



BRANCH MEETING & LUNCHEON *“Writing in Different Genres”*

Saturday, February 8, 2014; 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Join local journalist and creative writing instructor Janice De Jesus as she discusses how she approaches writing in various genres and how she finds inspiration to write fiction from real life stories.

Topics include:

- **Crafting fictional stories drawn from newspaper headlines**
- **Switching thematic gears from nonfiction to fiction**
- **Writing inspirational fiction and nonfiction (self-help/memoir)**
- **Finding ideas and sources for newspaper feature writing**



Janice De Jesus is a highly respected teacher of Creative Writing classes for adults through Pleasant Hill, Hercules and Walnut Creek Recreation. A certified Yoga teacher, Janice incorporates the same mindful and compassionate teaching style of helping people achieve balance of mind, body and spirit to her writing classes. She is the author of *OmStruck: Healing Heartbreak Through Yoga and Meditation*. Janice covers the arts and features scene for the Contra Costa Times. She is currently working on her writing memoir and looks forward to the publication of a novel and a collection of short stories.

Sign-in is 11:30 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.

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as to the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.” Dr. Dorothy I. Height

Remember that we're still looking for someone to help us arrange our monthly speakers and workshops. We're set through June, the club breaks in July and August then we'll need speakers/workshops starting in Sept. You would not have to work alone. Don is not leaving the club, and several of us have had experience and would of course help. Many of us have long lists of potential speakers/workshop leaders to contact.

February is a packed meeting. See details of the following in the newsletter.

- Our Writers Table will feature Jill Hedgecock introducing memory boards as a visual way to lay out a plan for the book you're working on.
- We'll have Buck-A-Book silently enticing you to buy fellow members' gently used books at only \$1.
- And our speaker is the well-loved writing teacher, Janis De Jesus on "Writing in Different Genres."

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February Writer's Table – The Muse Board

Ever find yourself wondering the color of the hair or eyes of your protagonist? Ever forget the name of the street where the murderer in your story lives? Can't remember the types of hair products popular in the 1950s? **A Muse (or Mood) Board is a collection of pictorial and/or narrative displays of important details for your writing project.** This tool can be useful whether you're creating a short story, a full novel, nonfiction, or even a poem. Before the February meeting, Jill Hedgecock will share the Muse Board she is using for her current novel and describe the numerous ways in which using this technique can improve your writing skills in the areas of plotting, character development, and establishing setting.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



Month	Speaker	Event
Feb 8	Janice De Jesus	Writing in Different Genres
Mar 8	Marilyn Atlas	<i>Workshop with breakfast</i>
April 12	Jordan Rosenfeld	Making a Scene
May 10	Ellen Klages	YWC luncheon
June 14	Mary Mackey	Unknown topic (writes both novels and screenplays)

Thanks to Barbara Bentley for creating this graphic of upcoming events.

Conferences and Opportunities

San Francisco Writers Conference February 14, 15 and 16. <https://sfwriters.org/>

The Left Coast Crime Conference is scheduled for March 20 -23 in Monterey. This is a big event. View the particulars at: <http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/2014/> They will have a book room and possibly a vendor room and they solicit advertising for the program. In past years 300-400 writers attended.

Both the Norcal CWC website and Facebook page have increased traffic. All NorCal events are included on the Website's Event calendar <http://www.cwcnorcalwriters.org/events/> and Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Writers-Club- -The-NorCal-Group/410083552444627](https://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Writers-Club--The-NorCal-Group/410083552444627)

Member Profile: Kymberlie Ingalls



Kymberlie Ingalls has a long history with words. Writing came under duress as her older sister demanded she spin stories about their favorite celebrities. She earned her comedic chops at a very young age by putting the characters in precarious situations. From there she found herself at the age of 14 desperately scribbling out sonnets for extra credit. Now thinking everything had to have structure, she floundered throughout school trying to squeeze her chaotic life into that box.

It wasn't until she won entry into a workshop at the age of 16 with an award winning poet that Kymberlie found her freedom. Writing became more reason than rhyme, but it wasn't her passion, more an extension of thinking and breathing. She was going to be an actor, not a writer! When that ambition and the notion of stand-up comedy failed, she fell back on her first love of radio broadcasting. The writing continued in anonymity.

With her first blog appearing in 1997, she garnered a small following under an assumed name. Kymberlie then moved into the exciting arena of short track stock car racing in 2003, creating a highly successful community website uniting fans with drivers through live updates, photo, video and commentary. Her current network of blogs began in 2009, featuring genres of personal essay, memoir, opinion and short fiction, and collaboration with UK artist Kevin Goss.

Kymberlie writes in themes of love, loss, humanity, and her struggles with amnesia, all from her little corner of the world. A memoir novel is in progress.

Kymberlie is also a freelance editor, personal writing coach, and local Adult Education instructor.

Find her online at:

WriterOfTheStorm.com * (main site)

Neuroticity.com

KymberlieIngalls.com

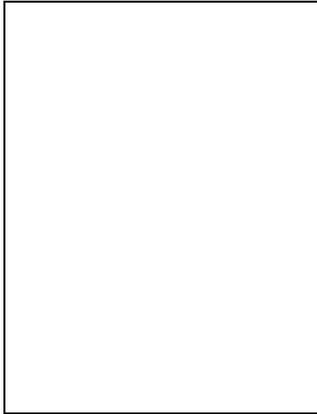
SongsIveHeard.com

BayAreaStories.com

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.

Member Events, News and Salutes

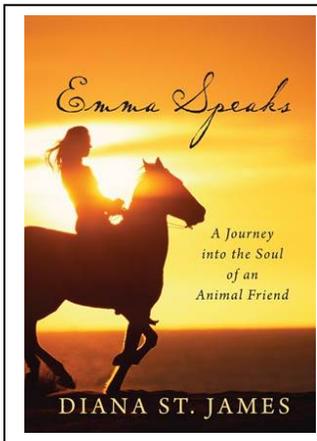


Tech Grief - Survive & Thrive Through Career Losses, by **Linda Donovan and Denise P. Kalm**, describes various career losses that IT workers and other people who work for technology companies experience, and then defines a roadmap to healing. This roadmap embraces the logical/analytical brain while employing tools to engage and heal the emotional pain of loss.

Emma Speaks - A Journey Into the Soul of an Animal Friend is written by **Diana St. James**.

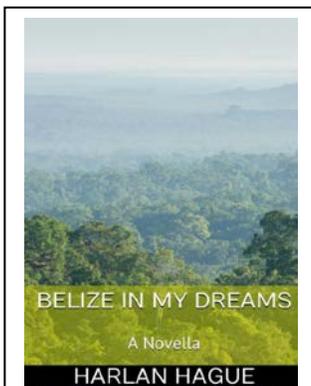
This true story, filled with discovery, challenges our understanding of how deeply animals are connected to us and how they are involved in our lives in ways we could never imagine. Telepathic animal communication provides the gift of voice for Diana's horse Emma and brings to light Emma's insights into the human realm and beyond.

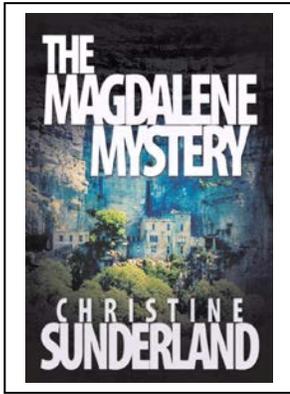
Dr. Cheryl Schwartz, DVM, author of *Four Paws*, *Five Directions*, described Emma as "one of the most unusual horses I ever met."



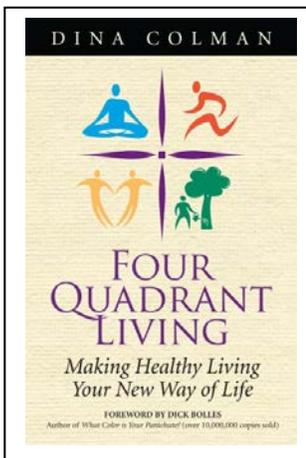
Belize in my Dreams by **Harlan Hague**: How could a tour to exotic Belize be simple with a guide like this? Think Hercule Poirot, James Bond and Rick Steves in one body. The guide's considerable abilities are put to the test when his tour group is targeted by a terrorist group who wants to discredit the government by killing tourists.

Too short to be called a novel, too long for a short story, too much fun to throw away, it is put up as an ebook only. The story was inspired by a tour that Harlan organized to Costa Rica, Belize and





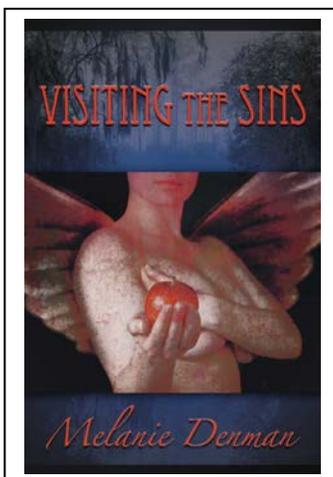
Christine Sunderland's recently published novel, *The Magdalene Mystery* (OakTara, June 2013), won Honorable Mentions at the London Book Festival and the New England Book Festival, General Fiction category.



Dina Colman's *Four Quadrant Living*, received a 5/5 star review from *San Francisco Book Review*.

Quoted from the review: "In a time where a stressful, ill and pained existence is the norm for human experience, *Four Quadrant Living* delivers a very sensible and uplifting message for the worldwide crisis of suffering; basically, Bolles' foreword pens *Four Quadrant Living* as "improving the way you do life." A simple, but yet loaded, statement of meaning—especially as the New Year is upon us.

sponsored review by Erienne Rojas



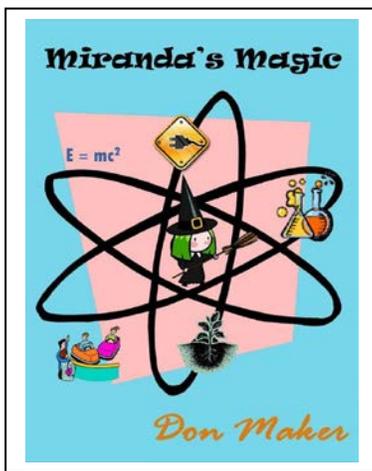
In her riotous debut novel, *Visiting the Sins*, Melanie Denman probes the silent sacrifices of motherhood with unflinching honesty and warmhearted amusement.

Set in the Bible Belt of Deep East Texas, *Visiting the Sins* is a darkly funny story about mothers and daughters, naked ambition, elusive redemption, and all the torment it's possible to inflict in the name of family. For more information, visit Melanie's web site at www.melaniedenman.com.



Camille Minichino will be starting a new set of four writing classes at Emeritus College, Pleasant Hill:
MONDAYS, 10 – NOON
Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 3, 10

To register: [925 685-1230 X2689](tel:9256851230)
All levels accommodated.



In November **Don Maker** published *Miranda's Magic* (Metacognition Press), a middle-grade magical realism novel.

In Don's own words:

“The first in a series, the concept is sort of the ‘anti-Harry Potter.’ While what the young heroine does seems like magic, it is all strongly based on science, which I try to explain while making it humorous and exciting. While Miranda Hutton learns that the only true magic in the world is within the mind, she also learns why people believed in ‘witches’ and other magical myths. As Miranda gets into high school, the science will become more advanced, and the ecological message of the series more clear.”



Jan 2, 2014, Lynn Goodwin, was in the featured Inspirational Luminary on InspireMeToday.com, "sharing her wisdom with the world." Lynn liked the description so much , she kept it. This free website is one to bookmark!

InspireMeToday.com will share Lynn's content with millions of additional people too!

Lynn will also be starting a new Independent Study Class at Story Circle Network,

http://www.storycircleonlineclasses.org/classes/goodwin_isp.winter2014.php.

“We’ll work on brainstorming, organization, drafting, editing, digging to a deeper level, and figuring out what you want to say, but I’ll tailor everything we do to your specific needs. Why not give it a try?”

Writing Milestones

Editor's Note: We asked you to send a treasured milestone. "In 100 words or less, share a milestone in your writing life. It might be an eventful turning point, or a class, or a book you have read." Below are your inspiring and heartwarming submissions.

From Aline Soules:

Granny wasn't like my friends' grandmothers. When ushered into her presence to say goodnight, she barked questions and I answered yes or no. One evening, she had a writing case on her knees with paper and an inkwell on it. "What are you writing, Granny?"

"None of your business. I don't ask what you write, do I?"

"I don't write anything."

After that, Granny and I wrote, each in our own composition books. "Why do we write?" I asked. "To know where we're going." We never discussed it again. She wrote in hers until she couldn't write anymore. I still write in mine.

From Barbara Bentley:

My publishing editor at Penguin USA asked for a major first chapter revision of my manuscript *A Dance with the Devil*. As an older, unpublished author in the throes of learning about the publishing world, I nervously did so and resubmitted it without any editing help.

Two hours later the editor emailed me back. I held my breath as I clicked on the message. "I LOVE IT" glared at me from the computer screen. I screamed. Tears formed.

My husband rushed into my office. "Are you alright?"

"A New York editor loves my writing," I said with a big grin.

From John Marvin:

An Encouraging Word:

About thirty years ago, I took my first creative writing class. A week or two after I had shared one or two of my stories with the class, the instructor asked the class what kind of writing they would like to do someday.

A rather tough biker dude, who wrote and shared excellent poetry said, "I would like to write stories like John Marvin." It was unexpected and very encouraging, since I had never written before.

From Ted Wells:

Two mini milestones last year: 1) first royalty check for book published on Amazon, Introduction to SQL and 2) estimated 20,000 readers platform reached through CU alumni online essay (15,000) and 5,000 on 25,000 views on my Google blog, gypsywells, with 139 stories.

P.S. Read and loved the historical fiction novel *Something of Value* by Robert Ruark about the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya in 1953 and the non-fiction book *The Outpost* by Jake Tapper, a great read about American soldiers' valor in Northeast Afghanistan.

From John Sharp:

Chance and circumstance led to the creation of my first book. In 2004, I was requested by the Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard to research and write an account of the navy yard civilian workforce. The Commandant (Admiral USN) explained that he took great pride in his navy yard; a venerable institution with an important two century history. He then declared we needed a written history of the largely civilian workforce. Apparently his staff aide looking for a potential author had recently read my official personnel folder and discovered I majored in history. In shock at the prospect of authorship, I tried to explain that my career as a civilian personnel officer had largely confined my meager writing talents to the analysis and creation of personnel systems and to the usual mind numbing government point papers, but all to no avail. The Admiral quickly concluded our meeting by stating he had every confidence in my latent abilities. Afterwards, his senior aide no doubt to 'further incentivize me,' noted the date the Admiral expected to read the completed manuscript. As Samuel Johnson once noted regarding a man scheduled to hang in a fortnight, such an event "concentrates his mind wonderfully." Thus, with renewed focus and energy, in 2005 my submission was published as, "History of the Washington Navy Yard Civilian Workforce, 1799-1962."

http://www.history.navy.mil/books/sharp/WNY_History.pdf

Spring Writers Workshop

March 30, 2014, Sunday

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

8:30 am (registration) to 4:00 pm (close) Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Author Martha Engber

"In-Depth Character & Plot Development for Fiction and Nonfiction"

Early Bird Price (by 3.16)	Sleepy Bird Price (after 3.16)	Walk-Ins At Door
CWC member \$45	CWC member \$57	CWC Member \$63
Non-member \$55	Non-member \$67	Non-member \$73
Students (18-25 with ID) \$30		

GOLD RUSH WRITERS CONFERENCE:

Upcoming is the 9th annual Gold Rush Writers Conference at the historic Hotel Leger in picturesque Mokelumne Hill.

The dates are May 2, 3 and 4th.

Go to <http://www.goldrushwriters.com/> and see what great stuff they've lined up. The price is only \$160-
-IF you sign up by March 30. (It goes up to \$175 after that). This includes a picnic supper in a

Writer's Markets Column

Submitting?

by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



Did you resolve to start a new writing project? How's it going?

Did you resolve to revise or edit? How's it going?

Did you resolve to finish a manuscript or put more of your writing out in the world? How's it going?

Seriously, you can answer that question by e-mailing me at Lgood67334 AT comcast DOT net. I'd love to know how you're doing and what's standing in your way.

As you already know, a writer is someone who writes. I hope you write daily, and I hope you concentrate on the projects that have energy for you. If you are ready to submit soon, consider using any sites below that are right for your project. This is eclectic.

Cozy Mystery Novels Writing Contest 2014:

<http://chantireviews.com/store/#!/~/product/id=21521076>

Creative Writing Now:

<http://www.creative-writing-now.com/memoir-writing.html>

New Pages.com-Assorted contests with varying due dates

<http://www.newpages.com/classifieds/calls/>

PNWA: A Writer's Resource:

<http://www.pnwa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=13>

Romance Writers of America Chapters Contest:

<http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=517>

Women's Memoir Writing Contest:

<http://womensmemoirs.com/contests/>

Write Jobs:

<http://www.writejobs.info/2013/10/no-entry-fee-dark-places-writing.html>

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 July 1, 2012, to September 1, 2013.

<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</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</i></p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</p> <p><i>Danard Emanuelson Liz Koehler-Pentacoff</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 - \$10-\$24 ~ 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 Young Writers Contest.

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



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 February 8, 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.