

The Write News

California Writers Club – Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Publication

November 2008

November Speaker and Meeting Information

The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

Welcomes *Penny Warner*

“Effective Plotting Workshop”

Saturday, November 8, 2008



Learn from best-selling author Penny Warner what makes a good plot, and the best practices for creating your own sizzling plots.

Award-winning author Penny Warner has published over 50 fiction and non-fiction books in 14 countries. She's written mysteries for both adults and children, and teaches about effective writing at conferences across the country. Penny is a member of many writers' organizations, including the California Writers Club.

Please join us for this informative session to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant on November 8. You will find meeting details below. All are welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers. Bring pen and paper to participate in hands-on exercises. The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch web address is: <http://www.mtdiablowriters.org>.

November Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, November 8, 2008

Sign-in begins at 11:00 a.m. The workshop is from 12:00 to 3:00 p.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: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members (Please note: the cost for this workshop is \$5 more than a regular meeting.)

Menu: A buffet lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 am. The menu will include salad, roast, chicken, meatballs, iced tea, coffee, and rolls.

Reservations: Reservations are required, and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, November 5. 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.

Coming Attractions

Upcoming Speakers for 2008-2009

December 13: Annual Holiday celebration featuring Mt. Diablo Branch members

Barbara Bentley, J. Gary Gwilliam, and Katie Vecchio

January 10: Laurel Ann Hill and Alice Wilson-Fried

"The Long & the Short of Writing and Editing a Novel"

February 14: Robert G. Pimm, Attorney at Law ~ Literary Property Law

March 14: Stephanie Chandler ~ "How Authors Can Build an Online Platform"

April 11: Priscilla Royal ~ Medieval History Mystery Writer

May 9: Young Writers Banquet

June 13: Verna Driesbach of Driesbach Literary Management

President's Message

By David George



I had the honor of being invited to a celebration of the creative arts in Contra Costa County on Sunday, October 26. Each year, the County Arts and Culture Commission recognizes five artists for their contributions to their craft and to the culture and art of our community. This year was a special treat to watch our own Liz Koehler-Pentacoff recognized as one of those five artists.

Liz has worked tirelessly for over twelve years reaching out to middle-school children throughout the County, encouraging their creative writing through her Young Writers Contest. Sixth, seventh, and eight graders submit their writings in three categories. The Club awards the winner with a cash prize and much praise. Liz has inspired many students to continue writing even into their college years. We hope someday soon one of our winners will publish their first story, or book, and credit our Young Writers Contest with inspiring them to greatness.

For a number of years, Liz has also conducted children's writing workshops. Last year she had forty-two attendees! Because of their popularity, Liz will be offering at least two and maybe three separate children's workshops. They will be held in convenient county library locations in January and February.

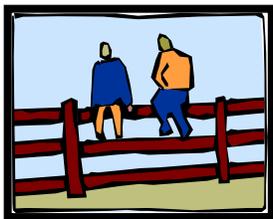
I know Liz derives much personal satisfaction from the Young Writers Contest and from the children's workshops. But, she also delivers a valuable artistic service to the community. We are proud and honored that Liz was recognized on Sunday, and for reaching out to the community in the name of the Mount Diablo Branch of the California Writers Club. We as a Branch are proud to support her endeavors.

If you have other community outreach ideas you'd like to share, please email me at davegeorge7@comcast.net. Or better yet, come share your ideas at our next board meeting to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 8th. ***Sail on!***

Young Writers Fundraiser

On Saturday, November 29, 2008, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mount Diablo Branch will hold its annual fundraiser to benefit the middle school Children's Writing Contest. We will hold this event in cooperation with Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Pleasant Hill. All Barnes and Noble shoppers that day will have an opportunity to donate a portion of their in-store purchases (at no extra cost to themselves) to the California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch. All proceeds (that's 100%) will be used to fund the cash prizes offered to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in the categories of Short Story, Poetry, and Essay/Narrative.

This is a great way to support the art and craft of writing in the public and private middle schools of Contra Costa County. The store is located at 552 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, California. Please help us encourage emerging young writers in our region.



New Feature on the Back Fence ~ Organized Publishing Tips ~ By Camille Minichino & Barbara Bentley

We, Camille and Barbara, feel that there is value in members sharing their publishing experiences, since many "how to" books and links lack practical details to help an author through the publishing maze. To this end, we've decided to use an existing tool - The Back Fence - in the manner for which it was intended -- to create a communication forum for members to share their tips. We also feel that anything we can do to make each others' lives easier is to be welcomed, and serves as "value added" for members. To make the tips easier to access we've taken the following steps:

Please visit The Back Fence at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/>, and check out the posted practical tips to help members navigate the crazy world of publishing. Click on Files in the far left column. Topics are arranged in the approximate 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. Only the person who created the file or folder can edit or delete it. Postings show who created the document. A folder for links exists and will be populated as members add their favorites.

Log in to the Back Fence and post your comments and additions. If you have not yet registered for the Back Fence forum, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CWCBackFence/> and follow the simple sign-up instructions. If you have any trouble, e-mail the Back Fence coordinator at juliemdownling@yahoo.com.

Sales and Salutes

Hal Gauger's latest book is titled, *Fixing America by Fixing the Vote*. This new book can be ordered from the Baker and Taylor Catalogue, *Paperclip*.

A Website Review

By B. Lynn Goodwin

Learn Promotion and More from Penny Warner

Have you ever wondered how to market your books effectively? You can learn a lot if you Google Penny Warner, who is the California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch's guest for November. The first entry on Google is Penny's website, www.pennywarner.com.

Click on Nancy Drew Highlights to learn how she is promoting her latest book, *The Official Nancy Drew Handbook*, which was nominated for an Agatha Award. She's moved on from the highly successful Connor Westphal series, and you can see a large portion of her career, which began with non-fiction, laid out briefly in the list under "Books." What's probably of most interest to the writers in this club is the content under "For Authors." Warner shares some great tips for promotion. She begins with three specific questions, and then identifies three things the audience will want to know when an author speaks to them. Can you answer her questions? Try out your answers on your peers and see if they think you've forgotten anything.

Once your presentation is prepared, Warner suggests you offer it to "newspapers, TV, radio, libraries, writer's groups, professional groups, women's groups, bookstores, clubs, colleges, conferences, and any specialized audiences." She even lists references to help you polish your promotion.

Penny Warner is a wonderful speaker and I look forward to participating in her workshop in November. To whet your appetite for all that she has to offer at this month's event, visit www.pennywarner.com.

Meet Our Member

By Jody Denison

Member Profile: *Laurie Biundo*



Laurie Biundo is a transplanted New Yorker who arrived in the Bay Area via Boston, and also via her marriage. She is presently a writing teacher at a local middle school. Laurie says teaching is a "blast." Laurie also has a Master's Degree in Education.

She has published several non-fiction memoir articles. You may even remember one that graced the *San Ramon Valley Times* column, Real Life. She discussed the conundrum of a Jewish girl's first Christmas with her Catholic husband. Laurie has been married for twenty-four years and she's still not sure she's solved it. Her two sons, however, accepted a non-denominational Santa Claus with gusto.

What finally drove Laurie to begin writing was the novel that wanted out of her head so badly it itched. Because she has an undergraduate degree in Criminology from Florida State University, it looks like we'll see a mystery novel in the near future. Laurie enjoys attending conferences to help her master techniques connected with her craft. She recently went to the John Steinbeck, East of Eden Conference in Salinas, sponsored by the California Writers Club South Bay Chapter.

When Laurie is not teaching, writing, or busy being a Mom, she enjoys line dancing and manages to read two to three books a week. One thing is for certain, Laurie is good at time management!

CWC Anthology Update

The deadline for receiving submissions for the new CWC Anthology has been extended to November 16, 2008. (Ignore the original October 31 deadline in the previously distributed flyer.) Previously published submissions to the CWC Anthology will be accepted, as long as the author retains the copyright. The anthology will help mark the club's centennial year, and is expected to be published around October, 2009. Chief Editor Igal Levy, (textract@rumpustory.com), and his editorial staff, are seeking literary nonfiction, and poetry, written by our members.

Announcements

~ **The Tom Howard/John H. Reid Short Story Contest** is in its sixteenth year August 15, 2008, through March 31, 2009. Fourteen cash prizes will total \$5,250. The contest is seeking short stories, essays and other prose, up to 5,000 words. Winning entries will be published online. The deadline is March 31, 2009. Submit online or by mail. For more information go to <http://www.winningwriters.com>.

~ **The 2009 Central Coast Writers Branch Writing Contest**, for poetry and short stories, submission period is from August 15, 2008 through November 15, 2008. Award is \$500 and publication in the Hartnell College *Homestead Review*. For more information go to www.centralcoastwriters.org.

~ **The 2009 San Francisco Writers Conference**, "Building Bridges to Better Tomorrows", takes place from February 13 to February 15, 2009. The conference features nearly 100 agents, authors and editors. Attendees will have access to more than 50 "how to" sessions, panels and workshops taught by successful authors. There will be "Speed Dating for Agents" and ""Ask a Pro" one-on-one opportunities to pitch your work directly to publishing professionals. Professionals scheduled to attend include:

Authors:

Richard North Patterson, author of 13 novels, including *Protect and Defend*, and *Balance of Power*;
Jane Smiley, author of *A Thousand Acres* (1992 Pulitzer Prize) and *Horse Heaven*; and
Lolly Winston, author of *Good Grief* and *Happiness Sold Separately*.

Editors:

Caitlin Alexander, Editor at Bantam/Dell/Random House
George Gibson, Publisher at Walker Books
Eric Liebetrau, Managing Editor at Kirkus Reviews
Alex Logan, Vice President at Grand Central Publishing
Signe Pike, Editor at Plume/Penguin
Alan Rinzler, Executive Editor at Jossey-Bass/Wiley & Sons
Charlie Spicer, Editor at St. Martin's Press
Gideon Weil, Executive Editor at HarperOne

Literary Agents:

Andrea Brown, Andrea Brown Literary Agency (SF)
Kimberly Cameron, Reece Halsey North (SF/Paris)
Michael Larsen, Larsen Pomada Literary Agents (SF)
Laurie McLean, Larsen Pomada Literary Agents (SF)
Elizabeth Pomada, Larsen Pomada Literary Agents (SF)
Regina Brooks, Serendipity Literary Agency (NY)
Donald Maass, Donald Maass Literary Agency (NY)
Katharine Sands, Sara Jane Freymann Literary Agency (NY)

You may register for the San Francisco Writers Conference at www.SFWriters.org. For more detailed information, phone (415) 673-0939, or email SFWriterscon@aol.com. Writing contest information is available by contacting Contest Chair Evelyn Luscher at eluscher@sbcglobal.net.

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

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