



The Write News

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Publication

May 2008

May Speaker and Event Information

The California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

Presents

The Young Writers Banquet with guest speaker Leslie Griffith



The San Francisco Bay Area's most award-winning female journalist, Leslie Griffith, will be the featured speaker at the California Writers Club - Mount Diablo Branch Young Writers Contest Awards Banquet on Friday, May 16, 2008.

The Young Writers Banquet is our big event of year. The Mount Diablo Branch encourages all the contest winners, their parents, and their teachers, as well as all of our members, family and friends, to attend this

worthwhile event. Attendees will experience a fine meal and enjoy a marvelous program. The program will include readings of winning entries, and, of course, hearing our guest speaker Leslie Griffith. The Young Writers Banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 16. Details are provided below and on our web site. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch web address is: <http://www.mtdiablownriters.org>

May Event Details

Date & Time: Friday, May 16, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Pleasant Hill Recreation Center at 320 Civic Drive in Pleasant Hill

Cost: \$20

Menu: The Young Writers Banquet will be catered by Back Forty Barbeque.

Reservations: Reservations are required, and must be received no later than noon on Monday, May 12. To make reservations, contact Liz Pentacoff, via e-mail at lizbooks@aol.com, or by phone at (925) 969-0856.



Upcoming Speakers for 2008

June 14 - Martha Engber ~ Great Characters from the Ground Up

July & August - Club does not meet in July or August

September 13 - Anita Amirrezvani, Novelist

October 11 - Darryl Brock, Novelist

President's Message

By Jack Russ



Our really big event of this month, and of the year, in fact, is our upcoming Young Writers Contest awards banquet for the contest winners, their parents, and their teachers. **ALL** Mount Diablo branch members are encouraged to attend for a fine meal, and to enjoy the festivities, read the student's winning entries, and hear our distinguished guest speaker. The banquet will be held beginning at 6:00 PM on Friday evening May 16 at the Pleasant Hill Recreation Center. Details are provided separately and on our web site. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Another major event occurs at our regular June meeting when we conduct our annual election of the branch's Board of Directors. The elected leaders, and the additional appointed board members, plan and oversee the branch's various events and meetings during our operational year. The nominees for the top elected positions are listed separately in this issue. In accordance with the by-laws, only four board positions require election by the membership. The remaining supporting board assignments, currently fifteen members in all, are volunteers who have been selected to serve. The board is always open to new volunteers.

I am particularly pleased with the candidates for the coming year, each of whom has demonstrated significant skill, not only in writing, but in carrying out the various tasks involved in sustaining and promoting the branch. I know they will serve the branch well and continue to promote the profession and the vitality of our select group of talented writers. Please renew your membership and be a part of a great year ahead.

CWC - Mount Diablo Branch Officers for 2008-2009

Mount Diablo Branch members will vote on the slate of officers at our June meeting. The candidates are as follows:

President: Dave George

Vice President: Julie Dowling

Secretary: Barbara Bentley

Treasurer: Joanne Brown



Sales & Salutes

Myrtle Archer's short story, *Viagra/Triagra*, was accepted by *Thomy Locust*.

Joanna Kraus' children's book, *Tamales*, has been listed as one of the best children's books for 2008 by The Bank Street College of Education

What can a 21st century seeker learn about life, love and spirituality from a 19th century French novel? Plenty! *The Wisdom of Les Miserables: Lessons From the Heart of Jean Valjean* by **Alfred J. Garrotto**, is available now at www.lulu.com/content/1795167 and www.blsinc.com/garrotto.htm (Lulu Press, Inc., ISBN 978-1-4357-0868-6).

A Website Review

By B. Lynn Goodwin

Secrets Make Great Plot Ideas

Need plot ideas? Want to read the shortest stories ever told? You'll find both in the wonderful work at **Post Secret** (www.postsecret.blogspot.com). People mail in secrets they have never told anyone and support their story with art and graphics. These postcard-sized stories are amazing.

Over seaside wildflowers is the message, "My mom doesn't know that I know about the baby she had when she was fifteen. She gave it up for adoption. I have a sister I've never met."

Two kitties sit at a window, one eyeing a bird on the sill. The author writes, "I feel a bit omnipotent every morning when I open the curtains for my inside cats."

On a postcard of school crests someone says, "Ivy League. March 31, 2008. 5:00PM. I finally achieved my dream. Why hasn't it made me happy?" These postcards tell the shortest stories in the universe, exposing hopes, dreams, and fantasies. Use them to invent the characters, setting, and circumstances for your next story. Or tell your own secret. Click on "How do I mail in my secrets?" in FAQ for instructions.

Post Secret (www.postsecret.blogspot.com) is fresh, entertaining, and innovative. It will fill your imagination and proves less is more.

Conferences

* **The 2008 East of Eden Writer's Conference**, sponsored by the CWC-South Bay Branch, will be held on September 5-7, 2008. The conference will be held in "Steinbeck Country" in Salinas. For more information, please direct your members to the South Bay website at: <http://www.southbaywriters.com>. By clicking on the conference link, they can get more information and also register on-line.

Contests

* As part of our 2008 East of Eden Writers Conference, the South Bay Branch will once again hold its "Basil Stevens Memorial Writing Contest". Detailed information is as follows:

What: Previously unpublished essay, article, story, or poem, 750-words maximum. Topic: sports theme.

Prize: First prize is a scholarship to the East of Eden Writers Conference. This is a \$500 value.

Entry: Fee is \$10 per entry, one entry per person. Open to all, except previous first place winners are not eligible to enter. Make your check payable to: "East of Eden Writers Conference". Do not send cash.

Deadline: July 1, 2008 (postmarked). Winners announced August 1.

For more information: www.southbaywriters.com (California Writers Club, South Bay Branch), or contact Robert Garfinkle at (510) 489-4779 (after noon).

Note: Basil Stevens was a sports writer and long-time member of South Bay. He passed away in 2004 and is sorely missed. This contest is being run primarily with funds donated in his memory.

Send your entry to: Basil Stevens Memorial Writing Contest - California Writers Club
c/o Robert Garfinkle, 32924 Monrovia Street, Union City, CA 94587.

* **California State Poetry Society 22nd Annual Poetry Competition** is accepting submissions until June 30. For competition guidelines, send a SASE to Contest Chair Maura Harvey, P.O. Box 2672, Del Mar, CA 92014, or e-mail kateozbirn@yahoo.com.

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch
Annual Young Writers Contest 2008 Donations

Thank you to the following members for the Young Writers Contest 2008 Donations.
We couldn't hold the contest without you!

Table with 3 columns: Donor Name, Donor Club, and In Memory of. Includes names like Barbara Bentley, Maureen Biro, Sherida Bush, etc.

The Mt. 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 Mt. Diablo CWC Newsletter.

- The Jack London Founder's Circle ~ \$250
The John Muir Member Club ~ \$150 - \$249
The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club ~ \$100 - \$149
The Mary Austin Writers Club ~ \$50 - \$99
The George Sterling Society ~ \$25 - \$49
The Gertrude Atherton Guild ~ \$10 - \$24

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 _____

Please make your check payable to: CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch *
Mail to: CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, Attention: Young Writers Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507
* The California Writers Club is a non-profit organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



2008 Young Writers Contest Winners The Betty Tenney Memorial Essay Awards

Grade 6 Essays

First Place: Eleana Binder - "Learning Through Fear" - Tehiyah Day School, Margot Stein

Second Place: Josh Cohen - "Pain and Fear" - Tehiyah Day School, Margot Stein

Grade 7 Essays

First Place: Steven Schreitmueller - "Skiing" - Stone Valley School, Eric Rasch

Second Place: Michaela ben Izzy - "Time and Space" - Tehiyah Day School, Stephanie Piper

Grade 8 Essays

First Place: Thomas Joyce - "Mist" - Dorris-Eaton School, Deenie Schoenfeld

Second Place: Ashley See - "Blackberries with Sugar on Top" - St. Perpetua, Heidi Wilson

Grade 6 Poetry

First Place: Eleana Binder - "Younger Sister" - Tehiyah Day School, Margot Stein

Second Place: Caitlin Kloess - "Small Though It May Be" - Windrush School, Jennifer Daly

Third Place: Elia Chuagui-Schmida - "Oranges" - Windrush School, Jennifer Daly

Grade 7 Poetry

First Place: Theresa Rizza - "The Poem Within" - Walnut Creek Intermediate, Linda Linton

Second Place: Madeleine Han - "A Trip to Wonderland" - Windemere Ranch, Andrea Haws

Third Place: Kiren Singh - "The Bloody Battle" - Dorris Eaton School, Brad Brelein

Grade 8 Poetry

First Place: Emalee Russell - Untitled - Stone Valley School, Courtney Konopacky

Second Place: Claire Keller - "Striking a Chord" - Walnut Creek Intermediate, Mary Claire Caron

Third Place: Evan Chow - "The Dangers of Books" - Home school, Julie Chow

Grade 6 Short Story

First Place: Sara Johnson - "Pantry Tales: Cheery Chester's Great Adventure"

Diablo View School, Jeannine Cherepy

Second Place: Joshua Chen Cavalier - "Landmine" - Iron Horse, Cheryl Rowe

Third Place: Brian Kerfs - "Cannibals in the Cellar" - Christ the King, Karen McMillan

Grade 7 Short Story

First Place: Becky Hirsch - "These Words" - Foothill Middle School, Rachel Pappas

Second Place: Bert "B.J." Norcross - "How I see the World" - Delta Vista Middle, Rochelle Hays

Third Place: Samantha Hebing - "Let the Rain Fall Down" - North Creek Academy, Debbie Peacock

Grade 8 Short Story

First Place: Megan Freeman - "Adventures in the Land of Geekdom" - Orinda Intermediate, Jennifer Wagner

Second Place: Divansh Vaishnav - "Hey Boy" - Stone Valley School, Courtney Konopacky

Third Place: Ryan Pineda - "The Assassin" - Stone Valley School, Robin Russell

Meet Our Member

By Jody Denison

Profile: Roberta Alexander

Brooklyn born, with a sense of humor to match, new member Roberta Alexander proves that more than trees grow there. From the age of eight she knew she wanted to be a story teller. She chose journalism when she got to college--she has a Bachelor's degree in English from Brooklyn College, and a Master's in Journalism from Ohio University School of Communications--thus guaranteeing her ability to live and eat indoors.

Most of Roberta's life has been spent in newspaper offices as a reporter or an editor. Outside the office she found time to write magazine pieces "among twenty other things." Currently, she reviews mystery books for the Contra Costa Times. She not only gets paid for writing--she gets paid for reading! She is the mother of two grown children, and has two grandchildren. Roberta is not one to sit idle between work assignments. She is a lap swimmer, and a practitioner of Tai Chi. She also takes piano lessons.

Roberta offers what she calls some of the best advice for writers she ever heard: "Apply the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair." Actually her personal favorite is: "Sit down at the keyboard and open a vein."

CWC Membership Renewal Time

By Jody Denison

REMINDER: For all members, your membership expires on June 30, 2008. Dues for the upcoming 2008/2009 year are \$45.00 payable to CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch. Mail your check and membership renewal form below to: Membership, CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA, 94507. And don't forget --one of the members who have renewed prior to May 31 will be selected in a drawing for a free lunch at our June meeting.



It's Annual Membership Renewal Time Again!

There really is such a thing as a **FREE LUNCH!** Renew your Membership by May 31st, and your name will be entered in our drawing for a **FREE LUNCH** at a future meeting of your choice. Don't wait. **RENEW TODAY!**

Please complete this form, and include it with your \$45 check. We're updating our member database and we want to make sure we have correct information about you. PLEASE print clearly!

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Initial ____ Nickname _____

Mailing Address _____ Main Phone (____) _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP _____ Other Phone (____) _____

E-Mail Addr. _____ FAX (____) _____

Active Member Associate Member Supporting Member Web Site _____

Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

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

Make your check for \$45 payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch". Mail this form with your check to : CWC-Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA 94507. If you have any questions call Jody at (925) 838-0058, or e-mail denisonjd@sbcglobal.net.

California Writers Club - Mount Diablo Branch

Officers:

*President: Jack Russ
Vice-President: Dave George
Treasurer: Joanne Brown
Secretary: Julie Dowling*

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*The ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributing individuals
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Post Office Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507

