

The Write News

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A Monthly Newsletter

June 2012

The California Writers Club-Mount Diablo Branch

Presents:

Maxine Hong Kingston

Saturday, June 9, 2012



" Woman Warrior's Journey from War to Peace "

Internationally acclaimed writer Maxine Hong Kingston will give us insights into her background, her writings, and her thoughts on human relationships. In many ways, she has fought the battle, both personally and in her art, that incorporates the human journey. She will speak to us about:

- Her Personal Journey
- Her Writing and Teaching Journey
- How Her Experience Can Benefit All

In teaching she believes, "Creative writing is a seed; it must not be criticized right away."

She was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction in 1981 and the National Humanities Medal in 1997, among other honors.

She contributed to the feminist movement with *The Woman Warrior: Memoir of a Girlhood among Ghosts*.

Awarded the Northern California Book Award Special Award in Publishing for *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace* (2006), an anthology which she edited. Other famous works include *China Men*, and *Tripmaster Monkey*. Recent books include *To Be The Poet* (her search for poetry and peace) and *The Fifth Book of Peace* and most recent, *I Love A Broad Margin To My Life*.

Come hear this eminent author.

Sign-in begins at 11:00 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Lunch buffet @ 11:45. **Reservation Deadline is Wednesday, June 6.** Our short, general meeting @12:45, followed by Maxine's talk. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Reservations: at jeaniegpopps@comcast.net or leave a message at: (925) 934-5677

President's Message

By Elisabeth Tuck



Our speaker on June 9 is Maxine Hong Kingston who was drawn to writing at a young age and won a five-dollar prize from *Girl Scout Magazine* for an essay she wrote titled "I Am an American." Are we fostering such eminent writers through our Young Writers Contest? Our community outreach in this program is something we can be extremely proud of supporting. In fact, one past winner now in high school, has begun a young writers group that meets at the Lafayette Library. See what happens with outreach!

Liz Koehler-Pentacoff has done a magnificent job over the past many years while writing, publishing and raising her family. She secured grant money which helps enormously with funding for teaching in our public schools and for the contest. Now Liz deserves a break. She is stepping down as chair. She has documented step-by-step the tasks that make the contest and banquet work. New chairs may wish to make some changes as the contest evolves. Most things change over time.

We have one member who has said she will CO-chair. She's a writing contest winner, a mother with a husband, college and high-school daughters, pets, one completed novel with an agent, and a follow-up book on track for completion. So, the adage, "If you want a job done, give it to a busy person" is true. However, we **MUST** have a co-chair. You would not be without help. Liz is not leaving the club and will be available for questions and suggestions as needed. We have many willing hands in this organization and many who regularly volunteer with various aspects of the contest. We just need one more person to say they can handle a co-chair position for the YWC and we can continue to be so proud of what we offer the community. Your writing focus does not need to be for young people. Remember this is a co-chair position which means organization and directing: getting work done through others. Think of your resume!

If you're at all curious, please contact David George davegeorge7@comcast.net to talk about the possibility of helping to keep our excellent community service on track.

June 9th, 2012 Meeting Details

Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. – Lunch will be served at 11:45. Reservations are required and must be received no later than noon on **Wednesday, June 6th**. **Cost: \$20 for CWC members; \$25 for guests.**

To make a reservation, contact Jean Georgakopoulos, via e-mail at jeaniegpops@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.

WINNERS OF THE YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST



The California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch's Young Writers Contest

celebrated their winners, families and teachers with a banquet on May 19 at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. A first prize of \$100, second prize of \$50, and third prize of \$25 was given to winners in short story, poetry, and personal narrative/essay categories.

"This year we had 475 entries from public and private schools throughout Contra Costa County," said Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff, chair of the program.

Begun in 1995 with thirty submissions from the Mount Diablo School District, the program now includes free writing workshops offered at local libraries, taught by children's authors Liz Koehler-Pentacoff and Sarah Wilson. The next workshop will be on July 18, 3-5 p.m. for middle school and high school students at the Clayton Library.

Because of a grant from the Leroe Foundation, the program offers free poetry and short story writing workshops in local middle schools taught by Pleasant Hill poet David Alpaugh and Martinez novelist Beverly Lauderdale. Interested teachers and principals should send an e-mail to lizbooks@aol.com. There is still room for next year's schedule, but availability is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The winners of the 2012 Young Writers Contest, along with their schools and teachers are found on the following pages.

Editor's Note:

On the next three pages you will find an impressive list that reflects the talent, enthusiasm and motivation of young writers from our local middle schools. They represent **all 475 entrants** who submitted their writing. We applaud their achievements, and congratulate the CWC Mt. Diablo Branch for its continued effort on their behalf. Take note of their names, they will be heard from again. Let us continue to encourage them to keep writing. Is our next Jack London in this group?

Lyn Roberts

Betty Tenney Memorial	
6th Personal Narrative/Essays	7th Personal Narrative/Essays
<p>1st Place Sanjeev Ganga Raju Pine Valley: Robin White <i>A Change in My Life</i></p>	<p>1st Place Eli O'Brien Orinda: Cecilia Kilmartin <i>OMPA</i></p>
<p>2nd Place Micalyn Struble Dorris-Eaton: Mary Dickens <i>Warning: New School Ahead</i></p>	<p>2nd Place Olivia Fishlow Orinda: Cecilia Kilmartin <i>Without Her</i></p>
<p>3rd Place Lauren Russell Windemere Ranch: Diana Kaplenko <i>Just One Step</i></p>	<p>3rd Place Callyn Oshita Gale Ranch: Andrea Kopshever <i>Deadly Snack?</i></p>
8th Personal Narrative/Essays	
<p>1st Place Samira Maboudian Orinda: Lori Hardy <i>Podium Fright</i></p>	
<p>2nd Place Conner Roberts Dorris-Eaton: Deeni Schoenfeld <i>Unsung Courage</i></p>	
<p>3rd Place Max Yun Dorris-Eaton: Deeni Schoenfeld <i>An Individual of Inspiration</i></p>	

6 th Grade Short Stories	7 th Grade Short Stories
1 st Place Peony Tang Sequoia Middle: Michael Holmes <i>The Baker's Sons</i>	1 st Place Peyton Annoni North Creek Academy: Jamie Williams <i>Fetters of Hate</i>
2 nd Place Ciara Chow The Athenian School: Meg Freedman <i>Beauty of Death</i>	2 nd Place Molli L. Fagan Queen of All Saints: Katie Perata-Andrews <i>Paranoia</i>
3 rd Place Vivian Pang Gale Ranch: Lauren Smith <i>Runner's Racetrack</i>	3 rd Place Kate Nerone Orinda: Cecilia Kilmartin <i>Beyond the Threshold</i>
8 th Grade Short Stories	
1 st Place Pooja Kini Gale Ranch: Jordan Milat <i>Ji, Dida</i>	
2 nd Place Lauren Furman Stone Valley: Courtney Konopacky <i>The Boy of Smoke and Ashes</i>	
3 rd Place Sophie Cipolla Pine Valley: Sylvia Hegarty <i>A Week in the Life of a Cat</i>	

6 th Grade Poetry	7 th Grade Poetry
<p>1st Place Rachel King Pine Hollow: Lisa Shedd <i>I Am Currently in the Process</i></p>	<p>1st Place Sarah Mardjuki Dorris-Eaton: Melissa Parker <i>Memories Gone</i></p>
<p>2nd Place Genevieve DeWalt Athenian: Meg Freedman <i>I Asked</i></p>	<p>2nd Place Kismat Dhaliwal Dorris-Eaton: Melissa Parker <i>One in a Million</i></p>
<p>3rd Place Akunna Ekeh Dallas Ranch: Kevin Landski <i>Stand Back</i></p>	<p>3rd Place Megan Gladden Kings Valley Christian: Lee Ann Pfozter <i>My Calico</i></p>
8 th Grade Poetry	
<p>1st Place Arielle Wenokur Dorris-Eaton: Brad Breilein <i>The Gopher</i></p>	
<p>2nd Place Max Yun Dorris-Eaton: Deeni Schoenfeld <i>I Love to Hate</i></p>	
<p>3rd Place Carolyn Buxton Bristow Middle: Shawna Borba <i>There Lies You</i></p>	



The Gang's All Here . . .

. . . and we're waiting for you!

California Writers Club Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 21, 2012 • 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. • Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland
 Barbecue • Potluck • Open mic •
 Free admission • Open to all CWC members, family and friends
 Details, directions and ADA accessibility: www.calwriters.org
 RSVP: Linda Brown (Berkeley) 510/530-1261 BrownCalifornia@aol.com

Pictured from left: George Sterling, Mary Austin, Jack London, James Hopper
 Photo by Arnold Genthe, circa 1902-1907. Graphic design by Joyce Krieg, Central Coast

**JOIN! DON'T MISS OUT ! SPEAKERS, WORKSHOPS, COMARADERIE –
AND PICNICS**



Annual Membership Renewal Form

Please complete this form, and include it with your check for \$45. 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 _____

_____ Active _____ Associate _____ Supporting _____ Dual Branch _____ Youth Affiliate

Principal Genre _____ Additional Genre(s) _____

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

Make your \$45 check payable to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch." Mail your check and this form to "CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507.
 If you have questions, contact Catherine Accardi via email at caacat@comcast.net,
 or by phone at (925) 934-9015.

Guess What Time Of Year It Is!

Membership Renewal Time!

By Catherine Accardi

Branch Membership Chair

It is annual membership renewal time. For all members, your membership will expire on June 30, 2012. Dues for the upcoming, 2012/2013 year are \$45.00. Mail your check and the membership renewal form on the previous page to: CWC-Mt. Diablo Branch Membership, P.O. Box 606, Alamo CA, 94507.

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
- Critique group that meets every month prior to the regular meeting
- *The Write News*, the branch's newsletter with writing tips, upcoming events and a column celebrating the latest publishing successes of our members
- Copies of *The Bulletin*, CWC's statewide newsletter
- 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.
- Opportunity to participate in the Publishing Pathways program that may provide assistance towards publication of your writing.

For further information regarding membership contact me, Catherine Accardi, your Membership Chair, via email at caacat@comcast.net, or by phone at (925) 934-9015.

MEMBER BENEFIT

CWC June 9 Writers Tables

Our June meeting will feature:

Bee Hylinski (Getting Published)

Judith Marshall (Publishing Pathways)

Al Garrotto (Writing Spiritual Books and Non Fiction).

After checking in – 'check out' the writers table inside the dining area

Writer's Markets Column

Submit Your Story

By B. Lynn Goodwin



Are you submitting regularly? Or are you doing other things. Whether you're looking for more markets or just trying to submit again, visit **Duotrope**, <https://duotrope.com/>. You don't have to be a member to find a wealth of information.

Visit the "What's New" page to find the latest opportunities and recently closed sites. Click on "Search" to find the best markets for a specific piece. Go to "List All Markets," to explore the wide range of opportunities available.

Here is a smattering of the places on **Duotrope** that are open to your submissions:

ONE MILLION STORIES, <http://www.millionstories.net/>, says, "Be fearless! Send us your story!" They expect submissions from 50 to 5000 words in every genre.

BEDTIME STORIES ANTHOLOGY is just one project of Wicked East Press, <http://www.wickedeastpress.com/>. They are a "small, independent publisher of Fine Fiction Anthologies, Novella collections, and other collections." Three of the anthologies have upcoming deadlines.

If you write really short flash fiction, check out **NAILPOLISH STORIES**, <http://nailpolishstories.wordpress.com/>.

Are you politically oriented? Explore **SEVEN STORIES PRESS**, <http://sevenstories.com/>. Although I did not see anything about submissions on the website, they're listed at Duotrope, so read an issue and contact them if you have something they'd like.

Intrigued by mysteries? Try **5 MINUTE MYSTERY**, <http://www.5minutemystery.com/>. You create the mystery and others read and try to solve it.

I just discovered that **ALFRED HITCHCOCK MYSTERY MAGAZINE**, https://duotrope.com/market_146.aspx, is still thriving. They publish “stories of detection of the classic kind, police procedurals, private eye tales, suspense, courtroom dramas, stories of espionage, and so on.” Is this classic right for you?

If you write for children or have children who like your writing, be sure to check out **HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN**, <http://www.highlights.com/>. When you get published there, your work is preserved in dental offices around the country for years and years. => Click on “About Us” to see “Contributor Guidelines.”

Writing Science Fiction? You should check out **FUTUREDAZE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF YA SCIENCE FICTION**, <http://underwordsblog.com/publications-projects/guidelines-futuredaze/>. “At a time when every other YA book features vampires, werewolves or other fantastical creatures, *Futuredaze* will be an anthology for the next generation of science fiction readers.”

Not sure where to start? Assign a few titles to each member of your critique group and ask them to come back and tell you about the site. You can even e-mail them the URLs to make this fast and friendly.

Send me the results if you want at Lgood67334@comcast.net. Maybe I’ll invite you to review one of the sites for Writer Advice’s “Web Site Review” page.

2012 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, 2011, to the present:

<p>Foundation Donors <i>The Leroe Family Foundation</i></p>	<p>The John Steinbeck Society <i>Barbara Bentley</i> <i>Christine Sunderland</i></p>
<p>The John Muir Member Club <i>Bev Lauderdale</i></p> <p>The Mary Austin Writers Club <i>David George in memory of Joan Brennan</i></p> <p>The Helen Hunt Jackson Group <i>Cheryl Spanos</i> <i>Ed Stanislawski</i></p>	<p>The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club <i>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff in memory of Joan Brennan</i> <i>Lee Paulson</i> <i>Aline Soules</i> <i>Karen Tenney in memory of Betty Tenney</i></p> <p><i>The Vinapa Foundation for Cross-Cultural Studies</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 June, 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.