

The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2011

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch
Presents

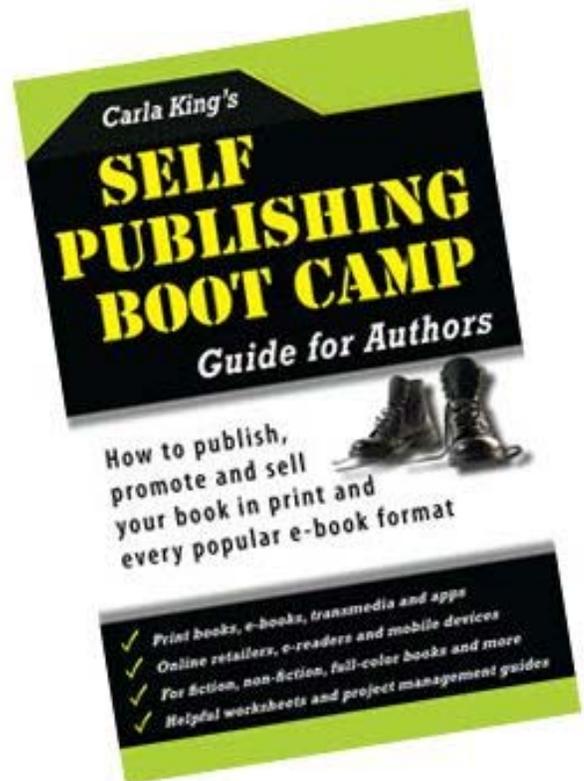
Self-Publishing BOOT CAMP

SELF-PUBLISHING WORKSHOP & LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 12 – 9 am to 12:30 p.m.

Member registration is \$35, or \$40 for non-CWC members; contact Jean at jeaniegpopps@comcast.net. Sign-in is 9 – 9:30 am, Workshop 9:30 – 12:30, and lunch from 12:30 – 1:30. Meeting Details on Page 2.

PUBLISH, PROMOTE, AND SELL YOUR BOOK OF ANY GENRE IN PRINT AND EVERY POPULAR E-BOOK FORMAT !

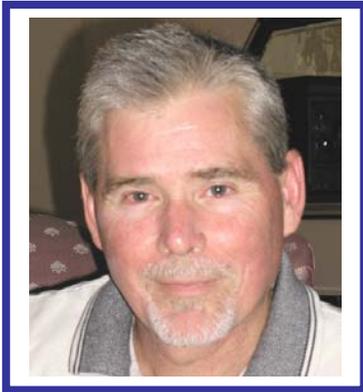
Modern technology—especially the Internet—gives authors new options between traditional publishing houses and “vanity presses.” Learn all about these options, from preparing a book for publication to helping it sell, sell, sell!



Carla King has been an unapologetic self-publisher since 1994 when she published *Cycling the French Riviera: Day trips between the sea and the Alps*. In 2001 her writing group self-published *Wild Writing Women: Stories of World Travel*, which was picked up by a traditional publishing house. E-books and magazines she has produced include *Motorcycling for Beginners*, *Ireland: The Sacred and the Profane*, *Taking Flight: An Offering for First-Time Travelers*, and *Writing: Your Passport to Life*.

Find out more at CarlaKing.com.

Jack London Award Winner for 2011 is David George



David George is the recent Mt. Diablo Branch Past-President of the California Writers Club and is serving his third year as Vice President of the State CWC Organization. He has also served on the board and as an officer of the CWC Berkeley Branch. In various branch and state-level capacities, David has continuously served the CWC since 2004, including as Branch Representative, NorCal Group representative, Vice President, and President, and as a State CWC Director, Vice President, State Membership Chair, Acting President, Central Board Online Forum Moderator, and a member of nearly every Central Board sub-committee.

David has written over 50 short stories and poems and has been published in creative writing venues and newspapers. Mr. George's short stories have won awards, including Best Short Story and Jack London Writing Contest. One of his modern-day fables about the natural world, "The Acorn" was selected for inclusion in the "CWC Westwinds Centennial" anthology. A novel exploring his Irish family roots is in progress. **Congratulations, David.**

March Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, March 12, 2011. Check-in begins at 9:00 – 9:30, Workshop 9:30 – 12:30, Lunch from 12:30 to 1:30

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: \$35 for CWC members; \$40 for guests

Menu: Zio Fraedo's sumptuous buffet.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, March 9. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at 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

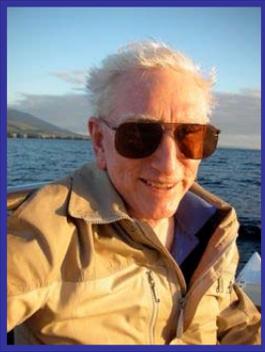
April 9: Naomi Epel – Author and Publicist

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



The gnarled old quince tree in my side yard is in bloom, a sure signal that spring is arriving. Early settlers delighted in the astringent fruit, although it has fallen out of favor in recent times. A cantankerous friend of mine contends there are only five basic quince recipes in the world and that the golden yellow fruit is best used for decoration. Bay Area residents love our local farmer's markets. In season, quince shows up along with just about any other fruit and vegetable.

A similar cornucopia of writing events and expert knowledge is available in our area. CWC Mt. Diablo sits like a traffic circle with seminars, classes, workshops, conferences, speakers and teachers swirling around us. All you have to do is reach out and participate.

To list a few activities that recently crossed my email path: Words-in-Bloom Writers Workshop, How to write a query letter, Self-Publishing Bootcamp, Poetry workshop, Screenplay to novel, Novel to screenplay (the grass is always greener), Contests, Cool websites for writers, and Creating e-books for Kindle and the like. Watch CWC Tidbits for announcements of coming attractions.

Speaking of contests, the San Mateo County Fair has expanded its award categories: Graphic Novel, Children's Novel, Young Writers, Creative Writing Scholarship, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Non Fiction, Memoirs, Mystery, Immigrant Experience, Poetry, Essay, and Short Story. Deadline for entries is April 29, 2011. Visit their website www.SanMateoCountyFair.com or phone (650)574-3247. Write. Enter. Nothing wrong with winning a little prize money.

A wealth of experience and support is available to you as a CWC member. A growing, active and vibrant branch attracts new members and outstanding speakers such as February's speaker, Tamim Ansary, who captivated the audience.

Yield to the urge to participate. The more you do, the more you gain. Talk to any board member, they won't bite. The white nametags showing their name and function are easy to identify.

Writers helping writers, that's what it's all about.

Lee Paulson,
President

Member Profile

By Catherine Accardi

Profile: George (Ted) Wells



Ted Wells' career officially began in June of 1965 with graduation from the University of Colorado, Boulder, with a B.S. in Journalism (Technical Writing). He also received three post-graduate diplomas with honors, two from Air Force Officer Photography Schools at Lowry AFB, Denver, Colorado, and one from Automation Institute for Programming and Systems Analysis Information Technology (IT) at Pasadena, California.

Ted worked for 38 years in IT as a programmer, database administrator, teacher, and consultant for numerous Fortune 500 and startup companies including IBM, Wells Fargo Bank, New York Life Insurance Company, and Myspace.com in Los Angeles, New York, San Diego, Italy, San Francisco, and Silicon Valley.

His published writing credits include lifestyle and travel articles, as well as photographer for newspapers and magazines, on-spec assignment from *National Geographic Magazine*, contest winner for *Walking Magazine*, travel writer for the *Contra Costa Times* and the University of Colorado, free-lance photographer with blue ribbons at New Mexico State and a number of exhibits at various venues over the years. In 1988 Ted self-published a technical book entitled *SQL: A Universal Programming Language for the Future: Introduction to Structured Query Language*.

Currently, Ted is self-employed as a full-time writer-photographer with two non-fiction books in progress: *Traveling Around the World – Journeys to Unusual Destinations*, and *A Baby Boomer's Blue Skies – 6 Keys to Opening Doors to the Retirement You've Always Dreamed*.

His favorite reading genres are travel, biography, and historical fiction. He is married with three grown children and lives in Walnut Creek, California, with his wife, Fran. Ted is happy to share, "Even still and always though, my heart's quest is writing, writing, writing."



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.



Membership News

By Catherine Accardi

Membership Chair

More good news this month! Our CWC-Mount Diablo Branch has four new members for the months of February/March. Let's do our best to make the following new members feel welcome and valued.

- ~ Donna Darling – Associate
- ~ Genevieve Monks – Associate
- ~ Erica Ross-Krieger – Associate (Reinstatement)
- ~ Waverly Runion – Youth Affiliate

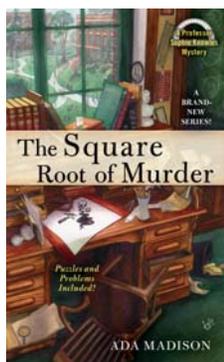
On February 19 and 20, I attended the San Francisco Writers Conference at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. The speakers were at the top of their game and I took away quite a bit of information on many aspects of writing. I was particularly impressed by the number of attendees. The conference usually sells out by January and has been a favorite of writers since the first conference in 2004. It was an amazing gathering of serious, eager adult writers. I spoke with several participants, all of whom expressed interest in the California Writers Club, but none had ever heard of it. What an opportunity, I thought, to recruit enthusiastic new members to our Branches. I plan to attend next year along with ample handouts, assuming the club deems this a worthy endeavor. Would not nice, color brochures be grand! I look forward to another weekend on Nob Hill.



Member Events, News and Salutes



Liz Koehler-Pentacoff sold an article in which she interviewed Editor Abby Levine from Whitman Publishing to *Children's Book Insider*. Congratulations, Liz!



Camille Minichino, using the pen name **Ada Madison** is poised to release a new series of mysteries featuring Professor Sophie Knowles who teaches math at a small college in New England. When murder strikes her campus, Sophie uses her talent for designing and solving puzzles to find the killer. The series debuts in July 2011, with *The Square Root of Murder*.

More Member News and Salutes



An exhibit based upon **Nina Egert's** photographic essay *Noguchi's California: Poetic Visions of a 19th Century Dharma Bum* is being 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



NOTICE TO ALL POETS

The Search is on for a California Senior Poet Laureate

Entries are now being accepted for regional winners in the **19th annual National Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition** for American poets age 50 and older. Deadline is June 30. Wanda Sue Parrott of Central Coast Writers branch of CWC is contest administrator.

Winning poems of state senior poets laureate will be named in July, following which they advance to final rounds of competition from which the winner of the 2011 National Senior Poet Laureate (\$500) and runner up (\$100) awards will be announced Sept. 1.

Contact: Wanda Sue Parrot at 831-899-5887 or amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com

P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821



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.

The Young Writers Program

By Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Share with Contra Costa middle school teachers, principles, librarians and/or students!



Middle school students from all over Contra Costa County participated in two Young Writing Workshops. Taught by Sarah Wilson (Susie) and myself, we focused on writing character, since each year the workshops feature a different theme. Past subjects have included humor, setting, plot, poetry, and the difference between short stories and personal narrative. One year David Alpaugh taught a fantastic poetry session!

Although the humor workshop is the most popular, we had 35 students attend our Concord Library class on January 29 when 23 youngsters took part in the Ygnacio Valley Library gathering the following Saturday.

At each event we began with a literary or writing game, a discussion/participation lecture and writing exercises. Sharing is optional, but once a few kids begin, soon most join in. Questions ranged from those about our contest to writing technique, what kind of careers are available to writers, and how much money we made.

We are fortunate in having high school student Marisa Chow donate her time to be our assistant. In previous years Alesha Heinz contributed her time as our assistant all through her high school years. Both students attended our writing workshops when they were middle school students.

Alesha, now in her first year of college, came home for a visit the same weekend as our Ygnacio Valley workshop, so she was our second assistant. Thank you Marisa and Alesha!

Can YOU help us now?

Spread the word about our contest to any middle school student in our county! Guidelines <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/> and questions answered here <http://lizbooks.wordpress.com/>

PLUS: We are offering FREE AUTHOR IN THE CLASSROOM sessions to middle schools. Poet David Alpaugh and novelist Beverly Lauderdale will teach poetry, short story, or personal narrative workshops. **For more information, e-mail lizbooks@aol.com**



California Writers Club

Mt. Diablo Branch, Contra Costa County

YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

Honoring a New Generation of California Writers

See mtdiablowriters.org for contest information

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Home Address _____

_____ Number & Street City

Zip

Home Phone _____ E-mail Address

School _____

Grade _____

First and Last Name of your English (Creative Writing)

Teacher _____

Manuscript

Title _____

MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES (please check one):

_____ **Short Story (up to 5 pages typed, double-spaced)**

_____ **Poem (up to 30 lines, can be single or double-spaced)**

_____ **Personal Narrative/Essay (up to 3 pages, typed, double-spaced)**

Mail submissions to: Young Writers Contest, California Writers Club, PO Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507

DON'T MISS OUT: Only entries that follow the guidelines EXACTLY will be considered!

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. Contest open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who live in or attend school in Contra Costa County.
2. Submit 2 copies of your manuscript. Do not include artwork or a cover. Your manuscript must be typed or computer generated at 12 point, double-spaced. No staples. Paper clips only.
3. Put your name in the upper left-hand corner of each page. Number each page. Put manuscript title on the first page.
4. Multiple entries are welcome. Each entry must be accompanied by a separate application form (above) or 3x5 card noting: name; home address; home phone; school; grade; e-mail address; teacher; manuscript title; and category.
5. Deadline: Manuscripts must be postmarked by April 1, 2011. Winners will be announced when judging is complete.

6. INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS BY STUDENTS PREFERRED. TEACHERS: PLEASE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO SUBMIT THEIR STORIES AND POEMS THEMSELVES.

Continued on next page

PRIZES: Winning short stories and poems from each grade level will receive \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second prize and \$25 for third prize. The Betty Tenney Essay Award of \$100 will be given to the best personal narrative/essay in each grade. Second and third place prizes may be awarded in this category at the judges' discretion. Prizes will be presented to winners on May 21, 2011, at a lunch banquet. A published author will speak. Parents are welcome.

TEACHERS: We are striving to encourage individual creativity and expression. Do not send entire class assignments. Teachers of winning students will be invited to attend the May 21 banquet.



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

New Website - Check It Out!

By Aline Soules, Board Member and Online Coordinator

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

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) 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.

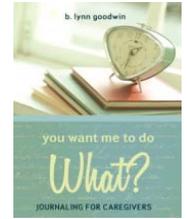
We also welcome your general suggestions.

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.



Markets & Agents

by B. Lynn Goodwin

Only those who submit their work get published. How long has it been since you sent your work out? Why not get started right now?

I'm grateful for this chance to share the contest information that comes to me, and I'd be remiss if I didn't encourage you to submit to Writer Advice's Sixth Annual Flash Prose Contest:

WRITER ADVICE announces its Sixth Annual Flash Prose Contest. Mesmerize us with your best short fiction or memoir up to 750 words. Deadline: April 15. First prize: \$150. Fee: \$10 for processing only or \$20 for detailed evaluation. US dollars please. Visit www.writeradvice.com for complete guidelines. E-mail questions but not submissions to Lgood67334@comcast.net.

Writer Advice accepts simultaneous submissions; so once you've submitted there, consider these sites as well. They were sent last December in a Flash Fiction Winter Solstice workshop:

Apollos Lyre <http://apollos-lyre.tripod.com/>

Concisely <http://www.conciselymagazine.com/>

Decomp: A Literary Magazine <http://www.decompmagazine.com/submit.htm>

Eclectic Flash <http://www.eclecticflash.com/>

Fix It Broken <http://www.fixitbroken.com/index.html>

Moon Milk Review <http://www.moonmilkreview.com/>

Ranlan SpecFic & Webstravaganza www.ralan.com

Smokelong <http://smokelong.com/>

Subtropics <http://www.english.ufl.edu/subtropics/submit.html>

The Micro Award <http://www.microaward.org/>

Thumbnail <http://thumbnailblog.posterous.com/pages/guidelines-2>

Vestal Review <http://www.vestalreview.net/Guidelines.html>

Interested in other genres? Here are a few more opportunities:

See next page:

2011 Writers-Editors Network 28th Annual International Writing Competition is seeking submissions of non-fiction, fiction, children's literature and poetry. Entry fees range from \$3 - \$20 for non members. Members get a 50% discount.

Cash Prizes. Deadline: March 15, 2011

Details at: http://www.writers-editors.com/Writers/Contests/Contest_Guidelines/contest_guidelines.htm

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SEEKING ESSAYS FOR AN ANTHOLOGY BY WOMEN WRITERS ABOUT CRAFT AND THE WRITING PROCESS

Deadline: March 15, 2011

We are gathering a collection of process/craft-based essays by women who span several different generations. We are open to a variety of styles, from the more personal to the more academic. We are looking for essays of 1000-3000 words.

Please send essays to:

elanzobell@gmail.com and agia@hampshire.edu

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: WHISPERING ANGEL BOOKS IS ACCEPTING INSPIRATIONAL SHORT STORIES AND POEMS ABOUT ANIMALS

Deadline: March 15.

They are accepting inspirational short stories and poems illustrating the physical, emotional, and spiritual healing powers of animals for their latest anthology. 1,500 words max. For full guidelines, go to www.whisperingangelbooks.com.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SONG OF THE SAN JOAQUIN IS ACCEPTING POETRY FOR THE SPRING ISSUE.

Deadline: March 15.

Send 3 poems to cleor36@yahoo.com (preferred) or PO Box 1161, Modesto, CA. For more information, contact addresses above or (209) 543-1776.

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Maybe you're not looking for submissions opportunities right now, but if you've slowed down because you are looking for new markets, I hope this eclectic collection will help.

You can find additional listings at <http://www.writeradvice.com/markets.html>.

Please pick and choose, and if you find anything useful, let me know at

Lgood67334@comcast.net.

B. Lynn Goodwin is the owner of Writer Advice, www.writeradvice.com and the author of *You Want Me to Do WHAT? Journaling for Caregivers* (Tate Publishing). She currently writes for StudySync, www.studysync.net, and Caregiver Village, which will be opening soon at www.caregivervillage.com.

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 Vinapa Foundation*

The Mary Austin Writers Club

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

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 Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club - \$100-\$149
- ~ The Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10-\$24
- ~ The John Muir Member Club - \$150-\$249
- ~ The Mary Austin Writers Club - \$50-\$99
- ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

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

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

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 self-publishing workshop)
is on March 12, 2011, at 9:30, in Pleasant Hill.
For detailed meeting information, go to
(www.cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com)**

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.