



# The Write News

## California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Newsletter

December 2009

### **“One Hundred Years of Excellence in Writing” (1909 – 2009)**

### **The California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch Features “Three of Our Own”**

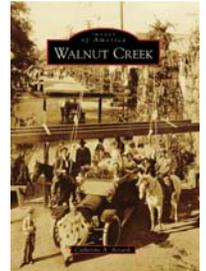
**Catherine Accardi ~ B. Lynn Goodwin ~ Aline Soules  
December 12, 2009**

We are proud to feature three of our own Mount Diablo Branch authors as our December speakers. These gifted writers have achieved success in a variety of literary genres and styles. We will learn a great deal from this trio, as we honor their achievements.



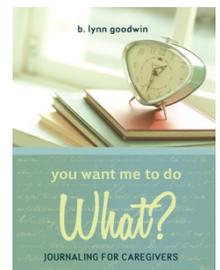
#### **Catherine Accardi**

Catherine is a longtime board member and editor of *The Write News*, our branch newsletter. Her first book, *Images of America—Walnut Creek*, was published this year by Arcadia Publishing. She is currently under contract for a second book, *Images of America—San Francisco’s North Beach and Telegraph Hill*. These volumes contain over 180 vintage images, along with text describing noteworthy local history. Catherine will discuss “Writing for Hire” and her experiences with the writing process.



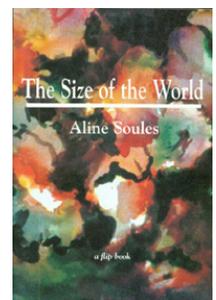
#### **B. Lynn Goodwin**

Lynn is the author of *You Want Me to Do What?: Journaling for Caregivers*. In her presentation, “Tackling Writer’s Block,” Lynn will discuss journaling as a tool for getting past the “stuck” places that often plague writers. She will also share the unique path that has led her to become both a published author and Managing Editor of “Writer Advice” ([www.writeradvice.com](http://www.writeradvice.com)), a popular online site featuring book reviews, author interviews, and practical resources for writers.



#### **Aline Soules**

Aline Soules’ work has appeared in numerous journals, e-zines, and anthologies such as *The MacGuffin*, *100 Words*, *Literature of the Expanding Frontier*, and *Variations on the Ordinary*. *The Size of the World*, a “flip” book of poetry and short fiction, was co-published with Nancy Ryan’s *The Shape of the Heart*. Poems from her manuscript *Evening Sun* and her manuscript-in-progress, *Meditation on Woman*, have appeared in publications such as *Kaleidowhirl*, *Tattoo Highway*, *Shaking Like a Mountain*, *Poetry Midwest*, *Long Story Short*, the *Kenyon Review*, and the *Houston Literary Review*. Aline is currently a library faculty member at California State University, East Bay.



**December 12 meeting details can be found on page two.**

## December Meeting Details

**Date & Time:** Saturday, December 12, 2009, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Sign-in begins at 11:30.

**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 non-members

**Menu:** Zio Fraedo's festive holiday luncheon buffet.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, December 9. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at [jeaniegops@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniegops@comcast.net), or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.



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 cancel your reservation prior to noon on Friday, December 11, you will be asked to remit a \$20 "no-show" payment.

## ~ Coming Attractions ~ Upcoming Speakers for 2009-2010

**January 9:** Veronica Chater, Memoirist ~ *Waiting for the Apocalypse: A Memoir of Faith and Family*

**February 13:** Suzanne Woods Fisher ~ *Starting Small*

**March 13:** Nik C. Colyer, Grit-Lit Novelist, Poet, author of the *Biker Bob* series

**April 10:** Writing Workshop ~ Martha Engber

**May 8:** Young Writers Banquet ~ Speaker to be announced

**June 12:** Sophie Littlefield, Author

Please join us for these informative sessions to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant. All are welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers. The CWC, Mount Diablo Branch web address is [www.mtdiablownriters.org](http://www.mtdiablownriters.org).

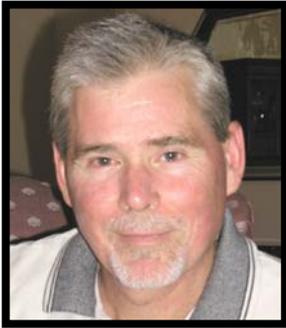


### ***Erratum***

Please note a correction to the November edition of *The Write News*. The name of Phyllis Nagle (donor to the Young Writers Contest), was misspelled. The correct spelling is Nagle not Nagel. Our apologies to Phyllis.

## President's Message

By David George



Happy Holidays, everyone! Please join me when we kick off the season in style at this year's holiday luncheon and meeting on Saturday, December 12. We feature three of our own authors sharing with us their stories of struggle and accomplishment. We also honor poet, David Alpaugh with an Emeritus membership in the Mount Diablo branch for his many years of dedication to our Young Writers contest, and Joanne Brown as our branch's 2009 Jack London Award recipient. We have much to celebrate and much to be thankful for this year.

As in past years, our December holiday celebration will be an opportunity for our members to display and sell their own books. We will have a table set up in the banquet hall. Please bring several copies of your latest book if you would like. Sales will occur during our luncheon check-in, throughout our door prize drawing, and during lunch (but not while our speakers have the floor of course). If you have books on the table, please make yourself reasonably available for payment and autographs, but you won't need to stand by the table the whole time.

All members are free to bring copies of books to donate to our door prize drawing also. We will be limiting the number of door prizes displayed and won each meeting to contain the length of the drawing – sometimes past drawings have gone on too long. If your donations are not displayed or won this month, they will be retained and used as prizes during a subsequent monthly meeting. And thanks again for your generous contributions to our Young Writers Contest.

I look forward to seeing you at our holiday luncheon. I'll be the one wearing the silly Santa hat!

## Mount Diablo Branch Welcomes Read Bookstore

By Al Garrotto

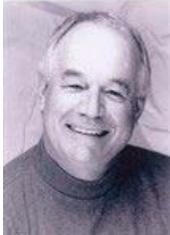
A new independent bookstore, called **Read**, will celebrate its Grand Opening on Saturday, December 5, 2009, in Blackhawk Plaza Shopping Center. Read promises to be more than an ordinary bookstore. Featuring unique gifts and a wide variety of specialty books, it is designed to be a hit with kids, literati, and artists alike. Events Director, Kiki Hanover, says, "We would love to work with the California Writer's Club, Mount Diablo Branch, in creating special events that feature local authors." Such events will include book signings, writing workshops, classes, book clubs, and other author events. Read will offer new opportunities for Branch members to showcase their work and expand their market. The contact information for this bookstore will be available in a future edition of *The Write News*.

## CWC Member's Author News and Events



**Lynn Goodwin**, author of *Want Me to Do What?: Journaling for Caregivers*, will be on a virtual book tour, sponsored by WOW: Women on Writing, [www.womenonwriting.com](http://www.womenonwriting.com). The tour begins on November 16 and runs into mid-December.

## Sales and Salutes



**Jerry Blair's** short memoir, *The Mourning Circle*, has been accepted by *Hear Us Roar* and will appear in the January/February issue of that publication. *Hear Us Roar* is a literary paper of narrative fiction and nonfiction.

## Members – Would You Like To Be Saluted?

We would like to salute you in *The Write News*. Please let newsletter Editor Catherine Accardi know if you have been published recently. Your name and writing achievement will be highlighted in the "Sales and Salutes" section of the newsletter. Send along a photograph of yourself and we shall include it as well. You may contact Catherine via e-mail at [caacat@comcast.net](mailto:caacat@comcast.net).

## Got a Blog? List Yours Now

By Al Garrotto, CWC Program & Website Coordinator

Over the past year, many of our members have created personal and professional blogs. Mine is "The Wisdom of Les Miserables," located at <http://wisdomoflesmiserables.blogspot.com/>. The biggest challenge we bloggers face is attracting readers. Without them we are voices crying out in a cyberspace wilderness. To draw readers to my site, I use our own Back Fence (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>) and my Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/alfred.j.garrotto>), as channels for announcing each new post. In addition, I have other specialized family, friends, and readers e-mail groups that I announce to.

Soon, you and I will have another outreach opportunity via our own branch website (<http://mtdiablowriters.org>). We already list our members' websites at <http://mtdiablowriters.org/membersWebsite.html> (is yours there yet?). Now, as an additional *members-only* perk, we invite you to list your **blog** with us. To take advantage of this benefit, provide me with the following information by email ([algarrotto@comcast.net](mailto:algarrotto@comcast.net)):

- your name (or the moderator's name, if it's a group)
- the title of your blog (e.g., The Wisdom of Les Miserables)
- the URL of your blog site (e.g., <http://myblogname.mybloghost.com/>)
- a one-line teaser about your blog (e.g., "promoting practical wisdom in the modern world")

I will pass your blog information on to our terrific web designer and fellow Mt. Diablo Branch Member Cynthia Borcena at See360Studios (<http://see360studios.com>).

## Tip Bucket



As reported in the December 2008 edition of *The Write News*, the Back Fence has a new feature called the Tip Bucket. Future editions of *The Write News* will feature excerpts from the Tip Bucket. Below is the tip for December.

### PUBLISH MANUSCRIPT TRADITIONALLY

Once you've sold the manuscript to a traditional publisher, whether on your own or through your agent, you'll begin to work with an editor assigned to you by the publisher.

#### DO:

- Establish a relationship by emailing/calling the editor and expressing your enthusiasm about working with her/him.
- Be the most cooperative author she has ever had! Be open to suggestions; choose your battles wisely, as far as holding on to something in spite of her suggestions.
- Meet or exceed expectations as far as responding quickly, meeting any deadlines, even when they seem inconvenient.

#### DON'T:

- Tell her how busy you are with your day job.
- Say how hectic your personal life has been.
- Share that you haven't been feeling well.
- Discuss contracts, deadlines, and business with your editor unless you don't have an agent.

Most editors let themselves think that you are there to write the books they have asked for. (This is not unlike teachers who thought their homework was all you had to do.) They don't want to be reminded that you have a life, that you might not be able to make a living simply from the advance and royalties, that you do anything else not connected to the books. This doesn't mean they aren't nice, caring people – it's simply unprofessional to inform them otherwise.

For the complete text of this, and other helpful tips, check out the Tip Bucket at the Back Fence. Members of The Back Fence can visit this site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>. 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.

## Member Profile

By Jody Denison

PROFILE: *Aline Soules*



Whoever placed the first pencil in Aline Soules' hand gave the writing world a real gift from that moment on. A native Scot, she does not practice thrift when it comes to words, because she has a head full of ideas, stories, and sayings that must be written.

She originally emigrated from Scotland to Canada where she met her late husband, an American. They subsequently moved to his home state of Michigan where they lived for thirty years before he died. In 2002, she moved to California. Their son, Craig, is now an adult.

Aline's education is formidable. She earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honors from the University of Windsor, followed by a Master of Arts from the same. At Wayne State, she secured a Master of Science in Library Science. Not content to rest on her laurels she proceeded on to a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Antioch University in Los Angeles.

Her knowledge of computers has made her a valuable asset to The Back Fence and a big help to Julie Dowling its moderator. Aline is also slated to join our speakers at our Christmas meeting on improving one's writing through Poetry. She has much to share, not just on Poetry, but tips on writing in general. Her independent writing is partnered with academic writing as well. To see a full list of her creative writing go to <http://writingresume.wetpaint.com>, and to see her academic writing go to <http://libraryresume.wetpaint.com> (scroll down to the publications section).

## CWC Centennial



On the left is the newly approved colorized, stylized version of the California Writers Club Centennial logo. On the right is a photograph of the Life Member combination of pin and "rocker tab." The pin is available for purchase at our monthly meetings. The rocker tab is available for Active members who pay the Life membership fee of \$599.

Those members will receive both items as a gift.



## Contests

**The Central Coast Writers Club** has announced their Spring 2010 Writing Contest. Two winners will receive \$500 each and will be published (print and on-line) in the 2010 *Homestead Review* (Hartnell College - Salinas). (Note: All contest entries will be considered for publication.) The submission period is from September 15, 2009 through January 15, 2010 (by postmark). Contest rules and detailed information is available at [www.centralcoastwriters.org](http://www.centralcoastwriters.org). If you have questions, you can send an e-mail to [ccw-contests@comcast.net](mailto:ccw-contests@comcast.net).



## Honoring William Saroyan

Nominations are now being accepted for the fourth William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. This award, given by Stanford University Libraries in partnership with the William Saroyan Foundation, recognizes newly published works of fiction and non-fiction with a \$5,000 award for the winner in each category. For official entry forms, contest rules, and other information on the prize, visit the Saroyan Prize website at <http://library.stanford.edu/saroyan/>. Entries must be received by January 31, 2010. More contest information is also available by contacting (Ms.) Sam Petersen, Stanford University Libraries, at (650) 854-5575, via e-mail at [sampetersen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sampetersen@sbcglobal.net), or by visiting the website above.

## From the Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

### ~ 100 Years of Literary History ~



Some historians describe the North Beach Beat generation as "A San Francisco Renaissance, a literary explosion of free verse and uninhibited prose." Perhaps so. The 1950s were the time of this "renaissance." The players were authors and poets like Jack Kerouac, Lawrence Ferlingetti, and Gregory Corso. These are some of the famous names, the ones with streets named after them. They congregated at the Discovery Bookstore (241 Columbus). Discovery delighted both residents and authors with reasonably priced used books. They enjoyed each other's company at the Purple Onion (140 Columbus) where writers that bought and sold books at the Discovery Bookstore would read their poetry and passages from their stories. They sipped various beverages at the Black Cat Cafe (708 Montgomery) where writers that wrote poetry and books would spend hours discussing, and making, literary history.

Some readers may consider Beat works "indelicate." I hesitate to recommend a reading list. I would say skip their verse and prose if you are squeamish. If you are curious and adventurous, drop by City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, or visit their website at [www.citylights.com](http://www.citylights.com).

As far back as the California Gold Rush, San Francisco provided an atmosphere where creative writers found a rapt audience. Local periodicals of the day were particularly popular because they featured new talent. These periodicals included the *Golden Era*, *Overland Monthly*, *the Californian*, and the *Argonaut*, just to name but a few. Some of California's early writers were drawn to the Bay Area, including Ambrose Bierce, Ina Coolbrith, Samuel Clemens, Cincinnatus Hiner Miller (Joaquin Miller), and Robert Louis Stevenson. These writers came during the days of Bay Area Bohemia. Those days were before the Beat generation but certainly just as colorful. That delicious time in literary history will be the subject of the next edition of **From the Editor's Desk**.

***"All speech, written or spoken, is a dead language,  
until it finds a willing and prepared hearer."***

~ Robert Louis Stevenson ~

## 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. Here are the most recent donors to the Young Writers Contest:

### Barbara Hannafan and Marta Van Loan

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. Contest submissions are free and must be received on or before April 14, 2010. Winners are notified in May and presented with their awards at an awards luncheon on Saturday, May 12, 2010, 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**

\*\*\*\*\*

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!



The second Young Writers Workshop date has been confirmed. It will be Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Concord library. Future editions of *The Write News* will provide additional information.

## Update on the Young Writers Fundraiser

On Saturday, November 28, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch held its annual fundraiser to benefit the middle school Children's Writing Contest. This event was held in cooperation with Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Pleasant Hill. All Barnes and Noble shoppers that day had an opportunity to donate a portion of their in-store purchases (at no extra cost to themselves) to the California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch. Please note that you may still use the vouchers below. The vouchers are good through December 4. All proceeds (that's 100%) will be used to fund the cash prizes offered to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the categories of Short Story, Poetry, and Essay/Narrative. This is a great way to support the art and craft of writing in the public and private middle schools of Contra Costa County. The Barnes and Noble Store is located at 552 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, California, but the coupons below can be used at any local Barnes and Noble. Please help us encourage emerging young writers in our region.

**Barnes & Noble**  
**BOOKFAIR**  
Supporting

**California Writers  
Club  
Mt. Diablo Branch**

Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009, 11 am to 6 pm  
to Friday, December 4, 2009

Barnes & Noble

552 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill, CA

Please present this voucher prior  
to making your purchase.  
A percentage of the net sale will  
be donated to your school/organization.\*

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\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships,  
text books and magazine subscriptions are not included  
in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing  
program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.



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## California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

***President: David George***  
***Vice-President: William Stong***  
***Treasurer: Joanne Brown***  
***Secretary: Barbara Bentley***

### ***Board Members***

Catherine Accardi  
Ann Damaschino  
Jody Denison  
Danard Emanuelson  
Al Garrotto  
Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff  
Aline Soules  
Elisabeth Tuck  
Fran Wojnar

### ***Committee Chairs***

Central Board Rep: David George  
Central Board Alternate Rep: Jack Russ  
Membership: Jody Denison  
Newsletter: Catherine Accardi  
Barnes & Noble Fundraiser: Camille Minichino  
Programs & Website: Al Garrotto  
Branch Historian & Door Prizes: Fran Wojnar  
Young Writers Contest: Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff  
Publicity: Ann Damaschino  
Workshops: Elisabeth Tuck, Nannette Carroll  
Event Logistics: Danard Emanuelson

### ***Advisory Board Members***

Nannette Carroll  
Betty Iverson  
Lee Paulson  
Jack Russ

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**California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch**  
**Post Office Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507**



***Sail On!***