

The Write News

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A Monthly Newsletter

October 2012

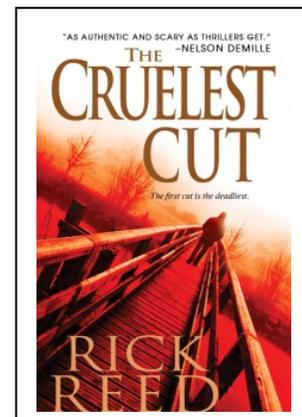
The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

LUNCHEON MEETING and SPEAKER Saturday, October 13, 2012; 11:30am to 2:00pm "Put Life Experiences into Your Writing"



Rick Reed spent twenty-six years as a policeman and detective. Kensington Books contacted him to write the true-crime novel, *Blood Trail*, about his capture of serial killer Joseph Weldon Brown. Kensington later signed Rick to a two-book serial-killer fiction contract. *The Cruellest Cut* has been translated into two languages. In 2011, *The Coldest Fear* was released. Rick will share with us his knowledge of converting life experiences into both non-fiction and fiction. He will speak on:

- True crime vs. fiction
- Pace and tone in both non-fiction and fiction
- Anxiety vs. Humor
- Never let the truth get in the way of a good story
- "Never turn your back on a naked lady"



Sign-in is 11:15am–12 pm, luncheon 11:45 –12:45, and program 12:45–1:30 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Registration is \$20, or \$25 for non-CWC members

Contact Jean at jeaniegpopps@comcast.net or leave a message at: (925) 934-5677

Meeting Details on Page 2

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



For a long time I was confused about CWC's "Central" and "Norcal." Of course it's not as complicated as I imagined. Judith Marshall is our current representative to both groups.

There is a statewide central CWC volunteer board that deals with issues such as ensuring CWC is registered properly nationally and in the state as a non-profit agency so members can donate and take a tax deduction.

It maintains a website, publicizes CWC, publishes a literary magazine containing members' submissions, (see guidelines at www.calwriters.org) and is implementing a new software system to log membership. We pay a part of your dues to Central so all concerned want to make sure the counts are accurate!

Also there's a more local Northern California volunteer group, Norcal Writers Association, (www.cwcnorcalwriters.org), which maintains a website and among other issues looks at increasing membership, sharing speaker information, and established Publishing Pathways, (see more at www.cwcnorcalwriters.org/pubpathways) .

So that's us organizationally. If you have suggestions for the statewide board or Norcal Association, contact Judith at www.judithmarshall.net.

October 13, 2012 Meeting Details

Check-in begins at 11:15 a.m. – Lunch will begin at 11:45. Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on **Wednesday, October 10th**. **Cost: \$20 for CWC members; \$25 for guests.**

To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at jeaniegpop@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-5677. Expect confirmation only when you e-mail your reservation.

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 a \$20 or \$25 "no-show" payment according to your membership.

Finding Jack Contest →

Win a free lunch at CWC! Find all four images of Jack London and email David George with the location (Page #) of your findings at davegeorge7@comcast.net. In the interest of fairness, we will have a drawing of all members who respond. Board members are not eligible.

JACK'S BACK !



Meet One of Our Mount Diablo Branch Members

Member Profile: *Cathy Turney*



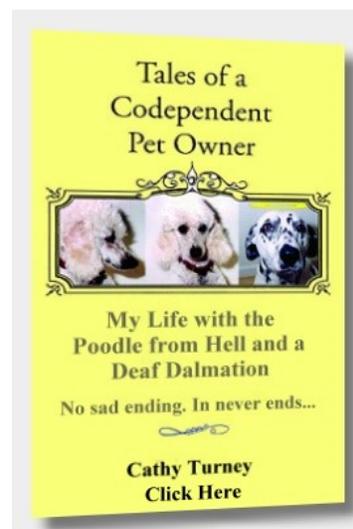
Cathy Turney has been a lifelong resident of the San Francisco Bay Area. She was in the first graduating class of the University of California at Santa Cruz where she majored in psychology because she thought she wanted to be a social worker. Her husband (referred to in her humorous stories as MyHusbandTheEngineer) says she *is* a social worker — that’s what being a real estate broker is all about!

Cathy found that her favorite part of writing her real estate newsletter was reporting on the antics of her dogs. They became notorious; “What have Bubbles and Spot done lately?” was a frequent question as she met people in her neighborhood. Readers wanted more, so she self-published “Tales of a Codependent Pet Owner — My Life with the Poodle from Hell and a Deaf Dalmatian” through CreateSpace in November, 2011.

She has won several humor awards and her stories have been published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Bay Woof Magazine*. Recently Cathy was invited to write a humor column for *The Martinez News-Gazette* and the *Digital Concordian*. In her column, entitled “A Little Bit Off,” she captures the humor in coping with technology and social media, her left/brain right/brain marriage and codependency on dogs.

Cathy encourages anyone with a story to tell to jot down notes, organize them, start writing and publish! With the amazing technology available today, she says, any writer can share his/her stories with the world.

Cathy Turney’s blog is www.AlittleBitOff.Net



Take note of Cathy’s last line (above):

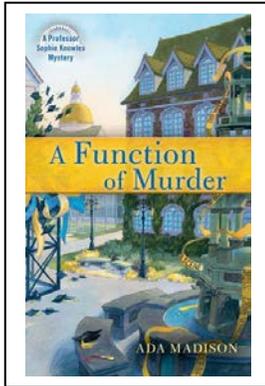
“...any writer can share his/her stories with the world.”

It is truly inspiring to read the ***Last Lines*** submitted by our incredibly creative members. Thank you for sharing with us. It makes us all aware of you as an author, and curious to read your whole story!

Last Lines submissions can be found on Page 8.



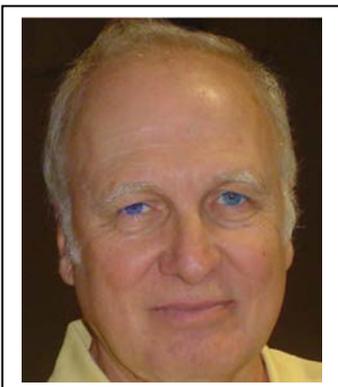
Member Events, News and Salutes



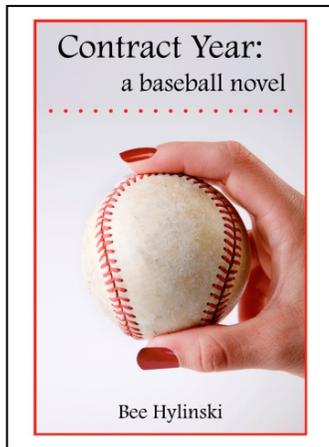
A Function of Murder, 3rd in the Professor Sophie Knowles series by **Camille Minichino**, writing as Ada Madison, will be out on December 31. Camille (as Margaret Grace) has also signed a contract for a 7th in the Miniature Mysteries, *Madness in Miniature*. Her events schedule is at www.minichino.com.



Barbara Bentley's book, *A Dance with the Devil: A True Story of Marriage to a Psychopath*, continues to attract interest almost four years after the original publishing date, due to the continuing efforts of her literary agent. Because Barbara retained many rights in her contract with the original publisher, the agent is free to seek publishing opportunities in foreign languages, primarily outside the United States. The book attracted the interest of a Polish publisher, who purchased publishing rights in 2010 with an advance check. This summer, the literary agent completed a deal with an advance for 3,500 copies of a special edition of *Reader's Digest*, also in Poland. Checks for Polish publications come through the literary agent, and of interest is the fact that Barbara pays a 20% Polish tax, a 10% foreign literary agent fee, and a 10% U.S. literary agent fee from the advance and all future sale proceeds.



Ever wonder why Edwin Arlington Robinson's rich, cultured, man-who-had-everything went home one night "and put a bullet through his head"? In his YouTube "Richard Cory His Untold Story" **David Alpaugh** collaborates with Berkeley poet Lynne Knight to end speculation, not with a whimper, but a bang! Alpaugh's YouTube (which has received over 4,000 views to date) counterpoints Robinson's original poem with David's response poem (originally published by Able Muse). You can view "Richard Cory His Untold Story" by typing in "alpaughsongs" in YouTube's search box or go directly to it via this link: <http://youtu.be/NPjFuAX3Ohk>



Bee Hylinski's book, *Contract Year: a baseball novel*, is now available for download on her website:

www.contractyearnovel.com.

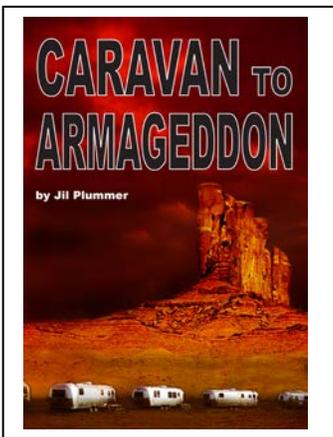
The story is about Larry Gordon, a successful Major League pitcher who has it all until his world is tilted off its axis. Follow Larry's journey to regain his success on the mound and find love during the pivotal year of his baseball career. Visit

www.contractyearnovel.com to learn more and purchase a signed 1st edition.



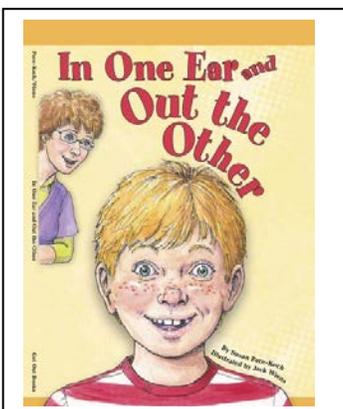
Lynn Goodwin has published a short story called "Center Stage," which is up at *Friction Magazine and Journal*.

Ms. Bowen, a math teacher who is ready to retire, breaks her classroom rules to give Nicole, the star of the school musical, a second chance to turn in her homework, which she left at rehearsal. The characters are from a YA novel which has been in draft form for years, but Ms. Bowen was only mentioned in passing in the manuscript. "I need to take my own advice and submit more often," Lynn said.



Jil Plummer's *Caravan to Armageddon*, while being a mystery, is really about the bonding of a diverse group of people who, except for an assassin, reveal the best of themselves while facing almost certain death.

Jil took this same journey for National Geographic with her photo journalist husband, although that was with foreign diplomats and no saboteur! Her characters are drawn from years of teaching English as a Second Language to foreign adults, living and traveling abroad, and imagination.



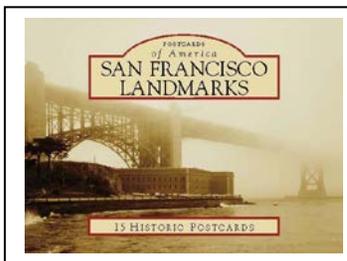
Susan Pace-Koch has a new title: *In One Ear and Out the Other*, illustrated by Jack Wiens, book design by Menagerie Design and Publishing, available through Amazon, as and E-book through multiple distributors

Parents say "THIS, Kids hear "THAT".

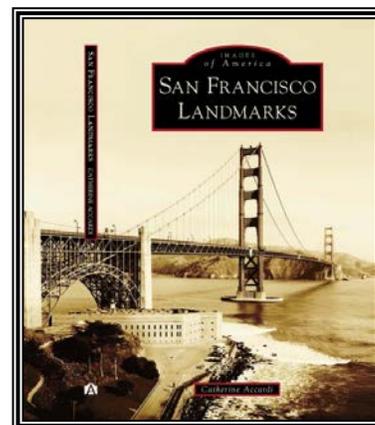
It is Chore time versus Play time!

Clever, colorful and creative illustrations by Jack Wiens

Parents says "Make your bed", "Comb your hair", "Water the garden" and what the kids hear, with a different set of ears.

A special salute:

Catherine Accardi's latest book, *San Francisco Landmarks*, will be released on November 11, 2012. This will be Catherine's third book in the Arcadia Publishing *Images of America* series. The volume will highlight designated landmarks in the City by the Bay, with over 200 historic, vintage photographs. The companion book will be *Postcards of America-San Francisco Landmarks*.



Judith Ingram has signed a contract with Vinspire Publishing for her paranormal romance, *Bridge to the Past*. It is the first book in the *Moonseed* trilogy, which tracks the parallel stories of Victoria and Katherine over the course of the same year but separated by a wall of time, each woman seeking new life, love, and a place to call home.

Haunted by dreams she can't remember, trapped in a loveless marriage, Victoria Reeves-Ashton longs for escape. Her careless wish on a mysterious coin sparks a series of events that ultimately transport her over a century back in time, into the life of the coin's previous owner. Victoria awakens in the body of Katherine Kamarov, a friendless woman accused of murdering her husband.

Editor's Note:

Share your good news, upcoming event or new book. We would like to celebrate with you!

Submissions are published in the order they are received. The newsletter deadline each month is the 3rd Wednesday of the previous month. The November deadline will be October 17th.

Please send a short paragraph and .jpg photo of you or your book cover to Lyn Roberts at editingonline@astound.net.

**THE WRITERS TABLE**

The Writers Table facilitator for October will be Lynn Goodwin. The topic will be:

WHAT A CONTEST JUDGE LOOKS FOR

Lynn writes the CWC Newsletter column *Writer's Markets* and is an expert on writing contests and the submission process. Lynn's column begins on Page 10.

The Craft of Writing

By

Grace Harstad

I believe that the ability to write well, or to write at all, hinges on our body's biochemistry. No, I'm not referring to mind-altering drugs. What I'm thinking about is the human body's rhythmic ebb and flow of hormones, neurotransmitters, metabolic regulators, and all the other circulating chemicals that contribute to our personality, our physical and creative energy levels, our sleep cycle, our mood.

This realization hit home for me in 2006 when a medical condition necessitated my taking prednisone, a corticosteroid, for a year and a half. While I had the desire to write at that time, I found that I couldn't put down a single word. I had lost all ability to concentrate. My attention span for reading limited me to no more than a brief newspaper article. I was wired. After getting off the medication it took several months before my body returned to its usual rhythm and I could focus enough to write again.

Professional writers generally write at the same time every day, usually first thing in the morning. They'll give reasons like, "it's the quietest time of the day," or "the children are in school," or "that's when my mind is the clearest." However, I think the real reason is that they are responding, unconsciously, to their body's biochemistry - specifically their cortisol level.

We are diurnal creatures. We sleep when it's dark and forage when the sun shines. Multiple biochemical interactions reinforce this pattern. One in particular, cortisol, is a steroid released from the adrenal glands in response to a hormone from the pituitary gland in the brain. Normally, cortisol levels rise and fall during the day, repeating on a 24-hour cycle. The highest levels are at about 6 - 8 a.m. and the lowest are at about midnight. Too much cortisol and you can feel hyper, like I did on prednisone. Too little can make you lethargic. When it's just right, you can be the most creative. My writing suggestion: Tune in on your body's messages and sync your writing time to your body clock.

Editor's Note:

What bits of wisdom have you learned about the Craft of Writing?
Please send your ideas and share with fellow members. Try to keep it to one page. Send to newsletter editor, Lyn Roberts at editingonline@astound.net.

Editor's Note:

For your amazement and amusement, we present our members' Last Lines. For the sake of fairness, they are listed in the order in which they were received.

Last Lines

"At least she landed on her ghostly little feet."

The Tenth Life of a Time-Share Cat

Author: Lani Longshore

"She raises her glass and turns her blue dazzle on me. "And to you, Larry. You've grown so much as a person this year, and I'm so proud of you. I can't wait to be your wife."

Contract Year, A Baseball Novel

Author: Bee Hylinski

"In April 1776, The Articles of Association sent by the Continental Congress was unanimously signed by all of the adult male citizens of Boscawen, including all seven Flanders men except one, Aaron Flanders, who refused to sign. It was said that Aaron was not in opposition, but that he was a person who found pleasure in being on the side opposite the majority, no matter what the question."

We Lived American History

Alpha Beers Quincy

Someone draped a cape over his shoulders. "Master," Guan-jiah said, "what have I told you about keeping warm? Even in spring, the sea air can be cool."

The Concubine Saga (a historical fiction novel)

Author: Lloyd Lofthouse

"The ships bell rang two dings, a pause, followed by two more. Riley's voice announced over *Bartley's* 1-MC public address system. "Deadeye departing. Godspeed, shipmate."

In Dangerous Waters

Author: Jack Russ

"I didn't leave the cloister to remain a virgin."

Magdalena's Conflict

Frances Bries Wojnar

"Nowadays, Julius' Castle sits empty, seemingly abandoned and unloved. Just one more time, I want to walk around 302 Greenwich Street and imagine two frisky collies running about, and the delicious aroma of Italian sauce mixing in nicely with cool bay breezes."

A Castle on Our Hill, published in *The Semaphore* by the Telegraph Hill Dwellers

Author: Catherine Accardi

She opened the door. "They won't like it at all."

The Time Travel Journals: Bridgebuilders

Author: Marlene Dotterer



"We can choose to take what life gives us, being tossed like a leaf in the whitewater of time. Or we can seize control, choose our path and make things happen. What will you choose? Take one step today."

Career Savvy - Keeping & Transforming Your Job

Author - Denise P. Kalm

"He'd have to pry my fingers off and pull me from the van, just like my ex had."

Broken, Short story in our very own anthology, *West Winds Centennial*.

Author: Jill Hedgecock

"Read and explore. Let one book lead you to another as you carve your own writing path."

You Want Me to Do WHAT? Journaling for Caregivers

Author: B. Lynn Goodwin

"I've taken Tesse's advice, waking up each morning to marvel at Philippe's warm presence, the miracle of his love for me and our son. I listen for sleep sounds in Thomas's room close by. I think of Tesse and Tom and this fragile life of ours that can change in an instant. I celebrate the gift of this moment."

The Saint of Florenville: A Love Story

Author : Alfred J. Garrotto

"I took a deep breath, grinned, and turned to go home. I knew I could face the future, no matter what came my way."

A Dance with the Devil: A True Story of Marriage to a Psychopath,

Author: Barbara Bentley

"But for me it could mean simply trusting life's currents to carry me where I'm meant to be—finally and at last released."

Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever

Author: Judith Marshall

"Pigs agree with smiles so bright
Happy friends squeal their delight!"

A Pie for a Pig (Children's picture book)

Author: Susan Pace-Koch

"It is only when we let go of uncritical attachment to precepts that might have served women well in the past that new visions will emerge to shape our futures."

Rethinking Feminist Ideologies and Actions. Thoughts on the Past and Future of Health Reform.

Revisioning Women's Health and Healing. Feminist, Cultural and Technoscience Perspectives.

Author: Sheryl Burt Ruzek

"As they boarded the ferry, Mike asked, "Do we leave the 21st Century behind when we arrive at Theopolus?" This brought a smile to Fred's face, "You'll see."

Noah II, the End of the Rainbow (on Kindle)

Author: Andrew Kinane

"He untied the reins, mounted and turned the horse back the way he came, toward the morning sun.
'Adelante, Remolino. A casa.' Home."

Santa Fé mi casa

Author: Harlan Hague

“The wet cherry trees sparkled, and the water on the courtyard pavement caught the reflections of the shrine and the trees. Around the four, a brilliant orb of light shone, and they looked up together at the clearing sky.”

Sakura

Author: Harlan Hague

"She felt herself flying up to look down on them and what they needed. She had only to figure out her plan, a plan that would satisfy them all, and then put her head down and make it work. And she still had her buildings."

Molly's Leap a novel

Author: Mary Lou Peters Schram

Writer's Markets Column

Submissions, Submissions Compiled by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



I decided to try an experiment this month. I copied opportunities as they come through e-mail. I was amazed by how few came through. Mostly a writer needs to seek out opportunities.

As I was cutting and pasting into this document, I also realized that those who run contests use a variety of formats as they describe what they want. So **READ CAREFULLY**. When you don't follow directions, some judges discard your work without even looking at it. Others make a judgment about the author before they start to read.

Do you write stories? Vignettes? Snippets of life? Consider submitting to the top 50 literary magazines. Here's the URL to a list I found and saved:

<http://www.everywritersresource.com/topliterarymagazines.html>

Blue Fifth Review (on Facebook) is accepting short fiction & poetry, creative nonfiction, interviews, social justice concerns, spiritual insights for Ginosko Literary Journal.

Editorial lead time 1-2 months; accept simultaneous submissions & reprints; length flexible, accept excerpts. Receives postal submissions & email—prefer email submissions as attachments in .wps, .doc, .docx, or .rtf. Authors retain copyrights. Read year-round.

Publishing as semiannual ezine. Check downloadable issues on website for tone & style, <http://GinoskoLiteraryJournal.com/>. Downloads free, accept donations. Ads: \$45 1/8 page.

From writer and editor Carol Smallwood: "An actual paying market--just got \$20 in the mail today!" http://crossedoutmagazine.org/2_index.html"

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - Christian authors are invited to submit "original" poems, short stories & creative essays that explain the meaning of Christmas - <http://freechristmase-book.blogspot.com>. NOTE: There is a \$25 submission fee for this.

Deadline: 10/15/2012

Submit to: Camas. [Email Address](#)

Theme: Work.

Type: Poetry (5 poems MAX), fiction, and creative nonfiction (3,000 words MAX)

URL: [Camas](#)

Deadline: 10/15/2012

Submit to: New Madrid. [Online Form](#)

Theme: Winning and losing

Type: Poetry (6 poems MAX) and prose (20 pages MAX)

URL: [New Madrid](#)

Deadline: 10/15/2012

Submit to: The Places We've Been. [Email Address](#)

Theme: All writers and travelers under 35

Type: Creative nonfiction (5,000 words MAX)

URL: [The Places We've Been](#)

Deadline: 10/31/2012

Submit to: Lunch Ticket. [Online Form](#)

Theme: Social justice

Type: Poetry (3 - 5 poems MAX), short stories, and essays (5,000 words MAX)

URL: [Lunch Ticket](#)

Deadline: 10/31/2012

Submit to: Tin House. PO Box 10500, Portland, OR 97210. Or send online. [Online Form](#)

Theme: This Means War. Mention theme in your cover letter.

Type: Poetry (5 poems MAX), short stories, and essays (10,000 words MAX)

URL: [Tin House](#)



These last five came from Writer's Relief, <http://client.writersrelief.com/writers-classifieds/anthology-calls-for-submissions.aspx> They let you look at contests whether you're a member of Writer's Relief or not.

Finally, check out the Scintillating Starts Contest on Writer Advice, www.writeradvice.com. I see it as a win-win for writers and hope you will too. If you have questions or comments, please e-mail me at Lgood67334@comcast.net.

2013 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 Mt. Diablo Board of Directors wish to thank the following donors to the Young Writers Contest from July 1, 2012, to the present:

<p>Foundation Donors <i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p>The John Steinbeck Society</p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club</p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club <i>Kathy Urban</i> <i>In memory of Nancy O'Connell</i></p> <p><i>Betty Iverson – in honor of all the young writers</i></p> <p>The Helen Hunt Jackson Group</p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club</p> <p><i>Sara Wilson – in honor of Elizabeth Pentacoff for her continued support of Young Writers</i></p> <p><i>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff – in memory of Al and Elmer Koehler</i></p>

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 an awards luncheon, 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 Gertrude Atherton Guild - \$10-\$24 ~ The Helen Hunt Jackson Group - \$25-\$49

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 9450

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 to all our members who generously donated to the 2012 Young Writers Contest. It was the best ever! Please consider joining one of our Donor Clubs again this year to support the next generation of California writers who look forward to entering the 2013 contest. They are depending on you!



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 Branch Meeting
is on Oct 13, 2012 at 11:00 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.