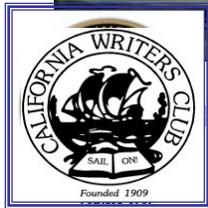


The Write News

A Mo



A Monthly Newsletter

October 2011

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

Saturday, October 8, 2011

Veronica Rossi

“Creating High Concept Fiction”



What makes something *high concept fiction* and why are agents and editors searching for it? Interested in the market for high concept? Do you want to learn about young adult fiction? Discover the secrets behind this genre from the latest local success story. How can YOU apply this technique to your own writing?

Veronica Rossi, our own CWC Mt. Diablo Branch member, sold her 3-book deal to Harper Collins and looks forward to seeing the movie. Little Brown is publishing the book in the UK and 23 international territories!

She will tell us how she broke into this highly-competitive market with her novel, *Under the Never Sky* and share how we can do it too.

JK Rowling, move over.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Veronica lived in several countries and cities around the world, finally settling in Northern CA with her husband and two sons. She graduated from UCLA and then studied fine art at the San Francisco College of the Arts. When not writing or painting, she chases after her boys, “who make her laugh every day, and who teach her about love that’s a million gazillion times bigger than the ocean”. Veronica’s work has placed first in the fantasy/science fiction categories of the Pacific Northwest and Southwest Writers annual contests and was nominated for SCBWI’s Sue Alexander Award.

Sign-in begins at 11:30 at Zio Fraedo’s Restaurant 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Our short, general meeting starts at noon, followed by a sumptuous buffet lunch, then Ms. Rossi’s talk. \$20 members, \$25 non-members.

Contact: Jean at jeaniegpops@comcast.net or leave a message at: (925) 934-5677

Meeting Details on Page 2



Introducing : Publishing Pathways

Presenting a New Benefit to our Members

Our Purpose is to Provide Publishing, Selling Options and Related Support for CWC Members

Publishing options included in our Program:

- Traditional publishing houses- large, medium and small independent publishing
- E-Publishing
- Self-publishing formats
- Platform creation
- Branding
- Marketing
- Creating a press kit

Publishing Pathways Mentors

- Guide branch members to our information sources
- Act as information conduits from our committee to your branch members.

Mentor Tools:

Publishing Pathways' Website
Expert Speakers' List
Skills Bank
Mentor Handbook
Mentor Meetings

Mt. Diablo Mentors:

Judith Marshall
Judith.marshall@att.net

Polly Benson
shop@bighatpress.com

Andrew Kinane
andrewkinane@hotmail.com

October 8 Meeting Details - Check-in begins at 11:30, lunch at 12:00, and the program begins at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Menu: Zio Fraedo's sumptuous buffet

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on **Wednesday, October 5.**

Cost: \$20 for CWC members; \$25 for guests

To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at jeaniegpopps@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only when 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.



California Writers Week

By Catherine Accardi

Did you know that the third week in October is California Writers Week? On September 4, 2003, the California State Assembly officially declared the third week in October each year as California Writers Week. Assembly Resolution No. 2170 was passed and signed stating in part "...recognize the third week in October as California Writers Week, and encourage the people of the State of California to reflect upon the contributions that California writers have made to humankind".



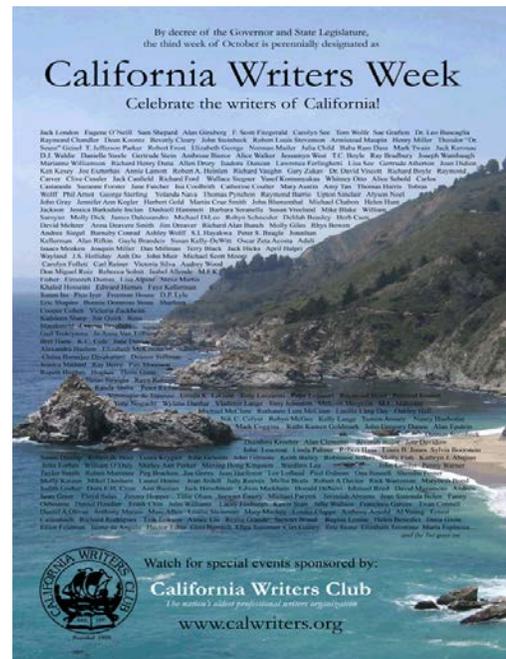
The full text of this resolution can be found at <http://calwriters.org/about-cwc/california-writers-week>

In 2011, California Writers Week is from October 16 -22. We invite all authors and readers to celebrate the week by rediscovering past authors such as those listed below, by discovering new authors and/or by working on your own manuscript. Perhaps you might want to participate in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month at www.nanowrimo.org). Or, and this is by far the best way to celebrate, by attending our own October 8 event at Zio Fraedo's. This month we have a long-time Mount Diablo Branch member, Veronica Rossi as the guest speaker. Make certain you check out page one of this newsletter for more information about our October meeting. Make doubly certain you make your luncheon reservations by Wednesday, October 5.

California Authors of Note

The following authors were selected for the California Writers Club Joint Legislative Resolution in 2003.

- Gertrude Atherton (1857-1948)
- Mary Austin (1868-1934)
- Raymond Barrio (1921-1996)
- Delilah L. Beasley (1872-1934)
- Raymond Chandler (1888-1959)
- Ina Coolbrith (1841-1928)
- Dashiell Hammett (1894-1961)
- Bret Harte (1836-1902)
- Jack London (1876-1916)
- Joaquin Miller (1837-1913)
- William Saroyan (1908-1981)
- John Steinbeck (1902-1968)
- George Sterling (1869-1926)
- Mark Twain (1835-1910)

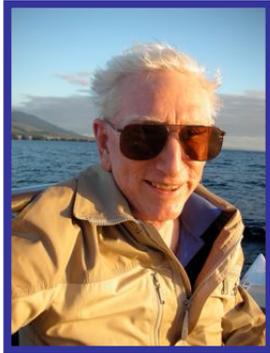


Sail On!

President's Message

By Lee Paulson

Writers Helping Writers



"Just because everything is different doesn't mean anything has changed" – Irene Peter

Your board members gathered this past July 23 to plan our new fiscal year's agenda and discuss how to best increase the value of *your* Mt. Diablo membership. What blend of format and experiences enhances our goal of *Writers Helping Writers*?

In this vein is the CWC statewide effort - particularly the Nor Cal branches - that now share information about the inner workings of each branch. One example is the sharing of speaker evaluations. From these exchanges your board had the opportunity to sort through the best ideas and practices to determine what worked and what doesn't seem to.

One thing for certain, if you take a thousand or so creative writers statewide and turn them loose, you had better be flexible. We're all different, with varying preferences and needs.

We learned that the Mt. Diablo branch has the second or third largest active membership. We are on sound financial footing. A robust 60% of our members are published authors and the 40% Associate members are hard at work on being published or supporting authors in that endeavor. We take a backseat to no one on the quality of our newsletter and website. That said, your board deemed it important to conduct a *Member Survey* to give you the opportunity to express your thoughts and preferences. Thanks to Aline Soules, our webmaster, and your participation, our survey received an excellent response. The results will be reported back to you.

Like children and grandkids, each branch has its own personality. We will be trying several new ideas without losing our unique Mt. Diablo identity where the majority of you gave thumbs-up. Some are little things like having different-colored name tags for new members/ guests so we can make an extra effort to welcome new guests. Adding official greeters should make visitors feel more welcome. After all they are potential members with skills and talents to share. Other efforts are more substantial, such as looking for ways to get like-minded writers together by genre. As always, your willingness to try something new is essential - along with a high degree of tolerance if things aren't perfect.

Like many of you, over the years, I've belonged to a variety of organizations. One common gripe is the charge that the same small group of people 'runs the show.' I once answered this complaint by asking the man if he would volunteer to help in the area he was concerned about. "I don't have time for that," he said. "Well," I said. "You think that might help explain why the same names appear? They are the people willing to contribute time and effort." He grinned and allowed that he could make time to participate.

The board is always looking for that grin and that allowance. Please feel free to approach any of us with an offer to help our branch meet our goal of *Writers Helping Writers*.

Member Profile: *Liz Gallen*

By Catherine Accardi

Branch Membership Chair



Liz Gallen was born and raised in New Jersey. After a year at a Manhattan secretarial school, she worked at the United Nations for three years in the Economic Social Council. Her yearnings to travel were the impetus to quit and travel throughout Europe, which she did at age 21. Her wanderlust brought her to the San Francisco area "for the summer" and, 52 years later, she is still in the Bay Area.

Having married and raised three children, and many dogs, she worked at many jobs...from an Avon lady to running her own business for 16 years. The company that she started was called Carefree Moves, and, with a staff of 12, packed, unpacked, and organized households primarily for moves. She sold the business two years ago and has been able to concentrate more on writing.

Liz self-published a successful children's book, *The Goonerberry Farm*, which tells stories of rescued dogs. Most of the stories are "creative fiction," and all of the individual stories are about dogs she and the family raised in Lafayette, California, or about the many dogs her children have with their families. Doris Day and many other readers have loved these stories.

Traveling is still Liz's focus, aside from five grandchildren!

You may visit Liz's website at <http://www.goonerberryfarm.com>.



The Back Fence

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

That would be the 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.

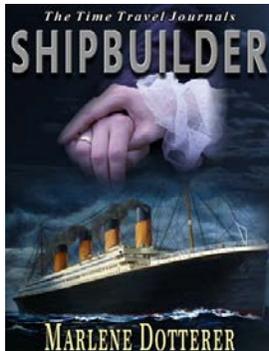


Member Events, News and Salutes



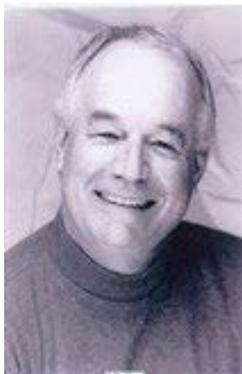
4 of Our Own

Four authors from our CWC Mt. Diablo branch will participate in a panel discussion called *"So You Want to Write a Book"* at the Clayton Library on Monday, Oct. 3, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Barbara Bentley, Jon Cory, Al Garrotto and Judith Marshall will discuss their writing journeys and offer tips for aspiring writers.



Marlene Dotterer has published her novel, *The Time Travel Journals: Shipbuilder*. It is available in print and Kindle from Amazon, and in other e-formats (as well as Kindle) through *Smashwords*. It is the story of two modern people from Belfast, Ireland who are caught in a time travel accident, and find themselves living in 1906. They meet Thomas Andrews, who will shortly begin to build the *Titanic*. Can they change history? The hundredth anniversary of *Titanic's* sinking is in April 2012, so this is a great time to learn about her builder.

Marlene blogs at www.marlenedotterer.wordpress.com.



Talk about versatile...

Jerry (J.D.) Blair writes poetry, short stories, detective fiction and a memoir.

His poem "One More Day" apparently still has legs and has been accepted for publication in the next issue of *California Quarterly*, the journal of the California Poetry Society.

A short story, *Be My Carlotta* will appear in a fall edition of "Calliope" a publication of American Mensa, Ltd.

"Telling Our Stories Press" has accepted *Doc Su*, a brief memoir.

For anyone who enjoys detective/crime stories, Jerry's story, *Janus*, is running in serial form on the website <friedfiction.com>



Literary Agents Find New Role as Self-Publishing Consultants

By Carla King

Editor's Note: The following are authorized quotations from an article written by CWC Mt Diablo workshop speaker and self-publishing expert, Carla King. The entire article can be found at PBS.org.

With big publishing buying only the crème de la crème of books, and more authors turning to self-publishing, many literary agents are getting squeezed right out of the middle.

*But some savvy agents are acting as literary consultants to **help their authors self-publish**, a role that offers up new opportunities and challenges for everybody in the industry.*

Self-Publishing is being viewed as a marketing test.

Today, self-publishing has lost its stigma, with agents and big publishers thinking of it as a market test. So for authors, who dream of gaining an agent and a publishing house, don't worry that self-publishing will hurt your chances - though building a platform is essential.

"The answer is that authors are driving this trend in publishing," Literary Agent, Laura Rennert said, "and it is my job as a literary agent to represent my author's interests ... My role is to help them navigate the publishing landscape and maximize their potential."

[Literary] agents are right in the middle of the whirlwind, playing with various consulting services and fee structures to see what works. But they all share one quality: excitement about the ability to help their authors succeed by experimenting with new publishing tools and technologies, paying attention to this rapidly changing marketplace, and creating their own models while the industry nervously watches.

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 a.m., on October 8, prior to the general meeting. We will end by 11:00 to sign in and find a seat for the luncheon.

There is no critique membership criteria. We operate on a drop-in basis. Our topic will be the use of photographs, maps, and illustrations to help sell your book.

Some of our members missed a similar presentation last year and expressed the wish that I present the topic again.

Now is your chance.

To our great works

Membership Update

By Catherine Accardi
Branch Membership Chair



Would you like to know *how I spent my summer vacation*? Well, as Membership Chair, my volunteer duties include collecting dues from members each spring and summer. For the past four months, a goodly portion of my time has been spent processing membership renewals for our Mount Diablo Branch. *Really!*

As of September 21st, our branch has achieved a 92% renewal rate. It did take several (how about four) emails and letters, but here we are. We now have 144 Mount Diablo Branch members who continue to support our Branch mission and objectives. Of those, 87 (60%) are in the Active category, and 57 (40%) are in the Associate category. We have three Life members and three Emeritus members, all six of whom are actively writing. We also have one Youth Affiliate in the Associate category. To those members who did not renew by October 1, I do regret to say that they now have an expired membership.

Some terrific news!

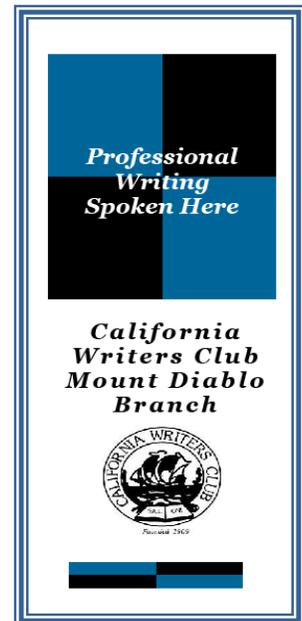
The Mount Diablo branch has three new members, and one member who has moved up into the Active category. The new members are **Cecilia Pugh, Gloria Lenhart, and John Marvin**. Let's extend to them a warm welcome. Also, there is good news from member Judith Ingram. Her book *A Devotional Walk with Forgiveness: Daily Exercise for Spiritual Fitness*, was recently published. Judith is now able to move up from Associate to Active status. **Congratulations Judith.**

And the good news continues with a new, updated Mount Diablo Branch Membership brochure. Take a peek at the right. These brochures will be available at our next meeting on October 8. Perhaps you might want to pick one up at the sign-in table and share it with friends, family, or one of your favorite neighborhood shops. It would be grand to circulate information about our Branch far and wide.

If you have questions regarding membership matters, please contact me at caacat@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-9015.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

~ Elizabeth Andrew



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. For more information about what opportunities are available to you, contact Membership Chair, Catherine Accardi, at caacat@comcast.net

Special Report ~ Where Do Your Dues Go?

~ Original article prepared by former Membership Chair, Jody Denison
 ~ Chart created by Treasurer, David George

Your money and where it goes.....

Every spring we start reminding you all about “dues” and you wonder why it is such a big deal that we get them in before September 30....well, I’ll tell you. We don’t get to keep all that money. We belong to something bigger than ourselves...it is called “Central” and Central coordinates all the branches of the California Writers Club.

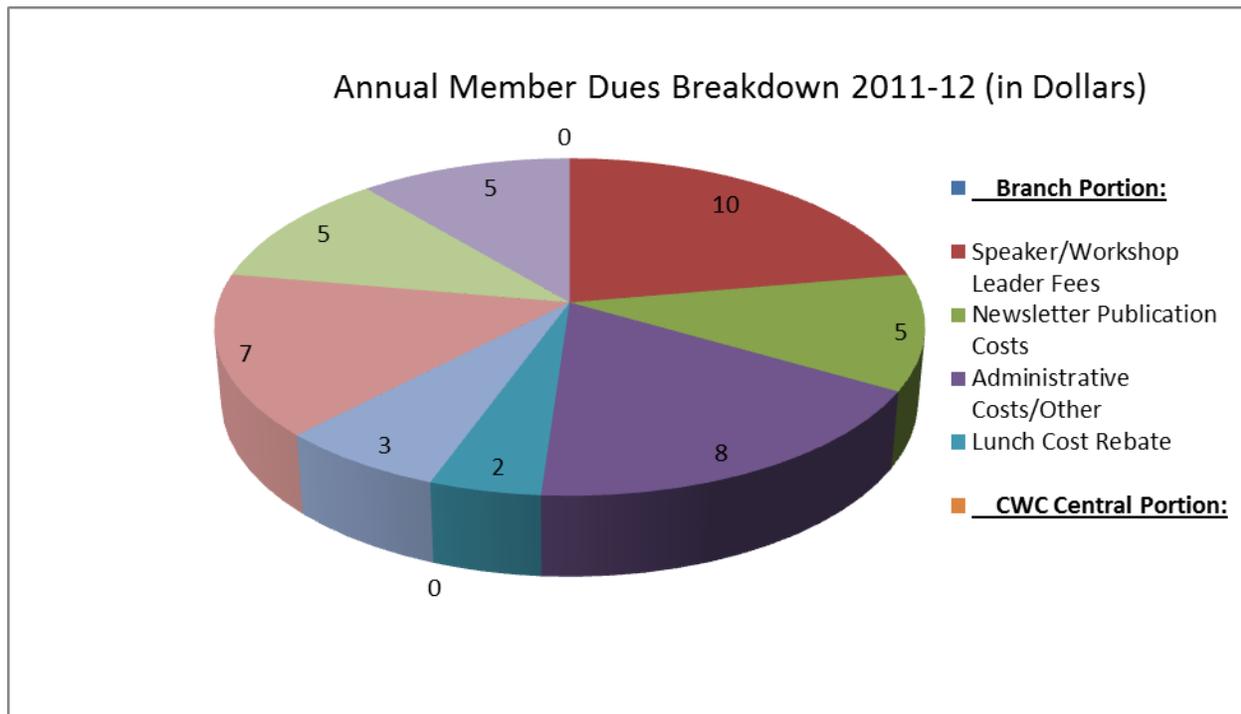


<u>Category</u>	<u>Member Pays</u>	<u>Branch Keeps</u>	<u>Branch pays State</u>
Renewed Members	\$45.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
New Members	\$65.00	\$35.00	\$30.00

Your annual membership fee of \$45 is split, with \$20 sent to CWC Central and \$25 remaining for our branch. Currently we subsidize your lunch by \$2. You pay \$20 and we pay Zio Fraedo's \$22. If a member attends all seven general meetings he/she will recover \$14 or over half of our branch's share of the annual dues. We encourage you to attend our lunches and take advantage of this dues refund.

What do we get in return for this? Here is a partial list of your paid benefits:

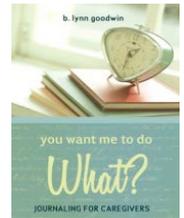
- A \$2 per Lunch cost Rebate
- The monthly Mt. Diablo Branch Newsletter, “The Write News”
- Fascinating and informative Monthly Meeting Speakers
- 2-3 annual subsidized Writing Skills Workshops
- **The Back Fence** members-only Bulletin Board
- Valuable Emailed “TidBit” Announcements
- Accounting and IRS tax filing services
- Club Liability Insurance for Club-sponsored events such as our monthly meetings
- CWC Branch and State website maintenance
- Periodic branch representative meetings, communications, and coordination among the 18 branches



Writer's Markets Column

A New Day

New Markets Collected by B. Lynn Goodwin



Sometimes a writer needs a fresh audience. That can start with a fresh editor.

The sites listed here are new. They're seeking fresh work. Maybe yours is exactly what they're looking for. The only way to find out is to submit to the ones that sound right to you.

Warning: This is a completely random, eclectic sampling of markets.

1 Bookshelf is looking for short essays about one bookshelf. Check out this original concept.
Details: <http://1bookshelf.blogspot.com/>

A Clean, Well-Lighted Place is in its opening edition and looking for fresh, inspired works of poetry and short fiction.
Details: <http://www.lightedplace.com/>

Healthy Artists is an online art journal founded on the simple idea that artists can play an important role in making universal health care a reality in the United States.
Details: <http://healthyartists.org/about/>

Kids' Magination Magazine, where kids can enjoy learning and reading, is open for submissions of short stories, flash and microfiction. We want stories suitable for 9 to 14 year-olds.
Details: <http://www.kidsmagination.com/>

The Library Fair is devoted to providing a solid base for both published and previously unpublished writers (who certainly deserve to be published) to display their work in a professional electronic format.
Details: <http://www.libraryfair.com/>

The Lost & Found Quarterly is currently accepting poetry, prose, and essays and more for its first edition.

Details: <http://thefoundgen.com/lost-found-quarterly/>

Mouseprose is a brand new literary site seeking submissions in all genres for non-rhyming, prose pieces ranging from 250 to 1000 words. They accept submissions for children.

Details: <http://www.mouseprose.com/>

Stone Highway Review is a new journal of short prose and poetry. Submissions are open until November 15, 2011.

Details: <http://www.stonehighway.com/>

Wanderlust Publishing seeks short stories for their first collection.

Details: <https://sites.google.com/site/wanderlustpublishing/home>

Writers Haven seeks articles, commentaries, translations, travelogues, essays and whatever your heart desires to express, as long as it fits with our themes.

Details: <http://www.original-writer.com/submissionwritershaven.html>

If you like the concept of fledgling markets but don't like these sites, visit Duotrope's Fledgling Markets page at <http://www.duotrope.com/listallmarkets.aspx?page=fl>. If you find a great magazine you'd like to share, please e-mail me at Lgood67334@comcast.net. Thanks.

A Note From the Speakers-Program Chair

I noticed that our recent branch survey had a comment asking for well-known authors to come and speak at our branch meetings. I have two reactions to that. One is that what one person considers as a well-known author, another person may not, depending on what each person enjoys reading and is familiar with.

My second reaction is to point out that I have tried for VERY well-known authors. Abraham Verghese, author of *Cutting for Stone* requires \$12,500 plus transportation for a speaking engagement. The speaker's agent for Pulitzer Prize winner, Michael Chabon, was kind enough to actually talk with me and pointed out that well-known authors have time-consuming commitments to their publishers, time-consuming families, writing lives and they often volunteer in their communities in ways the public is unaware of. BTW: Chabon requires \$20,000 plus first-class travel.

So if we have any very wealthy benefactors who would like to arrange for and fund a very well-known author to come and speak, we of course would love that! Failing such a windfall, we continue to try to find accomplished authors who are enthusiastic about speaking to a branch of writers eager to hear from them without going broke.

Elisabeth Tuck

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 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, 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 Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club - \$100-\$149
- ~ The Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10-\$24
- ~ The John Muir Member Club - \$150-\$249
- ~ The Mary Austin Writers Club - \$50-\$99
- ~ 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 2011 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 2012 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
is on October 8, 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.