

The Write News

California Writers Club – Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Publication

June 2009

The California Writers Club~Mount Diablo Branch Presents

Literary Agent Verna Dreisbach



Verna Dreisbach, of Dreisbach Literary Management, will be our guest speaker at the Saturday, June 13, CWC-Mount Diablo Branch meeting. Verna will address the role of the literary agent and what an author's representative can do for a writer. We will learn how best to match an agent to our own particular writing style and genre, how to approach and query an agent, and what happens once we are accepted for representation. She will also discuss the responsibilities of both agent and writer.

Dreisbach Literary Management offers professional representation for distinctive voices for both emerging and experienced writers. Verna has a particular interest in books with a political, economic, or social context. With long experience in law enforcement, she has a deep interest and expertise in the mystery, thriller and true crime genres.

Verna is an award-winning author. She has been featured in books, literary journals, magazines, and newspapers. She serves on the board of directors for the California State University Sacramento Writers Conference. Verna is founder and president of Capitol City Young Writers (www.capitolcityyoungwriters.com), a national organization dedicated to educating and inspiring young writers in grades 6 through 12. For more information regarding Dreisbach Literary Management, check out their website at www.Dreisbachliterary.com.

Please join us for this informative session to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant on June 13. You will find meeting details below. All are welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers. The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch web address is www.mtdiablowriters.org.

June Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, June 13, 2009, from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m.

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

Cost: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Menu: (sit-down luncheon) New York Steak, Salmon, Chicken Parmesan, and Pasta Primavera.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, June 10. To make reservations, contact Betty Iverson, via e-mail at

bjiverson@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 376-3631. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

President's Message

By David George



I am very pleased to report that three of our members have agreed to join our Board of Directors for the upcoming 2009-2010 year. This is the first Mount Diablo Board stint for each of them, so I expect to be inundated with fresh, new ideas about how to make the Club better and more valuable for each of us.

William (Bill) Stong has been a member now for a number of years. As I understand, he has made the recent choice of (mostly) retiring and can now devote more energy to helping us improve the branch. Aline Soules has been an active member for a number of years and is involved in education and community outreach, as well as with her writing. She is a welcomed new addition to the board. And my friend of many years, Elisabeth Tuck, finally answered my prayers and joined the board also. Elisabeth will start her tenure by coordinating our November workshop. A number of our members have benefited from Elisabeth's manuscript editing skills. On behalf of all the Directors, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Bill, Aline, and Elisabeth and welcome them to the leadership team.

I also ask everyone's assistance with another important piece of Club business. Each year, we elect our four new branch officers during the June membership meeting. According to Club rules, we must publish our slate of candidates for each position at least thirty days prior to the meeting and the vote. Here are our candidates for 2009-2010:

President – David George
Vice President – Open
Secretary – Barbara Bentley
Treasurer – Joanne Brown

You see several familiar names on the list. Barbara, Joanne and I have agreed, if elected, to continue in our current positions for this next year. Unfortunately, Julie Dowling cannot continue as Vice President due to her heavy professional and family responsibilities – we will miss you, Julie! No one has stepped up to replace Julie as our V.P.

If you are interested in the V.P. position, or have questions about the other nominees, please call or email our Nominating Committee Chair, Jack Russ (jackruss@mac.com, 925-820-4244), or myself (davegeorge7@comcast.net, 925-255-3018), to let us know of your questions or interest. I hope to see you at the June meeting for this important election.



From The Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

One of our Mount Diablo Branch members has offered the following information. According to the website, www.writing.shawguides.com, there are 120 book conferences in California in 2009. I just must highlight this website because it is definitely worth exploring. Now that is definitely incentive to **Write On!**

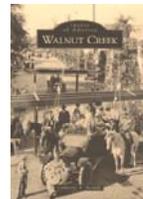
CWC Member's Author Events



CWC - Mount Diablo Branch member and reservations point person, **Betty J. Iverson** will be speaking about her third book, *Journeys to Survival* at a book review group at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Moraga on **October 27th** at 12:30 p.m.



CWC - Mount Diablo Branch Newsletter Editor, **Catherine Accardi**, will be speaking and signing books on Sunday, **June 14** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Shadelands Ranch Museum. This event is in conjunction with the annual Spring Antique Show at the Museum and is sponsored by the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The Museum is located at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.



Sales and Salutes



Lee Paulson's novel, *A Plague of Scoundrels*, is the silver medal winner of the 2009 IPPY (Independent Book Publishers) award, and second place out of 130 entries in the Popular Fiction category.



Christine Sunderland's second novel, *Offerings*, set in France, the second in the trilogy, was released by OakTara this month. OakTara has contracted for the third novel in the series, *Inheritance*, set in England, for the Fall.



Members—Would You Like To Be Saluted? Do You Have an Author Event?

We would like to salute you in *The Write News*. Please let newsletter Editor Catherine Accardi know if you have been published recently, or if we can join you at one of your events. You may contact Catherine at caacat@comcast.net.

Website Review

By **B. Lynn Goodwin**

Summertime and the Reading is Real Good

Summer brings up images of lying in a hammock lost in a book. While this may not be reality, you can still carve out time to read. Looking for book recommendations? Check out the numerous options presented at Goodreads, www.goodreads.com. It's a great site for diversion, entertainment, information, sharing, and pleasure. Goodreads bills themselves as "the largest social network for readers in the world." They have over 2,100,000 members and are a "place for casual readers and bona-fide bookworms alike."

If you want to advertise your books, Goodreads authors program is "a completely free feature designed to help authors reach their target audience — passionate readers." If you write reviews, they can be published here. Connect, share, and promote. You can "share book excerpts and other writing" in a blog available to over 2 million members. I particularly enjoyed the non-fiction book lists found at www.goodreads.com/list/show/tag?name=non-fiction. Though I don't agree with every bias, I like the passion and commitment there.

I've had two invitations to join--one from a professional and one from an aspiring author. Check out Goodreads, www.goodreads.com and, if it is right for you, add your voice to the mix.

Meet Our Member

By Jody Denison



Profile: *Cheryl Vaught*

“Education was my portal into a free and diverse world,” says Cheryl Vaught. She has a degree in Education from Arizona State University and units for a Graduate Major in Social Sciences from U.C. Berkeley. For a woman raised in the isolation of rural Utah, this is no mean feat and what she says is absolutely true. She could have remained in the polygamist cult into which she was born and have the totally benighted life that the victims of this practice endure.

Her family lived in rural Utah and followed a rogue self-styled prophet. The family sheltered the prophet’s plural wives in various trailers scattered among the orchards. Saturday night services with this “church” preceded Sunday services with the mainstream Mormon Church. It was also a time of frantic investigation by the FBI to root out polygamists, jail the men, and “free” the women and children. Homes were raided and what prosecutions there were, were not for polygamy but for related crimes—child abuse, welfare fraud, tax evasion, and extortion. Cheryl’s family was one of those on the “watch” list and whose phone was tapped. After her exodus, Cheryl taught elementary school for thirty years and when she retired, she thought that writing would keep her mind young and active. As it turned out she says her mind is overly active and she’s not young, but she still likes to write.

Cheryl’s first book was *Nina’s Friend*, a middle grade chapter book about two little girls she taught. But her major work was yet to find its way to paper. Since secrecy is the most controlling element in a cult she still finds it very difficult to plumb her inner depths, even years later, and write about it. Cheryl has, however, managed to struggle successfully to do that. She has just completed a young adult novel called *Plural Bride to Be*. Warning young vulnerable minds about the inherent perils of religious cults, such as the one she grew up, in is a noble effort.

Cheryl is married to another CWC member, Jerry Vaught. They have been married forty-two years. They have two married children and two grandchildren who live near them.



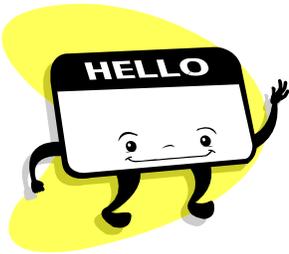
The Tip Bucket

As reported in the December 2008 edition of *The Write News*, the Back Fence has a new feature called the Tip Bucket. Below is an excerpt from "Create Supporting Documents-Market Preparation."

If you’ve reached this step, you have a product to sell. Whether you will go the traditional route with a literary agent and publisher, or veer towards being self-published, you need to be familiar with the market. Publishing is a business and it is necessary to understand the components that will affect the success of your work.

For the complete text of this, and other helpful tips, check out the Tip Bucket at the Back Fence. Members of The Back Fence can visit the website at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence. Click on "Files" at the left of your screen. Do you have any tips to share under the main topics? Do you have another topic you feel needs to be addressed? Members who want to add their tips can open a folder and easily add a file. If you haven't yet joined the Back Fence go to the link above and follow the simple sign-up process.

Conferences



The annual **Jack London Writers Conference** is organized by the San Francisco-Peninsula Branch of the California Writers Club. The inaugural conference was held in 1988 as a fund-raiser to help restore the famed author's cottage in the Jack London State Park. Information on the 18th annual 2009 Jack London Writers Conference can be found below. For more detailed information, go to www.cwc-peninsula.org/conference/index.html



San Francisco / Peninsula California Writers Club

Jack London Writers Conference

October 10 - 11, 2009
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City

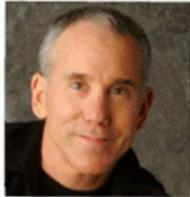


Two Incredible Days with Successful Authors and Teachers!

Four Fantastic Keynote Speakers! 36 Workshops!



Fred Alan Wolf, PhD
"Dr Quantum"
Popular Scientist, Lecturer, Author
Parallel Universes, Taking the Quantum Leap
What is the Blessing



Dan Millman
World Champion Athlete,
Metaphysical Coach
Author of 13 books,
Encounter Enlightenment,
Way of the Zen Buddhist Warrior



Sister Helen Prejean
Southern Storyteller
Author of *Deadwater Writing*,
shares her call into writing
and a vocation ministry.

4th KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Natalie Goldberg. Author of *The Writer's Wild Mind*, *Writing Does the Heavy*,
Old Friends from Far Away - In an exclusive prerecorded interview for this event, Goldberg touches on the main points of the writer's wild mind.

Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles and Mystery Writers of America/SoCal present the California Crime Writers Conference on June 13 and 14 at the Pasadena Hilton. This year's conference is titled "Breaking In and Breaking Out: Plotting the Write Course." For more information go to www.sistersincrimela.com/ccwc.htm, or www.socalmwa.com/ccwc.htm.

The Twentieth Annual Mendocino Coast Writers Conference will take place from July 30 to August 2, 2009 at the College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg. This conference is an intimate group limited to 100 participants where you will be encouraged to find and express your own voice by excellent writers who are outstanding teachers. More information is available at www.mcwc.org, or via email at info@mcwc.org.



Second Tuesday Poetry open mike takes place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Café Voltaire, in Benicia's historic Tannery, at 129 A First Street. More information is available by calling Cafe Voltaire at (707) 319-0876.

Valona Deli featured poetry reading and open mike takes place on every second Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Valona Deli, 1323 Pomona in Crockett. Phone (510) 787-2022 for more information. The series host will be David Alpaugh.

CWC Centennial



On the left is the newly approved colorized, stylized version of the California Writers Club Centennial logo. On the right is a photograph of the Life Member combination of pin and "rocker tab."



Membership Renewal Time By Jody Denison

REMINDER: For all members, your membership expires on June 30, 2009. Dues for the upcoming 2009/2010 year are \$45.00. Mail your check and membership renewal form below to: Membership, CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA, 94507. And don't forget – one of the members who have renewed prior to May 31 will be selected in a drawing for a free lunch at our June meeting.



It's Annual Membership Renewal Time Again!

There really is such a thing as a FREE LUNCH! Renew your Membership by May 31st, and your name will be entered in our drawing for a FREE LUNCH at a future meeting of your choice. Don't wait. **RENEW TODAY!**

Please complete this form, and include it with your \$45 check. We're updating our member database and we want to make sure we have correct information about you. PLEASE print clearly!

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Initial ____ Nickname _____

Mailing Address _____ Main Phone (____) _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____ Other Phone (____) _____

E-Mail Addr. _____ FAX (____) _____

Active Member Associate Member Supporting Member Web Site _____

Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

Security Note: Membership information is not made public at any time.

Make your check for \$45 payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch". Mail this form with your check to : CWC-Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA 94507. If you have any questions call Jody at (925) 838-0058, or e-mail denisonjd@sbcglobal.net.

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

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Vice-President: Julie Dowling
Treasurer: Joanne Brown
Secretary: Barbara Bentley

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Central Board Alternate Rep: Jack Russ
Membership: Jody Denison
Newsletter: Catherine Accardi
Barnes & Noble Fundraiser: Camille Minichino
Programs & Website: Al Garrotto
Branch Historian & Door Prizes: Fran Wojnar
Young Writers Contest: Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff
Publicity: Ann Damaschino
Event Logistics: Danard Emanuelson
Workshops: Igal Levy

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Veronica Rossi

The ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributing individuals and do not necessarily represent the views of the California Writers Club.

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Post Office Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507

Sail On!