell me about the response you get.

## 2011 Annual Young Writers Contest

### Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

The Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club invites you to support the young writers of today by honoring the great California writers of the past. Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs. Your gift will be acknowledged in the Young Writers Contest program and in the Mount Diablo CWC newsletter. In addition, all donations are tax-deductible. The Young Writers Contest Committee and the Mt. Diablo Board of Directors wish to thank the following donors to the Young Writers Contest from July 1, 2010, to the present:

#### Foundation Donors

*The Leroe Family Foundation*

#### The Jack London Founder's Circle

*Christine Sunderland*

#### The John Muir Member Club

*Beverley Lauderdale in memory of  
Betty Tenney*

#### The Mary Austin Writers Club

*Sarah Wilson in memory of Sue Tasker  
Edward Stanislawski  
David George in memory of Virgie Jones*

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#### The John Steinbeck Society

*Barbara Bentley*

#### The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club

*Joanne Brown  
Nina Egert  
B. Lynn Goodwin  
Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of  
Al and Elmer Koehler  
Karen Tenney in memory of Betty Tenney*

#### The Helen Hunt Jackson Group

*Betty Iverson*

#### The Gertrude Atherton Guild

*Vicky Berry  
Ann Damaschino  
Nanette Cooper McGuinness*

This annual Young Writers Contest for middle school students of Contra Costa County awards cash prizes for excellence in short story, poetry, and essay/personal narrative categories. Winners are notified in May and presented with their awards at an awards luncheon in May 2011, at a local restaurant. All expenses of the program are supported by individual donations and grants. Please join us in this unique program for encouraging our youth toward creative writing.

~ The Jack London Founder's Circle - \$500

~ The John Steinbeck Society - \$250-\$499

~ The John Muir Member Club - \$150-\$249

~ The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club - \$100-\$149

~ The Mary Austin Writers Club - \$50-\$99

~ The Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10-\$24

~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

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Please list my membership in the following donor club: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (checks or cash only, please)

Acknowledge my gift in honor of/in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: *CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch*      Mail check to:

CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, Attention: Young Writers Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507

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Please consider joining a Donor Club in support of our Annual Young Writers Contest. Your gift furthers our mission to provide support and encouragement not only to our adult writers, but also to identify and reward excellence among Contra Costa County middle school students. Your gift enables our club to continue and to expand our outreach to young writers. You can designate a gift in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one. Your gift is fully tax deductible. Thank you to all our members who generously donated to the 2010 Young Writers Contest. It was the best ever! Please consider joining one of our Donor Clubs again this year to support the next generation of California writers who look forward to entering the 2011 contest. They are depending on you!



**California Writers Club~Mount Diablo Branch**  
**Post Office Box 606**  
**Alamo, CA 94507**

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**California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch**

*~ The California Writers Club is a designated 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. ~*

***Join Us!***

**Our next CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch meeting  
(with a speaker presentation)  
is on February 12, 2011, at 11:30, in Pleasant Hill.  
For detailed meeting information, go to  
<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.org>)**

The California Writer's Club (CWC) shall foster professionalism in writing, promote networking of writers with the writing community, mentor new writers, and provide the literary support for writers and the writing community as is appropriate through education and leadership. All items in this newsletter are the opinions of the author(s) and do not in any way represent the views or official position of CWC.