



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

April 2011

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

Presents

Naomi Epel

Author, radio host, former head of a
book-tour escort agency



Author of: *Writers Dreaming and
The Observation Deck: A Tool Kit for Writers*

Naomi's talk is:

**“Views from the Observation Deck: insights into the
creative processes of some of the world's greatest writers”**

She will draw from the 50-card deck of helpful writing suggestions that accompanies her Observation book. These thoughts, gleaned from famous authors and expanded in the book, include suggestions such as: get specific, find the need, locate the fear, conduct an interview, find the music, follow the scent, or eavesdrop.

Over the past twenty years Naomi has collected amazing stories from the writers she has met. She has hosted San Francisco FM radio shows: Booktalk on KALW, Dreamtalk on KALX, and Cover to Cover on KPFA. She is currently writing a memoir to be called *A Driver's Education*.

April Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, April 9, 2011. Check-in begins at 11:30, lunch at 12:00, and the program begins at approximately 1:00 p.m.

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

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

Please read new policy on Page Two

Menu: Zio Fraedo's sumptuous buffet.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on **Wednesday, April 6**. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at jeaniepops@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 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.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE

It's All in the Timing!

NEW POLICY

Board Action Regarding Late Reservation Fees

It's good to see our monthly meeting and workshop attendance continue to rise! Thanks to all members who are so conscientious about emailing or calling in their reservations by our monthly deadlines – which is noon on the Wednesday prior to our Saturday meeting.

Unfortunately, the number of reservations received after the published deadline has grown to unacceptable levels. Our host restaurant requires a minimum number of attendees. It is necessary to rectify this issue, and to encourage everyone to make reservations by the Wednesday deadline. The Board will determine a start date for our new policy shown below, with ample notification to our membership.

The regular attendance fee will apply for reservations received by noon on each Wednesday prior to the Saturday monthly meeting or workshop. An additional \$5 late reservation fee will be added to the fee for reservations received between noon Wednesday and noon Friday. The late fee applies to members and non-members, for both our regular meetings and workshops, and will apply to walk-ins. Reservation fees are listed below.

Member Fees

Regular Meeting	\$20
Workshops	\$35

Non-Member Fees

Regular Meetings	\$25
Workshops	\$40

Coming Attractions ~Upcoming Speakers for 2011

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



Trees and flowers are doing their spring thing, most of the clocks around the house have been set to daylight savings time, and squirrels are busy chasing each other around the tree trunks. Spring has arrived. It seems all too tempting to vacillate between a burst of creative writing and spring fever's lazy times. The garden needs fertilizer and the love scene needs revision. What's a writer to do?

Did that agent deliver? Has your publisher finally published? Are you holding your new book or article in your hand? Or are you a new member? We want to help you celebrate and be recognized for your writing achievements.

Tell any Board Member or me before the April meeting so I can give you an opportunity to share your good news with other writers during the 'Announcements' portion of the meeting.

If you have brought a guest to the meeting, please let us know. We want to welcome that person to the CWC Mt. Diablo Branch meeting.

A new member asked why we have door prize drawings at some meetings and Buck-A-Book at others? Both sales efforts have the same goal. All money raised goes to support the branch's popular annual Young Writers Contest. Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff leads this highly successful middle school event, the goal of which is to encourage and recognize Contra Costa County's 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in their creative writing efforts.

The branch treasurer tracks the Buck-A-Book and door prize results to gauge the members' interest and support. Experience has shown that sales drop if the event is run too many months in a row. So, we alternate the events. On those months when a workshop is scheduled, neither book sales nor drawings are held.



Special Column from Peter Hjersman Correspondence from Tokyo

On March 16, five days after the earthquake and tsunami struck northern Japan, CWC member and previous Critique Chair, Peter Hjersman, joined his wife and family in Tokyo. We asked Peter to write and share his impressions and observations.

Saigai Site

Tokyo is okay – no huge earthquake, no tsunami, radiation within safe limits, no volcano. If I didn't know about the *saigai* (disaster), in my absence of two decades, I would not have noticed differences – at first.

As the airport bus pulled into Shinjuku district, the usual 24-hour blazing lights were culled. Yet, the stores were still open with soft lights at eye-level saying, "We are open, welcome!" Yes, the energy belt is tightened but commerce is active and at the personal level. I relaxed with this warm entry. Tremors keep us alert, the rippling reminders. When we took a walk to stretch my flight legs, there were fewer people, less staring at the *gaijin*/foreigner. "Saigai stress" is present but does not seem to block normal activities. Students in school, workers at work, the canaries sing. (Continued on next page)

(Hjersman – con't)

We are located about five miles from the center of Tokyo, on the edge of the city. Sometimes I wear a mask – for the pollens, normal this time of year. We heard that many survivors of Hiroshima ate a healthy traditional diet, which is quite delicious.

Families in areas close to the disaster area have offered their homes to host the displaced people. They have opened their houses to those who lost all, strengthening social connections. The warmth, the reliance, the stoic acceptance are alive and well. Me, too.

Member Profile

By Catherine Accardi

Member Profile: *Betty Iverson*



Betty Iverson is from St. Louis, Missouri. Recently, her hometown was on a list of the ten most dangerous cities in the United States. Upon hearing this news Betty said: "I was shocked as I never felt I lived in a dangerous city, just one that was very humid in the summer." Times do change.

Betty completed a three-year hospital program in nursing at the Luther Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the years, Betty worked in the nursing field and has now retired from John Muir Hospital, where she worked as a case manager. Since retirement, she considered volunteer work, and now, through the American Association of University Women, Betty tutors third graders not up to grade level in reading.

Regarding her passion for writing, Betty says she has always liked to write, but not with a goal to publish. The goal to write a book and become published came with her growing interest in womens' experiences during World War II. "It seemed to me that everything written was about the men. So I have had three books published now and I interviewed all the women." Betty's first book, *Tabea's Story*, is about a German army nurse. That's coming a long way since those humid days back in St. Louis!

Betty has been married to her husband Ted for 50 years and has four children, three daughters-in-law and four grandchildren.



Membership News

By Catherine Accardi
Membership Chair

I am pleased to report that we have had a mini-surge in new Mount Diablo Branch memberships! For the period of January 1 through March 31, we have had a total of eleven new members. The good news increases as we continue to receive a number of membership inquires each month so our Mount Diablo Branch is well on its way to making 2011 one of our most productive years. As of now, the Mount Diablo Branch has a total of 155 members. (Continued on next page)

Membership Con't

For the month of March alone, I have processed new memberships for four people in the membership categories indicated. They are:

- ~ Polly Bernson, Associate
- ~ Elizabeth Gallen, Associate
- ~ Sean Hazlett, Associate
- ~ William McGinnis, Active

Polly, Elizabeth, Sean, and William – The Mount Diablo Branch is pleased you have decided to join the California Writers Club. We all look forward to many years of happy writing. Let's encourage warm welcomes to all of our new members. If you happen to see them at an upcoming meeting, say Hello. Kindness is free and painless, so let's try to use it liberally!

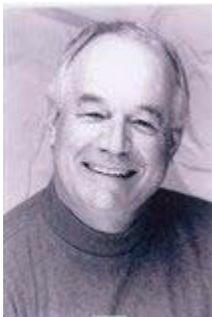
Also, be sure to check this newsletter for the Membership Renewal Time article on **Page 14**. Memberships need to be renewed by June 30, 2011.



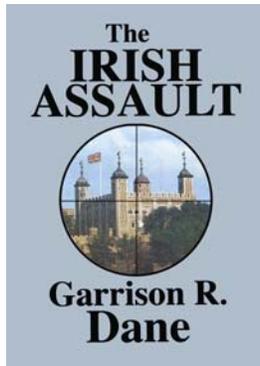
Member Events, News and Salutes



From the Contra Costa Times: Praise for **Susan Pace-Koch** for her "Get out Books," and participation in the Creekside Arts Festival. "On her website, local children's author Susan Pace-Koch writes about her love of getting outdoors, one of the inspirations behind starting her own book publishing company. Pace-Hoch said the event is the ideal place for her to present her book because its theme of inspirational artwork, with a love of children, nature and getting outdoors coincides with the festival's theme about raising awareness about the arts, culture and biodiversity."



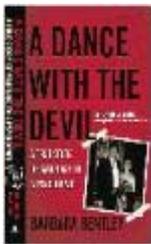
J.D. Blair's story called, "Be My Carlotta," has been accepted by *Calliopi*, a publication of American Mensa. It is due to appear in their September/October 2011 edition. J.D.'s comment: "One small step for short stories, one giant step for my ego."



Danard Emanuelson has published his e-book, *The Irish Assault*, through Smashwords, using the pen name Garrison R. Dane. It's an action-suspense tale of the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland where one man, Professor William Banks, leads the North towards independence from Britain. He hires an international mystery man for a unique and exciting raid on the Tower of London to sequester the Crown Jewels. Will MI5 allow them to succeed? The release to various e-readers is under way. Complete information on the book and author may be obtained by googling "Garrison R. Dane."



Barbara Bentley's book, *A Dance with the Devil*, is now mentioned in two recently published books. The first is *Puzzling People: The Labyrinth of the Psychopath*, by Thomas Sheridan. The second is *True Confessions: True Crime Writers Tell Their Stories*, by Leland Gaines. Barbara is one of the authors included in the book and her interview takes up ten pages.



Television updates: Barbara's story will be on the second season of Investigation Discovery's half-hour series "Who the Bleep Did I Marry?" Also, her segment of the Canadian series "The Devil You Know" has been sold to Investigation Discovery and it will air later this year. Her segment is titled "The Devil in Disguise." In addition, negotiations are under way for an option for a television movie targeted for Lifetime TV.

Special Guest Column from our March Workshop Speaker

Carla King



The Fastest, Cheapest, and Easiest Way to Self-Publish By Carla King

"What's the easiest, cheapest, and best way to self-publish my book and get it distributed to ebook and print retailers today?"

Good question! You are excited to self-publish, but sorting through the sheer quantity of offerings, claims, and technologies is overwhelming. I spend a good part of each week researching the topic and, for authors of trade paperback books with few illustrations, my answer is to use these two services for creating your ebook and print book: Smashwords and CreateSpace.

(Continues on Page 7)

Creating Your Smashwords Ebook

Smashwords is a very popular ebook publishing service. Open a free account (they take 10% of sales), and provide all the data about your book (title, description, price, keyword tags, cover, etc.) Then upload a properly formatted Microsoft Word doc file containing your book interior. When you hit the *Publish* button they'll put it through what they call the 'meatgrinder.' If you have formatted the doc file according to their style guide, your book will be converted into many ebook formats for most of the e-reading devices, notably PDF and EPUB, and distributed to most of the important online e-book resellers.

Hiring Out Smashwords File Formatting

Formatting the Smashwords doc file is simple but tedious and can be a little frustrating, so they've compiled a list of formatters and cover designers with rates ranging from \$25 an hour to \$45 per book. My advice is to save yourself the headaches and hire it out. I also *always* recommend getting professional book cover design--these people know how to make book art and titles pop even when it's the size of a postage stamp. (See the Smashwords FAQ to get the list.) Try to find a designer who can also help you create a back cover and spine for your print edition when you upload it later to CreateSpace.

Creating an Ebook for Amazon Kindle

Unfortunately, Smashwords does not distribute to Amazon Kindle, though a deal seems perpetually pending. (Stay tuned!) But the good news is that the doc file you uploaded to Smashwords is very similar to the properly formatted Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) file that Amazon requires. Therefore, you can just change the ISBN and make other minor changes. Better yet, if you're also creating a print book, just pay CreateSpace to create the KDP version for you, as described later in this article.

Buy Your Own ISBNs

Note that you need a separate ISBN for each edition of your book, so buy a pack of 10 for \$250 from Bowker.com. It's very, very important to do this yourself and not let any service provide you with an ISBN. You need to be able to log in and update the data that is disseminated about your book. You'll need three ISBNs, one each for the Smashwords, CreateSpace, and Kindle editions.

Creating Your Print Book

CreateSpace is an author services company owned by Amazon and a direct channel to getting into the biggest bookstore in the world. It's free because they make their money by marking up the print price and from add-on services. Use their browser-based tool to upload your book interior using one of their templates. Their book creation tool lets you specify headers and footers, pagination, fonts, chapter headings, etc., quite easily. Or you can upload a PDF version of your book if it's been professionally designed and formatted for print.

You *could* use a CreateSpace template to create your book cover, but this is a task best left to a professional who can take your Smashwords original cover art and add a back cover and spine.

Create the Kindle Ebook

Once your CreateSpace print book is approved, pay \$65 to obtain a perfectly formatted KDP file. When they send it to you you'll need to create a separate KDP account and upload it to for sale on Amazon.

Get Your Print Book into Bookstores

Shell out another \$39 (and \$5/year) for the CreateSpace Pro Plan to get your book into the Expanded Distribution Program. This makes your print book visible to brick-and-mortar and online book resellers, just like any book sold by a major publisher.

What Does All This Cost?

All said and done, you've got an e-book and a print book for around \$500. Let's break it down:

\$45-\$125 for formatting

\$100-\$200 for a cover design

\$250 for a block of 10 ISBN numbers from Bowker

\$39 for the CreateSpace Pro Plan

This is my best answer for the cheapest and easiest way to create and distribute your ebook and print book. But if you really believe in your book, have done the market research, and are serious about becoming a bona-fide independent publisher committed to reaching the mass market, you're going to need to spend a lot more time and money on editing, designing, marketing and promotion, than what is outlined here.

But What's the Cost of Real Success?

I estimate that the budget required to create a quality self-published trade paperback book is \$5000. Here's a list of the items needed to put your book respectably alongside those from traditional publishers, with *minimum* price tags. The lower the price, the more you have to do yourself, so bump it up if you want to be completely hands-off:

\$1000 Professional editing (developmental, line editing, proofreading)

\$500 Professional cover design

\$500 Marketing and promotion

\$500 Website design and creation

\$65 Membership in a professional publishers association like SPAN

Testing the Waters

There's nothing wrong with test-driving your book using the method sketched out here before you commit to investing thousands more. You can print many versions of your book, ordering one at a time to evaluate the design and format, to edit and proofread, using CreateSpace--before making it available for public consumption. That's what POD is all about, after all -- printing on-demand -- and it can be an exciting journey.

Carla King has been an unapologetic self-published author since 1994 when she started writing about bicycle and motorcycle adventure travel. She presented a three-hour version of her day-long *Self-Publishing Boot Camp* workshop at our March 2011 meeting of the CWC. Find out about more books and workshops on the web at www.selfpubbootcamp.com and www.carlaking.com.



Real-Life Publishing Experience
By
Barbara Bentley

A Website and Its Metas as Part of a Marketing Plan

Today, traditional publishers expect authors to participate heavily in the marketing of their books through personal appearances, web sites, blogs, and other means of advertising. Self-published authors have an even heavier marketing burden. Fortunately for authors, we have the Internet where we can reach out to potential readers with information about our books. For those of us who are less technical, it can be a challenge to embrace the new vocabulary and inner workings of the Internet and its many devices. But, if our goal is to reach potential readers and sell our books, we must meet the challenge or get lost in the tide of an ever-changing technology.

First we obtain our domain name, and then we build our website (by ourselves or with a specialist.) Part of the website process is to use the properties section of each page of our website to enter metas or keywords, which highlight the main information of the site or that page in particular. Then, when a person uses the search fields of Google or Yahoo, the search engine takes those words and spiders out into the cyberspace world looking for metas or keywords that match. The search results create a list of potential websites and we want to be on it.

I directly connect the continued success of my book *A DANCE WITH THE DEVIL: A TRUE STORY OF MARRIAGE TO A PSYCHOPATH* to the use of metas/keywords for my website www.adancewiththedevil.com. The book came out in November 2008 and I now see my Amazon sales figures in the top 0.3% of all hardcover/paperback books sold. I attribute the phenomena to the fact that I have been featured on two television shows since the book came out. The TV show "The Devil You Know" came through a Canadian producer looking for potential interviewees by using the Internet search field. The filming took place last year and my segment "Devil in Disguise" first aired in October 2010.

Earlier this year, I was contacted by a producer out of Washington, D.C. who also used the Internet to find me. Filming took place in February and the show, one in the series of stories for "Who the Bleep Did I Marry?" will air later this year on Investigation Discovery shown over and over. This is the result of using metatags embedded within my website!

Beyond television, I have also been found on the Internet by a British women's magazine editor (I was in the September 6, 2010 issue), a Hollywood producer (didn't care for their production history so declined), and several blog talk radio shows, which I've thoroughly enjoyed. I would not have had this success without my web page and its meta/keywords.



Enhance Your CWC Website Experience

By Aline Soules, Online Website/Coordinator

While you can always visit our website (<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com>), why not have our Web site come to you?

You can do this by subscribing to an RSS feed. RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication and you can set that up in a jiffy. If you scroll down on the righthand column of our website, you will see this:

• Meta

- [Site Admin](#)
- [Log out](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

Click on **“Entries RSS”** and a window will open that looks like this:

Google offers two different ways to keep up-to-date with your favorite sites:

Your Google homepage brings together Google functionality and content from across the web, on a single page.

Google Reader makes it easy to keep up with the latest content from a large number of sites, all on a single reading list.

Add to Google homepage or **Add to Google Reader**

Sample

Sample

© 2010 Google - Help

From there, if you have a Google “address,” you can simply choose whether you want to add this to your iGoogle home page or add it to your Google Reader.

When you visit your Google Reader, you will see any new postings that show up on the Web site. I use RSS feeds for all my favorite Web sites, blogs, and other e-pages, so that I can check in one place every day to find out what’s going on in all my favorite online places.



A New Publishing Opportunity Knocks

The California Writers Club will launch the publication of a literary review late this spring. Our magazine-style publication will host writing from CWC members through a blind selection process, and include fiction, nonfiction and poetry. The co-editors, Joyce Krieg of Central Coast Branch and former *CWC Bulletin* editor, and Dave LaRoche of South Bay, will be soliciting your work for inclusion. The first issue will include the rules for a Name-the-Literary-Review Contest.

The new *CWC Literary Review* (working title) will be mailed out to all members in hard copy and, in time, made available for non-member subscription. The CWC intends this to be a prestigious publication, both shining light on the included members and bringing cachet to the Club.

Submission requirements and deadline dates for our first issue:

- **Submissions** for the first issue must be emailed **not later than April 15** to Dave LaRoche dalaroche@comcast.net. The limit for submissions is two per member.
- Submissions should be sent as an email attachment, in MS/Word, DOC or RTF format, space and one-half with one-inch margins, New Times Roman 12pt—no tabs or special formatting.
- Maximum length is 2,500 words for fiction, 1,500 for nonfiction, and 700 for poetry.
- All work must be error free and must include a separate cover sheet with author's name, email address, number of words, and title. The remaining pages should be free of all identification except title in upper right, and page number in lower center.
- Include in your transmittal email the statement, "I own and convey the right to publish this work (name it) one time in the CWC Literary Review."

The CWC-Mount Diablo Branch Critique Group

By Ted Wells, Critique Group Chair

Dear CWC Critiquers,

We will be meeting on April 9th in Pleasant Hill at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, in the bar area, from 9:30-11:00 a.m., prior to the general meeting. Please drop in. This is our last meeting until next fall due to the Young Writer's Banquet in May and a workshop in June.

April 9th: Critique Meeting Agenda

- Short Discussion Topic lead by Susan Lawson: "Making Your Writing More Colorful with Figures of Speech." 15 minutes.
- Three oral and written critiques on fiction pieces. 45 minutes.
- One oral and written critique on a non-fiction book proposal. 15 minutes.
- Pass out new pieces from all attendees for oral and written critiques at our next meeting. Request short discussion topic ideas for next meeting in September, 2011. 15 mins.

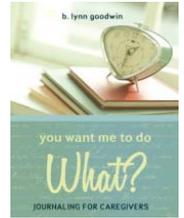
I look forward to 5-10 typed pages of your manuscripts on any genre, fiction or nonfiction, for someone to critique. See you Saturday, April 9. **To our great works.**

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.



Finding an Agent ***By B. Lynn Goodwin***



As the editor of Writer Advice, www.writeradvice.com, I would be remiss if I did not remind you that we are accepting submissions for our Sixth Annual Flash Prose Contest until April 15. Complete details are at www.writeradvice.com. We would love to read your work.

Are you ready to find an agent for your book but unsure where to start? Here are some agents who spoke with the Women's National Book Association's San Francisco Chapter on March 25. They are actively looking for new projects. Maybe you have what they need.

Amy Burkhardt (www.kimberleycameron.com) represents fiction and nonfiction projects for the adult and young adult market. In fiction, she looks for literary, commercial, up-market women's, thrillers, mysteries, historical, and YA. In nonfiction, she seeks narrative nonfiction, memoirs, and prescriptive nonfiction written by experts in their field, particularly in lifestyle, humor, food, and current events topics. In any genre, she looks for accomplished writing, compelling characters, fresh voices, and timely themes.

Andy Cohn, the former owner of Cody's Books, specializes in non-fiction, particularly narrative non-fiction, history, current events, and journalism. He has secured contracts in other genres as well. Visit Andy's Website: www.andyrossagency.com. (Con't on next page)

Writer Advice - Continued

Brooke Warner is Senior Editor at Seal Press, a publisher of women's non-fiction books, written for women, by women, which was recently acquired by Perseus Books Group. Her website is www.warnercoaching.com.

Elizabeth Pomada and **Michael Larsen** are partners in Larsen-Pomada Literary Agents, <http://www.larsen-pomada.com/>, which has sold books to more than 100 publishers. Elizabeth loves good storytelling. She welcomes the chance to represent adult fiction, narrative nonfiction, and books for women. Michael is eager to find adult non-fiction for big and midsize houses. He is drawn to well-written books with social or practical value by writers with platforms that can promote their work. Their colleague, Laurie McLean, handles genre fiction, and middle-grade and young-adult books, query@agentsavant.com.

Georgia Hughes is editorial director at New World Library, where she acquires and edits non-fiction books in the areas of animals, spirituality, personal growth, sustainable business, animals, and women's issues. www.newworldlibrary.com

Gordon Warnock is a Senior Agent with Andrea Hurst Literary Management (www.andreahurst.com). He seeks to establish involved, long term working relationships with talented and dedicated authors in such areas as: commercial narrative fiction, YA, memoir, political and current affairs, health, humor and cookbooks.

Jeanette Perez, Senior Editor, acquires for the HarperOne imprint based in San Francisco after six years at Harper Perennial. She is specifically looking for books in the health, wellness, personal growth, and memoir categories and has a special love for books that provoke curiosity, inspire change, and help readers.

Jennifer Joseph has been publisher and editor of [Manic D Press](http://www.manicdpress.com) since its founding. Manic D Press is a critically acclaimed, award-winning literary press that publishes fiction (novels and short stories), poetry, art, cultural studies, and alternative travel trade titles.

If you are looking for an agent, start here. You might also want to review the fourth edition of Michael Larsen's *How to Write a Book Proposal*, which will be out this year if you are writing creative non-fiction.

To learn more about the Women's National Book Association's San Francisco Chapter, which hosted the conference where these people spoke, visit <http://wnba-sfchapter.org/>.

You can find additional submissions opportunities on Writer Advice at <http://www.writeradvice.com/markets.html>. If you follow any of the leads here, please write me at Lgood67334@comcast.net and tell me what happens.

CWC Membership Renewal Time

By Catherine Accardi

REMINDER: For all members, your membership expires on June 30, 2011. Dues for the upcoming 2011/2012 year are \$45.00. Mail your check and the membership renewal form below 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.

It Is Annual Membership Renewal Time

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 _____ 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.

possibilities!



'Getting Published' Project Become a Mentor

A project, offered by CWC NorCal, will provide members with information and guidance on the all-important "getting published." Join volunteers from other branches on this worthwhile program.

The Publishing Pathways Committee is developing a resource for all CWC members at the direction of Dave LaRoche and under the auspices of CWC NorCal. **The goal of the Committee is to provide publishing and selling options and related support for CWC members.**

- A website that will provide information, resources and guidance regarding the various publishing pathways such as traditional, independent, electronic and self-publishing.
- A list of **CWC members** who have already been published who will act as speakers on the topic of how they got published
- **A Talent/Skills Bank** of well-vetted experts in various aspects of publishing.
- **A Mentor** at each branch, who will be trained by our committee as a resource for branch colleagues who need guidance on their way to being published.

We are now seeking mentors.

Interested members should contact the CWC NorCal Publishing Pathways coordinator, Nancy Curteman for further information. Her contact information is: lutecenan@sbcglobal.net , (510) 657-0608

2011 Annual Young Writers Contest

Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

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

Foundation Donors

The Leroe Family Foundation

The Jack London Founder's Circle

Christine Sunderland

The John Muir Member Club

Beverley Lauderdale in memory of Betty Tenney

The Mary Austin Writers Club

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

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

~ The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club - \$100-\$149 ~ The Mary Austin Writers Club - \$50-\$99

~ The Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10-\$24 ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

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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 speaker presentation)
is on April 9, 2011, at 11:30, 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.