

# The Write News

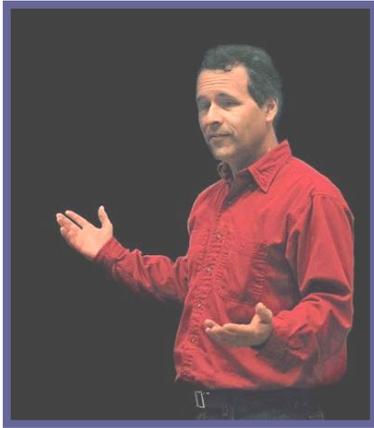
A Monthly Newsletter

January 2011

## The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

### Presents

**Ransom Stephens, author of *The God Patent*, a riveting combination of cutting edge science and religious scripture.**



Particle physicist and technologist turned novelist and public speaker, Stephens will present “The Future of Publishing: Secrets from the First Debut Novel to Emerge From the New Paradigm of Publishing”

He brings a thorough understanding of business practice, marketing, literary craft and storytelling acumen. Stephens curated and produced Litquake, San Francisco’s Literary Festival. He was also Producer and MC of Litquake Presents: Barely Published Authors—25% of whom have received book deals within two years of appearance. Ransom Stephens has been very well received at several other CWC branches.

Please join us for this informative workshop to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant. Meeting details can be found below. Everyone is welcomed to come, learn, and network with local writers. The CWC, Mount Diablo Branch website address is [www.mtdiablownriters.org](http://www.mtdiablownriters.org).

**The January meeting will include a Door Prize drawing.  
Buck-a-Book is on tap for February.**

---

### January Meeting Details

**Date & Time:** Saturday, January 8, 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

**Menu:** Zio Fraedo's sumptuous buffet.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, January 5. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at [jeaniegops@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniegops@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 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.

## ***Coming Attractions~Upcoming Speakers for 2011***

**February 12:** Tamim Ansary, Director of the San Francisco Writer's Workshop

**March 12:** Workshop - Carla King, Self Publishing

**April 9:** To be determined

**May 21:** Young Writers Banquet - Abigail Samoun, Editor

**June 11:** Workshop - Jeff Carlson, fiction & non-fiction author  
Writing Process/Selling One's Work

---

## **Let's Welcome Our New President!**

### **President's Message**

*By Lee Paulson*



Happy new year to all members of the California Writers Club. A writers club started by Jack London can lay claim to a rich and storied legacy over its span of 100 plus years. The Bay Area is one of the nation's hot beds of writers and authors.

All our members, those published and those striving to be published share two things in common: They are living the life of a writer and pursuing the art and craft of writing. The 2011 goal of your Mount Diablo branch is to enhance these two experiences.

Writing is a solitary endeavor. The reaction of spouses, children, and friends may range from mere tolerance to enthusiastic cheerleading. However, good intentions are no substitute for interaction with other writers, those kindred spirits who understand what drives you to extract characters, plots, and stories from your brain and give them birth.

One of the enduring qualities of our CWC membership is the willingness of successful authors and writers to share information of how, when, where and what to do – and equally important -- what not to do. You can spend a lot of shekels and effort running around searching for various advisors. Or, you can come to the monthly CWC Mount Diablo meeting, interact with a room full of authors and writers, attend a workshop, or listen to successful speakers share their expertise.

Spending a couple hours once a month having a delicious lunch, listening to an expert/author while talking to fellow writers, can get your creative juices flowing.

The old saying “You get out what you put in” holds true for any organization. CWC Mount Diablo is blessed by having a Board of Directors and officers who are dedicated to supporting the club with their time and talent. Have an idea, talent or area where you would be willing to lend a hand? Just talk to any board member. Together we can make this New Year a rewarding one for all our members.



## Member News and Salutes



**Barbara Bentley** will have a talk and book signing on January 8, 2011, at the Antioch Barnes and Noble bookstore.



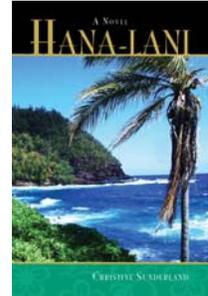
**Christine Sunderland's** fourth novel, *Hana-lani*, has been released by OakTara. Christine is the author of the trilogy, *Pilgrimage* (OakTara-2007), award-winning *Offerings* (OakTara-2009), and *Inheritance* (OakTara-2009).

<http://www.ChristineSunderland.com>

<http://MyTravels.ChristineSunderland.com>

(blog); <http://www.OakTara.com>

*All author proceeds are given to charity.*



Member, **Kathy Urban** writes a weekly column for the Danville Patch, a local news website. She interviewed CWC Mount Diablo member **Jack Russ** about his new book, *In Dangerous Waters*, and the article was posted December 18th. Here is the link: <http://danville.patch.com/articles/retired-navy-captain-pens-korean-war-story> .



### **Calling All Members! Would You Like To Be Saluted?**

We would like to salute you in *The Write News*. We want you to share your good news! Have you had a sale, have an upcoming author event, or have you been published recently (whether paid or not)? If so, we would like to share your good news. Let your newsletter Editor know by providing your name and news, along with a photo if you would like. Contact Lyn Roberts at [lynz@astound.net](mailto:lynz@astound.net).



### **The Back Fence**

**Don't forget** to hang out at our **Back Fence**.

That would be our Mount Diablo branch site at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>. At The Fence you will

find topics of interest to writers. You can also sign-up for Back Fence e-mails. If you haven't yet joined the Back Fence, go to the link above and follow the simple sign-up process.



### **Call For Volunteers**

#### **Would You Like To Be A Volunteer For Your Writers Club?**

Would you not want to further the mission of our writers club? Our mission, as defined on our statewide club website is: *"Educating writers of all abilities in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work"*. Sounds like a good plan to me. Our writers club runs smoothly thanks to our talented and dedicated volunteers. Our board members are volunteers, our program chairs are volunteers, and all the other people that assist with various projects and tasks are volunteers. We want you to be our next volunteer. For more information about what opportunities are available to you, contact Membership Chair, Catherine Accardi, at [caacat@comcast.net](mailto:caacat@comcast.net)

## **The CWC-Mount Diablo Branch Critique Group**

*By Ted Wells, Critique Group Chair*

Dear CWC Critiquers,

As usual, we will meet at the Pleasant Hill Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, in the bar area, at 9:30-11:00 a.m., prior to the general meeting. Please drop in.

### **January 8<sup>th</sup>: Critique Meeting Agenda**

- ~ Short Discussion Topic: "How to shoot, edit, format, store, and reproduce your photos, illustrations, and other art to enhance and to sell your books". 15 minutes
- ~ Oral and written critique on fiction piece. 30 minutes
- ~ Oral and written critique on non-fiction book proposal. 30 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. 15 minutes

I look forward to 5-10 typed pages of your manuscripts on any genre, fiction or nonfiction, or, even a photo, for someone to critique. See you Saturday, January 8.

To our great works.

## **Web, Web, Nothing but Web! Check It Out!**

*By Aline Soules, Board Member and Online Coordinator*

Over the last year, your Board has been considering how we can move our Web presence forward in a more flexible and creative direction. Coupled with that, Cynthia Borcena, our Web guru for the last few years, announced that she, too, needed to move forward and leave the management of our Web site.

As a result, we have developed the start of a new Web site on Wordpress that we think will serve us well over the next few years.

First, we want to thank Cynthia for her work with our Web site and the care she has taken to manage it for us. We wouldn't have had a Web site without her. Thanks, Cynthia.

Second, we want to introduce you to our new Web site:

<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com>

To date, we have moved our existing information to the new one. Now, we need to refine what we have and introduce new ideas to grow the site. We want it to be more dynamic than our previous site, so over the next few months, we plan more postings to engage your interest and provide useful information to help your writing life.

Of course, our program/workshop announcements will continue to be front and center and you will be able to register right from our Web site. We're also looking for feedback and ideas and will implement what's possible, so send your comments through the new Web site or email Aline, your online coordinator, at [soulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:soulesa@yahoo.com).

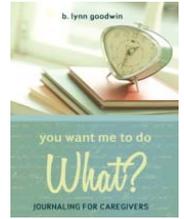
So check it out! And if you forget our new Web address, not to worry—our old site has a "re-direct" to take you to it. Just be sure to bookmark the new site or save for future reference.

See you online.

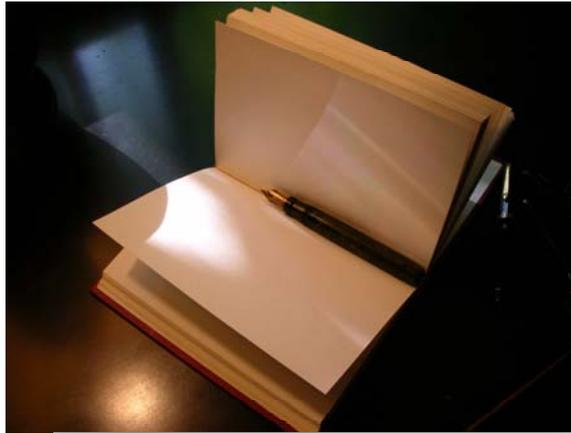
## Writers Markets Column

Looking for new places to submit your writing? In an effort to meet the needs of our membership, CWC—Mount Diablo will offer a “Writer’s Markets” column in our monthly newsletter, beginning in January. You can find the first of these columns below.

We need your help to make it as strong as possible. If you know of a publication-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](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net).



## Contests and Markets An Eclectic Collection Compiled by B. Lynn Goodwin



Looking for new places to submit your writing? No list will meet everyone’s needs, of course, but maybe something here will appeal.

I’m passing along a collection of sites that have come to me for inclusion in Writer Advice. I’m honored to be able to share them here. I wish I had time to collect information about every genre, but I don’t.

If you know of contest or market information you would like to share, please forward it to [Lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net). Thanks for helping your fellow writers.

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: FOR ANTHOLOGY, WISDOM HAS A VOICE: EVERY DAUGHTER’S MEMORIES OF HER MOTHER.**

Looking for personal narratives of 2,000 – 2,500 words that demonstrate the art of storytelling and possess a story arc with dramatic appeal.

Deadline: February 1, 2011

For detailed submission information or to contact the editors, please contact: Lynn Henriksen through [www.thestorywoman.com](http://www.thestorywoman.com) or [www.telltale souls.com](http://www.telltale souls.com)

*(Contests & Markets are continued on the next page.)*

## Contests and Markets *(continued)*

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: GENERATIONS, A JOURNAL OF IDEAS AND IMAGES**

Theme: Influences

Seeking poetry, short fiction, personal narratives, and art that speaks to the theme from people of all ages that explores what influences us.

Deadline: January 15, 2011.

Details at <http://generationslitmag.org>.

All work should be submitted via our online submission manager.

<http://generations.submishmash.com/Submit>

Generations Lit Mag Info <[info@generationslitmag.org](mailto:info@generationslitmag.org)>

Kiala Givehand, Editor

**Central Coast Writers Spring 2011 Writing Contest** is accepting submissions of poetry and short stories. Work must be previously unpublished. Entry fee of \$15 per story and \$5 per poem, multiple submissions are allowed.

Cash prizes and publication in the 2011 Homestead Review.

Deadline: January 15th, 2011

Details at: <http://www.centralcoastwriters.org/2011-contest-rules.htm>

**Designer Greetings** is accepting greeting card poetry submissions. Humorous, Everyday and Holiday submissions are welcome. Only accepts submissions via snail mail, but full guidelines are available online.

Payment on acceptance

Deadline: Ongoing

Details at: <http://designergreetings.com/pages/jobs.html>

**Founders Circle Contest** is accepting submission of poetry up to two pages long and prose of up to 3,000 words in all genres. There is a reading fee of \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members.

Cash prize and publication in the Founders Circle Magazine.

Deadline: January 15, 2011

Details at: <http://www.writeonwhidbey.com/Publications/ContestGuidelines.htm>

**Island Magazine** is accepting submissions of poetry, short stories, essays, and reviews.

Payment: \$100 - \$150

Deadline: Ongoing

Details at: <http://islandmag.com/contributions.html>

**Poetry Magazine** is accepting submissions of poetry and prose. Full editorial guidelines are available online.

Payment: \$150 - \$300

Deadline: Ongoing for future issues

Details at: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/submissions.html>

**The University of New Orleans'** seventh Annual Writing Contest for Study Abroad is open to writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. One winner in each genre receives a fee waiver to their summer study abroad workshops in Edinburgh, Scotland (valued at over \$3,000), plus publication in The Pinch journal.

Fee: \$25 for each entry

Deadline: Jan. 31, 2011.

More info: <http://unopress.org/writingcontest/>

*(continued on the next page)*

## Contests and Markets *(continued)*

**Today's Parent Magazine** is accepting submissions for their health, behavior, money, "your turn", mom time and education sections. They prefer an emailed proposal rather than the full article for initial contact.

Payment varies depending on length

Deadline: Ongoing, submit for issues at least 6 months in advance (i.e., Christmas topics in May-June)

Details at: [http://www.todaysparent.com/corpinfo/article.jsp?content=20030416\\_171629\\_4196](http://www.todaysparent.com/corpinfo/article.jsp?content=20030416_171629_4196)

**Call for Anthology Submissions: Writing About Family** from the National Association for Memoir Writers.

Submissions about writing and publishing by women with experience in writing and publishing about family.

Deadline: January 31, 2011

Details at <http://www.namw.org/general-member-announcements/writers-call-for-submission-for-anthology-writing-about-family/>

**Writer Advice's Sixth Annual Flash Prose Contest** seeks flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction that grabs, surprises, and mesmerizes readers in fewer than 750 words.

Deadline: April 15

Details at: [www.writeradvice.com](http://www.writeradvice.com)

## From The Editor's Desk

*By Catherine Accardi*

### *I have new news for the new year!*

As of January 2011, I will be your new Mount Diablo Branch Membership Chair. Branch President, Lee Paulson, will appoint me at our January 8 board meeting. Jody Denison has been a superlative membership coordinator for the past several years. **Thank you Jody!** Your new Newsletter Editor will be Lyn Roberts, long-time branch member and professional editor. **Welcome Lyn!** And, another thank you goes to Lynn Goodwin who provided a welcomed addition to the newsletter with her Contests and Markets article.

**As we move forward into the new year, we shall *Sail On!***

## Mount Diablo Branch Board Members for 2011

### Officers

President: Lee Paulson

Vice President: Elisabeth Tuck

Secretary: Barbara Bentley

Treasurer: Joanne Brown

### Program Chairs

Newsletter Editor: Lyn Roberts

Publicity: Ann Damaschino

Membership: Catherine Accardi

Event Logistics: Danard Emanuelson

Central Board Rep: David George

Critique Group: Ted Wells

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser: Camille

Minichino

Workshops: Don Maker

Young Writers Contest: Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Central Board Rep (Alt.): Jack Russ

Website: Aline Soules

Historian/Door Prizes: Fran Wojnar

### Advisory Board

Nannette Rundle Carroll

Betty Iverson

Jack Russ

## 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

#### The Mary Austin Writers Club

*David George*

*Sarah Wilson in memory of Sue Tasker*

#### The Gertrude Atherton Guild

*Nanette Cooper McGuinness*

#### The John Steinbeck Society

#### The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club

*Barbara Bentley*

*Joanne Brown*

*Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of Al and Elmer Koehler*

#### The Helen Hunt Jackson Group

*Edward Stanislawski*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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 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 January 8, 2011, at 9:30, in Pleasant Hill.  
For detailed meeting information, go to  
[www.mtdiablownriters.org](http://www.mtdiablownriters.org).**

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.