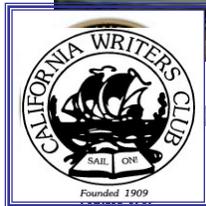


# The Write News

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A Monthly Newsletter

February 2013

## The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

### LUNCHEON MEETING and SPEAKER Saturday, February 9, 2013; 11:30am to 2:00pm "Trimming the Fat: Make Every Word Count"



Nina Egert

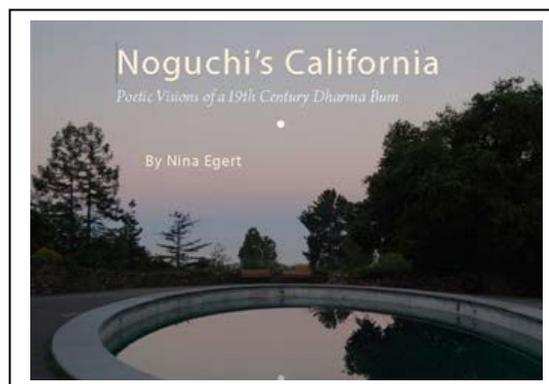
January is the month for trimming the fat from our waistlines after holiday excesses. Let February be for trimming extraneous words from our writing.

Whether we Tweet, or write short articles, or deliver an elevator speech to a prospective publisher, as writers in the contemporary world we need to make sure we get our message across in as few words as possible.

This means ascertaining the key point of each communication, then finding the most powerful and effective words for the job.

After lunch, we will play with various writing exercises to help us succeed in these purposes. Please bring paper and pencil.

Nina Egert has condensed her thoughts in numerous short articles for *The MacArthur Metro* and other local papers. Her books include *Tracing Anza's Trail: A Photographer's Journey*, and *Noguchi's California: Poetic Visions of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Dharma Bum*. See the September, 2012 issue of Write News for Nina's ideas on using Japanese poetic forms to develop writing skills.



**Sign-in** is 11:30am–12 pm, luncheon 12–12:45, and program 12:45–2:00 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Registration is \$20, or \$25 for non-CWC members; please contact Jean at [jeaniegpopps@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniegpopps@comcast.net) or leave a message at: (925) 934-5677.

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

**Meeting Details on Page 2**

## President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



This month we're debuting a new idea in the newsletter: *Touching Base*. We have several members who have moved away, making attending our meetings difficult if not impossible. So we're inviting them to 'touch base' with us and let us know what they're up to. This month we'll hear from past president Jack Russ. We hope others will contact Lyn with their information. Touch base with us at [editingonline@astound.net](mailto:editingonline@astound.net). We miss you and look forward to hearing from you.  
Elisabeth

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### *Touching Base – with Jack Russ*



Jack Russ, former branch president for three years, retains his Mt. Diablo Branch membership but is now also affiliated with the CWC Redwood Branch. He published a well-received novel *In Dangerous Waters* [Amazon – Dec 2010] and is currently working on a follow-on novel of international intrigue.

Jack and his wife Arlene now live in Varenna, a retirement community in Santa Rosa. Since resettling in June 2011 he has been active in the Varenna writers club, writing four short stories and editing the work of some other resident writers. Jack misses his former critique group, and the warm friendship and intellectual stimulation of the Mt. Diablo Branch members. He's pleased and impressed with the imaginative leadership, new activities, the branch's maturing newsletter and website, and evident energy they reflect.

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### *FEBRUARY 2013 - Meeting Details*

**Sign-in** is 11:30am–12 pm, seated luncheon 12–12:45, and program 12:45–2:00 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. **Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, February 6.** Registration is \$20, or \$25 for non-CWC members. **Please contact Jean at [jeaniepops@comcast.net](mailto:jeaniepops@comcast.net) or leave a message 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 or \$25 "no-show" payment according to your membership.

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## ***Member Events, News and Salutes***



Striving for new heights on the literary landscape, **Jon Foyt** began writing novels with his late wife, Lois, in 1992.

His 9 published novels range from offshore trusts to a novel about Albania, the backstory of the Erie Canal, and the faux biography of a woman who led WACs onto the beaches of Normandy in WW II.

Jon's 10th novel, *Time To Retire*, is set in a fictionalized active adult retirement community.

A distance runner, Jon has completed 60 marathons. He has a degree from Stanford in Journalism, the Stanford Business School, and the University of Georgia in Historic Preservation. Jon lives in Rossmoor.



## **Let's Welcome Some New Members!**

This past month has brought two new members into our Mount Diablo Branch. They are Angelina Pearson and William Larkins.

***Welcome Angelina and William!***

### ***DON'T MISS OUR WRITERS TABLES Prior to the February Meeting***

**Cathy Turney** will discuss humor writing and venues for publishing funny stuff

**Polly Bernson** will talk about Personal Publishing

Join us during registration until lunch is served at noon

## Meet Your Member

### Member Profile: *Denise Kalm*

By Catherine Accardi, Membership Chair



*Denise Kalm* was born in Oakland, California. At the age of two weeks, she moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where she spent one year. Denise was one of the first Salk babies. A move to Illinois came at the age of two and lasted for ten years. It was back to California for her teen years and college, to Ann Arbor for graduate school and then back to Northern California.

Denise began writing spontaneously in grammar school and wrote her own Nancy Drew mysteries, but it wasn't until a high school teacher told her that she was a great writer that Denise thought perhaps she could do something with it. She feels she owes that teacher quite a bit! She put her writing aside for several years while engaged in scientific work. "Scientific writing isn't at all the same," she explains.

Denise's education consists of a B.S. in Genetics from U.C. Berkeley, an M.S. in Human Genetics from the University of Michigan, and a certificate in coaching from John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill. When asked if her education specifically influenced her writing, Denise says, "The first book I wrote (not published) was a techno-thriller based on genetics and I do want to get back to that.

As a scientist, I need to make even fiction plausible, so I do a lot of technical research to be sure what I say could actually happen. The coaching training has influenced my non-fiction more than anything else."

"I always knew that you had to write every day. But it wasn't till I got into software marketing where writing was a critical job skill (but most IT people couldn't write) that I got into the discipline. I discovered that no matter what you write, it's just important that you do it. I got better and most of all, learned to beat writer's block. I can now just sit down and write, once I have decided what I am going to write about. That was a huge gift."

I asked Denise when she began writing. Her reply was "When did I learn to print? Somewhere in first or second grade, a teacher gave us a Xmas card picture as inspiration for a story. That set me off. I found it surprising and weird that most of my fellow students were horrified by the assignment – I couldn't wait to get started."

Currently, Denise is working on a 2<sup>nd</sup> non-fiction book and adds, "But I am an agent's/publisher's nightmare. I have already published one book of fiction, written and published numerous articles and written many, but published just a few short stories. Favorite genres for fiction are: horror, techno-thriller and oddly, Christmas stories, Non-fiction – travel, diving, food and self-help." She goes on to say, "I have a number of articles published in national slicks, technical publications and newspapers, a few short stories and two books – *Lifestorm* (fiction about the Oakland Hills fire) and *Career Savvy – Keeping & Transforming Your Job*."

Denise added that she wanted to let people know, "I don't fit into the usual model of writer. I'm an extreme extrovert, fueled by people. I get my best dialog and ideas from the frequent interchange I have with strangers I meet on buses, BART, airport shuttles, hiking paths, etc. And my message is that every experience counts for a writer. So push back from that laptop and get away. I solve most of my writing dilemmas hiking or doing Jazzercise."

Denise is married with one "fur-child" by the name of Francisco (Cisco) d'Anconia Kalm, Francisco is a mini-lop rabbit.

## Writer's Markets Column

### More Sources Than You Imagined

by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



When I looked at the new author pages that Aline Soules added to the CWC website at the end of December, I was amazed. We are a prolific group.

Small presses have published many of us, and a great place to find new small presses is <http://www.newpages.com/book-publishers/>. The list of publishers runs for pages.

The genres are easy to find. Whether you're looking for children's literature, YA, poetry, fiction, short stories, nonfiction, creative nonfiction, drama, chapbooks, cookbooks, folk tales, anthologies, monographs, mini books, short fiction, multi-cultural fiction, LGBT literature, or erotica you can find it here. Click on whatever will work for your book, and if it crosses genres, click more than one time.

While you're at NewPages.com, check the Calls for Submissions posted on <http://www.newpages.com/classifieds/calls/>. Writing contests are posted at <http://www.newpages.com/classifieds/writingcontests/>.

If you're a journalist or you're looking for a place to post your reviews, consider the alternative newspapers listed at <http://www.newpages.com/npguides/newswkly.htm>.

Though the list is extensive, it's not all-inclusive.

Another site with more long lists and an academic bent is AcqWeb's Directory of Publishers and Vendors. Start at <http://www.acqweb.org/pubr.html>. In addition to the sites listed there, use the left hand column to find sites for Children's Literature, General Publishers, Mystery Publishers, Poetry Publishers, Romance Publishers, Science Fiction & Fantasy Publishers, and University Presses.

Because the site was last updated in 2001 some of the links are dead, but most of the ones I tried work.

Still searching? You can also google your genre + book publishers and see what comes up or look for an agent through the agents listing on *Preditors and Editors*, <http://pred-ed.com/pubagent.htm>.

Beware of scams. If a company sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

I'd be interested in hearing the story of how you found your publisher. Send it to [Lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net).

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## ***Call for Volunteers***

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

Would you not want to further the mission of our writers club? Our mission, as defined on our statewide club website is: *"Educating writers of all abilities in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work"*. Sounds like a good plan to me. Our writers club runs smoothly thanks to our talented and dedicated volunteers. Our board members are volunteers, our program chairs are volunteers, and all the other people who 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:

Membership Chair, Catherine Accardi, at [caacat@comcast.net](mailto:caacat@comcast.net)

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## ***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.

## 2013 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, 2012, to the present:

<p><b>Foundation Donors</b> <i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p><b>The John Steinbeck Society</b></p>
<p><b>The John Muir Member Club</b> <i>Barbara Bentley</i></p> <p><b>The Mary Austin Writers Club</b> <i>Kathy Urban</i> <i>In memory of Nancy O'Connell</i></p> <p><i>Betty Iverson – in honor of all the young writers</i></p> <p><i>David George – in honor of Elizabeth Pentacoff's years of generous time contributions to the success of the program.</i></p>	<p><b>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</b></p> <p><i>Sara Wilson – in honor of Elizabeth Pentacoff for her continued support of Young Writers</i></p> <p><i>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff – in memory of Al and Elmer Koehler</i> <i>Elisabeth Tuck</i></p> <p><i>Rick Reed – by donating proceeds from book sales after speaking at Mt. Diablo Branch</i></p> <p><i>Joanne Brown - In honor of Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff's work with the Young Writers Contest."</i></p> <p><i>Karen Tenney for the Betty Tenney Memorial Young Writers Contest Essay Prize</i></p>

The 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.

~ 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

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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 9450

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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 to all our members who generously donated to the 2012 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 2013 contest. They are depending on you!

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

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**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 Speaker's Luncheon  
is on February 9, 2013 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.