

The Write News

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Newsletter

November 2009

“One Hundred Years of Excellence in Writing” (1909 – 2009)

The California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

Presents a

Morning Workshop

November 14, 2009

With Instructor

Janis Cooke Newman



Our November workshop offers an outstanding opportunity to ramp up our plotting and character-building skills. Renowned writing instructor and award-winning novelist Janis Cooke Newman will lead an intensive 2½-hour workshop, designed to improve our storytelling skills. Her focus will be on the craft of structuring a dynamic, start-to-finish narrative, using the techniques of bestselling authors. The workshop will include proven plotting exercises and tips for turning well-crafted sentences into stories our readers can't put down.

Author of *Mary*, a historical novel about Mary Todd, Janis has taught creative writing for the past nine years at Book Passage in Corte Madera, the Writing Salon in San Francisco, and privately. She currently teaches at the San Francisco Writers Grotto, of which she is a member. Visit her website at <http://janiscookenewman.com>. Janis also moderates a daily, online writing community called Creative Caffeine (<http://creativecaffeine.blogspot.com/>).

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**California Writers Club members and all interested fiction and nonfiction writers are invited to attend.**

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November Meeting Details

Date & Time: Saturday, November 14, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. A buffet luncheon will follow. Sign-in begins at 9:00 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: \$35 for CWC members (lunch only: \$20), \$40 for non-members (lunch only: \$25).

Menu: Zio Fraedo's sumptuous luncheon buffet.

Reservations: Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, November 11. To make reservations, contact Veronica Rossi, via e-mail at, verorossi@aol.com, or by phone at (925) 743-1886. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.



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 Friday, November 13, you will be asked to remit a \$20 "no-show" payment.

~ Coming Attractions ~ Upcoming Speakers for 2009-2010

December 12: "Three of Our Own"

Catherine Accardi ~ Writing for Hire

Lynn Goodwin ~ Writing for Caregivers and WriterAdvice.com

Aline Soules ~ Improving Your Writing Through Poetry

January 9: Veronica Chater, Memoirist ~ *Waiting for the Apocalypse: A Memoir of Faith and Family*

February 13: Suzanne Woods Fisher ~ *Starting Small*

March 13: Nik C. Colyer, Grit-Lit Novelist, Poet, author of the Biker Bob series

April 10: Writing Workshop ~ Martha Engber

May 8: Young Writers Banquet ~ Speaker to be announced

June 12: Sophie Littlefield, Author

Please join us for these informative sessions to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant.

All are welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers. The CWC,

Mount Diablo Branch web address is www.mtdiablowriters.org.

President's Message

By David George



And now, on to our next 100 years! During our centennial celebration on October 17, our first annual Jack London lecturer, award-winning novelist Ron Hansen, presented us with a sometimes funny, but many times stirring, lecture about "Making Stuff Up." Thanks to all who helped make the celebration memorable.

I opened the session with a few comments of my own. For those who missed them, they are summarized here:

Why do we write? We have about a hundred answers to that question represented in our audience today. Most of all, the world needs content. And your writing provides that content. Whether it encourages young children to read, reveals unexplored hiking trails in the Sierras, examines our innermost urges, or helps to explain why we feel so desperate at times, the rest of world waits for your next passage.

Jack London, along with a few of his writing buddies, established this Club 100 years ago this month. They had escaped the ravages of the 1906 earthquake by fleeing to the East Bay. They called it the Alameda Press Club. A few years later, they invited all Bay Area writers to join them for a picnic in the hills that would for many years hence be called Joaquin Miller Park. In fact, Joaquin Miller, a celebrated poet and long time CWC member, did not attend.

Jack London and his pals were not happy that so many folks who called themselves writers attended their picnic. They had imagined the Club a small, erudite group of accomplished authors and journalists. These founding fathers, when faced with this burgeoning collection of aspiring writers, abandoned us and fled to their erudite halls. In 1913, the Alameda Press Club became the California Writers Club. The Club's intent from then on was to embrace inclusiveness and diversity, for established authors to mentor aspiring writers, to expand the Club to all points within California and all points of view.

We are now a Club of over 1,200 published and aspiring writers, including fiction and non-fiction authors, poets, and screenwriters. Sharing our perspectives on the past, present, and future. We network, blog, tweet, and write our names and thoughts onto the fabric of time. Let's celebrate our distinguished authors that have come before us and the contributions our current members will lend to our future history.

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.

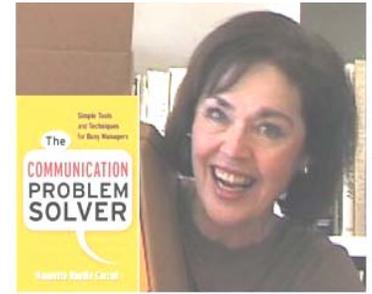
Those members will receive both items as a gift.



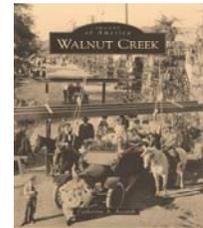
CWC Member's Author News and Events



CWC member and board member, **Nannette Rundle Carroll**, will be speaking and signing books at Clayton Books, in Clayton, on Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 p.m. Nannette will introduce her just published, *The Communication Problem Solver, Simple Tools and Techniques for Busy Managers*. **Michael Soon Lee** (who wrote the foreword to her book) will be speaking on and signing two of his books, *Cross-Cultural Selling for Dummies* and *Black Belt Negotiating*.

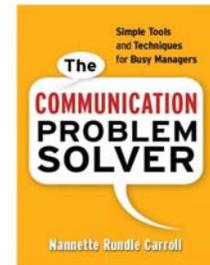


CWC member and newsletter editor, **Catherine Accardi**, will be speaking and signing books at Clayton Books, on Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m. Catherine will give a PowerPoint presentation of her book, *Images of America-Walnut Walnut Creek*. Clayton Book store owner, Joel Harris, will also give a presentation on his book *Images of America-Concord*.



Sales and Salutes

Nannette Rundle Carroll has announced the publication of her new book, *The Communication Problem Solver, Simple Tools and Techniques for Busy Managers* (AMACOM Books). It can be used by anyone who wants to manage the relationships with their boss, peers, and employees (and even your friends and family). Available now on Barnesandnoble.com Amazon.com, ISBN# 9780814413081, and available in bookstores on November 18.



Donna Gholson Cook recently self-published her second book, *Fritz and Annie Lippe Family: German Cotton Farmers in Early 1900s Texas--Washington, Mills, Hamilton, and Tom Green Counties*. The book is available through AuthorHouse and other outlets. <http://www.authorhouse.com/Bookstore/BookStoreSearchResults.aspx?SearchType=smpI&SearchTerm=Fritz%20and%20Annie%20Lippe%20Family>. She also has a new website, link <http://www.gholson-cook.com>



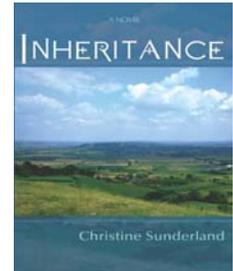
Jack Russ' short story, *The Pink Letter*, has received the first runner up award from the CWC Berkeley Branch. Al Levenson, President of the Berkeley Branch has also extended an invitation to read the letter to the Berkeley Branch's December bash.

(Sales and Salutes continue on the next page.)

More Sales and Salutes



Christine Sunderland's new, third novel, *Inheritance*, just came out. This novel was set in England and now completes her Trilogy all set in Western Europe. Woven through the mists of Lent to new life on Easter Day, *Inheritance* draws the lives of four characters together to a stunning, unforgettable conclusion.



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 at caacat@comcast.net.

Tip Bucket



As reported in the December 2008 edition of *The Write News*, the Back Fence has a new feature called the Tip Bucket. Future editions of *The Write News* will feature excerpts from the Tip Bucket. Below is the tip for November.

PUBLISH MANUSCRIPT – SELF-PUBLISH

This is an option if you're not interested in wide bookstore and library distribution. One of the best uses of self-publishing is for memoirs, with limited distribution to family and friends. As with anything else, do comparison shopping. Look at samples the house has produced; try to talk to authors who have used them.

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 this site 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.

Member Profile

By Jody Denison

This lovely profile was written by the subject. JD

Profile: *Alpha Quincy*



Reading and writing are an integral part of teaching and learning, a career in education that I've followed for more than fifty years. I've taught every grade from preschool to graduate school and have been a school principal at both the elementary and secondary levels. The University of California awarded me a Masters Degree. I served four years on the State Curriculum Commission and was twice elected to the Contra Costa County Board of Education. Even with all of that, I wouldn't know how to teach today. Today's students are digital natives. I'm from the land of long ago where digital language, text messaging, iPods, and Google were unknown. I'm learning it slowly as a foreign language.

I grew up on a ranch in Nevada where there were no telephones or power poles, and my Dad made a crystal set radio. I used my digits to learn to milk cows. I attended a one room school until we moved to California where I attended San Juan High School. I was in my second year of Sacramento Junior College when World War II came along and with it this handsome Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. I was 18 and he was 20 and marriage seemed right. It was. We were together until his death parted us when he was 65. After our first eleven years of traveling with the Air Force we returned to California and I started back to the school I had left in mid-semester. It was the same year our children started first and third grades. Both of them are now doctors.

When I was in my fifties, and Mom was in her seventies, she was sorting old family papers and memorabilia on her dining room table and exclaimed, "Isn't this exciting!" My lackadaisical comment was, "Yeh, Mom, It's interesting." When I reached my seventies and inherited it all, it truly was exciting. There were stories hidden in that pile of stuff that had to be written. After I had pulled together several stories, I realized that, with a few more, I would have stories of families that lived in each of the decades of American history. I had had many articles published in professional journals over the years and had written curriculum guides, but never a whole book before. Its title is: "*WE LIVED AMERICAN HISTORY: 1600-2000*", Nonfiction, Published in 2008 by Big Hat Press in Lafayette. (formerly Diablo Rapid Print) It is available on Amazon.com.

And I wrote it on my MAC with Microsoft Word, using both Reunion, and Google and other digital stuff I'm learning.

From the Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

~ 100 Years of Literary History ~

As I ended in the November edition of "From the Editor's Desk," I have exited City Lights Bookstore and make a right turn towards Vesuvio.

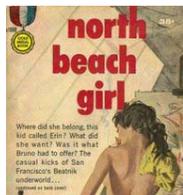
The legendary Vesuvio is located at 255 Columbus Avenue in San Francisco, at Jack Kerouac Alley, across from the City Lights Bookstore. It is on the first floor corner of the yellow building on the right.



The Vesuvio website reads: "This world-renowned San Francisco saloon located in North Beach just across from the infamous City Lights Bookstore, was first established in 1948, and remains an historical monument to jazz, poetry, art, and the good life of the Beat Generation. Vesuvio attracts a diverse clientele: artists, chess players, cab drivers, seamen and business people, European visitors, off-duty exotic dancers and bon vivants from all walks of life. On October 17, 1955, Neal Leon Cassady, the real life Dean Moriarty of the quintessential Beat classic *On the Road*, stopped at Vesuvio on the way to the now legendary Six Gallery for a poetry reading, and the place has never been the same. It became a regular hangout of Jack Kerouac and other famous Beat poets and has become ground zero for pilgrims on the Beat trail ever since."

That almost says it all. It can be nice and dark in this place. Perfect for imagining past goings on. At the bar were once seated Dylan Thomas, Allen Ginsberg, and Gregory Corso. Vesuvio's Irish coffee is delicious (even the virgin). It is considered a "cafe-annex" to City Lights across the alley.

For those of you that have a special interest in the writings of the beat era, I would suggest *The Beat Generation in San Francisco*. It is a comprehensive book on the subject. In addition, my new book, to be released by Arcadia Publishing in late 2010, will highlight literary North Beach. The title will be *San Francisco's North Beach and Telegraph Hill*.



The book, *North Beach Girl*, by John Trinian (1960), is a novel set in San Francisco's beat world of the Fifties. It takes a fictional look at the beat underworld.

In future editions of "The Write News," I will feature other notable North Beach literary haunts including the Discovery Bookstore, Beat Museum and the Black Cat Cafe.



**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. Page 9 has details on the upcoming Young Writers Fundraiser. Here are the October, 2009 donors to the Young Writers Contest:

- Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff ~ Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club ~ \$100
in memory of Sue Tasker**
- John Gourhan ~ The Mary Austin Writers Club ~ \$50**
- Phyllis Nagel ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group ~ \$25**

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 12, 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-Mt. 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 Fundraiser

On Saturday, November 28, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the CWC-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. You may use the vouchers below. The vouchers are good from November 28 to December 4. 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 Barnes and Noble Store is located at 552 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, California. Please help us encourage emerging young writers in our region.

**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR
Supporting**

**California Writers
Club
Mt. Diablo Branch**

Saturday, Nov. 28, 2009, 11 am to 6 pm
to Friday, December 4, 2009

Barnes & Noble

552 Contra Costa Blvd, Pleasant Hill, CA

Please present this voucher prior
to making your purchase.
A percentage of the net sale will
be donated to your school/organization.*

ID # 10065142

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships,
text books and magazine subscriptions are not included
in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing
program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.



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Sail On!