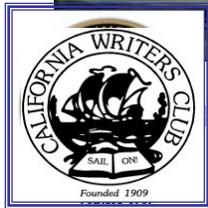


The Write News

A Mo



A Monthly Newsletter

May 2012

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

3rd Saturday, May 19, 2012

The Young Writer's Contest Luncheon & Awards

Presents:

Lindsey Grant, MFA

“The Power of Beginning”



You WILL Learn:

- ❖ To Sit Down and Face the Blank Page
- ❖ To Believe in Your Own Creativity
- ❖ To See the Story Through

Ms. Grant will focus on the power of beginning, and why it's so important to give ourselves permission to face the blank page. Regardless of whether we know where our story is going, or whether we believe we have the creativity and imagination to see the story through, every one of us has dozens of stories to tell, and more than enough courage to get them down on the page, but first...we must begin!

Ms. Grant is the Program Director of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), an international nonprofit event that encourages writers of all ages to draft a novel during the month of November. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree in English and Creative Writing from Mills College in Oakland, California. She co-authored *Ready, Set, Novel!*, a writers workbook from Chronicle Books, and is currently working on a book of essays about her time as a professional dog walker.

NaNoWriMo also has a program for young writers and their teachers, offering tools and encouragement to complete an entire novel in a month. Since many members of the California Writers Club are experienced authors who strive to complete their writing projects-in-progress, Ms. Grant will challenge them to participate in the novel writing program, and offer helpful tips for success.

Contact Jean at jeaniegpops@comcast.net or leave a message at: (925) 934-5677

Meeting Details on Page 2

WIN A FREE LUNCH – SEE CONTEST ON PAGE Three (3)

Why should YOU attend the May Luncheon?

by Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Nearly everyone has at least one novel they really want to write, but just haven't. Our May speaker, Lindsey Grant, National November Writer's Month program director, will tell us the nitty-gritty of exactly *how*. Learn secrets of how to get it done *now*.

Just why should you come to something labeled Young Writers Contest Banquet? What exactly goes on at one of these events?

1. As we eat Zio's fabulous food, we are inspired by interacting with *writers of all ages*. Teens are especially in awe of published authors. Sit with them and their families. Whether you know it or not, you are a role model. You inspire them! They often have questions; ask them about their writing too. Offer encouragement. It's a chance to give back to your writing community.
2. You will hear selections from the winning entries. Your generous donations fund this operation; it's your chance to discover what these young people are writing.
3. The community joins in with the celebration. Families and educators are interested in local writers, in who makes up this club, and what do we do. Meet people. Schmooze. Most of us spend too much time behind our computer screens. Let's get out and mingle!

Last year, one CWC member said, "This is my favorite meeting all year!" Come see why she feels that way.

There is no telling who our next Jack London might be!



***NOTE: DATE Change – 3RD SATURDAY IN MAY
May 19, 2012 - Meeting Details***

Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. – Lunch will be served at 11:30.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, May 16th. **Cost: \$20 for CWC members; \$25 for guests.**

To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at jeaniepops@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only when 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 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 or \$25 "no-show" payment according to your membership.

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



Have you read the California Writers Club *Literary Review* mailed to members last month? What a great way to get your short pieces in print! Something to add to the resumé when submitting elsewhere. May 1 through June 30, CWC is accepting pieces for another *Review*. See the inside back cover for details. Our own Jerry Blair had two pieces published. Congratulations, Jerry! I wonder if some of us shy away from short works thinking we should concentrate on "more important" efforts. There's nothing as hard to write as a good short story, essay or article.

Which segues perfectly into Mt. Diablo's Young Writers Contest: I did some judging this year for the first time. Judging is HARD. For the most part our contest entrants really put their best foot forward, making choosing difficult. Join us May 19 to celebrate the winners and our club's encouragement of upcoming writers. This contest is one of the things I'm most proud of that our branch does for the community.

Take note that there's a fun addition to this month's newsletter—a *Where's Jack* contest for Mt. Diablo members. Find Jack in three places in this newsletter, be the first to email David George identifying the locations and win a free meeting lunch at Zio Fraedo's.

See contest rules below and test your skills of observation.

'Finding Jack London' Contest

Find all three images of Jack and win a free lunch!

Embedded in this newsletter are three images of **Jack London**. If you are the **first** to find all three images of Jack, you will win a free Zio Fraedo's lunch at the CWC June meeting.

RULES

When you 'find Jack' – immediately send an email saying where you found all three images - to David George at davegeorge7@comcast.net . The subject line of your email must read: ***'I found Jack'*** – and in the body of the email, name **all three** locations.

The **first** correct email received by David will win!

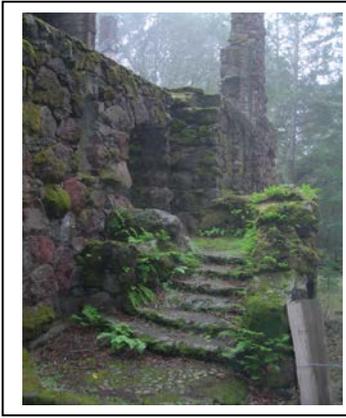


Photo courtesy of Chuck Carroll

Jack London Ranch State Park Saved from Closure

The gorgeous rolling woodland ranch site that writer Jack London once called home was saved Tuesday from being shut down during the mass state park closures scheduled for this summer.

Jack London State Historic Park will instead be operated by the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, according to California State Parks officials

"We have reached a milestone in our effort to save this park," said Ruth Coleman, director of the state park system. "We are pleased the association has stepped forward, and we are confident they will do all possible to care for this remarkable historic home during their tenure."

The park, which London called Beauty Ranch, was preserved as a memorial to the famous writer and adventurer. He lived there from 1905 until his death in 1916. His widow, Charmian, lived on the ranch until her death in 1955. She asked that it be preserved in memory of London and his work.

The history association, which supports educational, volunteer and interpretive studies at Jack London, Sugarloaf Ridge and Annadel state parks, agreed to operate the park for at least 36 hours a week for five years beginning May 1.

It is one of at least 14 of the 70 parks on the state closure list that have either been saved or are very close to being saved from closure. Park officials are negotiating with dozens of other organizations willing to run parks for at least a year, including county and regional park districts, affiliated associations, cities and nonprofits.

The surge in private funding is due in large part to the passage of AB42, introduced by Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, that smoothed the way for nonprofit groups to take over park operations.

The proposed closures are a major crisis in California, where 278 parks cover 1.4 million acres, including 280 miles of coastline and 625 miles of lake and riverfront, and generate billions of dollars in revenue from tourism.

Similar agreements have been signed to keep open Tomales Bay State Park, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park and Jug Handle State Natural Reserve.

Editor's Note: This article is an authorized reprint from the San Francisco Chronicle, Dated April 11, 2012, written by staff writer, Peter Fimrite.

**They saved London's *Wolf House* and his Historic State Park.
Wouldn't he be pleased!
Hope you're somewhere smiling at this news, Jack.**





Member Profiles

Take Advantage of Your Membership Benefits

by Catherine Accardi, Membership Chair

Some of you may have noticed the membership renewal articles in this and the previous newsletter. While trying to encourage members to renew, I've noticed the biggest concern is "What do I get for my membership"? Although a long list of benefits were included in the April edition of *The Write News*, I would like to further emphasize several membership benefits available to you as members of the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch. They are the ability to network with other members and the opportunity to highlight your writing achievements and upcoming author events.

You can take advantage of these opportunities by submitting a member profile for placement in an upcoming issue of the branch newsletter, *The Write News*. The profile guidelines are simple, and submission deadlines are flexible, so the process is actually painless, really it is.

Of course, if you wish to keep your writing life private, you are free to do so. Profiles are not a requirement of membership. If this feels like a scary step and you need moral support, read over previous profiles for encouragement. I have found them inspirational and so might you.

For profile guidelines, more information, or if you have questions, please contact me, Catherine Accardi, the Branch Membership Chair at caacat@comcast.net or (925) 934-9015.

News for Members

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 (Sept - June)

CWC Bylaws state: "Officers of the Executive Board shall be elected at the general membership meeting in June."

The officers nominated for the upcoming year are the same officers who served in the first half of 2012.

- President: Elisabeth Tuck
- Vice-President: Bee Hylinski
- Treasurer: David George
- Secretary: Barbara Bentley



Statue of the Countess of Sligo, Ireland

Have Pen - Will Travel **by** **Barbara Bentley**

Summer is coming! Vacation plans are being made. Among dreams of swaying palms hugging sunny beaches, towering redwoods filtering sunbeams, or mesmerizing museums expanding knowledge, have you ever thought of incorporating your writing passion into your itinerary? "And why would I do that?" you say. How about conducting research, networking, honing writing skills, or observing people and places for future story inspiration?

In August 2010, my husband and I took a three week European river cruise and I used the opportunity to research the heroine of my book-in-progress about a strong Irish woman who lived in Paris from 1898 to 1900. Our tour just happened to start in Paris, where my husband and I ended our 1997 honeymoon with five busy sightseeing days. So major sites were not of interest. Ah, but what about finding the home of my heroine, and the art school she attended? I was excited with the prospect. I had the addresses and used a map program to pinpoint the locations. As we walked the Paris streets my heroine walked, passed the restaurants where she was courted by her Count, and saw the building where they had lived, I knew that this experience would help me bring this part of her story to life. The photos I shot that day keep the memory alive.

We can plan events during our travels that may provide networking opportunities with other writers. This thought came to me recently as I prepared for a panel presentation. When traveling throughout California, why not attend a CWC meeting at another branch? All branches offer interesting meetings in various formats. This is a perfect way to network with other writers and build relationships. It's also a good way to let others know what an outstanding branch we belong to. Just remember to bring your membership card with you.

I believe the ultimate vacation, at least once in our lives, is to attend a week to ten day writer's workshop, free from family, free from cooking, free from cleaning, free to write, write, write, unencumbered by the distractions of everyday life. Include the family or a friend at either end of the workshop and it can be a win-win for everyone. I treated myself to the ten day "Write It, Sell It" workshop in 1994. Not only did I absorb valuable writing tips, I also networked and found my writing mentor. Later, she would give me a lead to my New York literary agent.

Travel also affords us with the opportunity to observe people and places that may ignite a passion for a possible story. We can take a journal along, or a small notepad, and jot down ideas and descriptions that spark our interest. Or we can just absorb new information as we travel. This is how I got the idea for my current work-in-progress. In 2005, my husband and I toured Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin, Ireland. The guide pointed to a dismal cell and proudly stated that the Countess had been held there after the Easter Rising of 1916. It didn't mean much to me at the time. But, when we got to the Northwest coast near Sligo and toured Lissadell, we were surprised to learn this was the childhood home of the Countess. We learned more of her compelling history. On our way out of town, we saw a statue erected in her honor and I snapped a photo. Later, when deciding what my second book would be about, I thought of the Countess.

Self-Publishing? Try these Graphic Design Tips

By – Cynthia Borcena

You have a story that needs to be told and you decide to self-publish. Technology makes it easy and with some knowledge of desktop publishing, you produce your book. But before you send your file to the printer or e-publisher, consider a few points about design and layout. This article addresses the basics and general issues in designing a book.

Do you design for attention or reading?

Designing for attention is best left for the book cover. Designing for reading is what the book is really all about.

As a reader scans the page, you may want to call attention to an important idea. You do this by ingenious use of typography, primarily, and space, secondarily. You steer the reader through the book, as if navigating through a maze of information, by distinguishing hierarchies of ideas. There is a logical sequence as to how the information is presented. For example, because it sets up what is to come next, the title is the first thing you read. **A chapter title** is typically bolded and at least 2-point sizes larger than the chapter text. Page numbers **are important**, but **don't** call attention to them. Their type size should not be larger than what you use for the chapter text.

Be aware of the reader's intuitive understanding of the flow of information. Understanding the demographic and psychographic make-up of your audience will be very helpful here, too. **Visual cues bring the reader's attention to a new chapter or the end of one.** Some information is critical to the story and some is not so that their visual treatment, in terms of line, shape, size, space, color (as in the shades of gray created by the blocks of text) should vary. With these variations, you create a visual texture and form that subliminally informs the reader certain blocks of information relate to each other, important to the story, or merely supplemental information.

Making Your Book Reader-Friendly

A book is typically divided into these parts: the preliminary pages (*front matter*), chapter opening, chapter pages, and end pages (*back matter*). A well-designed book should distinguish the harmony among them. Photos, charts, and graphs can complicate the flow of eye movement. Keep in mind how readers would read when graphics are thrown in with the text. The challenge to design for ease of reading and clear communication for a book filled primarily with text requires different strategies than designing a book filled primarily with pictures or illustrations.

Copious text with no areas to rest the eyes and the brain can make reading feel like participating in a marathon — a test for endurance. Reading can become a chore and not pleasurable, despite interest in the topic, and can present physiological manifestations such as sleepiness, inattentiveness, or headache. (Reading the same line twice may be the result of tiredness or long line length/small type size with narrow leading). The pages should look and feel different from a manuscript.

The digital edition of a book will obviously differ from the printed version where the reader feels the weight and the smoothness (or roughness) of the paper. This sensation adds to the reader's experience. Without this tactile sense, you are left with just a visual strategy. In a digital edition, interactivity can be thrown into the mix.

In most circumstances, stories are meant to be read continuously, swiftly and pleurably so that readability becomes a main issue. Because of the amount of text, the essence of readability rests on your choice of typeface and its treatment. Break up monotonous spacing and help maximize readability and promote forward eye movement. (Continued Page 8.)

To make sure that the reading keeps pace with the brain, keep hyphenations in a paragraph to a minimum to prevent the reader from seeing more dashes than words as he scans the page.

Setting text ragged right/left align makes reading easier than when set to justified alignment. This eliminates the "rivers" of space down a paragraph, which momentarily disrupts reading. Manipulating the text to prevent *widows* and *orphans* also prevents disruption and gives a flow to the reading.

Though technology makes book designing easy, use it wisely and decidedly. Pay attention to the details and subtleties through use of typography, the functional character of book design, and space. You will put your reader in a pleasurable reading mood.

About Cynthia: For over 12 years Cynthia Borcena M.A. was previously the CWC webmaster for the Mt. Diablo website. She is a freelance graphic designer and an expert at helping clients envision and create what they need for their project. You can visit her website at www.see360studios.com or connect with her at www.linkedin.com/in/cynthiaborcena.

Like to learn some secrets from a master illustrator?

A rare opportunity to hear **Jerry Pinkney** speak—*award-winning illustrator!

May 15, 2012 –Tuesday

5:00 pm Reception and Book Signing, Main, San Francisco Public Library

Lower Level Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room

6:00 pm Lecture: **Koret Auditorium**

Jerry Pinkney, Guest Lecturer

“A Sense of Place Real and Imagined”

The 16th Annual Effie Lee Morris Lecture

Presented by Children & Youth Services, African American Center & Fisher Children’s Center

Supported by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and

The San Francisco Chapter of the Women’s National Book Association

All Programs at the SF Library are FREE.

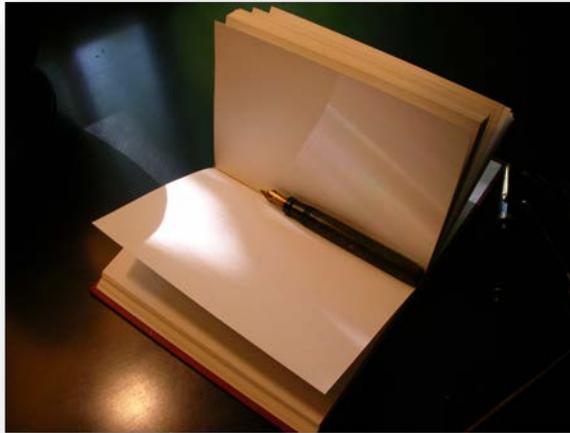
100 Larkin St. (at Grove) (415) 557-4277 sfpl.org

**Special Speaker Event
June 9, 2012 - CWC Meeting**

Maxine Hong Kingston

Writer's Markets Column

Send It Out! **By B. Lynn Goodwin**



Why write for young adults? There's a lot of crossover right now. Many young adult novels have found adult readers. Many MFA programs offer a specialization in writing for children and young adults.

"Writing Y.A. as an adult is a chance to rewrite being a teenager," according to Katie Crouch and Grady Hendrix in an article in *Slate*. Who wouldn't like to do that?

Nora Raleigh Baskin, who teaches for Gotham Writers' Workshops offers six tips, that work for all audiences, which will make your middle grade and YA novels work.

- 1) Get the POV right.... The perspective needs to be immediate.
- 2) Make sure your character's age suits your audience.
- 3) Figure out the voice, and the language will follow.
- 4) Don't shy away from touchy subjects.
- 5) Don't get preachy.
- 6) Write hopeful endings.

Think you have a piece for a middle grade or YA Market, but don't know where to send it? Check out these places, which I found through Duotrope.

[http://duotrope.com/listallmarkets.aspx?search=Young%20Adult:](http://duotrope.com/listallmarkets.aspx?search=Young%20Adult)

E-Volve Young Adult "is looking for edgy young adult fiction in most genres." Learn about them at <http://e-olvebooks.com/>

Hungry Mountain Young Adult and Children's Section "accept(s) picture book, middle grade, YA and YA crossover work. We're looking for polished pieces that entertain, that show the range of adolescent experience, and that are compelling, creative and will appeal to the devoted followers of the kid-lit craft, as well as the child inside us all. If you check their website, <http://www.hungermtn.org/about/>, you'll see that they are a print journal rather than a publishing company.

YARN (Young Adult Review Network) “is an award-winning literary journal that publishes outstanding original short fiction, poetry, and essays for Young Adult readers, written by the writers you know and love, as well as fresh new voices...including teens.” Learn how to submit there at <http://yareview.net/how-to-submit/>.

Writing about the creative writing process for either children’s or adult literature? Consider contributing to **Friction Magazine**. Look for details under “The Magazine” at <http://www.frictionmagazine.co.uk/submissions/>.

If none of this is right for you, take a look at Duotrope’s Theme and Deadline Calendar, which you’ll find at <http://duotrope.com/themecal.aspx>. Match your work to the themes on the list. Let CWC know when and where you get published, and let us know how Duotrope helped you.

Jack London was a member – why not you!

See Membership article on next page
Renewal Form Below



Annual Membership Renewal Form

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 check for \$45. We are updating our member database and we want to make sure we have correct information about you. Please PRINT clearly!

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ Email _____

_____ Active _____ Associate _____ Supporting _____ Dual Branch _____ Youth Affiliate

Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

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

Make your \$45 check payable to “CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch.” Mail your check and this form to “CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507. If you have questions, contact Catherine Accardi via email at caacat@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-9015.

Guess What Time Of Year It Is!

Membership Renewal Time!

By Catherine Accardi

Branch Membership Chair

It is annual membership renewal time. For all members, your membership will expire on June 30, 2012. Dues for the upcoming, 2012/2013, year are \$45.00. Mail your check and the membership renewal form on the previous page to: CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch Membership, 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.

Benefits of Membership

Our club invites authors, publishers, editors, and agents to speak at our monthly meetings. They discuss writing, querying, publishing and marketing your work. Additional benefits include:

- Networking opportunities with other members that will provide additional exposure and further develop your writing career
- Discounted price on monthly meeting luncheons and seminars
- Information on writing contests (including those sponsored by other organizations)
- Workshops for developing your writing skills
- Your own web information posted on the CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch website
- Critique group that meets every month prior to the regular meeting
- *The Write News*, the branch's newsletter with writing tips, upcoming events and a column celebrating the latest publishing successes of our members
- Copies of *The Bulletin*, CWC's statewide newsletter
- Periodic emails, called TidBits, updating you on time-sensitive writing opportunities, conferences, statewide events, etc.
- Opportunity to join The Back Fence, the Mt. Diablo Branch online Yahoo group.
- Opportunity to participate in the Publishing Pathways program that may provide assistance towards publication of your writing.

For further information regarding membership contact me, Catherine Accardi, your Membership Chair, via email at caacat@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-9015.

2012 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, 2011, to the present:

<p>Foundation Donors <i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p>The John Steinbeck Society <i>Barbara Bentley</i> <i>Christine Sunderland</i></p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club <i>Bev Lauderdale</i></p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club <i>David George in memory of Joan Brennan</i></p> <p>The Helen Hunt Jackson Group <i>Cheryl Spanos</i> <i>Ed Stanislawski</i></p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club <i>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of Joan Brennan</i> <i>Lee Paulson</i> <i>Aline Soules</i> <i>Karen Tenney in memory of Betty Tenney</i></p> <p><i>The Vinapa Foundation for Cross-Cultural Studies</i></p>

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, 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 9450

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 2012 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 2012 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
is on May 19, 2012 at 11:00 am, in Pleasant Hill.**

For detailed meeting information, go to

<http://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.