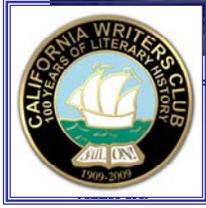




# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

October 2010



## The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

**Presents**

***Robert Dugoni***

**On October 9th for the Second Annual Jack London Lecture**

**Best-selling author of legal thrillers (*Wrongful Death*)**



Robert Dugoni is our second Jack London speaker. The title of his talk is "Step up and Swing the Bat"

Born in Idaho and raised in Burlingame, Robert Dugoni, a middle child in a family of ten siblings, jokes that he didn't get a chance to talk, so he wrote. By seventh grade, he wanted to be a writer. He majored in creative writing and communications/journalism at Stanford where he wrote for *The Stanford Daily*. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and worked as a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* before attending UCLA law school. Dugoni practiced law full-time in San Francisco and is now counsel for a law firm in Seattle.

In 1999, he quit the full-time practice of law to write, so he moved his wife and child to Seattle. For the next three years, Dugoni worked in an 8' x 8' windowless office to complete three novels, two of which won Pacific Northwest Writers' Association literary contests. His debut novel, *The Jury Master*, became a *New York Times* bestseller and *Deadly Pleasures Mystery Magazine's* Best of the Best debut novel. *Wrongful Death*, sequel to *Jury Master*, mixes the suspense of a Grisham legal thriller with the political angle of a Baldacci.

Dugoni's non-fiction exposé, *The Cyanide Canary* (2004), a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year, and the Idaho Book of the Year, chronicled the investigation, prosecution, and aftermath surrounding an environmental crime in Soda Springs, Idaho.

*Damage Control* has been called "a page turner" with "a fast moving plot and twists that will surprise even seasoned thriller readers." His fourth novel, and third in the David Sloane series, *Bodily Harm*, was released early this year and critics are calling it his best book yet.

Dugoni's books have been published in 18 foreign countries. In addition to writing novels, throughout the United States Dugoni teaches the craft of writing and of writing novels.  
<http://www.robertdugoni.com/>

**We will have Bob's books available for sale courtesy of Orinda Books.**

Please join us for this informative session to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant. Meeting details can be found on page two. Everyone is welcomed to come, learn, and network with local writers.

The CWC, Mount Diablo Branch website address is [www.mtdiablowriters.org](http://www.mtdiablowriters.org).

## October Meeting Details

**Date & Time:** Saturday October 9, 2010, with sign-in at 11:30 a.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, October 6. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at, [jeaniegpops@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniegpops@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.

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## Coming Attractions ~ Upcoming Speakers for 2010

**November 13:** Workshop - James Dalessandro, novelist & screenwriter

**December 11:** "Three of Our Own"

*Deborah Davis*

*Beverly Lauderdale*

*Judith Marshall*

**January 8:** To Be Announced

**February 12:** To Be Announced

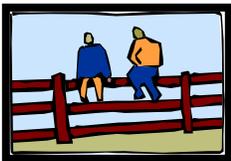
**March 12:** Workshop - Lisa Alpine & Carla King, Self Publishing

**April 9:** To Be Announced

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

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

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## *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. Click on "Files" at the left of your screen. Topics of interest to writers are arranged in order as you work your way through the publishing process. Do you have any tips to share under the main topics? Do you have another topic you feel needs to be addressed? Members who want to add their tips can open a folder and easily add a file. If you haven't yet joined the Back Fence, go to the link above and follow the simple sign-up process.

## President's Message

By William Stong



Hello, Mount Diablo branch!

I trust that your fall is going well. Summer went by so fast, it's hard to imagine that schools have been back in session for so long already.

As we begin another year for the Mount Diablo branch, let me introduce *your* Leadership Team. The folks who look after the branch and make sure things get done are either:

- Officers of the Board
- Members of the Board
- Members of the Advisory Board
- Chairs of the various committees

The Board consists of the officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) and board members. The Advisory Board consists of members with good experience and a desire to help out the branch. Many of these people do double duty as one of our chairs:

**Programs** finds and arranges for our great speakers

**Workshops** finds and arranges for our well-received workshops

**Newsletter** pulls together our informative & professional newsletter

**Publicity** arranges for getting our message out to the public

**Membership** oversees our membership base

**Event Logistics** negotiates and coordinates all the details of our events

**Critique** coordinates our monthly critique session

**Young Writers Contest** oversees our branch's premier event

**Online Branch** envisions, integrates, and promotes the Branch's online presence

**Historian** keeps all of our records and important documents

**Barnes & Noble Fundraiser** coordinates our premier fundraiser

**Central Board Rep** interfaces with CWC state level

**Central Board Rep – Alternate** interfaces with CWC state level

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Function	Chair	2010-2011 Incumbent
Officer - President		William Stong
Officer - Vice President	Program	Elisabeth Tuck
Officer - Secretary		Barbara Bentley
Officer - Treasurer		Joanne Brown
Board Member	Newsletter	Catherine Accardi
Board Member	Publicity	Ann Damaschino
Board Member	Membership	Jody Denison
Board Member	Event Logistics	Danard Emanuelson
Board Member	Critique	Peter Hjersman
Board Member	Young Writers Contest	Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff
Board Member	Workshop	Don Maker
Board Member	Online Branch	Aline Soules
Board Member	Branch Historian	Fran Wojnar
Advisory Board Member		Al Garrotto
Advisory Board Member		Betty Iverson
Advisory Board Member		Lee Paulson
Advisory Board Member		Nannette Rundle Carroll
	Barnes & Noble Fundraiser	Camille Minichino
Board Member	Central Board Rep	David George
	Central Board Alternate Rep	Jack Russ

From my experience with this Leadership Team, they do not suffer from excessive shyness. Feel free to chat it up with any one of us--perhaps at Zio Fraedo's on October 9, 2010. We're all looking for a great year for Mount Diablo branch.

All the best,  
Bill



## Sales and Salutes

**Myrtle Archer's** short story, *Sweethearts*, has been reprinted in *Soundings Magazine*.

**Jerry Blair's** crime short, *Janus*, is appearing in serial form on "Fried Fiction." If you would like to read a quick bit of noir crime fiction, go to [www.friedfiction.com](http://www.friedfiction.com). Eight episodes are already in place.

**Nannette Rundle Carroll** was quoted in the 8/30/10 Investors Business Daily on the Leaders and Success page. Her book, *The Communication Problem Solver*, caught the attention of the IBD who called and interviewed her for the piece.

Also, more news related to the book on communication:

- Nannette's recent article, "Let's Talk Turkey" has been published in three places in September: Projects@Work and PM Boulevard (project management sites) and as a guest post in AMACOM books blog.

- Nannette is leading a webinar for the American Management Association from Manhattan on 9/23/10: "How to Be a Communication Problem Solver." It is based on her book.

- Nannette has been invited to speak at the New York public business library on 9/24/10. Her topic is "Tackling Tough Work Conversations." The library purchased three of her books and two of them are checked out!

<http://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2010/09/24/tackling-tough-workplace-conversations>

**Machille Legoullon's** recent publication, *Cleansing the Soul*, was just released in *Chicken Soup for a Runner's Soul* on July 13th.

**Veronica Rossi** has accepted representation from Josh Adams, of Adams Literary. Also, she was nominated for the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Sue Alexander Award. In addition, Veronica was recently nominated for the James Kirkwood Award.

**The James Kirkwood Award** was named for one of the UCLA Writers' Program's most illustrious students—Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning author James Kirkwood—who received his "big break" in one of our classes when his novel writing instructor, the late Robert Kirsch, identified his talent and helped him launch his career. In Kirkwood's memory, his friends and admirers established the award to honor new generations of Writers' Program fiction writers for their literary potential.



## 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 Catherine at [caacat@comcast.net](mailto:caacat@comcast.net).

## **Member Profile**

*By Jody Denison*

### **Profile: Virginia Jones**

Virgie Jones was one of the first people I met when I attended my first luncheon with the Mount Diablo Chapter. She was warm and friendly, and, with the instincts of a good reporter, she learned more about me in fifteen minutes than I would learn about her. That was remedied when I was privileged to sit with her several times after that.

What I did learn was that Virgie had the energy of a woman half her age and a certainty of opinion that never swayed. It was her stimulating energy that she brought to a fledgling writer's group and helped secure its roots in the Diablo Valley.

While she was a remarkable researcher and historian for the San Ramon Valley, and Alamo in particular, she had a depth of sympathy unmatched when it came to the babies born to crack users. As a volunteer at John Muir Hospital she knitted caps for the babies and completed 2,600 individual caps. Imagine the 2,600 babies who received that love, and never knew the provider. Throughout all that she never stopped writing either!

Her awards are numerous--among them were: The Golden Poet Award (for 7 years!), she was Grand Marshall for Alamo's first parade, and Citizen of the Year from Alamo Rotary.

Virgie did all this and more when her husband was alive as she put the same energy into helping him and his civic activities.

Virgie, we owe you so much and we'll miss you.

## Writing Contests

Numerous websites list upcoming writing contests. This month's featured site is: [Poets and Writers at www.pw.org](http://www.pw.org). Several contests are listed below.

### National Federation of State Poetry Societies

Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition

A prize of \$1,000, publication by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Press, and 50 author copies are given annually for a poetry collection. Submit a manuscript of 48 to 70 pages with a \$25 entry fee (\$20 for NFSPS members) by October 15. For detailed information go to [www.nfspd.com](http://www.nfspd.com) or e-mail [downejm@auburn.edu](mailto:downejm@auburn.edu). Send an SASE, e-mail, or visit the Web site for complete guidelines.

### Arthur Edelstein Prize for Short Fiction

A prize of \$1,000 and publication on [www.writingsite.com](http://www.writingsite.com) is given annually for a short story. Submit a story of up to 6,000 words with a \$10 entry fee during the month of October. The deadline is October 31. Visit the Web site for complete guidelines at [www.writingsite.com](http://www.writingsite.com), or send an e-mail to [tima@writingsite.com](mailto:tima@writingsite.com)



*Spring 2011 Writing Contest*  
Poetry and Short Story Winners Published and \$500 Prize!

**Central Coast Writers 2011 Spring Writing Contest** is open to all work not previously published. The contest is open to all writers. You do not need to be a member of CCW to enter. **Entry Fees:** Short stories: \$15 per story. Poetry: \$5 per poem. **Multiple Entries:** Enter as many times as you wish, with separate fee for each entry. **Maximum Length:** Short story: 4,000 words. Poetry: no restriction. **Submission Period:** September 15, 2010 through January 15, 2011 (by postmark). **Submit to:** CCW Writing Contest, P.O. Box 997, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Make your check payable to Central Coast Writers. **Questions:** Send e-mail to [ccw-contests@comcast.net](mailto:ccw-contests@comcast.net).

## Workshops

Many events of interest to writers are available to us. This month's featured website listing upcoming events is Writers' Conferences and Centers at [www.writersconf.org](http://www.writersconf.org). Among the listings is the **Big Sur Writing Workshops**



These workshops provide the tools needed to prepare one's work for publication as manuscripts must be totally polished to sell in this tight market. Writers meet and work closely with at least three faculty members throughout the weekend, from agents to editors to authors. The ratio of faculty to writers is five to one or better. The goal is to have writers leave on Sunday with the knowledge to see their works published. Workshops are held several times a year. For more information contact Magnus Toren at [magnus@henrymiller.org](mailto:magnus@henrymiller.org), or phone 831-667-2574. The website is at [www.henrymiller.org/workshops.html](http://www.henrymiller.org/workshops.html).

***Plots and character don't make life. Life is here and now,  
anytime you say the word, anytime you let her rip.***

***~ Henry Miller ~***



## Hot Topics

### From The Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

#### Copyright - What's the story?

Over the years, I have noticed that the subject of copyright continues to raise a variety of differing opinions. As interesting as differing opinions can be, I suggest it best to be well informed about this subject.

A good source is the Stanford University Libraries website at <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/>. Among the topics covered are fair use, the public domain, website permissions, and copyright research.

Another good source is the United States Copyright Office website at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov). Among the topics on this site are:

#### What does copyright protect?

Copyright, a form of intellectual property law, protects original works of authorship including literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software, and architecture. Copyright does not protect facts, ideas, systems, or methods of operation, although it may protect the way these things are expressed. See Circular 1, *Copyright Basics*, section "What Works Are Protected."

#### When is my work protected?

Your work is under copyright protection the moment it is created and fixed in a tangible form that it is perceptible either directly or with the aid of a machine or device.

#### Do I have to register with your office to be protected?

No. In general, registration is voluntary. Copyright exists from the moment the work is created. You will have to register, however, if you wish to bring a lawsuit for infringement of a U.S. work. See Circular 1, *Copyright Basics*, section "Copyright Registration."

#### Why should I register my work if copyright protection is automatic?

Registration is recommended for a number of reasons. Many choose to register their works because they wish to have the facts of their copyright on the public record and have a certificate of registration. Registered works may be eligible for statutory damages and attorney's fees in successful litigation.




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## 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 Mount Diablo Board of Directors wish to thank the donors to the Young Writers Contest, from July 1, 2010 to the present, listed on the next page.

(Continued)

# Young Writers Club Donors *(continued)*

**The Jack London Founder’s Circle**

**The John Steinbeck Society**

**The John Muir Member Club**

**The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club**

*Barbara Bentley*

**The Mary Austin Writers Club**

*Joanne Brown*

*Sarah Wilson in memory of Sue Tasker*

**The Helen Hunt Jackson Group**

**The Gertrude Atherton Guild**

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

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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 to: CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, Attention: Young Writers Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507.

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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**

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**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  
October 9, 2010, at 11:30, 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.