



The Write News

California Writers Club – Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Publication

May 2009

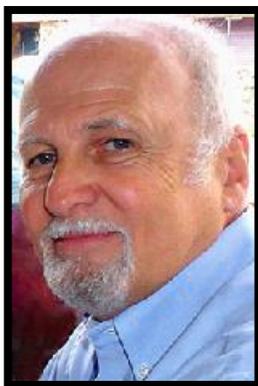
The California Writers Club~Mount Diablo Branch Presents

The Young Writers Contest Awards Banquet with guest speakers

Camille Minichino and David Alpaugh

Join us as we celebrate a new generation of California writers. We are pleased to host the winners of our 2009 Young Writers Contest. The mission of our branch is to educate both our members and the public in the art and craft of professional writing. Our most important outreach mission is to public and private middle school students in Contra Costa County. It is always exciting to honor young writers who have excelled in the areas of short story, poetry, and essay/personal narrative.

Our guest speakers at this year's awards ceremony are mystery novelist Camille Minichino and poet David Alpaugh. Both are distinguished authors who have generously devoted time and talent to guiding aspiring authors.



Noted for his wit and humor, David Alpaugh is one of the most popular poets in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has been a featured reader at bookstores, cafés, colleges, civic centers, and other venues. His poetry, fiction, drama, and criticism have appeared in more than 100 literary journals and anthologies. His first collection *Counterpoint* won the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize from *Story Line Press* and his chapbooks have been published by *Coracle Books* and *Pudding House Publications*. David publishes the *Carquinez Poetry Review* and hosts one of the San Francisco Bay Area's most popular poetry reading series at Valona Delicatessen in Crockett. *Heavy Lifting* (poems 1995 through 2006) is the first volume of poetry to be published by San Francisco-based publisher Alehouse Press. Learn more about David Alpaugh at <http://www.davidalpaugh.com/>.



Camille Minichino is a valued member of the Mt. Diablo Branch. In 2007, we presented her with our highest honor, the Jack London Award. She has published eight novels in the Periodic Table Mystery series. Her new series, *The Miniature Mysteries*, is based on her lifelong miniatures hobby. She received her Ph.D. in Physics from Fordham University, New York City, and has enjoyed a long career in research, teaching, and writing. She is currently on the faculty of Golden Gate University (San Francisco) and on the staff of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Camille serves on the Mt. Diablo Branch and NorCal Sisters in Crime boards of directors. Learn more about her at <http://www.minichino.com/>.

Please join us for this exciting event to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant on May 9.
Meeting details can be found on page two.

May Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 12:00 to 3:00 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). Parking is available both in front and behind the restaurant. The restaurant's phone number is (925) 933-9091.

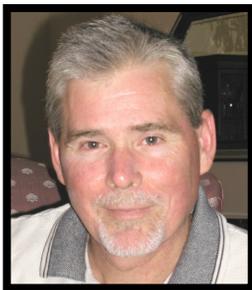
Cost: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Menu: A sumptuous luncheon buffet by Zio Fraedo's.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, May 6. To make reservations, contact Betty Iverson, via e-mail at bjiverson@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 376-3631. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

President's Message

By David George



Have you visited the Joaquin Miller Regional Park lately? The park is located in the East Bay hills east of Piedmont and above Montclair. I encourage you to take in its vistas and treasure its lush forests. You ask, Why has David suddenly turned into a travel writer? It is because the California Writers Club was a major contributor to the park's history and beauty.

Joaquin Miller (an assumed writing name) was a noted California poet laureate around the turn of the 20th century. He was a contemporary and friend of Jack London, Ambrose Bierce and other Bay Area writers. For many years, some of his poems were memorized by California school children. His most famous poem, "Columbus," contains the stirring line, "Sail on! sail on! sail on! and on!" The California Writers Club motto emblazoned on our Club logo, "Sail on!" is from Miller's famous poem.

Joaquin Miller is arguably the most famous California Writers Club member, after the original founders. During his most prosperous years, he purchased a large property in the Oakland Hills, which was mostly donated as parkland to the City of Oakland in his will. A smaller 20-acre parcel was donated to the CWC. The Club then donated this last parcel to Oakland in the 1930's and arranged for a USA work project grant in 1938 to improve it. The CWC worked with an architect to design the outdoor amphitheater and cascade waterfalls that are the core of Joaquin Miller East Bay Regional Park today. Surrounding the cascade falls is the California Writers Memorial Grove of redwoods. The CWC dedicated and planted one new tree each year until the tradition was halted in 1985 for water conservation reasons.

Unfortunately, much of this historical connection with your Club has disappeared, with placards and signs removed or stolen. One sign on the back of the amphitheater remains. As part of our Centennial Year celebration, the Club plans to erect one or more new signs in this area of the Park, with the City of Oakland and park district permission. I urge you to visit the cascades and memorial grove sometime soon to appreciate the beautiful legacy your Club created to honor our fellow California writers.

Sales and Salutes



Barbara Bentley has won third place in the First Annual Gundlach Bundschu Poetry contest. You can view her poem at <http://www.blogschu.com/151/2009/04/bundschu-151-third-place-winner.html>.

Members – Would You Like To Be Saluted? Do You Have an Author Event?

We would like to salute you in *The Write News*. Please let newsletter Editor Catherine Accardi know if you have been published recently, or if we can join you at one of your events. You may contact Catherine at caacat@comcast.net.

CWC Member's Author Events

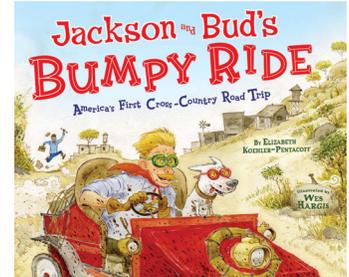


CWC - Mt. Diablo Branch Secretary, **Barbara Bentley**, has the following upcoming events:
 - **Tuesday, May 12**, at the Pittsburg Rotary Club, from 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, check the Pittsburg Rotary website at www.pittsburgrotary.org.
 - **Sunday, May 31** on Patricia Raskin's radio show, "Positive Living," from 12:00 to 12:40 p.m. EST, at 630 WPRO AM, 99.7 FM, Newport, R.I. For more information, go to www.patriciaraskin.com.



Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff will be one of four children's authors at Clayton Books to present her new book *Jackson and Bud's Bumpy Ride* for Kids Otter Read Around the Bay Day on **Saturday, May 16** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Liz will also have a book signing on **Saturday, May 30** at 2:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Barnes and Noble, 552 Contra Costa Boulevard in Pleasant Hill. If members do not have a child or grandchild, or don't want to celebrate the child within, they can donate a book to a local school library or classroom. With the recent cutbacks, schools have very few funds to purchase books.



CWC member, **Karen Terhune**, and her co-author, Traci Parent, will be speaking and signing books at the events listed below. Their book is *Images of America-Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve*. Through rare photographs and information, this book offers readers a chance to experience the daily challenges of life in the coalfield throughout its dramatic history,

culminating with its development into an East Bay Regional Park.

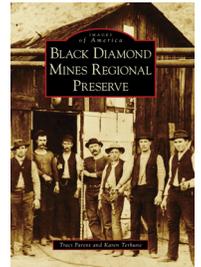
- **Saturday, May 2** at the Descendant's Picnic and Book Signing, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, 5175 Somersville Road, Antioch. Phone (925) 757-2620, or go to www.ebparks.org/parks/black_diamond, for more information.

- **Sunday, May 10** at the Mother's Day, Hazel Atlas Mine Open House and Book Signing, 12 to 4:30 p.m., Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

- **Sunday, May 24** at Clayton Books, Presentation and Book Signing, 3:00 p.m. For more information go to www.claytonbookshop.com.

- **Monday, May 25**, at the Memorial Day, Hazel Atlas Mine Open House and Book Signing, 12 to 4:30 p.m., Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

- **Saturday, May 30** at Clayton History Day and Farmer's Market, Book Signing, 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in downtown Clayton. More information is available at www.ci.clayton.ca.us/index.php?section=1.

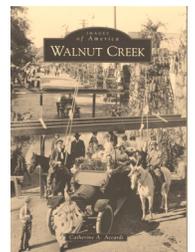


CWC - Mount Diablo Branch Newsletter Editor, **Catherine Accardi**, will be speaking and signing books on the following dates:

- **Sunday, May 3** at 3:00 p.m. at Clayton Books. Clayton Books is located at 5433 "D" Clayton Road in Clayton. Catherine has been asked to create a

PowerPoint presentation for her new book, *Images of America-Walnut Creek*. Walnut Creek is now home to thriving businesses, spectacular natural settings, and family values. A transformation, over a period of 200 years, is depicted with over 180 vintage photographs, and tells the remarkable story of a classic American city.

- **Sunday, June 14** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Shadelands Ranch Museum. This event is in conjunction with the annual Spring Antique Show at the Museum and is sponsored by the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The Museum will be open for tours at 10 a.m. and is located at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.



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, *The Write News*. In addition, all donations are tax-deductible.

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 the awards luncheon on Saturday, May 14, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant. Winners are also highlighted on page five of this newsletter. 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)

Acknowledge my gift in honor of/in memory of _____

Make your check payable to: CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch

Mail to: CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, Attention: Young Writers Contest, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA 94507.

Thank You Young Writers Contest Donors for 2009

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Jack London Founder's Circle | Paula Siegel | For Liz Pentacoff |
| John Muir Member Club | Christine Sunderland | |
| John Muir Member Club | Richard E. Tenney | In Memory of Betty Tenney |
| John Muir Member Club | Barbara Bentley | |
| Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club | Beverly Lauderdale | In Memory of Betty Tenney |
| Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club | Joanne Brown | |
| Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club | B. Lynn Goodwin | In Memory of Sue Tasker |
| Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club | Kathy Urban | In Honor of Liz Pentacoff |
| Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club | Jacque Hall | |
| Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club | Liz Pentacoff | In Memory of Sue Tasker |
| Mary Austin Writers Club | Julie Dowling | |
| Mary Austin Writers Club | Karen Tenney | In Memory of Betty Tenney |
| Mary Austin Writers Club | Camille Minichino | In Memory of George Smith |
| Mary Austin Writers Club | Aline Soules | In Memory of Betty Bunts |
| Mary Austin Writers Club | David George | |
| Mary Austin Writers Club | Liz Pentacoff | For Joan Brennan |
| Helen Hunt Jackson Group | Betty Iverson | |
| Helen Hunt Jackson Group | Phyllis Nagle | |

~ 2009 Young Writers Contest Winners ~

Essays

Sixth Grade

First Place

Augustine Chemparathy

Keeping Your Hand on the Rudder

Gale Ranch: Sara Faidley

Second Place

Stephanie Sloves

When You Wish Upon A Star

Orinda: Sally Thompson

Third Place

Rishi Krishnan

Wednesday Night Fever!

Gale Ranch: Sara Faidley

Seventh Grade

First Place

Carter Broad

Le Tour de Ow

Orinda: Cecilia Kilmartin

Second Place

Caie Kelley

Climbing My Fears

Orinda: Cecilia Kilmartin

Third Place

Fatima Naveed

Two Minutes

WCI: Carol Hoy

Eighth Grade

First Place

Nina Fairbairn

Masi Mara

Dorris-Eaton: Brad Breilein

Second Place

Sebastian Grobelny

The Learning Curve

St. Agnes School: Paula Traynor

Third Place

Arielle Mourrain

The World's a Stage

Dorris-Eaton: Deenie Schoenfeld

Short Stories

Sixth Grade

First Place

Sarah Sweeney

Moonlight

Joaquin Moraga: Kristin Anderson

Second Place

Zhill Olonan

Blood Shed

Adams Middle: Angie McDonald

Third Place

Rubina Gala

Why Snakes Are Scaly

Gale Ranch: Marissa West

Seventh Grade

First Place

Sean Lee

Run

Windmere Ranch: Kim Vaiana

Second Place

Raia Cherednikov

Monster

Valley View: Johanna Ravhala

Third Place

Sophie Belinn

Time to Wait

Orinda: Mary Risso

Eighth Grade

First Place

Aaron Broadbent

Misstep

Palmer School: Cassie Hull

Second Place

Karishma Pareek

Fade

Pine Valley: Sylvia Hegarty

Third Place

B. J. Norcross

Guardian Angel

Delta Vista Middle: Mr. Whitmore

Poetry

Sixth Grade

First Place

Chloe Chan

Kaleidoscope

Pine Valley: Robin White

Second Place

Lena Milton

Waiting for the Moon

Tehiyah Day: Richard Lyon

Third Place

Paul Cook

If I Were A Tree

Valley View: N. Manasewitchsh

Seventh Grade

First Place

Eleana Binder

Betrayal

Tehiyah Day: Stephanie Piper

Second Place

Jonathan Ng

The Sea Slug

Athenian: Charlie Raymond

Third Place

Gabriella Alvarez

When Cupid Misses

Queen of All Saints: J. Buhl

Eighth Grade

First Place

Theresa Rizza

Desert

WCI: Mary Claire Caron

Second Place

Celina Maiorano

Lady Sea

Pine Valley: Sylvia Hegarty

Third Place

Austin Shore

An Inevitable Outcome

Dorris-Eaton: D. Schoenfeld



Celebrate Our 100th Anniversary

You can celebrate the California Writers Club 100th anniversary by purchasing a CWC pin and/or tote bag. Both anniversary items are a bargain at \$5.00 each. You may purchase them at our monthly CWC meetings.

Mount Diablo Branch's CWC Centennial Events

By Al Garrotto

We are in the process of lining up ways to commemorate California Writers Club's 100th anniversary. Your board of directors appointed me, Al Garrotto, to coordinate the various centennial committees. At this time, we are proposing the following events for the period ending in June 2010. It's important to note that execution of our centennial events will depend on our members' stepping forward to chair and assist in bringing them from wish to reality.

First Annual Jack London Lecture

October 10, 2009

Our regular October meeting will be a significant event in our centennial celebration. We have invited noted California author Ron Hansen to be our guest speaker. Mr. Hansen is the author of a number of best-sellers, including *Atticus*, *Exiles*, *Mariette in Ecstasy*, *Nebraska*, *Hitler's Niece*, and *The Assassination of Jessie James by the Coward Robert Ford*. Three of his novels have been made into films. He is a professor of English at Santa Clara University where he holds the Gerard Manley Hopkins Chair. Contact Barbara Bentley who will be chairing this event.

CWC Mt. Diablo—Centennial Writing Contest (Adult)

We'd like to have an adult writing contest during the centennial year. Perhaps an essay category focusing on a noted California Author. How about a short story category featuring a California setting? The committee will decide the specifics in consultation with the board of directors. Contact Joanne Brown who will be chairing the contest committee.

2010 Young Writers Workshops / Contest

Liz Pentacoff and her committee will carry the centennial theme into our work with middle school students. Possible theme: "Honoring a New Generation of California Writers." Contact Liz to join her committee.

Centennial CWC Monthly Book Club

How about reading and discussing books by a noted California authors? We could select one book from every decade of our history (since 1909). One book a month from September 2009 to June 2010. We could coordinate this with an article about the author and the book in *The Write News* each month. Also, we could use *Back Fence* as book discussion forum. Chairperson and committee members needed.

Mt. Diablo Members Centennial Speakers Bureau

Is anyone interested in creating a list of member authors who are willing to speak during centennial year? The task would include distributing this information to local libraries and service clubs, other organizations; also public and private schools at all levels. Chairperson and committee members needed.

Website Review

By B. Lynn Goodwin

Facebook, www.facebook.com, bills itself as a social networking site. Our March speaker, Stephanie Chandler, recommended that people join. Even though I was not at the meeting, I learned about it on Facebook, as I linked up with Liz, Jack, Nannette, Camille, and others.

When I first heard about it, Facebook sounded like the new MySpace. I thought it was for teens and twenty-somethings. I told myself it would drain my time. I didn't want to sign up for another gimmick. Fortunately, a Writer Advice reader convinced me to try it. After 90 days on the site, I love the ease with which I can connect and reach out.

I am hooked into a unique network of friends who share activities, moments, questions, quizzes, pictures, poems, and exquisite glimpses into their very full lives. Friends, who showed up in the first week included my webmaster, the Hungarian man for whom I edit, authors whose books I had reviewed, CWC members, Book Passages, and a couple of people from my high school and college days.

There is no charge to become a member, and you control how much information you share. Join groups. Add links to your web site and your causes. Add friends. On Facebook, you're not just promoting your writing. You're connecting to others. It's a great antidote to the loneliness in a writer's life. It could also be a distraction, I know, but I prefer to think of it as a connectivity tool. You never know where the next connection will lead. If you're already there, I invite you to type in B. Lynn Goodwin and visit my home page. If you aren't there yet, sign up today.

The Tip Bucket



As reported in the December 2008 edition of *The Write News*, the Back Fence has a new feature called the Tip Bucket. Below is an excerpt from "Write-Tips to Get the Words Down." Writing starts out as a craft and develops into an art. You must learn the mechanics of good writing to produce a product that will sell.

- Join critique groups and writing clubs. Attend writing workshops and conferences. Take a creative writing class. Read books on creative writing.
- Develop a writing routine that fits your lifestyle and set-aside time to write.
- In general, novels and memoir must be finished before taking the next step to publishing. Think of your project in three drafts.
 - Create the first draft to get your words down.
 - Revise the second draft for logic, spelling, grammar, etc.
 - Review the third draft to make your writing sparkle. You may want to use a professional editor, a critique group, or a friend who is an experienced reader to help you polish your work.
- In general, non-fiction work must have an outline and several chapters written before taking the next step to publishing.
- Format your work in a professional manner on a typewriter or computer.

For the complete text of this, and other helpful tips, check out the Tip Bucket at the Back Fence. Members of The Back Fence can visit the website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>. Click on "Files" at the left of your screen. Topics of interest to writers are arranged in order as you work your way through the publishing process. Do you have any tips to share under the main topics? Do you have another topic you feel needs to be addressed? Members who want to add their tips can open a folder and easily add a file. If you haven't yet joined the Back Fence go to the link above and follow the simple sign-up process.

Meet Our Member

By Jody Denison



Profile: Joan Donofrio

When Joan Donofrio first put pen to paper, it was not to write but to draw. She had the best handwriting in the class but hated writing. As she said, “How can you write about what you know when you don’t know anything?” Humor was never in short supply since she was raised in a “humongous” Italian-American family in Syracuse, New York.

Joan put her strength into her ability to draw and was accepted at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. She was well on her way to a successful career in design when she met and fell in love with a young architectural student. They married and finished their senior year as a married couple. Shortly thereafter came their first child and her career was relegated to the back burner. (Betty Friedan had yet to write her empowering book.) When the second child arrived, Joan threw herself into child rearing, volunteer work, and the care and feeding of a husband.

It was during this time that Joan joined the PTA and was assigned the newsletter. Everything had to be checked by the school principal and Joan quickly learned the color of an editor’s pencil. She threw herself into every grammar book she could find, conquered grammar and turned out a fine newsletter earning the respect of the principal.

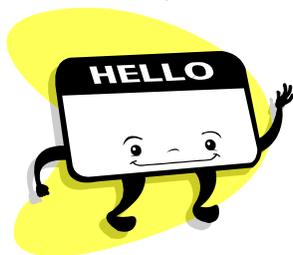
When *The Feminine Mystique* finally arrived, Joan read it and promptly went to work in a publishing company. She rose from a paste up artist to become the head of the art, production, and editorial departments. Writing became a big part of her life, not in a creative way, but rather, sharply business like. Joan also won art competitions along the way. Her career was a successful one and her husband had become successful as a designer and builder of prisons and jails. Joan was ready to retire and become the Grandma Moses of the Hans Hoffman School of painting, but that was not to be.

Joan’s husband was off to Africa to work with Nelson Mandela in reforming the prison system. Joan’s retirement lasted all of six months because her husband decided to stay in Africa with a new wife. Down, but not out, Joan and her daughter went on to own and operate a number of Curves clubs. It was this venture that led to her first book, *Circuit Stories: Shared intimacies of the Exercising Woman*. Her second book is in the works. It is based on an Italian-American family. The title is *Chocolate Chip Meatballs*. She is definitely writing what she knows and that is a lot.

Contest



All unpublished California writers are invited to submit their work to the 21st Annual Focus on Writers writing contest sponsored by the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. Entries can be submitted between May 1 and August 1, 2009. Prizes are awarded in each category. Awards will be presented at the Sacramento Central Public Library on September 24, 2009. For detailed information phone (916) 264-2880, or visit www.saclibrary.org.



Conference

The Community of Writers at Squaw Valley Poetry Workshop takes place from July 18 to the 25, 2009. Work with the poetry staff, attend workshops, write, and discuss the craft. For more information, send an email to info@squawvalleywriters.org, or visit their website at www.squawvalleywriters.org.



From The Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

What better way to celebrate our California Writers Club Centennial Anniversary than to explore CaliforniaAuthors.com. Quoting from their website, "Since 2002, CaliforniaAuthors.com has offered news and notes from a ringside seat on the nation's largest book market. Along the way, we've built some nice resources: a growing and varied library of book excerpts and original essays by California writers; a directory where readers can find California authors and authors can tell the world about their work; and listings pointing readers to independent bookstores, west coast publishers, media, literary events, organizations and more."

CaliforniaAuthors is perfectly tailored to expand the wealth of information available to both the writer and the reader in our Golden State. The amount of information appears to be endless. Each click of the mouse brings up pages of useful items to investigate. Take the "Essential Links West" to explore categories of interest to the California writer.

Membership Renewal Time

By Jody Denison

REMINDER: For all members, your membership expires on June 30, 2009. Dues for the upcoming 2009/2010 year are \$45.00. Mail your check and membership renewal form below to: Membership, CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA, 94507. And don't forget – one of the members who have renewed 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.

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

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Sail On!