

The Write News

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2010

The California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

“One Hundred Years of Excellence in Writing”

Features

Nik C. Colyer

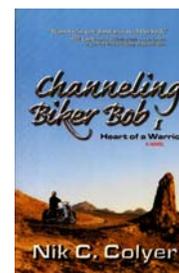
Novelist, Poet, Sculptor

“Manhood, Marriage & Motorcycles”

March 13, 2010



Get ready for a special treat. This month we welcome a most unusual and talented author. To date, Nik Colyer has published a series of novels and a book of poetry. Although his work is fictional, he draws from early experiences riding and repairing Harleys and his thirty-year transformation into “integrated masculinity.” His unending curiosity about the relational dance between men and women adds humor and quirkiness to the content of his writing. Finding equilibrium between the tough-guy biker and authentic manhood is a major theme of the



four-part Channeling Biker Bob series. *Channeling Biker Bob 1: Heart of a Warrior* will soon be made into a feature film. Colyer’s book of poetry, *Kicking Ass and Taking Names*, elicited this comment from award-winning poet Will Staple: “His raw, naked truths touch that hidden place we all share.” Although writing novels is Colyer’s first love, he and his wife Barbara continue their romance with sculpture through the process of making gold jewelry.

All are welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers.
The CWC, Mount Diablo Branch web address is www.mtdiablownriters.org.

March Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, March 13, 2010, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Sign-in begins at 11:30 a.m.

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 delicious luncheon buffet.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, March 10. To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at, jeaniepops@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

~ *Coming Attractions* ~ *Upcoming Speakers for 2010*

April 10: Writing Workshop ~ Martha Engber

May 15: Young Writers Banquet ~ Melissa Manlove, Editor, Chronicle Books

June 12: Sophie Littlefield, Author of *A Bad Day for Sorry*

No meetings in July and August

September 11: C.D. Payne ~ Author of the "Nick Twisp" series (*Youth in Revolt & Revolting Youth*)

October 9: Second Annual Jack London Lecture ~ Robert Dugoni,

Best-selling author of legal thrillers (*Wrongful Death*)

President's Message

By David George



More news from the Real World. Last week, I issued an important TidBit to all Mount Diablo members and to CWC branch representatives throughout the state about an impending class action lawsuit settlement between Google and certain literary organizations. If you are a published author, you should follow the TidBit links to find out more information about this potential settlement. The deadline for registering as a co-litigant (thus agreeing with the settlement and waiving future litigation rights) is March 31, 2010.

One of the organizations that negotiated the settlement with Google is the prestigious Authors Guild. I know a number of our members belong to the Authors Guild. I ran across an update of the court proceedings in a Wall Street Journal article the other day while awaiting the removal of a nail from my wife's car tire. Here is a summary of the article (WSJ, February 19, 2010):

“Microsoft Inc., Amazon.com Inc., and others urged a federal judge Thursday to reject a revised settlement among Google Inc. and publisher and author groups over digital copies of books.

“At a fairness hearing Thursday, lawyers for Microsoft and Amazon were among a group of objectors who spoke against the pact, telling U.S. District Judge Denny Chin in Manhattan that the settlement would give Google an unfair monopoly over a large number of unclaimed published works and violates well-established copyright law in the U.S.

“The settlement "turns copyright law on its head," said David Nimmer, a lawyer for Amazon.”

By Chad Bray

The *Wall Street Journal Online* has the complete text (but you'll need to register) at: ['online.wsj.com'](http://online.wsj.com).

Even if you are not published at this point, you should familiarize yourself with the settlement. If approved by the court, it has broad implications for digitizing book contents in the future and making them available on the internet. Some authors, whose books are out of print and who have no prospect for further editions, applaud this “innovation.” Others have stated that the action diminishes intellectual property rights and decreases future printed book revenues. Still others are concerned about losing their ability to file an individual infringement lawsuit in the future against Google.

What do you think? The case is complicated but with potentially huge impact to the literary community. Do your homework and take action if necessary to protect your rights.



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 the Friday before the meeting, you will be asked to remit a \$20 "no-show" payment.

Sales and Salutes



Myrtle Archer's short story, *A Mother's Heart*, has been accepted for reprinting in *The Storyteller*.

B. Lynn Goodwin's piece on sugar will be included in the *Sun Magazine's* Reader's Write column in May, 2010.

Joanna H. Kraus' play, *Secrets*, with resource material by Cecily O'Neill, has been published by Collins Drama, HarperCollins, Ltd. London, UK. *Secrets* is a play about the issues surrounding adoption and its impact on the individuals concerned.

Cheryl Spanos' children's story, *Growing Feathers*, has been published in the February 2010 issue of *Stories for Children Magazine*.

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.

Buck-a-Book

By Elisabeth Tuck

Here comes **Buck-a-Book**. At our March branch meeting, we are introducing a way for members to donate some of their gently used books and to buy, for a dollar each, books they might like to read. This will be a book sale run on the honor system. Bring your books and your own bags, bring out your bucks, and browse, and buy. Bag your purchases and your leftover books (if any) and take them back home with you. Proceeds will go to our Young Writers Contest in addition to the raffle. If this is popular and successful, we'll bring it back before long!

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.



Centennial Writing Contest

By Joanne Brown

Discover the Jack London, John Muir, or Joaquin Miller in you. Get out your pencils, find your definitive how-to notes, and write an award-winning query letter in the voice of one of these CWC founders. Read on for details.

The Mt. Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club

invites you to participate in our

~ Centennial Writing Contest ~



Contest Theme: Query Letter

Eligibility: Membership in Mt. Diablo or Tri-Valley Branch of CWC

Submission Guidelines:



- Write as though you are one of the founding members of CWC:
Jack London querying his short story, "To Build a Fire," or
John Muir querying his essay, "Save the Redwoods," or
Joaquin Miller querying his poem, "Columbus"



- Write as if the author of your choice is working in today's world.
- Address your letter to an agent, publishing house, or publication (real or imaginary) that you believe would be receptive to the chosen work given today's marketplace.
- Submit query letter on one 8-1/2 x 11" page printed in 12 point Times New Roman, single spaced, with one inch margins.
- Mail submission to Centennial Writing Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507.
- Include a 3 x 5 card with your name, address, email address, and phone number.
- Do not include your name or other identifying information on your query letter.



Timeline:

- Submission deadline April 15, 2010
- Winners announced June 1, 2010, in the Mt. Diablo Branch newsletter
- Prizes awarded June 12, 2010, during Mt Diablo Branch meeting at Zio Fracdo's

Prizes:

- First Place – Opportunity to pitch your own project to the agent/judge of your choice; \$100; publication of winning entry in Branch newsletter; free lunch at June meeting; certificate
- Second Place – \$50; publication in newsletter; free lunch; certificate
- Third Place – \$25; publication in newsletter; free lunch; certificate

Judges:

- **Amberly Finarelli**, a literary agent with Andrea Hurst & Associates Literary Management
- **Michael Larsen**, founder of Larsen-Pomada Literary Agents
- **Lisa Westmoreland**, Project Editor at Ten Speed Press

For links to "To Build a Fire," "Save the Redwoods," and "Columbus," and judges' bios, visit www.mtidiablowriters.org.

Contests

CWC Sacramento 2009 Personal Essay Contest

This contest has a March 31, 2010 postmark. Prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 will be awarded. For more information, contact Margie Yee Webb at mywebb@sbcglobal.net.

Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

The entry deadline is April 1, 2010, first prize is \$1,000 and publication in *The Saturday Evening Post*. Go to www.shortstorycompetition.com/guidelines.php for complete competition details.

WriterAdvice seeks flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction that mesmerizes the reader in 750 words or less for our fifth annual Flash Prose Contest. The deadline is April 15, 2010. Entry fee: \$10 per submission. First prize: \$150. Former prizewinners are the judges. Complete guidelines, mailing address, and prizes can be found at www.writeradvice.com.

2010 East of Eden Writing Contest

The East of Eden Writers Conference includes a writing contest. Categories are Short Fiction, Novel, Poetry, and Nonfiction. Prizes are \$200 for first place in each category and a grand prize of \$2,000. The deadline is July 15, 2010. Contest details are available at www.southbaywriters.com/EastofEden2010.

Writer's Digest Competition

The Grand Prize is \$3,000 and a trip to New York City to meet with editors or agents. The entry deadline is May 14, 2010. Got to the *Writer's Digest* website for details at www.writersdigest.com, or phone (715) 445-4612.

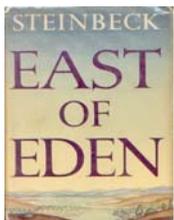
Retreat ~ Festival ~ Conferences

The CWC Northern California Writers Retreat will take place from April 5 - 7, 2010 at the Pema Osel Ling Retreat Center (POL) in the Santa Cruz mountains. For more information, e-mail Dale King at deking8@msn.com. For more information about the POL, go to www.polmountainretreat.com, or phone (831) 761-6270.

The 14th Annual 2010 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books takes place on April 24 and 25, 2010, at the University of California-Los Angeles campus. CWC will have a booth at this event. The event is America's largest book festival and offers exhibitors the opportunity to sell, sample, and display books and product/services related to literacy, the arts, education, music, and culture. For more information on the festival, go to www.latimes.com/festivalofbooks.

A Publishing and Writing Odyssey

The Northern California Publishers and Authors Conference will take place on April 24, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel Sacramento at Arden Village. This daylong conference is an opportunity for emerging and established authors and publishers to hear firsthand from experts. Detailed information is available at www.norcalpa.org, or by phoning (916) 342-7556.



The 2010 East of Eden Writers Conference will take place from September 24 - 26, in Steinbeck Country, Salinas, California. The conference is a CWC Club-sponsored event. CWC members who register before April 15, 2010 will save \$110 off the regular price and a \$50 savings compared to the public early registration fee. For more conference details, visit www.southbaywriters.com.

Member Profile

By Jody Denison

Profile: *Patricia Evans*



Sometimes the profile of a person is best seen through her work. What began as a conversation with a professor became a best seller and the start of a remarkable career for Patricia Evans. She saw early on in Graduate School that there was little or no information on communication between people dealing with lies, criticism, orders, etc. After a short conversation with a Philosophy professor, she was motivated to write a book about verbal abuse to show people how to recognize it. So she quit Grad School and wrote her first book. The title was *The Verbally Abusive Relationship*. To say it was a success is an understatement. Patricia has so far published five books through Adams Media in the Boston area.

Patricia is a native Californian and was raised in the Bay area. That is as much personal information she will give and rightly so—her subject alone makes her a target for some people. She does everything through her corporation: EICI, Inc. Google it and you'll find that Patricia is expanding from her written words to putting them into practice for the betterment of her audience with workshops and conferences.

Her appearance on Oprah's show skyrocketed her to national attention. The "O" magazine featured her and her book. Patricia became a national figure. She has been invited to speak around the country and beyond to Canada, Australia and Spain. The latter being the first venue of the Coalition for the Investigation of Violence against Women, and during all this, she still found time to write the three follow-up books: *Verbal Abuse Survivors Speak Out*, *Controlling People*, and *The Verbally Abusive Man, Can He Change*.

Patricia deserves the accolades she has received from the academics involved in mental and spiritual health since she has definitely turned a spotlight on a significant societal problem. For more information, please check out www.VerbalAbuse.com.

From the Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi



RARE WORDS

Like salt and pepper, uncommon words can spice up your writing. They can add flavor to your written voice. For example: Perpend your ambagious writing or you will appear donnish. Or, better yet, raillery can stimulate facetiae.

That's just a taste of what you can do with rare works. If you would like to discover your own uncommon words, check out the *Grandiloquent Dictionary* by C.S. Bird and Associates, or check out the website www.extelligence.co.uk/dictionary. Take it from me, inspiration can be found anywhere. But, that's just me and my half-full glass.

We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out.

~ Ray Bradbury

Better to write for yourself and have no public, than to write for the public and have no self.

~ Cyril Connolly

CWC Membership Renewal Time

By Jody Denison

REMINDER: For all members, your membership expires on June 30, 2010. Dues for the upcoming 2010/2011 year are \$45.00. Mail your check and membership renewal form below to: Membership, CWC Mount Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA, 94507. And don't forget – one of the members who renews prior to May 31 will be selected in a drawing for a free lunch at our June meeting.



It's Annual Membership Renewal Time Again!

There really is such a thing as a **FREE LUNCH!** Renew your Membership by May 31st, and your name will be entered in our drawing for a **FREE LUNCH** at a future meeting of your choice. Don't wait. **RENEW TODAY!**

Please complete this form, and include it with your \$45 check. We're updating our member database and we want to make sure we have correct information about you. PLEASE print clearly!

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Initial ____ Nickname _____
 Mailing Address _____ Main Phone (____) _____
 City _____ State ____ ZIP _____ Other Phone (____) _____
 E-Mail Addr. _____ FAX (____) _____
 Active Member Associate Member Supporting Member Web Site _____
 Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

Security Note: Membership information is not made public at any time.

Make your check for \$45 payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch". Mail this form with your check to : CWC-Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA 94507. If you have any questions call Jody at (925) 838-0058, or e-mail denisonjd@sbcglobal.net.

Young Writers Program

By Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Attendance at the Young Writer Workshops were at an all-time high this year, with 33 students participating at the Concord Library's event on January 30, and 52 middle schoolers creating short stories and personal narratives at Ygnacio Valley Library's Workshop.

Students came from all over Contra Costa County and even places such as Saratoga, Manteca, Berkeley, and Oakland. Although any middle school student may come to the free workshops, only those who live in or attend schools in Contra Costa County may submit their poems, short stories, and personal narratives/essays to the Young Writers Contest. (Deadline, April 12)

Students wrote, shared their wonderful writing, asked questions about writing technique, how to become writers both now and later in their careers, and discovered tips about writing and the life of a writer.

Manuscripts are now beginning to come in for the contest. However, each year, the majority of submissions do not appear until the end of March and the last week before the deadline. (Students procrastinate just like adults!)

Please encourage any middle school Contra Costa students you know to write and enter. Guidelines are available online. <http://mtdiablowriters.org/> Questions about writing or the contest may be posted here: <http://lizbooks.wordpress.com/>

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 Mount Diablo Board of Directors wish to thank the following donors to the Young Writers Contest from September 2009, to the present:

The Jack London Founder’s Circle

Barbara Bentley

The John Steinbeck Society

Lee Paulson
Christine Sunderland

The John Muir Member Club

Jacque Hall
Beverly Lauderdale in memory of Betty Tenney
Dick Tenney

The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club

Joanne Brown
David George in honor of Liz Koehler-Pentacoff
Liz Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of Sue Tasker

The Mary Austin Writers Club

John Gourhan
Suzanne Woods Fisher

The Helen Hunt Jackson Group

Barbara Hannafan & Marta Van Loan
Betty Iverson
Phyllis Nagle
Cheryl Spanos

The Gertrude Atherton Guild

Nanette Cooper McGuiness

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 15, 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-Mount Diablo Branch*

Mail 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!



Young Writers Contest Guidelines & Submission Forms

California Writers Club

Mount Diablo Branch, Contra Costa County

YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

Honoring a New Generation of California Writers

See <http://mtdiablowsriters.org/> for writer details

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Home Address _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

School _____ Grade _____

First and Last Name of your English (and Humanities) Teacher _____

Manuscript Title _____

MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES (please check one):

_____ Short Story (up to 5 pages typed, double-spaced)

_____ Poem (up to 30 lines, need not be double-spaced)

_____ Personal Narrative/Essay (up to 3 pages, typed, double-spaced)

Mail submissions to: CWC-Young Writers Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507

DON'T MISS OUT: Only entries that follow the guidelines EXACTLY will be considered!

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

1. Contest open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who live in or attend school in Contra Costa County.
2. Submit 2 copies of your manuscript. Do not include artwork or a cover. Your manuscript must be typed or computer generated at 12 point, double-spaced. No staples. Paper clips only.
3. Put your name in the upper left-hand corner of each page. Number each page. Put manuscript title on the first page.
4. Multiple entries are welcome. Each entry must be accompanied by a separate application form (above) or 3x5 card noting: name; home address; home phone; school; grade; e-mail address; teacher; manuscript title; and category.
5. Deadline for submission is 4/12/10. Winners will be announced when judging is complete.
6. INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS BY STUDENTS PREFERRED. TEACHERS: PLEASE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO SUBMIT THEIR STORIES AND POEMS THEMSELVES.

TEACHERS: We are striving to encourage individual creativity and expression. Do not send entire class assignments. Teachers of winning students will be invited to attend the May 15 banquet.

PRIZES: Winning short stories and poems from each grade level will receive \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second prize and \$25 for third prize. The Betty Tenney Essay Award of \$100 will be given to the best personal narrative/essay in each grade. Second and third place prizes may be awarded in this category at the judges' discretion. Prizes will be presented to winners on May 15, 2010, at a lunch banquet. A published author will speak. Parents are welcome.

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

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California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch
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Sail On!