

The Write News



A Monthly Newsletter

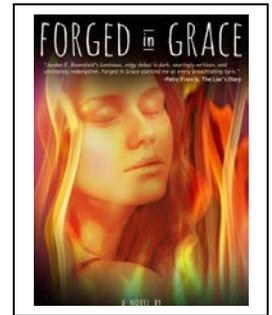
April 2014

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

BRANCH MEETING & LUNCHEON Saturday, April 12, 2014; 11:30 am to 2:00 pm **Presents Jordan E. Rosenfeld** “Plotting Your Novel One Scene at a Time”

Jordan will discuss breaking *plot* down to its basics to make it an incredibly simple process:

- **Make a Scene -- the ins and outs of writing scenes**
- **Put tension on every page**
- **Revise for publication using simple strategies**
- **Writer's Collectives for indie authors (co-promotion and collaboration for indie authors)**



Jordan E. Rosenfeld earned her MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars and channeled her didactic tendencies into a career as a writing coach, editor and freelance journalist.

Jordan is the author of the novel *Forged in Grace* (i.v. ink), and the writing books, *Make A Scene: Crafting a Powerful Story One Scene at a Time* (Writer's Digest Books) and *Write Free! Attracting the Creative Life* with Rebecca Lawton (BeijaFlor Books). Jordan's essays and articles have appeared in such publications as AlterNet.org, Publisher's Weekly, The San Francisco Chronicle, The St. Petersburg Times, The Writer and Writer's Digest magazine. Her book commentaries have appeared on The California Report, a news-magazine produced by NPR-affiliate KQED radio.

Sign-In: Sign-in is 11:15 am–12 pm, luncheon 12–12:45, and program 1:00 –2:00 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Registration is \$20, or \$25 for non-CWC members; **contact Robin Gigoux at ragig@aol.com, or phone 925-933-9670.**

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 the \$20 or \$25 no-show payment.

CWC is a federal non-profit 501(c)(3)

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck

WHY SIGN UP EARLY FOR MEETINGS?



This is what it takes to organize our meetings each month: Six volunteers, a speaker, and a whole restaurant need time for tasks and to plan for the meeting.

For an average meeting, **Robin Gigoux** who takes reservations, has to answer 30 – 40 emails, field 10 – 20 phone calls, answer questions, maybe contact another board member regarding a detail not yet encountered, log the names, and note whether or not the person is a member, dual member from another branch, or guest.

Danard Emanuelson, our facilities coordinator, conveys the preliminary number to Tony, the owner of Zio Fraedo's. Our contract guarantees Tony a minimum of 50 paid lunches each month. He needs time to determine whether we will fit in one room or need two, whether he can or cannot book other meetings on the same Saturday, what food to order, what dishes to make, tables to set up, what staff to have on hand, etc.

Don Maker, our speaker/workshop chair, needs to know how many flyers to have printed. The guest speaker needs to know how large an audience to expect. They may need to print out handouts or arrange to have books to sell.

Harlan Hague, our treasurer, needs to know whether he'll need help with check in.

Marlene Dotterer, our membership chair, needs to know whether she has enough membership brochures, name tags, etc. for the meeting.

Lee Paulson who organizes the writers' tables needs to plan his set up.

I need to decide whether to prompt members about the meeting. We meet every second Saturday September through June. At each meeting, we announce the upcoming meeting. Don make flyers available at the tables and takes them to the central library for distribution and display at all 26 Contra Costa branches, then takes some to bookstores. **Aline Soules** updates our website within 1 – 2 days after each meeting. **Ann Damaschino** writes and distributes publicity for each meeting. **Lyn Roberts** includes meeting information in each newsletter. **Barbara Bentley** updates a graphic in the newsletter showing upcoming meetings as far ahead as we can plan. I send tidbits to all members.

Please sign up as early as you like. If something comes up, cancel by noon on Friday without penalty, otherwise we need you to pay for the meeting whether or not you attend. All the volunteers can handle a few late sign ups and certainly we welcome walk-ins, but there needs to be a \$5 late fee after Wednesday at noon so that late is the exception, not the norm. Of course everyone forgets occasionally. However, let's do what we can to make the tasks easier for everyone involved.

Meet Our New Treasurer and the First Person to Greet You at Each Meeting



A Message from Harlan

I have just been upgraded from Treasurer's Apprentice to Treasurer. I promise to try to carry on David's stellar performance. I need to report that I have a bit of a hearing problem and would appreciate all registrants **get their name badges** before queuing for sign-in at the meetings. Otherwise, Andrew Bright, might record your payment to Mathew Wright.

Harlan

Save the date for the first **California Bookstore Day** on May 3, 2014

CBD is an event to celebrate books and independent bookstores. Exclusive literature-based art projects, unique books, and collector's items created just for the event will be offered for sale on that one day, to encourage people to visit bookstores and purchase those items.

More than 80 independent bookstores will be participating in the event, which is a collaboration between the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association and Southern California Independent Booksellers Association. Items include a box set of four classic California novels, a joke book for kids with contributions from over 50 children's writers and illustrators, an original Lemony Snicket print about books, and a Literary Map of California.

The CBD website indicates, "CBD will harness the creative power of authors, publishers, and booksellers in a statewide celebration of books and indie bookstores that's part party, part literary happening and part sales event." For details, visit <http://cabookstoreday.com/>.

Help spread the word about California Bookstore Day! Like and follow Bookstore Day on Facebook and Twitter. Plan to support your local indie bookstore that day, as well as year-round.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Speaker	Event
April 12	Jordan Rosenfeld	Making a Scene
May 10	Ellen Klages	YWC luncheon
June 14	Mary Mackey	Unknown topic (writes both novels and screenplays)

Member Profile: Judith Overmier



Judith Overmier was born and raised in Ohio, lived in Minnesota for 45 years, and moved to California last summer. She decided to become a writer in the 3rd grade when a teacher read *King of the Wind* aloud to the class, a chapter each week. Judith's first publication came when she was a senior in high school and she has since published poetry, short stories, and creative non-fiction, as well as academic articles.

Currently she is working on a mystery novel and has a romance novel waiting its turn. She travels at every opportunity and likes to write on airplanes, and in rowboats and coffee shops around the world.

Judith received her Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Minnesota. She was Curator of the Owen H. Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine for twenty-five years and taught Library and Information Science at the Universities of Minnesota, Hawaii, and Oklahoma.

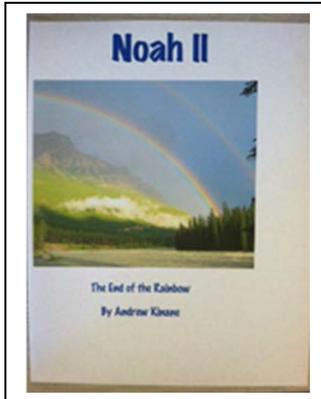
A Note from your Membership Chair

Are you new to CWC? Have you been here for years, and would like us to know you better? Tell us about yourself! Contact our membership chair, Marlene Dotterer, at m.dotterer@comcast.net to find out how to submit your profile.

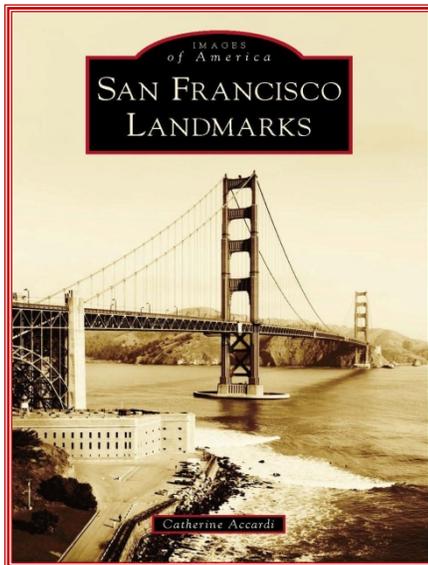
Congratulations **DIANA ST. JAMES who has successfully moved from Associate to Active status in CWC!!**

If you've published since joining CWC, be sure to let us know. Send publishing info to Marlene Dotterer, Membership Chair at m.dotterer@comcast.net

Member Events, News and Salutes



Andy Kinane's newly published novel *Noah II, the End of the Rainbow* is now out. It is a murder mystery and an international adventure story. It is about Dave, a building contractor, and his family searching for the murderer of Dave's father. While in pursuit of the murderer, across Europe and the Middle East, civilization as we know it begins to crash around them. Unexpectedly they meet Noah, a retired lottery winner. They take refuge at his ranch in Angels Camp, California. But do they have what it takes to survive the ending of one era and the beginning of a new one? It is available on Amazon, including a Kindle edition as well as on Apple's I-book. Comments and reviews are welcome.



Although still a member of the Mount Diablo Branch, **Catherine Accardi**, has taken her writing career to another level in her home town of San Francisco, where she is currently residing. Author events include Power-Point presentations for the Golden Gate Breakfast Club at the Marine's Memorial ballroom, another on March 20th for Next Village SF, and one for the grand opening of the new North Beach Library in May. In addition to her role as editor of the San Francisco periodical, *The Semaphore*, Catherine has accepted a position with the California weekly newspaper, *L'Italo-Americano*, in continuous publication since 1908. Catherine will write a monthly column on topics germane to her readers in San Francisco. And, she gets paid!



Christine Sunderland is pleased to announce that her book, *The Magdalene Mystery*, has won Second Place in the Mystery category, for books published in 2013, awarded by *Readerviews*: [The Literary Awards Winners](#) .

(MORE) - With Only 100 Words...

This was the challenge: “Write an excellent 100 word fiction story (scene, characters, arc, etc.) or non-fiction essay, article or true-life experience.”

The submissions below are published in the order they were received.

Til Death Do Us Part

Harvey stood over her still body, lying in bed. He shuffled to the kitchen.

“Cold blooded bitch” he mumbled, as he stared into the phone. “Might as well get it over with” he said as he dialed 9-1-1.

“9-1-1, what is your emergency?”

“I’ve strangled my wife. She is dead.”

Harvey hung up the phone and returned to bed.

Four minutes later the doorbell rang. Harvey was sound asleep when his wife slapped him hard on the face as the Officers looked on.

“Harvey, you asshole, you were sleepwalking again! You strangled me this time?”

Donna Darling

“Oh, My, look at these lovely feet.” Jade, my grandmother, held my young feet in her hand, rubbing, staring as if she’d just discovered some rare artifact. “So nice and flat. So free to grow.” Grandmother sighed. I beamed with pride. Her rough, calloused big hands of knotted knuckles felt good. Growing up with her as a small child, this was one of the very rare few times Grandmother would touch me with affection. “What a lucky girl you are, not having to suffer like me. Look how they crippled me with these ugly bound feet.” Grandmother sobbed, looking down.

In a deep-mountain village of Northern China, Jade turned five in 1917. One day, her mother sat her down on the small wooden floor stool and washed her little plump feet with special herb water. With a loving kiss on her young daughter’s baby feet, Jade’s mother then bent, crushed, tucked her four little toes under her sole, and tightly wrapped her feet with four by six feet long thick cloth.

“Don’t cry, my child,” Jade’s mother sobbed, “A proper maid needs to have her feet bound. So a good man will want to marry you.” Jade was my grandmother.

Jing Li

Rain and the Raeburn

On the platform beside the road, our milk, unpasteurized, un-homogenized. I exchanged empties for full bottles. We turned for home, in a hurry now for large raindrops had begun to fall. I shifted the heavy rack from hand to hand, dissuading two-year-old Jennifer who wanted to carry it. The wind increased, chilling us. We were running on the bumpy road before reaching the house.

The warm kitchen had never seemed more a haven as we stood near the Raeburn, drinking hot chocolate in silence. Rain pattered against the windows, making little puddles on the stone walkway outside the kitchen window.

Harlan Hague

Notice Me

Blaring noise permeates like roaring lions controlling prides. Eyes look; conversation stops. I am in control. You who indulge in expensive mocha lattes at Peet's notice my presence, how I move the truck one-handed, maneuver a blower and garbage sucker in the other.

Love Saturdays cleaning Pleasant Hill streets. Pay sucks, but watching regulars seeking peace over java, is priceless. You look like chattering monkeys peering with disdain from playhouse cages. When conversations excel, I make another pass to invade your solitude. For one brilliant moment, I am king of the streets. Move over puny ones, here I come.

Ceci Pugh

Broken Vessel

Champagne flowed at birth. Later, high octane fuel through a shiny engine. Vibrant people, and valued cargo, clambered for acceptance. Years passed by adding responsibilities, creating overload. Creaking, moaning complaints were uttered in protest. Dirty oil clogged the tarnished engine; over-scheduled duties and neglect impeded progress. Lengthy repairs, and periods of immobility disrupted routine. Suckers attached, marring the beauty, rust suffocated. With life's valued treasures lost, and former praises never spoken, a slow ebbing away occurred. Miracle men in green scrubs, white masks and sharp scalpels, prepared to slice open, unclog, make new again. Too late...the beating stopped.

Ceci Pugh

Decision

Lea gushes about her Toyota, new license photo, and custom plate to friend Linda. Brother Matt waits for ice cream, Lea's bribe for good behavior when off the phone.

Matt justifies a solo trip, the Parlor only six blocks away. He enters the crosswalk. A screeching sound distracts making him fall onto the pavement. The earth vibrates under a heavy weight, a gust of wind parts his hair. Eardrums shatter with the sound of crashing metal.

People look at him with anxious stares then away. Following gazes he sees the smashed car, and custom license plate that reads...*Lea's Toy*.

Ceci Pugh

Diane's Tattoo

Our family moved near a different high school from a former sweetheart. My holy-roller mother said I was lucky not to see her because Diane had a thigh tattoo (I knew that), had turned to sin, therefore nuns removed the tattoo but infection caused amputation of her leg.

At the fiftieth reunion I arrived from out of state, was seated opposite Diane. After dessert the band started.

"James, we haven't danced in 50 years."

"Ummm . . ."

She stood, my jaw dropped.

"What's wrong?"

"You have two legs."

She laughed. "Why wouldn't I?"

Thanks a lot, Mother.

Jerry Vaught

ORGANIZING A NON-FICTION BOOK

I had a box full of notes, all for a non-fiction book suggested by a professor. I gave each note a title and sorted the notes by title. Each pile went into a folder and each folder became a chapter. I then wrote the book on floppy disks. (Now I use outline format to organize my computer notes.) However, despite my not having a computer, Newsweek not only called my book "groundbreaking" but also "better written and more serious than most pop-psych books." And Oprah did a show with me called, "The Verbally Abusive Relationship."

Patricia Evans

No Place to Die

Jake rolled his torturous body on to one side, beneath the layers of cardboard, and squinted through bleary eyes towards the bright sunlight slashed by the dark shadow of the freeway overhead. It was warm, but he was shivering. He could not forget his family, friends and worldly possessions all lost and gone forever. He started to cry. All he wanted was a nice, clean white sheet to die on; anywhere. Then he noticed the flashing red light and two medics with a gurney headed his way. He smiled through his painful tears. He thought he saw a white sheet.

Danard Emanuelson

Editor's Note: And for our next challenge:

**Judith Marshall suggested we ask our fellow members to
post one good source for a book promotion.
More to come!**

And one more Writing Milestone

Writing Milestones: a Peter Pan Inspiration

From Harlan Hague

Early in an undergraduate English class, the professor passed out to each student a clipping that was to be the subject of an essay. I received a picture of the Peter Pan statue in London's Kensington Gardens. A few days after the essays were turned in, she read my essay to the class, her eyes glistening, and praised my writing. I was thrilled at her comments and told her so. She invited me to tea at her home where I told her that I planned to change my major from business to English and pursue a writing career. She urged me to train for a profession that would support me and to write in my spare time. I could make my decision later about a writing career. I was terribly deflated, which prevented me from realizing that it was the best advice I could have received.

TEN TAKEAWAYS from the San Francisco Writers Conference

By Cathy Turney

We writers are right-brained creatives. The password to my website is IHATETHISWEBSITE. If a computer problem can't be fixed by *ctrl-alt-del*, I'm in trouble. But I found salvation at the 2014 San Francisco Writers Conference. Here's a teensy bit of what I learned during the February 13-16 convention:

1. **Don't quit your day job.** A panel of three engineer/poets (not as oxymoronic as one might think) revealed that besides feeding one's body, a day job can actually boost your creativity by providing fodder for stories and pressure to meet deadlines. One panelist found that he wrote less during his sabbatical than he did while working at the lab. You'll be a more interesting conversationalist, too—after a while friends want to hear about more than your latest best seller.
2. **If you want an agent, editor, or publisher, conferences can be the best place to look.** "Speed Dating with Agents" and "Pitch-and-Ask Sessions with Editors and Publishing Professionals" were fast-paced, face-to-face, two-way interviews that gave each participant revelations that would have taken weeks to come by otherwise.
3. Brace yourself: **Twitter is the Number One social media platform for writers**, according to the consensus of professionals and New York Times best-sellers at the conference. Twitter, they say, is not all birdsong and what you ate for breakfast. It's about content—sharing meaningful information, congratulations, and laughter. LinkedIn and Facebook rank second and third. This is a paradigm shift for me. I just bought *Twitter for Dummies*, and I'm going to rent a teenager.
4. **SELF-PUBLISH!** I knew this before, but was it ever drilled home at this conference. However, I did become convinced that traditional publishers provide a necessary expedient for many. The sacrifices in going the traditional route are: royalties (10-15% vs. 70-95% in self-publishing), control over "the baby" (the author relinquishes many rights), and time bringing it to market (typically two years).
5. Which brings me to **self-promotion and marketing**. A huge criterion that traditional publishers use in the selection process is what the author can bring to the table besides her book—how you will get out there and make sales. If the author has to do 95% of the marketing, well, I rest my case.
6. New terms (to me): **Wilful blindness**, **legacy publisher** (a not-very-nice synonym for traditional publisher), and **indie author** (cooler term for self-published). And a familiar term that sums up this conference: *life-changing*.
7. **Joining a writers' critique group** doesn't have to be a huge time-gobbler. A great format is twenty minutes for each participant during which the group reads for ten minutes and critiques for ten minutes.
8. It costs more to **take a cab** from a hotel on Nob Hill to BART, than it costs from BART to Nob Hill. Basic economics.
9. **There's politics in publishing**. Amazon offers indie authors huge splits and many incentives. This competitive challenge to other self-publishing companies like Apple's iBookstore, Barnes & Noble's PubIt!, Smashwords, and others may result in their demise and Amazon's monopoly on the market—with lower splits for authors.
10. Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen, the directors and co-founders of San Francisco Writers' Conference, are rock stars in the publishing industry!

2014 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 today's young Contra Costa County middle school students who like to write 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 donors to the Young Writers Contest from to September 1, 2013 to the present.

<p>Foundation Donors</p> <p><i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p>The Gertrude Atherton Guild</p> <p><i>Lee Paulson Gary and Lilly Gwilliam Karen Terhune Beth Grimm Bee Hylinski Bob O'Brian</i></p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club</p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club</p> <p><i>David George Ron Shoop – Random House Sheryl Ruzek Ed Stanislawski Kathy Urban</i></p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</p> <p><i>Danard Emanuelson Liz Koehler-Pentacoff Karen Tenney - In memory of her mother, Betty Tenney and for the Betty Tenney Essay Prize Barbara Bentley</i></p>

~ 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 – Less than \$25 ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

Please consider joining a Donor Club in support of our Annual Young Writers Contest which awards cash prizes for excellence in the following categories: short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative. Winners are notified in May and presented with their awards at a luncheon at a local restaurant. All program expenses are supported by individual donations and grants.

Your gift furthers our mission to identify and reward excellence among Contra Costa County middle school students and enables our club to continue and to expand our outreach to young writers. Your gift is fully tax deductible. Thank you to all our members who generously donated to the 2013 and 2014 Young Writers Contests.

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



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 Workshop
is April 12, at 11:30 am 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.