

# **BRANCH MEETING AND LUNCHEON**

Saturday June 10, 2017 - 11:15 am to 2:00 pm

# Not Only the Cover – Judge a Book by its Pages

# featuring Molly Williams from Big Hat Press



#### INTERIOR BOOK DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Industry standard expectations as well as reader expectations that should be adhered to
- Do's and don'ts common mistakes made in self-published books
- Technical interior design elements such as margins, pagination, and text formatting
- How and where in your book you can get creative with your interior design

Molly Williams will be talking in detail about the many elements that go into a book's interior design, including fonts, text formatting, margins, pagination, headers/footers, display pages such as chapter openings, all front matter (copyright page, table of contents, graphics, images,) and back matter such as an appendix or index. Given the rise in popularity of self-publishing, it is critically important that authors construct their books properly to stand out from the crowd and look as professional as possible. There are also industry standard expectations that should be adhered to and reader expectations. Molly will discuss the do's and don'ts and common mistakes made in self-published books.

Molly is the publishing director at Big Hat Press in Lafayette, CA. She has been working in the publishing industry for over 10 years. At Big Hat Press, she personally works with all book clients and handles all publishing jobs from start to finish. Molly also provides all design, layout and setup work needed.

**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, June. 7, 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



"A story is a letter that the author writes to himself, to tell himself things that he would be unable to discover otherwise."

— Carlos Ruiz Zafón, The Shadow of the Wind

It's hard to believe it's almost June. School's out, or will be soon, and people my age are making plans to visit kids and grandkids during their free time. Here at CWC, we are preparing to end the year and get busy planning for the next one. Our program chair, Jill Hedgecock, with help from her wonderful committee, has already lined up speakers for all but a few meetings.

I hope our speakers and workshops have been helpful to you. I know that we can't meet everyone's needs every month, but we want to address a variety of issues that most writers will face in their careers. Be sure to let us know if there's a particular topic you'd like to learn more about, or if you know of a good speaker we should invite.

Summer also brings writing retreats and camps, which can really help you stretch your writing muscles. If you attend one of these, consider telling us about it in a newsletter article. Insights you've gained could be useful to another writer.

While you are busy getting ready for summer fun, don't forget to renew your CWC membership! The renewal period ends June 30. After that, you'll need to reapply and pay the \$20 initiation fee again. Save yourself \$20 and renew before then.

Don't close this file until you've found the door prize coupon somewhere in this newsletter. Print it out and bring it to the meeting for the drawing. Someone is guaranteed to win a free lunch.

I wish you all a good summer and lots of productive writing!



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#### JUNE 10 MTG THEN SUMMER BREAK.

#### Attend a Board Meeting



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

There's always room at the board meetings for observers, the maybe-I'd-like-to-get-involveders, 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 use new ideas.

Next board meeting: June 10, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Zio Fraedo's.

**OPEN BOARD POSITION:** Vice-President – Come attend a board meeting and see if you'd like to join the board—maybe even become vice president. Volunteer work looks good on a resume!



#### Member Events, News and Salutes

# **2017 Young Writers Contest Winners Congratulations**



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Please welcome our **new branch secretary** JUDITH OVERMIER!!!

Thank you so much, JUDITH, for stepping up to the plate. Judith is a highly accomplished, contest-winning, published poet.



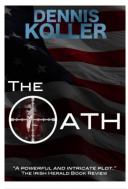
## **Dennis Koller**

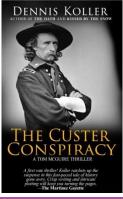
Two of Dennis' books have won national awards!

The INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARD recognizes hundreds of books and publishers with its 2017 IPA Winners and Distinguished Favorites in categories that range from Adventure to Young Adult Fiction.

2017 independent publisher winners include the American Psychological Association, Blackstone, Galaxy Press and Select Books; winning authors include names such as Rannah Gray, Jack Mayer, Tamra Ryan, Val Wright to name a few.

Selected award Winners and Distinguished Favorites are based on overall presentation and excellence. The 2017 INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARD competition included international submissions from countries such as Australia, Canada, China, Germany, India, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United States.





# Independent Press Award Military Fiction



2017

**Thriller** 



## MEMBER BOOK SIGNING

**MAYA MITRA DAS** 

June 10, 2017 2:30 - 4:30

Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette

Mt. Diablo member Maya Das will read from her new book, *Rhythms Primeval* then sign copies. Come help her celebrate after our meeting on June 10th! After gathering from 2:30 on, the reading will begin at 3:00.



# INTERVIEW WITH FORMER MEMBER VERONICA ROSSI By LORIN OBERWEGER



Veronica Rossi is a best-selling author of fiction for young adults. Her debut novel, UNDER THE NEVER SKY, was the first in a post-apocalyptic trilogy. Released in January 2012, it was deemed one of the Best Books of the Year by School Library Journal. The series appeared on *The NY Times* and *USA Today* best-seller lists and was published in over 25 foreign markets.

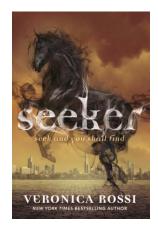
Her second series for young adults began with RIDERS and concludes with SEEKER, out May 16th. RIDERS is the story of four modern-day teens who become incarnations of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, and the prophetic girl who brings them together.

Veronica completed her undergraduate studies at UCLA then studied fine art at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. She is a lifelong reader and artist. Born in Rio de

Janeiro, Brazil, she has lived in Mexico, Venezuela, and all over the United States, to finally settle in Northern California with her husband and two sons.

When not writing, Veronica enjoys reading (it's worth repeating), painting, and running. She does NOT like anything involving numbers. They terrify her. Her obsessions generally lead to fictional works. Currently, she's exploring New York City during the Revolutionary War.





**Q:** As a *New York Times* bestselling author of over a half dozen published novels, how does it feel to send SEEKER out into the world? Have your feelings changed since the publication of UNDER THE NEVER SKY?

**A:** I've been thinking about this a lot lately, with SEEKER's upcoming release. It's my fifth YA book, and the eighth book I've published (three of which are co-authored with our dear Lorin!) It is always exciting to see a book move into the world. It never gets old. It humbles me. It inspires me. I feel very, very fortunate.

**Q:** Now that SEEKER is about to be released, what project are you currently working on?

**A:** I can't get into too much detail quite yet, but it's my first historical fiction, also in the young adult category. I'm really excited about it. I think it's my best work yet!



#### **VERONICA ROSSI interview (cont'd)**

**Q:** Has your writing process changed since you finished SEEKER?

**A:** My process changes with every book I write. Sometimes it's only a slight modification, sometimes it's significant. I do have tools I almost always rely on. For example, every one of my books gets a tri-fold poster board, where I break out the three acts in scenes. But I'll use that at different stages for different books.

In RIDERS and SEEKER, for example, I wrote my way into the stories much more than I did with my UNDER THE NEVER SKY series. I just do what works.

**Q:** What do you do now as a writer that you didn't do or wouldn't have done before?

**A:** As far as what I do now that I didn't do before: super early mornings. It's my new thing, my way of achieving deep focus. I get up at 4:30 every morning and get a couple of hours in before my kids wake up.

I've discovered that my mind is in a really good creative space at that time. I have a quiet brain then. I can look at my manuscript and really *see* it rather than zoning into that space where I'm thinking of my to do list, lunch, how I need to get laundry going, etc. If I skip my early mornings now for whatever reason, I'm a little devastated. I love them.

**Q:** What is one of the most surprising things you've learned about yourself or your writing?

**A:** I'm still learning as a writer. I'm still developing. I don't think I realized just *how much* that would happen on my journey.

**Q:** What do you consider is your biggest writing success right now, at this very moment?

**A:** I think I'm getting better. At least, I'm more motivated than ever. And I'm writing for a living and managing to stay alive in a pretty tough arena. I'm legitimately living my dream, and it's awesome. I don't know how I got this lucky but I'll take it!

**Q:** What challenges or fears do you face with writing and what steps have you taken--or do you take--to overcome them?

**A:** I face challenges and fears in my writing every day. Every single day.

One of the ways I cope with them is to keep a running list. It's literally called, My Worry List. If I have a fear about a thin character, a flimsy scene, etc. I add it to the list. Just doing that takes some pressure off. I can then turn to finishing whatever draft I'm working on, knowing I have that list to turn to when the time is right.

So, that's a practical way to push through. But most of the work is mental. I have to talk myself into the right headspace a lot. And I have great writing friends who I can lean on. We support each other through the doubt and the discouragement.

The whole thing with writing is to keep going. Writing is layering. It's revision. But the only way to get to those later drafts is through pure grit. Just keep going.



# **VERONICA ROSSI interview (cont'd)**

**Q:** What were the highlights of your editorial work with Free Expressions or attendance at a workshop? How would you describe its overall effect on your professional/creative trajectory?

**A:** I met Lorin Oberweger, independent book editor, about eight or nine years ago at a Fire In Fiction workshop in Austin. I also was super inspired by the teachings of Don [Maass, New York agent]. Between the two, I was hooked.

After that I attended a BONI (Breakout Novel Intensive: Workshop offered by Free Expressions of which the author of this interview is a seminar leader) in Northern California, where I live. I got to know Lorin better. I was critiqued by Don and cried, because he told me the truth. Don knows this. It was a life-changing critique. Because of Lorin and Don's honesty and guidance, I found the right path. I turned to the manuscript that would launch my career.

Lorin and I have become good friends over the years, and co-authors, as I mentioned above. I've worked with so many people who "do books" but I have the highest regard for her ability. She's just gets me, creatively. And we do enjoy our sushi dates.

**Q:** In a recent article for the Tor/Forge Blog you mention, "Trust the process." What advice would you give writers who may be having a hard time with trusting the process?

A: This is something that gets a bit easier to believe the more you write.

You start to be able to look back at all the times you felt lost in the woods, and somehow, miraculously, made it out. I've written a few books now that, at some point, I thought just weren't going to come together. In fact, with most of them I feel that way! But, as I said, the whole thing is to keep going. You have to be bullheaded about it. Your desire to finish a manuscript only needs to be a teensy bit greater than the sum of your fears about that manuscript.

**Q:** What's the best piece of advice you've been given that's helped you as a writer?

**A:** I've had a lot of great guidance over the years. One thing that resonated with me personally was when my mom told me, "Write for yourself. When you do, you write beautifully."

Now, that's such a mom comment, right? But it hit home for me because I have a tendency sometimes to look at what others are doing, or to care too much about what others think. I'm trying to get better about limiting external influences to those that only help *me* do what *I* want. My mom's words remind me of that. I keep them on a Post It by my desktop!

Q: What outside hobbies or interests help fuel your writing? Especially when you're feeling lost in the woods?

**A:** I've come a bit late in life to running, but that's what I have been doing for the past few years. That helps me. Writing is so sedentary. Years ago, when I first started, I could spend the bulk of a week indoors with my computer. I have learned I need fresh air and movement. Apparently I wasn't designed to read and write books all day, unfortunately.



#### VERONICA ROSSI interview (cont'd)

Q: What are you currently reading?

**A:** So many things! I am reading a dozen research books at the moment. I'm also reading a young adult fantasy called THE CROWN'S GAME, which is about a battle between two magicians in a fantasy world based on Imperial Russia. And I also just finished a *really* gritty and excellent adult historical novel called THE NORTH WATER about a late 18th century whaling expedition that goes terribly wrong.

**Q:** If you could enter the world of any novel, which would it be?

**A:** This is a bit obscure, but I love the book ACROSS THE NIGHTINGALE FLOOR, inspired by feudal Japan. The setting is rendered in such a poetic and gorgeous way. I'd go there!

**Q:** Do you write to music, or do you prefer silence?

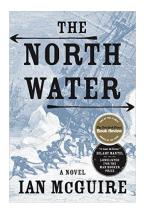
**A:** It depends on my mood. I'll do whatever is working best. I do have playlists for each of the books I've written with songs that set the right tone. And I especially love writing to film scores; sometimes I just need atmosphere with no lyrics.

**Q:** Is there a specific food or drink that fuels your writing?

**A:** Coffee. Sometimes tea. I don't like to eat while I write. I love food too much. I wouldn't get many words down.

**Find out more about Veronica** at her website, <u>www.veronicarossi.com</u>. Her books are available through all major retailers and independent bookstores.







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# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

# EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN CWC, HAPPENS BECAUSE A VOLUNTEER DID IT.

Let us say "Thank You!" with champagne and treats.

Saturday
June 17, 2017
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Christ The King Church
Monsignor Wade Hall
199 Brandon Road
Pleasant Hill

If you volunteered for any task during the year, you are invited to be our guest. We hope you will join us.

Are you a new member and want a chance to see what it's all about? You are welcome, too!

Christ the King Church is across the street and a little west of Zio Fraedo's on Gregory Lane. Enter the large parking lot. Our room is Monsignor Wade Hall, which faces the parking lot.

PLEASE RSVP TO Marlene Dotterer: cmdotterer@gmail.com

# Our Upcoming Programs



#### 2017

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.
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#### 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: <a href="https://www.jordanrosenfeld.net">www.jordanrosenfeld.net</a>
Nov 11	Arlene Miller Grammar Diva	Arlene Miller is an author, grammarian, speaker, blogger, teacher, and editor. She loves to talk about grammar and the English language and she has written eight grammar books and a novel.
Dec 9	3 of Our Own	

#### 2018

Jan 13	Amanda McTigue Pitching	Amanda McTigue, a Yale graduate, has been a writer/consultant for Disney Entertainment and Paramount and most recently a lecturer at Sonoma State. Her debut novel <i>Going to Solace</i> was KRCB's best read of 2012 and will be followed by a short story collection, <i>This is Not Water</i> , and a novel, <i>Monkey Bottom</i> . https://www.amandamctigue.com/am/Home.html
Feb 10		
Mar 10 WORK SHOP	Beth Barany "The 20 Senses"	Award-winning novelist

If you've heard a good speaker on writing or publishing, contact Jill Hedgecock: <a href="https://example.com/hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net">hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net</a>







## 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.

June 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.

#### Thank you, Leslie Rupley for all your help.

**Leslie Rupley** has been a great help on the board attending the twice yearly Norcal meetings and reporting back, as well as organizing critique groups for the branch. Sadly, Leslie has resigned due to family circumstances.

Leslie's resignation opens two opportunities for others to step in. If you'd like to learn a bit more about CWC and would like to attend the Norcal meetings to represent our branch, please contact our president Marlene. cmdotterer@gmail.com

Or, if you like the idea of critique groups and are willing to coordinate as members express interest, you could be instrumental in putting members in touch with each other to form groups. Again, contact Marlene if you can help. Mt. Diablo used to have a critique group meeting at Zio's for about an hour before the meeting begins or people could decide to form a private group and arrange to meet in each other's homes. cmdotterer@gmail.com



Keukenhof, Amsterdam mid to late April

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#### Things to Do

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

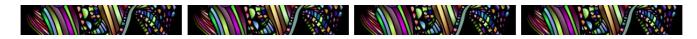
#### CWC Member Benefit at the 2017 Berkeley Bay Area Book Festival (BABF)

CWC members may sell their books/promote their writing-related businesses at the CWC booth—at no cost!

Festival hours **10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 3, and Sunday, June 4,** in downtown Berkeley and around Civic Center Park. This free event draws some 50,000 people, 300 author/speakers and 160 vendors. CWC will be an exhibitor to promote CWC.

- While you are present at the CWC booth, you may display brochures and books and handle sale details
- To sell, you must have a current seller's permit from the State Board of Equalization <a href="https://www.boe.ca.gov/info/reg.htm">https://www.boe.ca.gov/info/reg.htm</a>.
- Shifts will be two hours. You must remove yourself, your books, and all other promotional materials at the end of your shift.
- Shift assignments will be first-come, first-served *or* by lottery, depending on demand.

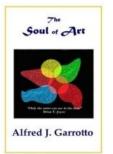
Add your name to the master list by sending an email to Tim Jollymore with the Berkeley Branch: <a href="mailto:tim\_jollymore@yahoo.com">tim\_jollymore@yahoo.com</a>. Put "Bay Area Book Festival" in the Subject field and indicate your home branch in the body of the email.

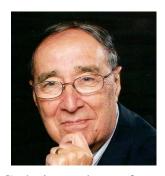


#### **Art & Soul**

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





Based on Al's book, *The Soul of Art*, this workshop/retreat focuses on the creative gifts of both professional and aspiring writers, artists, an

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*.



## WRITERS TABLE at June 10 branch meeting

Andrew Benzie will host a table discussing "How to Develop a Book Cover." Sign in at 11:15 and join Andrew for the discussion before the meeting.

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# Time to Renew/Join Mt. Diablo CWC

Please complete the online form found at <a href="https://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/membership">https://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/membership</a> 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	
		Phone Number	
Email			
Membership Category:	ActiveAss	ociate Supporting Youth Affiliate	
Principal Genre		Additional Genre(s)	
Payment Informatio	<u>n</u>		
3	1	ck or credit card by following the instructions below. Note that dit card transaction fee making the payment a total of \$47.	ıt
Payment by check Make your \$45 check p	ayable to "CWC-	Mt. Diablo Branch."	
Payment by credit card			
Please provide the fol	lowing informa	tion:	
Credit Card #		Expiration Date (month/year)	
Name as it appears or	n the credit card		
Billing zip code		Security code on back of card	
Donation to the Young Check here if you would membership renewal.		o the Young Writers Program Add the amount to your	\$45
Ma	ail this completed	form (with a check or credit card info) to:	
CV	VC- Membershij	p, P.O. Box 606, Alamo, CA-94507.	
Security Note: Membe	rship information	is not made public at any time.	
		hip in the CWC-Mount Diablo Branch. orge 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.

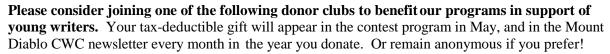
June 2017 The Write News Page Fourteen

The John Steinbeck Society (\$250 - \$499)

# **Young Writers Contest Fundraising**

#### **Sponsored by**

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





·	-	
The John Muir Member Club (\$150 - \$249)	The Ina Coolbrith Laureate Club (\$100 - \$14	
	Judith Ingram	Elisabeth Tuck
	Danard Emanuelson	
The Mary Austin Writers Club (\$50 - \$99)	The Helen Hunt Jackson Gr	oup (\$25 - \$49)
Ken Kerkhoff	<b>Christine Sunderland</b>	June Gatewood
Edward Stanislowski	Fran Wojnar	Chloe Laube
David George in honor of Liz Kohler-Pentacoff	Leslie Lamar Ball	<b>Judith Overmier</b>
Kathy Urban	Phyllis Nagle	

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

The Jack London Founder's Circle (\$500+)

James Wiseman	Lynn Goodwin	David Alpaugh	June Gatewood	d Robin Gigoux
Linda Force	Fran Cain	Sheryl Mosher	<b>Robert Poirier</b>	Maya Das
<b>Noele Martin</b>	Kathryn Berla	Aline Soules	Patty Northlick	n Lucy Hart
Al Garrotto	<b>Christine Tomerson</b>	Kai Rahbek	<b>Noel Martin</b>	<b>Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff</b>
June Gatewood	Donna Gholson-Cook	Marlene Vasilieff	Julie Shatzel	<b>Grace Schmidt</b>
Lee Paulson				

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	n the following donor club:
Name	_Address
City/State/Zip	
Phone	E-mail
Amount enclosed: \$honor/memory	Acknowledge my gift in
of:	
Or via PayPal click "buy now" on	the Mt. Diablo website
http://cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpre	ess 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