



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

May 2017

Young Writers Contest Winners & Special Speaker

AWARD CEREMONY & LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Becoming a Writer

featuring

Tim J. Myers



- **Defining the writing life:** How you define it will profoundly influence how you attempt to live it
- **Pros and cons of the writing life:** An honest look at positives and negatives
- **The main paths of a writer's development**
- **PRACTICAL LIFE STRATEGIES**

Tim J. Myers is a writer, songwriter, storyteller, and senior lecturer at Santa Clara University. His children's books have won recognition from *The New York Times*, NPR, and *Smithsonian*; he has 16 out and more on the way. He's published over 130 poems, won a first prize in a poetry contest judged by John Updike, has three books of adult poetry out and a nonfiction book on fatherhood, and he won a major prize in science fiction. He won the West Coast Songwriters Saratoga Chapter Song of the Year and the 2012 SCBWI Magazine Merit Award for Fiction.

Find him at www.TimMyersStorySong.com or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/TimJMyers1>

Sign-in starts at 11am; awards 11:30; luncheon 12:15; speaker 1- 2 pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill \$25 members, \$30 guests. **Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday, May 10, 2017.** To reserve, contact Robin at cwcrobin.gigoux@yahoo.com, leave a message at 925-933-9670, or sign up via PayPal: click "buy now" on the Mt. Diablo website, <http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>. Add \$2 transaction fee.

CWC is an IRS 501-c3 non-profit charitable organization (ID 94-6082827). Donations are fully deductible to the extent of the law.

RESERVATION DISCLOSURE:

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 and do not cancel your reservation prior to noon on Friday before the meeting,* you will be asked to remit the \$25 member fee or \$30 guest fee no-show payment.

President *Marlene Dotterer*



Autobiography is a preemptive strike against biographers.
- *Barbara G. Harris*

What is it about spring? Everywhere I look, something is going on. Trees and flowers are blooming, hummingbirds and bees flit all over the yard, and even the earthworms act like they're in the middle of a major building project.

People are busy, too. We seem to plan so many activities this time of year. I guess the return of warm weather "gets the sap moving" in more than just plants. My own version of spring cleaning involves pulling lots of weeds!

Your CWC board is also keeping busy. We just voted to honor two of our volunteers with special awards – the Distinguished Service Award goes to Judith Ingram for special service to the branch, and the Jack London Award, given to a member from each branch state-wide, for service beyond just the member's branch, was awarded to Elisabeth Tuck. See the announcements further along in the newsletter!

We are also in the middle of our Young Writers Contest – judging just finished, and we are working like ants to get everything ready for company in May, when we pass out the prizes at the award ceremony. This is a great chance to meet kids who like to write, which is something I think we can all relate to. Take the time to chat with them during lunch!

The board has also turned our thoughts toward planning for next year: we scheduled our annual planning meeting for July, and we've elected a new slate of officers, which was easy because we don't have any, except for me continuing as president, and Lucy Hart continuing as treasurer. Maybe by the time you all vote on it in June, we'll have two wonderful volunteers to take on the secretary and vice-president positions.

Speaking of volunteers: we love you! We want to prove it with wine and cookies at a Volunteer Appreciation Party in June. Date and time below then look for the announcement in next month's newsletter. We hope new members come, too. We'd like to get to know you better. Until then, keep writing!



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Member Events, News and Salutes

Elisabeth Tuck Honored with the Jack London Award

"Every other year, each CWC branch may nominate one member to receive a Jack London Award in recognition of outstanding service to the organization."

The award honors a member whose service to the CWC and/or a branch has been exemplary. The merit of the award is in the service, independent of writing accomplishments. It is not mandatory that a branch designate a recipient simply because the opportunity exists. The state CWC president bestows the awards at the annual corporate meeting." <http://calwriters.org/jack-london-awards>



This year, with much enthusiasm, the Mt. Diablo Board nominates **Elisabeth Tuck** as our recipient of the Jack London Award.

Elisabeth always steps in to do whatever needs doing.
She was branch VP for two years and president for five.
She was our program chair for three years and remains on the program committee.
She has substituted as branch secretary and newsletter editor in the past.
She has been our current newsletter editor since 2014.
For ten years, she has helped judge our Young Writers Contest.
Elisabeth reads and edits for the state *Literary Review*, has been a Central Board Rep since 2015 and is the current Central Board secretary. Lately she has begun the Helpful Editor sessions held before Mt. Diablo branch meetings. Her assistance is invaluable to branch and state.

Congratulations, Elisabeth. We are truly grateful for your dedication to our branch!



Joanna H. Kraus, Playwright/Author

I've had several positive reviews on my new book, *Blue Toboggan*.

- "A brave book in the sense that many parents don't want to expose their children to death and how to deal with it in a positive way"

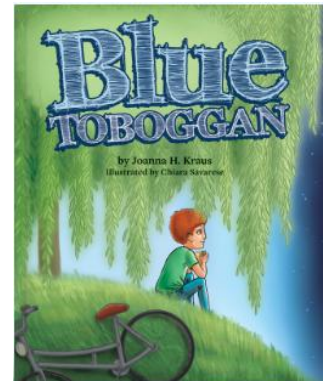
- "Beautifully capturing the multi-layered experience of loss"

- "This is a story of childhood friendship, which is enduring, all-consuming, and irreplaceable."

- "survivor story"

Read the complete reviews on line at Mascot Books and Amazon. Maybe, write your own!

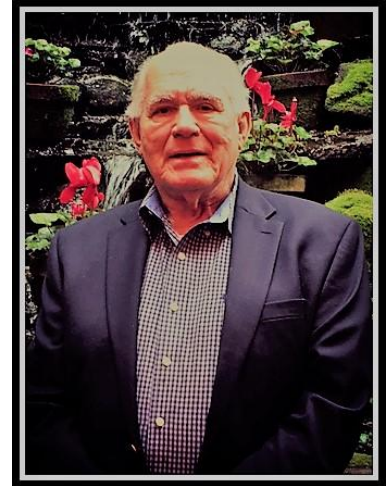
www.joannakraus.com





Member Events, News and Salutes (Cont'd)

David McArthur



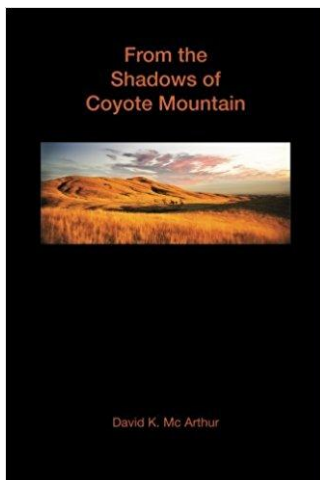
I was born in Oakland, Ca in 1936. An aunt picked me up shortly after birth and I was raised on a 55,000-acre ranch in Idaho, much as a squatter out in the sticks, no utilities, car, or radio. Even the mail and newspaper were six miles away on a dirt road. When I was three my parents came to visit, and dropped off an older brother and sister to fill the tiny one-room house we lived in.

We all knew hardship growing up, and as I started my teens, my siblings had gone away and I was alone with my aunt and uncle, fifteen miles from town on a back road that we travelled when going shopping in an old freight wagon pulled by two horses. Otherwise we walked everywhere.

I ran off at thirteen to seek out a better future and after pretty much raising myself I dropped out of school and joined the Marines. After that, I eventually found myself in the Oakland Fire Department, married and raised three kids. Retired as a captain after 34 wonderful years and moved to the suburbs.

I have always worked: carpenter, concrete pumping, painting, truck driving and most anything to better my fortunes. I also attended some college and graduated from St. Mary's with a degree in Municipal Management. I have run several of my own businesses.

Now that I am retired, I have spent a lot of time with the Model A Ford Club of America as an officer in the local branch. I also have been back to Idaho and was involved for seven years with two ladies who were writing a book about the aunt who raised me.



When they published that book, they gave me about 700 emails we had exchanged and told me to go home and write my own story. At eighty years of age, why not? So, that is what I did. My book is, *From the Shadows of Coyote Mountain to the Base of Mount Diablo*. <http://bit.ly/FromtheShadows> .

It is made up of short stories of my life as I told them around the dinner table at the fire stations. I designed the covers, with help from my daughter, Janette Stuart. I would advise anyone to get out there and tell your story. It is amazing how many favorable responses you will get.

Good Luck



Member Events, News and Salutes (Cont'd)

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST JUDGES by Lyn Roberts

Here's what teamwork looks like.

Two days before the deadline for the students' submissions we had about 86 stories and poems and we were very worried it would be a dismal turnout. By the deadline, two days later, we had over 450 submissions! All our judges worked together and we got it done.

Judges – you were awesome!

We judged 445 submissions from 26 schools. We thank you for your willingness to work together to select winning stories and poems, by considering your teammates' point of view. It was a beautiful thing to watch.

Special thanks go to two people whose efforts were unsung and unnoticed.

Aline Soules not only judged a large portion of the poems with her judge partner, Ann Damaschino, but she also ran the Submittable program, distributed the poems to us and still made deadline. Congratulations, Aline!

Marlene Dotterer ran the Submittable program for all the stories, also judged Personal Narratives and (in case you forgot) all this while running our branch as our current CWC president. And now she is working to prepare for the YWC Awards Banquet.

Our thanks to you, Marlene!

Below are the 2017 Judges for the Young Writers Contest and the category they judged.

We are grateful to you all.

Lyn Roberts

Short Story - 6th Grade

Ellen Aubry
Susan Lawson
Leslie Rupley
Lyn Roberts

Short Story - 7th Grade

John Marvin
Dot Edwards
Jim Wiseman

Short Story - 8th Grade

Jil Plummer
Marjorie Witt

Personal Narrative - 6th Grade

Jill Hedgecock
Cheryl Spanos

Personal Narrative - 7th Grade

Marlene Dotterer
Ken Kerkhoff

Personal Narrative - 8th Grade

Marlene Dotterer
Ken Kerkhoff

Poetry

Aline Soules
Ann Damaschino
Elisabeth Tuck
David George

Humor - All Grades

Susan Berman
Chloe Laube



Volunteer Appreciation Party!

Everything that happens in CWC, happens because a volunteer did it.

We want to say THANK YOU!

Saturday
June 17, 2017
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Christ the King Church
Pleasant Hill

If you've volunteered for the Mt Diablo branch, come celebrate with us. Look for more details in June's newsletter.



Young Writers Contest Grabs Another Golden Ring

Marlene Dotterer
YWC Chair

We've just finished another annual contest for middle school students. YWC continues to grow, drawing a larger crowd of entries each year. This year, we clocked in with 455 submissions! Here's the breakdown by category:

Personal Narrative	85
Humor	11
Short Story	138
Poetry	211


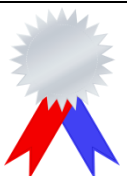
You can see that poetry is a big draw for kids. I think it gives them an expressive outlet for all those intense feelings they have. (I certainly remember that from my own middle school years.) Writing fiction is a somewhat distant second favorite, but for the storytellers, it's an essential method of making sense of the world.

I guess that's true of all writing. It's why we do it, and it's why we read it. I'm so glad these young students feel the same desire to write that we all experience. No matter how crazy the world gets, this proves there is continuity and connection between the generations. There will always be writers!

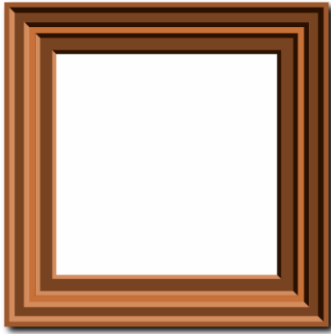
I want to take this chance to say a big Thank You to two special people who stepped in to manage some of the larger aspects of this contest. **Aline Soules** handled the online portion of things, quickly learning the Submittable program and keeping students, entries, and judges organized. **Lyn Roberts** tirelessly recruited and trained judges, made assignments of partnerships and categories, and did a masterful job of communicating with everyone. This year's successful contest is due to them. Thank you, Aline and Lyn!

We are looking forward to meeting our winning students and their teachers at the awards ceremony Saturday, May 13. For a peek at winners and titles, see the list below. Then come to the ceremony and congratulate them in person.

Young Writers Contest Winners (Cont'd from previous page)

Category	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Personal Narrative 6th Grade	Sachi Patel "Pizza to the Poor" Windemere Ranch Middle School Teacher: Jenny Erickson	Pakriti Saxhena "The Strange Sound" Diablo Vista Middle School Teacher: Danielle Montgomery	Natalie Busselen "The Whisper of the Leaves" Charlotte Wood Middle School Teacher: David Wright
Personal Narrative 7th Grade	Eva Shen "So Much to See" Windemere Ranch Middle School Teacher: Nicole Nishihira	Caroline Battersby "Floating on the Waves" Orinda Middle School Teacher: Cecilia Kilmartin	Daniel Litwin "My Off-Trail Adventure" Orinda Middle School Teacher: Cecilia Kilmartin
Personal Narrative 8th Grade	Samantha Melin "Pivotal Moments" Walnut Creek Intermediate School Teacher: Julianna Freed	Meghna Pamula "The Art of Healing" Windemere Ranch Middle School Teacher: Mary Blasquez	Bala Larson "My Journey to Achieve the Black Belt" Valley View Middle School Teacher: Adrienne Lopez
Poetry 6th Grade	Siena Fershtman "Family, Friends, and Tears" Prospect Sierra School Teacher: Kristin Stringfield	Stephanie Jersey and Tarika Kinyon "The Girl" Prospect Sierra School Teacher: Kristin Stringfield	Aislynn Barkley-Griggs "Nightmare" Pine Hollow Middle School Teacher: Leet Medina
Poetry 7th Grade	Amy Erdenebayar "Escape" Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Teacher: James Flowers	Anna Gu "Run Down" Windemere Ranch Middle School Teacher: Jennifer Keenan	Brian Thomas "The Break-up" Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Teacher: James Flowers
Poetry 8th Grade	Devin Soliman "All the World's a Game" Walnut Creek Intermediate School Teacher: Julianna Freed	Franklin Ho "In the Heart of My City" Dorris-Eaton School Teacher: Melissa Parker	Sophie Brockman "The Frog" Home School Teacher: Melissa Brockman
Short Story 6th Grade	Eli Deyoe "The Locket" Prospect Sierra School Teacher: Kristin Stringfield	Anika Ramaswamy "One More Medal" Dorris Eaton School Teacher: Mary Dickens	Sarita Svoboda "Written Wishes" Prospect Sierra School Teacher: Kristin Stringfield
Short Story 7th Grade	Malayna Chang "Pass Me By" Orinda Middle School Teacher: Eric Page	Regan Stambaugh "Home" Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Teacher: James Flowers	Sahana Nellian "When the Stars Align" Dorris-Eaton School Teacher: Melissa Parker
Short Story 8th Grade	Ali Alomari "Fallen" Dorris Eaton School Teacher: Brad Breilein	Stephani Su "Wanderlust" Windemere Ranch Middle School Teacher: Mary Blasquez	Ashley Kumar "The Journey to Freedom" Windemere Middle School Teacher: Mitchell Jensen
Humor All Grades	Bala Larson "The Day Mom Fell Off the Escalator" Valley View Middle School Teacher: Adrienne Lopez		

Let Us Know Who You Are, New or Renewed Branch Members



We publish brief (usually around 400 words) member profiles which might include one's education, writing goals and experiences, and a picture of you/your book. It is a great way to acknowledge and become acquainted with one another.

You're a writer aren't you? Write your brief bio and send it to membership chair, David George at davegeorge7@comcast.net

YOUR PHOTO HERE

Following are some questions to get you started writing a bio you might like to see in the next newsletter. Obviously not all can be answered in around 400 words!

Where are you from?
 When did you begin writing?
 What books/authors have influenced your life?
 What are your current projects?
 What inspired you to write your first book?
 Would you change anything in your latest book?
 Is there anything you find challenging about writing?
 Do you travel for book research?
 Do you have any advice for aspiring writers?
 What is the wisest thing anyone has said to you about writing?



Writing Good Dialogue Takes Practice

By Judith Marshall

I write character-driven novels, which means I need to write a lot of dialogue. Over the years, I've learned some helpful tips that I'm happy to share.

1. **Become an observer of conversation.** Listen to the way people talk; watch their facial expressions, body language, tone, etc. Notice that when two people are talking, they rarely address each other by name.
2. **Avoid adverbs ending in ly.** They disrupt the flow of your dialogue.
3. **Don't worry about using the word "said."** Readers glide over it.
4. **Read your dialogue out loud.** Does it sound real? Can you identify which character is speaking by the way they talk, gesture, etc.?
5. **Don't use dialogue to reveal back story;** e.g. "Remember the time we..."
6. **All dialogue should move the story forward.**
7. **Cut out *Hellos* and *Goodbyes* and other small talk.** It's boring.
8. **Have people argue with each other or say something surprising to shake things up.**
9. **Don't let one character speak too long.** Have another character interrupt or ask a question.
10. **As playwright AUGUST WILSON once said, "The simpler you say it, the more eloquent it is."**

Judith Marshall is the author of *Husbands May Come and Go but Friends are Forever*.

Our Upcoming Programs

2017

May 13 Writers Contest Awards Banquet	Tim J. Meyers “Becoming a Published Writer”	Meyers is a writer, songwriter, and professional storyteller and teacher at Santa Clara University. He has written 15 picture books, one which made <i>The New York Times</i> bestseller list for children’s books. He has also written four books for adults.
June 10	Molly Williams “Interior Book Design Guidelines”	Williams handles all publishing jobs from start to finish, for Big Hat Press in Lafayette. She will discuss design elements including choosing fonts, formatting text, numbering pages, photos, headers, footers, display pages such as chapter openings, design of copyright page, table of contents and appendix or index. Williams, has a BS degree in Graphic Communication from Cal Poly and has worked in the publishing industry for over 10 years..

Summer break July & August

Sept 9	Dean Gloster Writing Humor	Dean is a former law clerk to two U.S. Supreme Court Justices and a former stand-up comedian. In winter, he ski races. When Dean is not at home in Berkeley, Saucy the dog guards the commas in his manuscripts. Dean thinks that writing, flying, and ski racing have lots in common: According to Douglas Adams, all you have to do is throw yourself at the ground --- and miss.
Oct 14 WORK SHOP	Jordan Rosenfeld “Get Intimate with Your Characters: Master POV for dazzling character development”	Writing teacher and author of four writing guides. Jordan blogs about writing and persistence at: www.jordanrosenfeld.net

2018

Mar 10 WORK SHOP	Beth Barany “The 20 Senses”	Award winning novelist
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If you’ve heard a good speaker on writing or publishing, contact Jill Hedgecock: hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net

Attend a Board Meeting



This is YOUR branch. Extra minds and hands are always welcome.

There’s always room at the board meetings for observers, the maybe-I’d-like-to-get-involved-ers, advisors, and the just plain curious. Join us. (Liz usually serves coffee or tea.) We meet 10:00 -11:00 before regular meetings unless there’s a workshop. This is your branch too, and volunteer organizations can always use new ideas.

Next board meeting: May 13, 9:30-10:30 am Zio Fraedo’s.

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

Vice-President – NOW!

Secretary (starting in Sept 2107 and welcome to attend July planning meeting)

Board Advisor- always open to members!

We have job descriptions already written so there are no surprises as to what the tasks are.

Drawing for Mt. Diablo Members

Print and cut out the coupon below and be in a drawing for \$25 off a future meeting.

After each drawing, the non-winning coupons will be destroyed. Look for a new coupon each month in the newsletter.

One coupon per member per meeting.

A member may only win once per CWC year, i.e., Sept – June.

May 2017 coupon

MT. DIABLO CWC MEMBERS ONLY

PRINT THIS PAGE. CUT OUT THIS COUPON. WRITE YOUR NAME BELOW.

DROP COUPON IN THE BASKET/HAT/PAPER BAG AT THE MEETING
CORRESPONDING TO THE DATE ON THIS COUPON.

ONE COUPON WILL BE DRAWN EACH MONTH TO WIN \$25 CREDIT TOWARD
A LATER MT DIABLO BRANCH MEETING.

Your name: _____

Must be present to win.

Member authors on website

Reminder re our branch website: cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com

You have the opportunity to show some of your work on our website. We have author pages where Andrew can place pictures of the covers of two of your books, list a limited number of articles or contest wins, plus put a link to your own website where, of course, you can go on at length about yourself and your writing.

Andrew Benzie and Lyn Roberts are updating existing member listings and adding new ones as you let them know about your publications. Contact Lyn at editingonline@astound.net to add or update your information. See <https://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/members-a-d/> for an example of what can be posted.



Things to Do

(The following items are informational only and do not imply endorsement of product or service)

Exciting CWC Member Benefit at the 2017 Berkeley Bay Area Book Festival (BABF)

The NorCal Group of CWC takes pleasure in announcing an opportunity just for our members. CWC NorCal has reserved a booth at the third annual BABF and is offering the opportunity for CWC members to sell their books at the booth—at no cost!

The festival takes place **10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, in downtown Berkeley** in and around Civic Center Park. Each year, this free event draws some 50,000 people, 300 author/speakers and 160 vendors. This year, CWC will be one of the exhibitors to mainly promote CWC.

What we can tell you so far:

- CWC members are invited to sell their books and/or promote their writing-related business at our booth at no cost to the member. Your brochures and books on the table will suffice-- no large promo posters.
- You must have a current seller's permit from the State Board of Equalization if you plan to sell anything.
- You must be present in the booth and handle all the sale details.
- Shifts will be set up on two-hour intervals. You must remove yourself, your books, and all other promotional materials at the end of your two-hour shift.
- Shift assignments will be made first-come, first-served *or* by lottery, depending on demand. If all interested CWC members are accommodated, you may not sign up for a second shift.
- You may use your shift to promote a writing-related business: editing, book design, PR, etc.
- This opportunity is available *only* to current members of CWC.

If you'd like to participate, add your name to the master list by sending an email to Tim Jollymore with the Berkeley Branch. His email address is: tim_jollymore@yahoo.com. Even if you have already signed up or indicated interest to someone at your home branch, please add your name to this master list. Put "Bay Area Book Festival" in the Subject field and indicate your home branch in the body of the email.

Carole Bumpus, NorCal Chair
President, San Francisco Peninsula Branch



Art & Soul

A Retreat/Workshop for Writers, Artists and Musicians

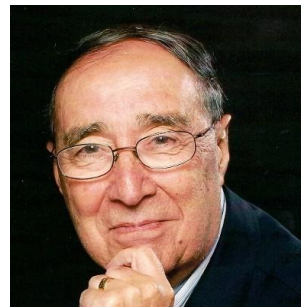
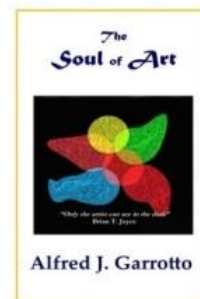
Alfred J. Garrotto, presenter

Saturday, June 24, 2017, 9:30 am - 4 pm

San Damiano Retreat House, Danville, CA

Cost: \$55.00 (lunch included)

RESERVATION: [\(925\) 837-9141](tel:9258379141)



Based on Al's book, *The Soul of Art*, this workshop/retreat focuses on the creative gifts of both professional and aspiring writers, artists, and musicians. The God-given talents of artistic people in *all* genres lead readers and audiences to deeper awareness of life's higher meaning. Participants will explore the source of their own gifts and inspirations and take away even greater joy in sharing them. *Attendees of all faiths are invited.*

Things to Do (cont'd)

- **Book Expo**, New York City, the major book industry event in the US (May 31-Jun 2), can extend discounts to CWC members to display their books in the New Title Showcase for \$145 for e-book or print book, or \$210 for both. This includes physical display, electronic display, and listing in their show catalogue. They have further said, "We're going to include articles for authors (as a resource) to be more productive and to give insights and tips on how to improve their writing and further their career. We'll link back to the authors' web site on our page." They would be happy to post articles from CWC with a link to our website.



Member's Short Work

Dear Diary
A Writer's Journal
By Jerry Blair

Writer Levi Malnik was terse, about five-foot-two in non-athletic socks, short-waisted, short-sighted, short-tempered.

Levi wrote memos, short stories and poetry written on post-it notes. He flooded the literary markets with flash fiction and haiku but met with rejection at every turn because nobody could read the small print.

Levi longed for the days when a writer could at least get his work published in the pulps, when magazines like *Look* and *Life* were open to writers of short works. Levi wanted to hang out at the Algonquin Hotel and trade quips with Robert Benchley, George S. Kaufman and Dorothy Parker, a decidedly one-sided quipathon since they were all dead. He repeatedly asked anyone who would listen, "Where is my Max Perkins?"

He was desperate and decided to start a journal hoping that would kick-start the creative juices and nudge his muses, Shawna and Myrna, into action. Following are his initial entries:

- February 13th: Received rejection from *The New Age Review* of my memoir "Me in Triplicate." They appreciate my considerable talent but say it's not right for them and please don't send any more as they are inundated with submissions.
- February 20th: Sent short story to *Eclipse Magazine* and received email saying they can't use it but asked for a fifty dollar donation to help keep them afloat.
- February 25th: Idea for a story: Angela Tote a ship's deckhand finds a giant squid. Angela takes the squid into her cabin. The squid, which she names Perry, completely engulfs Angela's lithe frame. The squid's only reward is an occasional pickled herring. Where's the conflict, the lack of meaningful communication?
- March 2nd: Queried *Rose Literary Review* regarding non-receipt of \$500 prize for my short, short story "Denizen." Received email stating *Rose Literary Review* is no longer publishing.
- March 15th: *Narration Magazine* says they have given my short story, "Dinner Is On Me," a close reading and there is much to admire but unfortunately it is not quite right for them but please try again in two years.

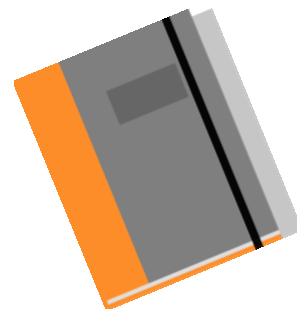
Member's Short Work (cont'd)

- March 16th: Reworking "The Melon of Lodi" about a cantaloupe that reportedly has image of Christ on the rind. Conflict comes when debate rages over whether the image is really Christ or Jeffrey Hunter. The melon degrades and the image morphs into a poor rendering of Elvis during his bloated, sweating period. Is there a moral thread?
- March 24th: Sent off my story collection, "Short, Sweet & Sour," for consideration by a publisher called Beef Heart Review. No pay but free subscription for submitting. Also started a short fictional biography of Blinky Mancuso who in 1924 is so desperate to break into movies that he takes a job pulling the tail of the MGM lion to make it roar. He is paid a grand a week and given an office.
- March 26th: Spent a week at Balance Rock writer's retreat. Had trouble getting in touch with my inner self during workshop on writing what's inside. Apparently don't know enough to write what I know.
- April 10th: Received note from Smoke House Press saying they look forward to reading my story, "Flatlined," and I should hear from them in six weeks. And added that in the meantime I should now go do something fun.
- April 11th: *Half-Pint Quarterly Review* announced that after much deliberation my story, "Small Pleasures," was not the winner of the Joseph K. Lamont prose award. The prize went to Janelle Priest with her short story "Doing the Down and Dirty Doo Wop."
- April 23rd: Thinking about starting a story called "The Closer." A woman sells real estate out of the backseat of a Ford Edsel. She refuses to work in an office believing it stifles her sales abilities although she has never closed a sale. She's taken to eating only bananas and potato peels, and when it's suggested she change locations, she agrees and moves into the front seat and decides to rent out the back seat in an effort to make ends meet.
- May 3rd from *Freaks Journal*: Thanks for the chance to consider your story "Unbalanced." After careful consideration we have decided not to publish it. We would like to send an individual critique but since I am the staff of *Freaks Journal* I don't have the time to do so.
- May 5th: Putting finishing touches to story about a man despondent over the breakup of his marriage. As a birthday gift he has the star, "Pentarious Major," named after his wife Cheryl. Unfortunately the star goes supernova and turns into a black hole that begins attacking a neighboring galaxy, pulling it into its magnetic core. His marriage is, in a sense, sucked down said black hole, which is now named "Cheryl Major." I think this one has legs.
- May 13th: From *Just Fiction Review*. Thanks for allowing us to read "Rolling Dice." After careful consideration your story does not fit our current needs. We wish you good luck in placing it anywhere.

After several months Malnik was still blocked, muses, Shawna and Myrna, abandoned him leaving him bereft of inspiration and filling him with a sense of dread.

In June Malnik was in his weekly session with his psychiatrist Dr. Waldron Pike who reminded Levi that rejection is part of the writing process and suggested he take a break from writing to recharge his batteries. Levi is considering plugging himself into a monastery.

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Time to Renew/Join Mt. Diablo CWC

Please complete the online form found at <https://cwcmtdiablowsriters.wordpress.com/membership> and use PayPal to pay, or use this form, fill it out and mail it with your \$45 annual membership (\$25 for dual membership) renewal payment. Please make sure we have correct information about you. If hand writing, please PRINT clearly! (ed. note: If you are a member and there are no changes to your information, you can just mail a check or credit info to the address below or hand it in to the membership chair, David George, or the treasurer, Lucy Hart, at check in. In either case, mark it MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL so it goes to the right person.)

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Thank you for renewing your membership in the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch.

If you have questions, contact David George via email at davegeorge7@comcast.net

Renewal Year: 2017-2018

Revised 3/17/2017

REMEMBER!! If you renew your membership before May 31, your name will be in a drawing for a \$25 meeting discount.



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Contra Costa County middle school students who enter the Young Writers Contest are eligible for cash prizes in short story, poetry, essay/personal narrative, and humor. Contest submissions are free. Check our branch website for details: cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/

The Mt. Diablo Branch hosts an awards luncheon in May of each year.

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