

# The Write News

## California Writers Club – Mount Diablo Branch

A Monthly Publication

September 2008

### September Speaker and Meeting Information

#### The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch

proudly welcomes acclaimed Bay Area author Anita Amirrezvani  
Saturday, September 13, 2008. Learn the secrets of great historical fiction:  
research, writing, publication, and promotion.



Born in Tehran, Iran, writer and editor Anita Amirrezvani grew up in San Francisco. Since the age of 13 she has often visited her native country. She attended Vassar College for two and a half years before transferring to U.C. Berkeley, where she majored in English. Before selling her amazing first novel, The Blood of Flowers, Anita worked for ten years as a dance critic, arts publicist and arts writer at two San Francisco Bay Area newspapers. The Blood of Flowers has received critical and popular acclaim in the United States, and created a stir around the world, generating an auction for publishing rights in twenty-three countries and territories.

"The Blood of Flowers isn't just any novel...Luxuriant language weaves together characters that are genuine and robust, equally flawed and sympathetic, as if they really exist outside the page...  
The Blood of Flowers is simply a stunning debut." — San Francisco Chronicle

In seventeenth-century Iran, a young girl yearns for her wedding day and anticipates the wisdom and maturity that will come with it. But her luck is about to change for the worse, as the unexpected death of her father leaves her and her mother to fend for themselves in a tough and often cruel world. With nowhere to go and no means to support themselves, they have no choice but to plead for the assistance of long-lost family, the stern but caring rug designer Gostaham and his miserly wife, Gordiyeh. The rash and strong-willed young girl begins to learn the art of making rugs — from choosing the vibrant colors and balancing the intricate elements of design to perfecting her knot sizes and the hard bargaining that will ensure her survival. But when she catches the eye of the son of a wealthy horse trader, she is contracted into a short-term marriage known as a *sigheh*, which threatens to ruin her reputation and, thus, her future. - #1 Book Sense Pick, June 2007

Visit Anita Amirrezvani on the web at [www.bloodofflowers.com](http://www.bloodofflowers.com).

Please join us for this informative session to be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant on September 13. You will find meeting details on page two. All are welcome to come, learn, and network with local writers. The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch web address is:

<http://www.mtdiablOWriters.org>.

Photo Credit (above): Mark Estes



## *New Monthly Meeting Location – Zio Fraedo's Wins!*

In July, the Mount Diablo branch board was informed that the Hungry Hunter in Lafayette will be closing its doors for good this fall. So, our first challenge this year was to find a new home for our monthly meetings. After a search, logistics chair Danard Emanuelson recommended Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill as the best choice for a number of good reasons. Al Garrotto, Jack Russ, and David George checked out their facility and food, and negotiated a satisfactory deal. The three were unanimous in their selection of Zio Fraedo's as our new monthly meeting location. It is a classy restaurant recently redesigned for large groups, the food choices are better than the Hungry Hunter, the member price remains the same as prior years (\$20), the staff is friendly, the location is convenient to most members, and there is ample parking in the front and rear. We will have a private meeting room, without competing noises from the kitchen or other diners.

Zio Fraedo's is located at 611 Gregory Lane, near the intersection with Pleasant Hill Road (where Gregory changes to Grayson). Check this website, <http://local.yahoo.com/info-21417784-zio-fraedo-s-italian-contenental-restaurant-pleasant-hill>, for good information about the restaurant.

One change this year is that there will be an extra charge for soft drinks, beer, wine or other beverages that are not included in the regular luncheon meal. Coffee and iced tea are included at no additional charge. However, soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages will be \$2 extra, and beer and wine will be \$6 extra. You will be able to purchase additional drink coupons at the door at check in. We expect a large group of members to join us for our first meeting of the year. The deadline for reservations is only a week away. Reservation and meeting details can be found below.

### **September Meeting Details**

**Date & Time:** Saturday, September 13, 2008, at 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Zio Fraedo's Restaurant at 611 Gregory Lane (near the intersection with Pleasant Hill Road)

**Cost:** \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

**Menu Choices:** New York Steak with potato and vegetable, grilled salmon with rice pilaf, chicken parmesan with pasta, and pasta primavera. Menu items include bread and butter, salad with vinaigrette dressing, iced tea and coffee.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required, and must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, September 10. To make reservations, contact Betty Iverson, with your menu choice, via e-mail at [bjiverson@comcast.net](mailto:bjiverson@comcast.net), or by phone at (925) 376-3631. Expect confirmation only if you e-mail your reservation.

## *Coming Attractions*

### **Upcoming Speakers for 2008-2009**

**October 11:** Darryl Brock, novelist

**November 8:** Workshop with Penny Warner ~ Topic is "Effective Plotting"

**December 13:** CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch members Barbara Bentley, J. Gary Gwilliam, and Katie Vecchio

**January 10:** Laurel Ann Hill and Alice Wilson-Fried  
"The Long & the Short of Writing and Editing a Novel"

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

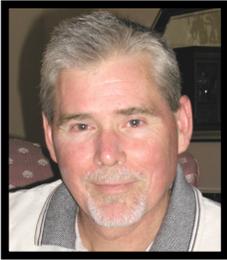
**March 14:** Stephanie Chandler ~ "How Authors Can Build an Online Platform"

**April 11:** Priscilla Royal ~ Medieval History Mystery Writer

**May 9:** Young Writers Banquet (details to follow in a future newsletter)

## President's Message

By David George



The big news this month is our new monthly meeting location. You'll read more details on page two of this newsletter about Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. The new locale is an excellent site for larger groups like ours to meet, and has been recently renovated. I couldn't be more pleased with our new restaurant, and know that you will agree it is an upgrade over our old meeting location. Please join me in thanking Danard Emanuelson and his search subcommittee for acting quickly on the lead initially provided by Liz Pentacoff.

Would you like to attend our September 13 branch board meeting? I will be announcing during our general membership meeting a new initiative this year. We want to encourage more general member participation in our board meetings. We have a large and active board again this year. But we could always use new and creative input into our meetings directly from you. And I know it will be interesting to see your board in action.

All board meetings are open to any member who would like to attend. But this year, we would like to see one or two non-board members attend each one. They are generally held the same morning as our monthly general membership meetings, so no extra car trips would be required. Please call me at (925) 255-3018, or email me at [davegeorge7@comcast.net](mailto:davegeorge7@comcast.net), if you'd like to attend this month. I will give you all the details and welcome you with open arms.

Please forward any other ideas you have for making our branch more fun, interesting, or valuable to your writing interest this year. And don't forget to email or phone in your reservation request soon for our first meeting of the year on September 13th. I expect a large number of members will want to check out our new digs, delicious menu, and excellent speaker.

## Sales and Salutes

**J. Gary Gwilliam's** book, Getting a Winning Verdict in My Personal Life: A Trial Lawyer Finds His Soul, is a Best Books finalist (USA Book News), and is a true adventure of one lawyer's unflinching "truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" about a journey from the bottom of alcoholic despair to sober, soulful leadership in his profession and personal life.

**Beverley Lauderdale** has just sold an article, Mountain Flying and Engine Trouble (co-written with her husband Bob), to *AOPA Flight Training Magazine*. Recently, Beverly also sold Caregiver Drive Time to *Caring Today*, and Southeastern Oregon: Adventures with a Past to Cascades East.

**Lee Paulson's** debut novel, A Plague of Scoundrels, will be released on September 1, 2008, by *Komenar Publishing*. Lee is writing under his pen name of Jon Cory. The story tag is "A floundering San Francisco stand-up comedian goes looking for free rent and ends up in seventeenth century London two weeks before an outbreak of the Black Plague."

**Veronica Rossi** recently took first place in the 2008 Pacific Northwest Writers Association Contest, in the fantasy/science fiction category, for Willem Hawk, Knights of the Old Code.

### *You Say You've Been Published!*

If you have had any books published this year, or have one coming out in the fall, we'd like to post your new book information on the branch website. Please send our website chairperson, Al Garrotto, ([algarrotto@comcast.net](mailto:algarrotto@comcast.net)), the title and cover photo--if it is not yet listed on our Members' Books page (<http://mtdiablowlriters.org/membersbooks.html>). We are happy to promote your new work as a member benefit.

## The Internet Review of Books

Reviewed by B. Lynn Goodwin

Are you a bibliophile? Do you crave intelligent book reviews? Visit The Internet Review of Books, <http://internetreviewofbooks.com/index.html>, which reviews books in the fields of science, social science, history, art, music, and current affairs. Reviewers write with "attitude and passion." No wonder Editor Carter Jefferson bills the site as "An Intelligent Guide for Intelligent People."

The August issue offers "another eclectic mix of stimulating reviews." This month the e-zine shares reviews of *Maria Mitchell and the Sexing of Science*, *The Monster of Florence*, *Simplexity*, *Distracted*, *The Power Makers*, *How to Do Biography*, *Walking to Extremes*, *Ain't My America*, and more.

The reviews are consistently well written, balanced, and strengthened by the voice of the reviewer. Writers dig for meaning and interpret it within the context of their own lives.

I would love to see the questions on the home page linked to the reviews that answer them, as they were when I first visited the site in May.

Are you a reviewer? IRB accepts unsolicited manuscripts, and if they take yours, you will be in very good company. Details are in "Reviewing Guidelines." Get to it by clicking on "About IRB." They also offer special advertising rates for those who are self-published.

Intrigued? Visit the site. If you want to let me know what you think of it or if you have a site to suggest for review, e-mail me at [Lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:Lgood67334@comcast.net).

## From the Editor's Desk

By Catherine Accardi

Have you been wondering who Melvyl is? Remember I mentioned this item in my summer edition of *From the Editor's Desk*. Melvyl is the online catalog of the University of California Libraries. Copyrighted by the Regents of the University of California, it is an initiative of the California Digital Library. These online catalogue libraries can connect you with a significant portion of printed collections (books, pamphlets, posters, etc.) manuscript collections, and photography collections, (mostly books and journal volumes, but also microfilm, maps, audio discs, manuscripts, archives, and other formats normally collected by research libraries). Staff at the facility receive, process, and create machine-readable records for newly deposited materials, which normally amount to about 200,000 items per year, and provide circulation and document delivery services on more than 100,000 items per year.

At <http://melvyl.cdlib.org>, I used the search option, typed in "California Writers Club", and was presented with several items, including California Writer's Club records, 1911-1963, at the Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF). The NRLF is a cooperative library storage facility, the first of its kind in California. It is owned and operated by the University of California and is located on the grounds of UC Berkeley's Richmond Field Station. The 98,000 square foot main building was completed in 1982; an 84,000 square foot stack annex was completed in 1990; and a 67,000 square foot storage module, as well as a new reading room, were added in 2005. The Facility offers high density, low cost housing for infrequently used library materials belonging to northern California libraries. At this time, depositors to NRLF are libraries on the University's Berkeley, Davis, Merced, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz campuses, and the California State Library campuses. As of June 2005, the Facility held over 4.7 million items. Now, doesn't Melvyl sound like a brilliant reach tool for California Writers?

## Meet Our Member

By Jody Denison

**Member Profile:** *Myrtle Archer*



I often stand in awe of the people that I am privileged to profile, and profiling Myrtle Archer is definitely one of those. Her story begins in the primitive wilderness of northern Idaho. Myrtle is one of ten children whose family lived in a log house and lived off the land and its abundance of deer, grouse, bear and rainbow trout. They were visited yearly by Indians that camped near their property, inspiring a poem written before she started school that was published some sixty years later.

An older brother would read out loud with a pre-school Myrtle looking over his shoulder. That was how she learned to read before she started her formal education in what she describes as an “excellent one room school house.”

Myrtle made her first sale in 1958. She writes short stories, poetry, non-fiction, campaign literature (no party noted). She even wrote a text book for an electrolysis school. Her Civil War novel, *The Young Boys Gone* was published in the United States, Canada and Germany. At one point she studied under Howard Pease, a famous writer and teacher of creative writing. Asked to write something to be engraved on a trophy honoring the great man Myrtle wrote, *A Teacher Opens up the Sky*. His son was so pleased with it that he had the words engraved on his father’s tombstone. Now with a touch of humor Myrtle will title an occasional speech on writing “From the Cradle to the Grave.”

Myrtle’s writer’s curiosity led her to discover an article in an 1857 Sacramento newspaper concerning the sinking of the paddle wheeler steam ship, S.S. Central America. She saw that it was every bit as horrendous as the later Titanic sinking. The article was published in *The California Highway Patrol*, and caught the eye of the Columbus Discovery Group researching old sunken ships. When the group actually found the Central America, Myrtle was elated, but did not feel she had anything to do with it. However, when much to her delight, the leader of the group called her to do some paid research for them she accepted quickly. She is very proud to have been just a tiny part in this adventure and the group kept in close touch with her for many years.

When asked why she wrote, this long time member (1962) and former Treasurer (1972-1974), replied, “To attempt in a puny way to pin down some of the wonder, beauty, tragedy, and poignancy of life and the world. To preserve tidbits from the ravages of time. To express a bit of my soul, and because I must.” Myrtle is now 82 years old and is still selling her creative works. So, I tend to disagree with her use of the word “puny” in her answer as to why she writes. She’s sounds pretty profound to me. Also we thank her for her service to CWC.

## Announcements

The Central Coast Writers present their 2009 Spring Writing Contest. You could win \$500, and publication in the Spring 2009 *Homestead Review*. Contest categories are poetry and short story. Submission period is August 15, 2008 through November 15, 2008 (by postmark). For more details, check the Central Coast Writers website at [www.centralcoastwriters.org](http://www.centralcoastwriters.org).

The Muse Online Writers' Conference is accepting registrations. Learn more about this year's conference, October 13-19, and how you can make certain you have a spot, by visiting [www.themuseonline-writersconference.com](http://www.themuseonline-writersconference.com).

If you enjoy entering writing contests, you might want to check [www.readingwriters.com/contest-cafe.htm](http://www.readingwriters.com/contest-cafe.htm). The Reading Writers Contest Cafe offers information about current contests.

# California Writers Club ~ Mount Diablo Branch

*President: David George*  
*Vice-President: Julie Dowling*  
*Treasurer: Joanne Brown*  
*Secretary: Barbara Bentley*

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Central Board Alternative Rep:  
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    Membership: Jody Denison  
    Newsletter: Catherine Accardi  
    Barnes & Noble Fundraiser:  
        Camille Minichino  
    Programs & Website: Al Garrotto  
    Branch Historian & Door Prizes:  
        Fran Wojnar  
    Young Writers Contest:  
    Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff  
    Publicity: Ann Damaschino  
    Event Logistics:  
        Danard Emanuelson  
    Workshops: Igal Levy

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Ann Damaschino  
Jody Denison  
Danard Emanuelson  
Al Garrotto  
Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff  
Igal Levy  
Jack Russ  
Fran Wojnar

## *Advisory Board Members:*

Nannette Carroll  
Pat Edwards  
Camille Minichino  
Lee Paulson  
Veronica Rossi

The ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributing individuals  
and do not necessarily represent the views of the California Writers Club.

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*Sail On*