

The Write News



A Monthly Newsletter

September 2013

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

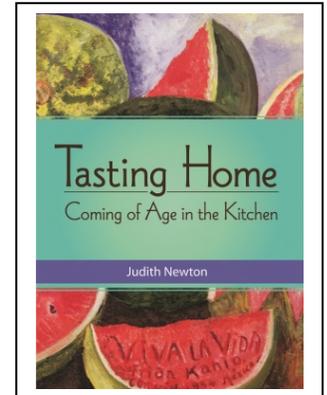
Saturday, September 14, 2013, 11:30 pm to 2:00pm

BRANCH MEETING & LUNCHEON "Publishing both Short and Full-length Works"



Judith Newton will speak about her experiences:

- transitioning from academic writing to memoir
- publishing short pieces for a general audience
- publishing long works with a hybrid press
- blogging and guest blogging
- using social media
- working with publicists
- what she would do differently



Judith Newton, Professor Emerita at U.C. Davis, is the author and co-editor of five works of non-fiction on nineteenth century British women writers, women's history, and men's movements. Excerpts from her memoir, *Tasting Home: Coming of Age in the Kitchen*, won contests, and in 2013, the book won a bronze Independent Publisher's Award and is a Finalist for a Reader's Favorite Award this fall. Her current short works have appeared in the Redwood Coast Review, the Huffington Post, *POETALK* poetry magazine, and at <http://ipinionsyndicate.com>. She is currently at work on a feminist mystery. Follow Judith at <http://tasting-home.com>.

Sign-in is 11:30 am–12 pm, luncheon 12–12:45, and program 1:00 – 2:00, at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA. Registration is \$20, or \$25 for non-CWC members; contact Robin Gigoux at ragig@aol.com, or phone 925-933-9670.

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



Welcome back! I hope your summer was relaxing and presented new ideas for your writing. Following are some branch changes/accomplishments/honors during this past year and two searches still on:

CHANGES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We now take credit cards for meeting payment and membership renewal
- Danard built us a sign to reserve a parking spot near the back door for speakers so they don't have to carry books or equipment a long distance
- Cost of lunch held down – thanks Danard!

CHANGES IN ROLES

- Jill Hedgecock and Christa Fairfield: co-chairs for the Young Writers Contest
- Sean Hazlett: voted in as VP mid-year
- Robin Gigoux: now takes meeting reservations
- Harlan Hague: currently assistant treasurer to replace David at a future date
- Marlene Dotterer: assistant membership chair to become full time Oct 1
- David George: elected statewide CWC President

Our thanks for stepping up to contribute to our Mt. Diablo Branch.

HONORS

- Zio Fraedo's Liz who organizes set up and takes care of details for board and general meetings.
- Aline Soules for our great website
- Jean Papadopoulos for taking reservations for several years
- Judith Marshall our Jack London awardee
- Barbara Bentley our Distinguished Service awardee

Congratulations to each of you!

STILL NEEDED

- speaker/workshop chair to transition in as Don would like to fill the new role of PR person introducing CWC to other local organizations, colleges, etc.
- newsletter editor to transition in

In this Issue:

<i>Member Profile – Dave Case</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>News and Salutes</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>New Column – Websites for Writers</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Query Letters First Line</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Membership Renewal</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>Finding Traditional Publishers</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
<i>Writer's Markets</i>	



David George, our Mt Diablo Treasurer, has been elected State President of California Writers Club. At left is David accepting the CWC president's gavel from past president, Bob Garfinkle.

Congratulations David!

Upcoming - October Speaker

Ron Shoop – Random House Books
How books get published, distributed and promoted

Editor's Note: You don't want to miss this one!

September Writers Table

Our guru this month will be Rick Reed who will host a table entitled:
"It's About Crime"



A quote on marketing submitted by Lee Paulson:

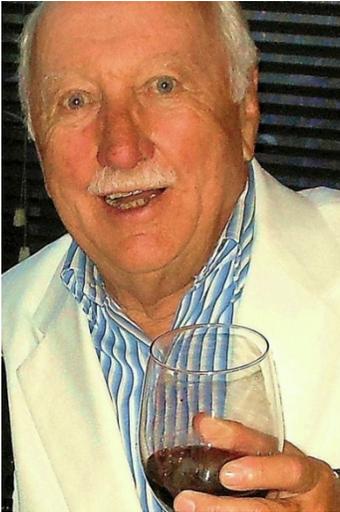
"Someday I hope to write a book where the royalties will pay for the books I give away."

Clarence Darrow

"Meet One of Our Mount Diablo Branch Members"

Member Profile: *Dave Case*

By Catherine Accardi, Membership Chair



In his own words ~

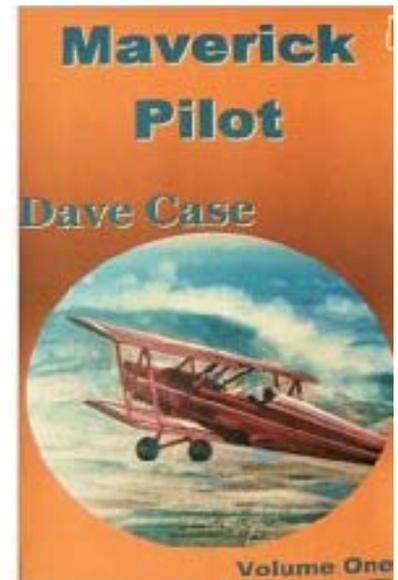
I learned to sail on Alamitos Bay at ten years old. It wasn't until I reached age sixteen that I soloed in an airplane. My family was rich in culture, poor in money; no matter, Mother said I could do anything - be anything - I wanted. That gave a lot of confidence to a skinny, sickly kid with asthma.

As a result I flew for forty-four years - everything from biplanes to the huge DC-10 that carried 350 passengers. I participated as a pilot in revolutions in the Congo, wars in Laos, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. Good times - bad times - it has all been the stuff of dreams - sometimes scared out of my wits - other times having more fun than the law allowed - seldom bored.

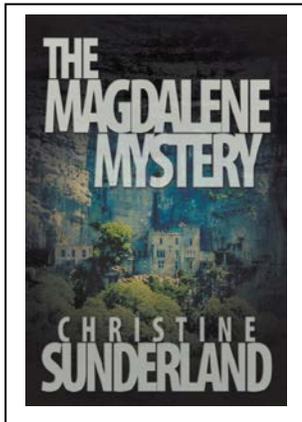
Then there was the sailing; little boats, big boats, around the bay, across the ocean with the same sense of excitement and adventure that I experienced with flying. Amazingly my China-born wife was at my side as we crossed to Tahiti in Quark, the 29' boat I built. Something worked; we've been married forty-six years this June.

In 1995, the FAA dictated a pilot must retire at age sixty. Since I qualified for a marine captain's license, I changed hats and began a whole new career delivering yachts up and down the Coast between Canada and Mexico. This continued for ten years until the writing bug insisted I put down some of my experiences for others to share.

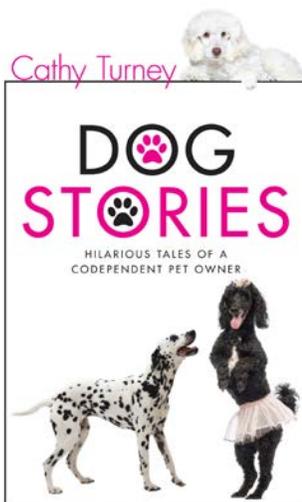
And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how I've come to write *Sailin' South*, *Maverick Pilot*, Volumes I, II, & III, and my first fiction novel, *Keeper of the Secrets* - an MIA Laos yarn.



Member Events, News and Salutes



In **Christine Sunderland's** novel, *The Magdalene Mystery*, A young woman searches for clues in Rome and Provence to receive her legacy, but a deadly stalker is on her trail. She embarks on the journey of a lifetime, finding clues in Roman basilicas, the Apostles' Creed, and her godfather's letters. Will she find the key that will unlock the Magdalene mystery and the power of historical truth?



Cathy Turney, author of *Dog Stories*, *Hilarious Tales of a Codependent Pet Owner*, and Howard VanEs, author of *Kitty Cat Love! Why We Love Cats So Much*, and *Doggie Love! Why We Love Dogs So Much*, will be holding two book-signing events in September, both at Pet Food Express: Saturday, September 21, 1-3 PM, at the 785 Oak Grove Road, Concord shop; Saturday, September 28, 1-3 PM, at the 3610 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette shop.

Have You Been *Profiled* Yet?

Would you like to be? It's easy and painless!

The Mount Diablo Branch has a long tradition of publishing member profiles in our monthly newsletter, *The Write News*. You may also have seen one in a past issue. They are brief, usually around 400 words, biographies of members which might include one's education and writing experiences. It is a great way of acknowledging and getting to know each other better.

If you are interested in submitting your profile please contact me, Catherine Accardi, at caacat@comcast.net, or by phoning (925) 934-9015. I would be happy to send you sample questions that can be used to create your individual profile.

Editor's Note:

As a benefit to our members, we are beginning a 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!

Websites for Writers and Readers



Bookin' with Sunny was created by Sunny Solomon who is highly respected in the world of books. Sunny is a published author, a long-standing reviewer of books, leads a successful book group at the Clayton Library and was a book store manager for many years. She understands the relationship between good reading and good writing and loves 'talking books' with her fellow readers.

Sunny in her own words:

"As a bookseller at both Bonanza and Clayton Books, my greatest pleasure was to share with customers a book that I had just read and believed they would love as much as I did. That's hand-selling in book-biz speak. That is what I'd like all my reviewers to aim for. I now have four or five somewhat regular reviewers, with occasional guest reviewers.

We do not do any sort of 'thumbs up/down' or starred reviews. All of our reviewers are educated readers, some with a strong published background. We review for a general readership, believing the general reader is a darned sight smarter than most people give them credit for.

First and foremost, the writing must be good. "Secondarily, it must be a book that we think is worth the reader's time and/or money. WHAT KINDS OF BOOKS? We'll review almost anything. We've not yet done formal cookbooks and have successfully kept our distance from self-help. We all have different reading tastes and I, for one, love being influenced into reading a new title because of one of our reviews. Most of our reviews are from books we request from publishers with no promise of review. Some are books we've picked up along the way."

Self-Published Reviews: "My problem with the self-published authors is that they seldom have distributors who work with brick and mortars and I hope to support bookstores, on the ground, for as long as I can. So I cannot accept unsolicited books, and letters of inquiry without a recognized distributor (Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Small Press Distribution, and many others) who can put a hard copy on a brick & mortar shelf. We are definitely not interested in books published as e-books only."

About the publishing business:

"Here are some facts to think about (at least ones I think about): the good writing that is out there, those wonderful books that may someday be called classics or at least good literature, are those books that the traditional publishers put into print *only* because they had bestsellers and genre-driven books that brought in the \$\$\$\$ to carry the costs of publishing the others, which they recognized as better than just good, but knew they would never be bestsellers. If bottom line becomes the sole criteria for publication, who will publish the literature reflecting our cultures? Well, maybe if that happens, what we will get is just that...a body of writing that reflects a bottom-line culture."

Enjoy Sunny's book reviews at www.bookinwithsunny.com

First Line of a Query Letter

“What would you do if you were told you had an 87% chance of getting cancer?

- a. fear it
- b. ignore it
- c. beat the odds!”

Four Quadrant Living: Making Healthy Living Your New Way of Life

Dina Colman

“I’m a retired homicide detective and the published author of the acclaimed true crime book, *Blood Trail* the account of my investigation and capture of serial killer Joseph Weldon Brown.”

Rick Reed

“It wasn't a dark and stormy night, but *In Broad Daylight* that Susan's life inexorably began its disintegration.”

Patricia Evans

“He was just a driver-mechanic for a development project in Cameroon, but Eric proved to be a man of high integrity, tremendous energy and an intuitive business sense, which he parlayed into becoming the perfect immigrant.”

The Perfect Immigrant

Ken Kerkhoff

“*Talent* is the story of 15 year old Sandee Mason who wants to find her talent, get her license, and stop living in the shadow of her big brother, Bri, who has been MIA in Afghanistan for seven months.”

Lynn Goodwin

“Joanie breathed time; she made no excuses for this peculiar physical trait and in fact had never quite categorized the process as biological or metaphysical.”

“ I tried to stop, but my feet could not catch up to my body and I raced headlong down into the depths of Truth.”

John Marvin

This query line was written by me for a CWC contest where we were to impersonate how Jack London might have written a query letter in present day:

“Although I cannot help but feel that the chances run somewhat against me, I am writing to ask you to reconsider your rejection of my short story, “To Build a Fire,” for your esteemed magazine, *Alaskan SkyCrest*.”

Jill Hedgecock

And what NOT to write – from Barbara Bentley

“My amazing book propels the reader through time in a way never done before and if you pass on my proposal, you will regret it, as I've been told that it will become a New York Times best seller.”

(LOL...this is NOT what one wants to write!)

Editor’s Note: Thanks to our members for their contributions and ideas of how to begin a Query Letter.

CWC Membership News

By Catherine Accardi
Branch Membership Chair



Many of you have already renewed your membership in the Mount Diablo Branch. Congratulations! For those of you who have not done so, please complete the membership renewal form on the next page and mail it, along with your dues payment, to the address indicated.

Note that non-renewed members will be removed from the CWC membership roster on October 1. If you decide to rejoin after that date, you will need to pay the full year membership dues of \$65.

Benefits of Membership

Our club invites authors, publishers, editors, and agents to speak at our monthly meetings. They discuss writing, querying, publishing and marketing your work. Additional benefits include:

- Networking opportunities with other members that will provide additional exposure and further develop your writing career
- Discounted price on monthly meeting luncheons and seminars
- Information on writing contests (including those sponsored by other organizations)
- Workshops for developing your writing skills
- Your own web information posted on the CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch website
- *The Write News*, the branch's newsletter with writing tips, upcoming events and a column celebrating the latest publishing successes of our members
- Periodic emails, called TidBits, updating you on time-sensitive writing opportunities, conferences, statewide events, etc.
- Opportunity to join The Back Fence, the Mt. Diablo Branch online Yahoo group.

I am resigning as membership chair effective October 1.

Until that date, you can contact me (Catherine Accardi),

regarding membership matters at caacat@comcast.net,

or by phone at (925) 934-9015. After October 1, the branch membership chair will be Marlene Dotterer.



It Is Annual Membership Renewal Time

Please complete this form and include it with your \$45 annual membership renewal payment. We are updating our member database and we want to make sure we have correct information about you. Please PRINT clearly!

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ Email _____
 Membership Category: Active Associate Supporting Youth Affiliate
 Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

Payment Information

You can renew your membership via check or credit card by following the instructions below. Note that payment via credit card requires a \$2 credit card transaction fee making the payment a total of \$47.

Payment by check

Make your \$45 check payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch."

Payment by credit card

Please provide the following information:

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date (month/year) _____
 Name as it appears on the credit card _____
 Billing zip code _____

Donation to the Young Writers Program

Check here if you would like to donate \$5 to the Young Writers Program then add \$5 to your \$45 membership renewal for a total of \$50.

Mail this completed form (with a check or credit card info) to:
 CWC-Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507.

Security Note: Membership information is not made public at any time.

Call for Volunteers

Do you know that the Mount Diablo Branch exists, in large part, because of our dedicated volunteers? Would you 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 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.

One specific task that currently needs attention is the annual membership renewal drive that takes place from April through September. If you want to assist with membership renewals, or any other opportunity to step up, contact me, Catherine Accardi, at caacat@comcast.net, or at (925) 934-9015.

Writer's Markets Column

Where Should I Submit My Work?

by **B. Lynn Goodwin**



Looking for a traditional publishing company that accepts unsolicited manuscripts? This article about 18 publishers who accept such manuscripts may help: <http://joanyedwards.wordpress.com/2013/04/07/18-publishers-who-accept-unsolicited-manuscripts/>. I think you'll like the title of the page.

I found this while looking for publishing companies that specialize in Children's Books, because I don't think I've covered that genre.

Do you write for children? Here's a page with an extensive list of links to publishing companies that specialize in books for children. Unfortunately all the "Submission Guidelines" links don't work, but look for that information on the website under "Submissions Guidelines" or "About Us." Still can't find it? Let them know by using "Contact Us."

Another children's book publisher I found in my search is Tanglewood Press, <http://www.tanglewoodbooks.com/index.html>. And if you want to get truly traditional and submit your manuscript in hard copy, try Holiday House Publishers. The URL will take you to their FAQs, which include How Do I Submit: [http://www.holidayhouse.com/holiday_house.php - contact](http://www.holidayhouse.com/holiday_house.php-contact). BTW, if this makes sense, you are a computer literate writer.

Many of these publishers are in the UK, but the site is high on the Google list and was updated in July 2013: <http://loutreleaven.wordpress.com/2010/07/21/childrens-publishers-accepting-unsolicited-manuscripts/>.

What are you trying to publish? Let me know, at Lgood67334@comcast.net and I'll tailor some or all of a column to your needs.

If you've written any kind of novel, consider submitting the first 1500 words to Writer Advice's 2nd Scintillating Starts Contest, www.writeradvice.com. Everyone who's published is a winner and you can add that to your credits in your query letter.

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></p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club</p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club</p> <p><i>David George</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 Speaker & Buffet Luncheon
is September 14, 2013 at 11:30 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.