

## September 2000 meeting of the Mt. Diablo Branch of CWC (see [Photos](#) )

### Ever dream of seeing your name in print? Long for a byline? Your own column?

Discover how YOU can freelance for newspapers and magazines by attending the California Writers Club - Mt. Diablo Branch - September 9th luncheon. The public is welcome.

Contra Costa Times Columnist **Mary Moorhead**, sports writer **Ron Borland**, newspaper editor **Tom Billings** and magazine writer **Maureen Biro**, will speak on how to write and sell to local, regional, and national publications.

Following their talks, they will take questions from the audience.

### Panelist's Bio's

**Tom Billings** has been involved with journalism one way or another for over 50 years, beginning as editor of both his grade school and high school newspapers. At various times sports writer, theater critic, and columnist, his work has appeared in metropolitan dailies stretching from one end of the continent to the other. He's especially proud of a photo he "directed" for the Abilene (Texas) Reporter-News that was picked up on the AP wire and reprinted nationwide

With the Copley Newspaper organization out of La Jolla (California) he served in various capacities including Chief of Corporate Staff and General Manager of Copley News Service. With Harte-Hanks Communications, he served as Corporate Director of Community Publishing Operations, and with United Media, he served as Executive Vice President and also as Executive Editor of the Today Newspaper Groups in both Phoenix and Seattle.

More recently, he was Publisher of the San Francisco Recorder and Commercial Daily News. Along the way he did stints as President of The Mother Earth News, Editorial Business Manager of The National Enquirer and, as Executive Director of The National Rifle Association, editor and publisher of its three monthly magazines.

A long time member of the American Newspaper Publishers Association and The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, he is currently chairman of Intercontinental News Service Inc., a supplemental provider of specialty features and, in his spare time, he is theater critic for The Alameda Journal.

Tom intends to talk about free lance submissions from the buyer's point of view - what, for sure, doesn't sell, and what, with luck, might.

**Ron Borland** has worked for several sports magazines including Sport, Baseball Digest, Heinrich's Pro Football and the magazines of the Oakland A's, San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Dodgers. He was a columnist and reporter at the Brentwood News from 1989-1999 and has also written articles for the San Francisco Chronicle, Long Beach Press Telegram, Davis Enterprise, West County Times, Albany-Berkeley Times, Antioch Ledger-Dispatch and Parenting Magazine.

Ron has run the gamut from feature reporting to columns, restaurant and concert reviews. He also taught Broadcast Journalism and News Writing at Humboldt State University and San Francisco State University and served as faculty advisor for KHSU radio in Arcata, faculty advisor for News at KSFS radio in San Francisco and program director for KDVS radio in Davis (as a student). He produced, directed and co-hosted a monthly cable TV news show called "This Is Oakley" in East County and has served as a media consultant in local political campaigns and for church and community groups.

**Maureen Boyd Biro** has been a freelance writer for the past sixteen years, and was Associate Publisher of Manfit Press in San Ramon, California from 1998-99. She is author of the forthcoming picture book, *Walking With Maga* (All About Kids Publications, March 2001). Her articles, essays, and fiction have been published in dozens of national and regional magazines including: Glamour, Redbook, Woman's Day, Family, The Family, Bay Area Parent, Family Times, San Diego Family Magazine, GRIT, and Down Memory Lane. Her fiction and essays have won numerous awards.

Maureen has written several columns for parenting publications: *Party Time!* (Central California Parent); *Let's Party!* (Sacramento-Sierra Parent); and *Kids Cooking* (Kids Today). Her essay, *Evensong*, was published in the anthology, *Where Is Joey Garcia?* (Manfit Press). An award winning cook, Maureen has had recipe features in publications including: Ladies Home Journal, Better Homes and Gardens and Shopper's Quarterly.

Her current projects include a children's cookbook, *Easy as Pie!*; a picture book, *Tahoe Summer*; and a memoir.

A charter member and former Vice-President of the Mt. Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club, Maureen also served on CWC's Board of Directors. Her other memberships include the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Across the River Writer's Roundtable, and the Bay Area Independent Publishers Association. Maureen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from St. Mary's College of California. She is an alumna of Loyola University, Rome, Italy.

She'll be talking about "Surviving as A Freelancer - Advice from the Trenches."

### Mary Moorhead

Mary has transferred her Active Membership to us from Berkeley Branch. She is an Elder Care Specialist and Licensed Family Therapist, helping families solve (usually horrendous) elder care problems. Currently, Mary writes a biweekly column, *On Elder Care*, for the Contra Costa Times with nationwide distribution through Knight Ridder. She is also a weekly columnist for [Myprimetime Website](#). Her new (writing) love is first person essays (a la Adair Lara).

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