

The Write News



A Monthly Newsletter

November 2013

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

WORKSHOP & LUNCH

Saturday, November 9, 2013; 9:00am to 1:30pm

The Legal Aspects of Writing and Publishing



Based on his seminar “Author Law 101”
Rick Acker will explain the legalities of:

- what artwork you can use on your cover
- using real people, information, photos, etc., in memoirs or fiction
- considerations regarding “indie” publishing
- “traditional” contracts
- copyright laws; and much more!



Rick Acker writes novels during his commute to and from his "real job" as a Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice. Based on his experiences, Rick wrote his #1 bestselling book, *When the Devil Whistles*. In addition to his novels, he is a contributing author on three legal treatises published by the American Bar Association.

Sign-in is 8:30 – 9:00, and workshop 9:00 – 12:00, followed by a luncheon at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Registration is \$35, or \$40 for non-CWC members; contact Robin Gigoux at ragig@aol.com, or phone 925-933-9670 for reservations.

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

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.

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



Looks like a good response to the request for helpful websites for writers. Keep the suggestions coming. And the Writers' Tables before select meetings are a hit. If you'd like to volunteer to lead a table, let Lee Paulson or another board member know. Don't forget that at the December meeting we ask our member authors to bring books they've written for sale. December is a festive, seated luncheon with "three of our own" presenting.

And how about our November 9 workshop? Rick Acker, Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice, who leads seminars on Author Law! What a treat.

Remember too, that Don Maker who has been responsible for the speakers/workshops would like to begin handing over his responsibilities in this area in order to work on outreach for the club. You wouldn't be thrown in cold to his job. Several of us have held the speaker/workshop chair, have plenty of notes, and would be glad to help. On the next page you can see he already has our speakers and workshops scheduled for most of the year. Contact Don or any board member.

And a very special *congratulations* to Catherine Accardi for her considerable contribution to the CWC board. Along with past newsletter editor and membership chair, Catherine has always gone above and beyond, while making it look effortless. Thank you, Catherine!

Happy Thanksgiving later in Nov!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept 30	Deadline for membership renewal
Oct 12	Monthly meeting with speaker Ron Shoop
Nov 9	Workshop lead by Rick Acker
Nov 9	Board Meeting 1:15 - 2:15 pm. Members invited
Dec 14	Board Meeting 10 - 11 am. Members invited
Dec 14	Monthly meeting with three of our own
Jan 11	Workshop led by Marilyn Atlas
Jan 11	Board Meeting 1:15 - 2:15 pm. Members invited
Jan TBD	Young Writers Workshop at local library

Thanks to Barbara Bentley for creating this graphic of upcoming events. This might get our attention!

Also from Barbara Bentley: "I ran across this article in the August issue of Scribbles, the newsletter from the Central Coast Branch. Thought it might be interesting." How many strange minds do we have out there?

If you can raed this, you have a sgtrane mnid, too.

Can you raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can siltl raed it wohtuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

Meet Your New Mount Diablo Branch Treasurer

Member Profile: Harlan Hague



Harlan Hague decided while a college freshman to pursue writing as a career. A wise English professor, who had praised his writing, encouraged him to write evenings and weekends while working for a living at a job that paid a reliable wage. “Decide later,” she said, “whether to write full-time.” He writes full-time now while enjoying a monthly retirement check and investment income, accumulated while working in a profession that paid a reliable wage.

Harlan grew up in Texas and pursued business studies at Baylor University. Following graduation, four years in the U.S. Navy opened his eyes to the world. He served three years in Japan where he was discharged and completed a circuit of the globe during a six-month solo trip through southern Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

The lure of California was too strong. He left the company and moved to San Francisco where he stayed a couple of weeks with his friend in his cramped studio apartment that Harlan thought the grandest digs anywhere. They had a view through the cluster of utility wires of Twin Peaks and a sliver of the bay. His love affair with California is told in his article, titled *California Dreaming*, which published in the in-flight magazine of American Airlines.

He worked in business four years before attaining his enlightenment. He left a promising career path to embark on a teaching career, with the encouragement and support of his wife, also a teacher. He taught business courses at his college while making the transition to history. In the process, he earned an M.A. in history at University of The Pacific and a Ph.D. at University of Nevada, Reno.

Teaching provided the stimulation and opportunity to write. He published a few dozen history articles in scholarly journals and a few score book reviews. He traveled in all of the continents and oceans with his family and published scores of articles in the travel sections of newspapers across the United States. He published history and biography with commercial and university presses. His co-authored *Thomas O. Larkin: A Life of Patriotism and Profit in Old California* was awarded The Caroline Bancroft History Prize.

Since retiring, his writing interests have changed. He now writes fiction and screenplays and little fantasy pieces. He has self-published fiction and travel, and he has published with commercial publishers. His latest work, *The People*, an imaginative retelling of the story of the response of western Indians to the invasion of their lands by the expansionist United States, will be issued by Five Star Publishing in 2014.

His screenplays have been praised by producers who have yet to send him large checks. The rejections are often of *the great-story-well-told-should-be-produced-but-not-by-us* sort. Screenwriters have to enjoy the journey.

Harlan is presently writing a novel set in Belize, based on his screenplay that is making the rounds.

Member Events, News and Salutes



Joanna Kraus' article, "**RX for Caregivers**" was published in *The Stroke Connection* (American Heart Association). It's available on line now. Hard copies will be available in November.

On Saturday, November 16th, Published Writers of Rossmoor will have a Book Fair. 21 authors will be represented and some of us will be giving presentations as part of a panel. The Book Fair is from 10 AM-2PM and everyone is welcome to this free event. It will be in the Creekside Clubhouse at Rossmoor. Come look - and perhaps buy a holiday gift.

Joanna will also be giving a presentation on some of her books at the Walnut Creek Library (downtown on Broadway) on December 12, 6:30-8 in the 2nd floor conference Room. She would love to have some CWC members there!

The link to her article "RX for Caregivers" in *The Stroke Connection* is:

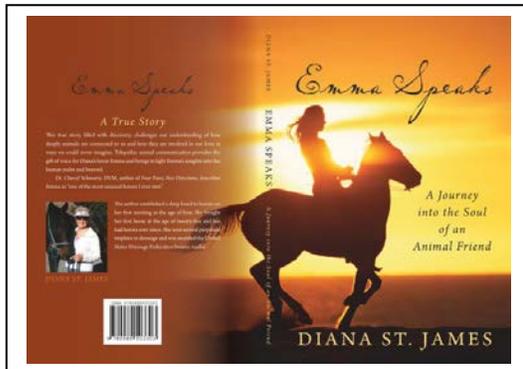
<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/aha/strokeconnection> 2013 Fall/



Christine Sunderland's interview with Bruce Judisch has just been posted, following his review of *The Magdalene Mystery*. Post a comment or question and enter to win a free copy of her latest novel... <http://www.brucejudisch.blogspot.com/>

Christine is the author of the award-winning novels: *Pilgrimage Offerings*, *Inheritance*, *Hana-Lani*, and *The Magdalene Mystery* (all OakTara), <http://www.ChristineSunderland.com> (website and blog); <http://www.OakTara.com>,

All author proceeds given to charity.



Diana St. James is planning a book launch party for her new book *Emma Speaks: A Journey into the Soul of an Animal Friend*, on November 19th 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Redwood Room of Rossmoor's Gateway complex. All are welcome. Give the guard station her name.

This true story, filled with discovery, challenges our understanding of how deeply animals are connected to us and how they are involved in our lives in ways we could never imagine. Telepathic animal communication provides the gift of voice for Diana's horse Emma and brings to light Emma's insights into the human realm and beyond. Dr. Cheryl Schwartz, DVM, author of *Four Paws, Five Directions*, described Emma as "one of the most unusual horses I ever met."



Nanette McGuinness has recently translated the following three graphic novels into English, from both Italian and French, for publication in the US.

1. Geronimo Stilton Graphic Novel #12: *The First Samurai* came out March 2013; #13: *The Fastest Train in the West*, will be released Dec. 2013.
2. The Stilton Graphic Novel #1: *The Secret of Whale Island* was released in April 2013; #2: *The Revenge of the Lizard Club* was released in August, 2013; and #3: *The Treasure of the Viking Ship* will be released in April 2014.
3. Dinosaurs Graphic Novels #1: *In the Beginning* is coming out in January, 2014; #2: *Bite of the Allosaurus* is coming out in April, 2014; and #3: *Jurassic Smarts* will be released in August, 2014.



Judith Ingram has recently published her first fiction book, ***Bridge to the Past***, released in August 2013. ***Bridge to the Past*** is the first of three books in her Moonseed trilogy.

The story tells of Victoria, who longs for a different life. Then her wish on a mysterious coin transports her back in time, into the body of a ruthless young woman accused of murdering her husband. Despite the perils of her new identity, Victoria discovers a new sense of belonging and adventure in the other woman's world, especially when a handsome man captures her attention.

The publisher, Vinspire Publishing, also published Judith's nonfiction book in 2011, *A Devotional Walk with Forgiveness*.

Classes for our Young Writers- Pass the Word

**What: Young Writers Workshop
An Interactive Writing Morning**

Who: Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Contra Costa Students

When: Saturday,
9:00 - Noon
Where: Walnut Creek Public Library
1644 N. Broadway

Feb. 1, 2014
COST: FREE!
925-977-3340 (Library)

Want to be an author? Discover how YOU can write the best short story or personal narrative by using character and plot. Funny, scary, suspenseful, amazing or quirky!

Have questions about the publishing world? Contests? Books? Writing groups? Ask two published authors. You'll play writing games and meet other writers your age.

Led by children's authors Sarah Wilson and Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

Editor's Note: The following article came to us from the editor of CWC branch Central Coast Writers, Monterey Peninsula.

ReadWave

By Leslie Patiño

Reprinted from the August, 2013 *Scribbles* newsletter of Central Coast Writers (Monterey Peninsula).

*Big thanks to CCW past-president Cheri Love who forwarded an email from a Raoul Tawadey. Over the following two days, I spent way too many hours on his website, **ReadWave** (www.readwave.com), which started in 2012. Elsewhere, I found a May 13 piece by Tawadey's co-founder Rob Tucker who wrote, "Last week, we launched a beta version of the Read Wave Widget, which we hope will one day become the literary equivalent of the YouTube video."*

Essentially, it's a social media site for writers. Upload your writing and people can "like" it, comment on it, "follow" you. Just as with sites like Twitter, when you post something new, a message goes out to your followers. On the home page, you can choose between genres, "Staff picks," "Newest," and "Trending," or search for a particular writer or title. Within minutes after I uploaded a piece, people were reading it. I started reading and commenting back. My email inbox kept dinging, once even to say I was trending. The snappy message started out with "Congratulations, you're popular!" in big, colorful letters. (I suspected them of helping newbies trend.)

Our recent Jack London Award recipient Joyce Krieg warned, "Once you put your work out there on the Internet, it's considered published. An agent or editor may not be interested in handling work that's already been published." I emailed Tawadey who actually sent a nice reply in which he touted the opportunity to build platform and clarified that ReadWave does not make any legal claim to work posted on the site. I asked our CCW July speaker, literary agent Andrea Brown. She said that a small excerpt from a novel, for any kind of promotional site, could help with "discoverability" and should be okay, but keep it short.

For now, I'm off the Wave. But today I discovered an interesting site called Flash Fiction World (www.flash-fiction-world.com)...

Call For Volunteers

Would You Like To Be A Volunteer For Your Writers Club?

Would you not want to further the mission of our writers club? Our mission, as defined on our statewide club website is: *"Educating writers of all abilities in the craft of writing and in the marketing of their work"*. Sounds like a good plan to me. Our writers club runs smoothly, thanks to our talented and dedicated volunteers. Our board members are volunteers, our program chairs are volunteers, and all the other people who assist with various projects and tasks are volunteers. We hope you will be our next volunteer.

Websites for Writers and Readers

Suggestions from our Members:

From Lynn Goodwin

Writer Advice is full of savvy advice for writers. www.writeradvice.com?

I also recommend Story Circle Network, www.storycircle.org/, where I teach.

From Harlan Hague:

One of the best sites on the web for screenwriters is <http://richardwalter.com>. The chair of the screenwriting program at UCLA, Walter is one of the most respected screenwriting gurus in the business. The web site is regularly updated, and one can register for Walter's monthly newsletter which is chock full of great screenwriting tips.

From Veronica Rossi:

I'm part of a website that offers writing advice. Here is the web address:
www.yamuses.blogspot.com

From Gloria Lenhart

The website www.writescared.com, which provides good info on starting, joining and working with a writing group and provides lots of links to good sites for writers. Although it's not a website, I'm also addicted to the podcast *Writing Excuse*, which provides weekly tips on writing techniques and tips from bestselling authors. Look for it in the iTunes Store GrammarBook: <http://www.grammarbook.com/>

From Ellen Aubry

I have been a big fan of the Gotham Writers' Workshop online classes for several years. They have classes for all types of writing including fiction, which is my interest. They run from just beginning to master classes and are excellent at teaching basic craft. Each of the more advanced classes offers a chance to submit two stories for peer review by the class and instructor. The feedback has been invaluable. The price for each ten week session is under \$400.

The link is www.writingclasses.com.

Editor's Note:

As a benefit to our members, we present this new column called
Websites for Writers and Readers.

If you know of a useful, effective website for writers and readers, please email Lyn Roberts, newsletter editor at editingonline@astound.net and write a paragraph or two about the site and its value to our members. Let's have fun with this!

Writer's Markets Column

When Traditional Routes Don't Work

by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



A literary magazine focuses on creative writing. So do many of you. You focus on bringing creative ideas or a unique presentation into your writing regardless of your genre. (Okay, maybe there's no creativity in lab reports, but almost every other kind of writing has a creative aspect.) All of this means that there's a literary magazine for almost every kind of writer.

How do you find the one that is right for you? One great resource is "The Big List of Literary Magazines" found on Every Writers Resource, <http://www.everywritersresource.com/Biglist.html>. The list was updated in June 2013, so most of the 1500 links will still be good. (No, 1500 was not a typo.)

The different magazines have assorted needs and interests. Most offer samplings online and fairly specific guidelines to help you decide whether your writing matches with their interests.

While you're on Every Writers Resource, click on "Book Publishers." You'll find lots of alternative and independent presses listed, and you might find a match for your work whether you've written a chapbook or a trilogy.

If you've sent your manuscript out and it keeps getting rejected, you might want to look at Mike Wells Books/The Green Water Blog, http://mikewellsblog.blogspot.ca/2011/04/dozen-reasons-books-are-rejected-by.html?utm_source=%2B%2B%2B%2B%2B%2B%2BJS+August+22%2C+2013%2C+Newsletter&utm_campaign=8%2F22%2F2013+communique&utm_medium=email. I know that's a long URL, so I hope you can cut and paste it. Bring your objectivity as you read his list. While there can be other problems, it's good to train yourself to watch for the ones he lists.

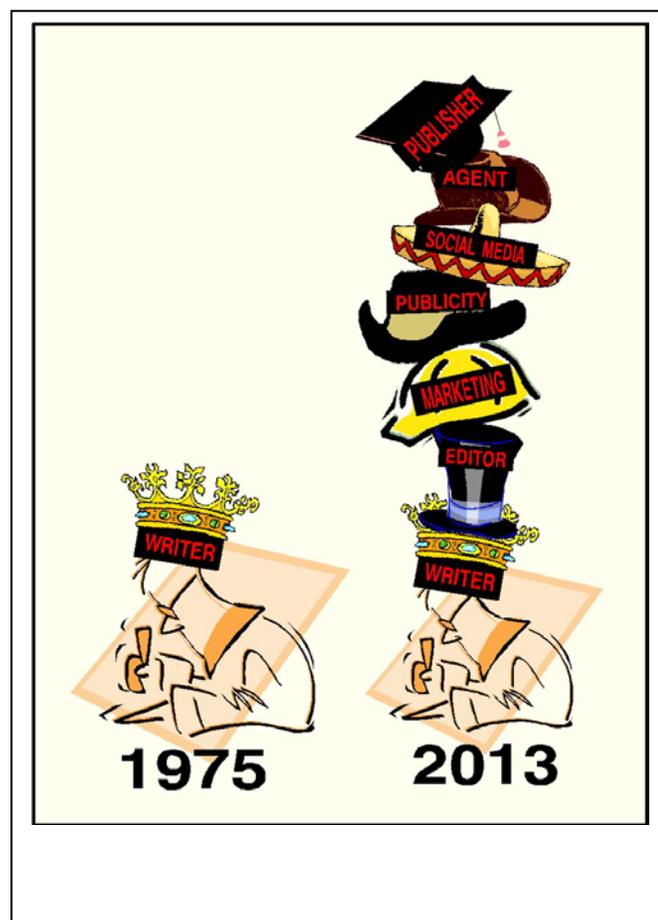
If you're considering independent publishing, you might be interested in "Publishing is Broken," which appears in Forbes Magazine, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidvinjamuri/2012/08/15/publishing-is-broken-were-drowning-in-indie-books-and-thats-a-good-thing/>. Does it tell the whole story? Does it tell your story? Does it look at issues you need to address?

And if you're still stuck back on the question of whether or not you should submit to one or more of the 1500 literary magazines on the Big List, here's an article you should probably read: What Makes Literary Fiction Literary? <http://blog.nathanbransford.com/2007/02/what-makes-literary-fiction-literary.html>. The author looks quite young in his photo, but he's making his mark, and his thoughts are worth reading.

I'm in the midst of reading the submissions for Writer Advice's Scintillating Starts Contest. If I were asked to offer three tips for writers based on what I'm reading, I'd say be honest, be specific, and dig deeply. If you do those three things, your unique voice will shine and you'll find the right publisher for your work.

Please feel free to share your writing successes and publishing tips with me. Write to me at Lgood67334@comcast.net.

Our thanks to **Barbara Bentley** for her original cartoon.



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 July 1, 2012, to September 1, 2013.

<p>Foundation Donors</p> <p><i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p>The Gertrude Atherton Guild</p> <p><i>Lee Paulson</i> <i>Gary and Lilly Gwilliam</i> <i>Karen Terhune</i></p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club</p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club</p> <p><i>David George</i> <i>Ron Shoop – Random House</i></p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</p> <p><i>Danard Emanuelson</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 - \$10-\$24

~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

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. 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 Young Writers Contest.

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



California Writers Club~Mount Diablo Branch
Post Office Box 606
Alamo, CA 94507

California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

~ The California Writers Club is a designated 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. ~

Join Us!

**Our next CWC-Mt. Diablo Workshop
is November 9, 2013 at 9:00 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.