



# The Write News

A Monthly Newsletter

Elisabeth Tuck, editor

October 2017

## WRITING WORKSHOP AND LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 14th, 2017 – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

### Get Intimate with your Characters: Mastering Point of View For Dazzling Character Development

*Workshop Leader*

**Jordan Rosenfeld**

***Author, Editor, and Writing Coach***

What makes some books so compelling that you can't put them down until your eyelids are sandy and your brain is buzzing? Unforgettable, unique characters! Mastery of Point of View (POV) allows readers to engage intimately with characters and dive deeply into your stories. Strong POV and fabulous character development go hand in hand. Writers in this workshop will learn how to:



- Unlock the Essentials of each POV
- Use perceptual, sensory and other key “cues” to reveal character
- Determine which POV works for your writing project
- Notice when you are “POV-jumping” and how to correct this
- **You will learn the SECRETS of simple but powerful Character Development**

**Jordan E. Rosenfeld** is author of five books on writing and three novels. Her newest book is *Writing the Intimate Character: Create Unique, Compelling Characters Through Mastery of Point of View*, as well as *A Writer's Guide to Persistence*, *Writing Deep Scenes* (with Martha Alderson), and the recently revised and expanded *Make a Scene*. Jordan has been published in *The Atlantic*, *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Scientific American*, *The Writer*, *Writer's Digest*, and others. [www.jordanrosenfeld.net](http://www.jordanrosenfeld.net) @JordanRosenfeld

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**Sign-In** starts at 8:30 AM. Workshop begins at 9:00 AM. Included luncheon from 12 – 1 PM. At Zio Fraedo's Restaurant: 611 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. \$45 members, \$55 guests. **Reservation Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, Oct. 11th, 2017.** To reserve a spot, go to the CWC Mt. Diablo web site at: <https://cwcmt Diablo.org/current-cwc-mt-diablo-meeting/>.

## President *Marlene Dotterer*



*Be courageous and try to write in a way that scares you a little.*  
-Holly Gerth

We are now full swing into the new CWC year after a wonderful and successful first meeting in September. We had a good-sized, attentive crowd attending the Writers Table led by John Marvin and a larger crowd busy networking and socializing before lunch. Several guests came to hear Andrew Benzie's lecture on marketing, and I think they were pleased with what they learned. We also met a few new members, and I'm happy to welcome them all to our branch.

It's really true that while we try to provide excellent speakers with relevant topics and interesting lessons on writing for the Writers Table, the success of our meetings always depends on the participation of you, our members. The preparation for a meeting is just the outline. Members and guests are the filling

that make it whole.

This month we are presenting a workshop on Point of View and character development led by [Jordan Rosenfeld](#). Jordan is an amazing writer, editor, and teacher, with several articles and essays appearing in publications ranging from *Scientific American* to *Writers Digest*. She also writes fiction, with three novels to her credit. Her workshop should be fascinating and informative, and I hope all of you can attend.

Let's also note that the third week in October is California Writers Week, an official designation decreed by our governor and state legislature. CWC was the force behind this effort and we are proud to be part of it. Carole Bumpus, NorCal Group Chair, tells us briefly of the history:

*For several months in early 2003, with the expert help of Anthony Folcarelli, the Central Board of the California Writers Club worked to establish California Writers Week. The plan was successful and on September 4, 2003 at 10 a.m., California Writers Club members gathered on the Assembly floor in Sacramento to receive a Joint Legislative Resolution from Assemblyman Tim Leslie. The Resolution is endorsed by the California Library Association.*

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a copy of the text of the California Legislature Assembly Resolution.

We will celebrate with a special gift for our members and guests at the October meeting. Be sure to also look for the CWC poster honoring California writers.

In the meantime, I hope you all continue to be successful and busy California writers yourselves! Have a good month in October.



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## NEXT BOARD MEETING



**Nov** 11, 10-11:00 a.m. Zio Fraedo's

Come join us!



## HELP WANTED

For more information about any position, or to discuss volunteering for a position, contact the President, Marlene Dotterer, at [cmdotterer@gmail.com](mailto:cmdotterer@gmail.com).

### **NorCal Rep - Position open: Immediately**

Represent Mt. Diablo Branch at 2 - 3 NorCal meetings held in Livermore

Voting member of the Mt. Diablo Board of Directors

Get to know Northern California branches!

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Cast the branch vote in matters of regional business
- Communicate between the branch and the Northern California region
- May be asked to volunteer for committees or officer positions at the regional level

### **Vice-President - Position open: Immediately**

Assist the president as needed

Voting member of the Mt. Diablo Board of Directors

Get to know board members, the workings of the branch and a view of the state organization!

**Position Open as of: July 1, 2018**

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Become familiar with branch and state requirements, and with the overall functions of the board
- In the president's absence, facilitate board meetings and general branch meetings when
- Assist the president as needed, or take over specific tasks under the direction of the president

### **Banquet Coordinator for the Young Writers Contest Awards- Position open as of: April 1, 2018**

This is not a board position

#### **Responsibilities**

Coordinate with YWC Chair to:

- Receive or disseminate information on contest winners.
- Plan banquet activities and displays.
- Create banquet schedule and timeline.
- Coordinate content, design and printing of the program.
- Assist YWC chair during the banquet





## Member Events, News and Salutes



Jill Hedgecock's nonfiction submission, "Rhino-cide", was accepted into the *Africa Versus Asia Anthology* and targeted for publication at the end of September or early October. It may be translated into an Asian or African language if translators can be found.

Share your good news, upcoming event or new book. We would like to celebrate with you! Please send a short paragraph and .jpg photo of you or your book cover to Elisabeth Tuck @[ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com](mailto:ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com)

## Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Fundraiser Judges Needed

Last year we joined forces for the first time with the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a national contest for students in grades 7 – 12. Fifteen of our members signed up to help judge the entries and I think we all found it an enjoyable experience.

It's time to do it again!

Not only is this a great opportunity to interact with people in the national level of the writing industry – it's also a way to earn funds for our branch. The Scholastic organization pays our branch \$2,000 for our participation. This is money we can use for contest prizes for members, the Young Writers Contest, or just general branch expenses.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the largest, longest-running recognition program for creative teenagers. For nearly 100 years, the Awards have provided teachers with a unique opportunity to motivate and challenge students to become better writers. Students in grades 7-12 submit their works of visual art and creative writing to be reviewed by professionals to receive recognition, exhibition, publication and scholarships. Some of our nation's most celebrated writers were first discovered by the Scholastic Awards as teenagers, including Truman Capote, Sylvia Plath, Joyce Carol Oates, and Stephen King.

### Writing Categories are:

Critical Essay	Dramatic Script
Flash Fiction	Humor
Journalism	Novel Writing
Personal Essay & Memoir	Poetry
Science Fiction & Fantasy	Short Story
Writing Portfolio (Seniors Only)	

We'll be signing up judges soon. Please consider participating in this fun and interesting contest.







## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2017

<b>Oct 14</b> <b>WORK SHOP</b>	Jordan Rosenfeld Get Intimate with Your Characters: Master POV for dazzling character development	<b>Jordan</b> authored 3 novels and 5 books on writing. 3 are: - <i>Writing the Intimate Character: Create Unique, Compelling Characters Through Mastery of Point of View</i> , as well as - <i>A Writer's Guide to Persistence, Writing Deep Scenes</i> (with Martha Alderson) - <i>Make a Scene</i> , recently revised and expanded. Jordan has published in: <i>The Atlantic</i> , <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>New York Magazine</i> , <i>Scientific American</i> , <i>The Writer</i> , <i>Writer's Digest</i> and more.
<b>Nov 11</b>	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.
<b>Dec 9</b>	Michael Bannister Joanna Kraus Kymberlie Ingalls "Creative Elements in Writing:	Our <b>holiday meeting</b> features three of our own members. Michael Bannister has written a memoir on his Peace Corp experiences and will speak on infusing travel experiences in your writing. Joanna Kraus is a playwright and will talk about bringing drama into writing and Kymberlie Ingalls will speak about music in writing.

2018

<b>Jan 13</b>	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> . <a href="http://www.amandamctigue.com/am/Home.html">www.amandamctigue.com/am/Home.html</a>
<b>Feb 10</b>	Clive Matson Word Choice	Clive Matson is a lifelong poet and author of the acclaimed <i>Let The Crazy Child Write!</i> He has published nine volumes of poetry, and in 2003 co-edited the award-winning anthology <i>An Eye For Any Eye Makes The Whole World Blind</i> . Clive has taught creative writing workshops since 1978, centered on his unique Crazy Child method, leading the <i>East Bay Express</i> to laud him as Best Writing Teacher In The East Bay in 2006
<b>Mar 10</b> <b>WORK SHOP</b>	Beth Barany The 20 Senses	Beth is an award winning novelist and writes in three genres (young adult adventure fantasy, paranormal romance, and science fiction mystery). She runs a successful business as a coach and consultant for authors and has presented in Italy, Boston, Washington D.C., Seattle, and Los Angeles.
<b>Apr 14</b>	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.
<b>May 12</b>	Veronica Rossi Young Writers Contest banquet	Veronica is a best-selling young-adult fiction author. Her debut novel, <i>Under the Never Sky</i> was released in January 2012 and deemed one of the Best Books of Year by School Library Journal. The series appeared in the NY Times and USA Today best seller lists and was published in over 25 foreign markets.
<b>June 9</b>	TBD	

If you've heard a good speaker on writing or publishing, contact Jill Hedgecock: [hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hedgewriter@sbcglobal.net)



## *Ideas from the Norcal group – August 2017*

What do people want from CWC?

This is a possible survey to be developed and given to all branch members. Gather the answers and provide them to your NorCal rep and branch boards

Somewhere in the survey, offer a coupon for a reward if the survey is completed. The member would need to print the coupon and take it to a meeting.

***How does your branch let your members know what member benefits are offered?***

- New members coffee meetings
- Critique groups, member training, learn how to participate.
- More opportunities to have readings. More opportunities to have our books sold.
- Reviews from fellow members for their books on Amazon. Offer a special give away and enlist members to participate. Notify members of new books (from branch) who would like reviews on Amazon.
- Screenwriting opportunities/play contests

***Anthologies:***

- Don't accept everything, strict editing requirements should be in place.
- Should anthologies be themed? Should be members only. One group charges \$12 per submission; \$10 split between two Beta readers, \$2 for copying.

***Other suggestions for improving branches:***

- Encourage earlier sign-ups – Have a good program in October for members to be enticed to renew in time.
- Set up a booth at local Farmer's Markets: Sell books and promote CWC. Also, at local fairs or festivals.
- Have a banner made for your branch – bring a table – and have two authors each week work the booth – have a sign-up list which will go to the newsletter editor to include them each month.
- Christmas/Holiday Markets – set up booth to sell your books
- Sign up early for a Litquake reading – participate and/or volunteer
- Hold book launches or Open Mics at local wineries or wine bars
- Have a booth at a Chocolate Festival



***Encouraging members to read the newsletters:***

- Include a coupon for a meal drawing or a free admittance to the meeting – members must bring it to the meetings.
- Include a Raffle opportunity - (check State of California website for regulations)
- A drawing for a member – they must have read the article to claim their prize.
- Useful content (How to write, how to write a proposal, etc.) provided in the newsletter each month.
- Send by regular mail? People tend to ignore attachments.
- Leadership of the group needs to be visible in the newsletter.

***California Writers Week***

- **Third week in October.** Ideas: Setup in local libraries; publicize what branches are doing; set up panels in book store, discussing (example) how to start writing. Have readings then, or get the word out to the libraries to include local authors.

***Sharing Speaker Lists***

- Redwood, Sacramento, SF Peninsula offered their lists of the last twelve months of speakers. Tri-Valley speakers were also discussed.

## *Ideas from the Norcal group – August 2017 cont'd*

### *Ideas re Officers:*

- Officers should be term-limited, with two people required to sign checks over \$100.
- Passwords should be shared between officers. Makes transition easier when new Board takes seats. Secretary should have all passwords - whether on websites or with bank accounts



## *Volunteer?*

Did you read the article above by Andrew Benzie who attended the August NorCal meeting for Mt. Diablo? What ideas do you like?. If we already do it at Mt. Diablo, would you be willing to help? If the idea you like would be a new program for Mt. Diablo, again, would you help? The branch is only as good as its volunteers. In order to do more, we need HELP!



## ***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.

**October 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.**



## Things to Do

### Submit to the 2018 CWC Literary Review

#### *The CWC Literary Review is Under New Management*

Dave LaRoche started the CWC *Literary Review* at least six years ago. He has retired. The best compliment to him is that a team of six has agreed to produce the next issue!

So, members, polish up a story, poem, essay, or memoir, check out the guidelines at <http://calwriters.org/publications/#submit>, follow the guidelines, and submit, submit! Submissions will be accepted Sept 1 – Nov 30!

We have a few submissions in already but need MANY! As a statewide writing club, we want to be able to choose quality. Last year we were able to expand the publication and hope to even more this year.

There has been some controversy about sending feedback to authors, so this year we are only saying we **may** be able to return feedback. After all, we're only human and we are volunteers.

Dust off those ideas you've been toying with, write, rewrite, share with other good writers, edit, rewrite and submit. (Writing is hard work isn't it? But so satisfying.)

Elisabeth Tuck, Mt. Diablo

Scott Evans, San Joaquin Valley

CWC Literary Review Editors

### ***VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER, VOLUNTEER***

The *Literary Review* can use eyes willing to blind judge or edit. Pick a genre you're comfortable with to read. To read, you will receive batches of 6 not containing the author's name or branch. If you recognize the author, please return the piece. Read, grade each piece with A B C D or F and write a few lines of what works and what doesn't for each. These comments may be returned to the author.

Another needed task is **editing** to ensure that the final version of the magazine is error free. All projects want success in cost, schedule and performance. Help us hit all three in 2018.



## **Next Bay Area Book Festival: April 28-29, 2018!**

The date has been moved from June in order to possibly include more UC Berkeley students





## Things to Do (cont'd)

### WRITERS TABLES at Mt. Diablo Branch

Are you aware of our program before meetings when there is a one-hour speaker?

The Writers Table is informal. When a member has writing tips to share, we provide a separate table for the discussion, and interested members just pull up a chair to join the group. Some discussion leaders have hand-outs; others just ask questions and share their thoughts on the topic. The Writers Table overlaps with registration. (11:00 - before lunch).

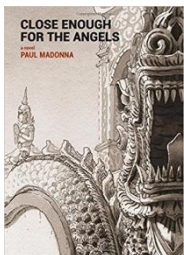
#### **Nov 11 Writers Table: Bill Yarborough, The Importance of Beta-Readers & Other Critique Inputs**



Karen Ackerson, founder and Executive Director of The Writers' Workshop of Asheville, a non-profit organization based in Asheville, NC wrote:

Past Advisory Board members include John Le Carre, Kurt Vonnegut, Peter Matthiessen, E.L. Doctorow, Eudora Welty, Alex Haley and Don De Lillo. As the only non-profit literary center in the Southeast, we work to serve readers and writers of all backgrounds since 1985.

We are sponsoring our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual **Memoirs Contest** with a **deadline of November 30, 2017**, and are seeking entries from writers around the world. We'd greatly appreciate your sharing our announcement with your followers. We are a very low budget organization so the high cost of advertising can be prohibitive to us. In exchange, we are happy to promote your organization on our website or social media pages. A promotional image is attached for posting. (Guidelines and awards can also be seen at our website, [www.twwoa.org](http://www.twwoa.org)).



Join **Paul Madonna** Friday, October 20, 2017 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM in the Community Hall as he discusses *Close Enough For The Angels*, the writing maxim show don't tell, and the process of turning experience into art.

Madonna, an award-winning artist and writer, combines his blend of drawing and storytelling to deliver a beautiful and entertaining novel with suspense, surprise, and humor. With over one hundred lush and haunting drawings, this full-length, character-driven story is a fresh and innovative reinvention of the illustrated novel.

Madonna developed two series, *All Over Coffee* (featured weekly in the SF Chronicle pink section) and *Small Potatoes*, and is the author of four books. His drawings and stories have appeared internationally in numerous publications such as *The Believer* and *Zyzyva*, as well as in galleries and museums, including the Oakland Museum of California, the San Francisco Contemporary Jewish Museum, and an upcoming solo exhibition at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco.

Tickets: Free (\$5 donation recommended)



## Things to Do (cont'd)

*New York Times* bestselling author **Joyce Maynard** was in her late fifties when she met the first true partner she had ever known. He wore a rakish hat over a good head of hair; he asked real questions and gave real answers; he loved to see Joyce shine, both in and out of the spotlight; and he didn't mind the mess she made in the kitchen.

*The Best of Us* is their story. Charting the course through their whirlwind romance, a marriage cut short by tragedy, and Joyce's return to singleness on new terms, *The Best of Us* is a heart-wrenching, ultimately life-affirming reflection on coming to understand true love through the experience of great loss.

Joyce Maynard is most known for her works of memoir and fiction. Two of her novels have been adapted into screenplays and motion pictures, *To Die For* and *Labor Day*.

This program brought to you by the LLLC Foundation through the generous support of our donors.

Tickets: \$15

LLLC Foundation donors may purchase \$10 discount tickets by calling 925-283-6513 x102.



Veteran Penguin Random House rep **Wendy Pearl** joins us Thursday, November 02, 2017 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM in the Community Hall for the annual holiday event to share titles sure to appeal to book clubs and all readers. Join in a lively discussion about authors, the publishing industry and writing. Books will be available for purchase for holiday gift-giving!



For more information and to register click [HERE](#)

*THINGS TO DO* are informational only and do not imply endorsement of product or services.

## CWC's Non-Profit Status

The IRS web site defines a 501-c3 as an educational outreach organization for the members and the community. Our nonprofit status allows us to legally avoid some taxes, qualifies us for nonprofit rates on things like renting meeting space and paying for some goods and services like mailing the *Literary Review* at the non-profit, bulk-mail rate. And, importantly, it makes us eligible for grant money.



# Young Writers Contest

Marlene Dotterer



This is an important part of our branch's activities. It's the single biggest community involvement we hold.

"Just the computer side of things," is what I thought I was taking on, and you know how that works. The computer side involved working with the program for accepting and coordinating the submissions and handling emails to or from teachers, students, and the occasional parent. The emails really piqued my interest.

There weren't a lot of questions, but the people I interacted with were all so excited about the contest! The students were especially concerned about submitting a perfect entry and were thrilled with idea that people would read what they wrote.

Does that remind you of anyone? Like... all of us, right?

The excitement was infectious. I felt a spirit of camaraderie with the kids – I know what it's like to submit something I wrote and then wait... and wait... for the results. I related to the teachers, too – I could sense now much they loved their students and how they had such hopes for them. And I'm not just talking about the private school teachers and students. The public school teachers and students were just the same.

I looked over a few entries and blown away. They weren't *perfect*, but they were much better than I thought they'd be. We hear so many negative things about "today's kids" (just like every other generation), and I found myself thinking that if people could read these stories and poems, they would feel better about today's kids. Sure, I know we're getting submissions from the "good" kids, but that doesn't mean all the kids are privileged, with easy lives. It just means that whatever else they have going on, they have that burning spark inside that tells them to keep *learning* and to keep *doing* everything they can to make life better.

That includes submitting stories or poems to Mt. Diablo's writing contest.

You can help. Sign up to judge (we'll train you). Volunteer to do one task to assist in the running of the contest or the awards ceremony in May. Starting in November, we'll have a sign-up and information table available before our meetings start. You can ask questions and see what's left to do. And of course, donations are always welcome. (See next page)



***You in the Newsletter? (but don't let this distract you from polishing something to submit to the Literary Review!)***

Here are two possibilities to pull from any of your works:

- 1) one (or two) line opening 'grabbers' (something that will attract the reader)
- 2) on (or two) line last lines (something that will leave the reader satisfied, best if not a spoiler)

Keep it to one (or two) lines. Submit to [ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com](mailto:ElisabethTuck@yahoo.com) in this order:

Whether it's a Grabber or Last Line

The quotation – one or two sentences

The title of your work

Your name

## 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!

**DONATIONS A/O JUNE 23, 2017**

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**

**Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff**

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

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

**Ken Kerkhoff**

**June Gatewood**

**Judith Overmier**

**Linda Force**

**Jill Hedgecock**

**Chloe Laube**

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

**Fran Cain**

**Sara Wilson**

**Lucy Hart**

**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:

[www.cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/](http://www.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

[www.cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/](http://www.cwcmtdiablowriters.wordpress.com/young-writers-contest/).

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



**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL CONTEST**