

The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter - May 2010

"One Hundred Years of Excellence in Writing"

The California Writers Club - Mount Diablo Branch

Welcomes Award-Winning Middle School Writers

and

Guest Speaker *Melissa Manlove*

Editor, Chronicle Books

May 15, 2010



Melissa Manlove is passionate about children's books in all age groups and most genres. Her pursuit of that passion has led her to the position of acquisitions editor of children's books for Chronicle Books (San Francisco). For the past 11 years, she has also been on the bookseller's end of the children's market.

When acquiring for Chronicle, she keeps an eye out for something unique and new, while also seeking fresh takes on familiar themes. With many of our members and guests writing and publishing for the youth market, this is an outstanding opportunity to get insider tips on how to query, submit, and succeed in today's competitive atmosphere.

Please join us for this informative session to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant. Everyone is welcomed to come, learn, and network with local writers. The CWC, Mount Diablo Branch website address is www.mtdiablowlriters.org.

May Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, May 15, 2010, with sign-in at 11 a.m., followed by viewing of prizewinners' displays.

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 both CWC members and guests.

Menu: Zio Fraedo's sumptuous buffet.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, May 12. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at, jeaniegpops@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

~ *Coming Attractions* ~ *Upcoming Speakers for 2010*

June 12: Sophie Littlefield, Author of *A Bad Day for Sorry*

No meetings in July and August

**September 11: C.D. Payne ~ Author of the "Nick Twisp" series
(*Youth in Revolt & Revolting Youth*)**

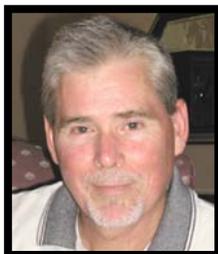
**October 9: Second Annual Jack London Lecture ~ Robert Dugoni,
Best-selling author of legal thrillers (*Wrongful Death*)**



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.

President's Message

By David George



My tenure as your president ends on June 30. In the June newsletter, I will publish a list of accomplishments that my active board of directors has achieved over these last two years. I am honored that I had a chance to help them achieve these impressive results, all of which have positively benefited our membership.

But for now, I would like to thank the welcomed list of members that have volunteered for board positions during these two years. I have always considered recruitment of new branch/board members, and injecting fresh board ideas and perspectives, as two of my most important tasks. I am pleased that both have had good outcomes.

First, I would like to thank again and welcome Bill Stong and Elisabeth Tuck as officers of the Club for the coming year. Bill and Elisabeth joined the board last year and have both been actively organizing workshops, gathering much-needed metrics, and soliciting your input via the Membership Pulse survey posted last month. Bill is dedicated to his writing, his critique group, and his "blog group". Elisabeth recently retired from her successful business career to launch her new editing endeavor. Bill and Elisabeth have been nominated by the board as your new president and vice president for 2010-2011.

Aline Soules joined the board about the same time as Bill and Elisabeth. She is now monitoring/managing the Back Fence and was also instrumental in publishing the Membership Pulse survey. Betty Iverson joined the board earlier this year and has lent her ideas to help strengthen the Club. And I was delighted to welcome Don Maker recently to the Board of Directors. Don has already stepped up to several important roles for the coming year, including co-chair of programs/workshops with Elisabeth. Peter Hjersman agreed this spring to take over our free monthly critique groups and has thus earned himself a seat on the board. And although Bee Hylinski and Jean Georgakopoulos are still thinking about it, I am confident both will officially join this honored group soon.

Thank you all for your selfless volunteerism and dedication to our Club. I feel very comfortable turning over the reins to such a talented group of officers, chairs, and board members. It will be another fun and interesting year.

CWC - Mount Diablo Branch Proposed Slate of Officers

By Jack Russ, Nominating Committee Chair

The following list is the official proposed slate of officers for the 2010/2011 year. The election will take place at our regular branch meeting in June, 2010.

President: Bill Stong
 Vice President: Elisabeth Tuck
 Secretary: Barbara Bentley
 Treasurer: Joanne Brown

The following are two CWC members we will be adding to our Board of Directors:

Peter Hjersman, Critique Group Chair
 Don Maker, Programs Co-chair



Centennial Writing Contest Cancelled

The committee members responsible for developing this contest regret to inform you there were not enough submissions received to warrant proceeding to the judging stage. Thank you to those gifted CWC members who took the time to craft interesting and unique query letters in the voice of either John Muir, Jack London, or Joaquin Miller. Your efforts were much appreciated.



Life Membership Program

A Message from our CWC State Membership Chair, Dale King

Greetings! Please tell your members that our discounted Life membership program, which coincides with our Club centennial, will expire on June 30th. Life memberships are only an option for existing Active Status members and cost \$599. They pay for themselves in 12-13 years. Our membership total statewide is now at 1,305! Write on! **Note:** If Mount Diablo Branch members are interested in becoming Life members, please contact Branch President David George or Branch Membership Chair Jody Denison.



CWC Centennial

At 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." The pin is available for purchase at our monthly meetings. The rocker tab is available for Active members who pay the Life membership fee of \$599. Those members will receive both items as a gift.



Buck-a-Book

Buck-a-Book was a great success at our March CWC meeting, so, we are planning a second Buck-a-Book table at our June 12 event. It is a new way for members to donate some of their gently used books and to buy, for a dollar each, books they might like to read. This is a book sale run on the honor system. Bring your books and your own bags, bring out your bucks, and browse, and buy. Bag your purchases and your leftover books (if any) and take them back home with you. Proceeds will go to our Young Writers Contest in addition to the raffle.



~ *In Honor of Constance O'Connell* ~

On April 1, 2010, Constance O'Connell, friend and colleague, a founding member of our critique group, the Phoenix Hall Writers, long time member of the Mount Diablo branch of California Writers Club, passed away.

On December 11, 2009, at our critique meeting, she voiced her decision to finally publish her novel, *Bodhi Tree*. And then she was stricken.

Constance was special. She opened her heart and home to us, shared her vast knowledge of China and Chinese culture, and brought smiles and words of courage to our writing endeavors. She sharply criticized sloppy work, ever ready to pounce on unnecessary adverbs, while still fortifying our flagging spirits to persist.

We, the Phoenix Hall Writers, bow our heads in bidding farewell to our dear comrade. We will miss you.

~ J.B. Drori, Bill Stong, Peter Hjersman, and Catherine Accardi



Elizabeth "Betty" Mackintosh Tenney (1921-2002)

From a "movie career" consisting of three appearances in Movie Tone newsreels, to chief copywriter at the CBS affiliate in Seattle; from living in Brazil, where she became fluent in speaking Portuguese, to freelancing for 50 years—publishing in *Sunset*, *Good Housekeeping*, *McCall's*, *Westways*, *Cobblestone*, etc.--Betty Tenney greeted life's experiences with humor, enthusiasm, and love.

Daughter of a Scottish-born veterinarian, who spoke Gaelic as well as English, Betty grew up in Yakima, Washington. In high school, she was a May princess, a Rodeo princess, and the class salutatorian. After graduating with honors from the University of Washington, she married Naval Academy graduate, Richard Tenney, and in later years recalled their East Coast association with another Annapolis graduate, Jimmy Carter.

As mother of two sons and a daughter, Betty creatively decorated the family's various homes (including their Walnut Creek residence). In 1957, she won a *McCall's* magazine national interior decorating contest. The prize? A conversion of the Tenney garage into a dining room/kitchen nook, built according to Betty's design.

A 30-year member of California Writers Club, she served on the board and constantly encouraged writers. From a funky office over a Walnut Creek restaurant, she produced fiction and nonfiction for children and adults. On a prized typewriter, she crafted an article of which she was justly proud: a contribution to the archive of the Margaret Herrick Library in Beverly Hills, the repository for Academy Award films and memorabilia.



One of her legacies is visible daily. When a local bus flashes past bearing the words, "The County Connection" credit Betty Tenney, for she invented that name.



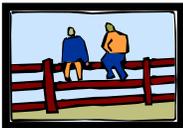
Sales and Salutes

Joanne Brown's story, *The Tale of Big Drool*, will be one of the 50 hitting the web on May 1st! A new website, www.smories.com, will be running a monthly contest for unpublished picture book mss. The site developers choose 50 stories, film children reading them, and publish those video clips on their site. Beginning on May 1, 2010, the inaugural stories will be featured and people visiting the site can vote for their favorite, and Joanne's story will be one of those. The author with the most votes wins a monetary award.

Beverly Lauderdale's latest novel, *In Franklin's House*, has been released. It is touted as a paranormal story as a ghost inhabits a Victorian, and it is available through Amazon.com (in Kindle format or book form) and can be ordered through any bookstore.

Members – Would You Like To Be Saluted?

We would like to salute you in *The Write News*. Please let newsletter Editor Catherine Accardi know if you have been published recently. Your name and writing achievement will be highlighted in the "Sales and Salutes" section of the newsletter. Send along a photograph of yourself and we shall include it as well. You may contact Catherine via e-mail at caacat@comcast.net.



From The Back Fence

Have you visited The Back Fence lately? That would be our Mount Diablo Branch site featuring topics of interest to writers. You can also sign-up for Back Fence e-mails. It's easy just by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>. Click on "Files" at the left of your screen. Topics of interest to writers are arranged in order as you work your way through the publishing process. 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.



The Tip Bucket at the Back Fence

Tip ~ How to Create a Short URL from a Long URL -

First go to whatever page has a long URL. Copy it. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/>. You'll see a window to enter in your long URL; paste it in. Then you can either click on Make TinyURL or first enter a key/personal word and then click on Make TinyURL. When you get to the site, it will be very obvious. And it's free. Thank you Camille!

Tip ~ This is Why We Never Give Up!

CWC member, Lyn Roberts, sent in the internet link below which can certainly be titled "Never Give Up": www.nytimes.com/2010/04/19/books/19harding.html?ref=books. Thank you Lyn!

For more informative tips, visit our Back Fence at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence.

Member Profile

By Jody Denison



Profile: Lilly Gwilliam

Lilly Gwilliam's writing career began in Middle School with an essay that was entered in a national contest. Her essay was chosen to represent her class and though she doesn't recall winning anything she does recall being quoted in the newspaper. The fact that the judges felt she had something to say gave her that feeling that writers get just once...and that is when they have been published the first time and realize that someone is listening.

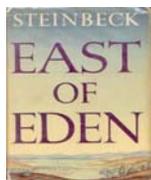
Lilly grew up in Massapequa Park, New York. (Her high school history teacher was Alexander Baldwin-father of Alec and his acting brothers.) She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Illinois, a Masters in Psychiatric Nursing from Rush University in Chicago and a Juris Doctorate from Southland University in California.

As a Psychiatric Nursing Instructor at Rush University Lilly submitted her first professional article, "Crisis Intervention: Partnership in Problem Solving" and was published. She feels this was her official acceptance as a writer. She has gone on to publish several Nursing and Law articles in professional journals. Topics include: "Gender Bias in the Courtroom," "Transference Between Lawyers and their Clients," and "Prosecuting Psychiatric Patients for Assault."

Lilly is married to J. Gary Gwilliam, Esq., the author of "Getting a Winning Verdict in My Personal Life, A trial lawyer finds his soul." They have been members of CWC for several years. She is currently working on her first book, a memoir. It promises to be a rich one since her life is full of a blending of children, grandchildren, travel, reading, and a very interesting profession. We will look forward to reading it.

Festivals and Conferences

The High Desert Branch of CWC is announcing a writer's conference that will take place in Apple Valley on Saturday, September 25, 2010. Their goal is "to put on the best presentations possible, the best catered continental breakfast and lunch, the best value for an event of this type-- ever! And for CWC members, the low, low cost until May 13, 2010 is JUST \$25.00." For more information, go to <http://hdcwc.org/HowlAtTheMoon.aspx> and www.hdcwc.org.



The 2010 East of Eden Writers Conference will take place from September 24 - 26, in Steinbeck Country, Salinas, California. The conference is a CWC Club-sponsored event. For more conference details, visit www.southbaywriters.com.

Agents Day – Open to all CWC Members

Who: CWC Redwood Branch **Where:** Flamingo Hotel, Santa Rosa, California

What: Agents Day with a dozen agents to pitch to, hosted by Jeanne Jusaitis

When: Sunday, June 6, 2010, Noon – 4:30 p.m. with check-in at 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$55 for CWC members, includes lunch, post-pitch dessert & networking session

Details: www.redwoodwriters.org.

From the Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

Oscar Lewis wrote *Bay Window Bohemia* in the 1950s. He calls his book "An account of the brilliant artistic world of gaslit San Francisco". In the Foreword, he goes on to say "On the pages that follow, an attempt has been made to tell something of the notable literary and artistic renaissance that took place in San Francisco during the closing years of the last century." This year, the California Writers Club is celebrating just that literary renaissance, 100 years of excellence in writing. Take a look through *Bay Window Bohemia* when you have a chance. In particular, read Chapter 7, "The Battles of Belles-Lettres". Lewis elegantly describes those historic literary times. This is the stuff that our dreams writings are made of.

(Note to typo-hunters: Sorry to disappoint, that was not a typo...)



CWC Membership Renewal Time

By Jody Denison

REMINDER: For all members, your membership expires on June 30, 2010. Dues for the upcoming 2010/2011 year are \$45.00. Mail your check and membership renewal form below to: Membership, CWC Mount Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA, 94507. And don't forget – one of the members who renews 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.



This is the Young Writers Contest display case at the Pleasant Hill Library.

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 Mount Diablo Board of Directors wish to thank the following donors to the Young Writers Contest from September 2009, to the present:

The Jack London Founder's Circle

Barbara Bentley

The John Muir Member Club

Jacque Hall
Beverly Lauderdale in memory of Betty Tenney
Dick Tenney

The Mary Austin Writers Club

John Gourhan
Suzanne Woods Fisher
Aline Soules
Karen Tenney in memory of Betty Tenney
Sarah Wilson

The Gertrude Atherton Guild

Nanette Cooper McGuinness

The John Steinbeck Society

Lee Paulson
Christine Sunderland

The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club

Joanne Brown
Ann Damaschino
David George in honor of Liz Koehler-Pentacoff
Liz Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of Sue Tasker
Kathy Urban in honor of Sara Wilson

The Helen Hunt Jackson Group

Jody Denison
Barbara Hannafan & Marta Van Loan
Betty Iverson
Phyllis Nagle
Cheryl Spanos
Edward Stanislowski

(continued on the next page)

Young Writers Contest (continued)

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. Contest submissions were free and must have been received on or before April 12, 2010. Winners are notified in May and presented with their awards at an awards luncheon on Saturday, May 12, 2010, 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 Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25 - \$49
- ~ The Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10 - \$24

Young Writers Contest Donor Club Form

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!

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

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

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

President: David George
Vice-President: William Stong
Treasurer: Joanne Brown
Secretary: Barbara Bentley

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Ann Damaschino
Jody Denison
Danard Emanuelson
Al Garrotto
Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff
Aline Soules
Elisabeth Tuck
Fran Wojnar

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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
Workshops: Elisabeth Tuck, Nannette Carroll
Event Logistics: Danard Emanuelson

Advisory Board Members

Nannette Carroll
Betty Iverson
Lee Paulson
Veronica Rossi
Jack Russ

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.



California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch
Post Office Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507
Sail On!