

# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

June 2014



*The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch*

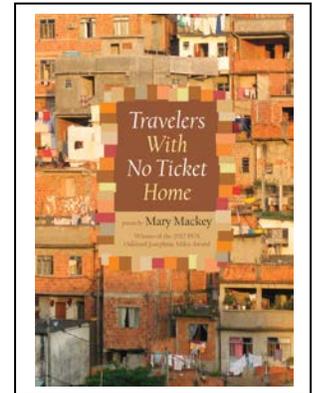
## BRANCH MEETING & LUNCHEON “How to Travel Like a Writer”

**Saturday, June 14, 2014; 11:15 am to 2:00 pm**

**Mary Mackey draws on extensive travel and writing knowledge to discuss:**



- **What it means to “travel like a writer.”**
- **How travel gives you ideas for stories, memoirs, articles, books and vivid blog posts that will attract people to your website.**
- **Why you actually need to go to the places you are writing about.**
- **Why your photos of Paris will be like no one else’s.**



Related to Mark Twain, **Mary Mackey** is a bestselling novelist and award-winning poet who frequently sets her work in interesting, exotic locations. She has traveled throughout Europe, Russia and South America to research the locations of her stories.

As Mackey says: “it’s a hard job to be required to go to Rio and Paris, but somebody has to do it.” Her 13 novels have been translated into 12 languages, and Garrison Keillor has featured her poetry four times on *The Writer’s Almanac*. Her talk will be of interest not only to creative writers, but to travel writers and writers of non-fiction and memoir. Read her blog “The Writer’s Journey” on her website at [marymackey.com](http://marymackey.com).

**Sign-in:** from 11:15 am–12 pm, luncheon 12–12:45, and business meeting/program 12:45, Speaker at 1:00 at Zio Fraedo’s Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Registration is \$20 for members, or \$25 for guests; contact Robin Gigoux at [ragig@aol.com](mailto: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.

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

## President's Message

*By Elisabeth Tuck*



What an excellent Young Writers Contest and banquet yet again. Many thanks to Jill Hedgecock and Christa Fairfield for chairing this contest and for enlisting and directing a host of volunteers to make this such a success. If you have not attended the banquet, you're missing an opportunity to encourage young writers, their families and teachers. I enjoy seeing the young people. Their enthusiasm is contagious. This year Liz Koehler-Pentacoff invited a past winner, now a high school Junior, to give a short talk and he did a magnificent job. The scheduled professional speaker was injured at the last minute but Jill and Christa did a great job filling in for her.

I'm looking at passing on the baton of presidency. A new slate will be selected at the June board meeting and members present at the general meeting will be asked to vote. I've enjoyed the position and it's time to give another member the opportunity to lead us. The biggest moments of panic have been finding replacements for volunteers who wanted or needed to opt out of tasks they had done for years. Thankfully we have members willing to step up to keep our branch running smoothly—some branches don't have that luxury.

Remember you're always welcome to sit in on a board meeting, welcome to volunteer, and welcome to give speaker suggestions—especially speakers you've heard and enjoyed. Our June speaker should inspire us to use far and near travel as grist for our writing—even a trip to the grocery store can show us new characters, scene, story, vocabulary, etc. See you June 14.

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## Mark your calendars for the CWC

# Annual Picnic!

**Sat., July 19, 2014 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland**

**Barbecue & Potluck Open Mic Lit-Cake Contest**

**Check [www.calwriters.org](http://www.calwriters.org) for details.**

## Young Writers Contest Winners



Our CWC Mt. Diablo Branch celebrated the talents of student writers of Contra Costa County last month, an effort made possible by the support and shared gifts of our branch.

On May 10th nearly 140 members, teachers, parents, friends and student winners filled the banquet area of Zio Fraedo's to celebrate the writing talents of 29 students in our county. The day would not have been possible without the collaboration of our members. The co-chairs Jill Hedgecock and Christa Fairfield tended the team effort that included the generous donation of time and expertise of:

Judges: David Alpaugh • Barbara Bentley • Susan Elya • David George • Jill Hedgecock • Joanna Kraus • Wilma Murray • Liz Koehler-Pentacoff • Cheryl Spanos • Kathy Urban

Communication & Promotion by Kathy Urban, Robert Pentacoff, Wilma Murray, Alfred Garrotto, Andrew Benzie, Ann Damaschino, and Chris Naff

Administrative Support by Robin Gigoux, Harlan Hague, David George and our President Elisabeth Tuck

Continued next page

This year we received nearly 100 more submission over 2013, totaling nearly 380 entries received from public, private schools and homeschoolers throughout Contra Costa County.

Thanks to the financial support for the branch we were able to offer lunch to each winning student and parent as well as the winning student's teacher, as well as cash prizes. The first place winners received \$100, second place took \$50, and third place received \$25 in the categories of short story, poetry, and personal narrative/essay. Prompted by a desire to promote the positive aspects of life, a generous donation from Lee and Janet Paulson, allowed us to add a new category this year for writing in the Humor category.

For the second year, Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla supported our contest with special certificates for each winner and recognition as she shared: "Congratulations to all of the winners of the Young Writers contest. The initiative shown by all participants in entering this writing contest is deserving of high praise. I encourage all students to continue their imaginative pursuits and begin new works. I am both excited and grateful that students in Contra Costa County are involved in this program."

In preparation for the contest several of our talented members visited local schools and libraries holding workshops. Thank you to: Liz Koehler-Pentacoff and Suzie Wilson, David Alpaugh and Beverly Lauderdale.

We, as writers, know many contests have submission fees to defray the administration and award costs. Our support of our branch contest is borne through the generous donation of members and the support of the Leroy Foundation. This year, we introduced the Honor Card opportunity for members and friends to support the contest through the purchase of Honor Cards. Each card allows you to include a gift in your greeting cards to friends and family - or to business clients, suppliers and corporate friends. This special card mentions that you've made a donation in the person's name to the Young Writers Club of the CWC Mt. Diablo Branch.

The card reflects your commitment to the Young Writers Contest and your thoughtfulness toward the recipient. We ask for a minimum donation of \$5.00 per card; anything more is gratefully accepted.

If you would like to make a donation, please email Christa Fairfield at [vivocreo@mac.com](mailto:vivocreo@mac.com) and let her know whether you would like a 5-pack (\$25), 10-pack (\$50), or a custom quantity.

**Below is a sample of the Honor Card.**



Founded 1909

## Mount Diablo Branch Young Writers Contest



Founded 1909

## Mount Diablo Branch Young Writers Contest

*In your honor, a gift has been made to the Young Writers Contest. These gifts allow our chapter to continue our intermediate school writing contest, offer writing workshops taught by authors in the classrooms, and inspire creativity in fiction, essays and poetry.*

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*Since 1995, our chapter has sponsored the Young Writers Contest awarding hundreds of prizes to talented young writers.*

## **Member Profile: James Wiseman**



### ***In his own words:***

I grew up near London, England, during the Great Depression; World War II, and the post-war fourteen years of rationing. These hard times molded my character and have left me with a wry response to adversity.

At age fourteen I won a place at a Technical High School, and graduated two years later to enter a war plant, and to begin ten years of night school to be qualified in engineering

Then a life-changing event - I won a fellowship for graduate studies in the U.S., and chose to attend Columbia University for an M.S. in Management Engineering (the basis of management consultancy.)

I spent the next sixteen years working in various parts of world and each of my five children were born in different countries. This included being a consultant for the National Iranian Oil Company in its Kuzestan refinery, a Chief of Mission for the U.N. in Ghana, U.N. Management Development Consultant for all African countries -- based in Nigeria, business consultant in Canada, and CEO of an airline in Australia. After a sabbatical year at the Harvard Business School I finally settled in the Bay Area to work in Silicon Valley until retirement.

Most of my jobs had involved writing technical reports, but now, after fifty three years I was freed from the shackles of earning a living. I took up writing.

I tried film scripts, then short stories, and now spend my time writing novels.

I self-published some short stories under the title *Tales of a Wise Man* and then a spy novel, *Watershed* set in London in 1940.

My current work is a dystopian novel of a future single-gender society. Wow, what fun is this?

## **Members' Challenge:**

**Ideas for book promotion. What or who helped sell your book? Tell your fellow members the best way to promote your book. Ideas below!**

### ***From Dina Coleman:***

Offer a 24-hour promotion period upon launch where you offer something free. I launched my book, *Four Quadrant Living: Making Healthy Living Your New Way of Life*, in October 2013. I offered "the missing chapter" and "48 chapters in a nutshell" as you can see on my website at

<http://fourquadrantliving.com/book/book-extras>.

I was amazed how many people actually sent me their Amazon receipt to get the free bonus materials within the first 24 hours! I had a separate page on my website where readers could download the freebies that could only be accessed if I gave them the link. This offering helped my book hit Amazon Top 100 in the first 24 hours (and get up to #2 in my category).

## Member Events, News and Salutes



**Melanie Denman** has received the 2014 bronze IPPY award for Regional Southern Fiction for her novel, *Visiting the Sins*. The IPPY is awarded annually by the Independent Publisher Book Awards, the world's largest international and regional book awards competition. The book is available on Melanie's web site at [www.melaniedenman.com](http://www.melaniedenman.com) and from Amazon.



**Dina Coleman** shares exciting news about her book, *Four Quadrant Living: Making Healthy Living Your New Way of Life*. It is a Silver Winner in the Nautilus Book Awards (Health & Fitness), a Silver Winner in the IPPY Independent Publisher Book Awards (Self-Help), Runner-Up in the San Francisco Book Festival (General Nonfiction) and a Finalist in the Foreword Reviews Book Awards (Health & Wellness)! The photo shows Dina at the Awards Ceremony for the San Francisco Book Festival at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in the city. Dina then headed to New York for the IPPY awards!

Dina is also featured in this month's *Diablo Magazine*. You can see the online version here: <http://www.diablog.com/May-2014/Healthy-All-Around/>



**Jing Li**, our Mt. Diablo branch member profiled in the May issue of the newsletter, has just won a writing award at the 2014 Mt. Herman Christian Writers Conference. Congratulations!

## Writer's Markets Column

# Invitation

by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



**By B. Lynn Goodwin**

CWC meetings go on hiatus during the summer. Our writing does not, so I thought that summer would be the perfect time to start a “Shut-Up-and-Write” specifically for CWC members and their writer friends. We’ll meet for two hours every Tuesday evening from 7-9 at my place in Danville. The first meeting will be June 17, 2014. You’ll need to email me for the exact location.

In the Shut-Up-and-Write format we start by saying (in one minute or less) what we plan to work on. Then we shut up and write for about two hours. At 9:00 we each take a minute to say what we accomplished. The purpose is to focus, get something done, make discoveries, and see what happens next. The purpose, in other words, is to Shut-Up-and-Write!

You may write fiction, non-fiction, creative non-fiction, journalism, blogs, character studies, outlines, lists, a plot analysis, a dialogue, or you may free write.

I’ve done several of these around the Bay Area, and you may have too. If you find it easier to stay on task in the company of others writers, if you want to strengthen your writing connections and community, come and join us. Remember to e-mail me at [Lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net) for our location or to ask questions.

Please RSVP since 12 people would be a FULL house. Thanks!

### 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 to September 1, 2013 to the present.

<p><b>Foundation Donors</b></p> <p><i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p><b>The Gertrude Atherton Guild</b></p> <p><i>Lee Paulson Gary and Lilly Gwilliam Karen Terhune Beth Grimm Bee Hylinski Bob O'Brian</i></p>
<p><b>The John Muir Member Club</b></p> <p><b>The Mary Austin Writers Club</b></p> <p><i>David George Ron Shoop – Random House Sheryl Ruzek Ed Stanislawski Kathy Urban</i></p>	<p><b>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</b></p> <p><i>Danard Emanuelson Liz Koehler-Pentacoff Karen Tenney - In memory of her mother, Betty Tenney and for the Betty Tenney Essay Prize Barbara Bentley Elisabeth Tuck – In memory of Sue Tasker</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 – Less than \$25      ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

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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 and a special humor award. 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 and 2014 Young Writers Contests.

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

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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!***

**Speaker and Luncheon**

**is June 14, 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.