

The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

December 2010



The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

Presents

“Three of Our Own”

Deborah Davis ~Bev Lauderdale ~ Judith Marshall

December 11, 2010



Deborah Davis will speak on “The Hard Questions to Ask Yourself When You Revise.” She has edited a non-fiction anthology and authored three novels, the latest being *Not Like You*, an NCIBA Book of the Year finalist, included in the New York Public Library’s Books for the Teen Age, and the recipient of a starred review in *School Library Journal*. She teaches adults and teens, coaches and consults with writers.



Bev Lauderdale is the author of *The Long Wind*, *Notes When Summer Ends*, and *In Franklin’s House*. *In Franklin’s House* explores women’s friendships, the ever-fascinating male-female dynamic, and the paranormal featuring a handsome ghost and a middle-aged woman writer. Bev taught junior high English, a college writing course, and Craft of Writing classes for Mount Diablo Adult Education.



Judith Marshall’s topic “From First Draft to Movie Option” speaks to her experience with *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever*, winner of the Jack London Prize awarded by the California Writers Club, and recently optioned for the big screen. Her upcoming novel, *Staying Afloat*, is the story of a devoted stay-at-home wife and mother who morphs into a sex-starved adulteress.

Please join us for this informative meeting 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.

December Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, December 11, 2010. Check-in begins at 11:30, and a seated lunch, with service, begins at 12:00 noon. The program will begin around 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; \$24 for guests

Menu: Choices are salmon, New York steak, or chicken with white sauce.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, December 8. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at, jeaniegpop@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 2010-2011

January 8: Ransom Stephens, "The Future of Publishing"

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

March 12: Workshop - Carla King, Self Publishing mini-seminar

April 9: Naomi Epel, Author and Publicist

May 21: Young Writers Banquet - Abigail Samoun, Editor

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



Call For Volunteers

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

Do you 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 our interim president, David George, at davegeorge7@comcast.net.

President's Message

By David George



At our annual Holiday Luncheon and celebration on Saturday, December 11, we will enjoy a “seated”, or “served”, lunch instead of our previous buffet luncheons. I have heard many compliments about the quality of Zio Fraedo’s buffet lunches. But a few of our members have approached me with a request to return to the served meals format once in a while. Well, this is your chance!

A more compelling and entertaining reason to join us on December 11, will be our three featured speakers, Deborah Davis, Bev Lauderdale, and Judith Marshall. They will share with us their personal experiences with writing and the process of being published. I am looking forward to hearing each of their stories – and maybe someday YOU will be in front of us all sharing your experiences.

And, if that is not enough reason for you to join us in December, we will once again have tables set up outside in the lobby for all members to display and sell their recent publications. This is a once-a-year opportunity, so bring enough copies to sell and be on hand to collect your riches. If you don’t have a book to display, please join us anyway and purchase some remarkable reading material for your Christmas list.

We will defer our next door prize drawing and/or Buck-a-Book to the January meeting to focus the membership on our author’s book tables. Soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages will be complimentary to members. The restaurant agreed to make wine and beer available to our members and guests at \$3 per glass.

I have been somewhat disappointed with membership turnout the past few monthly meetings. Is it something I said? Although attendance has been *good*, it has not been *Great*. I want to see ALL of you attending in December. What are you waiting for? By far, the best benefit of being a member in this venerable Club are the monthly meeting programs. And the members who have attended know this.

As I lectured my kids when they ignored the broccoli on their plates, *You don’t know what you’re missing!* At the risk of sounding too fatherly, you’ve missed two great and inspiring speakers in *New York Times* best-selling author Robert Dugoni, and all-around master of the spoken and written word, James Dalessandro. Those who attended raved about these speakers and programs. Don’t miss another opportunity to be inspired by Deborah, Bev, and Judith on December the 11th.

The Board and our Program/Workshop Chairs, Elisabeth Tuck and Don Maker (and their predecessor, Al Garrotto) have busted their collective buns to assemble a quality lineup of programs for every meeting this year. Please thank them by joining us for every possible meeting for the rest of the year.



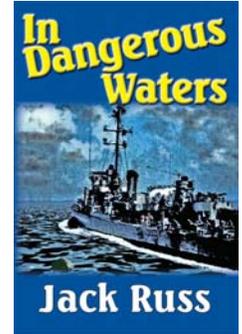
The Back Fence

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.

Congratulations to Our Past Branch President, Jack Russ!



Jack Russ has announced release of his new novel *In Dangerous Waters*. Jack plans to bring and sign copies at our December meeting.



After commissioned as Ensign in 1951, one year into the Korean War, The Navy sent Jack to a destroyer-escort serving in the war zone instead of to promised and long dreamed of flight training. The novel, drawn from his notes and the experiences of other shipmates, presents from a previously unreported perspective, an exciting tale of tension, danger, and intrigue in an action-filled portrayal of the men who waged the war.

After is initial ship assignment, Jack went on to fly as a carrier jet pilot, including combat action in the Vietnam war, and retired from the Navy as a Captain after thirty years, four commands, and multiple medals and awards. Following retirement, Jack joined the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory initially as Human Resources Manager, followed by assignments as the Laboratory's publisher and as assistant Associate Director for Computation. He formed a consulting firm after retirement from the Laboratory, and began to return to his love of writing in his free time.

CWC West Winds Centennial Anthology Now Available



In celebration of the centennial of the California Writers Club, the Central Board sponsored a project first introduced by Mount Diablo member, Igal Levy, to publish the fifth *West Winds* anthology of the Club's storied history. Although Igal's life circumstances prevented him from seeing the project through to completion, Kelly Harrison of the South Bay Branch did a marvelous job of compiling and publishing the *West Winds Centennial Anthology*. The first *West Winds* was published in hardcover in 1914.

West Winds is now available for purchase. It contains stories, non-fiction creative essays, and poems from CWC members throughout the State. The Mount Diablo Branch is proud of its five contributors, and two other contributors were chosen from our sister branch, Tri-Valley. These contributors are: Pat Edwards, Lynn Goodwin, Lani Longshore, Jill Hedgecock, Joanne Brown, Colleen Gonzalez, and David George.

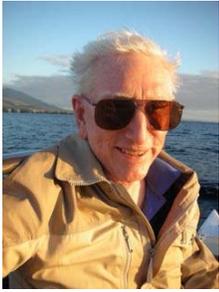
The Mount Diablo Branch purchased a very limited number of pre-distribution books and is providing them to members at \$8 each until the supply is gone. These will be sold at the door during check-in for our December meeting. Once these are sold, *West Winds Centennial* will be available online only through www.Amazon.com and www.BarnesandNoble.com, at a list price of \$15.95. The ISBN number is 978-0-9829584-0-7.

Don't miss out on this historic and fascinating read. The remaining pre-publication copies will only be available to December meeting attendees at the special price.

~ **David**

Member Profile

By Jody Denison



Profile: Lee Paulson

Sometimes your life keeps telling you that you should be on a different path than the one you've chosen—or the one that convention says you should follow. As a case in point, let's look at Lee Paulson. He comes from northern Indiana and a family of readers and writers. His younger brother, a former college dean, has published four books, several of which are used as Political Science textbooks. This may be the first clue.

Lee graduated with a Masters in Economics from Ohio University. He specialized in retail systems during his business career. During that time, he published an early business book regarding the application of computers in retailing. He spent many years in the corporate world as an executive and founded two companies. He retired four times and failed at least three.

Then, he returned to the creative writing that had been hidden in the corporate closet and took adult classes under Charlotte Cook. He is a member of her writing group and enjoys the support of other talented writers.

Lee's writing is focused on humorous crime capers. He was encouraged to continue writing after winning second place for humor in the Foster City International Writing Contest. Lee's debut novel, *A Plague of Scoundrels*, garnered a 2009 IPPY Silver Medal award as well as a London Book Festival Honorable Mention. His book is a rollicking comedic romp of romance and adventure during the time of England's Charles II.

The grass isn't growing on the keyboard either; a new short story has been accepted for an upcoming fantasy anthology and a second novel is in final revision. Lee has found his path, and while the corporate world has lost a great imagination, the world of literature and humor has gained a star.

Lee is married to Jan and they live in Alamo.

The CWC-Mount Diablo Branch Critique Group

By Ted Wells

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., prior to the general meeting. The CWC Critique Group meets the second Saturday of each month except for July and August (The Mount Diablo branch of CWC does not meet those months). We will not meet if there is a morning workshop. We will end about 11:00-11:15 to sign in and find a seat for the luncheon.

There is no membership criteria. We operate on a drop-in basis. We will introduce ourselves and our genre specialties at each meeting, have a short-time topic of special interest for group discussion (this time Writing Effective Queries), and then do critiques.

I look forward to 5-10 typed pages of your manuscripts on any genre, fiction, or non-fiction, for someone to critique. See you Saturday, December 11.

To our great works.

~ Member News ~

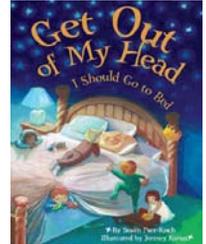


Sales and Salutes

Myrtle Archer's reprint short story, *Sweethearts*, will be published in *Soundings*. The online magazine, *The Pink Chamaleon*, has accepted her reprint story, *The Bridge's Siren Song*.

Lloyd Lofthouse is a finalist in the 7th Annual National Best Books 2010 awards. His book *Our Hart, Elegy for a Concubine* (Three Clover Press) was a finalist in the Fiction and Literature: Historical Fiction category.

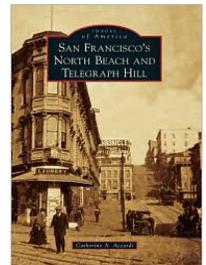
Susan Pace-Koch's new book, *Get Out Of My Head, I Should Go To Bed*, will be available in January 2011. It is a full color children's picture book with 28 pages, illustrated by Jeremy Kwan. The book is about children who can't go to sleep because they are too busy and just can't settle down. It is the first of three in a series being published by Get Out Books.



Ted Wells was published online on March 9, 2010, in the University of Colorado at Boulder Alumni Association, *CU Voices*, for the essay, entitled *An Egyptian Odyssey*. This piece is available at the following website:

<http://www.cualum.org/2010/03/09/an-egyptian-odyssey/>.

Catherine Accardi's new book, *Images of America-San Francisco's North Beach and Telegraph Hill*, was launched on November 9, 2010, at an event sponsored by the San Francisco Historical Society and Telegraph Hill Dwellers Neighborhood Association. It is her second book published by Arcadia Publishing in their *Images of America* series.



Member Events



Catherine Accardi has been asked by the Walnut Creek Library to make a PowerPoint presentation highlighting vintage images from her two *Images of America* books, *Walnut Creek* and *San Francisco's North Beach and Telegraph Hill*. The event will take place at the Library's Oak View room at 6:30 on Wednesday, January 12. The presentation will include a narrative and over 50 historic images of both of these remarkable American cities.

Calling All Members!



Message to Fellow CWC Members:

I don't want to be listed in the event section above by myself. I'm thinking someone out there has a book signing, reading, or presentation coming up in the next few months. Your event could be listed here. The newsletter deadline is usually the last Monday of the month. For example, the next one is December 27 for the January edition.

In addition, we would like your good news in the Sales and Salutes section of *The Write News*. Have you had a sale, or have you been published recently (whether paid or not)? If so, we would like to share your good news. Send your information along with a photo too, if you like. E-mail me, Catherine Accardi, your newsletter Editor, at caacat@comcast.net, with your Who, What, and Where information and I will place it in the next newsletter.

ATTENTION BIBLIOPHILES:



WORLD'S LARGEST RARE BOOK FAIR RETURNS TO SAN FRANCISCO
44th California International Antiquarian Book Fair
February 11 - 13, 2011 at Concourse Exhibition Center Features
Thousands of Rare Books and Manuscripts from Hundreds of Booksellers,
Plus Book Arts Seminars and Special Music-Themed Exhibits

For more information on the **Fair**, go to www.sfbookfair.com, or phone (415) 962-2500.

Exhibitors will offer books on the history of travel and exploration (including maps), early science and medicine, technology and manufacture, law and commerce, fine bindings, children's books, American history of California and the west, literature and the arts. There will be first editions of 20th century literature, complete with dust jackets and superb illustrated books in fine condition. There will be books with remarkable typography and books with original engravings and prints by renowned masters like Rembrandt, Picasso, and Miró. At the Fair, one can browse and purchase items ranging from medieval illuminated manuscripts to a 20th century Jack Kerouac novel.

Writing Contest

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 Central Coast Writers to enter. Enter as many times as you wish, with separate fee for each entry. Submission Period: September 15, 2010 through January 15, 2011 (by postmark). Submit to: Central Coast Writers 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.

Conference

The 2011 San Francisco Writers Conference will be held February 18-20 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, on San Francisco's Nob Hill. Nearly 100 presenters - author, agents, editors, publishers, and book marketing professionals will share their knowledge and expertise with you. For complete details go to www.SFWriters.org, or phone (925) 560-1403 or (415) 673-0939.

Festival

The 2011 San Francisco Book Festival has issued a call for entries to its annual competition honoring the best books of the Spring season. Once again, the San Francisco Book Festival is tied in with its sister festival in Paris. Winners of the competitions may choose which awards ceremony and city they will attend. More information is at www.ParisBookFestival.com. Both awards ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 14 in the respective cities.

The 2011 San Francisco Book Festival will consider non-fiction, fiction, biography, autobiography, children's books, compilations/anthologies, teenage, how-to, cookbooks, science fiction, audio/spoken word, history, wild card, gay, photography/art, poetry, travel and spiritual work. Our grand prize for the 2011 San Francisco Book Festival and Paris Book Festival winner is \$1,500 cash and a flight to San Francisco or Paris for our gala awards ceremonies.

Deadline submissions in each category must be postmarked by the close of business on April 25, 2011. Detailed contest information, including entry forms, is available online at www.sanfranciscobookfestival.com.



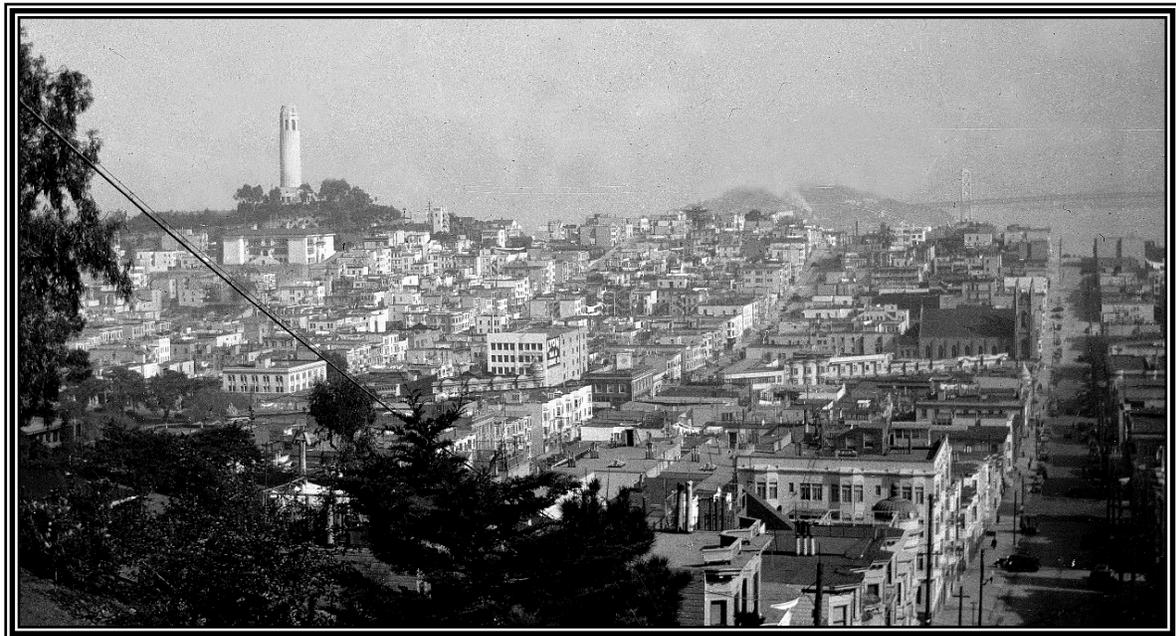
From The Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

One year ago today, I was preparing my presentation for the December meeting of our CWC branch. My 15 minutes in front of you were based on experiences writing my first published book, *Images of America-Walnut Creek*. I remember being asked to speak about writing for hire. There seems to be something about that phrase that implies the negative, maybe even the unsavory. All the better, I thought, it gives me the opportunity to make lemonade out of lemons. And I did, and am now in my third printing with more presentations scheduled in the coming year.

So? Well, that means those of you that are not yet published could be by next year. **So**, that means those of you that feel you can't write might be surprised at what you actually can accomplish. If you recoil over the inevitable book promotions and publicity engagements, read on. Take it from someone who was a painfully shy child, who did not speak English until first grade, book signings and PowerPoint presentations are terrific! Certainly, writing for hire might require compromise, teamwork, strict guidelines, and deadlines. Apparently, success is "in the eye of the beholder". One year later, I am preparing my marketing plan, with my three Arcadia Publishing publicists, for my second book, *Images of America-San Francisco's North Beach and Telegraph Hill*. My book launch event, sponsored by the San Francisco Historical Society on November 9, had 150 attendees. That would be 110 more than one year ago in December. That lemonade tastes real good.

Did you ever notice, when driving on the Embarcadero, there is a huge, artistic bow and arrow on the east side of the promenade? Just a few yards away are a series of large concrete hearts. If you look to the west, you will see Telegraph Hill in the middle of North Beach. For this writer, success was found in writing about something I know well and love even more. Keep your eyes and heart open to opportunities, don't judge a book by its cover, and remember that you may have a story that is just as good as everyone else's.



North Beach and Telegraph Hill
1938

Photograph by J.B. Monaco, courtesy of Richard Monaco

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

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
speaker, is on December 11, 2010,
at 11:30, in Pleasant Hill.**

**For detailed meeting information, go to
www.mtdiablowlriters.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.