



The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

April 2017

BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 8, 2017 - 11:15am to 2:00pm

How to Protect your Rights and your Wallet

featuring
Helen Sedwick



Protecting Your Rights and Your Wallet.

Attorney and author Helen Sedwick provides an overview of copyright law to help writers understand what they own and how to protect it.

She'll also cover how to get permission to use quotes, images, and lyrics created by others. Time permitting she'll give tips on spotting scams targeting writers.

Author and attorney, Helen Sedwick has represented small businesses and entrepreneurs for 30 years. *Publisher's Weekly* lists her ***Self-Publisher's Legal Handbook*** as one of the top five resource books for independent authors. Helen is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Alliance of Independent Authors and a Contributing Writer for TheBookDesigner.com. Helen's blog coaches writers on everything from saving on taxes to avoiding scams.

For more information about Helen, check out her website at <http://helensedwick.com>

Sign-in starts at 11:15am. Luncheon 12 - 12:45 pm. Speaker 1- 2 pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$25 members, \$30 guests. **Reservation deadline: noon, Wednesday, April 5, 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 for a regular meeting and the \$25member fee or \$30 guest fee no-show payment for a workshop.*

President Marlene Dotterer



"Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass."

— Anton Chekhov

The weather is warming these days, and that's got me thinking about how the seasons affect our writing. Warm, sunny days always tempt me outside to tackle the weeds that insist on filling my yard every year. Since this is good exercise and extra Vitamin D, I don't fight it. It doesn't affect writing time very much since I can't weed for more than an hour or so at a time. Even in spring, I have to come up with other excuses to procrastinate.



What is your favorite, or least favorite, season to write? Drop us a line at elisabethtuck@yahoo.com to tell us your experience.

At this time of year, we are neck-deep in our Young Writers Contest, with submissions closing on March 31 and the judging period starting. We have several enthusiastic volunteers awaiting the signal to begin reading their assigned manuscripts, while hundreds of brave middle-school students anxiously hope for good news. The YWC awards banquet is held at our May meeting and I hope that many of you make plans to attend. These students are our future writers and we need to give them all the encouragement we can. I think THEY will inspire YOU.

In other news congratulations to Nannette Rundle Carroll who won our drawing to attend the Tri-Valley Writers Conference in April. Our branch will pay Nanette's registration to the conference, which features bestselling author Anne Perry as the keynote speaker. Have a great time at the conference, Nanette, and be sure to let us know what you learn!

In the Sad News Arena, I'm sorry to announce that longtime Board Advisor, Lee Paulson, has retired from his position on our board. Most recently, Lee has been in charge of our Writers Tables, scheduling members to share their expertise in short sessions before our general meetings. Judging by the crowds at these tables, they are a popular benefit. Perhaps one of you would like to take over scheduling these sessions, so we don't lose them?

Finally, don't forget to look for your coupon for \$25 toward a future meeting, somewhere in the newsletter. Be sure to bring it to the April meeting. And be sure to enjoy the sunshine and flowers outside while you keep writing!

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Member Events, News and Salutes

Judith Ingram

Judith (Judy) Ingram has been our branch secretary since 2015, a job she stepped into with nary a hiccup. We've been lucky to have her on our board for the last two years, but alas, Life Happens. Judith is retiring at the end of our fiscal year in June, to devote more time to her seminary studies. We wish her lots of good fortune and adventure as she pursues her degree. Happily, we'll still see her at our regular meetings—she has assured us she isn't going anywhere!

Judith joined CWC in 2010 after receiving a contract for her first book, *A Devotional Walk with Forgiveness*. She earned her counseling degree at Saint Mary's College of California, where she received awards for her graduate thesis model employing forgiveness in the clinical treatment of adults recovering from childhood abuse. Her clinical training, combined with her interest in theological studies, gave rise to her book and a platform for conference speaking and leading church groups in forgiveness workshops. She is currently a second-year student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Menlo Park and publishes weekly devotionals about forgiveness on her blog at www.judithingram.com



She also enjoys writing fiction. Her time-travel romance, *Moonseed*, won the Persie Award for best fiction at the William Saroyan Writers Conference in Fresno, CA. She is an avid reader and movie-goer and loves to embroider, a craft she learned as a child from her Russian grandmother. She and her husband, Frank, share their home with a feisty lilac-point Siamese cat who thoughtfully gifts them with murdered mice on their doormat.



Lee Paulson

Lee, past president and long-time board member of our Mt. Diablo CWC branch developed, and for several years, ran the popular Writers Tables, an informal meeting during registration time before our luncheon speakers. Lee and his wife Jan contributed generously to a new category for the Young Writers Contest: Humor with the belief that young people should take a break from the doom and gloom of the real world and the computer games many play.

Unfortunately for us, Lee is resigning from the board.

"I grew up in small town Indiana, one of three boys. My father owned a restaurant and believed in slave labor, putting us to work at age eight. However, since he also ran a cafeteria in a highly classified manufacturing facility, I had a security clearance ID badge to get in. Great for impressing your school buddies.

After getting a Bachelor's Degree in Business and a Masters in Economics from Ohio University and a short stint in the Air Force, the corporate grind including various senior management positions with supermarket chains and computer systems companies providing electronic payment systems kept me busy for a number of years. I did manage to publish a business book on the use of computers in retailing.

Since I had enjoyed playing in dirt as a kid, the idea of becoming an amateur archaeologist had a certain appeal. The end result was being a team member of expeditions in Easter Island, Italy, Cyprus, Chile and other overseas locations.

After flunking retirement three times, I returned to creative writing and joined CWC. A Foster City International Writers award for humor inspired me to tackle a novel. The result was that *A Plague of Scoundrels*, my debut novel, won a 2009 IPPY Silver Medal for popular fiction and Honorable Mention at the London Book Festival."

Lee's second novel *Roly's Relic: The Cross of Baal* continues Lee's novels of adventure, romance, and the grand tradition of storytelling. Improbable heroes thwart villains while pursuing talented and lovely women who may not be what they seem.



Member Events, News and Salutes (cont'd)

Lee Paulson (cont'd)

Lee's stories in a young adult fantasy series anthologies are as follow:

Tales of Fortannis: A Bard's Eye View "The Otherside Alliance"

Tales of Fortannis: A Bard in the Hand "Beyond the Bitter River"

Tales of Fortannis: A Bard Day's Knight "Take Care on the Far Fin"

Tales of Fortannis: A Bard Act to Follow "Something Happened on Old Troll Bridge"

Lee and his wife Jan live in Alamo.

Michael Donnellan – new member

I have written and published over 300 articles in magazines and have contributed to a medical text book published in Europe. Multitasking can be an advantage or a curse. Good for research but when focusing on a particular task or mission, an attention deficit disorder can prolong one's time lines.

So my work in progress does take longer to complete, but the enthusiasm is there. It is a nonfiction work that may be called a self-help tool to navigate the world of becoming and maintaining one's status in the American Middle Class at a time when many are struggling to do so.

As a volunteer with the Employer Support for Guard and Reserves, Department of Defense, part of my duties is to work with our troops going to and returning from the Middle East. I help with issues relating to employment and support of their families while deployed. I counsel them in ways to think out of the box and to prepare for the 21st century challenges in the work force. We also look at investment areas and provide them with the tools necessary to survive in the world outside the structured environment of the military. They always ask me to write a book. So, here I am.

The subject matter is a core principle of survival for any age group planning to compete in the restructuring of our way of life. As a respiratory therapist I care for many seniors who need to remain active in the workforce in order to maintain their level of care and income.

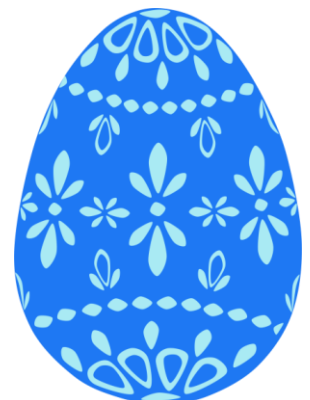
I do my own research and extensively network, often interviewing and meeting with those who feel their contribution can count for something and make a difference. The Greatest Generation and World War II Veterans are my favorites, many of whom are the people I care for in the hospital. I am a patient advocate and feel I make a difference.

I look forward to my time in the club and thank you.

**Next board meeting: April 8, 10-11:00 am at Zio Fraedo's.
Join us!**

If this sounds like nagging, it is. This is your club. It's a volunteer organization meaning you, too, are very welcome to help. Here are some ideas:

- Greet parents and students at the YWC meeting in May
- Greet attendees at regular meetings
- Lead a talk at an Author's Table (AKA Writers Table)
- Suggest speakers
- Copyedit the newsletter
- Contribute to the newsletter
- Submit a short piece on: What you like about CWC
Why you liked/didn't like a book you read.





Our Upcoming Programs



2017

April 8	Helen Sedwick “How to Protect Your Writing Rights and Your Wallet”	Helen is a business lawyer with 30 years of experience. She graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1984 and has practiced her entire career in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the author of <i>Self-Publisher’s Legal Handbook</i> to help both traditionally and self-published writers safely navigate the legal minefield.
May 13 Young Writers Contest 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 the <i>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”	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 B.S. degree in Graphic Communication from Cal Poly and has worked in the publishing industry for over 10 years..

Summer break July and August

Sept 9		
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 having to do with writing, editing or publishing, send details to Jill Hedgecock: hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net





Time to Renew/Join Mt. Diablo CWC



Please complete the online form found from

<https://cwcmtdiablowriters.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.) To apply for a **new membership**, an application is required and a copy of one of your stories or articles published or unpublished. The directions on the membership page on the website explain more.

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 _____ Security code on back of card _____

Donation to the Young Writers Program

Check here if you would like to donate to the Young Writers Program. _____ Add the amount to your \$45 membership renewal.

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.

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.

Attention CWC wordsmiths!

Would you like to get more involved in your Mount Diablo Branch but not sure where you might find the best fit? If you enjoy working with words and would like to give back to an organization that gives so much to the local writing community, then you might consider the secretary board position, which comes open June 2017.

The secretary's main responsibility is taking notes at board meetings and keeping our archives up-to-date. The following checklist can help you decide if the job is right for you:

- I like writing, and I'm a pretty good editor.
- I'm good at organizing my own projects.
- I can commit to attending once-a-month meetings.
- I like working with people who are smart, creative, and committed to helping writers succeed.
- I'm interested in learning more about how our branch operates.

We invite you to join us an hour early on April 8 and experience firsthand the fun and energy of being part of our board of directors. Board meetings begin at 10 am at the restaurant. To learn more about the position, please contact secretary Judy Ingram at jingramtws@aol.com. Or you can contact president Marlene Dotterer at cmdotterer@gmail.com.



For Those Who Like Puns



A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu: the same mustard as before

Practice safe eating; always use condiments.

Shotgun wedding: a case of wife or death

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

What's the definition of a will? It's a dead give away.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia, the LAN down under.

Things to Do

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

CWC has arranged for its members a **discount of more than 50% for the BookExpo** New Title Showcase exhibit, June 1-4 at the Javits Convention Center in NYC. BookExpo is the major book industry event in the US.

www.bookexpoamerica.com/About-Us/

The New Title Showcase is an official exhibit of BookExpo. We are able to offer CWC members a significant discount to display their books at this major event with a print book, e-book or both:

- a print display will cost \$150 (published rate \$315)
- an e-book display at \$150 (published rate \$315)
- a combo rate of \$210 (published rate \$525)

The cost includes the physical display of your book with full cover showing, a fully searchable online catalog and database, and listing in the New Title Showcase print catalogue and/or e-book electronic display.

To participate, members will register and pay directly with Combined Book Exhibit,

https://secure.combinedbook.com/cbe_reseller/cwc/.

The deadline for registration is May 13. CWC will not be involved in the transactions. It is not required that you attend.

Tri-Valley Writer's 2017 Conference

California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch is pleased to announce its second full-day writers' conference featuring keynote speaker, *New York Times* and international bestselling author, **Anne Perry**, the author of over fifty novels which have sold over 25 million copies.

Join us for the following sessions and presenters:

Craft—Essential Elements of Writing: **Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff, Anne Perry, and Victoria Zackheim**

Publishing—Tips for Thriving in the Publishing Revolution: **Laurie McLean of Fuse Literary**

Craft—Collaboration in Writing Conflict, Pacing & Character: **Mark Gelineau and Joe King**

Marketing—The Importance of Social Media & Websites: **Linda Lee**

Publishing—Book Design Options for Self-Publishers: **Joel Friedlander**

Craft—How Poetry Can Help Your Prose & Vice Versa: **David Denny**

Marketing—Author Platform, Branding & Monetization: **Joel Friedlander**

Publishing—Steps to Self-Publishing: **Jim Azevedo of Smashwords**

Craft—Writing Your Memoir so it Reads Like a Sizzling Piece of Fiction: **Victoria Zackheim**

Marketing—The Business of Writing: **Bruce Raine and Larry Townsend**

Publishing—Working & Communicating Effectively with an Editor: **Annie Tucker**

Deadline April 10; See www.trivalleywriters.org/conferences/conference2017/



Things to Do (cont'd)



INDOOR/OUTDOOR

FREE FESTIVAL

June 3 & 4, 2017

In Downtown Berkeley's Arts District

The **Berkeley Bay Area Book Festival** is held on closed-off downtown streets and is open to the public.

Thousands of people attended last year. CWC members present thought it was a huge success.

Bay Area Book Festival website: <http://www.baybookfest.org>



Check out the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's speakers. www.lllcf.org/

Writers Craft Tables



At seven regular meetings (not workshops or Young Writers Contest awards) the Writers Table meetings start with sign in and last until the meeting begins, that is 11:15 until lunch. We provide separate table(s) for the discussion. Interested members pull up a chair to join the group. Some discussion leaders have handouts; others ask questions and share their thoughts on the topic. You can lead a table if you have writing, marketing, or publishing tips, or general advice to share with other members. You don't have to be an expert. What works for you?

We need a volunteer to handle the details and call for the last question at the table.

Contact Marlene cmdotterer@gmail.com or any board member if you're interested in helping. All that is required is to receive emails from others interested in presenting, be at the meeting (or ask someone to stand in for you), help participants find the get together, and ensure the gathering wraps up in time.

NO STATEWIDE CWC PICNIC THIS SUMMER

No volunteers to help organize



Things to Do (cont'd)

HELPFUL EDITOR

Get feedback from an editor! Email your submission to Elisabeth at elisabethtuck@yahoo.com.

This is a free member benefit for Mt. Diablo branch members from professional editor, Elisabeth Tuck. This will be a short discussion group prior to the April meeting.

The plan: Monthly, I will accept the first 5 members who email me two pages of their work. I will edit as comprehensively as possible.

Before the meeting day I will read the pages carefully for readability and copy edit issues and mark them up, good points and bad.

During the Helpful Editor gathering, we'll talk about successes and issues I have seen in the pieces but I won't identify the author. I'll just say something like "One of the issues I noticed was. . ." and I'll make suggestions. You of course are welcome to ask questions.

I will return your edited copy when the Helpful Editor session breaks up.

Email your submission to elisabethtuck@yahoo.com 5days in advance (or earlier) of the April meeting. Your pages must be 11 or 12 point, Times New Roman font, double spaced with 1" margins all around. Do put your name on both pages.

Please also let me know if you are or are not OK with me reading aloud to the group from your work.

Sign in to the meeting as close to 11:15 as possible.

Join the Helpful Editor table.

I am not looking for clients. I just want to offer some help. Disclaimer: I'm not perfect. Even editors need editors. Also, there are disputes among editors as to what works and what doesn't. Mt. Diablo has a good track record of quality pieces being accepted to the *CWC Literary Review*. Let's keep that going by continuing to learn all we can about writing well!

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.



April 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. Non transferrable.

Young Writers Contest Fundraising

Sponsored by

The California Writers Club, Mount Diablo Branch



Please consider joining one of the following donor clubs to benefit our programs in support of young writers. Your tax-deductible gift will appear in the contest program in May, and in the Mount Diablo CWC newsletter every month in the year you donate. Or remain anonymous if you prefer!

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)

Judith Ingram

Elisabeth Tuck

Danard Emanuelson

The Mary Austin Writers Club (\$50 - \$99)

The Helen Hunt Jackson Group (\$25 - \$49)

Ken Kerkhoff

Christine Sunderland

Edward Stanislawski

Fran Wojnar

David George in honor of Liz Kohler-Pentacoff

Leslie Lamar Ball

Kathy Urban

Phyllis Nagle

The Gertrude Atherton Guild (\$10 - \$24)

James Wiseman

Lynn Goodwin

David Alpaugh

June Gatewood

Robin Gigoux

Linda Force

Fran Cain

Sheryl Mosher

Robert Poirier

Maya Das

Noele Martin

Kathryn Berla

Aline Soules

Patty Northlich

Lucy Hart

Al Garrotto

Christine Tomerson

Kai Rahbek

Noel Martin

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

June Gatewood

Donna Gholson-Cook

Marlene Vasilieff

Julie Shatzel

Grace Schmidt

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.

All program expenses are supported by individual donations and grants. Thank you for considering membership in one of the above donor clubs.

Please list my membership in the following donor club: _____

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Acknowledge my gift in honor/memory of: _____

Or via PayPal click "buy now" on the Mt. Diablo website

<http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/next-program/>. Please add the \$2 transaction fee

Make a check payable to: *CWC Mt. Diablo Branch*. And mail to:

CWC Mt. Diablo Branch, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA94507 Attention: Young Writers Contest

