

The Write News

A Mo



A Monthly Newsletter

February 2012

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

Presents:

Elizabeth Rosner, MA



Saturday, February 11, 2012

"Thinking like a poet can improve your writing"

You will learn:

- What is the overlap between poetry and fiction?
- How can reading and writing poetry define your voice and material?
- What qualities of a poem can strengthen your prose?

Elizabeth will address the poetic demands of compression, economy, and image which make prose even stronger and deeper.

Write as though sustaining a very long poem!

"I consider it a great compliment when readers tell me that my poetry is prosaic and my prose is poetic!"

An instructor of creative writing and composition at the college level for nearly thirty years, Ms. Rosner is a graduate of Stanford University, the MFA Program at U.C. Irvine, and the University of Queensland, Australia.

Her first novel, *The Speed of Light*, published in September 2001 and winner of many prizes, is a story of loss and the redemptive power of storytelling and love. The novel has been translated into nine languages, and has been optioned by actress Gillian Anderson.

Rosner's second book, *Blue Nude*, expresses that even in the face of fear and despair, the act of making art can bring real possibilities for redemption and healing.

Rosner's fiction and poetry have been published in literary journals such as *Poetry*, *Poetry East*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *The Cream City Review*, and *Southern Poetry Review*. Her poetry chapbook *Gravity* (currently out of print), was one of the Select Poets Series published by Small Poetry Press. Her essays have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Elle*, the *Forward*, and many anthologies.

Meeting Details on Page 2

A NEW MEMBER BENEFIT !

We're going to try something new for the **Saturday, Feb 11th** meeting:

WRITERS TABLES

Looking for members with a common writing interest? Share your experience. Ask your questions. Writers Table provides a place and time to meet with other members to discuss subjects of shared interest. Children's books, memoirs, manuscript exchange, genre specific, query letters, - any subject related to writing and publishing.

Who? A volunteer facilitator leads the discussion at each table.

If you would like to lead a discussion, send your name and subject to Lee Paulson rleepaulson@sbcglobal.net.

Also let Lee know if you have a recommendation for a subject.

For a subject to be covered there must be a volunteer facilitator. If no leader, then no discussion of the subject. Facilitators can promote their services/books if appropriate.

Where? Three special tables will be inside the restaurant meeting room. A sign will identify the subject.

When? During the half hour of check-in time at the monthly meeting.
11:15 to 11:45.

The February meeting is a test of the concept. Please send us your suggestions and ideas on how to make this a great experience for you.

February 11, 2012 - NEW Meeting Details

We're trying two new things about our event in February. Starting at **11:15**, we will have 3 smaller "Writer's Tables" set aside in the main room manned by volunteer members where you can discuss different aspects of the writing/publishing process.

Check-in begins at 11:15. Check out the Writers Tables then the buffet will be available starting around 11:30. Help yourself when you're ready, find a seat and chat with friends until the meeting begins around 1.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, February 8. **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.

Interested in a Critique Group ?

Fiction – Memoir - Poetry – Screen Plays – Children’s Literature – Young Adult

What is your interest, your genre or writing direction? The writers who encompass our Mt. Diablo membership are diverse and brimming with ideas and talent.

One of the greatest **member benefits** of CWC is the ability to have your work critiqued by other dedicated writers, many of them already published. To join our traditional monthly critique group, contact Ted Wells at wellsware@msn.com. See the Critique Group schedule below. Critique meetings are held prior to our regular speaker meetings.

To form a smaller, more flexible group, contact Don Maker at metacognition2@yahoo.com. For Don, include your genre(s). He will put you in contact with others who share your genre(s) and wish to meet more often, read entire manuscripts, exchange work by email, and so on.

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 or banquet areas, at 9:30-11:00 a.m., prior to the general meeting. Please drop in.

February 11 Agenda

- Short Discussion Topic: “Six Ways To Make Your Characters Come Alive.” 15 minutes.
- Oral and written critique on fiction pieces from last time. 60 minutes.
- Pass out new pieces from all attendees for oral and written critiques at our next meeting. Request short discussion topic ideas for next meeting. 15 minutes.

I look forward to 5-10 typed pages of your manuscripts in any genre, fiction or nonfiction, for someone to critique. See you Saturday, February 11. ***To our great works.***

Upcoming Meetings

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|---|
| March 10 | Sean Hazlett | Why blogging is important to writers. Hone your writing skills, promote yourself and gain a platform. |
| April 14 | Maria Murnane | WORKSHOP – Sell your book! Tons of tips from a PR/Marketing pro. |
| May 19 | Young Writer’s Banquet | Lindsey Grant, NaNoWriMo's (National Writer’s Month) Program Director |

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



For years I've thought it would be interesting to document some family history. I've vacillated as to what the format should be. Would I write fictional stories with beginnings and endings? Would I write non-fiction memoirs as if from ancestors' points of view? Would I write full-fledged biographies? Decisions. Decisions. Time has slipped away and, intimidated by what felt like a too-large task, I've not put one word on paper.

Not long ago I was editing a client's book on his family's history. Some interesting additions to his book were paragraphs contributed by various family members recalling shared holidays, card parties or meals. They described life in a bygone era, or characterized a relative. We all think that what we are experiencing now is and will be understood by others forever. Not true. Times, habits, ways of life all change. Individuals' characteristics are unknown to future generations. Who is documenting all this?

I realized that I don't have to write a lot; I could just develop a paragraph here and there as I recall events or people. If I don't write down my memories, who will? There's no one else left to share my family's past. Wouldn't my grandchildren be interested to know that their great-great-grandmother grew up with nannies who were freed slaves? Or that their great-great-grandfather was one of 13 children living in Jack the Ripper's stomping ground in London!

It struck me that writing a little at a time, would go a long way toward building whatever I finally decide to do with the information. I could apply characterizations to fiction, facts to non-fiction, and scenes for either. So, I encourage you to jot down memories. Maybe they'll end up in a novel, play, or non-fiction work. Either way, you're practicing your writing, adding to a legacy for your family or friends, and perhaps edging your way into a larger work!



Catherine Accardi



Nanette Rundle Carroll



Patricia Evans

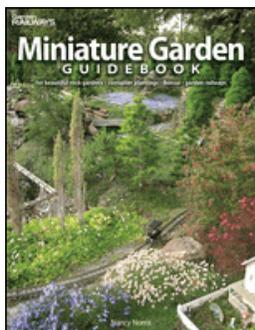
Three successful non-fiction authors from Mt. Diablo branch, who were sponsored by CWC & A *Writers Place* at the Lafayette Library, Catherine Accardi, Nannette Rundle Carroll and Pat Evans spoke to a crowd of 50 people on January 22 about how they turned their specialized knowledge into successful books and careers. The topics were:

***How to develop a strong non-fiction book proposal
Tips on the best ways to share your knowledge
Go beyond the book by building your speaking and online platform***



Member Events, News and Salutes

Share your good news: An upcoming book event, award, publication or new e-book. Send an email with a brief paragraph and .jpg photo to Newsletter Editor, Lyn Roberts at lynz@astound.net. Find our amazing members below!



Nancy Norris' book, *Miniature Garden Guidebook* was published last May, and written as an enhancement to making your garden as great as your outdoor railroad! This comprehensive book covers designing and planning the railway garden, selecting plants, as well as mastering the special needs of miniature plants for considerations like hardiness zones, watering, fertilization, pruning, and controlling pests.



Ginger Wadsworth's 25th book for young readers, *First Girl Scout: The Life of Juliette Gordon Low* is a biography with Clarion Books, and will be officially released on February 6, 2012. It is written for ages 9 and up, and illustrated with over 100 archival images. The book is coming out in time for the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts, and the official date is March 12, 2012. Girl Scouts around the country have already begun to celebrate this event.

Two book signings are scheduled in Northern California: Saturday, February 25, 2012, The Storyteller Bookstore at 30 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925/284- 3480, from 4-6 and Saturday, March 10, 2012, Orinda Books at 176 Village Square, Orinda, 925/254-7606, from 1-3

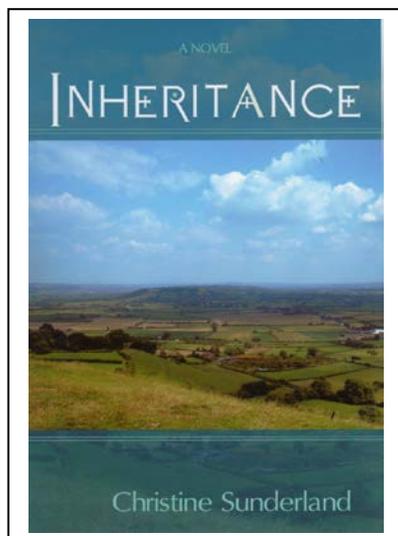
To learn more about Ginger's books visit her website:

www.gingerwadsworth.com



Jeryl Abelman's book, *Quickly's Magical Pancake Adventure*, which has only been published for one month, is an award-winning book in the Children's Books category for the 2011 New England Book Festival. The Gala will be held in Boston on January 14th.

Jeryl is delighted to say, "The great thing about that is that now I can put 'award-winning' book before the title!"

MORE!**Member Events, News and Salutes**

Christine Sunderland's third novel, *Inheritance*, set in England, just won an Honorable Mention, General Fiction category, at the London Book Festival.

Vietnamese-American Victoria Nguyen, seventeen, flees to England with a powerful secret...and a determined senator on her trail. A poignant story about choices made along the way... and the miracles of the heart.

Christine is also the author of *Pilgrimage* (OakTara, 2007), and award-winning *Offerings* (OakTara, 2009).

<http://www.ChristineSunderland.com>;

<http://MyTravels.ChristineSunderland.com>



Dr. Ann Steiner was an Invited Contributor to publish articles in the following professional journals:

"Preparing Your Clients and Yourself for the Unexpected: Therapist Illness, Retirement, and Death," *The Therapist*, Vol. 23, Issue 6, November/December, 2011.

"Therapists Need a Strong Back-up Plan," *The National Psychologist*, July/August 2011.

"The Therapist's Professional Will: A Back-Up Plan Every Clinician Needs," *GROUP Journal of the Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society* (Special Issue: The Aging of Group Therapists), Vol. 35.1, March 2011.

Dr. Steiner has also received the honor to be a Member, Board of Directors, American Group Psychotherapy Society, elected 2012 and received the Exceptional Service Award, Arthritis Foundation, Northern California Chapter, 2011.

And **MORE!**

Member Events, News and Salutes



Mrs. Santa (aka **Susan Pace-Koch**) reading her book *Get Out Of My Head I Should Go To Bed* to children at the Concord Center and for veterans' children at the yearly Christmas event.

New releases from *Get Out Books* late Spring 2012:

Get Outside for an AMAZING Ride, art by Jeremy Kwan (kids riding on Flying Carpets, Sea Horses, Rocket Ships)

In One Ear and Out The Other, art by Jack Wiens (Humor book...Parents say "this", kids hear "that")



Story Circle Network chose **B. Lynn Goodwin's** review of *This is Not the Ivy League* for their Review of the Month for December. It can be found at: at <http://www.storycirclebookreviews.org/reviews/ivyleague.shtml> .

The winter issue of *Writer Advice* is now up at www.writeradvice.com. It features an interview with historical novelist Ellen Horan, flash pieces by five articulate, exciting writers, seven new book reviews, and new markets to explore.

Publishing Pathways Mentoring Program

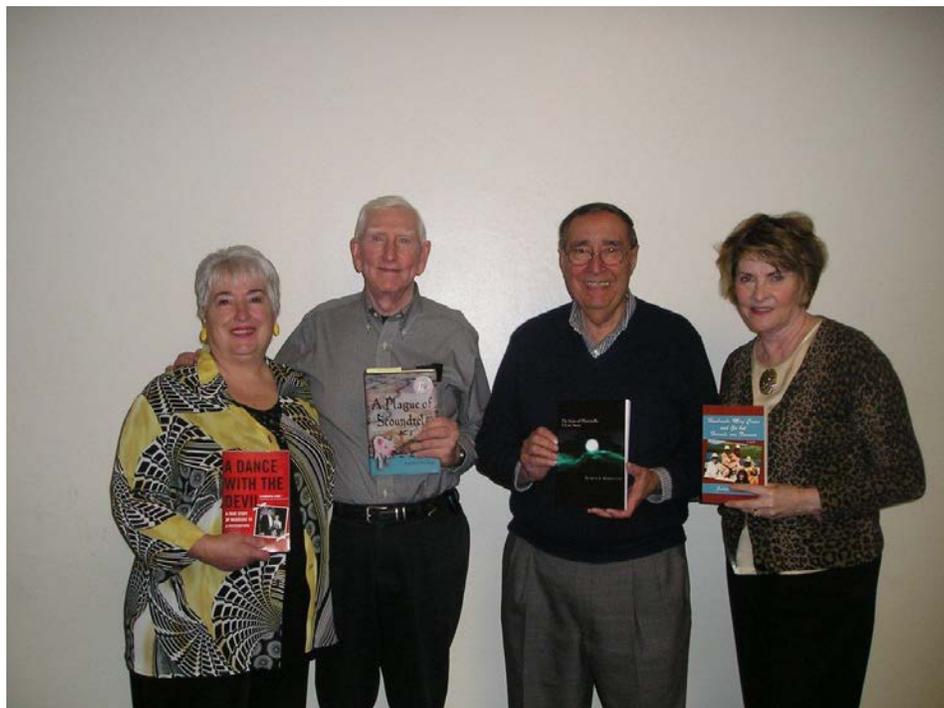
Publishing Pathways is compiling a list of publishing experts for consultation and/or hire. We are looking for commercially published members willing to share their experiences with branch members. If selected, you will be listed on our website as knowledgeable and experienced in one or more fields: Writing: fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, editing, book cover design, selecting an agent. Publishing: POD (print on demand), independent, e-publishing. Marketing: signings, blogging, speaking engagements. Distribution and fulfillment. Bookseller interface. Contact one of our branch mentors for more information. Judith Marshall – Judith.Marshall@att.net; Polly Benson - shop@bighatpress.com; Andrew Kinane - andrewkinane@hotmail.com.

Workshop to Prepare for the CWC Young Writers Contest



Sixty middle school students enrolled in **The California Writers Club Young Writers Comedy Workshop** led by authors **Sarah Wilson** (Danville) and **Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff**, (Pleasant Hill) held in January at the Walnut Creek Library. Students participated in funny improvisations and wrote humorous stories to prepare for the annual Young Writers Contest. Deadline is April 1, 2012. Guidelines at: <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/>

Authors Panel at Moraga Library



Mt. Diablo CWC authors, "**Barbara Bentley**, **Roger Paulson** (writing as Jon Cory), **Alfred Garrotto** and **Judith Marshall** devoted 90 minutes to discussions on the art and craft of writing, from building scenes, dialogue and character development, to film options, self-promotion, legal aspects and the value of networking. It was a best-seller event, judging from the turnout (with) a standing room only crowd at 95." Article and Photo: Cathy Dausman, Lamorina Weekly

Writer's Markets Column

Submission Opportunities for February and Early March By B. Lynn Goodwin



Can you excerpt short pieces from your novel, memoir, or non-fiction book? Publishing excerpts is a great way to build your platform.

Here are a few ideas places looking for your work:

Deadline: 2/1/2012
 Submit to: The First Line
 Theme: Every story starts the same. This first line is: "There are a few things you need to know before we start."
 Type: Short stories (3,000 words MAX)
 URL: <http://thefirstline.com/submission.htm>. Check the URL for additional topics and deadlines.
 +++

Deadline: 2/29/2012
 Submit to: Getting Along with Grief. Send via attachment. Email Address
 Theme: Signs and wonders often occur after a loved one's death: a rose blooming in a blizzard, unexplained "coincidences," messages in unlikely places...
 Type: Poetry, prose, or photography--no adult language
 URL: <http://gettingalongwithgrief.blogspot.com/>
 +++

Deadline: 3/1/2012
 Submit to: Little Patuxent Review. Online Form
 Theme: Audacity.
 Type: Poetry (3 poems MAX) and prose (3,500 words MAX)
 URL: <http://littlepatuxentreview.org/submissions/>
 +++

Deadline: 3/1/2012
 Submit to: THEMA, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747

Theme: White wine chilling (Indicate theme on first page of submission or in cover letter)

Type: Poetry (3 poems MAX) and short stories (6,000 words MAX)

URL: <http://theliterarysociety.com/submissions.html>. Check the URL for additional topics and deadlines.

+++

MODEL AIRPLANE NEWS

<http://www.modelairplanenews.com/contact-us/>

Published by Air Age Media, the largest multi-media company dedicated to enthusiasts of radio-control planes, helicopters, cars and boats, aviation and diecast collecting, Model Airplane News is distributed around the world. Pays up to \$600 for features up to 2,000 words. This magazine is about collecting, building and flying model airplanes. Eighty percent freelance.

+++

ELECTRIC LITERATURE

<http://electricliterature.submishmash.com/submit>

Electric Literature only publishes fiction. Stories or stand alone novel excerpts should be between 1,500 and 10,000 words. Please only submit one piece at a time. For each story we accept, the writer receives \$1,000. This is a payment, not a prize.

+++

BREATHE

<http://www.readbreathe.com/contributors-guidelines/>

We're looking for content that's both informative and entertaining for active women who value a healthy lifestyle. Our features vary in length from 800-2,500 words, and relate in some way to each issue's theme.

+++

BOULEVARD

<http://www.boulevardmagazine.org/projects.html>

Boulevard strives to publish only the finest in fiction, poetry, and non-fiction (essays, interviews, etc.). Accepts submissions after October 1 and up to May 1. Pays \$25 to \$500.

+++

www.writeradvice.com
Lgood67334@comcast.net

Let me know which places you looked at, what appealed, and what your next step will be. I'd love to hear your stories about seeking publication. Thanks.

2012 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, 2011, to the present:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Foundation Donors <i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p> | <p>The John Steinbeck Society <i>Barbara Bentley</i></p> |
| <p>The Jack London Founder's Circle <i>Christine Sunderland</i></p> <p>The John Muir Member Club</p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club <i>David George in memory of Joan Brennan</i></p> | <p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club <i>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of Joan Brennan</i> <i>Joanne Brown</i> <i>Lee Paulson</i> <i>Kathy Urban</i> <i>The Vinapa Foundation for Cross-Cultural Studies</i></p> |

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 February 11, 2012 at 11:15, 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.